

The Beast's Children



By Bibley B.

Ottunean was a deer Doxudian who lived in a cottage in the forest. The forest was full of beautiful trees that were always covered by a thick mist, which caused people to get lost in it all day. But Ottunean was used to it. He knew every twist and turn the path made.

When he was walking back from work, He found a human baby. He wondered what a human baby was doing here. The beast and the humans have a bad history so far and had war with each other all the time. If a beast were found on human lands, it would be killed, and the beast did the same with humans. That was the rule. The baby stared at Ottunean with his bright green eyes. It was just another thing to make him sad. The child's eyes were just too pure for a beast's. He decided to adopt the child as his own and took it to his cottage. He took care of the baby for many years and named him Laïka because of his orange hair. He found another baby that had cat ears and a tail. He named her Ivy. Then seven years later, He found another one. The baby was a weird one. He had wolf ears but a scorpion tail. Ottunean was confused why he kept finding babies, but something told him it was meant to be. He took the baby inside and named him Felix.



A day later, the knights came as usual. They came with their swords drawn, making everything in the forest tremble as their fur flowed behind them. One of the knights knocked on his door, "The emperor wants us to search your cottage," He said. "We suspect that you have a human child." He continued. They did this yearly and Ottunean hid Laïka and Ivy in a trapdoor under his bed. He did not know why the men did not search there. He guessed they were

stupid. Ottunean decided to leave with his children. He was irritated with them searching yearly. Ottunean woke up all his kids and told them to pack up. "Where are we going?" Ivy asked while carrying Felix. "To a safe place..." He muttered. "Let's go, My children."

"Ottunean! Open the door!" The knight hissed, banging his fist on the door. "If you don't open this door in the next ten seconds, I will break it down!" He shouted, clawing the door. Laika and Ivy looked at each other and then nodded. They followed their father out the back door and headed to a field. They stopped once they reached the field. Ottunean picked up a stick and began beating the ground with it. Felix began to cry. Ivy tried comforting him, "Shhhhh, It's okay Felix." Ivy said. Felix whimpered and tried to burrow himself into his sister's arms. Laika stood there quietly, looking around. After some time, He heard hooves coming up the road. "Hurry up!" Laika yelled at his father. "Be patient," He said, scratching his fur. Ottunean threw the stick and pulled a trapdoor out of the ground. He climbed a ladder down into the hole while the others followed. The wind made the trapdoor close, hiding the outside world. Laika looked ahead of him, "Where are we? He asked. "This is the underground city, I used to live here."

The underground city used to be Ottunean's home when he was a fawn but now it was abandoned. The city used to be filled with many different people, some from other races. Most of them left because of war. The streets were lined with houses but mostly empty or burned down. "We are going to stay here for the rest of our days," He said with sorrow in his voice. His children could tell how much sadness he felt in his voice. "I will go to the upper and get food," Ottunean said while walking toward his old house. He opened the door of his old house and walked in. The walls were stained with blood and some furniture had been broken. The floors were bare and cracked, and there was a huge hole in the floor where the roof collapsed. He looked at the ceiling with sorrow as the memories came flooding back. Then he rubbed his antlers, stepping on a roach. Laika looked around with disgust, "It stinks," He mumbled. Felix cried again and buried his head deeper into Ivy's chest. "Felix is hungry," Ivy told her father. He scratched his pelt, "I think I brought goat milk earlier." He started searching the bag he carried. He handed a bottle of goat milk to Ivy. She smiled, "Thanks Dad," She said then fed Felix. His ears twitch slightly. Laika picked up a paper from the broken floor. The paper had a

drawing of his father, two wolves, a fox, a lion, and a bird. "Who are they?" Laïka asked, showing it to his father. "My friends," He answered, sighing. "But that's a story for another time..." He added, sitting down by the broken fireplace.