

# THE DEATH OF A WOLF

YUTOM KIM



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# THE DEATH OF A WOLF

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# PROLOGUE

South Korea, 2030, 11:45. A tall man was walking on a beach. He looked at the ground, following footprints. His walkie-talkie cracked. “Max? Max? Are you there?” a voice said.

Max took the talkie. “Yea, I’m here,” Max grumbled.

“Got one?”

“No, of course not, I just arrived.”

“Where are you then?”

“On a beach, following footprints. They are not straight, probably it’s sick.” Looking at the footprints, he raised the head. “They are leading to that cave. He smiled. “It’s a question of minutes,” he said and turned off the talkie. He took his gun out, checked if it was fully loaded, and put it back in his pocket. He sighed. “Let’s go.” He walked confidently to the cave and listened carefully. *‘No sound... dead?’* he thought. He stepped inside the cave. It was dirty, many spiderwebs covered the walls and the ground was filled with dry seaweeds. Further away, a wolf was laying. The animal looked at the man.

“Here you are, I’ve been trapping you since the early morning.”

The wolf growled, showing its sharp teeth.

“Calm down, it won’t be long,” he said while taking out his gun.

At the sight of the gun, the wolf reacted quickly and jumped on the man. Max pulled the trigger. The wolf fell down with a big thud.

Max bent down and put the hand in the fur. “That’s the fur I was looking for, rich, thick, and colorful. It is worth a lot, too bad there’s a hole in it.”

Against all the odds, the wolf raised the head and jumped at the man’s throat. With a big effort, Max pushed the wolf and stepped back, the hand on his bleeding throat. The wolf was breathing heavily, watching the man. He fell down and looked at the wolf. The blood was flowing out rapidly. “Why were you still alive...” he murmured. He closed his eyes. Soon after, the wolf died.

The talkie cracked again. “Max? Max? Got it now?”

# CHAPTER 1

Three kids were finishing their lunch. From the window, the waves were crashing along the golden sand of a long beach. The mom looked after her kids and checked her watch. "Sarah, can you take care of your brother and sister this afternoon? I have some work to do and need to rush."

Sarah smiled and nodded. "That's ok Mom, no problem!" She turned towards her siblings. "You guys, wanna go to the beach?"

"Yes," Ponyo and Tom shouted.

"Then, let's go!"

"Can I bring a snack, please, I'm sure I'll be hungry in no time," Tom said.

"Why? You just finished your lunch!"

"But... I'm hungry..."

"Fine, be quick!"

Later on, they were on the beach, jumping over the waves when Sarah noticed footprints. One pair was from an adult, and another one from what looked like a dog. *'There are no dogs around here...'* she thought. She looked at the direction of the prints. They were leading to a cave, a very old cave where nothing good could be found if not seaweeds, spiders, and a bunch of detritus. *'What could be so interesting in that cave?'*

She decided to follow the foot prints.

"Were are you going Sarah?" Ponyo said.

Sarah looked at her, "To the cave."

"Why?"

"Because someone with a dog went to the cave, but I don't see any footprints showing they left. I wonder who it could be."

"Yay! An adventure!" Tom shouted while running behind Ponyo.

While approaching they suddenly heard mysterious sounds, "crack... Max... it happened... Max... are you there or..."

Tom backed up, "Oh no, no, no, no... I'm not entering in the cave."

"Don't be so chicken," Ponyo said.

"You're the first then, I'm following you behind."

Ponyo looked at Sarah, "You go first Sarah, I'm following you."

"Definitely, you're not better than Tom, you are a chicken too."

They tiptoed with care into the cave. Sarah raised the hand, then turned right away, "Boo!"

Ponyo and Tom jumped back, scared. "What's happening?"

"Ahah, you guys are real chickens!"

Ponyo looked at her, annoyed, "Very funny," she said with a boring tone.

The talkie cracked again, "Max, still there? Come on, picked the talkie."

Sarah kept walking, followed by her two siblings. The sight was frighthening. There was blood all around two inert bodies.

Ponyo peeked above Sarah's shoulder. "Are they dead?"

"I knew I shouldn't come here," Tom said while glancing from behind Ponyo.

Sarah looked at the wolf. "I think the wolf is dead, it doesn't move at all," she murmured through the deadly silence. Closer to her was the man. She gently kicked the man's foot. "It looks like the man is dead too," she added.

Without notice, the talkie cracked again. The three siblings jumped at once.

"Max, what are you doing? Take that talkie and answer me, I'm waiting for you!"

## CHAPTER 2

Sarah noticed the walkie-talkie next to the man. She picked it up. "Who are you?" she said.

"Who are you?" the voice replied. "Where's Max?"

"I'm Sarah. I just came in into a cave and... I just picked up that talkie next to a man covered with blood. I think he's dead," she said with a trembling voice.

"What?"

"I tried to wake him up but he didn't react. I..."

"Is there a wolf anywhere?"

"Yes, I think it is dead too. It doesn't breathe."

"Who is it?" Tom asked.

Sarah covered the talkie with her hand. "I don't know."

"So, who's with you Sarah?"

"My little brother."

A silence fell. "Are you there?" Sarah asked.

"Yes I am. Sarah, I need your help. Surely Max is in danger, so tell me where you are, I want to come and help Max."

"We are in a cave near the beach."

"Where is that beach?"

"Near my house."

The man released a deep breath. "And where is your house?"

Sarah hesitated. Tom approached, "It's near..." but Sarah interrupted him, putting her hand on Tom's mouth.

"I'm going to call the police," she said.

"No, don't call the police. Just tell me where you are and I'm coming. I'll bring Max to the hospital before it'll be too late. I'll also take care of the wolf."

"I don't know who you are, so I..."

"I'm Dylan," the man interrupted.

Sarah looked at her sister and brother, "Let's get out of here."

"It's about time," Tom said.

"Agree," Ponyo added.

As soon as they were going to get out, they froze. A big wolf appeared right in front of them, blocking at the same time the exit.

## CHAPTER 3

The kids stepped back as the wolf entered the cave. Tom was so scared that he eed in his pants. Ponyo was about to cry. Sarah raised her arms trying to protect them from the wolf, but she was as well scared. The wolf glanced at them and turned its sight at the dead wolf. It walked to it, sniffed it. Sarah led Tom and Ponyo towards the exit. The wolf howled, freezing the kid's blood. They turned and looked at the wolf. It was howling to death right next to the inert and dead wolf. Sarah was terrified but seemed to understand the wolf was crying. She felt bad but there was nothing she could do to help. It reminded her when her dad died. *It happened barely a month ago while she was going with him to buy a new phone. It was a present for her. As they entered the mall, the jeweler ran after a man. "Stop him, stop him! He stole my jewels!" The robber pushed Sarah and her dad to find his way out. Sarah's dad took out his phone to call the police, but at the same moment, the robber turned his head back and shot at people. Unfortunately, one bullet hit Sarah's dad.*

She looked at the wolf. A tear rolled down her cheek. Ponyo put a hand on Sarah's shoulder. Tom took her hand. "It's okay Sarah."

The wolf kept howling then, it stopped, looking at the man. It stepped dangerously at him, growling at him.

"What's it doing?"

"I don't know," Sarah murmured.

"Look!" Ponyo said.

The wolf was pulling the man's jacket, trying to tear it. The man was not reacting. The wolf went back to the other wolf.

"Eww, so sad," Sarah said.

The walkie-talkie cracked again. "Look, you're better to tell me where you are, or else, I'll find it and kill you!"

Sarah raised the talkie to her mouth. "Yeah, right. We are going to call the police."

At that moment, the wolf howled again. The kids covered their ears. "It complains the death of the wolf," Ponyo said.

Sarah was not sure, but she didn't want to wait. "Let's get out of here now. We have to call the police."

But right at that moment, as they were going out, two wolves appeared at the entrance. They growled, showing their sharp teeth. The kids were deadly scared. They stepped back. Sarah tried to protect them. Tom peed again in his pants while Ponyo cried, close to panick. Sarah tried to calm them down. "Shhhhh, stay calm, don't make any noise. I don't think they are going to attack us. They came because the first one called them. Okay?"

Ponyo nodded.

"I wish the wolves go away. I want to be at home," Tom said.

"We will be soon, I promess," Sarah said, assuring them.

"How?" Tom asked.

Further away, Dylan got on his jeep. He stomped on the gas pedal with anger. The tires screeched and the jeep burst forward in no time. He frowned with rage as he focused on the road.

## CHAPTER 4

The howl attracted more wolves. One after the other, wolves appeared in the cave, staying behind the two angrier ones. They were blocking entirely the exit from the cave. One wolf, almost white, went in front of the two angry wolves, looking at the one next to the dead wolf.

"What's going on, Sudoku?" the white and peaceful wolf asked to one of the angry wolf.

Sudoku turned its head. "Ash, Mourka is dead. The humans killed her."

At his turn, Ash howled. Tom, Ponyo and Sarah blocked their ears. Ash was close to them and the cry was louder. "Ahhhhhh," they screamed.

The two angry wolves, Sudoku and Asham, growled at them. Ponyo scared so much, she also peed in her pants. The two wolves stepped towards the kids. Sarah tried to protect them while tears were rolling down her cheeks.

"Why did you lead us to our death, Sarah? Why?" Tom said.

"I was just following the path. We are not going to die, please, trust me," she sighed. She glanced at the first wolf, called Sodoko. "We want to leave, we are not related with this man at all. Please, let us go."

"No! You killed Mourka," Sudoku replied.

"We didn't," Sarah said.

"How can we trust you?" Sudoku murmured, showing his teeth.

"Let them go!"

Sudoku, Asham and Ash turned their heads at the one next to Mourka, the dead wolf. It was Soot.

"No!" Sudoku said. "They have to pay for Mourka's death."

Soot made a step towards them. "We don't know what happened and who killed her, so don't put the blame on them."

Sarah looked at the wolves. "See that dead man?"

"Yeah, so?" Sudoku murmured.

"He's the one who killed Mourka."

"Oh really? So why he's dead, and Mourka is too?"

"I don't know, but for sure it's not us. When we arrived here, both were dead."

Not too far from there, a jeep was stopped in front of a big house by the beach. A man was rigging at the door. A woman opened. "Yes, may I help you, mister...?"

"Good afternoon Madam. Humm, I'm looking for Sarah, is she at home?"

"No, she isn't at the moment. She's probably on the beach with her brother and sister. May I know your name, Sir and why you're looking for her?"

"Yes, sure, I am called Dylan and I'm the substitute teacher."

"Oh, I see. Well, you may come back later. She's supposed to be back home soon."

"Sure, thank you. See you later then."

Dylan went back to his jeep and got on it. Rather than driving on the road, he turned directly to the beach. After a few minutes, he stopped it and noticed several footprints, small ones. "It must be them." He got off the jeep and followed the footprints, looking around at the same time. After a little while, he spotted the cave. He also noticed several wolves in and out of the cave. He smiled. "Whoa, so many, I'm going to make my day and be rich!" He took his gun and checked if it was full of bullets.

## CHAPTER 5

Dylan saw some bushes next to the entrance of the cave. He hid behind them, sure enough not to be seen. He took his gun out. He aimed one wolf but right before he pulled the trigger, another wolf saw him. It rowled and showed its sharp teeth. Dylan aimed the wolf. The wolf ran at Dylan and jumped. The finger pulled the trigger. Th wolf fell with a loud thump on the ground, dead. The wolves in the cave heard the detonation. They ran out as quick as possible to find the dead wolf. Sarah, Ponyo and Tom rushed out too. The looked at the dead wolf. Dylan looked at the tallest.

"You're Sarah, isn't it? You are the one I spoke too earlier, right?"

Sarah nodded.

"Where's Max?"

"You mean the dead man inside the cave, the one who killed Mourka?"

"Who's Mourka?"

"The wolf, it was a female."

Dylan poked his head in. He was shocked. Several wolves stepped at him, angry and showing their sharp teeth. He took out his gun and killed another wolf. They charged at him. They jumped but Dylan press the trigger several times. "Bang! Bang! Bang!"

Sarah pulled her brother and sister into the cave. "Stay here!"

"No!" Tom said and ran away as far from the entrance as he could and then rushed directly to his home. "I'm going to call the police!"

Dylan turned his head at Tom. He was ready to run after him, but he stopped, raised his gun, and aimed the boy.

"Nooooo!" Sarah shouted. She ran and pushed Dylan.

Dylan stood up and turned at her. "You're next, you know too much." He put the finger on the trigger and aimed Sarah.

But that was the occasion for the wolves to react. Sudoku jumped on Dylan's hand and bit it. Dylan dropped the gun. Sarah kicked the gun away as the man wanted to take it to shoot the wolf. Ash jumped on Dylan's left leg and bit it. Dylan fell on the ground. "Ahhhhhhhh!"

Sudoku and Ash didn't release the limbs. Dylan looked very weak. Soot came out. It opened its jaws. The white and sharp teeth were scary. Dylan tried to escape but he was held by the two wolves.

"Kill him," Sudoku said while still holding the hand.

"No," Sarah said.

"This man is chasing and killing us. He deserves to die," Soot said.

"No, he would be arrested..."

"You know nothing little girl." Soot turned its sight at Dylan on the ground.

"Don't, don't, don't!" Ponyo said.

"Why?" Soot said.

"He has to go to jail, then he won't hurt anymore animals."

"I'm not going anywhere..." Dylan said.

"Shut up!" Sarah told him. "They can kill you right at this moment. You're the one who became the prey, not them."

"No, you shut up! I can kill you too!"

"You don't understand what it's going on now."

"Shut up!"

Soot raced to Dylan's neck while Ash bit the leg as hard as he could.

## CHAPTER 6

A police car stopped right in front of the cave. The wolves released Dylan and ran back into the cave. Two policemen got off the car, followed by Tom.

"Don't arrest the two girls, they are my sisters," he said to the policemen.

"Okay, but what about that man?" one of the policemen said.

"He wanted to kill me and my sisters, and see, he killed three wolves."

One of the policeman handcuffed Dylan while the other one looked into the cave, "Who's there?"

"His name is Max. He killed the wolf for its fur," Sarah said.

The policeman looked at her, "How do you know that? And if this is true, why the man looks dead? Who killed him?"

Sarah didn't know what to explain she was able to communicate with the wolves and speak to them. The policeman turned at Dylan, "It looks like you are a poacher, law is severe for people like you."

Dylan didn't respond, holding his bleeding wrist. His ankle was also bleeding. Soot came to Sarah.

The policeman took out his gun. "Step back, this wolf will surely hurt you!"

Sarah put her hand on Soot's head. "He won't and don't aim a wolf, he may think you are going to hurt him, and this could be dangerous for you."

"But, it's a wolf!"

Sarah didn't move. "He is friendly, more than you think. It will not hurt neither my brother nor my sister. Please, put back your gun where it's supposed to be, at your belt."

"What are you doing, kill it!" Dylan said.

The policeman was not sure but slowly, he put down his gun. He looked at Dylan. "She said the wolf won't do anything bad, and it looks like this," He stepped towards Dylan, "It seems the danger here is coming from you." He nodded to the other policeman. He opened the police car door and Dylan was obligated to get on.

"Well," the other policeman said, "Thank you for your call. You were very brave."

"What is going to happen with this man?"

"The law doesn't permit to hunt animals for their fur. It is forbidden to kill any wild animal. He's going to jail for a good time."

"And what about the other one there?" she said while pointing to the inside of the cave.

"We call the morgue to pick him up. There's nothing more to do with him."

"And the dead wolves?"

"Well, little girl, I do not know what to do with that. They are dead and this is not our responsibility to manage dead wolves." He looked at the other wolves and Soot. Sarah still had her hand on its head. "The other ones, I guess they will return to the forest, where they belong to."

Sarah glanced at Soot and the other wolves. She nodded. "Right, they will surely. Thank you for your help."

The police officers nodded at her and got on their car, driving away from the cave.

Sarah looked at Ponyo and Tom. "We still have one last thing to do." She patted Soot's head. "Go. I'll take care of Mourka and you other friends. There is nothing else you can do. Stay in the forest, this is your kingdom."

Soot raised its head. "I'll remember you. You are part of our pack."

Sarah smiled. "I appreciate this honor, Soot. You'll be in my mind from now on. Not all wolves are dangerous."

Soot, Ash, Sudoku, Asham, and the other wolves ran to the forest, away from the beach.

"What is the last thing to do, Sarah?" Ponyo asked.

## EPILOGUE

One hour later, the three kids dug a burial hole. After depositing the dead wolves, they buried them. They looked at the sea and the waves.

"They will be fine here, right above the cave," Sarah said. "The waves won't affect their bodies, but the seawind will carry their spirit all over the forest. The grass and bushes overhere will remember them their wildlife, their freedom. Mourka, and all of you, rest in peace."

THE END



Yutom Kim was 8 years old when he finished his first novella. He likes to read a lot and the books go from Geronimo Stilton, Tom Gates series, and Cat Ninja. But his favorite one is definitely DogMan from Dav Pilkey.

When he is not reading, he likes to watch Star Wars movies with his father. He is also super good at playing the piano, adore playing Lego, and disguise in pirate to make his sisters annoyed.

He likes to go to school even though it became a problem with the famous international virus.

In December 2020, Yutom began his journey in the Young Authors Club. From that moment, he became very excited to write his book. He had good ideas and was sure about what his characters were going to do and looked like. After 17 hours of writing, he accomplished his novella.

#### Excerpt

Max took the talkie. "Yea, I'm here," Max grumbled.

"Got one?"

"No, of course not, I just arrived."

"Where are you then?"

"On a beach, following footprints. They are not straight, probably it's sick." Looking at the footprints, he raised the head. 'They are leading to that cave. He smiled. "It's a question of minutes," he said and turned off the talkie. He took his gun out, checked if it was fully loaded, and put it back in his pocket. He sighed. "Let's go." He walked confidently to the cave and listened carefully. 'No sound... dead?' he thought. He stepped inside the cave. It was dirty, many spiderwebs covered the walls and the ground was filled with dry seaweeds. Further away, a wolf was laying. The animal looked at the man.

"Here you are, I've been trapping you since the early morning."