

Chapter 1

I'm proud of my characters, I'm not sure about how people will feel about there being no dialogue in two of the character's stories. I'm still working on ways to shorten the story

The white landscape lay silently below, nothing moved. The eerie silence and stillness was calming to David, so was the cold. Most people hated the cold and would hate to be in David's position and would rather be laying on a tropical beach in Costa Rica. THAT was what David couldn't stand, the air in the summer and in tropical places seemed thick and hard to move in whilst in the cold there seemed to be no resistance.

"We're landing in ten minutes, Dr. Boston!" The pilot shouted.

The air looked like a snow storm as the helicopter neared the ground. The snowflakes spun around. When it came to David's feelings about the cold they were often misread. He could feel the cold, he sometimes got really cold but he didn't mind it. David prepared to jump the two feet to the ground, the helicopter couldn't land because of the soft snow on the ground.

"Safe travels David!" the pilot yelled

"You too!" David shouted back

"On my mark!" The pilot said as she steadied the helicopter.

"3! 2! 1!"

David jumped into the snow and stayed as close to the ground as he could while the helicopter lifted back into the cloud engulfed sky.

Chapter 2

Glaze saw the shining thing in the sky. She ran at first then stared up in wonder. Her brother joined her minutes later. The shining thing was loud, louder than anything the cubs had heard in their whole lives. The thing continued moving through the sky very fast until it disappeared over the hill. About a minute later the shining thing flew over the cub's heads. They made little yells and ran head over heels back to their mother's den.

The two cubs sat in the den, too shaken up to play. Glaze talked to her brother for a while about the thing in the sky. Neither had seen anything like it before. Mother walked in shortly after, a seal clutched in her mouth. While finishing off their portion of the seal they told their mother about the flying object. She told the cubs to go to bed and they obliged without protest, but as Glaze lay her head on the ground she saw two looks on her mother's face. One she hadn't seen in a long time but she knew what it was; Fear. The second she had seen when she described the flying object but didn't know what it was. Humans call it recognition.

Chapter 3

Mother left the den and thought to herself about the story Glaze had told her last night. When she was a cub something similar had happened to her. Except that day she had seen an animal with two legs walking through the snow with fur a color that she had never seen. And used sound she had never heard before. She continued to ponder this as she roamed the ice. Then her pray was spotted. She stayed quiet in the snow as she approached. The seal looked around knowing there was something there but could see anything. Seconds later mother had lunged for the seal and landed right on top of it. After making sure there was nothing around she picked up the seal and carried it off.

She smiled, thinking about her cubs. It was the time when the sun was to one side of the sky and getting ready to vanish. She took a second to look around at her home, the snow and the ice, the ocean, the sky. These four things had raised her better than her own mother.

Mother was almost to the den when she heard a sound. It was quieter than the flying shiny thing but still a similar sound and certainly not quite. She came into view of the den when she saw one of those odd two legged creatures... walking...towards... her...cubs. She dropped the seal and let out a roar that made the creature jump and she ran toward the creature and knocked it over. Everything slowed down, Mother saw the terrified looks on her cubs faces, the pure fear in the creature's. She swung her claws at the creature's face but hit what we know as the shoulder. The creature cried out in pain and stumbled back to a colorful rock. The creature touched a part of the rock then jumped onto it and sped away into the snow.

Chapter 4

David's first hours at the center were very boring. He was mainly brought here for the study of the wild life but his research partner Ralph went out to collect the data on the snowmobile and had not yet come back. About an hour later David heard the sound of the snowmobile and waited for Ralph's cheery smile to shine in the room. But Ralph staggered in, bleeding from his shoulder.

"What happened!?" Said David.

"A... polar bear. Out of nowhere." Ralph replied out of breath.

David spent the next half an hour working on Ralph's shoulder. After Ralph calmed down he began to be more talkative.

"I'm going to have to give you two stitches" Said David with dread in his voice.

“And here I was thinking that a band-aid would help.” Laughed Ralph.
“What happened to the data?” Inquired David as he threaded the needle.
“Fell out of my hand when the bear slapped me” Said David matter-a-factly.
“Well your stitches are done, I’m going back out to get the data, it’s in that notebook right?”
“Yeah the one with the red cover- Going back out there!? Are you insane!?” yelled Ralph.
“Yeah the snowmobile may have scared the bear.” said David in a calm voice.
“Not this bear, it had a wild look in its eye. There was a reason for attacking me.” Ralph said in a forlorn voice.
“That data is 80% of our work here. I’ve got to try.” said David as he walked out the door.
The air was freezing, it was negative-10 degrees. As he started the snowmobile he pondered what was waiting for him at the notebook’s location. And with these thoughts still in his mind he drove off into the snow under the setting sun.

Chapter 5

Glaze lay in the den with her mother and brother trying to sleep but she couldn’t get that day’s encounter out of her head. The strange creature didn’t do anything. It just looked at them then started to walk away when Mother roared at it and attacked it, just before it sped away on the colorful rock. Glaze loved her Mother but she didn’t know she loved them so much, the creature looked harmless but Mother had attacked to keep them safe. She decided that if she had cubs that she would do anything for them just like her Mother.

After a while Glaze heard a sound, it was the sound of the colorful rock. Glaze was the only one awake so she was the only one hearing it. She crawled out of the den and saw a light. A strange creature seemed to be looking for something. After a minute they seemed to find it, they picked something up and exclaimed an odd sound; “Yes!”. Glaze started to wonder what it meant when her thought was cut short by her Mother and brother emerging from the den. As she saw the creature there was pure rage on her mother’s face. She knew that if the creature didn’t leave the odds of it’s survival were slim.

Chapter 6

The creature stood frozen when Mother emerged. She stood in front of her cubs, ready to charge. The snow looked like stars under her feet. The wind seemed to stand still waiting to see what would happen. Mother stamped her foot and looked right into the creature’s eyes and was confused, she didn’t see fear or confusion but something else she couldn’t describe. She still

stood guard over her cubs but took a second to consider the fact that these creatures were small and flimsy. It looked like she had badly injured the one from before so she didn't even know why she was so nervous. She slightly lowered her guard, the creature was still and avoided looking into her eyes. She stood on her hind legs and let out a roar that sent her cubs scurrying back. The creature didn't look scared, it just left on the rock very quickly. The cubs asked mother if there was something wrong she smiled at them and shook her head and ushered them back to bed.

That night Mother wondered about what had happened as she lay awake watching her cubs. She knew her mother loved her, but she knew that she loved her own cubs more than anything, it wasn't who she was raised to be, but it's who she turned out to be. She would protect her cubs from anything, no matter what it was or where it came from.

As morning drew near Mother looked out of the den to see the sun's new light sparkling off the snow and ice, sparkling off the tundra. This is her home, these are her cubs, this is her life.

Artist's statement

When thinking about the characters and story I was at a total loss of what to write about. Then the idea crossed my mind "What if some of the characters were not human". I continued to think about this idea until it was time to start writing. At that point I still had no idea what to do so I started to write. The idea of the story being in the far north was growing along with this idea too. The snapshot of when David is looking out over the landscape is how I feel when I look out over a snowy landscape and I tried to capture that wonderful feeling. I tried to build suspense when it was brought up that David is going out to retrieve the data. I was hoping that the reader was paying attention so they would know that the mother would do anything to protect her cubs. In the chapters about Glaze and Mother thoughtshots are almost the only way to write, because we do not know how to understand what bears and thinking or communicating. The way that the bear describe human objects I feel is almost essential, the story probably would be very bland if that were the case. From other writing projects in the past I know I'm not great at writing dialogue so that is where the choice to not show the bears talking came in. Although making that choice was very difficult. Because I did not know was problems it would present. Thankfully everything turned out ok and the story is better without odd dialogue or weird bear growling noises (although I did consider it). This project is my one of my favorites I've done in the past few years, I really hope there are more projects like this in the future.