

Nana

By: Daniel "Pendragon"

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I love my mama and papa...

I so wished that I could just tell them that, but it often times proved difficult. The only words I've ever been able to manage in three years were "mama" and "papa." I wanted to tell them "I love you" but I seem to have problems with I's... oh and L's. Forget it... I have problems with the nearly the whole alphabet apparently.

Mama and Papa were the first people who ever really showed kindness to me that I could remember, but thank the Maker, they weren't the last.

I know that they aren't my real mama and papa... I only wish they were. I don't remember my real parents. All I remember is the man with the whip and the knife. He'd hurt me many times so that I'd do tricks for him and all these other people underneath a big tent.

So one day, when I was strong enough to break my leash and I'd been hit just one too many times, I bit his fingers off, scratched his face into a bloody mess, and then ran as fast as I could go. I spent months foraging for food in trash bins and such, till I'd accidentally found myself aboard a space hauler one night while foraging. Its cargo hold hadn't been protected from the cold of space as well as it should, and with little more than a loincloth to cover me, I was constantly cold in there. There was very little food to forage for other than some space rats.

I saved those for as long as I could. But it still wasn't enough. I'd nearly starved to death when the cargo hold was finally opened, and some workers found me half dead.

I didn't remember much then, but when I opened my eyes, I saw a very large man, a very strange looking man with white fur and stripes looking down at me kindly before he placed a mask over my face and I fell asleep again.

When I awoke, I was in a big room and in a bed, dressed in a big white shirt. All I could think about was that I was in a cage again and I panicked without ever thinking, and so I destroyed everything in that room, tearing off that shirt thinking it was another collar, till someone opened the door.

They were wearing white coats just like my handlers did, and I freaked, scratched them both, and then vaulted through a window and tumbled two stories to the ground and bolted for the trees. I know I scared more than one person tearing away like that, my ears pinned to the back of my head.

For a long time, I lived like I had been on other worlds, as if I were on the run, eating out of trash bins and hunting down small animals like birds.

Until Mama found me.

Everyone around here called her mother. She must have a big family... and so many different looking people too. She had no malice in her, no smell of fear of me, and she merely squatted down, and offered up her hand with some food in it.

I'd been starving up until then, and she was so kind. And the berries she gave me were delicious. She'd pet my head and back and actually picked me up, getting more food for me.

Every night she had food for me since then, and then one night, the strange white furred man with the black stripes was there, and that time there was a great feast waiting for me with lots of different foods. It was the first time in a long time that I'd actually engorged myself.

They gave me a bath afterwards, I was so sated and so happy, I just slept there in their arms.

But even with all the kindness that mama and papa gave me; there were still a few things I had to fend for myself for. As it was... I was still digging in garbage bins looking for stray bits of food, and was currently involved in the trash bin part when a pair of hands took hold of my body and pulled me out of one, a meat laden bone still clutched in my mouth.

“Whew! Now I know how you get so stinky all the time Eakjo.” A young woman with bulging muscles said as she held me.

I sucked the remains of the chicken bone into my mouth and continued to munch and eat it, and as this happy young woman walked with me in her arms, I saw wincing from others who listened to me crunching that bone and sucking on the marrow.

This woman was called Rae... and she was almost as gentle as mama... and just as powerful as papa. She felt like an aunt though she had the scent sorta like a wolf. But I didn't hold that against her. She was far too kind and had an appearance that was too different to be counted among them.

“But we'll get you cleaned up,” she was saying then, “And then perhaps get some real food in you.”

Everyone kept telling me that... I wasn't quite sure what *'real food'* was, because whenever it came time to get some, some crisis happened immediately and the next thing I knew I was in a trash bin again looking for scraps.

I wonder if its like what mama and papa always give me. It tastes pretty good nonetheless.

But Rae was a kindly woman, and she brought me into the bath house, where she got me out of my dirty tunic and I watched as she undressed. My head tilted as I looked at her nude form, curious as to what made a female, female.

They didn't have a pee-pee, but they did have those big mounds on their chests, and Rae's were nice and big.

I remembered something then... something distant in my past. These memories came upon me every now and again, about times before the wolves, and I saw an image of a woman who I knew must've been my mother... a kindly fem who'd cradled me gently in her arms. And then those big wolves were tearing me from her, sticking us in separate cages.

I hopped up into Rae's arms once she'd fully disrobed, and the pair of us, nude as the day we were born, walked into the bathhouse.

The bathhouse had two halves to it... one side where papa went, and then another side was where mama and auntie went. On the side we went was already crowded with all sorts of girls and other females, and I had ample enough time to understand what made a female, female.

Some had four, others had six, some were big, others were small, and not a one of them had a pee-pee. I guess that was the difference... but what was with those big mounds? But as Rae held me in the water, and I looked up at her... there was something... *familiar* with this view; looking up at a beautiful fem from beneath her breasts.

Then I looked at the fleshy disk and the nib on the end of Rae's breast, and lifting a finger touched it.

"Hey there kiddo... sorry to say this but there's nothing in there right now." She smiled, and I looked up at her.

There's supposed to be something inside the breast? But what could possibly be in there? And how does it get out?

My thoughts were interrupted as I was then drenched with water, and I lifted my head out of the pool just as auntie Rae's hands began to scrub my fur, before I was joined by another pair of hands and then still another pair as other bathers came to help clean me..

I smiled as they groomed me, suddenly the attention of all these ladies, with words of:

"Oh he's just a sweet little cutie."

“He’s gonna be quite the lady killer when he’s older. If he’s not careful, Geevo might be outmatched.”

“I love his ear tassels, and the little guy is so strong!”

I managed to purr while I was passed around and hugged amidst those great mounds of flesh and fur, smiling warmly at all the attention. I didn’t really know where I was on this world, but wherever this place was, I had heard once that it was a school, but there was so much love here... so many people who cared for me.

Unlike from before, with the man with the whip.

They washed me of all the nice smelling funk I’d accumulated, making me a ball of soap suds in the process, but no problem... I could get that back without too much trouble by rolling in the trash again. If it weren’t for the fact that this all felt so good, I’d have to bite and claw to keep the smell they were now giving me off. All this lavender and rose made it difficult to hunt.

It was also nice to remain the center of attention for awhile.

I was able to swim amongst them in the warm waters, splashing happily and diving off the edge into the water.

“Kawaii!” I cried out... a word I heard someone use concerning me, and I had actually managed to say. Why was it so difficult to say these... these words?!

But then I stopped as a new female entered the chamber, and I paused as she opened her robe, and revealed the largest pair of breasts I’d ever seen. She was one of mama’s students... the girl they called Tla.

She was always the one that everyone looked at... even I had difficulty looking away. They were just so... so... hypnotic! Those mounds on her chest were larger than any other fem’s here! I couldn’t help but stare at her as her form slid into the waters, with those full and rounded things bobbing against her chest to only float in the water.

“Hey... It’s not nice to stare, kiddo.” Auntie said from behind me as she picked me up, all my fur straining straight off my body so that I looked like a drowned space rat.

I looked wanly at her, but nonetheless clung to her chest and kept watching the Tla girl from over auntie’s broad shoulder before I was dried off with a really big towel, and sitting calmly on one of the benches, auntie brushed all my fur straight while I continued to look over at all the different maidens.

And then I looked at Tla again, seeing her sitting there, holding her breasts down and close together. She seemed to be blushing, and was trying to hide behind some weeds.

“Now hold still for a moment, Eakjo.” Auntie said, and I was suddenly assaulted by one of those ‘*shirts*’ everyone wore here as she slid it over my head. It was bright yellow with a big silver star right in the center.

My head was poked through, and she got my ropy arms and thick forearms through the arm holes before getting me into a pair of shorts. Why do all of these clothes have to be so restrictive?

Auntie Rae dressed herself again, pulling her short mane from out of her collar and sliding the front of her shirt over her naked breasts; and again I was amazed at the body of a female, comparing it with my own. I touched my own chest looking for where my lumps were, but perhaps boys don’t have lumps...

But then that was something else... girls didn’t have lumps either... so what was the difference between a girl and an adult?

I had so many questions, but I couldn’t for the life of me formulate the words. Like why is the sky blue? Why do girls have flat chests and women have breasts? Where do babies come from? I was saving them all up for when I could learn how to speak, and I was trying very hard to formulate words. I was working on them every night. I understood words when others spoke them... I just couldn’t speak them myself.

“Now lets get you fed.” Auntie said and took my hand and grabbing one of her fingers, I allowed her to lead me forward; just as Clio and that other fem she was always with – Kirn I think her name was – entered. Strange... but they had the most of those lumps than any other fem I’ve seen. I think ten was the right number for that many... they went right down their navels.

I looked back at them and Tla one last time, seeing her clean herself now with a washcloth before auntie led me to where all the food was.

People still scared me. I didn’t know if I could trust any of them, so I held onto Auntie’s pant leg and her fingers while she walked slowly for me to keep up. Before coming here, nearly every being that I’d met wanted to hurt or beat me, but not once since coming here did they throw a net over me, beat me, shock me with those weird lightning sticks, whip or cut me.

Papa was even taking away the hurt of the marks those beatings had left on me... and I could steadily see them disappear. And they ached so bad sometimes.

I smiled up at Auntie, and grabbing a little tighter to her pant leg, I climbed up onto her broad back– not as broad as papa’s but it felt just as strong – using my fingers and toes for grip and lay across her shoulders. She gave me a scratch under the chin as I wrapped my long beautiful tail about her neck.

I wanted to tell her that I loved her too... but all I could manage was a subtle hug and a purr.

“That’s either your stomach growling, or you’re happy.” Auntie Rae said with a laugh.

“Yip!” I managed, smiling happily.

“Oh that is *so* Kawaii!” another of the many fems of the school said as she slid up to Rae, scratching me under the chin.

Now her name was Caliban, and she was a bit of a mystery. She *had* been a he when I first arrived, and one of those nasty wolves, and now she was a she. She had four lumps now, and was very pretty, and best of all, she didn’t look anything like a wolf. She was also very strong, and was one of papa’s students. She was stronger now than she’d been as a he though she didn’t look it; and though she really didn’t *look* strong I could still nonetheless feel things like that.

Auntie and Papa were *very, very* strong. They made me feel the safest.

Caliban gave me a gentle caress underneath my chin, and I purred louder for her, and then batted at her fingers with my hands.

“Hello Cali. Did you get to that outfitter for your wedding dress I told you about?”

“Oh yes... he says he was able to fit anyone! He even fit Clio and both her mates! That’s genius to make gowns for someone so large and so well endowed as those three. Oh... I can’t thank you enough for all that you’ve done for me Rae... I just wanted to... Oh and then we did this... did I tell you what Siklohn did today. He’s such a romantic now...”

I only listened to the conversation with half an ear as I settled around Auntie’s shoulders. Girls seemed to talk *a lot!* And there were a lot of them here on this island. Papa didn’t talk a lot, but when they did people tended to listen. I wanted to be able to do that when I learned how to speak. But then I smelt something wonderful, and started, lifting my head, and then rubbed my belly as it rumbled.

“So that first noise *was* a purr. Well I love you too, Eakjo.” Rae said before saying goodbye to Caliban.

“Yip!” I smiled, and let auntie take me off her shoulders and hold me in her arms, and I leaned off her so that I could look down on what was making all those wonderful smells. They all smelt oh so wonderful.

Soon I was sitting on a pile of those things called books, a big cloth around my neck while Auntie fed me off of something called a fork.

“Now be sure to chew thoroughly before swallowing!” Rae said, and I smiled at her.

I already knew that, of course. Had a bone of some rodent get stuck half way down one day and I had to hack it up. I always chewed my food thoroughly after that. But this *‘real food’* had some good tastes to it. I’ve tasted a smidgeon of this and a smidgeon of that from leftovers, but to have the whole thing now was just wonderful!

It wasn’t as good as papa’s food, but it was still good enough, but this little bit at a time was annoying.

As soon as auntie turned her head to say hello to someone, I hopped up and grabbed the bowl and downed all that was left in it before licking it clean. When Auntie looked back, I smiled at the look on her face as my cheek pouches were full of food, and my sharp teeth were doing their best to eviscerate it all.

“My... you *were* hungry.” She laughed even as I swallowed the whole mess of it in one gulp and then taking a bone on the plate, ate that too. “*Really* hungry.” She finished and patted my head.

I gave off a little belch and smiled happily at auntie.

I was climbing along the side of the house mama was in once Rae had dropped me off, my toe and hand claws suspending me from nooks and crannies while I looked down at mama and auntie talking.

“Oh yes... he’s a regular little garbage disposal. I swear he ate the spoon.”

Mama’s laughed in return, and clinging to the wall, I listened to her laugh. It sounded so happy...

“Thank you for looking after him today Rae. He’s really making a lot of progress lately. He comes immediately when called now, and just leaps into my arms and hugs me all over.” It was true. I loved my mama. “Even Sage gets that.”

“Sage has changed... he seems... less angry now.” Rae said. “A lot happier than before and his school is just skyrocketing now. Student performances are at an all time high.”

“Yes... he does seem happier. I guess nearly dieing can do that to a person.”

Papa nearly died? I thought, blinking in surprise before I climbed down off the roof and looked at mama questioningly.

“Yip?” I asked, looking at her questioningly.

“And there you are... Come on Eakjo...” and she held out her arms. I climbed down and clung to her chest.

“Papa?”

“He’ll be coming by later this evening.” Mama said, and smoothed my mane back.

My ears fell in disappointment. I wanted to know what had happened!

“He said a word?” auntie commented with shock

“He’s about the right age.” Mama said, and hefted me higher in her arms as I pressed my head against her chest. “Though he’s been able to say that word for the past three years.”

“What else can he say?”

Mama blushed. “Mama.” She said simply and Rae laughed.

“It suits you.” Rae said, and scratched my head. “Now you be good, Eakjo.”

I gave her a happy little sound and held her hand for a moment before she had to pull away.

“And you...” mama said, and I smiled at her as she nuzzled me. “All clean and full of good food. Why don’t you go work some of that off and go play?”

Play? What’s that? But mama put me down on the ground. I looked up at her, confused as to what that meant, but she rubbed my back, and I thought it was a good thing to do. I just needed to go find out what it was.

I have a hiding place that no one knows about in mama’s garden. It’s a secret place that I go to when it’s raining outside or its time to sleep, or whenever mama and papa aren’t around. It was filled with lots of stuff the students here have lost. A flash light, books, blankets and so on.

Entering my little hideaway that was little more than a hole chiseled in the wall, I reached forward with one foot, grabbed my favorite picture book, and held the book with my feet as I plopped down on my nest of ragged blankets and looked at the pictures.

The books held words, and I looked at the weird signs as I traced the picture with my fingers. Occasionally I heard of a student crying over a book that they lost, and I’d recognize it as one of the ones I’d here in my burrow, and I’d straight away return it to them.

I was glad that no one had cried over this book.

It showed pictures of young men and women growing stronger and stronger as they grew older and wiser, showing off fantastic powers. I wanted to be strong too, with fantastic powers just like all the other students here. Then perhaps the wolves would not have such an easy time with me ever again.

There were some wolves here of course... but none of them were really bad. Well Caliban was, but that was before he became a she.

My gaze returned to my book, and like always, I practiced the words shown there... writing the strange glyphs in the dirt before erasing them. It was then that I heard the sound of foot falls outside my burrow, and putting the book down, I scurried forward to see who it was, and tilted my head as I saw the maiden Tla returning from her bath.

She was wearing only a pink satin bathing robe and a pair of sandals with upraised pieces of wood that kept her up off the ground, and her steps made a quick click-click as she walked. She seemed to be in a hurry, and was holding the front of her robe shut, and concerned, I scurried out after her, following silently behind her, but as she came to the door that was her home, she passed right by it.

Confused, I touched her door, and followed after her as she left the gardens and turned left along the outside wall that bordered mama's school and the gardens. There she came to a door nestled against the big tower that the big bird woman lived in, and turning the knob, she stepped in.

I scampered up to this door, wondering what was going on, wondering if that nice lady was in trouble or something, and so rising up to a stand, I reached up and turned the knob and stepped quietly inside.

There, Tla stood with her back to me, and looking around, I scampered off to one side as the door shut, and she turned fully around.

“Someone there?”

I would've answered her if I could, but instead just barely managed blowing air over my tongue as I tried to say something. So I had to just sit in the corner and hope that she'd notice... me...

My mind trailed off as I watched the maiden open her robe, spilling out those massive mounds again that covered half of her upper body.

I couldn't help but stare as she lifted herself to sit on one of many tables in this room decorated in pink, and lying back with her head resting on a pillow, one of those machine men stepped out of a door against the wall, and began to touch her.

I paced forward a couple of steps, afraid that the machine was about to hurt her, but instead its hands began to knead her body, and Tla immediately made sounds of satisfaction. Then a strange device was lowered from the ceiling, and the machine took a tube off the device and put it on the end of one of those rounded fleshy things on the ends of her breasts, and I sat back, amazed as a white fluid quickly began to siphon from inside her.

Blinking, I watched as another hose was fastened, and more of that strange white fluid seeped out of her other breast. I wondered what was going on as Tla massaged her breast, hefting it up, and the pair seemed to shrink as that white fluid was extracted.

I sat there and watched, perplexed at what I was seeing while Tla seemed to turn her head to one side and rest, occasionally making sounds of minute pleasure. Just then the door opened again, and I promptly hid beneath a table, and looking from underneath it, watched the maiden Clio and the maiden Kirn enter this room.

“Hello Tla.” Clio beamed as she sat down on one of the beds, and her companion on another.

“Oh hi Clio. Ready for your weekly oil change?” and the three of them giggled.

“I thought that once a week was a pain, and you come in here every day?” Kirn says as a new machine man, one for Clio and one for Kirn, stepped out to attend to them.

All three of them were without shirts right now, though they did have their underwear on.

Clio and Kirn were likewise set up to hoses... many hoses... and more of that white fluid was siphoned from them. My eyes rose, watching the hoses all going into the ceiling while the three young maidens all talked.

Clio and Kirn were detached from the machine first, and Tla remained right where she was. They said goodbye to one another as Kirn and Clio took up their translucent robes, dressed, and met with their third companion Karn just outside the door.

Companions... there seemed to be a deeper relationship than just friends with them. I see it with Rae and her companion Makahn, and I also see it with mamma and papa when they were together when no one was watching.

Tla remained on her table for a very long time after Clio and Kirn had left, and I actually dared to come and sit on one of the tables to watch her, only to feel something drip upon my head. Looking up, I saw some of those hoses that Clio had been hooked up to dripping some of that white fluid, and lifting my hand to catch some, I tasted it.

Milk? A fem's breasts contain milk? My mind then reeled as I remembered past experiences, the glass of milk today when Auntie Rae was feeding me, her saying that there was nothing in her breast for me when we were bathing, and looking up, I suddenly

was given an image of a fem, who looked a lot like me, as she held me in her arms, and I... and I...

I looked to Tla, my breathing quickening before I leapt off the table, assaulted the door, pulled it open and then surged out into the world, running as quickly as I could on all fours till I tore into the tall grasses and then the trees.

I stood there on both feet and one hand, palming my head as I kept reliving the image.

I was much younger... and that fem... her name... her name was Nana. I remember her... I remember my mother.

I was barely a year old. Mother was sitting in her favorite chair, cradling me in her arms with her shirt open. I remember the sparkle in her eyes as she looked down at me, and I suckled from her tit.

Mother's milk was always warm, and it tasted sweet, like a treat, and she'd purr for me, rumbling my body while I listened to her heart beat through her tit. I was just in the midst of falling asleep when the door slammed open. It was father.

Why can't I remember his face?!

He was telling mother to run. There were bad Aphkei Wolves about, and they were stealing our people away. I stopped suckling as mother lurched to her feet.

"Hold onto me little love. Hold on tight!" and I was maneuvered to clamp to her underbelly, and mother ran on all fours, tearing away. She jumped magnificently, having very strong legs, and kicked some of the wolves in the head as she ran past them.

"We're almost out little love. Almost there. Just hold tight." She said to me, and I remembered crying, pressing my face into mother's body.

We could see the light of the cave opening our village was based within, we were almost out, and for the barest of moments I felt the sun against me. And then Mother was tumbling with me against her, and she balled up to roll in order to protect me.

And then I was being torn from her, and I held out my arms for her, balling loudly, biting and scratching at the hand that had me before I was thrown into a cage.

The last I saw of my mother was her being shocked by those lightning sticks that found my hide often enough afterwards.

She just kept staring at me...

I shivered with both my arms around my body. It had started to rain, I didn't know when, and I was crying.

I remember my mother.

Just then I felt a presence, and I whirled around to see a giant cat on all fours looking down at me with a pair of glowing green eyes.

“PAPA!” I cried and surged into the massive cat, and I felt a huge paw, a paw as big as me, hold my back as I clung to his thick front leg.

“Come...” papa said, and I was lifted by that paw till I clung to his underside, and rising from sitting on his hind legs, papa walked out of the woods, carrying me along with him, using his own body to deflect the rain.

I clung to him, rubbing my face into the thick tuft of soft fur between his forelegs as he brought me home, and then changing into that great and powerful protector, cradling me in both his arms, he lifted a hand and knocked on the door.

Soon the door opened, and mama was there.

“Sanari, quick. He's as cold as ice.”

It happened quickly. I was rid of my shirt and shorts, and wrapped within a thick blanket that felt really, really warm. Papa held me the whole time, and I felt safe against the bad wolves there. Mama brought me something warm to drink, and I sipped at it genially, holding the cup with both hands.

“Poor little guy...” papa said. “I found him all huddled up underneath a big tree in the woods.”

“Sage, how in Aul's name did you find him?” mama said, and suddenly I felt the warmth of her bosom against my body, and I felt doubly protected. A feeling like I had in my mother's arms as I suckled from her tit returned, and lifting a hand, I touched her breast, wanting to feel more of that feeling.

“He... I felt his mind aching...” papa said above me, and I was shifted into mama's arms as papa kissed my head and held it in his hand. “He was having a waking dream, and I only caught glimpses of it.”

“W-what did you see?”

Please! Let me tell them. Whatever power is keeping my mouth shut please let me speak now.

“Mama...” I managed, and clutched to mama’s chest and shivered.

“I saw Aphkei wolves.” Papa said.

“Slavers.” Mama spoke then, and I felt a power inside her swell with anger as she spoke the word. It was a bad word, and now I had a name to call the wolves that had taken me from my mother and father.

It felt like a curse.

“I can’t believe that Slavers exist.” Papa said after a pause, and I began to cry. “I’d... I’d always thought that the Aphkei were beyond that. But I felt that there was another purpose in those creatures in that memory. Is there a reason why Oggremaren Zhumal’s would be set upon by poachers?”

Another word to call them, a curse, and as papa said that, mama closed her arms protectively around me.

“Great Aul.” She whispered. “What kind of wolves would do such a thing?!”

“I thought humans were the only ones capable of such evils.” I felt papa fingering my marks, and then he too stepped forward and embraced both mama and me. “I don’t know what to think about that we Humans and the Aphkei are further on par with one another. Even in our sins.” He bent down to kiss my head again. “Don’t worry little one. No one will ever take you away again...”

I awoke curled up in a ball atop a great mass of something, and lifting my head suddenly, I saw papa sleeping beneath me, his large hand protecting me. Mama was close by; her hand was also on me.

I know that neither was like me, and either was only remotely like one another, but they seemed to have that companionship that few others had here. Like I was their child...

I think we’re all lost orphans, I thought, and stretching, I slid out from underneath their hands, and after a moment’s thought, put mama’s hand where I’d been, and papa’s over hers. It seemed right...

I found my clothes, and after a few miss-tries, managed to get dressed, though the silver star was on my back now. I needed food, and didn’t want to disturb mama or papa with the need, so I climbed out the nearby window and began to walk forward on my hands and feet again.

“Oh!” I heard a voice and stopped, looking around me every which way. “Ngh... I thought I just milked these.”

Maiden Tla?

I turned gently toward the sound and rising briefly up onto my hind feet, lifted my hands to the door and turned the knob before peaking in.

Again, this creature with the very large mounds was without her top on, and she was rubbing one of her great mounds.

“What sort of study can I get done if I have to milk myself ever other hour now?” she said quietly, and then arched her back, and I saw a strong body built to support those great mounds.

I stepped further in, still watching her as she stretched and rubbed her lower back. She still hadn’t noticed me, my ears lifting and their tassels waving briefly. But then her door closed shut beside me, and she gasped, covering herself as she looked up at me and finally saw me.

“Oh! Eakjo. You gave me a fright. I thought you were another peeping tom.”

I didn’t know what a peeping tom was, but I nonetheless stepped forward and placed my small hands on her knees.

“Kawaii.” I managed, trying to comfort her.

“Oh don’t worry... It’s just something we girls need to deal with. Oh...” and she rubbed her breast again, and I paused, seeing some of that white milk flow out of her tit.

I licked my lips and then looked at her.

“Oh you don’t want any of that... it hasn’t been pro... hey!”

Her exclamation came as I hopped up onto her lap, and bending forward, I placed my lips about her erect teat, and began to suck.

“Eakjo... you shouldn’t do that... without... asking.” Her voice trailed off as I began to purr, and lifting my hands, I gently began to knead her breast.

It was sweet just like mother’s had been, and it was warm. Tla couldn’t purr for me, but I could nonetheless hear her heart beating. It was almost the same thing.

“Forget what I said, little one.” Tla said, biting her lower lip as she smiled warmly down at me. “You just drink your fill...” and she wrapped her arms around me, settling me there softly, and I slowly closed my eyes and purred.

Nana...

Tla was my Nana now. That was a name that was precious to me, and she had shown me that she could do what mother could do.

After taking my fill from both of her breasts, Tla – Nana – helped wiped my mouth off and put my shirt on the right way.

“I have to go to temple now, Eakjo. If you’d like, you can wait here...”

But I rose onto my hind feet again and took her fingers with both hands. I stared at her, tried to convey what I wanted to say.

“Ok... you can come, but just this once.”

And opening the door, I walked with her with my hands still wrapped around hers. The sun was warm and bright, and I was happy.

“Oh, and thank you Eakjo for doing a lady a favor. Any time you want another, you come see me...”

“Hey babe.” Someone said, and my Nana Tla came up short, and I looked up at a tall Aphkei Wolf, and my head lowered immediately in remembrance to what they did to my mother.

Remember, not all wolves are bad. Rae’s companion was very strong and very nice. And he gives you chocolate!

“I was wondering... if you weren’t doing anything, maybe we could go see...” he began, rubbing the back of his head.

“No, thank you.” Nana Tla said, and shied away from him, and headed in another direction.

“Hey!” the wolf said, and grabbed my Nana around the arm. “I just want to go out with you.”

“I said no.” Nana said. “Now unhand me...”

“Look. I’m not going away till you say ‘yes.’” The wolf said, and took Nana with both of his hands, and her breasts began to spill out of her robes.

“No! Let go of me!” and immediately she struggled, and in the next moment I’d let go of her hand and had scrambled up her body, and was now facing the wolf with all my sharp teeth barred, and a low growl emanating from deep in my throat.

“You... no... *hurt*... Nana Tla!” came the words from my own throat, but at the moment I was too busy to elate that I’d spoken more than a single word at a time.

“Take off kid, this is adult stuff.” And the wolf swatted me off Nana Tla’s shoulder.

I rolled to my feet from the blow.

“Eakjo!” Nana cried, and she tried to slap the wolf but he caught her hand again.

“Now just give me a kiss... one little kiss. It’ll make it worth your while.”

“NO!” Nana Tla cried, and remembrance of the poachers and slavers rose up in me, and my hackles rose as I ran up Nana’s back and leapt on the wolf’s face, biting at his ears and scratching his face.

“No! Hurt! Nana!!” I cried through teeth clenched on his ear before I was roughly pulled off his head and then thrown away.

I cried out as I saw a wall hurtling toward me too fast for me to leap off of, and I closed my eyes, lifting my arms instinctively to cover my face, before I felt something catch me, and opening my eyes, I found myself being turned away from the wall and cradled into papa’s arms.

“Lobo, isn’t it?” papa said, smiling softly.

The wolf stood still at the sight of my papa, and I turned abruptly in his arms and threw a menacing claw at the wolf and hissed.

“Look, sir... I just wanted a kiss.”

“You are a very strong fighter-baller, and you have a decent hand at a hockey stick, but you are new here, so I will warn you about two things.

“Firstly is that unwanted physical contact is dealt with very harshly here.”

“So? And what’s the other thing?”

“Tla’s left hook...”

And the wolf turned in time to see my Nana; eyes enraged as she hauled back with her fist and smashed the wolf’s face in. A body made strong to carry those huge mounds, Nana’s fist turned the wolf in a full circle before he fell to the flat of his back.

“You ok?” papa asked Nana Tla as he stepped up beside her, Tla smoothing the sleeve covering her arm she’d just hit the wolf with back down and she nodded.

The one known as Lobo looked up at us all from the flat of his back, rubbing his jaw. I hissed at him again.

“Now Lobo, I will allow you to make amends for this affront.” Papa said. “I want you to go straight to Meniko and describe to her exactly what has happened in these past fifteen minutes.”

“And what if I don’t?” Lobo said, rolling to a squat.

“Then I will drag you there by your ears and tell her myself. And then I will tell Mother Sanari that you’d just tried to sexually assault one of her students, and battered her ward here.”

“Yip!” I said, and growled at the wolf.

“Now go quickly.” Papa finished, and Lobo rolled to his feet and ran straight to the big tower where the big fire bird was.

“Thank you, sir...” Nana Tla said, and papa lowered me onto her chest. I nuzzled her neck and cheeks lovingly and purred, and she held my back. Papa ruffled my mane a bit, and I reached out to hold two of his big fingers with one of my hands.

“Would you like me to walk with you Tla?” Papa said, and my Nana looked up at him and took a step away.

“B-beg your pardon, sir, but why?”

“Simple curiosity... Eakjo called you something... what was it?”

“NANA!” I supplied, happy at my new word.

“That, I guess.” Tla said, and without actually saying yes, she and papa turned to walk together.

Papa was so tall...

“That’s what I thought.”

“But what does it mean?” Nana Tla said as I hugged her around the neck and purred harder.

“I am unsure, but I was met with a thought train from him when I was searching for him the other day. The person in his daydream who bore that name was the woman who was either his mother, or his nursemaid.

“Even now, he holds a mind of great affection for that name.” Papa stroked my back again.

“I don’t know what to say... he’d nursed from me earlier... I mean he... uhm...”

Tla blushed deeply.

“No need to be ashamed of it, Tla. I honestly do not think he could’ve made a better choice. Typically, a nursemaid must be a kindly woman, and gentle with the child and willing to protect him as much as his own mother would.

“And you’d be doing him a great service. He’s been denied the tender embraces of a woman nursing him for too long. It’s best if he gets more exposure to that before he’s too old and too mature.”

There was a pause, and Nana was very quiet.

“And it will help you deal with your fear of males, Tla... having a little boy depending on you...”

Nana looked up at papa, and then, wonderfully, Nana closed her arms about me.

“I’ll do it.”

“Kawaii!” I exclaimed, and hugged tighter.

Nana brought me into temple where I waited in a corner while she and mama did several things with candles, oils and sweet smelling things. I could feel a power here as all the people in the lavender and blue robes chanted and did magical things all around me.

I waited quietly for mama and Nana Tla to finish, and when they did I leapt up into mama’s arms.

“Such a patient little boy. That deserves a treat!” mama said. “Let’s get you some ice cream...”

“Kawaii!” I said, and mama and nana led me to the place of food, each of them holding onto one of my hands as I swung between them, and I was treated with a cool and sweet thing on a crunchy bottom that tasted like berries.

Then at night, Nana Tla took me aside, and let me nurse from her again.

I never felt so happy than I was just then.

I had a family again! And it was growing...