Banni: Noce Competitive

My eyes shot opened. I yawned. But nothing came out. It was weird to say the least, but I could not remember what it was. I frowned, ears pulled back before raising my head from the grounds below me. Having realized that I was lying onto my paws, tired and sleepiness had taken over upon my body that it had seemed I was asleep. ‘Guess not anymore.’ I thought to myself, shaking my body to keep myself awake and yawned again before gazing out onto the horizon of where I once was. In ponderance of what I was doing, I frowned and my face darkened. I glanced upon a white and black sign before me; upon it were big purple words “Welcome. Starting Line.’ I had wondered what these were doing here however. My eyes lowered, gazing upon the contestants that were there. Canines of different various sizes stand before me. From wolves, to Carsacs whatever those were however.

My head shook again, I waltz my way towards the starting line. Standing still and lowering my tail between my legs. While my heart was beating inside my chest loudly, I flattened my ears and glanced upon the two canines to my side. They, in turn, gaze towards me in response. Silence lingered onto their lips with their eyes met my own. A slight nod came, acknowledging me. But I never returned it to them. My heart raced. Yet I had wondered what was this competition at all and more importantly, the goal of this race. For all I could see were canines. No other species were there around us which made me think that this competition is all canines. As I was pondering, my ears stood erected and heard someone spoke through a microphone from my left. We immediately turned towards the source of that sound, spotting a canine holding a white and black microphone which we had presumed belongs to this competition at once.

As he speaks, someone nudged onto my flank. I yipped and was started. I turned towards whomever had committed it and growled, bearing fangs and poised to kill. But was surprise to see a fellow canine standing in front of me, holding a piece of white blank paper. His eyes bored onto mine. I said nothing else towards him while grumbling muttering something underneath my breath and extended my paw towards him. He pushed the paper onto my paws; I snatched it from him and pulled back. Flipping the paper over and gaze onto a series of pictures. Three lines of blank were adjacent to them. I tilted my head to the side and glanced towards the two other canines adjacently to me, in an attempt for a question. Yet I stayed silent, for immediately I had already noticed that they too never had anything to write with at all. One of the foxes off towards the side had scratched his paper. Ripping it apart like no body’s business. Yet none of us were surprise however.

Of the canines here at the starting line; only some were I able to recognized and acknowledged. A few foxes whom I had talked to in between the stories. Hunter’s pack; a six pack wolf gang whom goes on crazy adventures and insanity. Hourans, the wannabe Hunter’s pack. That was about it however. As I find myself staring at the two groups of packs upon our own realm, I frowned and whimpered. But suddenly turned my attention towards the front. The horizon that laid before me. For something was shot out of the blue, startling most who had ran off faster than us could comprehend. Pulling up front, I noted the scared canines scrambling to get away for mixture of fear, excitement and anxiety were written upon their faces. The Hourans and Hunter’s pack however, they already followed up behind the larger main group. Heading to the horizon and leaving whomever was behind.

I blinked. Remembering that I was in a competition. Gradually, my eyes widened in surprised. I stood there shocked with ears pulled back. I shook off the realization and ran. Racing through the road set before me as the winds breaks against my face in an attempt to pull me back towards the starting point behind me. Onto that point, I did hear someone speak into a loudspeaker, yet I never knew who it was however for my ears had blocked that sound. Allowing me to focus up upon the competition at hand as I get towards the work forced ahead of me. The competition at hand was something that I never wanted to partake into. But my pack had indeed forced me to join this under the cover of something. For my boss had agreed that something about this competition was off putting. Yet the feeling was uneasy and he could not understand why.

‘Was it because of the roaring crowd watching you?’ I wondered, ‘Or something else down the line…’ I trailed, having catch up with the rest of the competitors. Some of which had turned towards me. I ignored them all and kept focus; eyes up front and narrowed towards the horizon before me. As my thoughts popped into my mind, focusing attempting onto what my wolf was stating upon this odd competition. But through the string of thoughts, I could not figure out that uneasiness. Onto that note, I just exhaled a breath and shake my head. Hoping that I would figure it out sooner than later before it was too late however and returned my mind back towards the reality of things as I continued sprinting down the roads. Heading forth towards the first objective at the other end of the road.

We reached the destination. Everyone had stopped immediately and split apart. Except for Hourans and Hunter’s pack whom were still gathered up together and kept watch upon the other competitors. I watched them while I head towards the left side of the site, thoughts in wonder of what they were doing however. But my head shake as another thought popped onto my mind; ordering me upon the competition at hand. Onto that, I laid down my nose upon the ground and sniffed. Gaining a scent suddenly and immediately before following it down left side towards the edges of the playsite where I met the road suddenly. Lifting up my head, I gaze at the road suddenly. That scent still lingered onto my nose, coaxing me to move further towards this direction. Heading forth towards the destination ahead of me at the horizon. Yet I refused however.

I felt my heart beating fast once more as a headache grew upon my head; thoughts popped and swirled about. But before I could focus upon them, they had disappeared quickly as they had appeared. I frowned immediately and in answer, having no other choice other than this expression. Quickly shifting my head back around me, I gaze at the playsite in front of me. Eyes widened, surprise to only see a few left standing there. For the others, perhaps were already gone. But that two groups standing at the center were still there; those same two groups. My eyes narrowed at them, I had pondered if they were responsible for it. But I could not figure out why. For instead, I just shook my head just as the horn had sounded and all of the remaining canines left gathered at the center of the area. Sticking together with the Hourans and Hunter’s pack whom were standing side by side. Motionless as if they were statues somehow. Finding myself staring at them, I bit my tongue and said nothing, complying to move forth towards them. I stand still when I reached the group; turned my attention towards the canine in front of me whom was dressed in white and black shirt and a cap onto his head. Yet upon closer examination, I had noted that the ‘canine’ was not really one. For his face was entirely different than a normal canine however. But how to describe it was hard, even for me. Just stick with my words that it was different however.

Staring down at the ‘canine’ while it bark orders at us in response, I take the time to scan upon the remaining competitors. Noting it was fewer than the number we had started before. Perhaps lets say a fifth of them, alright? The group I stick myself upon was smaller. Yet none of them were obvious to what was going on around them. Well, except for the two groups however whom I had suspected that it was them who organized this entire ‘event’. My eyes narrowed upon Hourans especially, pondering if they were the main advisories to the canines. However, only one of them looked to me and only smiled faintly. Ears held back, an embarrassed look upon his face. My eyes stared to this canine, most specifically, a coyote however. As I had recalled from the past somewhere, I never trusted them. Never. Not after what they had committed to me long before as I still hear upon their laughters towards me. Ears flattened and me whimpering suddenly, the instructor shift his attention towards me and tilted his head. I shook immediately, barking “I am fine.” and that was the end of that superstition.

I breathed silently, relieved that the instructor had taken it. I still felt my heart beating. My ears were still flattened, having recalled from that time again. But as my head shakes side to side, removing that thought again. My ears propped up just as the instructor had pointed behind him. Towards an alleyway. The remaining canines nodded and went through with it. The hunter’s pack however, seemed stationary for some strange reason. The Hourans followed behind the other canines, disappearing afterwards once they have entered in. I stared at the Hourans, then back towards Hunter’s packs. For I said nothing in response towards them, except for a nod when one of them turned my way. Ears already flattened, I had pondered if there was some sort of connection between us however. But before either of us could make a move, the instructor shouted at us in response. For a loud voice howled through the silence of the atmosphere above us, causing both me and the Hunter’s pack to flinched suddenly as we sprinted down bypassing him. Into the alleyways behind him where we had faded from the reality’s eyes.

We entered. Darkness falls before us creating pitch darkness that lingered onto our eyes. It was rather hard to see anything without any sort of lights or lamps. Luckily, the path was only straight and short for I had saw something closing in onto us. Hunter’s pack were already on the move, walking passed me as they talked. Eventually disappearing upon the other side. The conversation they had were gone. All I could hear was silence. My heart continued beating in my chest, my head turned around and glanced back towards the roads and the play area behind me where I had noticed that the instructor was gone from his spot. Blinking in surprise, I turned around and faced the road; gazing out towards the fields where it was now empty. Nothing was there. Yet I had pondered about the instructor.

Yet recalling his yell or howl, I flinched and frowned. Turned around with my tail between my legs and moved, advancing through the alleyway and headed forth towards the unknown destination ahead of me. For once I had reached the other side was the time that I slowed down to a crawl, entering into a larger square before me. A single light swings above me; faint was its light as it could not shine upon the grounds below it. The walls were solid; purple and marked with dry blood. Corpse laid upon the side; some lay front. Motionless and stationary. I stared at each of the corpse and remained unmoving. My ears flicked to the side as I had recalled about the other competitions and quickly shift my attention towards the atmosphere surrounding me in hope that I could find them at once. But nothing was there. Just myself and the empty large room before me. The atmosphere continued rolling by like no body’s business. I walked forward a few steps. Heeding to the center of the room where I had remained and sat down. Tail hitting the ground before my butt as I gazed upon my surroundings once again. Now revealed to me three other doors. All already opened it had seemed.

Left, right and ahead were the position of those doors. Surrounding them were the grayish walls. Each of the doors had a sign posted above them. Yet due to the darkness, it was rather impossible to know what those signs were however. I could make out what they were; due to the brown or grayish coloring background behind each of them. Yet nothing else. I stared at each of the doors in silence. Head tilting to the side in ponderance while I stared at them one at the time. My mind had been wondering about the other competition, wondering where they had entered into and exited out of? Into their own destination of unfamiliarance or familance? I frowned upon this thought which had gave me a headache afterwards. I growled to returned myself towards the reality. Back towards the indecision that I was committed. I looked through the three doors once more; pondering. But that was snapped in half when I was already on the move. I was startled by the sudden movement that I had tried to stop myself. Halting my feet by grinding against the solid grounds below me, burning my paws and reducing my sharpen claws in the process however. Yet nothing seem to work as I kept on advancing.

I proceed towards the center of the three options and was forced to entered through it. Thus I had reappeared upon the other side. But I was unsure of where I was. I glanced out towards the horizon; gazing down onto the two walls that met up in front of me and the entrance that was standing there too. I turned my head over my shoulder; gazing down onto an available pathway behind me which heed deeply into whatever this place was. Nervousness and fear returned to my warm body; creating chills that made me flinched whenever possible however. I turned around and faced the horizon, I walked forward towards the pathway that was behind me. Following it down deeper into the realm of whatever this place was and had arrived upon my own destination ahead. Another entrance popped into view. Red words printed upon the entrance too, moving along its entrance’ side.

My eyes squinted at the entrance’s words; putting them together in hopes of understanding what it was. To no avail however that I had found myself growling and shaking my head in frustration. Long before I had decided to entered through the entrance without hesitation, reappearing upon the other side where I rose my head high towards level horizon and my eyes widened upon what I had saw before me. It was a park. A circus park. Closed down because of its wornout. For rides were rotting, food was smelly and other stuff were moldy. ‘Why here.’ I pondered frowning while I stepped forth from my original position behind me. Gazing at the rides and the food; then upon the games that were off towards the side. It had seemed that the Hunter’s pack was here too. Playing some games onto their own. They seemed to be having fun with themselves. I bit my lip tempted to just join them instead of the competition at hand. ‘Or was it even one to begin with however?’ A thought popped.

Exhaling a breath, I shook my head and turned my attention upfront to the horizon before me. A pathway opened up before my eyes; from the tents that hoisted the games within them. I moved forward. Step by step while my head shift towards the sides, eyes peering upon the entrances of each of the tents. Staring down onto the games that contains inside. From old games and older games, to newer ones that was just released, I was rather surprise that this park had everything the audience or customers had needed however. ‘Even competitions.’ Another thought appeared, one that I immediately shook off while continuing walking ahead. I bypassed several tents and several more too as well. Yet it was getting a bit harder however due to the loud sounds erupting from each of the games which were creating noise and such just to gain my attention. Yet I had made it towards the other end of the pathway and as I did so; I heard a scream from the other end.

Immediately, I turned around and glanced at the sources of the noise. All the games from each of the tents immediately turned themselves off at the sounds of someone screaming which I had perceived were Hunter’s pack however. I was torn. I frowned realizing this. But the question now remains in my head, lingering while I pondered upon it. Yet I never had a choice when I noted something submerging from the other end of the pathway. Coming from the left. It was a wolf like myself. Dark black thick fur from head to toe much like other canines and myself. Yet when it turned towards me. Its eyes glowed white. There was no pupils left upon them. Just emptiness. Its sight trained upon me. I flinched upon seeing it and darted towards the side. Hiding now remaining from its view. But the footsteps came forward. Step by step. Louder and louder. My heart beat in the same sync at it and I find myself whimpering softly. Feeling afraid of myself. I leaned back against whatever wall I hit myself upon, eyes closed upon the surrounding darkness that lingered upon the cover I hid myself in and just waited.

Waiting until the footsteps would stop and fade upon the silence that follows. But none of that happened and the footsteps close in onto where I was until I saw it up close. Lingering at the entrance, eyes forward. Then head turned towards the side; first to the left and then to the right. Repeating that again several times before departing. Disappearing away from the entrance of the pathway. I waited until the fading footsteps started before pulling myself out from the hiding spot I found myself upon. Breathing out, eyes closed and a faint smile resting upon my lips, I walked forth towards the entrance. Head sticking out into the open and looked ahead. He was not there. ‘Thank goodness.’ I thought before departing from the entrance and stepping back. For I turned around and sprinted in the opposite direction. I never cared if that thing came back. I never care if anyone heard me. All I had wanted was to flee from this. Flee from the competition that was bogus to begin with. Where every single one fades from my sights till I was the left standing. ‘Was it rigged from the start? Who partaken in this rigging?’ A million familiar questions popped and lingered onto my mind as more and more joined into my head, creating such a headache while I continued sprinting. Never caring where I was going.

Just far away from where I was however.