

Earth Angel

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1 Prologue

The beauty of this place is indescribable. I look out over the water from a lake which is located in the middle of nature. It is so big that you can barely see the nature on the other side. The water is glistening in the moonlight.

The moon is so big and bright today that it lights up the whole night sky. You would nearly think that it's a full moon, but that's only in a few days. The moonlight is partly getting blocked by the trees that surround me. They are so tall and feel so strong. They must have been standing here for years, surviving everything nature throws at them. The wind blows gently through their branches, which at their turn move calmly back and forth to the wind-determined rhythm. The sound of the breeze is so soothing and familiar.

I feel how the breeze reaches me. It gently caresses my cheek, and I close my eyes. For just a quick moment, I am free from all my thoughts. Free from the turmoil and bustle of the day. Completely one with this beautiful place at this moment.

I take a deep breath and feel the fresh air filling my lungs. It feels so good. I can feel the tensions draining from my face and a smile is coming into its place. I take another deep breath in and out.

I open my eyes and walk towards the water. I step on a small rock that barely sticks out of the water and I look over the entire lake as the moonlight illuminates me on the edge of this beautiful forest. The silence here is a genuine gift. All you hear is the movement of the water, the branches, and the animals. I feel so much better than when I arrived here. Nature is healing me from within and I love that I have the possibility to experience it this way.

As I close my eyes for a moment to let go of my last tensions, bad weather develops in front of me. When I open my eyes, I can see that the sky has gotten a lot darker, and the moon is

slowly getting blocked by the clouds. The threatening sky is slowly drawing closer, so I decide it is better to return home. I breathe in the fresh air and again it puts a smile on my face. Laughing, I turn around to return to the car. I step off my rock and I look up.

I see a large animal approaching me from the hill that I'm just standing behind and I instantly freeze. I am surrounded by water and the only way back brings me narrowly close to the animal, which now that I look more closely looks very much like an enormous wolf. Bigger than normal wolves should be, and it makes me feel very uncomfortable.

I'm not afraid of the wolf, which is now calmly watching me from the top of the hill, but I do feel very vulnerable. Normally wolves won't do anything to people, but this one doesn't seem to be shy at all and is way bigger than normal. His coat is light gray with dark highlights.

He starts to growl softly at me as he stops and looks at me. He seems to study the situation in a very detailed way, just like me, which makes me relax a bit. He is probably only here to have a drink and then he must have smelled me. Hopefully, he just comes curiously looking at me.

Suddenly, the wolf starts growling louder and starts walking towards me again. I am extremely well aware that this could be a terrible sign. He almost seems to be sneaking while he continues to growl nonstop. His imposing size is becoming clearer and by now I'm starting to get a little scared.

I can't move backwards away from it because then I fall into the water and at the moment the water is not nearly as warm as I would like it to be. The other option of going past him also gets a little tight but is more doable than going backwards.

Everything moves so fast, even while it feels like it takes forever. I quickly decided to stay as far away from him as possible while slowly moving past him in the direction of where my car was parked. If he decides to attack me, I for

sure will lose it from him. I can never run faster than him and I am no hero if it comes to climbing a tree.

A thousand thoughts race through my mind as I keep my eyes on the prowling wolf and I begin to move slowly but steadily past him. I'm clearly trying to show pride without posing a threat to him. It seems to work because the wolf again stops moving towards me. He has also stopped growling and is now quietly watching what I am doing. To be quite honest, I also do not know what I am doing myself, but I am blindly following my instincts.

I continue to move past him, and my tension eases a bit again. I think it's pretty particular that the wolf is still here and hasn't attacked or fled. I stop and I look deeply into the wolf's eyes. I remember that may not have been my best idea ever and yet it gives me a sense of the situation. I suddenly feel very clearly that he has a mission and is here for a reason. After all, everything is for a reason, right?

Still, this makes me question whether I should change my plan or if I'm really going crazy and just get out of here. My logic takes over and I continue with my escape plan, but the wolf thinks differently. The animal looks straight at me again, grows tall and jumps at me while giving a loud roar. I am so startled that out of a reflex without thinking I jump into the water to get away from the large animal.

With a nice thud, I hit the freezing cold water and slowly start to sink. Because of the thud I made, I can no longer move. Luckily, it doesn't seem like the wolf is coming after me, which I can understand very well given the temperature of the water, so as soon as I can move again, I start swimming to the surface.

Fortunately, it all went very quickly and I still have enough oxygen to reach the surface. I swim to the surface, but after a while I start to notice that the surface doesn't seem to get any closer. I don't have the feeling that I am stuck and I am definitely moving my body.

Enough questions are already starting to haunt my head. Why am I not coming closer to the surface? What do I do now? I start to panic and try to swim faster because I'm sure that I am not that deep.

I see the shadow of the wolf appear above the water. I start to writhe and I get desperate. Is this my end? Here in this cold water with a wolf staring at me and even if I manage to get to the surface, then what? How am I ever going to defend myself in this vulnerable position?

Eventually, I surrendered myself to the water. I think very cliché about all the beautiful things in my life and I start to relax. I have faith in fate. I entrust myself to the water. I trust everything around me and that it will all work out in the end. With that, I completely surrender to this situation. I hear the wolf howling and the water reacts to this. The whole lake begins to glow light blue. Every part of the lake lights up in the dark until it reaches me. Now my body also starts to glow light blue, but everything around me is getting dark again. Only me and my energy now gleam in this beautiful blue light.

I feel so peaceful and I feel how the water moves me to the surface. The water bubble that has formed around me now comes out of the water and I can see the wolf standing at the spot where I just fell into the water.

I hear him say he's sorry but that this had to happen. I'm a little surprised to hear a wolf speak, but next to that I also feel that he's right.

It feels like all this brings me closer to myself. I feel so different and at the same time so completely myself. So literally one with nature and so terribly strong. I feel something is happening to me. Something is changing in me. I just let it happen and I surrender to it. Not that I really have many choices, but it also just feels so trustworthy despite the many questions that now arise in my mind with the biggest question: What is happening to me now?

2 A new beginning

The beautiful wolf is staring at the spot where he just chased me into the water. He sees me floundering and still he is quietly watching. He already knows what is going to happen here and he waits for the right moment. He doesn't want to hunt me, but he doesn't leave this place either. He sees me relax my body and surrender myself to the water. For him, this is the sign he's been waiting for.

He sits down and turns his head to the moon. His beautiful light gray fur looks almost silver in this beautiful moonlight and with the wind through his hair, the wolf looks even more beautiful than it already was. He starts howling in a tone I've never heard before, but the wolf seems to know very well what he is doing. Even now that the water glows so brightly light blue, the wolf does not run away but just sits there and watches calmly.

When finally my water bubble carries me out of the water, he starts talking to me. He offers his apology but says that this had to happen and although I think it is very special to hear a wolf talk, I do feel that he is right.

As I watch him, the wolf gets up and starts howling deafeningly loud in a whole new way. I am still hanging in my water bubble above the lake, in which I now feel very calm and secure. I might have to start wondering how I'm still alive since I shouldn't be able to breathe underwater, but I also just heard a wolf talk, so for now I'm fine with it.

Meanwhile, animals are coming from all nooks and crannies around the lake. It seems that the wolf called them all, but seeing all these animals together without the urge to eat each other makes this moment even more special. I see all kinds of animals including deer, moose, bears, birds and even fish. There are too many animal species to list them all.

When all the animals have arrived, they suddenly all start to make themselves heard. The sounds are very loud but also so harmonious. It all fits together so well. With the animals

doing this, suddenly my bubble starts to change and I start to change physically.

I'm starting to feel some pain in my back and it's starting to itch a bit, but I can't move enough in this bubble to feel what is going on. However, when the pain and itching start to subside, the light that I radiate also slowly starts to fade.

The water bubble around me slowly starts to disappear and my head comes out of the water. I can finally take a deep breath. I feel how my legs also are starting to come free and being completely free again feels quite uncomfortable for a moment. I suddenly realize that I actually should have fallen back into the lake, but I am still floating above the water. I start to restlessly look around to see if I can see anything to hold me up, but I don't immediately see anything that could explain the situation.

In the meantime, the animals have all become quiet and they are quietly watching what is happening here. I look at the surface of the water and the surprise must have been visible on my face. In disbelief, I look over my shoulder and that confirms what I just saw in my reflection. I can't believe it.

A talking wolf, lighting up underwater, not dying from a lack of oxygen and now I am getting this? I run my hands over my back as I watch my reflection in the water. This just can't be true, but my hands confirm what my eyes have already seen. My thoughts are running wild in all directions as I run my hand gently over one of my soft wings. It feels like I've landed in a dream. I have gotten wings! I can fly!

A real childhood dream comes true, which is not supposed to come true. The wings are very similar to those of a bird, only a lot bigger. They are insanely strong and already move autonomously. The funny thing is that the color is light brown and very similar to my dark blond hair. They are soft and covered with feathers.

I'm also starting to realize that the wings have come straight through my shirt and my wet clothes are making it quite a bit cold now. Cautiously I try to propel myself, but even though

the wings already work autonomously when I hover in a place, that doesn't mean that flying will be so easy. Cautiously, I try to move myself, which at first succeeds reasonably well until I try to descend. I stop moving the wings just a little too long and that makes me land with a nice splash in the water. I go under for a while, but I quickly resurface.

Exhausted from everything that has happened, I still try to fly out of the water, but I am so horribly tired. The transformation and the impressions take its toll and I can barely keep myself afloat. I look at where I have to go and my heart sinks. I seemed so close to the shore, but it's a pretty long swim when you are this tired.

I see the wolf step into the water from the side and it starts swimming towards me. I want to swim away from him, but my fatigue is so much greater than my fear of the wolf.

When the wolf arrives at me, he dives under me, causing me to hang over his back as he comes back up again, which shows me that he is coming to help me. Carefully I hug him and he slowly begins to swim back to the shore with me hanging over his back. He feels so strong but also so friendly. He doesn't make any movement that feels like he could be dangerous to me.

When we reach the shore, he slowly rises out of the water with me still on his back. However, the animal doesn't seem to have any trouble carrying my weight on his back. Really, this day couldn't get much weirder, but I am still expecting to wake up like this was all a dream.

Meanwhile, the wolf walks calmly to a piece of grass where he carefully lets me step off his back and I lower myself into the grass. The wolf looks at me with its tail gently swishing back and forth. His eyes radiate power, but also so much love. He comes closer and gives me a quick lick all over my face. I was shocked for a moment but quickly I started to laugh really hard. Did I dive into the water for such a cutie

on this cold day? Carefully, I extend my hand to the animal, whereupon he nuzzles his head against my hand.

“I am Thunder.” I abruptly hear him say and in shock, I withdraw my hand.

The wolf looks questioningly at me, and I look at him.

“Am I going nuts or did you really just say something?” I ask the wolf, declaring myself insane.

“I really did say something. I am Thunder.” Says the wolf again very peacefully.

“This is not possible. This is absolutely impossible.” I say out loud as I grab my head.

“I caught a cold. That must be it. Time to go home.” I say to myself, but before I can move away, the wolf steps in front of me.

“I’m lifting my left paw for you now.” He says and there goes his left paw into the air.

“Now my right paw.” He says and there goes his right paw.

“And now both.” He says, and suddenly the wolf stands on its hind legs.

That makes him even more imposing than what he already was. His size and strength are now very visible and that is, despite the tension, also so amazing to see. When he has his four legs back on the ground again, Thunder continues.

“So I am Thunder and I have chosen you for an important task. As you can see, the other animals agree as well, so welcome, dear lady, whose name I don’t know yet.”

I look at him and I feel a nagging headache coming up from the cold and all the information that is coming at me.

“I am Ailee.” I answered him.

“What a beautiful name. Welcome to our world. You always seemed to have a strong connection to nature, and now I’ve officially made you an important part of it.” Thunder says.

“What do you mean Thunder?”

“I requested the water to change you into who you really are, and my instincts were right. It’s you, otherwise the water

would never have reacted, at least not for the role you have.“
Thunder answers.

“Wait a minute, changing into who I really am? What do you mean? Then who am I?”

“You are an earth angel. The earth angel of nature and animals.“

My thoughts are going in all directions and if I hadn't just gained tangible wings, I probably would have declared myself ready for the madhouse long ago.

“And what exactly does that mean?” I ask him.

“That is different for everyone, and you will have to discover most of it yourself.“ Does Thunder reply.

To be quite honest, I am now overloaded with feelings and thoughts, which makes it so complicated to ask the right questions, so I decide to let it sink in for a while.

“I understand it's a lot to take in, Ailee, but I really feel that you can mean so much to us and to the world.“

I look up and I see all the animals looking at me. I can feel the atmosphere and I know they also have a good point. The way in which animals and nature are treated is far from correct and it really goes too far. I've always found that very unfair and wanted to change it but how do you do that?

“Thunder, I have no idea how and what I should and can do.“

“Have faith in who you are, Ailee. The road will become clearer once you walk it. Please. Help us and the other angels. Would you please be our earth angel?”

I look around and see that all the animals are still calmly waiting. They are still not trying to use each other for dinner and there is a perfect balanced energy around us all. It is such a special sight and I have so many questions on my mind: who am I what do I do, how can I protect all of them?

I decide to act based on my instincts, and I get up. I give Thunder a pat on his beautiful head and I spread my wings again. It is so convenient that they are foldable. Still a lot nicer to have the possibility of hiding them under clothing, as people will probably be very surprised by seeing this.

They fall so beautifully over my back that it is almost impossible to see when I have clothes on. You would almost think that it has been thought through.

I walk to the water's edge and fly up. I choose to hover above the water because I have changed there, and it is still more pleasant to fall into the water than onto a rock. Fortunately, I've already got a good feel for exactly how to fly and it now looks a lot less clumsy.

Once I hover calmly, I look around me and take in this moment well. All the questions I still have, but also the beauty of it. How complete I strangely enough feel and how much I want to know what this all means, although I also know very well that sometimes it is better to discover things over time yourself. That not only makes it more fun, but you also learn a lot more from it. I look back at Thunder and I nod.

"Yes, I really love to be your earth angel." I tell him.

All the animals suddenly start making their own beautiful sounds all together and after that, they all start to leave. All back to the places where they belong. I enjoy this beautiful moment and when I look around again, I see Thunder waiting for me at the waterside. I carefully fly back to him and make a soft landing. I fold my wings back up and hug him.

"You will do great." He says.

I smile at him: "I have that feeling too."

After I said that, my legs trembled and everything just went black. The cold, the impressions, the wet clothes. It all became too much for me and now that the adrenaline had left, my body couldn't hold on anymore.

I feel my legs stop supporting my weight and I hear Thunder vaguely calling my name. I feel that I make a very soft landing for what I expected to get and after that, only complete silent darkness.