

Watched

By Ten_chan

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A mystery. Something happens at the Institute, and the only ones who are actually doing something about it are the two that everyone least expects.

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1 - The Beginning

"Professor! Professor!" Kitty Pryde ran downstairs as fast as she could, calling for Professor Xavier, but the only answer she got was nothing but silence. She ran to the professor's study, and she found someone there that she didn't expect. Kurt Wagner looked at Kitty when she came in. His eyes held a look of fear in them; a fear that Kitty had never seen in his eyes before.

"I-I didn't do it, Kitty..." He told her. "I swear I didn't...Please believe me..." Kitty looked at him confusedly as well as a little worried. What could have scared him like this?

"Like, what are you talking about, Kurt?" Kitty asked. "What's wrong?"

"I swear it wasn't me..." Kurt stated, shaking his head. "I swear..." It was then that Kitty saw books strewn about the floor and papers and other things lying about everywhere, and almost everything was splattered with blood. Then, Kitty saw that Kurt had blood on his hands, and his pants were also splattered with blood.

"Kurt! What did you do?!" Kitty exclaimed. Kurt took a couple steps back, frightened even more than he already was.

"I-I didn't do anything!" He answered, sounding utterly terrified. "It wasn't me! I swear! Please believe me, Kitty! Please!"

"Where's the professor?" Kitty demanded. Kurt stepped back again with his tail between his legs, and this time, he tripped and fell on the floor.

"I don't know!" He told her. Kitty went over to him and grabbed him by the front of his shirt.

"I know you had something to do with this, Kurt!" She snapped. "I knew you would someday turn on us, you demon!" Kurt's eyes went wide and filled with tears at this.

"I-I would never turn on any of you!" He exclaimed. "I had nothing to do with any of this! Why don't you believe me?!"

"It's kind of hard to believe someone who has blood on them!" Kitty quipped. "What did you do with Professor Xavier?!"

"I didn't do anything to him!" Kurt replied. "I was trying to save him from the real monster!" Kitty then slapped him hard across the cheek.

"You're lying!" She snarled. "I can't believe a single word that comes out of your mouth now, Kurt! I can't trust you anymore! You're nothing but a lying demon!" At that, Kurt finally just broke down and cried.

"I'm not a demon..." He sobbed. "I'm not...I didn't do anything to the professor. I would never...never do anything to hurt the professor...or anyone else..." He lay down on the floor and just cried nonstop.

2 - Secrets

When Kitty realized how upset Kurt was, she felt guilty about the things she'd said, but she couldn't help but wonder if he really was telling the truth. She pulled out a handkerchief and used it to gently wipe away Kurt's tears.

"Shh...stop crying, Kurt. Please?" She said to him gently. "I totally just can't stand to see you cry. It, like, totally makes me want to cry, too. So please don't cry anymore, Kurt, okay?" Kurt looked at her and sniffled pathetically.

"You really hate me, don't you?" He stated. "You were just waiting for an opportunity like this; an opportunity to blame me for something bad, just because I look like a demon. You're just like everyone else! You're just like them!" With that, Kurt got to his feet and just ran out of the room in tears. He ran past Jean, who watched his retreating back worriedly before heading in the direction she'd seen him coming from. When she found Kitty in Professor Xavier's study, she figured that it was Kitty who'd gotten Kurt so upset.

"Kitty, what did you say to Kurt to make him so upset?" She asked. Kitty looked at her and sighed.

"Well...the professor's missing, and I kind of, like, blamed it on Kurt and...and called him a demon..." She answered. Jean's eyes went wide.

"Kitty! You know that Kurt wouldn't hurt a *fly*!" She exclaimed. "How dare you accuse him of doing anything to harm Professor Xavier! Kurt is one of the sweetest, most gentle people here, and you know that! You had no right to accuse him of something like that without any proof that he had even done anything at all! He could've just been in the wrong place at the wrong time! You shouldn't jump to conclusions like that!" Kitty looked at Jean seriously.

"Jean, he had blood on his hands and, like, splattered on his pants, and he was just, like, standing there, and I totally didn't see the professor anywhere." She stated. "What was I supposed to think?! The professor's gone! Kurt's standing there with blood on his hands and his pants! It all seems kind of, like, suspicious, don't you think?" Jean shook her head.

"No, Kurt wouldn't hurt Professor Xavier, and I know it." She remarked. "He's as dangerous as a marshmallow, Kitty. Just because he looks like a demon, it doesn't mean he is one. He's completely harmless..."

"Yeah, that's, like, what you told me when I first met him." Kitty commented. "He's completely harmless. You didn't see him just a little while ago, Jean, standing there with blood on him."

"The Kurt I saw just now was a broken-down wreck!" Jean snapped. "His face was streaked with tears, and the tears were still coming! He definitely didn't look like a deadly killer to me! He's probably in his room right now, crying his heart out, and Scott's probably with him, doing his best to try to calm poor Kurt down. Kitty, I think you should go apologize to Kurt. *Now*." Kitty sighed and left the room, and

minutes later, she was outside Kurt's room. Through the door, she could hear Kurt sobbing, and she could hear Scott's attempts at words of comfort, which didn't seem to be much help at all. She then knocked on the door, and it was Scott who opened the door, and he didn't look happy to see Kitty.

"I don't think he really wants to see you right now, Kitty." He stated. "Not after what you said to him. He's a complete wreck. You should be ashamed of yourself for upsetting him like this." Kitty sighed.

"Believe me, I do feel guilty about making him cry like that." She replied. "I, like, totally wasn't thinking. Please can I talk to him?" Scott shook his head.

"He's already told me himself that he doesn't want to talk to you." He told her. "I'll take a message and give it to him for you." Kitty sighed.

"Just...tell him I said I'm sorry and that I didn't mean what I said." She said. "And...and tell him...that there's something I need to talk to him personally about later tonight and that he should meet me in the tv room at 11:00." Scott nodded.

"I'll tell him, and I'll let you know what he says." He acknowledged. With that, he closed the door and went back to Kurt, and he told him what Kitty had said. Later that night, Kitty was waiting in the tv room when Kurt came in, and she smiled when he entered.

"Hey, Kurt!" She greeted, keeping her voice low so as not to disturb anyone else. Kurt didn't answer, and Kitty noticed that he wasn't acting like himself. He seemed rather sad and lonely, and she noticed that his tail was as lifeless as a piece of rope, dragging behind him on the floor. Kitty frowned when she noticed this.

"Kurt, you're not still upset about what I said before, are you?" She asked. Kurt looked at her sadly, and the look in his pale yellow eyes made her feel ever more guilty than she already was.

"Oh, Kurt, don't look at me like that." She stated. "I'm really sorry. I didn't mean what I said."

"I forgive you, Kitty, but it still hurts..." Kurt told her. "What did you want to talk to me about now?"

"Well, I don't really think anyone's really going to, like, be doing much about the professor going missing." Kitty remarked. "So you and me are going to have to, like, take matters into our own hands, but we can't tell anyone else what we're up to, or they might put a stop to it, and the professor would be in more trouble than he already probably is. So this is our little secret, okay, Kurt?" Kurt nodded.

"Right, our little secret." He acknowledged. "It's sort of like we're going to be detectives." Kitty nodded, smiling.

"Yeah, you're right!" She remarked. "So, Detective Kurt, what do you say we go to bed?"

"I think that sounds like a wonderful idea, Detective Kitty." Kurt replied, smiling. "Good night."

"Good night." Kitty answered. Then, the two of them went to bed. However, neither of them noticed that they were being watched from the shadows.

3 - It Takes A Demon To Find A Demon

Once he'd gotten back to his room and had settled down in bed, Kurt couldn't fall asleep. He lay awake in bed, staring up at his ceiling. Questions kept drifting through his mind, and all of them revolved around the same three things; Professor Xavier, the thing that had taken the professor, and Kitty. His thoughts about the professor and the thing that had taken him pretty much said nothing but 'Where could the professor be?', 'Is he okay?', 'Is he still alive?', and 'What was that thing that took him and why did it leave his wheelchair behind?' His thoughts about Kitty were much more complex, and main one was along the lines of 'Has Kitty really stopped accusing me of doing something to the professor?' It was thoughts like these that kept the German mutant up all night, and perhaps it was lucky they did. He took his eyes off the ceiling for a moment and saw red eyes glinting in the shadows. He immediately sat up and reached for the lamp on his bedside table, reaching to turn it on. By the time he'd gotten his light on, whatever had been in the shadows was gone, and in its place, was a wisp of black smoke. Kurt decided that he'd leave his light on for the night, in case whatever it was came back. The next morning, the first person Kurt went to was Kitty, and he told her what he'd seen that night; the red eyes glinting in the shadows and the wisp of black smoke. At first, Kitty didn't believe him, but she could see the honesty in his pale yellow eyes and decided that he really was telling the truth.

"So, like, what do you think?" She asked him. "What do you, like, make of those mysterious red eyes and that puff of black smoke?" Kurt shrugged.

"I don't know." He stated. "But I get the feeling that it's another mutant...one that's dangerous to all of us here at the Institute."

"But why would it, like, go to your room first?" Kitty inquired.

"Because I was the one who was there when the professor was taken." Kurt answered instantly. Then, he realized something.

"Come to think of it..." He remarked. "When the professor was taken, a cloud of black smoke had wrapped around him and taken him out the window. I think our mysterious mutant is the same one who took the professor, and it wants to eliminate all who know about it; all who were there and all who came seconds later. That means me and you." Kitty shuddered.

"Creepy..." She muttered. "Very creepy...So I'm going to die of second-hand smoke...That's so, like, totally what I was hoping to die of..." Kurt frowned at her.

"This isn't the time to joke, Kitty." He stated seriously. "We've got to be serious here or we may never see Professor Xavier again." Kitty held up her hands with her palms facing Kurt.

"Relax, Kurt." She told him. "I know we've got to be serious about this. I was just trying to lighten the mood, which is usually your job, Fuzzy, but you're not doing it." Kurt sighed.

"I'm just worried about the professor." He acknowledged. "It's hard to find something to laugh about when one of the few people who accepted you for who you are, despite the way you look, has suddenly gone missing." Again, unknown to Kurt or Kitty, there was something hiding in the shadows, watching them with red eyes that glinted slightly. Then, the eyes vanished, and a thin trail of black smoke filtered out of the shadows and slipped down through a crack in the floorboards, unnoticed by anyone.