

He was walking through the woods, like he did every day. It was a good day, the spirit of nature was alive in everything, and he was at his all time high. He greeted every bird that flew by, and could identify what type of tree a leaf fell off of before it became part of the browning layer that suppressed his footsteps. He truly was a child of earth, but even in such a serene place lived trouble in the back of his head. He had a lot on his mind at the time, and he knew it had to come out sometime soon. He removed his sandals and walked barefoot over the leaf carpet, feeling stronger with every step. All he had now were the clothes on his back, and what music he had saved on his phone. Eventually he grew tired of blowing off the problem at hand. He laid down in the grass, and cycled through what he knew.

"My name is Damian McMalaughtner, I'm 16 years old, I'm an earthbender, and-", he began when he was suddenly interrupted by the sound of footsteps. He opened his eyes, and looked next to him to see his best friend Adam laying next to him. Damian's hair began to stand on end as Adam opened his eyes and looked at Damian. Both looked at each other intensely, as if they had something to say, but couldn't put it into words, then they began to laugh. Damian then and there decided to face the problem at a better time.

"Hi Damian!", Adam whispered, "How is everything looking today out here?"

"The same as usual!", Damian replied, "How are things with you?" Adam seemed to pause for a minute at the question.

"Actually that's why I'm here.", Adam said, looking concerned, 'The blackthorns won't stop coming for us." Damian clenched his fists at the mention of that name.

"We both know what I have to do Damian," Adam replied solemnly, knowing what was to come next.

"YOU CAN'T GO BACK THERE!", Damian yelled as the air went dead, and all peace in the forest began to fade away, "YOU TELL ME EVERYDAY YOU DON'T EVER WANT TO GO BACK THERE!" Damian shed a tear, of anger and sadness all together, and as it hit the floor the patch of leaves began to shrivel up and die.

"Well of course I don't want to go back there, but it's what has to be done.", Adam calmly responded, "I've made up my mind and I'm leaving tonight." Damian cried more and more, the leaves around him dying, as he fell to the floor in tears.

"Trust me I wish I could stay, but if I do, you and everyone else are in danger.", Adam sputtered, "I promise to stay safe out there, and I will come back!" Damian chuckled a bit, still crying tears of sadness, but now laughing hysterically. Adam approached him, and was about to rest his hand on Damians shoulder when he suddenly stopped laughing all together. Damian stood up and turned around, head down facing Adam, still shedding tears onto the dying ground. Adam walked up and gave Damian a hug, which seemed to calm him down very slightly, as the trees began to shed leaves, creating a cascading curtain around them.

"Why do you care about me so much?" Damian asked Adam, refusing to look at him. Adam lifted Damians head and gave him a smile.

"Because you're pretty cool!", Adam responded, "You let me stay and that means a lot to me!" He tightened his grasp onto Damian, holding him in his well toned arms.

"You're just so wonderful and I don't get why you would ever want to be friends with a loser like me.", Damian mumbled, beginning to tear up again, hugging Adam back. Adam let go and looked Damian straight in the eyes.

"Don't ever call yourself a loser, because you mean something bigger than you think," Adam started, staring intensely at him, but then stopping suddenly, "you know what, why don't we have some fun before I go?"

"I would love that!", Damian cheered. The two spent the next few hours playing in the crisp fall breeze, Damian teaching Adam how to suppress his footsteps, and Adam telling and retelling tales of home. A moment both wished they could replay forever. Eventually came nightfall. The moonlight beaming over them, they stood there in the center of the forest. Damian refused to part with Adam.

"I wish you would stay Adam," Damian cried, "I don't want to lose you!" Adam smiled and untied the clear crystal necklace he wore, the pendant shaped like a wolf fang.

"Here you go Damian.", Adam said, as he handed the necklace to Damian, "If I die on the route, the pendant will shatter, so you can be reassured I'll be fine!"

"DIE?" Damian screamed, "YOU MIGHT DIE OUT THERE!"

"I swear to you, Damian, I'll be fine", Adam said as he planted a kiss on Damian's forehead. Damian gave Adam one last hug, burying himself in his best friend's arms. Damian stepped back, as Adam walked backwards into the moon's light, arms out wide, as if he were trying to embrace the sky. He let out a wolf's howl, as the light surrounded him. He was now becoming less human, his hair beginning to turn an sea green, and the hair on his arms and legs now turned a dark grey and began to cover his skin. He sprouted a tail, sea green and grey stripes running across it, and a pair of jet black wings. He landed onto the ground, and as he brushed off the dust, he got a good last look at Damian. It hurt him to go, but it was what had to be done. He flapped his wings, and headed south into the sky. Damian ran back home to his great big family. He walked in the door, and instantly sat next to his uncle Terrence. He was busy cooking dinner, by keeping hot pockets afloat above a low flame. Damian leaned up against his uncle, and Terrence smiled.

"What's wrong my y-young boy?", Terrence asked.

"Adam left," Damian said softly, crying again, "he might die out there, and I can't go and help him"

"Well why not?", Terrence questioned.

"Its up in space, Uncle Teddy, I can't go.", Damian cried, shedding tears that evaporated as they came to contact with Terrence's shirt. Terrence brought Damians head up, and looked him in the eye.

"Do you really want to help this Adam character out?", He asked quietly

"More than anything!", Damian responded.

"Then go to him," Teddy whispered, "follow the forest trail he left on." He handed Damian a hot pocket, cooked to perfection, and sent him on his way. Damian grabbed his handmade scythe on the way out, and set out his journey for Adam. He arrived at the beginning of the forest, running fast, not bothering to suppress his footsteps. He turned south from the middle of the forest, and kept running. He dodged the attacks of the feral creatures lurking in the night, sliding under fallen trees, heading towards the flashes of light going off in the distance. He picked up speed, sprinting past sleeping animals, now becoming a blur in the night. As he stopped at the battle field, Adam got sent flying into him. Adam's face was covered in scars, and he was breathing heavy. Damian looked up to see the living nightmare who took down Adam with a single blow. In front of him stood a tall, stocky man. His face seemed to be locked in a forever scowl, and he seemed to glow with a malevolent energy. The man looked over, and from behind a tree stepped a boy, about Damians age, his face crooked and hair spiked. The boy walked over and felt Adam's wrist. The fang pendant on Adam's necklace shattered into millions of pieces.

"Mission complete dad!" the boy said, his voice uneven and raspy, "We can leave this place now!" The man had no other reaction but a slight nod. Damian looked at the two in horror, and without thinking, he tackled the man onto the ground. Damian had a pointed rock to his throat, when suddenly he blacked out. When he came to, he was in a room, starlight gleaming brighter than normal. The man from earlier was facing away from Damian, at the other end of the room. He attempted

to summon spikes, but his powers weren't working. The man turned to reveal his face in the brighter lighting.

"Your magic won't work here", He spoke softly and deeply. The child appeared at his side, Adam being held by his spike collar in his hand. Damian started to lose faith, and then realized that he needed to stop being so helpless. He knew what he needed to do. He held onto the chain of Adam's necklace, the pendant still broken, and began to whistle a high pitched tune. Little holes began to make appearance in the floor of the ship, and the Necklace seemed to piece back together slowly. The ship began to shake unsteadily, and the boy let go of Adam, then ran off out a side door. Adam slid towards Damian, and by then the necklace was back together. With a sudden lack of energy, he placed it around Adam's neck. Adam woke up to see Damian above him. Damian was shedding tears of joy, and before passing out, he planted a kiss on Adam's lips. Green light surrounded the two, and they opened their eyes to see they had become one. A mix of their traits created the being who stood before the man. Damian and Adam were gone, for Aiden was their existance now. The man looked at the one being in complete horror.

"WHAT IS THIS ABOMINATION!", he roared at the one being in front of him.

"I am Aiden, and you will be cutting this space expedition short, Mr Blackthorn!" Aiden chuckled tauntingly, "We've had enough of an adventure in space for now!" With that, green stars rapidly cascaded across the floor, all becoming one giant star shaped hole in the floor of the ship. They jumped out into open air, and

watched as the ship crashed into space debris. They watched as a limp Mr. Blackthorn flew away in the opposite direction

"I didn't know we could breathe in space", Aiden muttered. They decided to take their time, flying around in space, adventuring the cosmos, just the two of them. They explored planets for various things, and time didn't seem to pass here. This was due to Adam's minor control over time and space. With it he had froze time around them, so they would return the same day. They eventually decided it was time to come home, and glided back towards the forest. When they landed, all of Damian's family was waiting. Some were crying, afraid he got hurt. Some were crying because he didn't get hurt. Together, they welcomed him back with open arms. Adam sat on the boulder they laid by only this afternoon, when Damian gestured him over.

"Come over here, you're part of the family now silly!", Damian chuckled.

"I am?", Adam questioned, "How?" Even the rest of the Mc. Malaughtners seemed puzzled by Damian's statement. Damian smiled and gave Adam another kiss.

"You're my love Adam," Damian smiled, as he gave Adam a hug, "I love you, and I hope you can say the same!"

"I-I love you too Damian", Adam whispered, The rest of the family cheered and smiled at the beautiful relationship that just blossomed in front of them. They knew life would be hard. People would hate them because of their relationship, and a whole alien race wanted them dead, but it didn't bother them at all. They survived an adventure to space and back, and nothing could beat the thrill of that.