I suddenly find myself in a foreign land where everything’s bright, cold, and loud. I can hear screaming from my brothers and sisters, while my mother frantically tends to them. I’m hungry and scared trying to find something of comfort. Why have the gods punished me to this existence? Finally, after what seemed like an endless search I obtain food and feel warmth. Later I curl up with my family and we sleep. Life is great again.

We practice our skills on each other. Hunting is our most primitive instinct and necessary in this harsh new world. Mother watches and corrects us. Often, we are chaotic and exhausting, but she is never cruel. She leaves us often to gather food and often returns hungry. She always feeds us first, she is a great mother.

After some time, my family gets smaller. My brothers and sisters move out and move on to new families. This is hard on mother, but she is still strong. Now it is my time and mother left me. Why does she do this to me?

I am lost for a long time. Wandering through lakes, streams, roads and towns. I am often attacked but fight fiercely and survive. I am always alone but mother has taught me to be strong. I decided today I do not want to be alone anymore.

Today I encounter a great beast. This beast has frightened me for I have never seen anything like this beast before. He has glorious feasts that smell delicious and I think I should take these feasts from him. I watch this beast for days from my shadows. One day I allow this beast to see me, just for a moment then I return to my shadows.

I grow hungry and lonely in my shadows. I miss the comforts of my mother and siblings. Today I feel desperate, todays the day I will confront the beast and take what I deserve. But the beast does not wish to fight me! Instead I am offered a smorgasbord of many delicious smelling things. I think this must be a trick.

Today I am warm with a full belly. I feel safe and life is great again.

Analysis: Life is all about survival, perspective, and forgiveness. Hephaestus was tossed to the ocean, brought up without parents in the sea but after forgiveness his myth ends being happily married to Aphrodite. I wrote this in the perspective of a puppy but it could be reinvented into many scenarios from a small immigrant child, a senior at the end of their life, or wildlife in need of rescuing. The beast is the unknown but for the puppy it is a human. Fear is a basis for survival but can also be our own worst enemy. Be strong and know that we have struggles and they do matter but we find peace in moving forward.