Venturing: Hide Shame

We were at the border. Arriving at the dead of midnight. When we had landed, my immediate attention was drawn towards the canines for I had something of a feeling nagging at me wanting to blame them for this crime. But I exhaled a breath and closed my eyes suddenly, remembering that it was not them at all. Rather, it was perhaps someone else instead. With another exhale of a sigh coming about, I suddenly shift my attention towards my coworkers; whom all of which kept staring at me within the short silence of our arrival. Thus I growled at them to snapped their attention into reality; all except for Kyro and Natty whom were already awaiting for me to really begin.

“Alright everyone. You all know what to do here right?” There was a couple of cheers coming from my left. None of which stated in answer from my right while Kyro and Natty just gave me a silent nod. For afterwards, everyone had splitted up into their normal suits. Leaving me behind with Zander who walked to my side suddenly. Within the following silence, I just gave a silent sigh before nodding my head towards the black dragon who nodded, mirroring me back. Thus we had started to look around the border at once.

The border was between canine and reptile for those who did not know. A fine white line was what separates us and a green large sign that is double flipped. Showcasing both reptile and canine on either side. It was like a golden coin that you find on the street. Or something that is related to the term ‘coin flip’ however. Regardless, the buildings here at the border were a bit  different than the buildings inland. The reason is because, none of the canines or reptiles had wanted to live in the border. Additionally, if one were to ‘forcefully’ live here however, they would refused and want something else than to watch or live here otherwise.

All in all, it is a complicated situation scenario. Right, so the buildings itself were half or maybe smaller than the max height of the buildings inlands. To the point that we had started calling these buildings miniatures. No one lived here as a matter of fact. Everything here was abandoned, leaving all personal belongings behind. And no, the murders, killings, kidnappings and assassinations were not planned by us nor canine however. It is a secret as to whom. Regardless of me rambling on and on about the scenario surrounding us, let me tell you about the case we have for today.

The case is that, we have some problems here within the borders. As someone from WWA had significant placed both our forces at the border. Directly facing one another. The media of both sides had extensively covered for this; lying that fate into our wings which was nothing to be stressful about however. Remembering about the media had me exhaled another sigh before I casted my eyes back towards Zander while he himself had gone off somewhere, scanning the area for anything that could be important. But before I could call onto him, my walkie gave off some static after coming to life which had snapped my attention towards it. For immediately, I grabbed it from the walkie and rose it high while pressing the black button to which I responded to whomever was there.

“This is Ling. What do you need?” “We got something here, Ling.” I heard Kyro immediately responded with had me flinched upon his loud voice suddenly. Zander perked his ears up and turned towards him. For he walked by my side as he glanced over to the walkie for a moment while I spoke to the red dragon within the walkie, “Well what is it then?” “Its piles of scales and brown fur; scattered along the white lines of the border of the two realms. DNA analysis indicates that the brown fur was indeed the doe. Do you think she is the one responsible for this?” “Lets not jump into conclusion just yet however.” I growled back, snapping Kyro off while he spoke “Alright.” “First, we need to gather the clues. I need you and Natty to return a sample of that straight towards Yang. She might pinpoint where exact is our doe-” But before I could stated anything else, I already heard a wing flapped and winds howling in the static. I gave another sigh and shake my own head while turning towards Zander who seem to had found something already.

I tilted my head to one side while glancing at him. Poked him onto the shoulder even while he flinched and turned to face me immediately. I gave off a smile to him in response, before questioning him “Whatcha got?” “There is something northeast from where we are.” “A few meters off into the distance?” I questioned the black dragon and he gave a nod as a response, frowning while I nudged him forward. It indicates that he should take the lead which he did already as I just followed him from behind. We walked the steps forth towards the direction of where Zander was walking about however. Thus immediately stopped in front of whatever was in front of us. I lowered my head and gaze at the ground; spotting dead canines that are planted upon our side of the realm. “What is this?” I questioned, “A good question indeed.” Responded Zander with a frown, fixing his attention at the dead bodies beneath us. “Sure.” I stated, “But why were they all burn?” “Burn?” I gave a nod.

Pointing immediately towards one of the canine bodies beneath us; towards the black marks that was implanted upon their furs.  “That is quite unusual.” Zander commented, thought perhaps himself however, “Do you think that the canines put them up to this? Were they the ones who left the border immediately? Setting themselves up upon here?” “Perhaps. But why did they anyway?” I question before shifting my attention to the canines once again. Staring down onto the burning canines before me. There were a lot of questions upon my mind; none of which had any answers towards however. I soon gained a headache afterwards because of this. But I just sighed to remove some of it. I shifted back to Zander and responded to him again, “Check for anymore of these burn canines. I go look over at canine.” “Are you sure that is a good proposition?” Frowned Zander, flapping his wings to better shuffle himself as his eyes met with mine. I gave off a nod towards him, Zander shrugged in answer. Thus we splitted from one another just as my walkie responded out of the blue.

“Letters and documents were found scattered upon the flooring. Some of them are burned down. Others were wet suddenly. But it had seemed that everything is fine and dandy however.” “Documents and letters?” I repeated their first two lines, blinking and a bit surprise by the words that they were saying. A couple of chuckles came from the walkies; something that I just growl at them for the time being. Thus, Ozkun and Murjure responded immediately to me “We kid. We kid. True there are documents and letters. But none of them are burned or wet suddenly.” “Do not kid about that.” I growled at them, ranting at them shortly before being quiet afterwards as Ozkun huffed for a moment “Geez Ling.” “Now what about the documents?” “Ah right.” Ozkun stated, his entire expression had suddenly changed from being sour to pleasant in a matter of seconds. Something that I was a bit surprise about however.

But my head shook to remove that thought aside while I listened to his findings. Ozkun had stated that the letters and documents were a series of conversations talks from someone anonymous towards the canines. It does prove my point that the canines were the ones who burns all the canines and scatter them around reptile to blame them for the ‘attack’ or ‘ambush’ as perhaps what the media had stated from both ours and canines however. As my head shook upon the side comments therein, I tried my best to pick up upon the conversation that Ozkun was stating about as he called “We have believed that this anonymous is the werewolf. As indicated by how the WWA only talks to the leaders of both realms. That does include Zephyr from Moon whom have-” “Enough.” I growled which forced Ozkun to halt his advances as he became quiet for a little bit and I take the time to speak towards him. “Go head forth to Yang. We are needed there otherwise.” “What did she wanted at this time now?” He frowned, before gruesomely obeying the command.

As his line died, I exhaled a breath and closed opened my eyes before shifting my attention back towards Zander who was behind me all this time. I flinched when turning to meet up with him; growling at him in response despite the black dragon only chuckling back onto me suddenly. A soft smile written across his face for some reason. With my eyes rolling at him, I had gave him the command as the previous two groups which Zander gave a nod of before spreading his wings. I had mirrored him suddenly. Taking off from the border of canine and reptile, we flew westward. Backtracking to our hometown however.

Upon us landing in front of the station; Kyro, Natty, Ozkun and Murjur were the first to greet uss after we had entered through the front doors where a freshly air came upon our scales making me shiver suddenly. Kyro, Natty Ozkun and Murjur were on either side of Yang whom formed her claws raising her eyes, fixing onto me. I stared at her back before giving off a silent nod. She breaks into a smile before that had faded shortly afterwards. “I had called everyone here today to give off an announcement. You are all ordered to head further west. Towards the beaches and shores of the Oceanic Federation. There; the spies of ravens and crows will aid you into searching for your culprit better.” “Ravens and crows huh?” I muttered, before nodding after Yang. Everyone else had went to silence as they watched the interaction between myself and Yang. Yet when all was said and done, she promptly kicked us all out of her office. Back outside into the warmths of the reptile where we flew further west. Towards the shores of the Oceanic Federation.

They were something that we had not heard of for a long time. It did gave us and canine a former fear that they would rise again and attack once more just as they had done previously in those earlier stories beforehand. But since of the pact between ourselves, canine and Ocean; they had not. Yet that was another thing to fear since the Oceanic Federation have a reputation to backstab us when we least expected it however. For now, I was rather surprise that they kept this deal for us in a long time however. Considering that we had more problems to deal with than them otherwise. For example, WWA. “Ling.” I heard Kyro immediately respond to me which I snapped my attention into reality, realizing that I was just ‘hovering’ in midair. Above the sea of trees beneath us where only Kyro was the only one left besides me. For his eyes were towards me, I met them directly before giving off a nod towards him. He sighed in response, though nothing came from his snout before he returned to his flight and me following behind him.

Thus we had arrived upon the beach; the shores of the Oceanic Federation. A faction whom I grew to fear mainly because of their significant reputation to- ‘Ah what the heck, I am just repeating myself once more.’ I thought to myself while landing upon the soft sands beneath me.  The other dragons immediately turned towards me; though most were quiet, Zander had that weird smile upon his face. Something that I growled straight at him, making him grin wider. Though everyone else was oblivious towards it however. When all was said and done, I cough to gain everyone’s attention before responding. All the while pointing towards the forest behind us “We are order to head towards the beach. But remember that our main objective was to gain intel from the ravens and crows. Do not expose their positions towards the Oceanic Federation. We know what they are capable with however.” A series of nods came from each of the dragons as they had acknowledged the risk therein. Thus, we split up once more. Flying in all directions; fanning out upon our visions in hopes of finding the ravens and crows.

However, in the messed of the unnamed forest, it was rather hard to even pinpoint where exactly they are. For the forest trees were all thick and spread out. The branches were sharp and pointy that a misuse of our wings would prove to set us into flightless. Though we do have sewers back home. Shaking my head at the comment and side sections, I shift my attention around the area that I had found myself upon. Noticing how the forest were waving to one side with no winds trailing behind them, for a carry therein however. I turned towards one of the trees and ran towards one of them. Raising my eyes high towards the branches above me, I spotted someone there and I immediately called him out. That figure flinched suddenly before hanging his head, meeting my eyes. For a smile drifted from his beak before flapping his wings rapidly in greeting, responding to me.

“Ling! How is Yang? How is everyone?” The raven responded, I just gave a nod to each of his questions while the raven smiled suddenly, acknowledging it otherwise. Then his smile faded afterwards and before long he had wore a serious face upon himself. Something that I grew to shiver however. As our eyes met once more, I immediately questioned the raven about his findings. “Where?” He asked me, “To the Oceanic Federations or the culprit behind your case?” “The latter choice.” I commented and he nodded again. “I see… well here is what I know so far.” The raven stated, before reciting the words ‘An enemy was found walking through the woods; entering straight into Vaster and back again for some reason. Crows had stated that they were dressed up as a reptile; just to delivery whatever goods they have straight towards the shores of the reptile. It all was located at the border. Yet some of us were wondering ‘why.’ “There is a couple theories why. None of which we can prove to be correct however.” “Due to how…” the raven questioned, hesitated as I answered for him, “...open this case is? Yeah. We have two culprits in mind. Both of which are from WWA. The doe and the fox. Because I think, the DNA analysis is somewhat wrong with the brown fur we had found at the border.”

“The brown fur?” I gave a nod, “Yeah.” “That is for sure the doe. Although a fox would be better ideal however considering that there were a lot of brown fur running about within canine. Or it could be that bear.” “But the bear had not made its appearance yet in here.” I protested, the raven gave me an eye for a moment and following it were the silence. I gave a sigh and shake my head, responding to the raven suddenly “Fine. I, I mean, we will consider that however.” At the raven’s nod, I gave another sigh and said nothing else more other than to stepped away from the raven and walked through the forest’s path. Did I ever mention that the paths were so narrowed here. It was because of the trees becoming thick and the branches make it hard to even fly anywhere these days. It was easier for the ravens and crows considering that they all were just small mammals as as matter of fact. But us dragons? It was impossible and I dreaded it. For sometimes I had wished I was small to fit through the forest, easy to maneuver around instead of walking. Additionally, can fly off into the skies whenever I had wanted however.

But as another sigh had came and another thought passed, I stand my ground and waited while Zander, Kyro, Natty, Ozkun and Murjure emerged from their hiding spots surrounding me. When we all gathered, I gave a nod towards the others and muttered something only they could hear “Crow.” Thus, Kyro and Murjuder were the only ones to speak as they recite whatever had the crow spoken towards them. ‘There was some enemy dressed up as a reptile; some of the clothes within the costume looked to small for him that some of it were ripped apart. At least for a few more inches perhaps. Regardless, whom you are looking for a small character. Not a doe; not a canine or reptile. Certainly not us or Ravens or Seagulls as a matter of fact. It is someone whom is never mentioned within the realm’s history; first appearance upon the mention of the WWA.’ “Are you kidding me.” I exclaimed which cause some officers to glance my way in surprise while Zander and Kyro flinched suddenly at my outburst, the others remained silent.

I sighed before opening my eyes. Fixing my attention towards the other dragons in front of me, I gave a nod straight towards them. Only Ozkun and Zander responded to me with their own nods while everyone else had fell to silence. With another sigh, I reopened my eyes again and spoke reciting everything that we had learned so far. “So; we know that the canines were burned at our side of the border. There are letters and documentations found that relate to the conversation between Rannar and the anonymous being at WWA. We saw the piles of scales and brown fur within the borders of the two realms which we had assumed was either canine or Doe from REC.” “But all of that was pushed aside because of crow’s statement.” I growled. “So who is right is the main question.” Kyro answered for me, realizing the situation that we had found ourselves upon. “We only get one answer for this: If we fail. Then the entire realms will acknowledged this and turn towards war.” I commented, warning them as I had recalled from the media about an oncoming war that may break the peace between canine and reptile, if by condition of the VPD’s failure.

Everyone fell to silence. For no one had an answer towards this. I felt my own heart pounding in my own chest as a result of things. Reciting and replaying that television media’s quote over again. Upon which I gave an sigh, closed opened my eyes and responded “We do not have to think about it now. We can discuss it with Yang for the time being to arrive for an answer.” “Is there one more clue that we are missing?” Questioned Ozkun as his voice popped into view and forced myself to turn towards him. Upon his question, I had blinked in response. Then raised my head towards the night blue skies above us, pondering for a moment before speaking to him “I do not think we are missing one however. If we are: relay it to us instead of just holding it back upon the last moment such as this.” Ozkun gave a nod towards me, a weak one as a matter of fact however. For as he stepped forth from the half circle that everyone else had made, he relay the information that he had found.

“There was a weird machine within canine that had forced canines to shrink down in size. Towards fennecs if I recall correctly. Perhaps this was what allowed them to move from one realm’s border to another without any interference or being killed/murdered on the spot. The machine is old now and abandoned which made me think that the canines had used this to frame themselves. Manipulating the crow’s dialogue just to sway towards some unidentified third party character-” “That is it!” I responded cutting Ozkun off immediately as he flinched, blinking at me before questioning “Wh… What?” “That is the answer that we are looking for.” I stated, “The weird machine that you had found at canine. That is why the crows were unable to identify the canines. They had not seen a fennec beforehand.” “Because there is no fennecs to begin with.” Realized Kyro with his eyes widening, everyone else nodded also, acknowledging the conclusion of the answer we had came to.

“With that out of the way.” Stated Murjur as she stepped out from the half circle line and everyone else, including me turned towards her. “How do we go and approach this problem at hand? Surely we need to find the fennec costume and the culprit behind it.” “We cannot find the culprit behind it; if we were to assume that the effects of the machine is temporarily.” I said towards Murjur who looked a bit surprise at that side of the question. But before I could state any further, Ozkun protested “The machine’s effects are permanent. Check the manuel of it that was already cast to the side since of course, they knew how to operate it already.” “If the effects are permanent. Then we can find him/her.” Kyro commented, everyone nodded their heads as a firm plan began developing in my mind.