

Night Hunters  
By Elena Sala Macnab

“Asana, did you eat the left overs again?” Asana’s mother was calling to her from the cave.

“No, I never ate anything” Asana said truthfully.

“It must have been Obsidian then,” Asana’s mother said.

“Do you want me to go hunting for more food?” Asana asked.

“Yes, thank you dear” her mother replied.

If you still haven’t figured it out, Asana was a wolf. Her fur was quite uncommon and beautiful. It was as black as the night itself and her eyes were as violet as violets. She trotted out of the cave to search for some food. Her night senses and instincts instantly took over, the moment she stepped outside. Her ears twitched at even the quietest of sounds and her nose became sensitive to the faintest of smells. She sniffed the air and immediately sensed the presence of a deer prancing around a small clearing. The deer occasionally bent down every so often to nibble a blade or two of grass.

She crouched low to the ground blending in with the black moonlit ground. She crept into a tall patch of grass and slowly made her way towards the deer. Finally, she came within attack distance of the deer. She bent her legs, ready to pounce, but before she could go for the kill, her little brother Obsidian came bounding into the clearing. The deer took one look and charged off into the dark, dense forest.

“Mom said I could help to hunt. So, what have you found? I hope I’m not too late to help” he said, wagging his tale from side to side.

“Well, I was about to get us a nice deer dinner until you scared it. So, unless we find something bigger to eat, it’s rabbits for dinner again” Asana said.

“Oops. Sorry about that. But I can still help, right?” Obsidian asked. Asana didn’t want to be mean and he might still be able to help with the hunt, so she said yes. They wandered through the dense trees and bushes. “Hey I think I smell something” Obsidian said. His body became stiff. “I think it smells like another wolf. Oh, never mind I’m smelling myself, false alarm.” Asana rolled her eyes and trotted on through the moonlit trees. “I smell something again,” Obsidian said, his nose twitching.

“Let me guess – you?” Asana said.

“No, I don’t think so, it doesn’t smell like a wolf” he said. Asana came over to where he was standing and stuck her nose into the air, sure enough she could smell the scent of something big. Something that would be way better than rabbits: a moose. “Good job Obsidian, I think you’ve just found us dinner” Asana said, trotting in the direction of the moose.

“I did? I mean of course I did. I’m amazing” Obsidian replied, his tale wagging side to side once more. They appeared in yet another clearing similar to the one with the deer. Standing in the middle of the clearing was a big male moose right there, in plain sight.

“Follow my lead and whatever you do, don’t attack until I give you my signal, which will be a howl, ok?” Asana said.

“Yes” Obsidian replied, clearly excited for one of his first big hunts, other than the one with the stag (which ended up being a disaster). Asana made sure that Obsidian stayed where he was and started sneaking towards the moose. Finally, she reached attack distance and just like with the deer bent down low, aimed for the neck and pounced.

She caught the moose by surprise and sank her teeth deep into the moose's neck. It flailed around and almost managed to knock Asana unconscious with its antlers and left a big scratch across her face. Asana let out a holler of pain when the moose slammed its head along with Asana to the ground. Asana let out a howl to signal Obsidian to join the fight. He came pounding through the bushes. Obsidian ducked underneath the moose and slammed his head into the moose's gut, stunning it and giving Asana enough time to knock it off its feet so they could get at the soft spot. Asana went back to biting the neck, while Obsidian worked on its chest, ripping away at the flesh with his teeth and claws.

After only ten seconds the moose stopped moving and lay dead on the moonlit ground. They dragged the moose back to the cave, which took twenty minutes, since they were dragging a half a ton animal across the forest floor (which for your information is not easy whatsoever). Finally, they reached the cave.

“What took you so lo —” their mother said, pausing when she saw what they had brought back.

“Surprise! No more rabbit for a week” Obsidian said cheerfully. Their mom was speechless.

“Oh my gosh darlings I am so proud of you guys” their mother said nuzzling them, “and Asana what happened to your face!?” their mother said in alarm.

“It's a long story. We will tell you everything while we eat.” So, while they ate, they told their mother about what happened, secretly adding in a couple of lies to make the story sound braver and more impressive. When they were done, their mother smiled and gave them each a kiss on the forehead.

After that, Asana decided to invite obsidian on hunts more often and Obsidian decided to help Asana more when she needed or asked for it and together (including their mother) shared the story of that particular night to whoever would listen.

The End