Chapter 4

"Eya?" I whispered, my fur crawling with excitement. "Eya, wake up!" "What?" she mumbled sleepily. "What could be so important that you would have to wake me up so early?" She was right. Fresh snow lay delicately on the frosty earth. The sun was yet to come up over the horizon and the morning birds were still asleep. "This had better be good." She moaned. "Oh." I said, slightly ashamed of my puppyish behavior. "I was just going to tell you that I'm going on another hunting lesson with Griffen. You know, it's best to hunt while their unaware. I don't want you to think I've been dog napped or anything. " I tried, showing off my knowledge of the forest. I couldn't help it, I was love struck. "Okay fine, but some back before breakfast." She sighed, it was evident that she didn't care in the least.

Griffen was waiting by the gate, smiling that charming smile. "Are you ready?" "I'm always ready." I bragged jokingly. "Ready for this?" He laughed, jumping on top of me and bowling me over pinning me down. "Okay, ready most of the time." I admitted, giggling uncontrollably. He let me up and started into the forest. "How far are we going in this time?" I asked, subdued by the awe of the trees. Melting snow fell from the trees and water dripped from their drooping branches. "Let's start with smaller animals." Griffen whispered so as to not wake the slumbering prey. I nodded, wanting anything other but to disturb the creeping quiet. "Here's a wild turkey. See it roosting on that low branch over there?" He directed with his muzzle. Sure enough, there sat a large bird, it's head tucked under its wing, unaware of the stalkers watching it. "Watch and learn," he said in an undertone, slinking through the undergrowth near his victim. "Griffen..." I warned. He didn't listen. "You're up wind." But it was too late. The bird had smelled him and it opened its eyes and let out an ear piercing squawk. All the other birds and animals woke up and began squeaking and squawking and warning each other of predators.

Griffen sprang, but it was too late, the fat bird was now attempting escape. It moved just in time and Griffen crashed into the branch, scampering after it in a silly manner. I couldn't help but laugh at his determined pursuit of the frenzied bird. Feathers flew everywhere as it scurried in circles, to fat to be able to fly far. Griffen looked just as ridiculous. After a few moments, I decided that I had better take action if we were going to catch the hysteric fowl. Creeping in the bushes, the turkey was too busy trying to escape Griffen's chase to notice me sneaking up on the spot. Just as it was about to escape, I leaped onto it and clamped my jaws into its neck. It went limp. I smirked and set it down to defeather the poor beast. Griffen looked bothered that he had been outsmarted by a girl. "You were up wind." I said simply, still snickering. At first he looked embarrassed, but put it behind him and broke out laughing. A weasel that had been feasting on the abandoned nest threw us a nasty glance for making such a ruckus, but we were too happy to care.

"The forest is beautiful." I said, surveying the way the light filtered through the trees, making the remaining snow. I took another bight of the turkey. It was like nothing I had ever tasted before. Griffen looked at me as if he wanted to say something, his blue eyes seemed deep in thought. "Is there something on your mind?" I tried. He looked caught off guard. "It's just..." he paused, struggling for words. "We've been out here so many times and you like it so much and well.... I love you Mayda. But how can we be together if we can't live together? I want to be with you but you know that I can't live in a kennel. I belong out here, and so do you. I don't want to rush you or anything, and I know I sound selfish but I don't want to have to be away from you. We can start a new pack and we can be together always. We don't have to be apart. I know it's a lot to ask, but I can't stand being away from you anymore." He finished, his worried blue eyes were locked in mine and he looked nervous. I was thunderstruck.

"I love you, but you know I can't leave my pack. I don't know if I can do it. I want to, but it would break my heart to leave Eya. Please, try to understand." I responded reluctantly. "I understand." He replied sadly, "but can you please consider it? We can't live like this forever." "I will." I licked his ear and headed back towards the house.