

Lionbound Writing Prompt

By

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EXT. THE BREATHING GRASS - DAY

BRIARY rustles through the tall grass. He peeks through the grass, frowns, then releases the grass. He quickly moves to the other side as TIME paces back and forth, unaware of Briary's search.

TIME

I just don't get it. How can
someone like her become the
Essence?

BRIARY

One of life's greatest mysteries.

TIME

More like one of life's greatest
tragedies. I mean, she's weak,
naïve, way too friendly and--

BRIARY

A dirty, good-for-nothing cheetah?

Briary spots movement in the grass. He quickly opens it only to find a beetle. The beetle flies away, much to Briary's disappointment. He searches through the grass again.

TIME

Her species isn't the issue. It's
her! She's just too... difficult,
you know?

Time sighs, then plops down into a rock-like cliff.

TIME (CONT'D)

She just doesn't get it. No matter
what I teach her, she's just going
to wreck everything. And on top of
that, I get blamed for her mess.

Briary rustles the grass, then smiles. His smile turns into a mischievous smirk as he looks at Time.

BRIARY

You're right. It must be scary
being with someone who could
potentially surpass you.

Time's ears twitch. He turns to Briary.

TIME

What do you mean by that?

Briary slowly walks over to Time. As he gets closer, he becomes more and more dramatic as he dwells on the "facts."

BRIARY

I mean, it's no-brainer that cheetahs are wild and vicious beasts that can tear into your flesh and eat you limb by limb!

TIME

The keyword is some cheetahs. Lallu shows no signs of this.

BRIARY

How could you be so sure? Maybe she secretly eats other lions. Don't you ever wonder why she doesn't have any friends?

TIME

Because she's outcasted?

Briary suddenly draws closer to Time.

BRIARY

WRONG!

He pulls back and takes a few steps back.

BRIARY (CONT'D)

It's because she gets closer to you, then when you least expect it--

He sharpens his claws and clashes the air in a single whiff.

Time flinches back.

BRIARY (CONT'D)

SLASH! She rips your head off!

Doubtful, Time sits up straight, but keeps his distance from Briary's claws.

TIME

Uh-huh.

Briary relaxes his claws and leans forward.

BRIARY

Now that she has powers, her hunger will only grow stronger and you'll be on the menu. Pretty scary to think about, right?

TIME

Briary, I'm not scared of Lallu.

BRIARY

Or are you?!

With a mischievous smile, Briary pulls out a ladybug and shoves it close to Time.

Instead of a scream, Time takes a moment to look at the unique stripes on the Ladybug's shell. He smiles as he examines closer.

TIME

Interesting. It's not often a ladybug has stripes.

BRIARY

Huh?

To Briary's surprise, Time gently picks up the ladybug.

The ladybug crawls all over his paw.

TIME

Spots are most commonly found on ladybugs, but there's a chance that their spots can merge into different patterns, sometimes even tinted with different colors.

Briary rolls his eyes and sighs.

TIME (CONT'D)

It's kind of like butterflies with their wings. Though their patterns are meant to warn other predators.

Time squints his eyes and tilts his head to the right as he stares at the color.

TIME (CONT'D)

Although... Hmm...

BRIARY

What? Not red enough for you?

TIME

No, I was going to note its light tint of orange, which often means that it's poisonous.

Briary's boredom turns into fear as he steps away from Time.

BRIARY

R-Really?

TIME

Yeah, I heard it happened to one of the cubs, in fact. One bite from this little guy and you'll get an itchy rash for months.

Time looks at Briary and notices his expression. He smirks, then allows the ladybug to fly away.

Briary widens his eyes, screams, and jumps back as the ladybug flies towards him.

BRIARY

AHH! Get it away from me!

As Briary tries to run away from the harmless ladybug, he misplaces his paw and fall flat onto the dirt.

Time cracks up.

BRIARY (CONT'D)

Ha, ha, ha. Very funny.

TIME

Sorry, sorry. I was only joking.

Briary growls, then picks himself up. With his paw, he scratches the dirt off of him.

TIME (CONT'D)

Oh, c'mon. You were going to prank me. I'd say we're even.

Briary stares at Time, looks away, then grumbles.

BRIARY

Tch. Whatever.

TIME

In all seriousness, thanks. I really need that today.

BRIARY

It wasn't supposed to cheer you up. It was supposed to scare you!

TIME

Sorry, but this lion is immune to small, harmless insects.

Briary walks pass Time, clearly upset at the prank.

Time chuckles, catches up, then playfully bumps into him to cheer him up.

Briary puts his head up high and ignores him.

TIME (CONT'D)

Okay, okay. I promise not to tell anyone else about our small prank war, deal?

BRIARY

Only if you give me half a portion of your lunch today.

TIME

Then my lips are sealed, friend.

As the two exits, the ladybug flies off to the bright sun.

THE END