

# Born to Be Wild

By: Allison Williams

I full out sprint. The snow crunches as I run. Snowflakes melt on my back, leaving me wet and cold. When my lungs start to ache I slow down the pace, I look around. I need to find a place to stay through the night. A couple bushes look decent, but not very comfortable. My eyes grow heavy as the stars get brighter and brighter. I lay down in the bushes and relax. Finally, I let go of the rest of the world for a moment, and sleep.

I awake to the loud chirpings of the birds in the tree beside me. They're singing songs for me. Beautiful songs that want to make me sad, but they can't because I am already. My sister, Nina was kidnapped . By whom, you may ask? I have no idea. All I know is that they have a huge home. It is very bright, with so many colors, I have to blink when I am looking at it. I keep going over last night again and again, but I don't know what to do.

"Come on! You know we're not supposed to be here! I don't want to get caught Nina!" I cried. She just gave me that exasperated look.

"You're such a coward," she mumbled.

"No I'm not. I just like to be safe, that's all," I retorted. I'm not a coward. I just don't want to get caught stealing food from that big house. They must be really mean, if they take up that much space.

"There's no life without risk," Nina murmured around her steak.

"Yeah, whatever. Let's just go, okay?" I paced nervously.

“K. I’m coming, no rush.” She got up and started to stand by my side to race me home. We always race. I always win. She just can’t let that go. Just then, two bright lights shined in our eyes, blinding us.

“Nina!” I shouted. Nina was moving towards the thing.

“Come back!” I shrieked at the top of my lungs. My throat was burning so much my eyes started to water. Then I heard a door open and a huge thing get out and grab Nina. I tried to see what it was, who it was, but they threw Nina in and drove away. For a while I followed that car, hoping to rescue Nina. But I was so confused, tired, and hungry that I just gave up. I wonder if she is still alive. I wish she was, but I don’t think she is.

I think she’s in that house, sometimes, not always. Nina could be anywhere by now. I shouldn’t have given up. I rested my head against the tree and closed my eyes. I imagined me saving Nina, and us racing again. If I could just have her back, I would let her win the race. Every time. But right now, I’m starving, so I need to hunt. Hunting is the worst thing for me. I don’t like having to catch my food, I usually just steal. But since Nina disappeared I am not taking any chances. I look around, and use my excellent sense of smell to find my prey, a rabbit.

After two whole weeks of searching the woods for Nina and building my new home, I have only two places left to check for Nina. If she isn’t in either, then I have to move on. Just thinking about leaving poor Nina behind makes me feel sick to my stomach. First place to check is the road.

The sky was darkening, so I knew that now was the time to go check the road for those mysterious two lights that I saw when Nina was taken away. I was shivering from the intense cold. Most of the snow was gone, but white patches still remained. When I got to the road, I made sure not to touch it. I could get hit by a machine, or taken, like Nina. I curled into a ball and waited.

After a long while two lights appeared, as usual. They were getting closer and closer. When the light was the brightest and a little past me, it paused. Something put down the glass on the ugly machine. They looked down at me, shadows concealed their face. I think there are two of them, whispering to each other.

“Look I found something...” I think the man nearest to me said. It was hard to understand them, but I leaned in to hear more.

“What is it?” The other said.

“I can’t see far enough... maybe a deer or a cat... I really don’t know.” He didn’t seem to think I was worth looking at. So the glass went back into place and the two lights disappeared. She’s not here. I want her to be! My eyelids drooped so I hid in the tall grass and slept.

Today, I’m going to attempt to go into the big house, for Nina. I would never do this otherwise. It’s pure sacrifice. The day is bizarrely warm with a yellow sun casting heat waves on my back. I open my mouth and take in huge breaths, of that crispy air. The trees are starting to grow back their leaves, live again. Trees are beautiful. I got up to race to the entry. I had to try to be cute, not scary. This is going to be hard. When I got there, I curled up on the small pavement and waited for a long time. Eventually someone saw me.

The little girl opened the door to play outside, but saw me. A huge smile lit up her face. She looked so weird! No fur! Her whole body was bare except for the blonde fur that came out of her head. This is creepy. My instincts are telling me to ditch this place, but I have to be brave for Nina.

“Mommy! Another one is here!” The little girl shouted in a heavily accented voice. She was hard to understand. A bigger one came, to answer her call She was holding a ... rope. Attached to it was ... Nina! I started to call her name; she looked at me and smiled. But something was off about her; she was bigger for one thing. And tame, not reckless. Something is wrong.

“He is a little puppy, very cute,” She clasped her hands together in pure happiness.

“Let’s get him some food.” The bigger creature said. My muscles tensed waiting for the attack.

“Can we keep him, please?” She begged.

“Yeah, but call daddy and make sure.”

“Yes!” The little one cried.

The big one picked me up and took me in where I know I will spend the rest of my life. I know I will never be wild again, I will be tame. And the worst part is, that I will be brainwashed, just like Nina. But eventually, this palace will seem like heaven and the creatures inside it will seem like gods. I won’t miss being wild in my brain, but I will always miss it, in my heart.