

Fractured Version

Red and Wolf

By L. Patten and A. Fynes

Hi. I'm Red. Like the colour. It's my chosen name because to me the colour represents strength and resilience and that's how I identify.

Let me tell you a story about a Wolf who tried to bother me recently.

Last week, I was headed to visit G with a multicultural feast for us to share that included some homemade chana masala, oxtail stew (G's favourite), and some Costa Rican-style ceviche.

G lives on the other side of the creek, so I took the path through the forest to get there. Wolf must have smelled all my good eats and that's what led it to me.

I'm always aware of my surroundings, because of course you're supposed to put personal safety first, so I was not surprised when I heard the sound of a twig crunching nearby and Wolf showed up. I knew I could handle it.

"Well, hello! Fine day, isn't it?" Wolf said to me while standing in my path.

Really?! Could this Wolf be more obvious?!

I have manners and try to project kindness to the world, so I just smiled and nodded as I stepped around Wolf and continued on my way to G's place.

Again, I'm a smart person so I knew Wolf was following me.

I think Wolf thought it was being sneaky and silent, but really it sounded like an elephant trampling its way across the savannah!

I was early so I knew G wouldn't be home yet. I needed to come up with a plan to shake Wolf and keep myself safe.

Fractured Version

An idea popped into my head!

As I approached G's house, I acted like I had just remembered something that I'd forgotten to do. I pivoted quickly away from G's front door and managed to hide in a nearby spot that I knew from when G and I used to play the game of hide-and-seek.

Wolf had no idea where I had gone.

I saw Wolf creep towards G's door and sneak inside. Wolf was going to wait me out.

Great! Now it was time to set my trap and wait Wolf out instead! I crawled on the ground towards G's shed (so Wolf wouldn't see me). I grabbed G's fishing net and rope and crawled back.

G lives in a forest and hunts for food, so of course G's taught me how to set traps. It's a tradition passed down through generations.

Once my trap was set, I crawled to the side of the house and waited Wolf out.

It didn't take long for Wolf to grow impatient waiting inside for me.

Wolf opened the door and stepped right into my trap!

Wolf was mad. "I just wanted some of your amazing-smelling food! And maybe a bit of company..." Wolf said.

"Then you should have just introduced yourself and been up front and honest," I told Wolf.

Right at that moment, G arrived.

"Sorry I'm late!" G said. "The Fairy Tale Inc. knitting tournament ran late, and I was the front-runner! I won, of course!"

I gave G a congratulatory hug and pointed to my own prize.

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G beamed.

"We taught you well, Red!" G said.

We both laughed as Wolf looked on miserably.

Wolf never bothered us or anyone else like that ever again.

So, I guess you could say that in the end, G and I, we lived happily ever after!