

Orion and Ryder Story

By Angel Rosales

I remember the day when I heard the screams of people around me. The crackling of the building. The loud screams of my mother in the fire. There was nothing I could do. The last thing I saw was her smile and her pushing me outside when a large piece of wood fell down between us. This memory is always going to be with me. The last gift she gave me was a female wolf dog and I named it after her.

"Luna," I said, and looked at the grave and my dog was by my side. I placed a new batch of flowers graveside and I walked back to the dog farm.

When I get to the farm I see my father and another one of the town Elders. I already know what they're talking about.

"Hey didn't I tell you that your son is meeting with a girl that is not at the same rating as he is? He should know better to go with a girl who can be killed in the coming days," the Elder said.

"Well, I can't control his life anymore. He's an adult now. He can do what he likes. Leave him be. But if you do anything to ruin my son's life, if you do that, I will ruin yours," Ryder yelled at him.

I knew my father was getting mad when I heard him yell, and I know that he is serious when he starts to yell at the other elders. I walked up to them to know I was there.

"I will be taking my leave now and remember Ryder what I said to you," the Elder said.

I still don't remember all their names but I remember them by their faces.

"Hey, how many times do I have to tell you to not see the low rating girl the Elders are talking about? I don't like where this is going and I can't lose you to them like how we lost your mother," Ryder told me lowering his big sad eyes like one of the dogs from the farm.

"Didn't you tell me that I can start my own life now because I'm 18? You said it, not me," I replied to him and the look on his face was something I had not seen before. He looked pleased to hear my answer. He just simply walked away with a smile on his face and he entered the farm.

Soon after I followed him inside with Luna. When I got inside I saw something I hadn't seen on my father's face for a long time. He was smiling, and I don't know from what, though it seemed he was happy that I stepped up in my life and was taking control of it.

"I wish your mother was here to see how much you have grown up over the years, She would be proud of you," he said to me with a smile.

"I know I wish I could see her again and see her smile again like the good old days," I said in a soft tone of voice with one tear finding its way down my cheek.

I walked away and went into my room and Luna followed behind me. She always knows when I am sad and need to be away from people. Those memories of the fire will always stay with me and as hard I try to get rid of them, they just come back to me and I wish that it never happened.

Some time went by and I got up and left my room. Luna is sleeping now so I can go to work training and feeding the dogs outside. I passed a note from my dad had, he had to leave for a meeting with the other Elders. I guess I have to do this by myself right now until he comes back.

As time goes by, I realize even more that it is possible that my father is trying to live up to the family name by becoming an Elder when he steps down, when he gets older, and this is why I am here by myself the whole time. And this is part of his way of telling me that I have to grow up and put the past behind me and see what the future holds for me. Maybe that is why he doesn't want me to fall in love with the girl that I have met. Maybe because Ryder does not want me to be sad if I lose her as well, but I promised her that I will be with her forever. Is this some type of test or is it some way of telling me that I can choose what I do from here and on?