

Lone Wolf

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This is the story on my OC, Najiku. The chapters aren't very long, but oh well.

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1 - Lost Pack

Once upon a time before time, there was but a single being. He created everything. Everything corresponded to an element: Life, death, earth, air, fire, water, light, shadow, mortal and immortal. Everything he created was counteracted by its opposite. He created me, a lone alpha wolf. My name is Najiku.

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My mate was in labor. One pup, pure white, like me, was born, followed by a gray pup, like my mate. The white one was a female. The gray one was a male. Both were undersized and underweight. The sound of gunfire rang from outside the cave, shooting me into the most aggressive mood I've ever felt. I knew how to disguise myself as a human, fortunately, and I quickly transformed myself into a human. Unfortunately, my wolf ears still showed through my disguise. My eyes stayed the same too. I quickly made a makeshift hat appear on my head to cover my ears and skiing goggles to cover my eyes. I ran outside the cave, only to find a slaughtered pack. I was stunned.

"Why...?" I said. One of the murderers turned at my question.

"It's obvious. This pack has been raiding our settlement of food." the hunter said.

"That's not true!" I yelled. "I've been watching them... They're wonderful hunters, too. There was no need for them to steal from you."

"Well, if that's true or not, I don't know. Hey - You smell weird. Like you've been wrestling with those wolves. Yeah, you smell like wolf." he said. He was wearing his hood up and also had on skiing goggles on.

"And I suppose that you're a wolf, seeing how you were able to pick out that scent from this blistering cold mountain air." I said.

"Heh. You got me. I'm a wolf." He tore off his hood, revealing his furry dark gray ears.

A growl formed deep in my throat, which turned into a snarl. A snarl that transfigured my face into wolf-like features. What I called "normal" features. "Then why did you murder them?" I said.

"They betrayed me. Said they already had an alpha. Said they'd rather die than betray their leader. So they died." said the murderer coolly and calmly. That boiled my blood.

I was on the verge of transforming back into my wolf form when he quickly drew a knife and slashed vertically at my right eye. I managed to save my eye by closing it, but the damage was done. He slashed again, horizontally this time. I ducked slightly, but he still got me. I yelled in pain.

I transformed back into my wolf form, and, with one fluid motion, jumped and bit out his throat.

“You're a wolf too... Should've known...” the assassin said, a sarcastic tone to his voice.

Then he died.

My eye was still bleeding, and I dared not open it for the fear I had gone blind in that eye. I sank to the ground and mourned to a cold moon.

## 2 - Ritari

I sank to the ground and mourned to a cold moon.

I slunk back inside the cave; head hung low, paws dragging, and utterly miserable.

“Akagu, we lost the pack. We're the only ones left of this pack.” I said to my mate.

“Damn!” Akagu replied. “We can't afford to lose these two then.”

“I know.” I said tiredly. “I think that the only way to do that, unfortunately, is to get human help. They're brighter than you may think. Some will even help us wolves.”

“Are you serious?? They're the ones that killed our pack! We can't trust them! They could kill you! Plus, they could track you here and kill the pups and me. You'd put us all at risk. Are you really willing to do that?” Akagu said to me. Making me think. Man, I hate it when she does that...

“We're doomed anyways. I have no choice in the matter. Think about that, Akagu. We have no choice. I have to try. I have to try to save us...” I said in response, making my mate think.

After a long, heart-wrenching pause, she said, “Alright. I suppose you're right. Just please be careful.”

“Thank you. I appreciate the consent. Farewell.” I said in a goodbye.

“Good luck... Najiku.” Akagu said, utterly beaten.

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I ran, human form, down the mountain. Even in my human form, I was running at blazing wolf speeds. I hurdled boulders, jumping higher than the normal wolf and definitely higher than humans can jump.

“Hiyah! Haha! Call this an obstical course?” I said, just to ease my nerves as I hurdled another large boulder.

I jumped over a cliff, mistaking it for a small ledge.

“What...? —AAAAHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHH!!!” I screamed, free-falling, over a 100-foot cliff. After the ten most terrifying seconds of my life, I hit rock, on my arm. Naturally, it snapped.

I groaned in pain, cradling my broken limb. Darkness flooded my vision, and I fell unconscious.

“That's quite the fall you had. Are you alright?” came a voice. It was kind, warm, and affectionate. Not at all like the traitor wolf's voice...

I sprang to my feet, only to yelp in pain and collapse again. I whimpered softly, only to be cooed at by the stranger, trying to soothe me, trying to... to help?

“Calm down. I'm not going to hurt you. I'm trying to help, but I can't do that if you're jumping around like that. Please let me help you!” she pleaded. Maybe she really did want to help me...

I kept whimpering in pain. There was a look a fear in my eye. I was pathetic. She could easily take my life.

“Calm down! I told you once; I told you a million times! I AM NOT GOING TO HURT YOU IN ANY WAY SHAPE OR WAY!!” she said, obviously short tempered.

I suppressed the urge to laugh as I imagined her expression if I talked.

“Ok, I get your point, lady.” I said, merely as a trust tester.

“AAAAAAAAAHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHH!!!!!!” she screamed, not used to talking wolves.

I laughed. Then, I transformed into my human form. Simply to show that I wasn't going to hurt her.

“Wait. Are you human, or wolf?” the girl asked, a puzzled expression on her face.

“Wolf.” I said. I was cradling my arm again, too.

“Okay then! I've never seen a wolf like you before. A talking, shape-shifting wolf... Am I crazy?” she asked.

“Yeah, I'm pretty sure you are. And I'm also pretty sure that I'm in a bit of a crisis. A big crisis. My pack's dead save for three others. My mate and two pups. The pups are underweight. My mate will starve if I don't get help. I need help. I need it desperately. Please help me.” I said in a rush. Yeah, I was that desperate.

“Whoa, slow down, wolfie. One word at a time. I didn't catch a single word of that,” the girl said.

“You are crazy. I need help. I'm in a big crisis. My pack has been murdered. Only my mate and our two sickly pups are left. I was coming to get help, but I fell off of that cliff and broke my arm. I fainted, and here I am now. That good enough?” I said, a lot more slowly than before.

“Better, better. I actually understood you this time through. Let's get a splint on that arm of yours, alright?” the girl said.

“I suppose I have no choice if I want my arm to heal properly, huh?” I asked.

“Yup. No choice whatsoever.” she said.

“By the way, what's your name? I'm Najiku.” I said.

“Ritari. Nice to meet you, Najiku.” Ritari said, performing a graceful sweeping bow.

“Likewise.” I said, doing as much of a bow as I could in my awkward position.

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Down in her village at the base of the mountain, Ritari was putting a splint on my arm. She drew the cloth binding the stick to my arm even tighter than it was. I drew a sharp breath of pain as a sickening crack indicated that my bones were now back in position.

“Sorry!” Ritari said quickly. “I’m sorry if it hurts. But this has to be done.”

“It’s okay. I know it has to be done. Just get it done and over with.” I said between sharp breaths.

“Okay.”

Ritari placed a second limb in the cloth and my bones made another sickening cracking noise. Pain flooded my consciousness

“Ahh! Ow, that hurt a lot.” I said. As she put a third limb in, a shudder ran itself through my body like a snake slithering along a tree branch.

“Don’t move, Najiku! It’ll only make it hurt more if you shudder like that again.” Ritari said firmly.

“I can’t help it... It just... happens.” I said between breaths. “Sorry.” I said for no good reason.

### 3 - Brewing up Trouble

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After a few more sickening cracks from my arm, I was vomiting on the ground from the pain.

"Ewwwww! Ew ew ew ew ew eww! How gross!" Ritari said in a sickened tone.

I finished vomiting and wiped my mouth on my sleeve.

"That was nasty, Najiku! Why'd you have to nearly barf on me?" she concluded.

"Well, would you rather me actually vomit on you? I held it in for as long as I could, just for you. Be thankful for that." I retaliated.

"I... well, um... uh..." she stuttered. "Okay, you got me. I suppose I'm a little thankful..." she said, holding up her fingers symbolizing a pea-sized amount.

I merely chuckled at her.

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Outside, word was going around that Ritari had betrayed the village by bringing a stranger into the village.

"I heard that she brought a werewolf into the village! Either that, or he's a wolf demon. He had the ears and eyes of a wolf, and a scar over his right eye. Ritari really did it this time! We've gotta kill them both!" said one of the villagers in a meeting. Murmurs of agreement were uttered from countless mouths.

"I heard that those ears were doggie ears..." said a small child in disappointment.

"Hush!" said the child's mother.

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From within the hut, my ears pricked up at the noise. I could hear every word, and my happiness ebbed away, only to be replaced by fear.

I obviously was showing my fear, as Ritari asked what was wrong.

"They found you out, Ritari. I need to leave. It would be best if you came with me." I said.

There was a shocked expression on her face. "But, Najiku... I'll only slow you down! I can't go... I just can't let you die like this! I just can't!" she said.

"Ritari, if it weren't for you, I wouldn't be here right now. You have to come. Please, Ritari, you have to come with me!" I said.

The human was shocked again. She had a look of astonishment on her face, most likely because I wanted her to come with me so badly.

"Najiku... I'll only get you killed! I don't want that! I want you to live on to be an old, old wolf! Please, don't do this, Najiku!!

"Ritari, would you rather be burned alive? Or perhaps a silver stake ran through your heart? Or, maybe, be dropped into a volcano? Any of those things could happen if you don't come with me." I said, numbering them off on my fingers as I went.

"Um, well, no, not really!" Ritari said nervously.

"I thought so. Let's go, Ritari." I said.

"Alright. If you insist." she said, arms folded.

I grinned. "I insist."

And so we were off.

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I was running for my life, in my human form, away from the angry villagers. They had captured Ritari and she was screaming at them to let her go. I had to smile inwardly at that. It seemed that she was constantly screaming nowadays, by the sounds of things.

"Shaddup. You'll only make it more painful if you don't." said the villager tying Ritari up.

"I will never shut up!" Ritari said. Then, she continued screaming.

I suddenly realized that I could save her. All I needed to do was to ignore my pain.

I leapt backwards over about 125 villagers, back to the post where they were tying up Ritari. I transformed back wolf, and, with a brief groan of pain, killed the villager tying Ritari up. After that, I freed Ritari from her binds with a quick snap of my jaws.

"Thanks... I thought I was done for." Ritari said in relief.

I transformed back human, scooped up Ritari in my one good arm, and jumped back over the confused but angry villagers.



Then, we ran for our lives.

## 4 - During the chase...

Then, we ran for our lives.

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We both ran as humans, but naturally I was faster, being a full-blooded wolf.

“Hey! Najiku! Wait up for me!” Ritari said in anxiety.

“Heh, sorry. You're just slow, Ritari!” I said tauntingly.

“Ooh, you've crossed the line, now, Najiku!” Ritari said crossly.

“So? It's just the way nature is... I'm a swift and powerful wolf; you're a lousy, lame, little human.” I said coolly.

“Stop it, Najiku, you're getting on my nerves!” Ritari said.

“Or what, human? I saved you! You should be thankful to me!” I said.

Ritari mumbled something that even my keen wolf ears couldn't pick up.

“Don't let'm get away! We have to kill them today, before they assault other villages!” said one of the villagers heatedly.

“Oh, we're gonna get away, don't you worry. We're bound for escape. We will. We have to. We've come this far, we're gonna escape!” I said simply to pass time. I slowed down enough for Ritari to draw alongside me. I grabbed her hand, and sped up to my top human speed, which was approximately 15mph.

“Oi... Are you always this determined, Najiku? Or are you just desperate?” Ritari said, an exasperated tone to her voice.

“Hmm... Was that out loud? Oops. Oh well, I suppose it doesn't matter now. Besides, it gave me something to talk about. Or are you just naïve, Ritari? Or am I just crazy? Maybe we're both crazy... That gives me something to think about... Crap, I just lost my train of thought... Oh well. Whoops, I just found it again...” I said calmly, simply to annoy Ritari.

“Najiku, can you forget about your stupid little train of thought and, oh, I don't know, maybe run a little faster? And maybe try to remember that we're in a life-and-death situation? Or maybe YOU are the naïve one? Eh, Najiku? Or should I just call you idiot wolf?” Ritari said through clenched teeth.

“Hey, my train of thought was not stupid, I'm running as fast as I can, I don't really care that we're in a life-and-death situation, I've been around longer than you, and, lastly, but most importantly, I am a proud alpha wolf, so therefore I cannot be an idiot wolf.” I said to even the score.

“The alpha of what pack? Your pack is dead, Najiku, you said so yourself. Don't deny it, it's true, and you know it.” Ritari said, this time taunting me.

A shadow crossed my eyes. “Ritari, that hurt. That cut me deep. *You* cut me deep. Don't insult me like that, ever. Got it?” I said, a tenor of hurt instantly apparent in my voice. “I only told you that so that you would be familiar with the reality of what destiny had made of my pack. Alright?”

Ritari's only response was a look of shock. She could not even stammer an apology.

The shadow across my eyes lingered as I deftly jumped over a log about the width of my body.

Ritari was absolutely mystified as to why I was taking her words so coldly.

I simply kept running.