

High School Transition: Allies

By R.A. Blackpaws

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(Author's Note: This begins exactly one week after "Summer Waves")

(Friday....4:13pm)

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Dr Hoff skimmed his notes, reviewing the documentation on his next patient...

...and the lion frowned.

Need to make sure to verify all that he has told me...

beep

The lion blinked...then tapped the intercom button on his desk. "Yes, Helena?"

"Umm...Mr...Mr Blackpaws is here for his 4:30 appointment, Doctor," his receptionist stammered.

Hoff felt an ear twitch. *Odd...Helena doesn't usually stutter.*

"Send him on back," the lion replied, moving his finger from the button, causing the line to go dead.

Hoff sighed...then gently slipped the notes back into their manilla folder.

His ears perked up, hearing the soft click of the door handle turning.

"Ah, Mr Black...paws..."

Hoff stared, surprised...

...at the silver-furred vixen who stood in the doorway, clad in a simple black, short-sleeved t-shirt and light blue capris.

She looked at him with her hazel eyes...then leaned in.

"Doctor Hoff?" she said, her voice tentative and light.
He nodded...and she smiled...

...then stepped aside...

...and Doctor Ethan Hoff felt his eyes widen.

Standing in the doorway now...was a slender red and white furred, black pawed vixen...clad in a light green, button-down blouse, a knee-length black skirt and matching light green tights, accented by patent black Mary Jane shoes.

His gaze traveled upward...noticing the light pink lipstick adorning the vixen's muzzle...the matching light green eyeshadow...the tiny gold flower earrings in its ears...

...then, his gaze sank back down, to look at the vixen's face.

He stared for several seconds, silent...stunned...

...then the red vixen smiled.

"Hello again, Doctor Hoff," the vixen said...in a familiar voice.

He blinked, then felt himself sink back in his chair.

"R-r-robert?" he asked, still in shock.

To his amazement, the vixen nodded...then walked into the room and sat down in the chair across from his desk, delicately tucking her legs underneath her, crossing her ankles and smoothing out her skirt.

"I figured...it was time you got to see the real me," the red vixen stated...then straightened up. "And to meet someone."

The red vixen turned...and Hoff watched as the silver vixen sat down in the chair next to the one occupied by the red vixen, also crossing her ankles once she sat down.

"Katy Nicolette...Doctor Ethan Hoff," the red vixen stated, gesturing from one to the other.

"Hello, Doctor," Katy said coldly...and almost professionally.

Doctor Hoff nodded. "Miss Nicolette," he stated, still thrown for a loop...then looked back at the red vixen.

The red vixen simply rested her paws in her lap, delicately folding them in her lap...then she looked up at him.

"Katy is the friend I told you about," the red vixen stated. "The one who supports me on my journey to vixen-hood."

Slowly, Hoff nodded. "But...but...isn't your mother..." the lion began.

"She isn't here," Katy stated. "My mother and I are here with Tara today, since she's coming home with us for the weekend."

Hoff looked at the silver vixen...then back to the red vixen.

"Rob...this is..." Hoff began...

...then fell silent, as the red vixen raised a paw.

"I know...having Katy here is a bit of a curve-ball," the red vixen stated. "But I asked her to be here, today."

The lion watched...as the vixen slowly lowered her paw...then took a deep breath.

"I asked her to be here...for moral support," the red vixen went on.

"Moral support?" Hoff asked, an ear twitching. "Why?"

Hoff watched...as the red vixen looked up...

...and he saw his patient, the red fox who had been telling him about his desire to become a vixen...all the joy he felt while being a vixen...and how hard it was to go back to being male after spending time as a vixen.

He saw that fox...behind this vixen's eyes.

"Because...I'm ready to tell you," the vixen said.

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"Tell me?" Hoff asked, his face crinkling in confusion.

I nodded, feeling my body shake just a little.

"About...what happened...when I came out to my mom," I said, softly.

I took a deep breath...let it out slowly...and shut my eyes.

"It was...**sigh**...back in grade school...late seventh grade," I began. "Katy and I were already good friends by then..."

I looked over at Katy.

She smiled at me...gently put a paw on top of mine...and gave my paw a gentle squeeze.

I nodded...and turned back to Doctor Hoff.

"I told Katy first," I admitted. "I was terrified at the time...scared of how she'd react...ashamed of what I was...thinking I was some diseased being or just fundamentally WRONG..."

I fell silent, looking down.

"It...it threw me...at first..."

I looked off to my left...at Katy, who was looking at Doctor Hoff.

"I mean...here was my best friend, telling me that he was jealous of me because I was a vixen...and then telling me he wanted to be a vixen," she said, calmly. "It freaked me out a little at first...and then, he just started crying."

She squeezed my paw gently.

"Not just regular crying, either. I mean, full-blown sobbing...and wailing, "I want to be a vixen like you!" she went on.

I felt my body blush, the memory of that flooding back.

Then, I heard Katy sigh.

"It...it took me a little while to get comfortable with the idea that my best friend wanted to be a vixen," the silver vixen went on. "There were a few times..."

She looked up at me...and I met her gaze, ears drooping.

"...there were a few times...when I wasn't sure I could stay friends with her," she went on.

I lightly squeezed her paw...and she smiled.

"So, I went...and I told my mom about it," Katy stated, then turned to look at Doctor Hoff. "My mom was as confused as I

was...and we sat there in silence for a bit...but I'll never forget what she said."

I blinked...as Katy turned back to me, tears beginning to fall into her fur.

"My mom said...that no matter what my friend wanted to be, that he was my friend...and that what he told me wasn't meant to hurt me," she said, her voice cracking a little. "He told me...because he was my friend...and he needed me."

She squeezed my paw, gently, a big tear falling off of her face, hitting the light blue denim capris she was wearing.

"A few days later, I asked Rob if he wanted to come spend the night at my place," she went on.

I chuckled, the memories coming back.

"Oh yeah...you invited me over...and then, after I got there, you told me it was a vixens-only sleepover...then you gave me a set of pj's and underwear you had picked out," I commented.

Katy chuckled. "Yeah...you were so shocked," she added...then looked at Doctor Hoff.

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The lion rested his muzzle on top of his folded paws.

"See...I had asked my mom for permission to have Rob come over for the night," the silver vixen, Katy, continued. "Then, I told her that I wanted to get some supplies for the party."

He watched as the silver vixen chuckled.

"My mom and I went out shopping...then she looked at me as I headed for the clothing department...picking out pj's, underwear, socks and stuff a girl would wear," Katy continued. "She even told me, "Honey...you don't need new pj's"."

Katy chuckled again, a bit louder.

"I looked at my mom...and told her that they were for Rob, not for me," Katy said...then turned to the red vixen. "Mom stood there, surprised and speechless for a bit...then, she smiled...and said

to me, "You're a good friend to him, dear".

Hoof looked at the red vixen...who seemed to be blushing a bit.

"Katy gave those to me after the three of us had dinner," the red vixen started. "I was stunned...completely stunned." The red vixen leaned back in her chair. "I mean, here was my best friend, literally giving me girl's clothing...and I didn't know how to react."

The red vixen chuckled.

"I looked from Katy....to her mom...and her mom nodded and smiled," the red vixen said. "And she said something that literally meant the world to me. Still does too."

Hoff watched...as a small tear slipped along the red vixen's cheek.

"Katy's mom said..."You are always welcome to be a vixen in this house", the red vixen stated.

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I took a breath, feeling the rush of memories and emotions surging over me.

"Rob was so overcome by what my mom and I did...that he just started crying again," Katy continued. "Just blubbering and hugging us, saying, "Thank you", over and over again."

I heard Katy slide her chair closer to me...and felt her wrap an arm around me...and felt her tail slide against my legs.

"Ever since then, Tara has had a safe place to be herself," Katy went on. "My mom and I have basically treated her like part of the family. She's been my sister ever since then...and she's never been harassed or coerced into anything."

I looked up...and saw Hoff's gaze turn from Katy...to me, looking me squarely in my eyes.

I straightened up, feeling exhausted...but also strong.

"Not long after my birthday, in eighth grade...I wound up telling my mom," I admitted, then sighed. "Not in the manner I

would have liked, but I did."

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Hoff watched, intently...as the red vixen sighed, its shoulders slumping.

"It was the Sunday after my birthday...which was on a Thursday that year," the red vixen began. "I had just gotten back from a weekend stay with Katy and her mom..."

The lion watched...as the red vixen smiled.

"I'd had a total blast with them...got lots of nice birthday gifts, including a matched black lace bra and panty set," the red vixen continued. "I had put them in my duffel bag...and took them home with me."

The red vixen shrugged. "I had no qualms about it. After all, they were mine...they were just clothing to me...and they made me feel good. Made me...feel happy..."

Hoff watched...as the red vixen seemed to shrink a little bit, her entire presence seeming to dim a bit.

"My mom came into my room...and we talked about how much fun I had with Katy and her mom..." the red vixen continued. "Then, my mom reached into my duffel bag, fishing for dirty clothes...and found the bra and panty."

The red vixen exhaled...and closed her eyes.

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I felt the rush of memories come back, falling over me like a dark wave.

"She screamed at me...demanded to know if I'd stolen them from Katy...demanded to know if Katy and I were having sex on these sleepovers," I stated, my voice soft and light. "I told her that we weren't having sex, that we were just friends having fun playing games, gossiping and giving each other makeovers...and just doing lots of talking and watching silly movies..."

I took another deep breath...and let it out very slowly.

"My mom didn't believe it," I went on, forcing myself to continue. "She was absolutely convinced that Katy and I were having sex...and she was going to call Mrs Nicolette and tell her that I had stolen some underwear from her daughter...and I..."

I felt fresh tears fall.

"And I just blurted out, "They're MINE, Mom! Those are MY panties!". I let out a soft laugh. "She looked so shocked, as if I'd just told her she'd grown a third eye..."

I sighed, leaning forward a little bit.

"...then I saw her step forward...set the bra and panty down on my bed..."

I dug my paws into my knees, wrinkling the tights I was wearing, feeling the memories surge back.

"...and then, she punched me, right on the side of my face," I resumed.

I felt my body tremble...felt Katy rest her paws on mine, giving me strength...

...and I swallowed.

"I fell down, hitting the chair by my desk...and then, she just began hitting me, screaming at me, "THOSE ARE NOT YOURS! THOSE ARE NOT YOURS!"..." I felt the tears fall, felt my body vibrate.

"I sank to the floor, sobbing...then screaming in pain as she began kicking me...literally kicking me, as I laid there on the ground..." I sniffled, feeling more tears soak my fur. "Then, I heard a sound, like something tearing."

I swallowed...snorted...then coughed a bit.

"I...I looked up...just in time to see her finish tearing up the bra and panty, ripping them to shreds..." I swallowed again, trying to will myself to continue.

"She...she saw me looking up at her...then threw the remnants of the clothes down on top of me..." I went on. "Then she

said, "You are my son...not some damned sissy,"...and she left my room, slamming the door behind her."

I took a ragged breath...and let it out, a little cough following it.

"I gathered up the pieces of my birthday gift...the best birthday gift I had ever gotten in my LIFE," I went on, feeling the anger at the memory fueling my voice. "I cradled them close to me...and I cried myself to sleep, there on the floor of my bedroom."

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Hoff stared, stunned into silence by the red vixen's words.

Good God...I had a feeling that his mother had reacted badly...but to do something like that...the lion thought.

He watched...as the red vixen fished around in her purse...then pulled out a small package of tissues and began dabbing at her eyes.

He blinked, watching the delicate, dainty manner in which the vixen was going about the task.

"I saw Rob the next day, at school..."

Hoff blinked, then turned to the silver vixen, who was gently petting the red vixen's shoulder.

"I saw that he was really upset...and moving pretty awkwardly," Katy continued. "At lunch, he told me that his mom had found the bra and panty set my mom and I had gotten him...and he said she beat the shit out of him."

Katy slipped her arm from around the red vixen, then fished around in her own purse for a bit, pulling out more tissues and giving them to the red vixen, who gave a soft, "Thanks," in reply before blowing her nose.

"I didn't know what to say, after hearing what her mom did," Katy resumed, gently resting a paw on the red vixen's shoulder. "I thought that, if only her mom could see her when she was a vixen...see how happy she was...she might let her express it more..."

Hoff watched as the silver vixen frowned.

"Then, Tara told me about the new rules her mom had laid out," Katy went on. "No female garments at all, no leaving the house after school, no contact with anyone until homework and chores were done..."

The lion frowned. "She sought to regain control, after what happened," Hoff said.

Katy nodded. "That and she sought to quash the notion that Tara...Rob...wanted to be a vixen."

Hoff watched...as the red vixen sniffled...then straightened up.

"I told my mom that I still wanted to see Katy...and she refused at first," the red vixen said...then let out a soft chuckle. "She changed her mind after I told her that, if she refused, I'd report what she did and told her she'd lose her job...and that I'd just pack up and go live with Katy and her mom anyway."

The red vixen sniffled again...then looked up...

...and Doctor Hoff saw years of despair etched in the vixen's facefur, deep furrows scarring the softness of the red vixen's face.

"So, my mom and I have a very uneasy truce," the red vixen said. "I get to go see Katy and her mom every other weekend...and, in return, she gets a son to keep a prisoner in her home."

Hoff watched...as the red vixen rummaged in her purse again...then pulled something out, setting it on the table.

A small USB flash drive.

"My mom used that...to keep tabs on my internet activity," the red vixen went on. "Websites, e-mails, IM chats...everything."

Hoff gently picked up the small flash drive, looking at it.

"Or she did...till I found it a few months ago," the red vixen went on. "Took it off about a month before school ended."

Hoff sighed, shaking his head.

"Robert...what I am hearing..." he began...then rubbed at his eyes with two large fingers. "Well, to be honest, what I am hearing really upsets me."

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I watched...as Doctor Hoff looked up, genuine concern in his eyes and face.

"What you have told me today...is sadly, not anything new," the lion went on. "It's really quite rare to find a parent that truly accepts their child wanting to change their gender...but..."

I saw Hoff sigh.

"What your mother did...it's at the very extreme of what I have seen and heard in my years of dealing with GLBT teens and adults," the lion went on.

I nodded.

"So...the question now becomes this," Doctor Hoff said, leaning forward in his chair "Where do you go from here? And where do I go as your therapist?"

I sighed...then straightened up.

"I am going to be talking with the school board early next month," I said, feeling my confidence start to flare to life. "Let them know that I want to express myself as female while going to school there...let them know that I want to be treated like a female student, not as a male student..."

I watched...as Doctor Hoff folded his paws under his muzzle.

"I doubt they will actually let you do that," the lion said...then reached into his desk. "At least...not without a letter from your therapist, saying that you should be treated as a female student."

I felt my heart soar.

"And...as you seem to be willing to express your true

gender...I will also sign a letter, authorizing that you are mentally stable enough to begin hormone therapy as well," the lion went on, pulling out two pieces of paper.

My heart soared even higher. *I finally have hope for becoming a vixen!*

Then, I saw Doctor Hoff frown a bit...and look at me.

"However...the letter authorizing hormone treatment...will need to be signed by a parent or legal guardian," he resumed. "And I have very serious doubts about your mother signing that form."

"What about my mom?" Katy asked. "Couldn't she sign it?"

I watched as Hoff shook his head, his mane rustling.

"Your mother, despite being supportive of Ro..." He paused. "Despite being supportive of Tara, your mother holds no legal authority in this matter, Miss Nicolette."

Hoff looked at me. "So...what do you plan to do, Tara?" he asked softly.

I swallowed...took a deep breath...then let it out slowly.

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Hoff watched...as the red vixen slowly lifted her head up...and fixed him with a steel-hard gaze.

"I am going to let no one stop me from being myself," the red vixen said. "Not any more."

He saw the red vixen's gaze and body become very tight and focused.

"I am tired of going from being female and happy...to male and miserable," the red vixen went on, her voice becoming more determined. "I am tired of people telling me that this is something wrong...something not right."

He saw the red vixen's ears slide forward...and stared into those determined green eyes.

"And, if my mother does not like that...then she simply

will not be a part of my life anymore," the red vixen finished. "I will be happy, Doctor Hoff...and the only person who has any right to stop me from being that is me and ONLY me."

Doctor Hoff stared at the red vixen...

...then slowly smiled.

"Good," Doctor Hoff said...then looked at the silver vixen. "And you and your mother will be around, just in case something happens and she needs a safe place to stay?"

Katy nodded...then rested a paw on the red vixen's paws.

"Tara always has a home with us," the silver vixen stated. "Got her own room and everything."

Hoff chuckled...and faintly, he heard the red vixen chuckle as well.

"I will have those letters ready for you at your next visit, Tara," the lion said...then looked up, a warm smile crossing his face. "And let me know exactly when your meeting with the school board is when you come back in, all right?"

He saw the red vixen blink in confusion. "Umm...okay. But why?"

"So that I can attend and give my support for your gender expression," Hoff explained. "A letter can only do so much...and I think that this is what is really best for you, Tara."

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I watched, stunned...as Doctor Hoff plucked an appointment card out of a small holder on his desk.

"So...two weeks from this Friday...say two pm?" Hoff asked, glancing up at me.

I nodded, still in shock.

He...he's actually going to HELP...

I felt the tears start to fall...

...then I heard a chair move...

...and saw a shadow fall over me.

I looked up...

...and saw Doctor Hoff, standing in front of me, the appointment card held out in front of him, held in two large fingers.

"So, I will see you back here in two weeks," the lion said, holding the card out.

I reached out slowly...and plucked the card from his fingers, my paw shaking as I did so...

...then I sprang out of the chair and hugged him, crying.

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Hoff smiled...then gently patted the sobbing vixen's back.

After a few seconds, the red vixen pulled away, being shepherded toward the door by the silver vixen.

"Thank you," the red vixen said softly.

Hoff nodded...then sighed as the door closed.

He...no, she has been through so much...

The lion slowly ambled back to the other side of the desk...and sank into his chair.

And she still has so much more to go through...

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(11:14pm)

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I exhaled, flopping down on Katy's bed, the bright pink dorm shirt I was wearing rumpling around my body.

"Wow..." I breathed.

I felt and heard a muffled thump next to me...and looked...

...as Katy smiled at me, her light blue dorm shirt rumpling as she laid on her side.

"Sounded to me like Doctor Hoff is going to help you," Katy said, smiling.

I nodded...then looked back up at the ceiling.

"I still can't believe it," I admitted.

"Well, you'd better believe it," Katy stated. "Just like you'd

better believe we are celebrating this tomorrow."

I looked back at her, puzzled.

She grinned.

"After all...we have to go get you all sorts of new school outfits," the silver vixen stated, an impish smile on her face.

I chuckled...then giggled along with her...

...then hugged her, gently.

"Thanks, Katy," I said softly.

She gave me a gentle squeeze back.

"You're welcome Tara," she said softly. "You're always welcome, Sis."

I giggled again, giving her another squeeze...

...then we slid off the bed...and slipped into our respective sleeping bags.

"Tara?"

I looked at Katy as I zipped up my sleeping bag.

"What happens...if your mom goes ballistic again?" she asked.

I sighed, finishing zipping up my sleeping bag...then wriggled, getting comfy.

"I really don't know, Katy," I admitted. "I guess file charges..."

I settled into my purple sleeping bag...and sighed.

"Maybe Doctor Hoff can help mitigate the damage," I thought...then shut my eyes.

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Katy settled into her pink sleeping bag...and sighed.

"I hope so..." she said...then closed her eyes.

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