1. Write the story
   1. There was a bunny who did not feel at peace in the warren. She hated the cooped living conditions, the oppressive atmosphere, the lack of freedom. In her heart, perhaps foolishly, she wanted to be a wolf. To live free under the stars, to be seen as reliable, strong, perhaps a bit frightening. To have her life and livelihood tightly interwoven with those of her pack.
   2. So she packed her things and left under cover of night, not knowing if she’d land on her feet, or be accepted into a wolf pack.
   3. She is rejected by pack after pack. Though it’s heart-wrenching, she doesn’t stop. She also begins to dye her fur. Living alone is hard, but the sky is open above her, she can hunt and express herself how she will.
      1. Is she a bad person for hunting when she doesn’t have to?
         1. Other people need to eat, and she needs to make money.
   4. People
   5. She stops pursuing it so hard, but doesn’t stop desiring it. She feels that it’s out of her reach, but even her new life is preferable to the one she lead in the warren.
   6. She joins a pack – HOW DOES SHE JOIN A PACK?! – and has trouble fitting in. Not all members of the pack accept her. Perhaps she’s on a trial period? Her heart burns with the urge to live differently.
      1. What does being in a wolf pack MEAN? Why is it this, specifically, that she’s looking for?
         1. It’s like a family. Only more formal?? No?
2. Find a protagonist
   1. Your protagonist must choose / make decisions.
      1. A character who wants something and is willing to go through conflict to get it.
3. Find a hook / opening line
   1. Invite us to scene
   2. Surprise us
   3. Establish a voice
   4. Be clear
   5. See if you can tell the entirety of your story in a single sentence
4. Scene list
   1. Provide structure to story
   2. Show which parts need work

**4a. Scene List**

1. Vera in the warren, dressing herself up as a wolven huntress. It’s just a game, one that she’s convinced her siblings to play. Yet she feels longing, and disillusionment with warren life.
2. We see her a few years later, sneaking out of the warren in the dusk. We learn that rabbits value safety first and foremost, and don’t go out at night. She’s brought a field survival guide, and is in the process of starting to build a lean-to shelter when she spots a wolf on a large rock, watching the sunset (Hermes(?)). We see her struggle between her upbringing and her passion. A real wolf isn’t interested in her childish fascination with how their species lives. She fears him, and kind of envies him. She breaks off her expedition early and retreats home.
3. (( WHAT IF THIS HAPPENS IN THE BACKGROUND? ))
   1. Her parents sit down and have a Talk with her about the dangers of the wild. It’s good that she has hobbies like archery, but the wolf thing is maybe going a little far, and look, the other kids are going to make fun of you. It’s for her own good; they just want Vera to be presentable. It’s about looking nice, it’s about the warren. It’s about keeping it thriving. It’s dangerous out there; wild animals, and the wolfkin are scarcely better. “But you know all about that,” re: her books. The longer the conversation goes on, the worse it is for Vera.
4. Hermes isn’t there during the day, but at sunset on the following day, he is. Vera approaches him this time, in spite of her parents’ warnings. Hermes has a teasing but humoring personality, and comes to this rock to watch the sun set, rising before the rest of his pack. He decides to confide in her, because she’s just a prey animal who will never have any real contact with the pack, that he has the hots for a boy in the pack, but is afraid to admit his feelings. He’s pretty sure the boy is straight. Vera talks about how she’s jealous, how warren life sucks. Eventually Hermes needs to return to his pack. Vera camps out, watching the stars.
5. Time jump. Her parents are trying to set her up with a boy, one of five siblings her age being pushed into an arranged marriage. The boy (Daniel) has mixed impressions of her, praising her smarts while backhandedly dismissing her passions and appearance. Vera feels like Daniel is an anchor being tied to her. She feels trapped.
6. Another late night with Hermes. She’s been hunting with him. She can’t eat meat, but she’s happy to split game profits with him (the blood spots are getting harder to hide). Presently, they are stargazing. Vera asks him if, hypothetically, she would make a half-bad huntress in a proper pack. (( A hunting bunny is unthinkable ))
7. Daniel discovers that she’s been hunting, and a confrontation happens. He chews her out for her bloodsport (archery is for self-defense!), for not being more normal. She argues back, about the confines of the warren. How awful it feels to be here. He chastises her to sacrifice and fall in line for the greater good of the warren.
   1. Her father takes her bow.
8. They make it harder sneak out at night. For the warren’s safety. Eventually she
9. Research
10. Write / Edit / Write / Edit

?? Primitivist society ??

Maybe *less* primitivist. But ascending from primitivism? Perhaps a non-wolf in a *pack* is a controversial idea.

**Bunwolf is about a rabbit who wants to be part of a wolf pack.**

Need a way for her to encounter people who \_aren’t\_ her species…

School? (Rudimentary school?)

Parents give pushback, but ultimately cave

In this story, species needs to be very tightly woven into identity. Crossing those social boundaries to live in spaces occupied by another needs to be a Big Deal.

Bunny who wants to be a wolf

Identity vs essentialism

Comradery vs Cog in a Machine (Good of the team vs good of the many)

LARGE family. Easy to be missed.

Bunny jobs:

\*Seamstress? 🡪 Large rooms full of rabbit workers.

\*Clergy?

\*Accounting?

\*Soapmaking

\*Agriculture? Herbology?

\*

If I live as a wolf – and hunt as a wolf, and scout under the cold night air and protect my adopted family, then for what purposes am I not a wolf? Because I cannot eat meat?

What is the most interesting point in the character’s lifestyle change?

-Where she makes the transition from living as a rabbit to living as a wolf.

‘You’re delusional.’

-Hates warren life

-Can’t eat meat

-Pack mentality

Wolves:

-Pack hunters, team mentality

-Spiritual?

-Strong emphasis on survival, family, open roaming

Rabbits

-Warren life

-Emphasis on breeding, risk avoidance

“We should know within the first page of a short story, or the first chapter of a novel, what the main character wants.”

**Vera’s Family**

Isobelle – Older sister. Detached, cool.

Percy – Theatrical. Probably gay. Tolerant.

Markus – Idiot brother, half a year younger, very excitable and aggressive.

Nathaniel – Fucking tattletale.

Jacob – Does what is a rabbit’s proper responsibility. Makes his parents proud. Bit of a boyscout, but trustworthy.

Vera wasn’t exactly thrilled to be on the same team, but it was a small price to pay. She tried to think of Markus as lame cub of the pack, his fate entrusted to her by their wise leader. Even an idiot was still family, and the blood bond of a pact was absolute. No families of twenty kids, packed into dirt rooms to while away their existences never seeing stars or feeling the comfort of a campfire on a cold night. In a pack, she’d know Markus’ darkest secret, his favorite food. She’d be willing to lay down her life for him. Even this slobbering idiot, painting a target on himself.