

Introduction

"I never wanted you anyway! You stupid worthless brat!" A woman screamed as she hit the crying baby across the face. "I'll just get rid of you once and for all!" The woman walked quickly to the edge of the forest, baby in hand. "Goodbye brat." She says as she places the baby down in a large fern. Then the woman walked off, leaving the baby alone, still screaming, not knowing what was watching her.

1

"Wake up Galexia! Redwood wants you." A young, jet black wolf nudges a sleeping ball of fur. "What does he want from me?" She responded sleepily. "I don't know, but he's getting upset. Better hurry." Galexia stood up slowly, pelt gleaming. Galexia was the most unusual of all the wolves. Her pelt, whom she was named after, looked like a galaxy. Blue, Purple, and black covered most of her. But if you looked closely, you could see little white dots that looked like stars. As she trotted out of the den, Redwood, a lean yet muscular male comes trotting over to her. "There you are. I need you for the next hunt." Redwood growls in a deep voice. "Lets go."

2

Galexia followed Redwood with a certain interest. He had never talked so coldly to her before. Had she done something wrong? "We're here." Redwood says with a touch of annoyance. "Hey Redwood?" Galexia asks. "Yes?" "Have I done something wrong?" "No. I just have to consider something." "What?" Galexia asks, not able to keep the interest out of her bark. "It's about you." Redwood replies gravely. "The other still are upset about me taking you in." "Wait...What? You aren't my real dad?" "No. I found you in a fern bush. Your mother abandoned you." "A wolf? What did she look like?" "Not a wolf. A human."

3

"A Human? I was a Human?" Galexia barks with a hint of worry and curiosity in her voice. "Wait. Then how am I a wolf?" "You are a vixia." Redwood says coolly. "Like the ones I hear about in

stories?" "Yes. One of them." "But I was a human baby. Why didn't I have a mother?" Redwood looked down at his paws, the back up into Galexia's silver eyes. "Because she hated you." He replied slowly. "Why....?" Galexia trailed off. "Because of your eyes. She thought you were blind. She wanted the *perfect* daughter. Not a blind one." "But I'm not blind! I can see!" Galexia howls. "She left you in a fern bush. I watched her hit you across the face before she left you. She walked away. Didn't even turn around to look at the fragile creature that she had left to die. At least she *thought* she had left to die. I took you in. As soon as I touched you with my muzzle, you tuned into the most beautiful wolf I had ever seen. Wings and everything. Just like a true pack member. I picked you up in my mouth, and brought you back to camp. The elders weren't happy that I brought in a stray, but accepted you in." As Redwood was telling this, Galexia sat in front of the red and black wolf, amazed, but heartbroken at what she was hearing. Her own mother had left her to die because of her eyes? Her head was swimming, unable to take all of it in. She ran away, away from the wolf that took her home, away from all this. She ran to her favorite stream and plunged her head into the icy blue water. When she came back up, cold yellow eyes stared down at her.

"Intruder!" Galexia yelps. She tries to scramble away, but the huge black wolf is on top of her in seconds. "What do you want from me?" Galexia squeals. "To tell me where the camp is." The wolf growls at her in a deep voice. "Why would I tell you?" "Or else I'll kill you." "Fine!" When the black wolf finally lets Galexia go, she scrabbles to her paws. "Now, bring me there before I hurt you." Galexia tried to slink away into the shadows, but the intruder grabs her by the scruff of the neck, and drags her to the deeper end of the stream, and plunges her head into it. She tries to pry herself from his strong grip, but finally stops struggling. He holds her head under the water until she almost drowns. Once he pulls her up, Galexia starts coughing. "Don't try to escape again." Galexia reluctantly obeys. They walk in silence. When they get to the opening of the camp, Galexia stops. "Please don't hurt anyone. Especially the kits." "I can't make any promises. I just want to talk to Redwood." The Jet black wolf says coolly.

Galexia slips silently into the camp. The intruder follows. As soon as the rest of the pack sees him, they bare their teeth threateningly. Amber, a golden-brown mother, runs to the nursery to protect the pups. Redwood steps out of his den, then strides over to the Black wolf. "What do you want Soot? Why are you here if you have no means to be?" Redwood asks with a touch of sorrow in his voice. "I came to see you. I need help." Soot replies, keeping his yellow eyes fixed on Redwood. "Why? After all these years, why do you come?" Redwood looks into Soot's cold eyes. "Because... I have a pup. He is unwanted by the rest of my pack. I heard them talking about him. They want to kill him while I am sleeping. I can't let that happen. He's only a pup." Soot's once cold eyes look pleadingly at Redwood. "Where is this young one?" Redwood asked sternly. "I hid him in a abandoned rabbits den. He wasn't happy, but willing to stay because I told him I would come back. Why?" "We will take him. Bring him here." As Soot bounds away to receive the pup, an old wolf named Fennel howls. "Why would you take another pack's pup? You don't even know this-this... Outsider! Or do you?" "I know him. He was once part of this pack." Redwood replies. "He is my brother. If anyone disagrees, ask my father. He remembers him. And how he ran away because of one wolf." Redwood looks around. The camp sat in a brief silence. "Who?" A young wolf finally speaks up. "Cinder, if you want to know, come see me when the moon has risen. Anyone else that wants to know, come to my den along with Cinder. You shall learn there. You have been dismissed." Redwood barks to the whole clan. Then, he trots over to Galexia. "Why did you bring him here?" Redwood whispers. "He would have killed me. At least that's what he said." Galexia replies. "I'm sorry about earlier. I had to tell you at one point." "It's okay. I'm fine now."

Galexia followed Redwood into his den, her paws sinking in the soft ground. She was followed by Cinder,