

Devan shuddered as he coaxed free the last few droplets from his pee break. ZIP. The metal teeth catching against one another punctuated the silent forest as the wolf stepped out from behind the privacy of a nearby pine tree. Paws thumping against the pine needle laden ground, he plodded on back to the empty camp site.

A roaring, crackling fire greeted him as he approached. Embers and ash flit up and out of the pile of rocks and wood and down onto the stomped out grass. Plumes of dusts and dirt rose from every hissing ember that touched down. With a sigh, Devan flopped back into one of the empty lawn chairs that circled the fire. A handful of tents formed a secondary ring around the crappy plastic furniture.

Reaching into his pocket, the wolf fished out his smart phone and tapped away at his contacts. With a flick of his clawed finger he brought up his twin brother, Devin.

“Yo, bro. How much longer until you and the folks get back?”

Reaching down alongside his chair, Devan scooped a handful of marshmallows into his mouth. Eyes half lidded, he nibbled on the constituent elements of s’mores sitting nearby as he waited for the “Devin is typing a reply...” message to bear fruit. A gentle breeze flit through the campsite as wispy clouds sailed past the moonlit sky.

“Oughta be there soon! I think. Dad’s lost again, you know the drill. :V”

Eyebrows furrowed, the teenage wolf dragged his padded fingers along the screen. His digits tapped at the obnoxious red weather warning bipping at the top of his screen. It expanded to reveal an easily ignored all caps declaration of doom.

WARNING. MACRO MARCH STORMFRONT DETECTED IN YOUR AREA. TAKE SHELTER IMMEDIATELY. UNKNOWN AND DANGEROUS LEVELS OF GROWTH CONTAINED WITHIN STORM SYSTEM.

With a roll of his eyes the lonesome wolf brought back up his messenger. “Really now? Mom didn’t make you all bunker down at the store when the weather warning went out?” He received a response almost instantaneously.

“Haha. Naw. I mean, she tried. You know how dad is though. Nothing stops him. We just trucked on through no prob. |3”

“Pfff. You survived I take it.”

“Barely haha. Thunder, lightning, rain, hail, the works. Got so bad we could hardly see the road with how often the lightning lit up the sky. We’ve basically been offroading it after a bad blast that all but blinded us. Just relying on the GPS for a while now. Least it says we’re close now. :x”

“Sheesh.”

“Any problems at the campsite? Not too lonely without me are ya bro? :b”

Devan winced as a violent and sudden gale of air ripped through the campsite. Shirt sleeves flopping against the wind, the wolf clung tight to the flimsy arms of his plastic furniture. The unoccupied chairs tumbled over and drifted away as did his snacks. Whoof. Some storm front! Thankfully, a relative calm

returned after all of a minute or so later. Devan took to typing out a message once he was assured his phone wouldn't blow away.

"Kinda sorta. Just had a bad storm burst. Could just be eye of the storm you never know. Might wanna hurry over if you can!"

The wolf scrunched his muzzle as a strange scent saturated the air. His black wet nose snuffed and sniffed. It seemed so alien yet familiar. Was that... was that oil?

"Huh! Calm as can be out where we are. O:"

Brow cocked, Devan brought back up his weather app. Huh. Doppler said nothing was around. Or had been around.

"Weeeeirdlfgk"

His latest message was sent out a fumbled mess as his fingers slid across the screen. Terrible quakes and thunderous thooms shook Devan right out of his seat and sent pine needles raining down on him. Ripples of dust coursed through the ground and blew up against his denim pants as he struggled to right himself. First he'd been hit with storms that weren't there and now earthquakes? He was tempted to ask how else this could go south but he knew better than to risk it.

"Doing alright there? ?:"

As quickly as they came the quakes and thunder came to a halt. Legs and arms trembling uneasily, Devan brought himself to his plush padded feet.

"Yeah. Just fumbled my phone there. You guys close yet?"

The raucous and thooming thunder returned. Yet the quakes did not.

"GPS says we oughta be but it's... like ya said weird. Nothing but grass all around. No roads no trees no nothing. Mom and Dad are busy chewing each other out as to how we got lost in the middle of who the hell knows where. I'm just grabbing some air. V:"

No sooner had Devan received Devin's message did the quakes start up once more. Much more forcefully than before even. Heart pounding in his chest, the lonely wolf manning the campsite watched in horror as a great black and grey mass obscured the sky and blotted out the moon.

"Holy sh"

"Holy what? ?:"

"Devin! Bro bro bro stop stop stop walking please stop stop stop!"

Hands running through his hair, Devan whined as frantic gusts of wind accompanied every thoom of thunder now. As did a wave of dust and pine needles that sent the tents and what furniture remained flying off and away into the woods. Everything had fallen into place and made terrifying amounts of sense now. To his prayer filled relief, the quakes stopped and the now horizon and sky filling mass had ceased its approach.

"Uhh. Alright. I stopped. Why? :|"

Limbs shaking uncontrollably, Devan held his phone up high overhead and took a landscape picture after fiddling with his settings. He attached the picture to his latest IM and sent it.

"That's you."

"What's me? ?:"

"That's all of you that I could fit in the picture."

There was a pause as the sky smothering mass that threatened to smother the very moon splayed apart. Toes, wolf toes radiating with warmth that belonged to his twin brother, twiddled in place. The thunder started back up every time Devin typed out a response.

"Umm. Bro what are you getting at? :x"

Devan could feel another quake coming on as his brother lifted his foot.

"Just look!!! No moving no walking."

A complimentary quake met him in reply when his brother thankfully set his foot down.

"Good. Okay. Just. Just kneel down or something and turn on your phone's camera and zoom. Zoom zoom zoom."

"...Okay. Am I hunting for buried treasure or something? V:"

To his shock, Devan found himself flattened against the ground by a wall of air. Deafening rumbles sounded out as the great entity looming incomprehensibly large above him dropped to its knees. Bringing down with it untold amounts of wind and gust. Straining his neck, the wolf peered up at the sky. A great glass eye had come to fill it. Another whoosh of air signaled its departure. In its place, his brother's face appeared. Filling up the entirety of the sky and his every soft feature magnified infinitely so. Comprising the horizon in turn were his tremendous, mountain shaming, toes.

"Bro?" Devin's deafening voice stripped the trees bare as his warm breath washed over what remained of the campsite. "Is that you?"

Teeth clenched, Devan gulped as a hand reached out towards him. Everything went dark as a padded palm came to replace his very sky and a gentle heat enveloped him.