

## **A Wild Addition To Life**

A heavy sigh escaped the mouth of a bored girl as she stared at the pile of text laid out in the textbook in front of her as she traced her fingers across the page whilst chewing on her pen.

The girl, Callie, picked up her phone as browsed Instagram, staring longingly at the selfies of the high school cheerleaders and top girls of her classes all having fun on a Friday night. Her mind flashing back to her younger years as she had tried to put herself in with one of the big crowds and how it had ended with her humiliated by a bucket of cow's blood, forcing her to put up the anti-social barriers that she had become known for even within her own family.

Callie rolled her eyes, slamming the text shut as she threw her pen onto her desk.

"Why is it everyone else can get a friend group it's like some higher power wants me to forever be anti-social," she thought, resting her head on her desk, "I just want to feel like I belong."

A faint ping alerted her to a new post, she raised her head and stared at a picture of a few highschool jocks posing over a flashy Dodge Charger, "Screw this I need sanctuary," she huffed, switching her phone off and throwing it onto her bed.

She stood up, grabbing her red hoodie from the back of her chair, pulling it over her body as she made her way to her bedroom door. Her feet thudded as she ran down the stairs and across to the front door, snatching her keys off of the hook.

The door knocker rattled behind her as she slammed the door behind her. Gravel crunched underneath her shoes as she walked up the driveway and out on to the open street. Callie knew precisely where she was heading, ten minutes down the road, turning left onto a dirt path, this was her sanctuary. Thick green bushes filled with flowers and bees during the Spring season, the faint breeze rushing through her hair, the sound of water running down the nearby stream drifted into her ears as she started down the path.

Her slow, gentle pace helped her take in the beauty and quiet of the trail, the tranquillity of the trail aided her in being to escape from the reality of work and life. Callie gave a little sigh as she reached her favourite spot. The ground sloped down towards the stream mirroring the sloping tree that suspended at a forty-five degree angle with several branches extending into the water.

She knelt down, running her fingers across the watery surface, watching it sparkle as she played around with it, finding it soothing and relaxing. The breeze whipped through her hair whilst it carried a pleasant scent across towards. Callie inhaled catching the scent of fresh roses and vanilla making her think of fresh ice cream. She turned sniff like a bloodhound trying to find the source of the smell, her body remained crouched and low like a predator as she shuffled towards a large group of glistening cream flowers.

She outstretched her hand, gently stroking her fingers over the silky bell shaped flowers as they gently rocked against her touch. One of the flowers steadily bent over towards her face, it's petals peeling back revealing a small centre green flower nestled into the bell. Callie peered in closer, curious and kind of keen to get a closer look. When a faint hissing, the bell shaped flower lurched towards her, spraying a fine liquid at her.

Callie opened her mouth to scream but quickly realized her mistake as the taste of tomatoes, vinegar and vanilla coated her tongue and teeth. Her facial skin tingled whilst she fell onto her arse. She rubbed her hands across her face trying to dull the tingling, her eyes watering from the taste in her mouth.

With her eyes blurring slightly, she stumbled over to the stream, dropping down to her knees as she plunged her face into the water. Ripples bounced around in the water as she violently rubbed her hands around, washing the cool feeling of the water over her skin not caring about the drops of water landing on her clothes. She took a mouthful before bringing her head up, spitting the water out.

"What...what the heck...was that!" she said, catching her breath.

She bent herself forwards, scooping some water up and pouring it into her mouth, washing it around her mouth like mouthwash before spitting out into the stream. She wiped the water away from her eyes, still feeling a slight tingle to her skin she lowered her head closer but stopped with her hands submerged into the water, her eyes widening at the slight her black hair bleaching to a white colour in the centre, seemingly forming the start of a stripe.

An itch grew across her nose, spreading between her eyes and up the central part of her forehead. She scratched vigorously as the itch persisted, Callie bit her lip as felt something soft started to brush against her nails and fingers. She leaned closer to the water, staring at her reflection, directing her gaze at the thick white hair sprouting out of her skin. She watched baffled as her nose turned black, the specks of white of her human nose skin fleetingly disappeared.

Her nose twitched and wriggled, not from the itch of the hair thickening and merging into a single stripe but from her nose shrinking and turning upwards slightly. Her nose glistened in the sunlight as moisture began to appear on it. Callie stared at her reflection, her heart rate steadily increasing at the sight of the thick white stripe extending from her inhuman looking nose threading between her eyes and up her forehead, seamlessly blending into the white stripe in her hair. As she stared closer she could tell the bleaching of her hair was still spreading towards the back of her head.

Callie let loose a high pitched chirp as her fingers cramped and spasmed as they swelled. The skin of her fingerprints and a second of her palms steadily puffed up, a pink colouring spreading over the ballooning skin. The prickle of hairs pressing through her skin made her wince but failed to drown out the changing pains of her fingers becoming thicker whilst growing shorter.

Her fingernails were popped off by curving, lengthening grey claws as she watched her hands taking on a paw-like structure.

"I can't work with these!" she cried out, "How am I suppose to do schoolwork, call my mom. What about eating?"

Her reflection mirrored her panicking state of mind as changes continued. Her body juttled forwards on its own, curving her back as a tugging pain emerged on her lower back. Callie looked behind her, a pained worried expression crossing her face as she felt her skin tightening as it started to stretch but thanks to her paws and hoodie she couldn't tell what was happening.

Until the small tip of a lengthening appendage peeked out from under her clothing, slightly wriggling as it continued to grow. The reddish skin tickled and itched as black hairs sprouting down the length of the appendage, her eyes widening in shock as the hair clumped together, thickening whilst a bleaching process happened to certain parts of the hairs. A large central white stripe formed as the bleaching increased, Callie stared, tears leaking from her eyes as she recognized the pattern.

"A skunk tail! How can I be social if I sprouted a skunk tail?" she shrieked, "I can't be turning into one. It's no possible!"

She grunted as she raised her paws to her hoodie, feeling the itch of the hairs sprouting out of her upper body whimpering under her breath as she realized her paws were insufficient in removing her hoodie. The only thing she could really do was raise her arms up and allow her sleeves to roll down, revealing the patches of black starting to appearing on her forearms.

Her ears twitched as pain spread throughout them, she peered over the water watching her reflections ears changing, becoming perfect semi-circles that slide up to the top of her head. She watched as her own hair shortened, thickening as it began to blend into the hairs sprouted out of her forehead and scalp.

"Calvin always mentioned skunk girl stories but he never said it was in reality!" she moaned, recalling a conversation she had eargigged on by accident in the school library.

"Not my face," she mumbled, her tone sounding rather defeated as hairs sprouted across it, her eyes studying how the increase of black hairs seemed to increase the boldness of her white stripe.

She dug her claws into her neck scratching as the hairs grew out of it, distracting her from the changes happening under her clothing. Her bra steadily began to get looser as her breasts shrunk into her chest, her nipples darkening as they elongated. Six more nipples grew out of her skin on her lower chest became invisible to the naked eye as hair surrounded them. The two matching white stripes of her head and tail became connected by a large, long stripe that sprouted out of her back amongst the developing black hairs.

As the familiar, unwelcome itch of hairs sprouted out of her legs emerged, Callie found herself developing a new set of pains coming from within her feet.

“Blast it. My favourite trainers!” she cried out, looking desperately down at her feet, shifting her body around as she began to kick her shoes off.

Her toes popped and crack, swelling and shortening into stubs whilst her toes nails rose up and off them, making way for the curved grey claws that tore through her socks. Matching pads puffed up on the bottoms of her toes and soles of her feet. Her feet popped and tightened causing her *chirp* in pain as they began to lengthen.

Callie squeaked out a small whimper as her muscles and skin tightened. A tingle spread throughout her body, slowly but surely Callie squeaked in fear as she watched her clothes becoming bigger around her. Her genitals shifted behind her as her anus gained new glands. The light faded away as she disappeared into her hoodie, her final tear splashing into the fabric as her mouth and nose crunched and cracked outwards into a small muzzle. A triple crack sounded out as her hips, shoulders and spine realigned, shifting her onto all fours.

She tried to speak but manage a few squeaky chirps as her teeth altered into skunk teeth with a gentle tingle. The hoodie moved around until a skunks head peeked out of the sleeve, Callie’s nose twitched, her body shivering as she walked up towards the stream, her legs wobbling slightly.

*“One paw after the other. It’s easy right just like walking on two legs,”* she thought, trying to focus.

Her brown eyes stared at the water, she had hoped deep down that this was a bad dream that Calvin’s talk of skunk girls had triggered a nightmare but there staring back at her was a true skunk. She sighed as her body responded gently, easing into a sitting position then into a laying down position.

*“What do I do now? Can’t see mom or dad as I’d most likely be bonked with a broom. Can’t call for help as why would skunks need a hospital? Can’t even go to school unless do skunks have secret schools?”*

*“Hey wait a minute, no school, no parents but an animal. A free animal, the wild is my playground. Was this a curse or was I set free?”* she thought to herself looking up to the sky not notice the strange bell shaped flower faded into dust.