

Lost and Found

By wolfmoon

Submitted: May 7, 2008
Updated: December 5, 2008

This is for my werewolf pack, for every member I add a few chapters about how they ended up with us.

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1 - Kaidok- Backstory

Oh crap, I thought, running as fast as I could on three legs. How long did I have? Seven minutes? Six? It didn't matter anyway, with the trail of dripping blood from my injured hind leg they'd find me. I had to keep pushing, on towards the celestial river, the river would save me. Oh God! How could this be happening. That warrior had seen in my eyes, I didn't want to fight him. He went out of his way not to kill me, but now I was wishing he had.

A high, dark howl rose over the ridge. Time was up. Panic rising in my throat I poured on as much speed as I could manage. Blood started to flow more freely from my bandages, which had long since soaked through. They had considered simply exiling me after I was crippled, but No. That would'nt have been any fun. Instead I was given a ten minute head start to get as far as I could. I was starting to feel lightheaded when Garian, The alphamale burst from the trees behind me. He was changing from human to wolf, he wore a twisted smile and his green eyes were full of insane glee. As the rest of the pack became visible in frenzies of barking an shifting forms I saw Alika, her soft brown eyes full of sympathy and sorrow.

I then noticed something else: something that made this just that much more disturbing. They weren't carrying weapons. They intended to rip me apart like cyotes would a carcass. I could hear the rush of the river now, just over the hill, I was almost over the top when Garian finally lunged at me. *This is it*, I thought, *This is the end*. Suddenly he was knocked aside by Alika. In her human form she quickly whispered to me,

"Goodbye Kaidok."

And with that she shoved me over the steep bank into the river that would save me. In my fall I caught a glimpse of her whirling to face Garian, now lunging at her with a guttural roar, I saw his jaws close around her neck. And with her last shriek of pain, I fell into the river and was washed away. Away from the black forest clan.

2 - Kosita- Backstory

I checked my supplies, a days loose rations, A shortrange sword, good to go. It was about time for me to get out of here, lest I die of boredom (if that's actually possible). I looked back at my father, the great alpha male of the Shadow claw clan... Knocked out on the dirt. By his fourteen year old daughter no less. I almost laughed.

Things around here were always excruciatingly boring. But in the last few weeks I had gotten fed up with the constant strictness of my father, the constant lack of personality from my clan, the constant eating rodents for every meal since they were the only things that freaking lived up here. Just the constants. I shifted to my wolf form, making my way across the barren, loose rubble and dirt of the mountain. Except for a few scraggly fir trees there was nothing but weeds growing from the cold ground.

He had set up a perimeter the day before, when I had told him I wanted to leave. I probably shouldn't have done that, but he obviously didn't know me as well as he thought, if he believed that would stop me. I trotted confidently to a thick rocky hill where I knew of a tunnel underneath that lead out into no mans land. I rounded a bush to the hidden entrance and came face to face with

"Sinoe!" I blurted, surprised.

"Planning to go somewhere?" asked my older brother. As always there was a note of patience and kindness in his voice. I opened my mouth but no words came out, he started again anyways. "I know you've been wanting to leave since like, I don't know, You were born?" I thought he was going to order me back but he continued, "Just take care of yourself." He shook my hand (neither of us were much for hugs) it was a small gesture, but it meant alot. I had his blessing to go.

"Oh if anyone asks," I started, already stepping into the opening,

"I didn't see anything." he said with a grin. I returned it and then I was gone.

3 - Kaidok- Not in Vain

I became vaguely aware that I was no longer moving, and laying on something hard. I opened my eyes and hazily checked my surroundings. I was lying on a bank, changed to my human form. I lay back down. God, Alika. She had to have known the consequences for that. She still saved me though. And she was dead because of it. We had always been close, but this.....Had she loved me? Had I loved her for that matter? Dammit! I would have punched something but didn't have the energy. Water started leaking from my eyes but I was too tired to care what else was now wrong with me, and drifted into sleep.

I'm guessing I was there drifting in and out of consciousness for three days. It was summer, so the temperature was cool but not freezing, I didn't die of the cold. At intervals when I was somewhat aware I realized I was no longer on the river but had been washed out into Lake Celeste. Finally I managed to force myself awake and check my leg, it was open still, but the bleeding had stopped. I was lucky it wasn't infected. I retied the bandages tighter, and stood up stiffly.

Realizing that I was starved and thirsty I dragged myself to the lake and swallowed as much water as I could gulp down. The clear lake felt like liquid oxygen trickling down my throat. I then turned and shifted to my wolf form, my clothes became tawny fur as my body shifted its shape. I limped to the trees to look for food. About an hour later I had managed to find a handful of wild berries, and a squirrel that was too dumb to run away. The next priority was shelter, I headed up to the slopes of what I knew from the area of the lake was timber mountain.

The journey wasn't incredibly painful; my leg had gone numb but was bleeding again. There were plenty of trails and ridges I followed to avoid extorting my leg. I was hoping for a small outcropping or a hollow log. As I searched my leg bled more and more and I started to panic, not thinking clearly from blood loss. Finally I reached a clearing, what I found was spectacular. There was a three story building, the kind that I had been told humans used. There hadn't been any in this territory range for generations though. That meant this place was abandoned. That was good for me. I let myself in (the door wasn't locked) and too exhausted to do anything else, Collapsed on a couch and fell asleep

4 - Kosita- Sweet uncertainty

I exited the cramped tunnel, smelled the crisp air and took off running. The Setting sun accompanied the wind in my fur. I felt extraordinary, powerful, a little hungry. After putting some real distance between me and that desolate peak I took a nibble of some dried meat I had. The sky was spectacular shades of red, orange and pink, on a whim (I had no idea where I was going anyway) took off running into it. Finally when the sky was dark and a crescent moon shone overhead I slowed down.

I trotted through an endless forest of pines, the only sound was my soft pads on the ground. I came to an old tree, white from death, but it was still strong and in the moonlight it looked amazing. I became human and extended sharp claws, begging to hoist myself up. The climb would have been easier with branches, but grappling onto it worked to. From a crook near the top I looked out over the sea of pines. The crescent moon over the lake was incredible, beautiful and a bit hypnotic.

I could have fallen asleep there, but a random impulse made me look the other way. I blinked in surprise, about a tenth of a mile away there was a large clearing with a three story house. There hadn't been any humans in the area in forever though, which meant one thing: I would be sleeping there tonight. I dropped out of the tree and casually trotted in the direction of my new home.

5 - Silver- Backstory

We brothers circled each other in the moonlight, fur bristling in the grey mist. Fang was growling, a look of killer rage in his eyes. He had always wanted the alpha position; we had both left minor scars all over each other from the fights he always started. His icy blue eyes were locked on mine, watching my every move. Karin, our sister, watched helplessly as he advanced.

With a roar he lunged. His mistake. I dodged agilely, turning and clamping my fangs down on his shoulder. He yelped in pain, then turned and clipped my neck as I leaped away. I tried to bite at his neck, but he pounced and tackled me to the ground. I winced as he chomped down on my shoulder. This was no dominance display; He was actually trying to kill me! I shoved him off and rolled to my feet. He pounced, but I ducked under him and raked my claws down his underbelly, making him howl with pain.

I caught a glimpse of the entire pack watching with horror; it was obvious their alpha male was going down. Fang started to charge at me when Karin sprang at him, biting his back. He roared in rage and brought his jaws down on her back. With a gut wrenching snap her face went blank and she limply fell to the ground.

"No!" I screamed, but she was already dead. He looked murderous, blood dripping from his mouth and and cuts. He jumped onto me, slashing the side of my face. I noticed something wrong. Everything went black on my left side. Then the pain hit me as I saw him flick my mangled eye off of his claw. Crazy with pain and despair I did the only thing I could. I ran. My thin Silvery limbs pumped hard, he was in pursuit but I was constantly gaining distance. Finally I lost him, crossing over the river. Exhausted and weary, I collapsed and passed out.

6 - Kai- Backstory

The relentless roaring of the fire all around was deafening. I only slightly heard Skyler's crying over the constant noise of the burning trees. I wrapped a thin cloth over his mouth. Still coughing I continued following Jing out of the burning mess. A column of burning wood fell in my path and I had to jump back to avoid it. Coughing from the smoke he managed to yell,

"Are you okay?" I answered back,

"Fine, Keep moving!" The blaze was spreading, and if the worst of it caught up with us we'd all be cooked alive. I shook the thought from my head and clung tighter to the precious life in my arms. Falling embers singed my clothes and stung my skin, but I kept moving. I felt as a hunk of charred log caught my foot, Jing quickly turned and helped me up. He unwrapped the bundle protecting our pup from the forest burning around her. She was fine, still screaming hysterically, though.

We started moving again. The flames were spreading faster now, catching the dry leaves on the forest floor. We raced forwards, towards the mountainside. Suddenly a huge tree, charred to a straight pillar fell in our path. I was already under, and whirled in time to see it fall to the ground with a horrible, resounding crash. Right on top of my mate. I felt like I had just been punched in the face. I was suddenly dizzy, *This can't have happened*, I thought.

But there was proof; a roasting hand sticking out from underneath. Tears began streaming down my face, feeling cool after the heat of the inferno.

"Jing!" I screamed. Obviously there was no answer. "No, no, No! Please!" I was hysterical. I simply couldn't accept it. The heat began to intensify, and I came to my senses. As grim as it was, Skyler and I had to get out. There was nothing I could do, except pray that there was no pain in his death. I turned and raced from the woods, sobbing the whole way.

At the top of a blank foothill I turned and looked down on the funeral pyre that had once been my home. I sat down and buried my face in my hands. There was a rumble of thunder and I turned my face to the sky. Rain began pouring down in buckets, and a fresh wave of tears came over me at the sick irony of the situation.

7 - Kosita- A new ally?

I trotted down the stairs from the upper floor where I had slept the night before, ready for an early run. My feet barely made a sound on the wooden floor as I stepped down into the entrance hall. My hand was almost on the doorknob when a small and indistinct noise made me freeze. I turned slowly, looking into the den where it had come from. A gut about my same age was lying on the couch. My guess was that he had come in while I was asleep last night. His right pant leg was torn open just above the knee, revealing a nasty looking gash that was leaking blood all over the upholstery. I poked him on the chest and his eyelids fluttered open. He looked surprised and a little scared when he saw me.

"Who are you, and why are you bleeding all over the couch?" I asked bluntly. He seemed like he wanted to give me a death glare, but was too weak at the moment.

"Could you just stop the bleeding?" He asked, sounding strained. I nodded, he obviously wasn't planning to attack or anything, so why not? I searched around for a minute and found a needle and a roll of thread.

"This isn't going to be exactly comfortable," I said. He gave me a look that said "I'm not exactly comfortable now." I tied the thread on, and slipped the needle through the skin. He gritted his teeth in pain as I started to stitch the skin together. I was getting a good look at him now; he was about an inch shorter than me, maybe a year younger. He had dark hair that fell over his face. His eyes were yellow, almost an amber color I guess, with dark circles underneath.

Finally I closed up the wound, then, tying the ends of the thread together cut it.

"Thanks," he said, running a hand over the stitches.

"I would say no problem, but I really don't want to do that again," I replied. "So back to my question before, who are you?"

"Kaidok, He answered, you?"

8 - Silver- Coming Closer

My eye had been ripped out, my brother tried to kill me (and almost succeeded), my sister had been killed, I had lost my pack, and on top of that it had started raining. I kept on walking, the dead wet leaves from the ground sticking to the pads of my paws. My left eye had now scabbed over, but it still hurt like hell, and I was trying to get used to not seeing anything on that side. I wanted to curl up in a hole and die, but something pushed me to survive. And if I was going to do that I would have to get out of what was once my territory.

I was getting soaked; heading on towards God knows what. I was coming up out of the river valley, and the flat ground became slopes. As the altitude increased I knew I was getting closer to safety, as the pack never went further than a few miles from the waters edge. After I reached a height when my ears popped, I sat under a rock slab that jutted out from the mountainside.

Looking around, I saw that I was about three miles away from Lake Celeste, maybe half a mile downhill from it. Suddenly I heard a threatening bark and a surprised, then a pained yelp from that direction. I stood and started off running in the direction of the lake.

9 - Kaidok- Still Adjusting

I stared out the window at the rain pouring down outside. Kosita and I were starting to get used to each other, and this old house. It was nothing like a den, we could get water inside, and I don't know about her, but I could get used to indoor plumbing. I was really grateful for her sewing up my leg, if she had decided not to I probably would have bled to death. I had actually caught a possum for breakfast, to thank her, though I'm not sure that quite covered it.

The rain was dying down now, and I knew that any signs indicating weather change meant so in a few minutes this high in the mountains. Grabbing my dingy brown cloak I opened the door and stepped outside. The clouds were still there but the rain was dying down already. I dropped to all fours as I became a wolf, and trotted towards the tree line, favoring one back leg of course. Searching the forest floor for anything edible, I pushed my way through a thicket of bushes into a clearing. Eyes still on the ground I froze when I heard a feral growl, directed at me.

10 - Kai- A New Home

I walked all that night, up over the ridge, then another, gaining altitude the entire time. Skylar was asleep most of the way, hanging by the scruff of her tiny neck from my mouth. I was full of grief from Jings death, but it would have to wait. For Skylars sake, we had to find a home, achieve some sort of stability. That horrible fire had long since smoldered out from the rain (which was still pouring down) and I could only see a slight glow from the embers over the hills behind me.

At a point about an hour after my ears had popped, and the morning was starting to fade into noon (and when the stupid rain had stopped), did I stop to rest. In a clearing surrounded by thickets of bushy plants, I sat down and set Skylar down in front of me, careful not to wake her. I was completely exhausted, curling up around my pup; I started to drift into sleep. Suddenly there was a slight rustling of leaves that snapped me awake.

I stood up, pushing skylark between my knees as a large male walked into the clearing, nose to the ground. I knew the dangers of a big foreign male, if he was in a bad temperament, he would kill skylark, and as for me? Well that might be inappropriate for some of our younger readers. I snarled and let out a feral growl and a satisfyingly threatening bark. He yelped slightly in surprise, jumping up he shifted to a human form. He was set into a defense posture, but as he landed his right leg collapsed. He was cursing a blue streak as he scrambled back up to face me.

Surprisingly enough, it turned out that the big male I had been so worried about was actually a kid. He was about thirteen, maybe fourteen, and about two inches shorter than me. He was pale, apparently from recent blood loss and the dark circles under his eyes said he didn't get enough sleep. He didn't seem to be a threat, even if he was hostile, but I didn't let down my guard.

There was an uncomfortable stalemate that seemed to last about a minute, neither one of us daring to move. Finally he lowered his head slightly, and grew out his tail, slightly wagging just the tip of it. Interesting, he was submitting. He had given me control of the situation. He was obviously in no shape for fighting. What happened next threw me for a loop however, His eyes fell on Skylar, still hiding behind me, then looked back up nito mine. Their deep yellow color sent a chill down my spine, but they showed understanding, compassion perhaps.

"Do you need a place to stay?" He asked.

11 - Silver- On the Trail

I sniffed the air in the clearing. By the smell of it, there was a male here, probably still reaching maturity, and a female a few years older. Their scents led uphill, towards the higher altitudes. They didn't seem to be a mating pair, but if they were friendly it might mean some sort of stability for me. If not, what did I have to lose? I started trotting at an easy pace up the slopes. Looking down on the lake I saw the water sparkling below. If I needed to make a quick escape, that would be the place to head for.

As the hike took me higher on the mountain the trees began to thin out, making the trail easier to follow. My ears popped about mid day, after starting late in the morning. As I sat down to rest I heard a slight sound, and my ears perked up. Focusing I recognized it as a howl. It seemed to come from the river valley a few miles down the mountain. Maybe twelve miles to the east, the same direction I had come from. I recognized it as it came again. It was Fangs, and it was a challenge.

12 - Kai- What Awaits

Okay, dilemma here. I was wanting to trust this kid, but I wasn't not sure if I could. From what he said he had an old house, the kind used by humans, and was living there with a female he had just met. He could be taking me to a warm shelter and company, but I had to keep a guard up. Shortly after the trip had obviously become painful for him and he started wincing slightly with every move we came to a clearing.

What I saw simply wasn't registering. He wasn't lying, in the clearing there was a three story house, there was a balcony porch on each level, and a tall brick chimney with a small wisp of smoke streaming from it. He opened the door.

"Kosita?" he called.

"What?" came the reply. A female a few inches taller than Kaidok (I had learned his name on the way up) came down the stairs of the entrance hall. Her eyes were bright and alert, and she had dusky brown hair in a braid- with metal spikes sticking out. Her eyes fell on me and she gave me a quick once over. I was still in my wolf form, with Skylar hanging from my mouth by the scruff of his neck from my mouth. She shot Kaidok a questioning look.

"This is Kai," He said, "she needs a place to stay."

13 - Kosita- What was Lost

"So do you have a pack?" I asked, the three of us were sitting on the couch, and Kaidok was rubbing his leg in an attempt to dull the obvious pain. Kai, the girl that he had found in the woods and brought back looked at me a moment, as if deciding whether or not to answer. She finally did,

"Not really," She said, she had been very composed but there was a slight choke to her voice as she answered. I couldn't tell for sure (for whatever reason she hadn't shifted into her human form), but she seemed to be about 20. She was pitch black, with silvery green eyes, A heart necklace, multiple peircings, and a fluffy gray pup asleep at her side. "It was just me, Skyler, and my mate, Jing." Her eyes were starting to well up now, and she stifled a sniff.

"so, what happened?" Kaidok asked tenativeley. At this point it seemed, she was no longer suspicious of us and gave up trying to keep her composure.

"There was a forest fire," She choked out, "We were trying to get out and a burning tree fell on him and-" She then burst into sobs, the pup- Skylar woke up and cautiously licked his mothers face, the tears flowing. She tensed and looked up as Kaidok put a rough hand on her back.

"I know what it's like," He said, his eyes were downcast and his voice was quiet, filled with pain that went beyond his wounded leg. He reached inside his cloak and pulled out a scrap of cloth. He lay it down on a short table in front of us, and I saw there was a painting of a girl on it. She looked about our age, she had flowing brown hair, with hints of blonde, and her eyes were a soft brown, like a puppy's fur. "Her name was Alika," he choked out. "It's a long story, but to shorten it, she was killed saving me." He gently picked the scrap up, and it disappeared back into the cloak. I was feeling left out here, but in a good way.

Not to brag, but werewolves are tough as nails from birth, Since Kai was still sobbing, and Kaidok was trying to wipe his eyes dry. I couldn't pretend to know what they were going through. It continued like that for a few minutes (I felt pretty awkward the whole time to) until they finally got a hold of themselves. Looked like we were off to an good start.

14 - Kaidok- Are we Being Watched?

Kai had settled in, she and Skylar took a room on the second floor (the one without the mounted Boars head). It was actually great here, since the interior was so well protected the beds and furniture stayed in good shape (the couch needed the huge bloodstain I had made on it scrubbed out, however). We were also learning the wonders of indoor plumbing, warm showers were a ton better than bathing in a cold stream, not to mention it was more private to do certain things behind closed doors. I was seeing why we always heard about these things in human tales.

It had been a couple days since the waterworks caused by Kai and I bringing up how we both ended up alone. It was still dusky outside, almost dark. I hobbled down the steps and waded into the knee length grass in the feilds around the old house. I sniffed the air for the scent of rabbits, hoping to get a quick meal in. Folving a trail that seemed to be a few hours old, I headed into the feilds, my right leg still dragging and throbbing some when I moved it. Coming to the edge of the trees still folowing the scent I stopped and froze.

The creepy sensation of being watched set in and I instinctively dropped to all fours. Growing out my fur, tail, and ears I bristled my back and growled (quite menacingly I'm proud to say), sweeping my gaze to take in everything. I kept it up for a couple feet as I backed up, then turned and loped back towards the house, hoping I had either bluffed my way out of any trouble or just imagined it.

15 - Silver- Watch and Learn

It was getting dark now, and I was still sniffing through the woods on a trail that was a couple of days old and might not lead me to anything. Suddenly I heard a soft metallic click and a slight creak. Looking up I saw I was close to a field with a huge structure in it. It was three stories tall and had to have been made by humans, and the Squeaking came when a door in the front opened. I ducked into a thicket and continued to watch as a human guy, maybe 13, limp down the steps. There seemed to be something wrong with his right leg.

I continued to watch as he waded through the knee length grass. He went along in a path that I couldn't see any logic to but he suddenly stopped about ten feet away from me. He dropped to all four, turning into a large wolf with black streaked tawny fur. He growled aggressively, obviously knowing he was being watched. I stayed silent and still, as he backed away. A stopped holding my breath as he turned back towards the house and went inside.

So there were werewolves here, interesting. But it didn't seem to be a good Idea to waltz in and announce myself. It would be smarter to watch a couple days and see what happened. In the mean time, I was catching the scent of rabbits, and I was hungry. Dinnertime.

16 - Kai- Ominous Messages

I was starting to get adjusted. We had taken a room on the second floor of the huge house. Skylar had taken to Kosita, and even Kaidok a little, though he was quiet most of the time and not around a lot. I could say I did like them, but I wasn't completely comfortable around either one yet, that would come in time. At the time we were taking a walk through the sloped fields surrounding the place. Kosita, seemed to have the sharpest senses of any of us, and her nose was twitching with the scents of rabbits, field mice and other things. We talked about little things, the weather, the hunting, thoughts about the universe, and it was nice. But paranoia never let me allow Skylar out of my sight, If anything happened to him I'd be totally devastated (I only say totally because I was already mostly devastated by Jings death).

It was almost hypnotic how the fields of yellowed knee length grass rolled like waves in the breeze. I'm not usually the poetic type, but this is actually the least cheesy way I could think of to describe it. Skylar was stumbling around the group, frolicking about. At a moment when he was behind Kaidok he tripped, grabbing onto the bigger males leg for support, and this of course made Kaidok fall on his face. Which was cause for laughter. Even the two on the ground were cracking up; though I'm not sure Skylar knew why he was. Getting up, Kaidok limped over to a tree and sat underneath.

We sat down in the shade of the tree. There was an overgrown bush, with a thicket of brush around it that needed to be cut back. I noticed something then, getting back up I walked over and cleared back some of the weeds.

"Hey guys, better have a look at this," I called back. The two stood up and walked over.

It was an upright slab of stone, old and marked with a crude inscription:

Elena Brown

1873-1889

Cut down in her prime, and left in haste.

"It's a tombstone," Kosita said, stating the obvious.

"Cut down in her prime and left in haste?" Kaidok read, "I don't like the sound of that."

"I get the feeling we should go," Kosita said, and that was that. We headed back, but I had a strange feeling that something wasn't right.

17 - Kaidok- Midnight Vistor

I opened my eyes and sat up. I put my face in my hands and rubbed my eyes, trying to get thee sleep crust out. I vagueley remembered having a nightmare about being mobbed by brightly colored teddy bears with sharp teeth and claws. I pulled on my pants and hauled myself out of the bed. my feet bareley made a sound as I walked across the hardwood. Opening the door I let myself out into the hallways. I padded down the hall, trying to escape the thoughts and memories that kept breathing down my neck. As I went by the windows the moon glared down at me for the tenth night in a row. It had been midnight when I fell asleep, and now looked to be about one thirty. My leg started to act up again and I adjusted to a slight limp. As I rounded a corner I stopped. At the end of the corridor was a girl in a long flowing dress. She was staring out the window, her back to me and her aburn hair sprawling over her shoulders. My skin began to crawl and something told me to get out of there. I didn't though.

I began silently limping towards her, transfixed. I reached the end of the hall and she turned to look at me, as if she had known I was there the whole time. A chill went down my spine as her eyes met mine. She was stunning, she looked about fourteen and her skin was the color of ivory, and her eyes a deep emerald green. She had pale freckles scattered across the bridge of her nose and and soft pnik lips.

"Who are you?" I asked, bareley able to breath.

"You tell me first," she said with a teasing smile "You're in my house."

18 - Kosita- Food!

I sat up in my bed and stretched my arms over my head. I got out of bed and pulled on my outer clothes. I opened the door of the master bedroom (hey, I got there first, it was rightfully mine), and saw Kaidok asleep on the floor. For whatever reason Elena Brown was written on the back of his hand. I kept walking, I probably didn't want to know. I ploded down the main staircase, passed the second floor, and into the entrance hall. I let the front door swing open on it's hinges and took a deep breath.

The air was crisp and fresh, as summer was fading to fall. Suddenly my brain made a connection. I focused my ears, sure enough, I faintly heard splashing from the direction of the river.

"Salmon Run!" I shouted, my voice echoing off the mountains. There was excited yelping and crying from inside the house, meaning they had heard me. Kadiok burst through the door, followed by Kai, carrying Skylar, who was crying. We all were running towards the water, eager for the feast to begin. Kai was in first, skylar had stopped crying and she had set the pup down. She laughed as she was sprayed by the water from her mothers dive. I dove into the clear, cold water and surfaced in time to see Kaidok aim for a graceful dive, then trip at the last second and fall in face first. Kai surfaced quickly, grasping the tail of a big chinook. The flailing fish was pulled from the water, and hauled onto the bank.

I dove down into the water and opened my eyes, swimming against the current were scores of salmon. Or, in the terms of any halfway intelligent werewolf, dozens of potential meals. I grabbed a good sized fish with both hands and resurfaced. I heaved the thing up onto the bank, it must have weighed thirty pounds. Skylar was playing with a flopping fish, giggling maniacly. It would have been adorable, but I was more interested in food at the moment. We hauled up three big fish and headed back to the house. We laughed and talked about the meals we could make with this years salmon, but for whatever reason, the whole way back I had the sneaking suspicion that we were being watched.

19 - Silver- the encounter

I'd continued to watch the group for several days. I could tell by their features that the male was from the black forest bloodline, making me wonder how far he could be trusted. The younger female looked like a shadow claw descendant, but the older one with the pup was of mixed origins by my guess.

The salmon run had brought easy food for all of us, but I knew I'd have to figure out what to do soon, before winter began to set in. Laying by the pebbly bank gnawing the bones of a fish I heard a slight rustling behind me. I silently stepped off the trail and hid in a bush. The younger female stepped into view, shaking a bit of morning dew off her pants. I noticed the metallic spikes protruding from the braid down her back and had the thought not to cross her in my condition. I made a snap decision and was about to approach submissively when a snapping twig turned both our heads in a different direction. The hair on the back of her neck went up as a scarred and disfigured dirty white female stepped into the clearing and smiled maliciously.

20 - Kosita- An Old Foe

"Yoragi," I breathed. The hairs on the back of my neck prickled as they stood up. Her dead milky eye gleamed in the morning sun as it filtered through the trees. Her overlong fangs shone as she smiled maliciously.

"Kosita," she crooned in her eerily silky tone, "It's so good to see you, sister." I had started to regain my composure and managed a smug smile through the shock of seeing my old enemy.

"So, still alone huh?" I asked with a taunting tone, "No one would want to take in a sociopath anyway I guess."

"Very bold words," she snarled, suddenly enraged, "for someone that is also alone. And unarmed," she added with sick pleasure. She shifted her form, her off white fur receding and her scars and bald patches fading into a dark dress. The scars on her eye and the bridge of her nose remained, making her look like the devil himself, uh her, uh.... itself. She drew a jagged, wicked looking knife from her bodice (which looked like it might have been stuffed with cotton). This was bad, I had always been the superior fighter, but she was armed.... and crazy. She took a small move forward *oh man, where's the cripple when you need a distraction*, I thought.

Suddenly a feral roar erupted behind me as a silvery burst shot by. The expression on my sister's face changed from malice to shock as a huge silver coated male spang at her. She dodged out of the way, but it was the diversion I needed. I leapt forward and twisted her wrist sharply, sending the dagger to the ground. The tables had turned, as the stranger advanced, with his fur bristling and a growl rising in his throat she changed from human to wolf in midbound, and raced away through the forest.

The stranger relaxed his composure and looked at me calmly. I noticed he was missing an eye.

"You looked like you needed help," He stated, "I'm silver."

21 - Kaidok- A grim Discovery

I pulled on my patched up jeans and dragged my self out of bed another night in a row. I tried to shake thoughts and images of Alike out of my head, but the pain I'd felt since she traded her life for mine stayed. It hadn't even been a fair trade. Thunder growled faintly from the distance, and I started in again, speculating what could have been as I stepped out of the room. We could have been mates, we could have run away to safety in the north, we could have grown up and had our own family (I almost smiled at the thought of what would have come before the pups). But, we couldn't now. Oh well, that's how life works I guess.

Rounding the corner, I tried changing the subject to ease the misery. As a faint flash of heat lightning shot across the sky outside the window, I began to think of the newcomer Kosita had brought back this morning. A large, swift male with a silvery coat and a missing eye. Kosita said he had saved her from an old enemy, that seemed to be around here for some reason (making a contribution to my ulcer). Kai was naturally protective of skylar at first, but eased up as the day went on. The pup herself seemed to take to him fairly well.

I wasn't sure what to think yet. He seemed trustworthy, but then again, so did I.

Heat lightning bathed the hallway in an eery blue light, and the thunder growled it's scorn at me.

Brooding again, I rounded another corner. I stopped in my tracks and the blood froze in my veins. As the hallway was again lit by the blue rush of lightning, my eyes fell upon the same girl I had seen several nights before. She lay in a crumpled heap in front of a wide window that looked out over the mountains. Her throat had a gaping slash across it and her dress was soaked with blood. Her face was pale and her lips had begun to take on a blueish hue.

Her brilliant green eyes were full of pain as she looked up at me.

"Hold me," she pleaded, her tone weak and sad. I felt numb as I gathered her up. The blood that stained her dress soaked my arms and chest. She weakly took hold of my hand. Her eyes closed and her beautiful face relaxed, and all at once she was gone. The blood I had just been soaked in was gone as well, but in my palm was a small golden cross on a matching chain.

22 - Kai- surprise

I sat cross legged on the floor, watching skylar crawl all over silver. He didn't seem to like it, but he wasn't complaining. Besides, I liked seeing him become a big furry plaything. Kosita was busying herself sharpening the edges of a steel dirk, Running a rough stone over the edges. A stair squeaked in the hall outside the living room shortly before Kaidok drug himself through the door.

"Good morning sleeping beauty," Kosita said with more than a touch of sarcasm.

"Shutup," He groaned. I could'nt help but notice the dark rings under his eyes and his hair hanging down in his face made him look like death. I was still trying to recover from Jings loss five weeks ago but at least I was sleeping. I quickly turned my attention back to Skylar. Silver seemed trustworthy, and I was confident enough to let him near my baby with everyone here, but you couldn't be too carefull. Kositas eyes became alert, and she sat up straight, staring at Kaidoks neck.

"What?" I asked, trying to figure out her apparently random intrest with his throat.

"Something glittered," she responded.

"Huh?" He grunted. She made a sudden move for his neck. He woke up finally, and blocked her hand, suddenly on alert, but she grabbed his elbow and flipped him over onto the floor (with impressive form I might add). She reached into the neck of his shirt and pulled up a gold chain with a small cross dangling from it. A look of shock and horror came over his face.

"And where did you get that?" Silver asked, eyeing the treasure.

"I can't say I'm sure," he answered. Kosita let him up from the ground. Silver stood up, and skylar walked over in her awkward stumbling gait. "this means one thing," he said, looking confused, "I'm not crazy."

23 - Silver- This Wretched Place

Where had the summer gone? I raised my head above the tall grass to sniff around. I tried to ignore the bitter wind biting into my nose and snout, but found it useless, with the wind whipping around I couldn't get a scent. I turned my single eye, to glare at the overcast skies above. I thought back to my home on the river, before I lost my sister, my eye, and my pack to my damn brother. Back before the wind was cold.

Finding no prey available, I trotted back to the looming house and padded up the steps. I glanced over to the barren forrest, the leaves had fallen weeks ago, and their dry brown carcasses fluttered in the noreaster that whipped through my fur. I nudged open the door and went inside, the still lack of wind seemed eerie, as it often did these days.

I lay down in my favorite spot in front of the fire, it had to be stoked constantly. The cold could become wicked and biting even indoors now. Kaidok, apparently exauhsted, was in a shallow sleep on the bloodstained couch. The appirition that seemed to visit nightly deprived him of sleep more now than ever. And I was starting to suspect that it wasn't a product of his mind. Things were happening that I could not explain. Every so often, a chair would move, almost little enough that you might think you imagined it, then again, this time as plain as day. Books would topple from the shelves of the large room up the stairs. And more than once, after wandering off, Skylar would be found, mesmerized, staring into space. As if lulled into a trance by something beyond our grasp.

I looked again at the young male, A gaping hole in his pants showed the scar on his thigh, it seemed that the wound must have been to the bone. The twine that had been used to sew him up had grown into the skin, becoming a part of him. (My own wound had healed well, though I resented the loss of my eye.) He had become sullen lateley, as well as irritable (he became easily anoyed with everythig, Skylar especially.). It was hard to think he wasn't responsible for some of the tensions here.

Kai seemed a bit moody, and he temper flared occasionally. And I admit I might not have helped these situations. Kosita, it seemed, was the only one able to keep her composure.

The fire crackled and I shut my eyes, I thought I felt a hand on my back, but I wasn't about to look now.