

HARMONY'S HUNTER

Written by

Yenny Coll

COLLYENNY@GMAIL.COM
551-221-1728

INT. CAVE - DAY

On a gray background rest simple cave paintings of STERMONS, horned and tailed creatures. The first painting shows a ring of Stermons, all different sizes and colors.

ROGDAN (V.O.)

We were once a single pod, a tribe of unstoppable Stermons, joined by a creed to protect one another.

The next painting is of a smaller group on their knees, looking up at a group of larger Stermons, the ELDERS.

ROGDAN (V.O.)

But some Stermons called Re'thuns believed we were built for power and should have dominion over all creatures. The Elders disagreed and called their thinking dangerous.

The next painting shows the Stermons split, a line of them on either side, their faces contorted with anger.

ROGDAN (V.O.)

So the tribe was divided for the first time ever, and after a brief but bloody war the Re'thuns left their ancestral home.

The final painting shows the group of Re'thuns marching away from the other Stermons. The painting transforms into a more textured, darkened version on a rock-face.

ROGDAN, a large Stermon with charcoal gray scales, red eyes, and many scars, gazes at the paintings.

ROGDAN

You are part of that pod of Re'thuns, Docar... Docar?

Rogdan turns towards the cave's entrance, but he is alone. Rogdan's brow stiffens.

EXT. FOREST - CONTINUOUS

DOCAR, Stermon with deep green scales, blue eyes, and soft feathers at the end of his tail, rests in a shady spot. He smells flowers and slurps on large, juicy berries.

A dark shadow creeps up on him. Docar looks up at the towering figure of his father. Docar wraps his long tail around himself.

ROGDAN

Docar, you cannot keep ignoring
your lessons like this!

Docar sighs and rolls his eyes.

ROGDAN (CONT'D)

You are the oldest of the new
brood, my son, and you have not
made your first kill.

Docar stands and examines the foliage that grows around a
nearby tree.

DOCAR

I don't see the point. Have you
even tasted these berries? They're
delicious.

Docar holds up a paw full of berries. Rogdan looks at them in
disgust. He pushes Docar's paw away.

ROGDAN

You would waste your talents on
fruit? You will never be leader
until you prove yourself as a
hunter.

DOCAR

What if I don't want to be leader?

Rogdan's nostril's flare and a soft GROWL emanates from his
throat. Docar wraps his tail around his waist and clutches
it. Rogdan approaches Docar.

ROGDAN

Enough of this foolishness.
Tonight, we hunt.

EXT. FOREST - NIGHT

Several massive Re'thuns assemble in a clearing. Rogdan faces
them.

ROGDAN

The hunt ends when every Stermon
returns with at least one kill. No
one eats until then.

The pod leaps into the forest and split off in different
directions. Rodgan approaches Docar.

ROGDAN (CONT'D)
 You can do this, Docar. I believe
 in you.

Docar nods. Rodgan turns and follows the others. Alone, Docar
 slinks into the underbrush.

EXT. FOREST - CONTINUOUS

Docar walks, his paws brushing against the vegetation. He
 stops, looks around, and drops his shoulders.

DOCAR
 This is so stupid.

A SKITTERING comes from some nearby bushes followed by a
 THUD. Docar's ears perk up. He turns towards the sound.

A large gourd-like fruit rolls out from the bushes. IMBU,
 with round ears and golden fur, climbs on top. Docar gasps.

DOCAR (CONT'D)
 (whispers)
 A Panmi!

He gulps and lowers his body to the ground. With eyes locked
 on Imbu, he stalks towards her. Imbu digs through the flesh
 of the fruit and doesn't notice him.

Docar lifts himself off the ground and parts his jaw. Imbu
 sees his shadow on the bushes grow. She turns and shrieks.

Docar jumps and screams with her. He falls back and
 collapses. The dust settles, and Imbu giggles.

IMBU (O.S.)
 Wow, I have never seen a Stermon
 look so scared!

Docar sits up and looks at her. She stares right back.

DOCAR
 Shouldn't you be running away from
 me?

IMBU
 Wouldn't you just chase me?

DOCAR
 Not really my thing.

He sniffs the fruit and grins from ear to ear. Imbu climbs
 down from the fruit. She hesitates.

IMBU

Do you wanna try some?

Docar nods and digs his claws into the fruit. With a GROWL, Docar rips the fruit in half. Imbu gasps and backs away.

Docar chuckles and pushes the smaller half of the fruit towards Imbu. Imbu relaxes, and together they lap up the stringy nectar. Docar licks his chops.

DOCAR

So good!

IMBU

Since when do Stermons eat anything except us Panmis?

Docar sighs and shakes his head.

DOCAR

We're actually omnivorous, but we're also stubborn. Re'thuns take too much pride in their... heritage.

ROGDAN (O.S.)

Docar!

Rogdan and the other Re'thuns storm in their direction. With a yelp, Imbu vanishes into the bushes. Rogdan tackles Docar into the Bonner fruit, destroying the gourd and splattering its nectar.

ROGDAN (CONT'D)

We are starving waiting for you and this is what I find you doing? Sucking on fruit?

Docar frowns. He ducks his head and places his horns underneath Rogdan's arms. Docar lifts his father off the ground and throws him some yards away.

Rogdan lands on his paws but stumbles. He narrows his eyes.

DOCAR

What is wrong you? You would attack your own son?

ROGDAN

We are Re'thuns! We are strength and power before anything else.

Docar groans.

DOCAR

Father, enough! We can be more than this!

ROGDAN

No! You will honor your heritage.

From behind Rogdan, six of the Re'thuns approach. They form a circle alongside Rogdan and Docar. One of them carries an unconscious Panmi in his mouth.

He tosses the Panmi into the middle of the circle.

ROGDAN (CONT'D)

Kill it.

The other Re'thuns GROWL and lick their chops. Docar gazes at the sleeping creature. He shakes his head.

DOCAR

I can't.

The GROWLS from the Re'thuns grow louder. A few of the Stermons snap their jaws. Many salivate and dig their claws into the ground as they hold themselves back.

The Panmi wakes up. He looks around and trembles. Docar's tail twitches behind him.

ROGDAN

It is your right as a Re'thun!

DOCAR

I won't!

Silence falls, except for the Panmi's chattering teeth. Rogdan shakes his head.

ROGDAN

You disappoint me, Docar.

Rogdan turns and walks away. A beat.

The other Stermons jump towards the Panmi. GROWLS and SQUEALS can be heard as Docar falls backwards.

DOCAR

No! You don't have to do this!

Docar takes a piece of the Bonner fruit and brings it to his father.

DOCAR (CONT'D)

Look, Dad! There's food all around
us. Just try--

Rogdan slaps the fruit out of Docar's paws Rogdan ROARS and uproots plants. All around, the Re'thuns trample flowers, destroy fruit, and rip the bark off of the trees.

Docar watches the chaos and backs away. From the foliage, Imbu appears and waves at him.

IMBU

Over here!

Docar follows and disappears into the forest, but not before Rogdan spots him.

EXT. DEEP FOREST - CONTINUOUS

Imbu leads Docar deep into the forest where the thick canopy hides the moon. Dozens of flowers and fungi glow in the pitch black darkness. Docar's tail sways gently behind him.

Imbu leads him through a curtain of vines that hang from an enormous tree.

INT. IMBU'S GARDEN - CONTINUOUS

Within is an expansive root system that's brightly lit compared to the darkness outside. Between the roots are dozens of brightly colored plants and flowers.

DOCAR

We're under the tree, but how is it
so bright?

Imbu points upward. Thousands of tiny cocoons hang from the tree's underbelly.

IMBU

Glass worms.

Imbu leads Docar further in. A small pool glistens. They drink from it, then Docar lies down.

IMBU (CONT'D)

I saw the whole thing. I thought it
was very brave what you did.

DOCAR

I'm sorry you had to see that. A brave creature would have saved that Panmi.

Imbu's ears droop.

IMBU

You know, I lost my family to a Stermon attack.

DOCAR

That's horrible.

IMBU

They were sacrificed by the tribe. Hand-picked to stay behind while the rest fled to safety.

She looks up at Docar and shakes her head.

IMBU (CONT'D)

We Panmis aren't much for bravery, either.

Docar smiles.

DOCAR

I guess that's one thing Stermons and Panmis have in common.

Imbu smiles back.

DOCAR (CONT'D)

What's your name?

IMBU

Imbu.

DOCAR

I'm Docar.

Imbu climbs onto Docar's back. They sleep.

INT. IMBU'S GARDEN - DAY

A bright orange light shines through the curtain of vines and wakes Docar. He yawns and looks around.

DOCAR

Imbu?

Docar exits through the garden's vine curtain.

EXT. DEEP FOREST - CONTINUOUS

Imbu stands just outside the garden entrance and watches the ROARING flames.

DOCAR

Imbu! We have to go!

Docar's tail stiffens at a familiar ROAR. From the flames, Rogdan emerges. Rogdan bares his teeth and the feathers on Docar's tail bristle

DOCAR (CONT'D)

(to Imbu)

Leave this place.

Rogdan lunges for Imbu. She shrieks. Docar intervenes and locks horns with his father.

Imbu bolts. Docar and Rogdan GROWL. They claw and snap their jaws at each other as the fire spreads.

Other Stermons emerge to watch. Rogdan scratches Docar's tail with his claws. Docar spins and slams Rogdan against a tree with his tail.

Rogdan wobbles. Docar roars and charges at his father. His horns impale Rogdan's chest.

Rogdan goes limp. The Stermons watch. Up on high tree branches, Imbu scurries into the darkness.

Docar steps back. He pants and stares at his father. Rogdan's body crumbles to the ground.

The Stermons gather around him. STERMON #1, with maroon scales and protruding lower canines, grips Docar's shoulder.

STERMON #1

You have defeated the mightiest of us, Docar. Your father would be proud.

The other Re'thuns cheer and nod in agreement. Docar continues to pant. His eyes are wide as blood drips from his horns and onto his face.

Stermon #1 places an arm around Docar's shoulder and the pod walks with him. Docar looks back at Rogdan's body among the blaze and ash.

A tear drips from Docar's eye, and it disappears into the blood.