

Taiga tipped her head, a small flame an unfamiliar shade of quench sat in the sky. Each step she took it would vanish, only reappearing ahead once she thought it to be her mind toying with her. High above, beyond the forest, laying on the edge of the sky sat the wishing well. It sparked contrast from its gentle, glowing hue as the world collided behind it.

Mount Arianrhod. The mountain stretched before her, and suddenly she was aware of the biting cold. It seeped into her fur and closed in on her lungs. Wind nipped at her ears. Taiga made a glance at their companion. A smile struck her face. "Shall we start?"

The pink furred creature blinked ever so slightly, her head tilting to the side as her gaze fixated on the Snare before her. Her gaze, although confused and full of warning, they held a small amount of warmth and light. Taking a few steps towards Taiga, she brought her muzzle against the nape of their neck, using her nose to brush the scarf against their neck upwards a bit more.

"If you are cold, you should say so. We do not need to rush," Wan stated, before evenly replying back, "But yes, we should start, get a few miles behind us before it gets too late into the night," after she had stopped spreading their scarf evenly across their neck, she smiled softly and nodded, "There, that's better now,"

"I give you my gratitude, Wan. For I could never have dreamed to traverse the peak alone. Arianrhod does not seem to accept lone souls." The starsnare mused, blinking warm eyes towards her kind gesture. "So let's get on with it, shall we?" Taiga called, rising to her feet and starting forward with a small bound. Her feet seemed to shy in size compared to the rest of her body, but her overall stature made each step many a foot's length. And so the pair climbed, walking through glazed trees and infinite rows of sage pines.

The moon began to settle in the sky when they finally came to a stop. The welcoming sun no longer held possession of the sky; a slight chill began to crawl up from the deep north. Thistles and weeds gaped from the shadows, following their every move with thorny eyes.

Wan's chest was rising up and down, she was exhausted, and they're weren't even climbing for that long. Luckily a few meters away, there was a bigger area, that could be used as a small, but quick resting area. She judged Taiga, "should we rest for a few? We can move as soon as the North Star moves closer to us"

Her gaze seemed as if she wouldn't take no for an answer, so the other just sighed and nodded. "Sure, we can take a small break, we need to be going before long though, so we don't end up missing it," Taiga smiled ever so slightly, her teeth showing.

The two raced to the dirt area, a few rocks were scattered here and there, but it was just mostly dirt and dust. One could assume it could collapse any moment from now. Wan's paws hit the dusty earth, her claws deeply sinking into its terrain. Giving her back a small arch, she stretched downward. Staying in the position for multiple moments before belly flopping down. "Aaaahh!" She rolled over on her back, the chilling winter air clinging to her fur like no tomorrow.

Taiga puffed a couple blazes, letting the embers settle and glow, carried along by the breeze to light the environment. "At this rate we should make it at sunrise!" The snare exclaimed. A smile wound its way into her maw; amusement twinkled in her eyes as she watched the dainty and elegant Wan take a belly dive into the dust and soil. *Odd. I never figured her for the kind of snare to flop to the dirt in such a manner. It's almost admirable.* Taiga put a paw to her snout, letting aloud small giggles.

The starsnare flowed towards their companion, resting her head on Wan's ear a moment before laying beside them. This time, in a slightly more graceful manner, using her breath to blow off the loose dust layered above the earth before settling herself down.

Taiga's wings fluttered in midnight's breath, a gentle breeze wafting down from the mountain peak. The moon was beginning to dim in the sky, and soon should the sun reclaim its grace in the sky, she wanted to make it to the well. Rumor had it that it could grant any wish any snare could desire! And if that was the case, she wanted a galaxy's worth of human cuisines. All those little snacks and treats had always looked wonderful to Taiga. And of course, there was thought to be a small shop where starsnares could buy trinkets. *That* Taiga very much wanted to see as well.

She raised her head, adjusting her auburn silk scarf and tapping Wan with her paw. "Rise and shine! Time to get a move on again, Sleepy Head! We need to make it before da--"

"Khgghhk-kkkhk"

Her head swiveled on point, eyes glancing around. That didn't sound very normal. Maybe something lived here? Taiga frowned, drawing her tail closer. Two berries sat on top of a bush, glowing in the dark like shiny hollies. "Wan," she whispered, pinning her ears. "Go. Let's go." She finished shortly, nudging their flank and urging them to move. Clouds gathered in the sky, and it had only been a short distance before voices called out in ghostly rasps.

Their eerie whispers echoed for what seemed to go on for miles, Wans ears buzzed, even pinning them against her head flat did no justice. The suns dim shimmer reverberated against the entire mountainside. If you listen close enough- you can almost feel soft vibrations on the rocks beneath you shake and quiver, like a guitar strings being plucked.

Wan's eyes darted around, the sudden shouting of her companion ended up triggering her flight and fight response. Her body screaming, her vision quickly shifting between blurry and 20/20. She dashed around, looking for Taiga. "Tai!" She screamed out, her voice hoarse, almost dead silent in the loud air.

It was like all her senses died out, she couldn't see, nor feel. She couldn't even smell or sense, but she kept darting around. In the midst of blindness, she could always still see two glowing - wisp like orbs nearing her closer and closer. It was at this point all she could hear is a loud buzzing in her ears, and now, all senses were shut off.

Her chest was rising and falling quickly, many thoughts were racing in her head, Where was Taiga? Did she leave her? Was she abandoned? Was she just used as a stepping stone? Her gaze flickered downward at the sudden thought, she couldn't have...? Could she? She trusted Taiga, with all her secrets, all her emotions. How could it of ended up like this?

Her eyes blurred even more, cloudy liquids seeping its way out from around the magnificent orbs of hers. Her body collapsed, falling against the cold sharp stone, piercing her flesh. In the void of nothingness, she could feel her body suddenly heat up, then get piercing cold. She could feel her bones tighten, then grind against each other.

It felt as though her ribs were crushing against her lungs with each breath, causing each intake less and less. She wanted to scream, but her throat was tight and dry. Wan couldn't keep her head up anymore, and gently placed them on her paws. The entity ahead of her's breath was boring into her flesh.

The ground beneath Wan thundered and crackled, and within moments she began her descent, the rocks following all around with her.

"WAN!"

"Wan!" She called out again. No answer. A grumbling erupted from the woods and howls sounded in a starch black sky. Taiga hurried, stumbling and whipped by the branches. She fought her way through the thicket, chest heaving...

And then **light**. She broke through to a clearing, a bustling place with snares coming and going and an assortment of varying rainbows scattered throughout as far as one could see. And amidst it all, sitting calmly in the center, **the wishing well**. A glorious sight of beauty and structure. A golden coin tumbled to her paws, seemingly out of nowhere. Taiga grabbed at it, stumbling towards the well and throwing the coin in as a short drizzle hit the earth beneath her face.

She gave her wish.

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