Chapter 1

Eya bit at My ear and tugged with her puppy teeth. Her green and white fur was fluffed up and she kept her paw on her sister's chest, pinning her to the ground. I growled playfully and heaved herself from the mercy of my sister. But Eya was one step ahead of me. She leaped, landing square on my chest. "Your heavy." I wheezed, struggling feebly as her sister sat stubbornly on my face. Suddenly, a black and white blur sent Eya tumbling from her perch. "Griffen!" I yipped, catching my breath. "The one and only." he smirked. On the other side of the forest clearing the two mother wolves met warmly. Griffen crouched into a playful stance, tail wagging. But before he could leap on me, the little purple and white pup, Eya attacked from behind, biting the fur on his neck and throwing him to the ground. She lifted her head in triumph over the dazed victim.

An ear splitting sound erupted throughout the forest. Both mothers jumped up, ears pricked. The puppies searched for the source, unknowing of the danger that lay ahead. Griffen's mother trotted over to her pup, picked him up carefully in her mouth, and ran into the undergrowth. My mother rushed them a little ways into the forest, stopped at the den, and hurried us in. "Whats wrong mom?" I inquired nervously. I could sense the fear rolling off her mother as I cuddled closer into her soft fur. "Shh. We must be silent, Mayda" She replied. My mom sniffed the air cautiously. "He's coming closer." she whispered half to herself. "Who is?" Eya whined, ears laying flat with fear. Mother sniffed one more time. "Stay here." she whimpered. I could see the pain in her eyes. "Where are you going?" I asked quietly. Mom drew her breath, she seemed to be in inner conflict. "I have to lead him away." she said softly, nuzzling us sadly. And with that, she was gone.

I stared after her as she disappeared into the forest. And then we heard it again, the thunder sound. Eya peered out of the den, then scampered out into the open. "Eya! Come back!" I called with all the voice I could muster. She kept running. I paced a few times, then crawled out after her. "Eya?" I muttered. The forest seemed so dark and scary without my mother. Suddenly, I colided with Eya, who had stopped ubruptly. She was staring absently at a dark heap a little ways away. She ran to our mother and snuggled into her still body. "Mom? Wake up, mom." she pleaded. She did not move. Her face was peaceful and her eyes closed. It was then I realized that my mother wasn't going to wake up.

I buried my face into my dead mother's fur, whining helplessly. That was when the hunter stepped out of the shadows. He had a mean look about him, a brown mustache and a set face. Beside him a young, but big, black dog. The dog took a few steps towards them, then stopped and growled. The two legged creature grumbled something to his dog in a husky voice. He carelessly kicked their mother dead body aside, gravely voice boomeing in a strange tongue. Eya growled fiercely, her face contorted and her eyes filled with rage. "Whats this?" The dog mused. "Two little runts. Miss your mommy?" He laughed. Eya lunged at him, claws exposed and tail flashing. She snapped down hard on his muzzle. The black dog howled, throwing his head back with rage. Eya took her chance to run, and I didn't hesitate to follow.

We ran as far as our legs would take us, and kept on running. "Eya! Eya, I can't run any longer." I gasped, skidding to a halt. She stopped and looked back at me, her eyes still flaring with anger. "Eya, I'm tired, and hungry." "Mayda, we are all on our own now. Mom won't be here to feed us anymore. We have to be strong." She panted. It hurt even more to hear it out loud. The sky was growing dark and drops of rain were beggining to fall. "Hey Eya, I think I can see something. Perhaps it could be shelter?" I sniffed, squinting at a large shadow a little ways beyond the forest edge. Eya opened her mouth to object, but I was already trotting towards the figure. It was large and square and took a while to get there with my little puppy paws, but it looked welcoming enough. I sniffed about a little bit, then settled down under the over hanging top where the rain could not reach us. Eya looked unsure, but nevertheless lay down by my side.

I woke that morning with rays of sun shining in my eyes. The morning dew was still lying delicately on the blades of grass across the field. Tired and weary, I sat up, stretched, yawned, and lay back down, eyes drooping. Eya was already awake and glancing warily at the large square. It appeared to be made out of trees, very strange indeed. With out warning, part of the house swung open and another two legged monster stepped out from within the belly of the log pile. This beast was different than the other that killed our mom. His eyes were kinder, and her had brown curly fur on his head and face. Eya snarled at him menacingly. The thing turned his hairy head down to look at us. He smiled a jolly smile, bearing his teeth, and boomed something aloud in the strange tongue. This one didn't look mean or scary at all. But he was quite terrifying when he crouched down and held out a large, hairless paw. He said something in a soothing voice. He was trying to lure me to him.

I sat, eyes wide and unsure wether I should run or not. Eya took a step back, her fur bristling. I glanced from Eya to the strange animal, and decided to give him a try. I took a diliberate step forward. Eya stared at me with disbelief. Taking another step forward, I sniffed at his hand cautiously. There was something in it, and it smelled good. Everything in me told me to run, but something kept me creeping towards this animal like the fog that creeps in the forest. Maybe it was the hunger, or maybe I was going insane, but whatever it was, I followed it.

As soon as I got to his hand I sniffed the meat, then gobbled it up. It was tough compared to the milk I was used to it, and it took a great deal of chewing, but it was so good I couldn't help but to yip for more. Eya growled warningly, but instead of coming back, I called her over. The animal laughed and patted me on the head. I was beggining to like this animal, dispite our previous encounter with the hunter. This man couldn't possibly be the same.

The two legged beast stood and beckoned around the corner. I barked and bounded to my new master's side. Eya reluctently followed. He led us to the back of the log square to a large fenced area. To my surprise, there were other wolf pups playing and wrestling about inside! Overjoyed, I ran into it the moment he opened the gate. Eya, however, stood stubbornly on the outside. She seemed to be debating on wether she should book it, or follow me. The hairless animal reached out to help her in, but she snapped at him and continued to stand. She looked from me, to the beast, to the puppies, and back to me. I pleaded silently with her, willing her to just come. I whined, and she gave in. But I didn't miss the glare she gave me as she settled down in the corner, daring anyone to come near her. The beast closed the gate.

I seized my chance to see who I was now denmates with. There was an adult white wolf. She had a soft smile and kind eyes. Then there were four puppies. One was a male with sleak black puppy fur. The black, brown, and white female pup was looking at us curiously. A gold female was licking her paws gingerly like a cat. And last but not least was the blue, black, and white male, who had stopped chasing his tail to observe the scene. "Who are you?" He asked enthusiastically. The mother spoke up; "Hello. I am Silver, mother of these three rascals." she cooed. "This is Dokami, master Todd saved him from the animal shelter." She motioned towards the black pup. "This is Kili, the black and brown one. This is Moon, the golden one, and this little ball of trouble is Savoy." Savoy yipped playfully, eyeing Eya curiously. She growled. "Whats your name?" Kili questioned politely. "I'm Mayda and this is my sister, Eya." I answered. "We are from the forest." I added excitedly. All my sadness seemed to have gone, Eya's, however, had not.

Kili explained to me everything from master Todd, as they called him, to breakfast, lunch, and dinner. "And when we are old enough we get to eat wheat!" Kili exclaimed happily. "That would be *meat*, not wheat, Kili." Moon said dreamily. Meanwhile, Savoy seemed determined to make the impatiant Eya to talk, But she held up. "And when we grow up momma says we can be sled dogs!" "Huh?" "Sled dogs! You don't know what sled dogs are?" Dokami chipped in. "Well, you've got a lot to learn." He huffed. "Be nice." Kili scolded, then returned to the subect. As they launched into explanation, I thought absently about yesterday. Everything seemed to be in a haze. So much had happened in the past two days. My whole life had turned around and changed direction. And I felt that maybe I could start again.