

A Girl and Her Wolf  
by  
Andrew Morrison

Running time: approx. 40 min.

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CHARACTER NAME	BRIEF DESCRIPTION	AGE	GENDER
Jeremiah Hope	Trapper	35-45	Male
Nikayla	Wolf	14-17	Female
Timothy Hope	Jeremiah's son	15-18	Male
Tanya Hope	Jeremiah's daughter	14-17	Female
Christina Malbright	Timothy's girlfriend	15-18	Female
Mrs. Garrett	High school teacher	50-65	Female
Officer	Animal control officer	50-65	Female/Male

\*Note that one person may play Mrs. Garrett and the officer.

EXT. FOREST - NIGHT

There is the snap of a trap.

LIGHTS DIM.

A trapper, Jeremiah Hope, comes in with a head lamp and checks the trap.

JEREMIAH

Yes!

Jeremiah leaves. We see the harsh beam of headlights and hear the growl of a truck engine. The trapper takes the trap off.

JEREMIAH

Christ, you're heavy!

Exit.

The truck leaves as the lights fade.

BLACKOUT.

INT. HOUSE - MORNING

LIGHTS UP ON:

The wolf cage. The wolf is whining. Jeremiah enters.  
The wolf snarls. Jeremiah picks up a boot and throws it at  
the wolf.

JEREMIAH

Shut up!

He dials his landline.

JEREMIAH

Hello? Yes... yes, is this...

(he picks up a sticky note)

Er... Natures Taxidermy? Yes? Perfect. My name is Jeremiah Hope and I have some  
taxidermy work that I would like done. Yes, the entire animal. It's a wolf; how much will  
that run me? I would say about four feet long. Six hundred? Is there any way you could  
do five hundred? No? Right. Six hundred will be fine. Can you do an action pose? An  
extra hundred? Fine, fine. And when can I take it in to be put down? Yes, it's still alive.  
What? What do you mean you don't do that? What do you mean legal implications? An  
animal shelter? An animal shelter will put down the wolf? Isn't that against their "calling"  
or whatever? Oh, there's a veterinary clinic on the other side of town; that's very helpful.  
Christ, I'll just figure it out.

(he hangs up the phone and looks at the wolf)

What do I do with you?

(he goes to the table and takes a swig of  
bourbon)

Taxidermy.

(he turns to the wolf)

Can you believe a taxidermy office wouldn't put you down.

Timothy Hope and Tanya Hope enter.

JEREMIAH

(he takes another swig)

I mean, it's not like they have something against killing you. They're willing to stuff you  
for Chrissakes. Geez, guess I'll just have to put you down myself.

(he grabs his gun and aims it at the wolf, but lowers it)

Don't look at me like that. It's not as if I have much of a choice.

(he raises the gun and the wolf growls)

I'm sorry.

TIMOTHY

What are you doing?

JEREMIAH

Oh, kids. I didn't realize you were here.

TIMOTHY

Were you talking to that wolf?

JEREMIAH

What? Oh, um no. I was... er... I was talking to... talking to myself.

TIMOTHY

Okay.

He and Tanya cross to the wolf.

JEREMIAH

What are you doing? That's a dangerous animal!

TANYA

Why did you bring a live wolf here?

JEREMIAH

I... er... I didn't have time to kill it.

She puts her hand through the bars.

JEREMIAH

It'll bite off your fingers, Tan!

TANYA

It's okay, I'm good with animals.

The wolf cowers.

TANYA  
Come on. I won't hurt you.

The wolf cowers in one corner of the cage

TANYA  
Come on.

(to Jeremiah)  
What's her name?

JEREMIAH  
Name? What? No.

(picking up his gun)  
I was just about to shoot her-- it.

The wolf snarls and Tanya jumps.

TIMOTHY  
I don't think it likes the gun, dad.

TANYA  
I don't think *she* likes the gun.

TIMOTHY  
How can you tell?

TANYA  
I just have a feeling.

JEREMIAH  
Just don't name it; we have to kill it.

TANYA  
What? You can't!

JEREMIAH  
(raising the gun)  
I'm sorry Tan.

TANYA  
(in front of the gun)  
No! I won't let you!

JEREMIAH

(lowers it)

Fine. Just don't name it; it'll have to go sometime.

TANYA

I'll call her... Nikayla. How are you, Nikayla? How are you?

JEREMIAH

And there she goes. Wait, don't open the...

(Tanya opens the cage)

... cage.

Nikayla streaks to the corner.

TANYA

Look, she's scared.

(to Jeremiah)

Why did you have to start waving that gun around? It's horrible what you do to animals; killing them for sport and keeping their corpses as trophies!

JEREMIAH

Tanya...

TIMOTHY

What if we kept it, dad?

JEREMIAH

What?

TIMOTHY

You know, just for a little while.

JEREMIAH

What? No! It's a dangerous animal.

TANYA

Can we dad? Please, please, please, please, please?

JEREMIAH

Fine. Just keep it on a rope outside. I don't want it destroying the house.

TANYA

Yes!

(she hugs her dad)

Thank you, thank you, thank you!

JEREMIAH

Just don't get too attached. It'll probably run away. Tie it up outside and go to school.

Jeremiah and Timothy exit.

TANYA

(to Nikayla)

You wouldn't run away, would you; even if you weren't attached to a rope?

(she looks around for a rope and grabs one  
off of the coffee table)

Here we are. Here, Nikayla. Come here, girl.

(Nikayla doesn't move)

Hang on.

Tanya exits, dropping the rope. Nikayla slowly creeps to the rope and sniffs it. Tanya reenters with a strip of bacon and Nikayla streaks back to the corner.

TANYA

(holding out the bacon)

Nikayla, I've got a nice, yummy piece of bacon for you. Come on.

Ever so slowly, Nikayla creeps toward the bacon. After a few seconds hesitation, she snatches the bacon with her mouth and retreats to her corner. Tanya gets another piece of bacon. Nikayla again snatches it, but doesn't run away.

TANYA

(petting Nikayla)

There, you see? Not everyone wants to put you in a trap.

(she tries to get one of Nikayla's paws off of  
the rope)

Fingers?

Timothy enters with his girlfriend, Christina Malbright.

TIMOTHY

(to Christina)

No, seriously, Dad brought home a wolf and is going to let her keep it.

Christina sees Nikayla and shrieks as Nikayla darts back  
to her corner.

CHRISTINA

A wolf? A real wolf? I thought you were joking?

The phone rings.

TANYA

Her name's Nikayla.

CHRISTINA

Oh? It has a name too? What other killer animals does your dad bring home? Do you  
keep a T-Rex in the back room, or something?

TIMOTHY

No, no. Christina, meet my sister, Tanya.

Tanya gets up to shake Christina's hand, but Christina  
turns to Timothy.

The phone stops ringing.

CHRISTINA

Well, I'm glad to see your sister has a thing for wild animals.

TANYA

She's not an animal! She's human!

CHRISTINA

(malicious)

And I'm a snake.

TANYA

(quietly)

You said it, not me.

CHRISTINA

(to Timothy)

Timmy, can't we just go bowling, or something.

JEREMIAH (OFF STAGE)

Timothy Dexter Hope!

Jeremiah storms in.

TIMOTHY

Oh, boy.

JEREMIAH

(to Tanya)

Go to school, Tanya.

Tanya quietly takes Nikayla off with her.

JEREMIAH

Do you know where I've just been?

TIMOTHY

The bathroom?

Christina giggles.

JEREMIAH

I've just been on the phone with your teacher, Mrs. Garrett. She told me you've been skipping school for the past week, and I hope you weren't planning on skipping today?

TIMOTHY

No, sir.

JEREMIAH

Good. In that case, I'll only ground you for a month.

Christina sneezes. Jeremiah turns on her.

JEREMIAH

Have you been skipping school as well?

CHRISTINA

No.

JEREMIAH

Get out.

Christina hides.

JEREMIAH

I can't believe you, Timothy. Skipping school? You used to be a straight A student; and now you're getting D's? Ever since you started dating this Christina girl, your grades have been slipping.

TIMOTHY

Christina's got nothing to do with it, dad.

JEREMIAH

Oh really? Then why did I just find the two of you in here practically smooching?

TIMOTHY

We weren't smooching!

JEREMIAH

If it's not because of her, why are you getting these horrible grades?

TIMOTHY

School's too easy! It's just a bunch of stupid rules that lead you to the same thing again and again; and I'm sick of it!

JEREMIAH

Then why don't you get the same answers again and again? If it's so easy, show me!

TIMOTHY

I just need more of a challenge in order not to fall asleep at my desk.

JEREMIAH

Oh? Should I have pushed you up a grade? Would you have done better then?

TIMOTHY

No.

JEREMIAH

Why not?

TIMOTHY

Because it's all the same bullshit rules!

JEREMIAH

Don't swear.

The phone rings.

TIMOTHY

I'll fucking swear whenever I want!

JEREMIAH

I'm going to answer that, and we'll continue this conversation later.

TIMOTHY

The fuck we will!

JEREMIAH

Jesus Christ, kid; we need to hash this out!

(to the phone)

I'm fucking coming!

(into the phone)

What? Oh, sorry, Mrs. Garrett. What? Wait, slow down. What happened? What about Tanya? What? No, don't hang-- up.

(he puts the phone down collapses on the couch)

Shit.

TIMOTHY

Who was it?

JEREMIAH

Your teacher. She's coming over.

TIMOTHY

What? Now you're getting her involved? This is just... God!

JEREMIAH

No. It's something to do with Tanya and the wolf she took to school.

TIMOTHY

(stifling a laugh)

What?

JEREMIAH

(with a sigh)

I know.

TIMOTHY

Kind of makes skipping school seem insignificant, doesn't it?

JEREMIAH

(angrily)

Nice try. We'll get to you later.

Christina sneezes.

JEREMIAH

Who's there?

Christina appears.

CHRISTINA

What? This isn't homeroom!

JEREMIAH

(rising from the couch)

Sit.

She sits on the couch. The doorbell rings.

JEREMIAH

Get the door, Timothy.

He goes to answer the door.

JEREMIAH

How much of that did you hear?

CHRISTINA

All of it.

JEREMIAH

(running his hands through his hair)

Christ... I've got to call your parents.

Mrs. Garrett enters looking like she flew there on a broomstick.

MRS. GARRETT

Out of my way, Tommy! In all my years of being a teacher...

JEREMIAH

How much trouble is Tanya in?

MRS. GARRETT

Oh, Tasha's in trouble all right. Big doo-doo.

JEREMIAH

What happened?

MRS. GARRETT

She came into my sanctuary of intelligence and learning with her-- *animal*-- and it tore the place apart! In all my years of teaching students... Little Frankie Fishburn had to be flown to the hospital and checked for rabies. And now I'm sure the parents are going to sue the school for all it's worth. We didn't have all that much to start with. Curse your devil child and that demented dog!

JEREMIAH

Wolf.

MRS. GARRETT

Whatever!

(sees Timothy)

And you, Tyler! Where have you been for the past week?

TIMOTHY

It's Timothy.

MRS. GARRETT

Don't you talk back to me, young man. Skipping school is not tolerated at Forks High.

Tanya enters with Nikayla. Nikayla jumps on Mrs. Garrett and Tanya pulls her off.

MRS. GARRETT

Wolves! They should all be destroyed! What made you think it would be a good idea to bring a wolf to school?

TANYA

She's not a wolf! She's human!

MRS. GARRETT

A werewolf? What will be next? A vampire?

She storms out. There is a pause.

CHRISTINA

Am I invisible?

TANYA

Nikayla, we don't try to eat our teachers, do we?

TIMOTHY

Our teachers?

TANYA

Yes. You and me. And Nikayla.

JEREMIAH

Tan.

(he goes over to her and Nikayla)

This wolf... it was a bad idea. I thought that you would just keep it outside. I had no idea that you would bring it to school, and I take some of the blame for that. But I just can't let you keep a wolf.

TANYA

But--

JEREMIAH

No. I know you're against hunting and killing, so I'm just going to take the wolf and set it free.

TANYA

(crying)

But dad--

He takes Nikayla from her.

JEREMIAH

I'm sorry, Tan.

He exits. Timothy and Christina exit. Tanya is left,  
crying, on stage.

BLACKOUT.

EXT. FOREST - DAY

LIGHTS UP.

Jeremiah enters with Nikayla on a leash.

JEREMIAH

Come on, wolf.

He ties Nikayla to a tree.

JEREMIAH

I'm sorry about this; I really am, but I can't have you trying to kill people at my daughter's school. Don't look at me like that. This wasn't my choice. I didn't force you to go ruin that teacher's day; you did that. Of course, Tanya was the one to drag you to school with her in the first place.

(he sits next to Nikayla)

I don't know; maybe this all could have been avoided. If Tanya hadn't taken you to school... If I hadn't brought you home... You would have looked good next to my moose.

(Nikayla growls)

Okay; sorry.

(he gets up and grabs his shotgun)

It's just that I don't know what to do. On the one hand, I can't bring you home. I can't let you live with my family. I guess I could stuff you and then bring you home.

(Nikayla growls)

All right, fine; I won't talk about it anymore. On the other hand, I can't just set you free. You might come back, and then where would we be? We'd be stuck in this same situation; me talking to a wolf, an animals, who has no right to be helping me make decisions about its life.

(he raises the gun)

I'm the one with the gun. I'm the one with all the power. I can do whatever the hell I like and be damned whatever you think. You probably can't even think; you stupid animal.

(she pulls the rope loose and starts to exit)

Stay still. Stay still so I can shoot you!

NIKAYLA

No!

She freezes. Jeremiah falls backward in shock. After a few seconds, Nikayla exits. Tanya enters.

TANYA

Nikayla! Nikayla!

(she sees the gun and puts her hand to her mouth in shock)

You didn't...

JEREMIAH

I... I... It... It spoke, and I... I fell.

TANYA

(not surprised)

See? Which way did she go?

(Jeremiah points)

Nikayla!

She exits.

BLACKOUT.

EXT. FOREST - DAY

LIGHTS UP ON:

Nikayla is crying under a tree; trying to figure out why she can suddenly talk. “No” is the only word she knows how to say, so this is a bit of improv with that and keeping the audience engaged. Tanya enters.

TANYA

Nikayla! Nikayla!

Nikayla hears Tanya and hides.

TANYA

Where is she? Nikayla!

She exits. Nikayla creeps into the light. Tanya reenters.

TANYA

Nikayla, there you are.

NIKAYLA

No!

TANYA

Nikayla, talk to me.

NIKAYLA

No.

TANYA

Are you scared?

NIKAYLA

No.

TANYA

I always knew you were special.

(she waits for Nikayla to respond)

I knew from the first time I saw your hands.

(no response)

Nikayla, talk to me. Tell me what’s going on. I can help.

NIKAYLA

No.

A thought hits Tanya.

TANYA

You can't say anything but "no", can you?

NIKAYLA

No.

TANYA

But you understand what I'm saying?

(Nikayla looks at her)

Right. You can only say "no". That's going to make talking to you tough.

(she gathers her thoughts)

I know... I mean... It's not always easy, getting along with my dad; especially when he has a gun pointed at your face. The thing is... He views you as... an animal. Something to be caught. Locked away until he can kill you, stuff you, and put you in his house for everyone to marvel at. That's not how I view you; it's not how anyone should view you. They should see you as one of nature's wonders and love you and cherish you and not kill you for sport or a trophy.

(getting up)

I mean; what kind of trophy is that? "Here, let me put this dead animal's carcass on display so everyone can see how awesome I am!" It's sick! It's like; if people did that to each other, there would be riots. No one would want to come see-- I don't know-- Christina stuffed and on display. Of course, no one wants to see Christina anyway, but you understand what I mean. Killing animals would be less awful if they used everything, but they don't. They just throw away the parts that make you you and me me and throw them in the garbage to rot and decay in some landfill in Nebraska while everyone goes about their daily lives and plays in a park they have no idea was built on top of the graves of countless animals.

(catching herself)

Sorry. I just get worked up about this stuff. It's something I care about.

NIKAYLA

(in a soothing tone)

No.

TANYA

I know. It's all okay. You're here and he's... somewhere else.

(pause)

What if I teach you to read? Would you like that?

NIKAYLA

(excited)

No!

TANYA

Okay!

(unzipping her backpack)

I have a book in here somewhere. Here it is. Ready?

(Nikayla nods)

Here goes.

LIGHTS FADE.

TANYA

Mr. and Mrs. Dursley, of number four, Privet Drive, were proud to say that they were perfectly normal, thank you very much. They were the last people you'd expect to be involved in anything strange or mysterious, because they just didn't hold with such nonsense.

BLACKOUT.

INT. HOUSE - EVENING

LIGHTS UP.

Nikayla and Tanya enter, talking.

TANYA

We only have one more chapter left; “The Man with Two Faces” and then we’re done.

NIKAYLA

That is all?

TANYA

Yes. That is all.

NIKAYLA

What happen?

TANYA

“Happens”. “What happens”; and I’m not going to tell you. We’ll just have to read more tonight.

NIKAYLA

You will not tell me?

TANYA

No.

Nikayla growls.

TANYA

(stern)

Nikayla. We’ll read more in a bit, okay? Just let me brush my teeth.

Tanya exits. Nikayla curls up on the couch and picks at her fang. Timothy enters.

NIKAYLA

Hello, wizard.

Timothy freezes.

TIMOTHY

Tanya!

Tanya enters, brushing her teeth.

TANYA

What?

TIMOTHY

Why is the wolf calling me a wizard?

TANYA

(giggles)

Oh. Well, we're reading a book about magic, so she thinks girls are witches and boys are wizards.

TIMOTHY

Okay. Assuming that's completely normal; why is the wolf talking?

TANYA

Nikayla, silly! She's got a name.

TIMOTHY

Right.

Timothy exits. Tanya goes over to Nikayla and gets out her book.

TANYA

Let's read this last chapter.

NIKAYLA

Chapter one-- seventeen?

(Tanya nods)

The man with two faces. I-- It was...

JEREMIAH

What is this BS you're telling me about the wolf talking?

He sees Nikayla reading and pauses.

NIKAYLA

Hello, wizard.

JEREMIAH

Tan, would you mind telling me what's going on.

TANYA

I'm teaching Nikayla to talk.

JEREMIAH

Right.

(he turns to Timothy)

You heard that, right? You heard the wolf call me a wizard?

TIMOTHY

Apparently she thinks boys are wizards.

JEREMIAH

I see. And you do hear it talking, right?

TIMOTHY

I know. I don't know how Tanya's so good at ventriloquism.

TANYA

No. That's Nikayla.

TIMOTHY

Right.

NIKAYLA

What is v-- ventri--

TANYA

Ventriloquism? It's when I talk without moving my mouth. Like this. See?

NIKAYLA

(trying it)

Like this?

TANYA

That's good!

JEREMIAH

Tanya? Tanya, Tanya, Tanya. Uh... so, I wasn't hallucinating back in the forest?

Tanya shakes her head.



CHRISTINA

Timothy!

She runs off. Pause.

TANYA

Anyway, I should probably get you cleaned up now that all these people are here.

(Nikayla goes to lick herself clean)

Not that way! Have you ever taken a bath?

NIKAYLA

Bath?

They exit.

BLACKOUT.

INT. HOUSE - MORNING

LIGHTS UP ON:

Timothy and Christina are talking about the night before.

CHRISTINA

... and she came up to me, like this, and she just starts growling. It was a nightmare. Your sister didn't even try to help; it was like she wanted the wolf to eat me.

TIMOTHY

It didn't do that to me.

CHRISTINA

She probably told that filthy animal to do it. She's never liked me at all.

TIMOTHY

But to go as far as telling it to kill you?

CHRISTINA

I don't know what that little brat thinks.

TIMOTHY

Hey, that's my sister.

CHRISTINA

Whatever.

JEREMIAH (OFF STAGE)

Kids! Breakfast is ready!

TIMOTHY

Coming!

(to Christina)

Go on. I'll get Tanya.

Christina exits.

TIMOTHY

Tanya! Dad says it's time for dinner!

TANYA (OFF STAGE)

Hold on a minute!

(pause)

I'm coming!

Tanya enters.

TANYA

Nikayla's almost down. She's just a bit nervous.

TIMOTHY

That *thing* is not eating anywhere near me and my girlfriend.

TANYA

Dad? Can Nikayla eat with us?

JEREMIAH (OFF STAGE)

Whatever you want, Tan!

TANYA

(smirks)

See?

She exits. Timothy flips her the bird. Nikayla enters.

NIKAYLA

Tanya? Where is the great...

(she sees Timothy)

... hall?

Timothy sees her. There is an awkward silence.

NIKAYLA

Hi.

TIMOTHY

Hi.

There is a pause.

NIKAYLA

Hi.

Hi. TIMOTHY

Tanya reenters.

Nikayla! You look so pretty! TANYA

Thank you, Tanya. NIKAYLA

Nikayla walks toward Timothy.

Doesn't she look pretty, Tim? TANYA

TIMOTHY

(startled)

What? Oh, yeah. Very... attractive-- I mean, pretty.

TANYA

Timothy? (slyly)

I mean... TIMOTHY

You look well. (to Nikayla)

Thank you, wizard. NIKAYLA

TIMOTHY

(extending his hand)

Timothy. Call me Timothy. Timothy, or Tim, or Timmy; as long as you call me, really, I'll answer.

He turns away, horrified with himself. There is a pause.

TANYA

I think someone has a little crush.

TIMOTHY

(quickly)

No! I mean...

(leaning on the couch)

... no.

Christina enters.

CHRISTINA

Timothy, come on.

(she sees Nikayla)

Why is that *thing* standing?

TANYA

(to Christina, annoyed)

Nikayla!

NIKAYLA

Hello, witch.

CHRISTINA

(overly angry)

Witch?

(advancing toward her)

I'll show you who's a witch.

TIMOTHY

(holding her back)

No. She just thinks all girls are witches, it's fine.

CHRISTINA

A sexist witch bitch?

TANYA

Don't call her that!

CHRISTINA

I'll call her whatever I damn well please!

NIKAYLA

Bitch?

TANYA

I'll tell you later.

CHRISTINA

Get off, Tim!

(she rips free and advances on Nikayla)

You! Go back to your dog pack, you little piece of shit!

Nikayla pounces on her.

TANYA

Nikayla, no!

TIMOTHY

No!

They pull her off of Christina. Christina pulls into Timothy.

TANYA

Nikayla! What are you doing?

Nikayla looks shocked with herself.

CHRISTINA

That animal!

Timothy and Christina exit. Jeremiah enters.

JEREMIAH

What's going on? I heard a noise.

Nikayla runs off.

JEREMIAH

Was that the wolf?

TANYA

(angrily)

Nikayla, dad.

She runs off after Nikayla.

JEREMIAH

Tanya!

He runs off.

BLACKOUT.

EXT. FOREST - MORNING

LIGHTS UP ON:

Nikayla under a tree, crying and talking to herself. Tanya enters.

TANYA

(relieved)

Nikayla!

NIKAYLA

Go away!

Pause.

TANYA

Nikayla, I want to help you.

NIKAYLA

No! You should never have brought me back. Why did you bring me back? The old wizard is right. I am a dangerous animal.

TANYA

You just made a mistake.

NIKAYLA

No. I felt this... feeling... in my chest. There was a voice in my head telling me to hurt her; to shut her up. I didn't want to hurt her.

TANYA

You didn't. She just got a bit shaken up.

NIKAYLA

But I almost did.

TANYA

But you didn't. That voice in your head; it's called a conscience. It tells you what is right and what is wrong.

NIKAYLA

But it told me to hurt her. That is wrong.

TANYA

Yes, it is wrong. Sometimes I want to hurt her too, but I have to block out that voice and listen to the one telling me that it is wrong to want to hurt an animal or a human being.

NIKAYLA

But I am an animal and your father wanted to hurt me.

TANYA

You're not an animal; you're human. It's not what you look like that makes you who you are; it's what you think and what you feel.

NIKAYLA

Why did he want to hurt me?

TANYA

Because he sees you as worthless. He sees you as being a trophy that he can stuff and put in his living room next to his moose.

NIKAYLA

My pack eat moose. Is that wrong?

TANYA

No. No, it's natural. They're animals and need to live off of other animals. They need it for strength, but my dad's different. He just wants a trophy.

NIKAYLA

I am not a trophy.

TANYA

No, you're not, but he doesn't understand that. He thinks that you evolved for that purpose; to be hunted and killed; to be a trophy for his friends to marvel at. He thinks that his self-worth is measured by the number of different animals he can kill and stuff, but that's not true. He could be so much more than he is; but he only cares about the trophies.

NIKAYLA

I don't want to go back.

TANYA

Why not?

NIKAYLA

I don't want to be stuffed and turned into a trophy.

TANYA

You won't be. I won't let him hurt you.

Pause.

NIKAYLA

I was so scared the night he took me away.

TANYA

What happened?

NIKAYLA

I was hunting. It was my first hunt. The sky was on fire. I remember running through the leaves and trees; the sun creating patterns on the ground and through the air. It was raining the day before and the ground was still damp. We were chasing a moose that had broken off from the rest. It was a huge animal; it would have fed us for days. I remember my heart pounding along with my feet, the hot breath of my brothers and sisters beside me.

(she smiles and pauses)

I looked at him beside me; at his fierce gaze, staring straight ahead, never blinking. He was my idol. I wanted to be exactly like him.

(her smile fading)

But then I ran into the cold, hard metal of your father's trap. I heard the trap slam shut as I felt the wet, slippery meat beneath my feet. I slammed against the bars of my prison and called out to my brothers, but they didn't turn back.

(sadly)

I still remember their barks of delight as they ran off.

(pause)

The night came and the air froze. I must have been laying against the metal for hours before I saw lights and heard a rumble. I was cold and thirsty and tired. I wanted to just lie there and die, but your father put me in the metal beast and took me home.

(closing her eyes)

It was warm there and there was no wind. I was uncomfortable on the hard, metal floor and I could not sleep.

Enter Jeremiah.

NIKAYLA

I remember watching the sun rise through a window before your father came in. He threw a shoe at me and called someone. He sounded angry when he put the phone down. He told me he had to put me down. He pointed his long, metal stick at me. He told me he was going to kill me ,and Timothy saved me.

(a dreamy expression comes over her that she  
shakes off)

Then I saw you. I was scared of you. Then you set me free. You gave me food. You took me to your school, but I was scared. I didn't want to hurt anybody; I just wanted to be left alone. You took me home, and your professor was there. I am sorry for attacking her, but she was so rude. Your father took me away from you. He took me here to shoot me. He called me a stupid animal. A feeling came over me and I let out a bark that I had never let out before. Your father fell backwards and I ran.

JEREMIAH

You scared me.

Nikayla and Tanya jump.

JEREMIAH

I had never heard an animal speak before; I didn't know it could happen. After Tan ran off after you, I tried finding her. I thought the worst had happened and you... But Tim called me and told me that Tanya had made it home with you. That she was safe.

(he walks to Nikayla)

Thank you for keeping my daughter safe.

They hug.

TANYA

And the hunter becomes a good man.

JEREMIAH

What, Tan?

TANYA

Nothing.

NIKAYLA

Can I stay with you?

JEREMIAH

Of course.

NIKAYLA

I'm not a dangerous animal?

JEREMIAH

No. You're just an inexperienced wolf-- human.

Tanya hugs them both.

TANYA

I love you guys.

JEREMIAH

I love you too, Tan.

NIKAYLA

You are a bit like Dumbledore; do you know that?

JEREMIAH

How so?

NIKAYLA

He is a wizard that seems tough, but he is really a good wizard.

JEREMIAH

Am I a good wizard?

NIKAYLA

I think so.

Enter Timothy.

TIMOTHY

Nikayla!

(he hugs her)

I'm so sorry about Christina. I dumped her. She's so mean, I realize that now.

NIKAYLA

(confused)

You dumped her?

TIMOTHY

Let her go. I love you, Nikayla.

NIKAYLA

Oh.

TANYA

That's great, Tim!

TIMOTHY

Yeah, I guess we just kind of grew apart.

Christina enters.

CHRISTINA

Timmy! Wait!

(she throws her arms around him)

Timmy, I really, really, really love you. I need you. You need me.

There is a pause as Timothy looks at her.

CHRISTINA

You do need me, don't you?

TIMOTHY

No. Not anymore.

CHRISTINA

But... you love me, don't you?

(he breaks away)

Timmy, talk to me.

Timothy looks at Nikayla. Christina understands immediately.

CHRISTINA

That bitch? That... that animal?

(hitting him)

She's not even human, you dickwad!

TANYA

She is. She just lived with wolves for so long she acts like one.

CHRISTINA

(glaring at Tanya)

She acts like one? No, honey, she is one.

TANYA

No!

TIMOTHY

No!

NIKAYLA

She's right.

TANYA

What?

TIMOTHY

What?

CHRISTINA

Thank you.

NIKAYLA

I guess I lived with wolves for so long that I became one.

TANYA

But, Nikayla, wolves can't talk.

NIKAYLA

I know. It is just, before... before I came here I was. I was a wolf. I had never known anything else. I had never wanted to be anything else.

TANYA

But you are. You're a human.

NIKAYLA

How can you know that? I can talk. I have hands and feet. I can think for myself; I can feel real human feelings, but remember what you told me about my conscience?

TANYA

That it tells you right from wrong.

NIKAYLA

Yes. You told me that. But it does not.

(she turns to Christina)

Remember back at home? I wanted to hurt you. I wanted to rip your throat out for saying those awful things. I still want to, but I know it is wrong.

(Jeremiah exits as she turns back to Tanya)

When you set me free and realized what I really was, you were wrong. I have fingers and toes and thoughts, but I am not a witch. I am just a wolf.

TANYA

No, Nikayla, you're not. You grew up with wolves; you're not a wolf. You just need time away from them in order to act like us.

NIKAYLA

But I would be acting. I wouldn't really be a part of your pack.

TANYA

"Family". You would be a part of our family. Wolves live together in packs. They don't have the same connection as us. We help each other up when we fall down. We feel together. We cry together. We don't leave our family behind in a cage. We stick together.

There is a pause as Nikayla looks horrified and Tanya realizes her mistake.

NIKAYLA

They? They don't have the same connection as us?

TANYA

I didn't mean it like that.

NIKAYLA

They are my pack. We have more of a connection than you do. My mother gives me baths every day. My father takes care of all of us and gives us food. My brothers and sisters take care of me. We take care of each other. We do not hurt each other.

TANYA

But they left you behind. We would never do that.

NIKAYLA

My sisters and brothers made a mistake. Do humans not make mistakes?

TANYA

We do, but--

NIKAYLA

(indicating Christina)

Look at this witch. She has hurt me. She will continue to hurt me. That is wrong.

(indicating Timothy)

Look at this wizard. He has hurt his witch. He will continue to hurt her. That is wrong.

(to Tanya)

Wolves and humans both make mistakes. Wolves do not hurt wolves. I am a wolf. I am an animal. I am proud of it. We stick together no matter what happens. Humans do not.

TANYA

Nikayla, what are you saying?

NIKAYLA

I am telling you that I want to leave. I will find my pack and I will live with them. We will take care of each other forever.

TANYA

Nikayla, don't leave!

TIMOTHY

(running to Nikayla and throwing his arms  
around her)

Nikayla, I love you!

CHRISTINA

(running toward her)

Oh no you don't you fucking dog!

Nikayla's instinct takes over and she pounces.

TANYA

Nikayla, no!

Tanya tries to pull her off of Christina as Timothy stares, horrified. Nikayla, completely taken over by instinct and rage, turns on Tanya. Christina grabs timothy as Tanya screams and tries to bring Nikayla back to her senses. A shot cracks through the air and Nikayla becomes limp. Tanya rolls Nikayla off of her.

TANYA

(crying)

Nikayla! Nikayla!

Jeremiah enters with a gun.

TANYA

What did you do?

(running over to him and hitting him wildly)

You brought a gun? Why? I could have brought her back! I could have brought her back!

She falls, sobbing, into his arms.

JEREMIAH

I couldn't let her hurt you.

(to Timothy)

I called animal control. I brought my gun just in case. I had hoped this wouldn't happen.

(shushing Tanya)

It's going to be all right.

There are is a long moment while everybody lets the situation sink in. The animal control officer enters.

OFFICER

Okay! So where is this wo-- oh my god!

Everybody stares at her.

OFFICER

Who shot the wolf?

JEREMIAH

(raising his hand)

I did.

OFFICER

Wow! Well, good for you. These things are notoriously hard to find; let alone kill.

TANYA

She was my friend!

OFFICER

Friend? Oh, no. Honey, wolves are beautiful, dangerous creatures that should be left alone.

TANYA

You don't understand. She wasn't a wolf. She was human. She could talk and everything.

OFFICER

I'm sure she could.

JEREMIAH

It's true, officer. She was a little girl. I guess she had lived with wolves for so long that she, sort of, became one; and forgot her humanity.

Pause.

OFFICER

Well, I've never heard of that before.

After a moment.

JEREMIAH

Well, there's the wolf if you want it.

The officer goes over to the dead wolf and starts to drag it off.

TANYA

(struggling with the wolf)

No!

The officer pulls the wolf off.

JEREMIAH

Well, I guess it's time for school.

(all except Tanya start to exit and Jeremiah turns back)

Tanya?

After a beat he exits. Tanya sinks to her knees, crying. After a few moments, the officer reenters with a wolf fang. She crosses to Tanya as if to say something. After a moment's hesitation, the officer hands her the fang and exits. A few beats as Tanya clutches the fang.

BLACKOUT.

INT. STAGE - ANYTIME

LIGHTS UP.

TANYA

We've all heard the stories. A woman will break up with her boyfriend.

OFFICER

He'll stick her dog in the oven.

JEREMIAH

Or her cat in the microwave.

TIMOTHY

In 2009, A female pitbull terrier named Phoenix was doused in gasoline and set on fire.

OFFICER

A policewoman on her daily patrol noticed the burning dog and put her out.

CHRISTINA

Phoenix was sent to a veterinary clinic in southwest Baltimore.

TANYA

She could not be saved and had to be euthanized.

JEREMIAH

Why are these animals tortured?

OFFICER

Forced to endure pain that no animal should need to go through?

TANYA

Because I was bored.

CHRISTINA

Because I had nothing else to do.

TIMOTHY

Because I wanted revenge.

NIKAYLA

Humanity views animals as a disposable product of nature. Something that interferes with us and our way of life.

TANYA

But the opposite is true. Animals were here first. We're interfering with them.

NIKAYLA

We put them in cages. We test makeup and medicines on them to see what will happen.  
This needs to stop.

OFFICER

Groups like PETA and the ASPCA are doing all that they can to help.

JEREMIAH

But it isn't enough.

CHRISTINA

It's still happening.

TIMOTHY

The senseless torture of animals.

TANYA

Please write to your government representatives and tell them to introduce a bill that will finally end this cruelty.

NIKAYLA

Donate your time to an animal shelter and create a neighborhood watch for animal cruelty in your area.

ALL

Together we can end cruelty to animals.

BLACKOUT.