

The Bravest Fawn

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Acknowledgements

I'D LIKE TO THANK CLARE FORD AND CHARLIE CAREY FOR HELPING ME WRITE THIS BOOK.

Dedication

I'D LIKE TO DEDICATE THIS BOOK TO MY UNCLE, BILAL, FOR BUYING MY FIRST BOOK AS SOON AS IT CAME OUT.

Chapter 1

Auta once knew the forest as a calm place but it all changed when the scientists arrived.

Before they came, it was a sanctuary for animals to live peacefully. Water was clean and the flowers bloomed. A plethora of fruits sat on bushes, waiting to be eaten. The forest was a dream but it was crushed on July 17th.

Scientists had come into the forest, with a range of terrifying-looking equipment, ready to set up for a month of experiments.

They killed animals - especially fawns, put chemicals in the river, their only source of water, and destroyed the forest. They turned a sanctuary into a living hell.

At the time, humans were foreign species to the animals. Scientists were especially interested in finding out more about half creatures (half human and half animal).

Every week, from Monday to Wednesday, the animals lived in fear and trepidation.

None of the animals knew what would happen to them, their family members or their friends. Their fate was unknown.

Chapter 2

‘Good morning Auta...’ Auta’s mother, Anne, said solemnly, holding plates.

‘Morning mum. Why are you upset?’ Auta asked, noticing her mother’s demoralised face.

‘I-I was taking out the rubbish last night and saw your Uncle Robert get caught and shot by humans in white coats...’ Anne stammered, trembling uncontrollably.

Auta stood in her spot, speechless.

‘No...’ She whispered, tears forming in her eyes. The feeling of her family getting hurt by none other than-

‘Those- those- *heartless* humans!’ Auta said, with a touch of anger in her voice as tears fell from her eyes. Although she wasn’t fully a fawn, she still despised the humans more than insane, untamed lions. The reason Auta and her family are half fawns and half humans is just because of genetics.

‘Auta, calm down...Uncle Robert is in a better place now,’ a comforting voice said.

Auta turned around and saw her sister, Amaya.

‘Morning Maya.’ Anne said, softly.

The three of them ate breakfast together in silence. Even though they all were devastated, they still tried to go about their day.

Except, Auta was in denial. She couldn’t believe that the scientists would take her family. She always wondered what the psychotic scientists did to animals after murdering them. Celebration? Tests? Using them for decor or clothing?

As the dark, evening sky arrived, their father, Arthur, came home.

‘Pa!’ Auta squealed, as she ran to her father.

‘Hello, Dad.’ Amaya said, smiling.

‘How are my three ladies?’ Arthur asked, grinning, ‘Anne, what’s for dinner?’ he added, cleaning his antler.

Anne looked away sadly, ‘W-we’ve run out of f-food...’ she muttered shyly.

‘Oh goodness...’ Amaya breathed.

Chapter 3

Suddenly, screams and shrieks filled the air. The cries of baby animals sounded like howling and there were a few gunshots that silenced all the animals.

The family ran out of their home and saw seven fawns, dead.

‘*Ooo...* can’t wait until we make money off these skins!’ a voice bellowed.

‘*Hide!*’ Auta squeaked and they hid behind a large bush.

Auta peeked through the bush and saw people dressed in white suits with blood smothered on their clothes. They threw the dead fawns to the back of a white van.

‘No!’ Amaya shrieked, instantly covering her mouth after she spoke.

Two men with large rifles in their hands suddenly looked alert.

‘Who’s there?’ a man yelled, stepping forward.

‘Let’s just go. I’m starving.’ the second man told his worker.

The first man rolled his eyes and they drove away in the white van.

‘What were you thinking? We could’ve *died!*’ Auta said crossly to Amaya.

‘I’m so sorry! I-I mean it!’ Amaya squeaked.

‘You *obviously* are.’ Auta said sarcastically.

Arthur frowned.

‘Auta, that was an unpleasant attitude.’ Arthur said, folding his arms.

‘And nearly getting us killed is also an unpleasant attitude, Pa.’ Auta snapped, storming off to their home.

Chapter 4

The next morning, Auta trotted downstairs only to find the whole house empty.

She ran outside to a dreadful sight.

Her family was being taken.

Frozen, Auta watched scientists shove her family in the back of a white van. With a waterfall of tears streaming down her face, she fell to the ground in despair.

She watched the white van drive away and couldn't help blaming herself.

'M-Ma...? P-P-Pa...' She cried, as she heard the distant screeching of tyres.

'COME BACK!' Auta shouted, as she tried running after the van.

Auta didn't know what was worse. Her parents being captured or not knowing where they were going.

She tried to see where the van was heading except there were dozens of white vans.

'It's all *my* fault. I should've helped them instead of standing there...' she sighed, walking back into the forest.

Miserably, she went home and tried to think of a way to get her family back.

‘Wait, I could go in the city...’ she muttered to herself.

But then, she remembered that half human and half fawn was a very rare species and she’d get taken away in a flash. ‘I’ll have to take my chances.’ she said, looking in her mother’s mirror and immediately seeing her mother hugging her tightly.

More tears fell.

Auta grabbed a rag to wipe her eyes. Then, she picked up her small, worn-out bag and packed necessities. After that, she grabbed her hooded jacket and put a scarf around her neck, hiding her facial fawn features.

‘I’m coming Ma, Pa and Maya.’ Auta breathed, stepping outside her wooden home.

The air was slightly chilly and leaves were falling off trees and the sky was a faint shade of grey. The clouds nearly looked silver and the tiniest bits of rain fell to the ground. There were muddy puddles nearly everywhere and the animals in the forest were cowering in fear behind bushes, tree trunks or piles of wood, hoping that the cruel scientists wouldn’t take them.

Auta ran out of the forest and saw the roads ahead of her.

She ran onto the pavement and hid her face in her jacket. Auta also realised that the humans were very strange: the sidewalk was filled with rubbish, the humans said rude words and were unreasonably loud.

After she finished walking down the pavement, she saw it.

The city.

‘W-wow...’ Auta stammered, astounded.

‘MOVE, KID!’ an arrogant voice yelled, pushing Auta aside.

‘Ugh...rude,’ she mumbled, getting up to her feet.

Cautiously, Auta walked across the road and was greeted with a horrible surprise.

‘Oi! You! You look a bit funny...’ a man yelled, pointing his index finger at Auta.

All the pedestrians immediately looked at Auta.

‘I-I...’ she stuttered, going scarlet.

Auta ran.

She ran faster than she ever had.

However, whilst running, her hat fell into a muddy puddle, exposing her fawn ears.

‘No...!’ Auta whispered to herself, grabbing her filthy hat.

‘A HALF BREED! GET THE GIRL!’ a man yelled, after seeing Auta’s fawn ears.

Suddenly, the poor fawn had nearly twenty people chasing her, taking photos.

‘GRAB HER!’ A woman shouted, taking a video of Auta.

Auta ran into a narrow alleyway and, using all the strength she could muster, she pushed a large bin to block the crowd from following her into the alley.

Suddenly, Auta felt a finger on her shoulder.

Chapter 5

She screamed.

‘Calm down, little fawn. I’m Fredrick, I’ll be testi-’ Fredrick said, but was cut off by Auta’s words.

‘YOU WILL NEVER TEST ME OR MY FAMILY!’ Auta roared, as soon as she heard the word test.

Frederick pulled off Auta’s hat and then grabbed her ears making her cry out in terror.

‘Let. Me. Test. You.’ Frederick said, gritting his teeth.

‘I say...NO!’ Auta growled, losing herself from his firm grip.

Rapidly, the fawn pushed the bin aside and ran faster than a bullet.

Auta didn’t dare to look behind her and kept running until she was breathless.

Gasping for breath, Auta had reached a wooden bench and sat down.

‘How-Am-I-Going-To-Find-Them-?’ Auta asked herself, panting.

After sitting down for a few minutes, she hid her mouth in her scarf, put her hat on, zipped up her coat until it reached her chin and started walking again.

‘I just need to find out where on earth that-that place is.’ Auta murmured under her breath as she entered a crowded street buzzing with chatter.

‘COME TO THE ANIMAL ANTIQUE STORE! WE HAVE ALL SORTS OF SKINS! COW, CHEETAH, LEOPARD, DEER AND EVEN FAWN! WE ALSO SELL POLAR BEAR COATS WHICH ARE CURRENTLY ON SALE!’ a loud voice yelled.

Auta turned as white as a sheet and trembled.

What if the scientists had killed her family and their skin was in this antique store?

There was only one way to find out...

Entering the store.

As she stepped foot in the shop, she couldn't breathe. It smelled worse than a skunk. The place had old-fashioned chandeliers and skins of animals everywhere. Even the carpets were made out of snake skin. There was a bundle of wealthy-looking people who were throwing all sorts of expensive pelts into their hands. None of those things made Auta as miserable as seeing-

'A fawn head...' Auta whimpered quietly, as she saw a fawn head stuck on the wall.

Her eyes filled with giant tears as she thought of her family and how much they were suffering.

'Ello darlin', looking for anything?' a lady asked Auta, with a smirk.

'Uhm...h-hi...' Auta replied quietly.

'Need somethin'?' The woman asked again.

Auta shook her head quickly and ran out of the antique store.

Then, Auta saw three white vans. She decided to follow them. The vans were driving insanely fast as if they were racing. She struggled to keep up with the vans but the fawn fought through it.

After about twenty minutes, the white vans parked up outside a place called

'LABORATORY'.

There was a lump in Auta's throat and her breath came in short, sharp bursts. Her heart felt as if it were going 200 beats per second. Her stomach was contracted with fear and concern. She didn't know what to do or say or even how to stand. She was clueless. Her ears were filled with gunshots and painful cries of the animals that had died the other night. The sky was still gloomy and small, hard raindrops plummeted to the ground.

Auta stood in front of the laboratory, breathing shakily.

'Calm down Auta, j-just...wait until they leave...' Auta told herself and hid behind a wall.

She peeked from the wall and saw numerous machines and a variety of petrifying equipment.

Her heart stopped.

'N-no...' She mouthed, putting a hand over her mouth.

Suddenly, a door opened and a group of people wearing white clothing and peculiar-looking glasses.

'You, go get the fawns. Number 237, 230 and 472.' A deep voice bellowed.

'Y-Yes sir.' A high-pitched voice squeaked.

After seven minutes, the small man entered with three fawns that looked lifeless.

‘Ah, right, place Number 472 on the table. Let’s see what you can take.’ The same deep voice chuckled maliciously.

The man grabbed a kettle and poured boiling hot water on the fawn. Its cries filled the air. Auta saw the fawn shrieking and it looked painful. She couldn’t imagine getting tortured that badly.

‘Hm...this one’s weak. Let it rest for a bit.’ The scientist said, sitting down on his armchair.

‘I’ve got to get them to leave the room.’ Auta muttered, suddenly having an idea.

Bravely, Auta made a loud noise. It was the sound a deer makes when it’s in danger or scared.

At once, the bunch of scientists got to their feet and sprinted outside, searching frantically for the deer in distress.

As quiet as a mouse, the courageous girl opened the door and looked at the directions board.

‘Right, the animal cages are...that way!’ Auta said, running to the left.

Running faster than a cheetah, Auta read a sign next to a door saying **‘Animal Cages.’**

With trembling fingers, Auta opened the door and saw someone she was longing to see.

Chapter 6

‘Amaya!’ Auta whispered, smiling wide.

‘A-Auta...!’ Amaya said quietly, her eyes filled with tears.

Amaya looked unbelievably pale and her hands were chained to a cold, brick wall. She had lost colour from her lips and her spots seemed to be fading away. Poor Amaya bled from her wrist due to the chains.

‘What did they do to you?’ Auta asked, keeping her voice as a whisper.

Amaya trembled.

‘T-they used something that shot out light...a-and they spilled extremely hot liquid on me..’ Amaya whispered.

All of the sudden the door opened and the short man saw Auta.

‘Ohh! Wanna speak to your family? Well, we’re taking them!’ The man shouted, opening Amaya, Arthur and Anne’s doors.

‘NO! I-uhm...T-take me...!’ Auta shouted, grabbing his coat.

The man looked at her, disgusted.

‘No.’

‘Do whatever you want to me j-just don’t *ever* bother the forest again...’ Auta said.

‘Ooh! Deal!’ The man squealed, grabbing Auta as well.

When they went in, Amaya, Arthur and Anne were forced to watch Auta get tortured.

‘Let’s see your resistance to...*a knife!*’ a scientist exclaimed, grinning as if he had won the lottery.

‘NO!’ Amaya cried, watching her sister’s blood drip out.

‘R-run t-to the forest Maya, protect Ma and Pa...I love you guys s-so much...’ Auta whispered, her voice fading away.

‘We’ll be millionaires with *this* skin!’ The scientists yelled, leaving the room.

The family sat in despair.

‘W-why Auta...W-why...?’ Anne mumbled, her tears falling like raindrops.

Auta’s limp body remained on the table. She had blood all over her clothing. Her deep brown eyes would almost always be open with a spark or tear but now her brown eyes showed neither her sparks nor her tears.

‘She’s the bravest fawn, e-ever...’ Arthur sobbed, holding his dead daughter’s hand.

Chapter 7

After an hour of grieving, the family of three freed all the other animals before the scientists came back and left the laboratory.

‘D-dad! We can’t leave Auta there!’ Amaya protested, looking mad.

‘She made a deal. We can’t take her back as if she’s food. We must leave her there or else they’ll kill all of us and her sacrifice will be for nothing.’ Arthur protested back, looking regretful.

‘But-’

‘No buts, let’s go.’

Eventually, the three finally reached home. The midnight sky was gloomy and depressing. The faint drizzle dampened the usually gorgeous twinkling stars.

‘If only Auta were here to see the stars...’ Anne sniffed, looking out the window.

‘Her sacrifice saved us all. She’s really brave for that.’ Amaya said, smiling as tears plopped onto her cheeks.

Over the next few days, the family of three shared Auta’s story with all the other animals in the forest. Little children were inspired by Auta and dreamt to be like her.

Also, the scientists stuck to their word and didn't step foot in the forest again.

Speaking of the forest, guess what? It turned back into its stunning self again. The river was crystal clear after years of struggling with dirty water. Fruits and vegetables grew after months of being rotten. Even the flowers were able to stand up straight without a single worry.

To celebrate Auta's bravery, there was a festival on her birthday (May 1st) to honour her because she was the bravest fawn.

We hope that you and your family and friends enjoy the book that you have created.

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Auta adored her family and forest more than anything. But when scientists arrive and destroy the forest, they also take her family. She saves them and the forest but it comes with a cruel cost.