

human

I wake to find a pair of eyes peering blankly down at me. Human eyes. I hurry to my feet. I feel for my wings. Phew. “What, wha-,” my voice is shaking. “What do you want?” I demand. But it looks away. I turn around trying to figure out where the beast has taken me, then I look at the human. She has dark orange hair that has been tied up into two short buns. Her face looks like it has been printed wrong, there’s scars and freckles... lots and lots of freckles. Hiding behind the freckles are two big dark brown eyes.

“You passed out,” the human says, still staring at me.

“I am not listening or believing anything that comes out of-,” I give her a ‘you’re in my way’ look “-you.” She turns and takes an apple out of her bag. She holds out her hand for me to take it. I shake my head and fold my arms, even though I didn’t pack food, even though I am starving, even though.... I want to. I can’t trust this human, I remind myself.... She probably poisoned it. She takes a bite.... maybe not. But maybe-

“I am Gracie! Oh, and by the way, I really like wings.” *Ha I knew it!* I think to myself. She’s a dirty brat just like the other humans. She sees me rolling my eyes and pokes her tongue out at me. I gather my stuff and walk back into the forest....

“Where are you going?” Gracie calls out.

“Away from you!” I call back.

“Why!? I saved your life!”

“Why...?” I turn to face her. “Why? Because you’re going to hurt me... take my wings...” I can hear myself growing quieter. “That’s what every human does... not one is different!” I mumble.

“Oh.... Ok, but actually not one is the same...” Gracie winks at me.

What does she mean? I turn and start journeying into the forest. But as I head further in, I can’t stop thinking about Gracie and what she said. I am lost, with nowhere to go, not knowing which way is north and which way is south... flying and walking... one day feels like forever in the forest. I have only been here for... I count my fingers.... 6 HOURS!?