

Lime

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Yep. New story. HURRAH.

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1 - Chapter One

Lime

Dark pricked her ears towards the den entrance. The newly-born pup's had begun to whine, calling for milk. Dark shifted on the rock floor, putting her cream-colored head on her paws. Her mate, a cream-furred female named Lyf, had just finished giving birth. How many pups, Dark didn't know, but judging from the noise coming from the den, it wasn't a small litter. Dark groaned and buried her head under her black awns. Pups, she thought to herself. She sighed and lifted her head, listening to another pup whimpering for milk. Hearing pawsteps behind her, she turned her head towards the entrance of the cave, snarling quietly. A white wolf, with pupil-less, blue eyes stared past her in a blind gaze. Dark sighed and lifted herself up from the cool cave floor. Flicking her dark brown ear, she approached the white male. He nodded his head, putting a large piece of meat on the floor, and squeezed out of the cave. Dark sighed, picked up the meat, and turned towards the tunnels leading to the dens.

She had found this cave for her pack shortly after entering the territory. It was a large cave, and the main cave was about the 30ft each way. In the middle of the main cave was a pile of the prey they had caught that day. The coolness in the cave kept the meat from spoiling, and they could leave it in the pile for days at a time. There were also seven tunnels, leading to smaller caves, about 15ft all around in each cave, which they used as dens. The tunnels, from left to right, were the nursery, alpha's den, beta's den, warriors den, elders den, gammas den, and students den. The nursery was a comfortable, warm cave. The beds that the mothers took care of their young and slept on were made of Dark's two raven's (Huginn and Muninn) feathers, moss, and underfur. The alpha's den was a cooler cave, with the same bed of feathers, moss, and fur in the middle of the cave. Scattered about the den was different sentimental items, such as Lyf's muzzle and collar, and Dark's arm warmers. The beta's den was a smaller cave, about 12ft all around, and it was warm and comfortable as well. It had a bed, same as the other dens, and sentimental items that belonged to the beta's. The warriors den was a dank, dark cave and had scattered beds that were once occupied by different warriors. It had bones scattered around, showing the bravery of the warriors that once slept there. The elders den was cool and comfortable, relaxing the elders that slept in the den. It smelled of old fur and seemed to shimmer with the souls of the wolves that died there. The gammas den was larger than the main cave, about 40ft each way, and was chosen as the gammas den due to the large population of gammas. It had scattered beds, each with a sentimental item or two that marked which bed was whos. The students den was also a large den, about 30 feet, allowing the paws of the pup's feet space to wrestle and play. Outside the caves was a small field, only 15ft around, and covered in grass and flowers. Right after the field, about 10 feet away, was two fallen pines, on a boulder. They made up two dens. The healer's den and the seer's den. To the right of the dens (if you were looking at it) was a large lake. The lake had no name, and was calm and cool. It had plenty of fish, small and large, and provided the wolves with a snack if they could catch any. Surrounding the dens, apart from the field, was the forest and a mountain range. The mountains had no name, and made up the mountaneous caves the wolves denned in. they surrounded the dens, but there was an opening or two where the wolves would go out to hunt in the deep forest. The western forests, otherwise known as the forests after the surrounding mountains, were deep and wild. The forest south and north of the dens, trapped by the mountains and the lakes, were light and scattered by meadows of grassland and flowers. Those meadows were full of rabbits and deer, and the wolves would take their students out to hunt in some of the various meadows. One of the meadows, just south of the healer and seer dens, was the place where Dark trained her ravens, and the mentors trained their students. To the

very edge of their eastern territory was another territory of wolves, the Featherpaw Pack. And to the very edge of their southern territory was a pack of stray dogs, the Stray Pack. To the north was the Arctic Pack, and to the west was the Paws Pack.

Dark trotted toward the nursery, dodging the food pile, and stepped into the tunnel leading to the cave. Dark entered the den slowly, not quite ready to see her offspring. She looked up, gazing around the other mothers, and found her mate towards the left corner. Lyf was lying on her side, with nine wiggling shapes next to her. Two of the nine were Dark's own pups, a week older than the newborns. She had left them with Lyf when she had went out hunting. On her way back from hunting, Dark just fell asleep in the main cave, not having enough energy to look in on Lyf and the new pups. When she had awoken, she had heard the pups, and here she was. Lyf raised her head, motioning for Dark to come closer. Dark lay down, facing her, but close enough to where the pups were squeezed between both stomachs. She lay the meat between them both and licked Lyf's ears. Lyf smiled and sighed, nodding towards the pups, "Think we'll have enough milk?" Dark flicked her tail and counted the pups once more. She faced her mate, and, seeing the concern in her eyes, nodded, "Of course Lyf. Even if we don't we have the rest of the pack. Lyf sighed, relaxing, and nibbled at the meat. Dark gazed at her for a moment more, then pushed her two pups gently to her own stomach. The two began to feed and Dark relaxed as well, watching the pups squirm.

She thought about the night they decided to have pups together. In this world, same-sex couples could have pups together. It wasn't that difficult to preform the ritual to create the pups, but there was the issue of picking which one was to be pregnant. With male couples this was harder, because they couldn't normally give birth, but for Lyf and Dark it was easy. Dark was the first to become pregnant, and a week later Lyf joined her in the pregnancy. They did the ritual each time, and picked the desired pups. There was another couple like them that performed the ritual, around the same time as Lyf and Dark. They were both males, and they had asked the alpha's first before going ahead. There was a dark grey male with a black mane named Geri, and a blonde and black male named Freki. Both loved each other, and performed the ritual. Geri was now laying in the den with his two new pups. Another couple had also had pups, but they had had them naturally. They were a straight couple, and they were both black wolves. Their names were Crescent and Anubis, and Crescent was sitting in another corner of the den, nursing her two pups as well.

Dark sighed and flicked her ears, her eyes fluttering in exhaustion. She glanced at her stomach, and blinked slightly, seeing two more pups from Lyf's litter nursing. Dark snorted in amusement and lay her head back down on her paws. Lyf licked her lips and nuzzled Dark's neck. Dark returned the nuzzle with a lick on Lyf's cheek, and curled her tail around her pups. Lyf nodded and snuggled her head next to Dark's. The family of wolves closed their eyes and drifted into a silent sleep.

2 - Chaper Two

Lime Chapter Two

It was nine weeks later. The wolf pups were now ready to be students, and Dark was under the pressure of having to choose teachers. "Ugh," she grunted, "So much stress...I can't believe nine weeks went by that easily." She sighed and sat on the shore of the lake, where she had been pacing only seconds before. Swishing her tail, she sipped the water from the lake. "Hmm," she thought, "Let's go through the list of pups." Dark finished drinking and stared at the lake quietly. There was Arionette. Arionette was a cream, female pup with brown eyes. She also had a black mane and forepaw, and a white underbelly. She was Dark's first born as well. Dark smiled and flicked her ear. Arionette had her other mother's personality; outgoing. Dark snorted in amusement and turned around to face the entrance of the cave. Arionette was wrestling in the field outside the cave with two other pups Dark recognized as Skippy and Moon. Skippy was Lyf's third born, or second born male. He was a golden male pup with green eyes, and had two tiny flecks of red on his cheeks. Currently, he was chewing on Arionette's ear and wagging his tail happily. The other pup was Moon, the female in Crescent's litter. Moon was a small, albino female, with the classic white fur and red eyes. She was rolling around beside the wrestling pups, nibbling on flowers and pawing at Skippy's ears. The rest of the pups were outside as well. Dark scanned the field, and her eyes locked onto a black male pup with green eyes. He had a white mane and tail, and was gazing up at the sky. He was Odin, Dark's second born pup. He had Dark's personality, and seemed to remain quiet and dreaming. Next to him was a white female pup with blue eyes and specks of lavender around her face. She was Avalanche, Lyf's sixth born and third born female. She was glancing at the sky, then back to him. Farther away were two pups chasing one another for a black feather. They almost looked like twins. Both were cream, with a brown tail and a brown patch running from his head to his shoulders. The older, bigger one differed from the smaller, younger one in that he had a brown patch above his right hind leg and blue eyes. The younger one had red eyes and no patch. The older was named Kasher, and was Lyf's second born and first born male. The younger was named Vincent, and was Lyf's fifth born, or third born male. The two pups seemed to get along well with each other, and spent a lot of their time talking or playing together. Three other pups were chasing each other in the forest. Two of them were Geri and Freki's litter. The dark grey male with light grey/white patches, green eyes, and white wings with black speckles was named Hati. His brother was a golden pup with blue eyes, black ears and a neck marking, pink leggings, and a lavender tail with a black tip. He also had bigger lavender wings with black tips. His name was Skoll, and he was Geri's second born male. Following them was a large, black male pup with a blonde bang, eyes, and leggings. This pup's name was Phase, and he was the first born of Crescent's litter. This pup was mildly aggressive, and had a habit of following a group of pups, nipping at their tails. Towards the lake, close to Dark, were two females. The lavender pup, with blue eyes and a braid, was named Charlamagne. She was Lyf's first born. The cream pup next to her had two black stripes going down her back, a white underbelly, and brown eyes. She was named Jestabel, and was Lyf's fourth born, or second born female. The two pups were chatting, but Dark couldn't hear them. Lastly, Dark gazed towards the cave entrance, was Skippy. He was a black male pup with his mother, Lyf's, blue eyes. He was staring into space, and seemed entertained, despite his not moving. Dark raised from where she was and walked, slowly, towards the center of the field. The pups tilted their heads towards her, knowing the reason she got up. Dark sat down on the soft grass, raised her head, and howled the Meeting Song.

The pack was sitting in front of Dark and Lyf, facing the alphas with their full attention. Dark nodded, and sat up straight, ready for her speech. "Pack Members of the Norse Pack," she began, "It is time for the thirteen pups of our pack to become students. I have finally selected their teachers." Dark swished her tail, and lowered her gaze to the line of pups sitting in front of the adults. "Moon," she said to the albino pup, "Approach." Moon lowered her head in respect and walked towards the alpha. She stopped directly in front of Dark and bowed. Dark nodded and held Moon's gaze. "Moon, you are now ready to learn the wolves ways. Your teacher will be...", Dark paused gazing around the groups of wolves sitting in front of her. She nodded towards a white, blind elder. The elder approached and sat on the other side of Moon. "You're teacher, Moon, is Blindeye. Treat your teacher with respect, and Blindeye," she glanced towards the elder, "Treat your student with understanding. Both of you are quiet, fast learners. I'm sure both of you will learn from each other." The two white wolves faced each other, and Blindeye licked Moon's forehead. Dark nodded and flicked an ear. The white wolves nodded and walked to the side of the group, lining up next to them. Dark sighed and faced another pup, this time it was Odin. She nodded, and Odin repeated what Moon did. Dark smiled proudly and addressed her son, "Odin, you are now ready to learn the wolves ways. You're teacher will be...Freki." The blonde gamma trotted up to Odin, sat down in front of him, and licked his forehead. "I trust you both will get along well, and Odin," Dark mumbled to her son, "I'm proud of you." Odin beamed, and he and his new teacher trotted after Moon and Blindeye, sitting in the line. Dark focused on Crescent's other pup, Phase. The large pup stumbled up to Dark, repeating the bowing, and sitting down. "Phase," she said to the pup, "You are now ready to learn the wolves ways. You're teacher will be...", she scanned the group and nodded to a white and brown wolf with a rainbow bang, "Tri." The rainbow-banged wolf plopped down in front of Phase and wagged his tail. "I KNOW you two will get along fine. Tri, teach Phase what you know about the world, and Phase, teach Tri how to...calm down," Dark chuckled, "Not to mention you both have bangs." Phase blushed slightly, and Tri licked his head. Then the two wolves followed the last group of wolves to the line. Dark nodded after them, still chuckling slightly, and nodded towards Jestabel. "Jestabel," Dark began, "You are now ready to learn the wolves ways. You're teacher will be," Dark paused, nodding toward the grey gamma, "Geri." Geri and Jestabel exchanged licks, and Dark sighed, "You two will learn off each other. And Geri, you should be able to teach her well." The two wolves nodded, and followed Tri to the line. Dark nodded toward Avalanche. Avalanche approached and bowed, sitting down nervously. "Avalanche," Dark said, "You are now ready to learn the wolves ways. You're teacher will be Joker." The blind seer appeared out of what seemed like nowhere, and licked Avalanche's forehead. Dark nodded happily, "Avalanche has had dreams Joker. I trust you'll be able to help her interpret her dreams." Joker nodded and led Avalanche to the line. She now focused on the lavender pup, Charlamagne. Charlamagne trotted up to her confidentially, and bowed, smiling shyly. "Charlamagne," Dark recited, "You are now ready to learn the wolves ways. You're teacher will be," Dark nodded towards the black beta, "Cresent." The beta nodded and licked Charlamagne's forehead. Dark smiled, "Teach her well Cresent." The two nodded and lined up with the others. Dark sighed once more and looked towards the similar pups, Kasher and Vincent. Kasher walked up seriously, while Vincent stalked beside him. They both bowed and sat. "Vincent and Kasher," Dark said, "You two are now ready to learn the wolves ways. Let's hope one teacher can handle you both. You're teacher is," Dark flicked an ear towards the large, black beta, "Anubis." Anubis trotted up to the two brothers, licking them both on the forehead, and smiling in a friendly way. "Anubis, I expect you can handle them?" Anubis nodded. "Good," Dark laughed, "And I trust, Kasher and Vincent, that you'll go easy on him?" Vincent barked and Kasher nodded, embarrassed. Dark nudged them away, and they lined up beside the others. "Arionette, Hati, and Skoll. Approach," she said to the three pups. They nodded and went through the routine of bowing. "You three are now ready to learn the wolves ways. You're teacher will be Lyf." Lyf smiled and sat in front of the three pups. She licked each pup's head and smiled again. "Lyf, you're my lover, and I

trust you to teach these pups what they need to learn,"she said quietly,"As for you three, I trust you'll go easy on her. She's very soft." Lyf grunted and snorted in Dark's fur. Dark wagged her tail and watched as they trotted next to her, away from the line. Dark sighed,"Now. The last pups. Skippy and Qa'nir...approach." The two pups bowed impatiently and sat. "You two are now ready to learn the wolves ways. You're teacher will be, well, me,"Dark said, licking their foreheads happily."I'll treat you with respect if Skippy calms down,"she said, glancing at Skippy, who was bouncing excitedly. "We must welcome the new students to our pack. Let us sing for them to learn well and become great warriors for this pack," Dark said. Dark nodded to Lyf, and Lyf raised her head, beginning the Welcome Song. Dark joined in after, followed by the teachers, then the rest of the packs, and finally, the pups.

3 - Chapter Three

Chapter 3

The scrawny, auburn wolf trotted to the border of his territory. He sniffed at the ground, inhaling his packs scent, and listened to a wolf sitting next to him. The scrawny wolf turned his head and faced his companion. His companion was a larger, yet still not average, black male. Both the brown and the black wolf had a ring of blue dots around their eyes. The black male snorted and stared back at the scrawny male, "We're about to cross territories, Squirrel." Squirrel twitched and sniffed at the border once more, lowering his ears. "I know," Squirrel mumbled, "I'm not stupid. I can smell the Norse Pack's scent. Are you sure we're allowed to do this, Coin?" Coin rolled his eyes and gazed across the landscape, sniffing the air. "We're allowed to pass territories as long as we have a good reason-" he was cut off by Squirrel dashing away after a deer. Coin widened his eyes and raced after his brother. "No Squirrel!" he shouted, dodging a boulder and gaining speed, "We can't hunt on another pack's territory! It will completely obliterate the point you idiot!" Squirrel tackled the doe, wrenching his teeth into it's flesh. Coin gained as much speed as he could and dived into Squirrel, making the younger sibling tumble into the long grass. The doe staggered back to her feet and limped away. Coin watched it, praying that it would survive, but luck wasn't with him. The doe fell, making a sickening thump as it fell to the ground. Coin winced and sniffed the air. He widened his eyes and snapped his head to the side, seeing what he had prayed he'd never see. A white streak was running down the hill, and Coin knew it was one of the Norse Pack's members. The white wolf bounded towards Squirrel, his redbrown eyes blazing. Squirrel looked up, seeming to come to his senses, and panicked. He could not hide what he had done, and the white wolf knew it. The wolf came up to him in a trot, snarling and raising his tail. "May I ask what the frack you're doing?" the wolf barked, circling the two strangers. Squirrel cowered, the yellow feathers in his fur betraying him for the coward he was. Coin, on the other hand, had the dignified blue feathers in his fur, and stood up bravely. "We were on our way to see you're alpha," he stated, "and my brother happened to hunt one of your does. I hope you accept my apologies, and I'm sure my brother didn't mean it." The wolf growled, his fur bristling, and got ready to pounce. Unfortunately, his mate, an autumn, mousy little male, slammed into his side. "Coffee!" the little male squealed, licking the white wolf all around his face. "Oh my, Hello Cream," Coffee said, blushing and licking Cream's ear. Behind Cream stood a large, skinny white wolf with teal stripes running down his back. "Oh...wow," the striped wolf mumbled, snorting slightly. "Hallo Brains!" Coffee yelled, "Where's Brawn?" Brains rolled his eyes and sat behind the two lovers, keeping an eye on the strangers. "He's about to give birth," Brains said, grunting in embarrassment, "To our pups. We performed the ritual a few weeks ago. That's why I came looking for you with Cream. We wanted to tell you. The whole pack is waiting, but only the alphas, me, you, and Cream are allowed to watch." The two lovers nodded, then glanced towards the strangers. "They will come with us," Coffee grunted, "I'm sure Alpha Lyf and Alpha Dark will want to question them."

Coin and Squirrel sat outside the cave, surrounded by the pack members. Inside, however, sat the Alphas, Brains, Brawn, Coffee, and Cream. Brawn lay on the floor, with black feathers in his mouth. The rest surrounded him, keeping their distance, yet watching with fascination. Dark and Lyf had not had to do this part of the ritual, thanks to being females. The males, on the other hand, got a mental signal when the time for the birth of their pups was due. The "pregnant" male would gather feathers for the number of pups he would have, and sit in the den until he was ready. For Brains and Brawn, it was two feathers, and that was the number of feathers that were in Brawn's mouth. He lay down the feathers beside his stomach, and inhaled deeply. Brawn raised his head and began to sing the Song of Birth. The two

feathers began to tremble and glow, but Brawn did not stop singing. He would not stop singing until his pups were born. The feathers shook violently, and one of them had begun to have a strange glowing crack run down the middle. Out of the light formed a head, a pup's head, and the one of Brawn's pups was being born. The newborn squirmed and wriggled slightly, and the feather seemed to explode. Instead of exploding outward, however, it surrounded the little pup and soaked into it. The pup sunk to the floor and whimpered. The other feather had just exploded as well, and another, smaller pup sunk to the floor. The smaller pup whimpered too, but much louder than the firstborn. The surrounding wolves looked at Brawn's stomach, and saw two tiny holes emerge in his stomach. Brawn nudged the two pups to his stomach, and they began to nurse. Brawn grunted and swished his tail at the remaining wolves, and they took it as a cue to leave. Brawn nuzzled his mate, and the two lovers sank to the floor in exhaustion, beginning to fall asleep.

Dark and Lyf squeezed out of the den and yawned in the dim light. Their nine pups hopped around them, nipping at their parent's chins. Dark sank into the grass outside of the cave and closed her eyes. Lyf blinked at her, licking Dark's muzzle, and continued toward the intruders. The two wolves bowed, and Lyf nodded, "Well, at least you treat the alpha's with respect. However, my warrior said he watched you kill one of our does." Lyf snorted and glanced at Coffee, who returned the glance with a nod. "So," Lyf continued, "You'd better have a good reason for trespassing and stealing." Coin rose to his paws and nodded. "I'm sorry," he began, "If we trespassed and stole. I assure you, it was not my intention to steal...only to inform." He cleared his throat, and stole a glare at Squirrel. Dark walked up to Lyf and stood beside her. "Inform us of what, Featherpaw Pack Member?" Dark questioned, tilting her head, "I do understand we have peace with your pack, so my mate and I forgive you for your mistakes." Lyf snorted and nuzzled her mate's fur, "You go too easy on them." Coin shuffled and bowed his head in embarrassment. He licked his fur and lifted his head once more. "Norse Pack, since you are friends of the Featherpaw Pack, we have come to share this information with you. There is a pack of wolves coming towards our territories. They are looking for recruits, and plan on destroying us all unless we join. The leader is a large, black wolf...larger than I've ever seen. He calls himself Fenrir. I'm afraid of what to do, and I do believe we should have an alliance of sorts. Without an alliance, I doubt we could ever defeat him."

4 - Chapter Four

Chapter Four

The two elders towards the back of the group exchanged a look. They knew this was serious, and despite their old age, neither had dealt with something like this. The entire pack, except Brains and Brawn of course, was still. They were all focused on the strangers, and were waiting for the alphas to do something about it. Both elders were brown, though one was a bit larger than the other and had a black mane, white underbelly, and white paws. The larger was named Shadow, and the smaller was named Donatello. Both had become good friends, and often sat next to each other, grooming each other and exchanging tales of their history. Donatello was also older than Shadow, but his age rarely showed. He liked to sleep, but also had fun with the pups; playing with them and disciplining them. Most of all, Donatello was brave. In Donatello's former pack, he had chased away a lone male that had tried to kill the alpha's pups. Now he was in the Norse Pack, and the mention of Fenrir brought that memory back.

Shadow and Donatello approached the alphas, bowing slightly, then sitting. Donatello spoke first, "There was a lone pupkiller who had snuck into my pack's den. I chased him away. Surely, I can chase this..Fenrir away?" Coin glanced at Donatello, then back to the alphas, "Packs have been killed. We only know this because our allies to the south, the stray pack, says he's almost at their border. Whole packs have been killed fighting this..monster. Surely an elder like you can't handle this." Donatello growled fiercely, his fur bristling. "I've been alive for eighteen years. That's six times how long you've lived. Don't tell me I cannot handle this. I've seen pack's die, and I've seen rogue scum like this Fenrir creep their way into a pack and destroy it. You, luckily, have not seen death, but what you're telling me, you will soon." Donatello grunted and marched back towards the tree. Shadow bowed to the alphas, snorted at Coin, and trotted after him. The pack watched as they both lay in the grass, and began grooming each other.

A fast fog, only about three feet high, crept under the legs of the wolves, stopping and hovering in front of the allies. It slowly formed into the white, blind seer that had given Dark meat, and was now teacher to Avalanche. Joker stared blindly at the allies and spoke, his low voice seeming to hover over the land, "They're right, Dark. We must plan for a defence against Fenrir. No lone pack can save themselves, but I believe that perhaps we will conquer." Joker flicked his ear, and a bolt of green lightning shot next to him. Where the lightning scorched the grass now stood a fox with a green symbol under his eyes. His name was Domsu, and he was the pack's healer. He nodded to Dark, then to Lyf, and faced the two allies. "Tell your alphas that terror is about to come. However, tell them that we will help you in your cause," The mysterious healer said, pushing a bundle of herbs and berries in front of the two strangers. "That is medicine for your trip home," he explained, "the berries will cure your thirst and hunger. The herbs will cure your exhaustion." Both the seer and the healer bowed, and in a flash, were gone. Dark faced the two travelers. "Both of you have done an honorable thing, and it might have saved this pack's life. We thank you for that, and you may stay here until you are ready to tell your pack the news." With that, Dark and Lyf stood, bowed to the travelers, and howled the Pack Song.

It rained that night, and soaked the field and trees outside the den. Inside the cave, Coin and Squirrel were fast asleep, along with most of the Norse Pack. Two pups, however, were awake.

Odin squirmed in his sleep and opened his eyes. He whimpered quietly and looked at his sister, lying beside him. The dream...what was the dream he had. He jolted as the dream came back to him. It was about Fenrir. He had dreamed of a large shadow moving along the ground. The shadow was a

black wolf with blazing red eyes. The wolf's jaws reached from heaven to hell, and he was about to kill Odin. Odin curled his tail around his legs and cast his gaze around at his sleeping siblings. He felt so different from his brothers and sisters. Except...his brother, Qa'nir. He locked his eyes onto his black-furred brother. He felt wierd about Qa'nir. Qa'nir was different, like him, and Odin liked him...a little too much, he thought. He rose to his feet, and delicately stepped over the siblings surrounding him. He was almost out of the den when he heard paws behind him. He turned around and saw his brother, Qa'nir.

The two pups sat in the doorway to the cave, staring out into the rain. "You know," Qa'nir said quietly, "I know how you feel about me." Odin shivered and stared at him, shuddering at what Qa'nir might say. "I mean, I like you and all," he continued, "But not like THAT, Odin. We're brothers, and I want to wait for someone perfect for me." Odin cast his gaze to the ground, and lowered his ears. He had known Qa'nir couldn't feel that way about him. Especially since they were brothers, and the age didn't help either. Qa'nir coughed, "I'm sorry, Odin." Odin nodded and stared back out into the rain. He could feel himself slowly getting depressed. He sighed and mumbled, "It's alright Qa'nir. I'll never find someone perfect for me..I wish you luck though." Qa'nir winced and nodded, casting his gaze into the storm as well. "Training starts tomorrow," Qa'nir mumbled. Odin blinked and leaned against the entrance wall. It was time he grew up, he thought to himself, and he was sure to prove it to the whole pack.

Odin tumbled on the ground, his nose pushing into the soft sand on the shore of the lake. Freki leaped to Odin's left and aimed at Odin, "Defence!". Then he dove at Odin. Odin dodged, ducking under him and skirting away from the water. Freki spun around as he hit the ground, and rushed towards the cave. Odin remembered the lecture Freki had given him earlier in the day. "Never let your enemy get to the dens," he had said. Odin dove towards Freki and leapt on his back, gnawing on Freki's scruff. The two wolves tumbled, but Odin dove out of the way, and, while Freki was on the ground, tore off for the forest. "Lead the enemy away from the dens. Get him frustrated so he'll follow you." Odin remembered most of the information Freki had given him, and was using this newfound knowledge to Freki's disadvantage. As he ran he remembered his mother, Dark, giving him advice before he went out to train. "Teachers always expect you to forget the information they give you. They usually forget before you do, so keep all the information to yourself." Odin nodded to himself and dived under some shrubbery, wincing as his mentor's paws raced past him. He let out a sigh of relief and backed farther into the shrubs. His tail bumped into fur, and he let out a surprised snort, turning around and scraping his ear against a branch.

"I'm sorry to scare you," said Hati, curling his tail around his body. Odin let out a shiver and nodded, "It's okay, Hati." The two had spent hours at a time talking about their dreams, and they had a close bond. Hati nodded and uncurled his tail, staring at Odin. "We both have green eyes," he mumbled, cuddling closer to Odin. Odin blushed and nuzzled the top of Hati's head with his own. "I thought I liked Qa'nir," he sighed, gazing out through the cracks in the shrubbery. Hati nodded and yawned, "I know. It's okay though. I'm pretty sure you'd like being with me." Odin blushed and looked down at Hati. They both locked eyes, but were interrupted by something crashing through the forest. Odin pricked his ears and crawled out of the bush, with Hati following closely.

The buck slammed into Odin with full force. Hati widened his eyes and cowered as the deer fell to the forest floor. The young pup gazed around the forest, seeing nothing but trampled grass. He rushed to Odin's side and licked his cheek. Odin was on his side, with a cut in his hind leg. Hati examined the wound, and judged it to be just a scratch. Odin mumbled and stood warily, casting anxious glances towards the fallen deer. "What was that all about," he mumbled, limping towards the buck. The deer lay in the shrubbery that Odin and Hati had been in moments before. It had no wounds, and judging from its surroundings, had nothing to run from. Behind them, Freki and Lyf were running towards them. Lyf

stopped behind them and licked each of their heads. "What happened, Mommy-san?" Odin asked Lyf, glancing back towards the buck. Freki had arrived then, and was grooming his son warily. Lyf stared at the buck, sniffing it carefully, "I don't know, Odin.."