

flowers (I couldn't have said it)

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by Anonymous

Summary

Zam tries to use the language of flowers to flirt, Vitalasy just wants him to ask his boyfriend out already.

Notes

Written for day one of Vitalasubzam Week, flowers/symbolism.
Flower meanings are in the end notes! Title is partially from Be More by Stephen Sanchez.

See the end of the work for more [notes](#)

The first time Vitalasy had met Zam, he had walked into his shop with an adorably shy smile, asking if he knew anything about what flower he should buy for a person he was trying to flirt with. He hadn't even known his name at that point.

He didn't have a large budget, so he directed him towards the lovely calla lilies, a perfect statement flower that was unique enough to stand alone.

Vi sent him away, wishing him luck in his endeavors, and didn't think much of the encounter until later that day, when his boyfriend got home carrying a single flower in hand, asking him what it meant. Somebody had left it on the desk at the tattoo shop he owned, addressed clearly to him.

Now that had piqued Vitalasy's interest, because of course he recognized his own logo on the ribbon, and of course Subz did as well.

And of course he wasn't going to tell Subz who bought the flower, that would be too easy.

Instead, he got to listen to Subz go through his list of suspects, far too invested for somebody who claimed he didn't really care, and he lingered far too long on one particular individual named Zam. He showed Vitalasy a picture, hoping to get Vitalasy to reveal any recognition in vain, and well, wasn't that adorable? He got to watch the sweet guy who had been so bashful in his shop earlier and his boyfriend spiral together, like his own little story to sit back and enjoy.

When Zam walked into the shop the next day, he decided to ask him who he was buying the flowers for, to "help him pick a more fitting one," he claimed.

Zam would be good for Subz, he decided, listening to him excitedly ramble on. He described how amazing it was to see him get invested in his artworks, taking great care in every piece. How he had been so accommodating when Zam started his piercing apprenticeship, despite the fact that Subz didn't even work with that part of the shop, really. How he had been so sad to learn he had a boyfriend until he saw the poly pin on Subz's bag, meaning he might still have a chance.

He led him to the pink carnations this time, and Zam decided to buy three, tying them with a pale yellow ribbon this time. He was beaming by the time he left the shop, and he hoped Subz loved them as much as the last one.

Subz was nose deep in the book that Vitalasy kept about flower meanings by the time he got home, and he couldn't help but tease him about the vase that was sitting proudly at the center of their dining room table.

No amount of pestering would make Vitalasy give away any information about the giver, he found this far too much fun.

Plus, it gave him a chance to get to know Zam before they met in the context of boyfriend-in-laws, and he would love to be able to escape that awkward initial phase.

He was cute too, anyways, so maybe he would be able to woo Zam too, if he was lucky.

He continued to buy flowers over the next few weeks, every few days, and it was getting to the point where he was encouraging Zam to just ask Subz out at this point. Subz wouldn't make a move either because he hadn't been able to prove it was Zam and he was too damn worried for his own good.

He couldn't give it away, though, that was too easy.

Instead, the next time Zam walked into the shop, he turned into his biggest hype man. Just a little hint, something that might lead to him being able to open up more soon.

He went for it, with his small bouquet of yellow and white jasmine with the white clovers he had handpicked from the field near his apartment, and put a little 'Z' on the ribbon holding this one together, and it was enough.

He nearly barreled over the counter the next day when he ran into the shop, both excited and a bit miffed, learning that the other boyfriend of his new boyfriend was none other than the same guy who had been selling him flowers for weeks.

"The whole time, the whole fucking time, you knew?"

Vitalasy laughed himself all the way to the back of the store, where he grabbed his own bouquet he had made, a careful arrangement of yellow tulips, hyacinth and daisies, handing it off to Zam.

"Don't be late for your date, Zam." He told him, smiling, before urging him out the door. "You wouldn't want to leave Subz waiting, would you?"

He did take a moment to watch Zam read the card attached to his flowers, and revel in that little smile as he walked away.

End Notes

Flower meanings:

Calla lily-Magnificent Beauty

Carnations, general-Fascination, Love

Pink Carnations-Gratitude, Never forgetting someone

Yellow Jasmine-Grace, Elegance

White Jasmine-Sweet love, Amiability

White Clover-Think of me

Yellow Tulips-Sunshine in your smile

Hyacinth-Sport, Game, Play

Daisies-Innocence, Loyal love, I'll never tell

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