**Heart Of a Wolf**

**Chapter 1: Morning**

It was almost nightfall when Krystal was heading back to the village. The forest was creepy at night, and she didn’t want to be anywhere near there, besides the others would be lost without her. Krystal trotted over to her house and pushed open, walked in, and then kicked it shut. Inside Wildcard and Pepper had begun making dinner, Wildcard was warming up an apple pie while Pepper was getting some gems out for Krystal. Krystal put aside her bag filled with stuff she had collected from the forest and walked over to the table to join her friends. “So, how did your days go?” Krystal inquired while taking her seat at the table.

“Well, I had an interesting day actually. You see I was flying over the ruins of Canterlot, and I found a new entrance to the castle. I left it, but I thought we could go check it out tomorrow.” Replied Wildcard.

“Glad someone’s making progress on something.” added Pepper.

“Did something go wrong at the station again?” Krystal asked.

“Ugh, we finally had everything ready and now the train won’t start. And the worst part is we don’t even know why.” Groaned Pepper.

“Well maybe we can all go check out Canterlot tomorrow then. It could be a nice excuse to clear your head and have some fun with your friends.” Offered Wildcard. The trio agreed and finished up their meals. After they all got ready for an early bedtime so they would all be rested and ready for a fun day exploring the ruins of Equestria’s capital.

**Chapter 2: The Ruins**

The next morning Krystal took her bag and started packing for their trip: snacks, water, some tools, and of course her necklace. The trio always brought their necklaces everywhere they went because they helped strengthen their magic. There wasn’t much magic left in equestrian so anyone with it would be a prime target for monsters, luckily, they knew how to handle themselves. Krystal opened door to find her friends waiting for her impatiently clearly, they had both gotten up much earlier than her. “What took you so long?” smirked Pepper.

“Well, I didn’t realize you guys had gotten up earlier than me. I thought we were getting up at 5.” Replied Krystal annoyed that her friends didn’t tell her they had planned to get up earlier.

“Sorry, I was supposed to wake you up, but I got distracted by this beautiful sapphire butterfly outside.” Said Wildcard while looking like a guilty puppy.

“It’s okay I’m here now so let’s get going.” Krystal replied, excited to find out what they would find in Canterlot. The trio began their trek to Canterlot heading past the forest to the old train tracks then for the rest of the trip they followed the tracks. Even from this distance they could see the ruined castle, it must have been huge before it got destroyed. As they got closer to Canterlot the tracks looked more and more rusted and broken at one point they found some of the track was completely missing.

“What do you think happened to the tracks here?” Questioned Krystal.

“Maybe someone took some?” answered Pepper.

“Or maybe a giant metal eating monster ate the track.” Added Wildcard while imitating a monster.

“Really? A metal eating monster ate the tracks. Come on Wildcard that’s ridiculous even for you.” Pepper added.

“Yeah, it was probably just some scavengers, funny that they only took this chunk though. Then again it would take a while and they probably wouldn’t need all of it.” Krystal proposed.

“Yeah, I suppose but I still think the monster is a possibility. Like I know we haven’t seen any monsters that eat metal before, but I read in one of Krystal’s bestiaries that Gremlins eat metal and… Oh, we’re here!” exclaimed Wildcard. The trio headed over to a hole in the walls and headed in past the old shops and straight for the castle because that is where all the good stuff probably is. Ounce again the trio went through a hole in the wall because the front door was blocked by furniture, probably trying to stop someone from getting into the castle or something.

“So, where do you guys want to check out first?” asked Krystal.

“I’m thinking we should split up that way we’ll cover more ground.” Proposed Pepper.

“Um okay but…” Krystal almost finished before Wildcard interrupted with:

“Dibs on the ball room” shouted Wildcard excitedly.

“Okay, well I’ll check out the guest rooms.” Said Pepper.

“Okay I guess I will investigate the library” sighed Krystal. The trio split up and went their separate ways excited about what they may find. Although Krystal was kind of annoyed that she and her friends split up it was the best course of action also they probably wouldn’t be as interested in all these old books as she would be. When Krystal finally got to the library, she found the door was locked from the other side, looking through the crevice of door she found it was locked from the other side by a door latch and bolt lock. Using a small metal file, she brought in her bag she unlatched the door’s latch and began filling at the bolt lock. After a good minute or so the bolt lock finally gave way allowing her to finally open the door. Upon entering the library, the first thing she noticed was there was a lot of books missing in fact a couple of shelves were completely empty. Krystal decided to start by going over to the creatures and monsters’ section as that what she was really interested in.

Krystal had always felt weird about being part dragon because despite travelling all over equestrian she had never found anyone like her, actually she had never even seen another dragon. Until one day she decided to check out the library in Ponyville and found a book on dragons. Unfortunately, it didn’t have much besides a general overview on dragons. But ever since she had been trying to find every book, she could on the creatures of Equestria to find out more about her heritage and perhaps what she may expect from being part dragon.

And right now, she was in the largest library she had ever seen in her life. Krystal walked down the library corridors till a large book labelled: [The Encyclopedia of Equestrian Creatures] she went up to the book and opened it up to the index and begun searching for Dragons! Page 467. This book had everything she could possibly want to know it had information on different types of dragons, their leaders, and a chapter on something called dragon’s greed. But just before she could figure out what it was Wildcard burst into the room and flew straight to Krystal. “Krystal, you got to come see what me and Pepper found in the throne room.” Insisted Wildcard.

“Okay let me just put this book in my bag.” Replied Krystal curious to know what her friends had found.

**Chapter 3: A Mysterious Discovery**

“So, after I got bored of the ball room, I decided to check out the throne room. But when I got their Pepper was messing around with the princess’s throne. I asked what she was doing, and she said she found a note in the princess’s room that said there was a secret room under her throne, but it didn’t say how to open it up. Which is why Pepper was messing with the throne. And that is when I found four buttons with weird symbols on the back of the throne, so of course we tried them, but they didn’t work and that’s when Pepper figured out it was code. So, I decided to get you while she worked on the code because I thought you would want to see this.” The two ponies found Pepper waiting for them next to the throne, it was to the left of an entrance to a long flight of stairs.

“Oh, thank Celestia you two are here I just finished the code but it’s really dark down there of course because it’s underground.” Recounted Pepper

“Okay let’s go.” replied Krystal excitedly. The trio began heading down with Krystal at the front of the group lighting the way with her blue flame, blowing it out consistently to ensure they aren’t left in the dark. At the bottom of the stairs was a hotel sized room filled with lots of random mechanical parts and wires, this was clearly some kind of lab or inventor’s room. As the mares looked around Krystal noticed some sort of large machine with a large glass window that seemed to open and a pony inside!?

“Guys there’s someone inside.” Whispered Krystal worried about the situation unfolding before her.

“Okay, um what do we do? Is there a way to get the pony out?” asked Pepper looking around the machine for a button or lever or just anything that could open it. But there was nothing.

“Hey what about this?” Wildcard asked as she turned on a console in the other corner of the room.

“I don’t know let’s see.” Said Krystal. The screen lit up to a black screen with a few options including: [Input Commands], [Camera Feed], and [Stasis Pod Controls]. “Try stasis pod controls, it the sound the most likely to work, right?” proposed Krystal.

“Ok” replied Wildcard as she tapped the screen with paw. The screen now had three options labelled: [Temperature Settings], [Set Timer], and [Open or Close Pod]. “Alright now we just select open and…” before Wildcard could finish her sentence a loud rhythmic beeping started, boop boop ding it went, Suddenly the machine opened releasing cold air into the room. The trio looked at each other for a moment as if to confirm that they still thought this was a good idea then headed over to the machine. The pony inside was still just standing in the machine with her eyes closed. Now that they could see her the trio were shocked to find she was an alicorn with a beautiful blue mane, a white coat, and she had no cutie mark.

“Um excuse me princess? Are you okay?” asked Krystal as she walked up to the pony. The pony offered no response, she didn’t even move. Suddenly the pony’s eyes shot open revealing two black eyes with glowing blue irises. The pony looked at Krystal for a moment then tilted her head to see the other two ponies standing behind her smiling awkwardly.

“Um excuse me miss; can you tell us why you were in that weird machine?” Wildcard inquired. The pony didn’t offer any answer. All of a sudden two beams of blue light shot out from her eyes and started moving up and down each of the ponies then the beams disappeared.

“What the heck was that” Shouted Pepper confused about why this pony was acting so strange. The pony didn’t answer and instead started walking over to the stairs. Pepper rushed over to the stairs to block the pony but the pony simply mover her out of the way with her magic without a second thought.

“Wait you can do magic without a necklace?” the trio shouted in surprise. The pony stopped and turned giving them a confused look.

“Is it because you’re an alicorn. Because I thought the alicorns lost their magic too?” Krystal clarified. The pony walked over and shot those beams of blue light again at her necklace. “Why do you keep doing that?” asked Krystal. The pony walked over to a box in the corner of the room near the steps and grabbed out a device with her magic and turned a nob.

“Okay we can talk now” claimed a voice coming from the device.

“Wait can you not talk?” asked Krystal

“Not without this device” said the robotic voice that was coming from the device.

“Okay. Well then, can you tell us why you were in that machine in the corner” asked Krystal

“I don’t remember” replied the pony with her device.

“Well, that’s helpful” added Pepper sarcastically.

“But I think I may know where we can get some answers.” The pony added, but it was beginning to get a bit hard to make out what the device was saying as it was starting to glitch a bit making the audio sound weird. The pony took the device and started heading up the stairs and the others followed. As they exited the tunnel Krystal and the others squinted from the brightness it was midday and the light was shining right into the throne room. They continued from the throne to a hallway lined with rooms.

“Oh, are we heading to Twilight’s room?” asked Pepper as she realized they were heading that way.

“Yes” the pony replied. In Twilight’s room the pony went over to another console.