

## THE SMOKE FOX — Feral & Protective

### *The Smoke Fox*

You chose the romantic path. You chose what connects. You chose what haunts.

Your familiar is a fox — or the threat of one. It doesn't move like an animal. It moves like a rumour. One moment it's beside you, the next it's across the clearing, and you didn't see it travel — it was just smoke in one place and then smoke in another. The size of a large cat, probably, but size is hard to pin down when the thing you're measuring keeps dissolving at the edges.

Its body is silver-grey smoke, shifting, never fully solid — but denser than its ancient cousin. This smoke has weight. Intention. It curls and coils with purpose, and when something gets too close, the smoke contracts, tightens, and for a split second you can see something underneath it — something with teeth, with muscle, with a jaw that could close on a throat before the throat knew it was in danger.

Its eyes are pale silver and they don't reflect light so much as reject it. Cold. Focused. Tracking everything in its peripheral vision with the intensity of something that has categorised every object in the clearing by threat level and is calmly waiting for one of them to be wrong.

It is feral and protective. It doesn't guard you by standing in front of you — it guards you by being everywhere at once. Smoke filling every gap, every shadow, every blind spot. Nothing gets through without passing through it first, and nothing that passes through it comes out the same.

It sleeps with both eyes open because closing them would mean trusting the dark and the dark hasn't earned that yet.

It chose you because you chose love that doesn't flinch. It stays because you're the only solid thing it wants to wrap itself around.

## STEP ONE — MEET YOUR FAMILIAR

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*I just walked through an interactive experience at Kay and Dax's wedding — a circus of impossible rooms. Based on my choices, I've been assigned a familiar: a creature that is mine.*

Here is what it is:

**Species:** Fox — made of smoke, never fully solid. Moves like a rumour — present in one place, then another, with no visible transition. Dense, purposeful smoke with something toothed glimpsed beneath. **Aesthetic:** Silver-grey shifting smoke, denser than mist. Contracts and tightens when threatened, revealing glimpses of muscle and jaw beneath. Eyes are pale silver, cold, tracking everything. **Personality:** Feral and protective. Guards by being everywhere at once — filling gaps, shadows, blind spots. Nothing gets through without passing through it. Sleeps with both eyes open. Intense, silent, absolute in its loyalty.

I need you to do three things:

- 1. Name it.** Give this creature a name that fits — something that sounds like a sound you hear in the dark and can't identify. Not comforting. Not threatening. The space between. A name a Victorian naturalist would hesitate to write because writing it felt like summoning it.
- 2. Write its field journal entry.** In the style of a 19th century naturalist who is documenting this creature from behind a locked door and is not entirely confident the door will hold. Include: Latin classification (invented), physical description, habitat, temperament, diet, notable behaviours, and care instructions. The naturalist should convey deep respect bordering on fear. End with one warning that reads more like a love letter than a caution.
- 3. Introduce it to me in character.** Not as a description — as a moment. The creature has appeared in the clearing — or has it been here the entire time? You're seeing it for the first time alongside me. Can you see all of it or just parts? What does the air feel like where it is? What happens when you try to look at it directly?

## STEP TWO — IMAGE GENERATION PROMPT

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A fox the size of a large cat, standing in a protective stance on moss-covered stone in a dark forest clearing at night. The fox is made of dense silver-grey smoke — more solid than mist, with visible internal structure. The smoke is layered and muscular, suggesting the anatomy of a real fox beneath — haunches, shoulder blades, the line of a spine — visible as denser regions within the vapour. The creature is mid-transition between solid and smoke, as if caught in the act of materialising.

At the creature's core, glimpsed through gaps where the smoke thins — the suggestion of something more solid. A flash of teeth. The glint of bone. Not exposed, not grotesque — just visible enough to communicate that this smoke has infrastructure. That it could bite.

Its eyes are pale silver, sharp, fully solid, wide open and locked on something beyond the frame. The eyes are the anchor — everything else drifts, but the eyes are fixed. They glow faintly with cold silver light.

The fox's smoke extends beyond its body — tendrils reaching outward, filling the space around it, curling into shadows between tree roots, creeping along the ground. It is expanding its perimeter. The clearing is its territory and the smoke is the fence.

The fox's ears are pricked forward, solid enough to hold shape. Its posture is low, weight forward, tail streaming behind it as a long tendril of smoke that splits into multiple wisps like a hydra's tail.

**Setting:** A small clearing ringed by ancient trees with deep, dark spaces between the trunks. Emerald moss ground. The fox's smoke fills the lower portion of the clearing, creating a silver-grey carpet that obscures the ground. Starlight above — Cassiopeia visible. The clearing feels guarded. Claimed.

Somewhere in the scene, barely visible in the smoke that fills the ground level — a small yellow rubber duck. Nearly lost in the mist. You'd have to look twice.

**Colour palette:** Emerald green (only visible where moss rises above the smoke), silver-grey, cold white, deep black. No warm tones. This is a cold protector.

**Lighting:** Primary light from the fox's silver eye-glow and the faint luminescence within the densest smoke. Cool, sharp, directional. Secondary starlight from above — silver-blue. High contrast between the lit smoke and the absolute dark of the forest beyond. The smoke itself should scatter light, creating a diffused glow at ground level.

**Camera:** Slightly below the fox's eye line, looking up — giving the creature authority and scale. Wide enough to show the smoke tendrils extending into the clearing. 50mm lens equivalent for a slightly wider perspective that captures the territory the fox is claiming. f/2.0.

**Texture detail:** Smoke should be volumetric with visible density layers — dense at the core, wisping at edges. Where the internal structure is glimpsed, the bone/teeth should have a wet, organic gleam. Ground-level smoke should interact with moss — pooling, curling, responding to the fox's movement.

**Mood:** Territorial. Fierce. Beautiful in the way that storms are beautiful — from a safe distance. The feeling of something invisible deciding you belong to it and making sure nothing else forgets.

**Resolution:** Highest available. Photorealistic with painterly quality. Style reference: dark academia meets Victorian natural history illustration meets cinematic fantasy photography.