

The Hunter and The Hunted

In the ancient Greek city of Ambracia, a land of lush wilderness and a noble society, lived an innocent young maiden named Caproe. She assisted her townsfolk with various tasks and was well-known throughout Ambracia. Although she was not stunning, she was not horrendous either. Caproe's beauty was the same as other Greek women: Dark hair flowing down to her back, normal outfits adorned on her body, and a personality typical of all people.

According to tales, Caproe was paired with her partner, Lupus. However, the maiden did not consider her her lover at all. With a scruffy mane of hair and a face that screamed "Beware!" Lupus could be seen as some sort of ruffian. Nonetheless, he adored the dear Caproe and fell in love with her. His infatuation with her took total control of his heart, leading her to watch her every move. Every day and night, Lupus would everywhere his lover was. It did not matter whether she was busy or vulnerable - Lupus would follow his dear Caproe where she went for the end of time.

Lupus would share his life with his dear Caproe forever, whether she liked it or not.

One day, after Lupus was certain he had learned everything about his lover, he finally decided to confront her. Just as he had planned, he encountered Caproe near Ambracia's forest, where nature was just one step away. His dear must've been gathering sticks for tinder or berries for other; Lupus knew her patterns all too well. Taking advantage of his situation, the dark-haired man gestured to his love and offered her a proposal.

"Caproe, my dear," Lupus began in a calm, casual tone, "now that we are alone, I must reveal everything about myself to you. I, Lupus, know everything about you and the lovely life

you live. I have witnessed every grateful deed you have done, every conversation you took part in, and every time you have cleansed your luxurious beauty, My only wish is to marry you my dear. Let us get wed and happily live our lives together. Wouldn't you agree, my dear Caproe?"

The fair lady's expression showed signs of immediate discomfort, much to Lupus's discomfort. "Lupus, although you love me very much, I do not feel the same," Caproe replied. "My heart shows no interest in you, and I do not love you in return. In fact, I do not want to be anywhere near you!" She slowly began to back into the woods behind her, Lupus following her trail. However, despite the man's now suspicious demeanor, Caproe wanted him to face the truth. "Lupus, I will *never* love you. Do you now know how unwelcoming you have become? You steal my garments, attempt to spy on me while I bathe, and are everywhere I go, as if you follow my every move. May you leave me alone already?"

"But my dear Caproe, whoever said you had a say in this matter?" At that moment, Lupus attempted to take hold of his lover's wrist, but did so in vain - Caproe jerked away just in time, her nervousness now as frantic as a rushing river. Due to his love's refusal to be with him, Lupus believed it was time to take things into his own hands. "My dear, he spoke through clenched teeth, his fury bubbling within him, "you are my one and only. Not even Aphrodite's beauty can surpass my love for you. You *will* be mine, Caproe, whether you like it or not!"

He lunged toward the maiden with a sudden force, but was unsuccessful yet again - Caproe dashed away from the accack, leaving Lupus tumbling toward the earthy floor of the forest. Now, Caproe realized what she had to do: Run away from her stalker as far as her legs could take her. No matter where she would end up, she just wished to be as far away from the treacherous Lupus as possible.

While Lupus was recovering from his fall, Caproe hurriedly turned tail and fled into the wilderness. She dodged through trees as if she were the wind itself and crunched on fragile twigs and leaves as she rushed toward the craggy Pindus mountains. From there, Caproe believed, nobody would be able to find her, not even Lupus, her stalker.

However, it appeared Lupus was adamant on making Caproe his. “You cannot run away from me, my dear Caproe!” He shouted toward his love as he took chase after her. “No matter where you go, I *will* find you, and I *will* make you mine, my dear!”

Hearing her pursuer’s voice only encouraged Caproe to run faster. She did not look back, but she knew if she stopped now, she would find herself at the hands of a person she would never love. Caproe needed to keep this pursuit up, even if she were to break down or live in nature the rest of her life.

Then, the maiden began to feel a change. As she ran, Caproe felt her ears shift from the side of her head to the top of it, pointing upward toward the sky. Her face stretched forward, forming a muzzle, and brown fur invaded her skin as she changed from running on four legs instead of two. Sturdy but nimble limbs allowed Caproe, transformed into a deer, to traverse toward the mountains faster than before.

But to her dismay, she was not the only one who had changed. Upon risking a peek behind her, Caproe had discovered Lupus was now an animal as well. His new body was a ferocious wolf, his eyes sharp with predatory instincts. A dusky gray pelt as dark as ash lined his new canine form. A bushy tail bobbed behind him as he chased his prey on muscular paws.

This was not the Lupus that loved Caproe with all of his heart - This Lupus wanted to capture, kill, and punish the person who never loved him back.

In the end, both Caproe and Lupus made it to the Pindus mountains, fated to live an everlasting pursuit. The savage gray wolf, also known by its scientific name, *Canis lupus*, would occasionally be seen hunting the elegant roe deer, named after the innocent Caproe. Stories say it was Artemis, the goddess of the hunt, who had changed the lovers into the animals they are today. Others say it was Zeus, who believed the male deserved to have his female. No matter what the true tale is, one fact is certain: The myth of Caproe and Lupus will be passed down through generations, symbolizing the savage acts one is willing to go through for unrequited love.