

Prompt entry beginnings first draft

trench never really stayed in one place for long
it wasn't like he hated making roots or that he was scared of commitment or anything dumb like that

he just thought the world had way too much to see to just sit around in one little corner of it
when he first popped outta Meteor Lake and saw that big hazy sky over Skire he just kinda knew, staying still wasn't really for him

he went all over the place
coastlines and kelp forests, tight ravines, coral spots, even up on land now and then when he got curious

every stop was like a new beginning
new people, new sounds, new currents that pushed him ahead
like the world was saying go on kid keep swimmin

but this time... this beginning felt weirdly different

the shore here was soft not all rough like others
waves just kinda tapped ya gently not smackin into ya like a slap
Trench floated under the top of the water watchin how the light flickered on the sandy bottom
he wasn't planin to stop here
but somethin about how the place sparkled made him pause

maybe just for today
or maybe more

the cove was quiet but not like dead
stuff was all around, just chillin
those glowy jelly light thingies blinkin from the rocks
a bunch of ribbonfish zipped around like little lights, doin their fish thing
there was also this hum like machines down deeper but Trench wasn't tryin to poke around yet
he wanted to like, soak it all in first

on the second day he found this squishy sea moss patch that was perfect for nappin
on the third he found this old shell with carvings in it like someone was here before
maybe another wanderer like him
someone who left a bit of themselves here too

then the fourth day he met someone

his name was Zynx

he said hi with this slow smile n he kinda sung his name
Trench never really met a siren before like in person
you always hear they're bad or tricky but zynx wasn't like that
he had a soft voice n eyes that looked real sharp like he was thinkin alot
his tail was all shiny and flickery in the sun n he had this chill vibe to him that Trench actually liked

they started talkin at the edge of the shore, trench just floatin around in the water and zynx chillin on this big rock that was all warm from the sun, he was dryin off his tail until it like turned into these long humany legs
the first time trench saw it happen he stared a bit too long by accident
zynx laughed tho and streched out n was like "its just more comfy this way"

after that they started hangin out a lot
zynx didnt say much bout his past n trench never asked
they mostly just talked about now
like what the waves were doin that day
or how the sun set faster sometimes
or how the fish over near the reef were bein all weird again
they didnt need to talk deep or nothing it just felt nice bein near each other

first it was mornin chats
then they started swimmin around n explorin places
then trench was just stickin around longer and longer every day

he got this lil notebook nothin fancy or anything just something he could write down memories or draw fish in
like "zynx flipped his fins at a crab and it freaked out he laughed so hard he fell off the rock lol"
or "the stars look extra bright from this cove"
or "i think i might like it here?"

zynx had his own way of keepin stuff too
he'd hum into the water, songs that like floated and made the whole ocean feel like it was listenin
sometimes trench would hear one he didnt know and be like where'd that come from?
and zynx would just grin and go "made it up. might teach it to someone one day"

one evenin zynx was like hey come up this cliffside with me
trench usually didnt like bein out the water too long but he went
they sat next to each other danglin their legs and watchin the sunset get all orange and blue

"ever think of stayin?" zynx said real soft

trench didnt say anything right away
he always saw himself as a wander guy, never in one place
but now the idea of stayin wasnt scary

not if it meant watchin the sky change colors with someone who got the way he liked to just be quiet

not if it meant laughin about dumb stuff that made his chest feel warm

he still had days where he wanted to just float off again

where the idea of movin felt like freedom again

but now there was always this pull

back to the cove

to the way the sun felt on zynx's skin

to the way his songs made the sea sparkle

to that feeling like someone actually saw him

zynx never asked him to stay

n trench didn't need zynx to come with

but it was real nice

knowin he had someone waitin back there if he ever wanted to come home

that his journey didnt always have to go forward

sometimes it cud just go back to somthing good somthing that felt real and grounding

he wasnt givin up on wandarin not even close

but he was kinda gettin that begginings didnt always mean leavin stuff behind

sometimes it was about lettin somthin new in

lettin some one in

lettin him self feel settled even if it was just for now

maybe that was the biggest new beggining yet

in the next few weeks trench kept goin back to the tidepools again and again

zynx always knew somehow like hed just be there already sprawled out on the rocks like a lazy seal, tail floatin in the water, hummin som weird lil tune that echoed in the tide

other times he'd pop up from the ocean with that big grin and laugh like a wave smashin into the beach

they talked about all kinds of stuff, their pasts, weird dreams, what clouds looked like dogs and which ones didnt

zynx made even dumb stuff feel like it mattered

like it meant somethin

one mornin trench brought him this busted shell he found over by the south ridge

"looks like your vibe," he said holdin it out, "tough but also kinda soft in weird places"

zynx laughed so loud n took it like it was made of gold "then ill keep it forever," he said real cheesy and shoved it in his lil pouch

thats when it started really

the small stuff

a shell here

a song there

one day trench brought in this gross piece of drift wood that kinda looked like a fish if you squinted and was like "look its art"

zynx didnt even blink he just said "masterpiece" and stuck it in a tidepool like it belonged there another time zynx made a seaweed crown and shoved it on trench's head without sayin anything and trench just wore it for the whole day

there was this moment not long after the full moon when stuff kinda shifted

zynx got outta the water which he never did for very long

he was all human shaped and his long dark hair was stickin to his back and shoulders were still drippy like he was made of the sea

he sat real close to trench on the rocks and said

"you ever feel like your not the same person with different people?"

trench just blinked at him and kinda thought "yep more than anyone probly knows"

"all the time," he said

"but like... i think thats fine"

zynx turned his head slow like a cat or somethin

his eyes were all shiny and blue green like glass bottles in the sun

"you dont think thats weird?"

"nah," trench said, all chill

"were not supposed to be the same always. stuff changes. we change too."

they didnt say anything for a long while after that, just kinda sat there next to eachother, the gulls screamin and waves crashin soft like background noise. but somthin was understood, like unspoken but still known deep down.

after that stuff between them kinda changed. not like serious serious but more... idk. real? they still joked around a lot and raced eachother thru the tide tubes and all that. but it felt more grounded now. like maybe somthing started and they didnt need to name it cuz it just *was*

one day trench was like "ive been thinkin bout leavin meteor lake for a bit"

"maybe go inland and check out those moss caves near ember valley. heard the walls there glow or some shit"

zynx tilted his head a bit like "you leavin for good?"

trench shrugged "nah just a lil trip. you kno i like movin around"

zynx nodded but paused for a sec. "i cudfle come with you"

trench blinked. zynx?? on land?? he barely left the coast unless he like had to and even then he'd be back quick

"for reel?" trench asked

zynx smiled "youre fun. plus i never been that far inland. might be cool."

and just like that i guess they started a new lil chapter

goen inland wasnt fast or smooth. trench liked takin his time and zynx?? bruh. he was def not a good walker, always trippin over tree roots or complainin his legs felt weird. but they made it work anyway.

they stopped a lot, camped near falls and talked to random ppl they met. trench loved how zynx could just vibe with anyone. like hed smile and suddenly some stranger was spillin life stories and offerin them food.

at one point they crashed at this merchant ladys house for a few days. she kept givin them soup and callin zynx "the mer-boy" lol. asked wayyy too many questions. zynx just rolled with it tho and made up dumb stories about ocean kings and sea monsters and stuff.

trench just stared at him like... how is this dude so chill all the time. zynx had a way of makin dumb stuff sound like legends and it was kinda amazing

and sometime durin one of those quiet nights by the fire trench realized somthin he was happy.

trench had this weird thing with sitting up on rooftops. like it didnt matter where they were, if there was a building nearby he'd climb up and sit on top like some weird gargoyle just thinkin for hours. zynx asked him once "why do you always do that?" and trench just kinda shrugged n said "makes the world quieter"

one morning the sun was shinin thru all the tree leaves makin the ground look all gold n sparkley and zynx was like "so where we headed next?"

trench yawned n stretched all slow like a cat in the sun. "i dont know... where ever sounds good. long as your cool with it"
zynx grinned. "im always cool"

and they both busted out laughin cuz they both new that was a lie but it was funny so it was fine

they ended up laying there for a while longer just watchin some birds fly by. trench pointed at one n was like "that one looks like a messed up featherball" and zynx snorted real loud. they didnt always say smart stuff but it didnt matter. they made eachother laugh and that ment a lot.

the trip wuld keep goin. the path wuld probly keep changin like always. but rite then, they had eachother. and that was good enuff.

zynx got it. some stuff just dosnt need a reason. it just is.

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