

The Lands of Mystery

Book 1

Discovery: Journey to a new land

Chapter 1

Tundra lay beside her as she slept. The girl slept soundly but was soon woken up by her little brother calling her, "Tania get up its morning."

"Why do you have to be so annoying," Tania asked as she got out of bed. Tundra stretched and followed her out of the room.

"Father wants us all to pitch in because we are having guests over tonight," He answered. Tania sighed. They lived on a small farm and they usually had people over which was annoying because it was hard enough feeding the family.

"Where are Milky and Oreo?" she asked changing the subject a little and already getting started. Milky and Oreo were the family's horses and helped with the work.

"In the barn, I put them in just before I woke you up," he said.

"Thank you, OK what's first?"

“We have to work with the animals, like taking care of the sheep and milk the cows,” He answered as they left the house.

“Tundra, time for some amazing herding action,” she said. Although Tundra was not a sheepdog or anything close to that, she had learned to be a good herd dog. Tundra barked and she started running to where the sheep were held.

“I’ll get the other herding dogs,” her brother said. His golden-brown hair was shinning in the early morning sunlight. He had pleasant blue eyes unlike his sisters amber coloured ones and red-brown hair. Her brother’s name was Marc and he was only two years younger than her. She was thirteen and therefore he was eleven.

The sun was high in the sky when they were finally done with their work.

“Glad that’s over,” Marc said as they walked back towards the house.

“Yeah well it’s all for the guests,” she said,
“Who is it anyway?”

“No idea,” he replied. Tundra was going with them. She was Tania’s special dog and therefore lived with her. She had found Tundra in the forest and adopted her.

“Ah, the two of you are finally done,” their father’s voice came from the front door. He was tall and looked a lot like Marc.

“Evening dad,” Marc said politely.

“Yes we are done with all the animal work and have a lot of good eggs and some good milk today,” Tania said.

“Good,” Their dad replied.

“I heard that we were having guests,” Tania said.

“Yes and I want to impress them so I would like you two to stay away.

“We’ll behave,” Marc said.

“I don’t want you to mess anything up this time,” their father Paul answered.

“Come on, it’s no good arguing about it,” Tania told Marc.

“Alright,” he answered as they went to the kitchen to get some lunch. Tundra followed again but waited just outside the kitchen door because she was not allowed in. Their house was not big but it had a big yard their farm was not very rich but they did produce a lot of animals. They had to sell most of their goods to the king and the nobles of the land.

“That was probably the longest amount of work we have ever had to do in the morning,” Marc said as they walked into Tania room to talk and hang out.

“Yes and I wonder who the guests are that they are so important,” She replied.

“It can’t be anyone that important if they are part of the farming business,” Marc said. Tania could tell that he wanted to know as much as she did.

“That’s not true,” she said as she remembered their oldest cousin who had actually gone to become a royal farmer who was paid a lot to take care of the animals in a farm near the king’s castle.

“Well it’s mostly true and it’s not like we are the only farm kids who cause some trouble when they are bored,” Marc replied. Tania thought he might be thinking about doing something stupid.

“I won’t be responsible for what you might do this time,” she said, “I feel like looking around the woods since father doesn’t need us.”

“Fine, but if it is interesting don’t blame me because you don’t want any part of this,” he said turning around and going out of the door to go to his room.

“OK, Tundra, it’s time to get prepared to go to the forest,” she said not even caring about her brother’s last remark. Tundra’s light brown fur ruffled as she shook herself. She had golden eyes, which was why her aunt Maria said she was part wolf. Maria was an animal doctor. She put in a few extra pairs of cloths and then got out some food she had kept from the farm.

“OK Tundra ready to go?” she asks.

Tundra barked. She was ready to go on an adventure and so was Tania. Not much happened at the farm and the amount of adventure was very low. She then went to her bed and knelt down on the floor to pull up some of the floorboards. Underneath the boards were a bow and arrows. She had made them herself but it was something she had wanted to keep a secret but since they were going into the forest and she didn't know what things she might see or have to fend off.

"OK be careful and quiet I don't want to make them all wonder what we are doing," she said. She didn't know if Tundra knew what she said but she hoped she had.

They were walking through the forest quietly. It was kind of scary in the great dark forest late in the afternoon but it was fun to be on an adventure. She hadn't run into anything or anyone but that was OK for the

moment. Tundra was digging a hole for something.

“Hey, what are you digging for?” Tania asked Tundra. Of course she didn’t answer she just kept digging until she found what she was looking for. Tania was about to see what it was but then she heard a voice behind her.

“It’s not safe to be walking around the forest alone.”

“I’m not alone,” Tania replied turning around. The boy she saw there must have been poorer than she was because of his clothing. Or he had been going through the forest for a while, “What about you, you’re alone.”

He laughed, “Oh yeah, you travel with a dog.”

“Her name’s Tundra and she’s part wolf and at least I have a weapon if I was attacked,” she replied.

“I can take care of myself,” he said, “and as for a weapon,” he pulled out a sharp dagger.

“What makes you think that I can’t?” she asked.

“I never said you can’t, I only said it’s not safe,” he replied.

“So what are you doing out here anyway?” she asked.

“That’s not your business,” he said as he turned around. He didn’t walk away but he seemed to be ignoring the question and he didn’t want to talk about it.

“Alright, if you don’t want to talk about it, then fine,” she said. She was trying to be friends with this strange boy. He had curly black hair and stunning green eyes.

“What’s your name?” he asked her turning back around to face her.

“Tania, what’s yours?”

“Alex,” he replied. He looked a little older than Tania. He put his dagger away and came down the hill towards her. Tundra looked up and barked.

“I have a feeling that bark was not about me coming down here,” he said looking at Tundra.

“No, I think she’s found something.

“She defiantly looked like she was looking for something,” he replied. They looked down the hole.

“It looks like a...” she started.

“...like a stone,” he answered.