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Word count: 2,931

## **The Wolf Of Fresco**

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*Ding, Ding, Ding*, the alarm bell sounded, and my father grabbed my arm.

“I need you to hide,” my father said.

“I need to help you,” I said.

“For once don’t argue with me,” my father said. *Ding, Ding, Ding*, continued.

“I can help you,” I said.

“Listen! I don’t need to worry about you when I leave to see what is going on,” he said.

“I need you to get under there, too.” He looked at my mother.

“I will not. We go together or you don’t go,” my mother said.

He puts me under the house and left with my mother.

Dead silence followed; I snuck out of my hiding spot. I hurried towards the screams when someone wrapped their arms around me and pulled me back. I fought the person holding me, but they didn’t let go.

“I’m sorry but there are too many of them, and if they find you, they will kill you too,” he said.

“Let me go, I have to save my family,” I said. I struggled in his hold.

“I’m trying to save your life,” he said.

A tear slid down my cheek and I fought to get out of his arms. When the noise ceased, he let me go. I ran around the front of the village and bodies littered the ground. I searched through the people to find my parents. When I got to them I dropped to my knees.

“No!” I screamed. My pain could be heard through the whole village. Holding my lifeless mother, I rocked back and forth.

“Come, grab what you can before they come back to raid your houses,” the man said. I looked up and didn’t recognize him.

“I’ll be better on my own,” I said. I went to my house and packed my things. As I packed my things, my pain turned to anger. I wanted revenge so bad it hurt. With my things in a bag, I hitched it over my shoulder and left the only home I’d ever known.

“Where are you going lady?” he asked.

“To find the people responsible,” I said.

“But you’re a woman,” he said.

My hands shook and my face felt hot. “I will say this once, I am going to get revenge. I don’t know you and I don’t trust you so please do yourself a favor and leave me alone,” I answered.

“What do you know about fighting?” he asked.

“Leave me alone, go back to where you came from,” I said.

“I can’t leave you to get yourself killed,” he said.

“I don’t need your help. I already know how to take care of myself,” I answered.

“Do you know how to use that spear?” he asked.

“No,” I answered.

“I will come with you,” he said.

“Why?” I asked.

“They killed my family. I followed them to your village before I stopped you. You reminded me of my daughter. They killed her and my wife. I was out hunting for meat when they attacked,” he answered.

“You will only be in the way. I don’t need your help,” I said.

He left me alone and I ventured into the wilderness.

###

Five years later...

I fought the people who killed my family. I wasn’t strong enough. They held me captive for three days. When they finished with me they left me for dead. The same man who saved me in my village saved me again. He nursed me back to health. When I became better I stayed with him.

He taught me how to use my spear and fight better. My dad had taught me, but he didn’t teach me enough. When it was time to use what I was taught, I wasn’t strong enough or fast enough.

“My child, it is time for your journey to begin. You have stayed with me long enough. I’m dying. I hope that your journey takes you where you need to be,” he said.

He taught me a lot. He put the pieces back together and helped make me whole again.

“You are beautiful, smart, and talented. I have taught you everything I know. Remember who you are and don’t allow that to be taken from you,” he said as he took his last breath. I stood with my head held high. Tears filled my eyes as I packed my things. With my sword, bow, and spear, my father gave me before he died, on my back. I carried a pack with rations in it and my pouch with arrows on my hip; I set out to find the men who took everything from me.

###

It has been three days since I set out towards my old village. It felt right. I have dreamed about the day I can kill the people who killed my parents. I got tired so I looked for a place to sleep for the night. That’s when I heard them.

“Did you see the castle? There is a dark cloud,” a female said.

“I saw it too Sibyl,” a male said.

“Gaizka, I’m telling you I can feel the evil coming in waves. Did you have a chance to talk to anyone?” another male asked.

“Yes, Alexander,” Gaizka said.

I stop in my tracks and hid behind a tree. I peeked around. I slowly moved around the tree and towards them when I stepped on a branch. I stopped moving.

“Whose there?” Gaizka asked.

“Do you see someone?” Sibyl asked.

“Shh,” Gaizka said.

I wait for them to stop paying attention. I looked back towards them and one is gone. Next thing I know there is a knife to my throat.

“Who are you?” Alexander asked.

“Freyja,” I answered.

“Why were you watching us?” he asked.

“I thought you were someone else. I was passing through and I heard talking. I stopped to figure out who it was,” I answered.

He walked me out of the shadows and into the campfire light. “I found her watching us,” he said.

“Who are you?” Gaizka asked.

“This is Freyja. She says she was just passing through, but I don’t know,” Alexander said.

Gaizka looked into my eyes. “She is okay. Let her go. She shouldn’t cause any problems,” Gaizka said.

Alexander let me go. “If she hurts us, I’m blaming you,” he said.

Gaizka looked at me. “You won’t hurt us will you?”

“Did you kill my family five years ago?” I asked.

“We are the same age as you,” Sibyl answered. “We couldn’t have killed them.”

We sat around the fire and talked. I learned a lot of things. They were raised together in a small village northeast of my village. Sibyl’s family said she had to marry, and she didn’t want to do that so when her two best friends said they were leaving she left with them. I told them about my family. I told them about my mother who taught me to read at a young age. She wanted me to be able to survive on my own being a woman. Men don’t look at their women as equals. Women weren’t allowed to go to school, so when I was old enough my mother sat me down and taught me to read, write and talk. She was patient with me and never lost her temper.

I explained to them that my father taught me sword fighting. When I turned twelve, he took me hunting and taught me how to fight and use a bow and arrow also. Mother

didn't like it, but she knew that it was important. She taught me how to feed the animals and cook dinner.

Unconsciously, I rubbed over my father's name on the spear he made me when I was sixteen. My parents never wanted me to depend on a man, so they taught me how not to. I told them about what happened when my parents were killed and what happened when I went to find the people who killed them.

They told me the reason they were camped there was because the town one mile up the road was being tormented. There was some kind of evil that pressed down on the town. They explained to me that they tried to talk to the people, but they were so scared they wouldn't come out of their houses. They explained to me how they had tried to get close to the castle, but it was heavily guarded. They convinced me to join them in their journey, but they needed help figuring out how to save this innocent town of the evil that infested it.

When listening to their stories and hearing what the town was going through, revenge didn't sound so sweet anymore. My parents were gone, the man who helped me after my parents were killed is gone and I'm out here on my own looking for some people that are long gone. We continued to sit around the fire and strategize a way around the guards. We decided that Gaizka and myself would sneak around the castle and find a way in.

As we went around the back of the castle, we stood in the shadows so we wouldn't be seen. I followed a stream and found an underground tunnel. I tried to send him back, but he wouldn't leave me. I told him I needed to clear the way, but he insisted that he was coming with me. I was glad since it took two people to open the tunnel. We went inside and it stank like an outhouse. We continued through the tunnel for a while before I heard some noise. It was a real

crazy sound, like a growl. I raised my bow and continued on. I could see something in the distance, so I slowed down.

When I got to it, I saw an unknown creature. I shot my arrow at it, and it connected. It stuck out of its chest. It jumped back then came forward again missing me before I came back with my sword and cut one of its arms off. It screamed and came at me again; I moved expertly and before it connected with me, I cut off its head, and it fell to the ground. Another creature lunged towards me and Gaizka killed it before it got to me. I thanked him and we headed deeper into the tunnel. We got to some bars and saw that it looked like a dungeon of some sort. There was a lock on the door that we can open to get inside.

Gaizka hits it with his sword, and it crumbled to the ground. We walked slowly through the dungeon finding the cells were all full of people. When we got to them they could barely hold their heads up and none of them could talk. We walked towards a door when we heard men talking and laughing. I knew we had found our way in, so we headed back to the group. When we got back to the group we explained our way in. We decided to split into two groups and hit them from both sides. Alexander and Sibyl will go through the first to draw the guards to them. Gaizka would come with me, and we would go through the tunnels. We slept to rest for the strike on the castle.

We knew it would be hard, but we didn't know what to expect when we came face to face with the emperor.

###

*"When you were in my stomach, a woman came to me. She said you were special and to treat you as such," my mother said.*

*"How am I special?" I asked.*

*“That’s a lesson you will learn on your own. She made me promise not to tell you and let destiny take you to where it needs you to go,” she answered.*

*“Someone help us! Please don’t kill us!”*

“Freyja, wake up,” Gaizka said. “It’s just a dream.”

I opened my eyes to his handsome face, and he helped me to my feet.

We began getting ready. I strapped my weapons to my back. Right before we got back to the village, we said our goodbyes and good lucks. We split into two groups. Gaizka followed me into the tunnels. This time we don’t have to kill anyone or anything, so we just went in. When we pass by the cells I hear a little girl. She doesn’t sound normal, so I stop to see her.

She’s little and her voice is small. She asks if I’m going to help her. When I nodded my head she smiled.

We leave her there and go towards the guards. Stealthily we take out both guards. When they are down, I send Gaizka to signal Sibyl and Alexander to start the assault on the front of the castle. As soon as I hear fighting I make my way towards the front. Gaizka meets me right before I get to where I am going. I can see the evil coming off the guards as we strike one after the other down. Before we get to the emperor a big Giant comes out.

Alexander and Sibyl come around the corner and join us. Gaizka instructs me to go to the emperor and they will take care of the giant.

I leave them there and go into the throne room. There is a man sitting on the throne with another man standing behind him. The man looks at me with shock.

“You can see me?” he asked.

“Why wouldn’t I be able to see you?” I asked.



“Only two kinds of people can see me. The ones that have evil in their hearts and the one our prophecy told us about. There will be one who comes to stop me. She is destined to be a hero. She will defeat me, but I don’t believe that is you. We will see about that,” he said. Before I know what he is doing, he merges with the emperor. He looks at me and stands to his feet. “Now you die.”

We began our battle. I’m swift with my bow so I shoot him with an arrow, and switch to my spear before he gets to me. I can see the black cloud around him and when our swords connect I’m pushed back. We go back and forth. Only thing that can be heard in the castle is *clink, clink*. Its loud in my ears but I stand my ground. We go back and forth for what seemed like hours but when the fight is over and I’m standing over him victorious, I see that it isn’t. The emperor is dead, so I left to check on my friends.

They are still fighting the giant, so I looked for a way to get above it and stab it through the head. Above his head is a balcony, I headed up there and when I got above him, I pulled my sword out and jumped on his head. My sword cut clean through his skull. He fell towards the ground and right before I jumped off and rolled to my feet. I withdrew my sword. Once the fight was over, my comrades, and I freed the people from the cells, but the little girl was nowhere to be found. My friends and I left the castle. As soon as we walked out of the castle the town folk came out of their houses. They clapped as we left the village.

We got back to our camp and decided to stay for the night before I went my separate way. As Sibyl and Alexander went to bed, I left to find a lake to wash myself up. After I found a nice calm lake, I took my clothes off. I got into the water. Right before I got out Gaizka walked up. He asked to join me.

He joined me in the water, and we talked. We talked about where he was headed next. He asked me if I would join them in their journey. They needed someone like me. He needed me. He told me that he feels a connection to me from the first moment he saw me. He wanted me to stay with him. He kissed me.

As soon as I kissed him back we heard fighting. We both got dressed and ran back to camp. Sibyl was lying on the ground and Alexander was fighting an unknown creature. It looked like an old lady but the black cloud that surrounded her showed that she was the same evil I fought earlier. My body started to tremble, I could feel my temperature rise, and light started coming out of all sides. I looked at her and shot light out of my hands and she exploded.

I went to Sibyl, and she was still breathing. I touched her wound and light came out of my hand. The wound healed and she opened her eyes.

Alexander stared surprised like something was wrong with me.

I assured him that I was normal. I don't know why I can all of a sudden heal people and kill evil. I asked them what happened.

They told me the story of how a little girl came to them asking for help. She said that I saved her life. She wanted to repay me. When Sibyl turned to get me, the girl transformed into that thing we fought. Instead of staying for the night we packed everything up and headed off towards the sunset.