

FLIGHT LIGHT

Written by

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EXT. TRAINING FIELD - DAY

ARIEH, 23, male, balances on a griffin.

ARIEH
I'm doing it!

PETRA, 25, female, claps.

PETRA
Come on! You haven't eaten dirt!

The griffin flaps its wings and takes flight. ArieH loses his balance and falls off. He eats dirt.

Petra grits her teeth.

PETRA (CONT'D)
I know that hurt. Get up.

ArieH lifts himself. The griffin lands next to Petra. She pets the eagle's head as their lion paws dance.

JUDY, 47, female, walks over.

JUDY
I see you're still trying.

ArieH clenches his fists and calms himself.

ARIEH
I'm learning.

JUDY
Keep learning, and I'll lose you
like your father.

ArieH whistles. The griffin walks to him and he leaps on the griffin's back.

Judy walks away. Petra cheers.

EXT. TRAINING FIELD - DAY

ArieH straightens his posture in line with the griffin FLIERS. They look at him with confusion.

FLIER
This isn't the writing club,
Hillthorn. Go back to scribing.

ArieH bites his lip from replying.

PROFESSOR, 36, walks onto the field. His eyes widen at ArieH.

PROFESSOR
Looks like we have a new flier
training today. ArieH Hillthorn.

Professor moves closer to him.

PROFESSOR (CONT'D)
Petra told me you would be joining
us. Being a scribe isn't enough?

ARIEH
Not enough for me, sir.

Professor smiles, and everyone quiets.

PROFESSOR
Well, let's see about that. Today,
we're bringing out the big guns.

A roar erupts in the sky. A trainer brings out a leashed snapping griffin.

PROFESSOR (CONT'D)
This is Blooddra. We took her from
her parents decades ago.

BLOODDRA, 115, screeches and flails. Most Fliers step back.

PROFESSOR (CONT'D)
Which one of you do you think could
ride this beast, huh?

Blooddra yells and rams into the trainer. He loses his balance and lets her leash go.

She charges to fly away.

PROFESSOR (CONT'D)
Damn it. Get her!

The trainer stumbles.

ArieH runs after her. Multiple Fliers yell for him to return. He doesn't stop until he's next to Blooddra's tail.

She snarls and flaps her wings.

ArieH grabs ahold of her tail before she flies.

EXT. SKY - DAY

Arieh's legs hang in the air as the field gets smaller.

ARIEH
Oh, God. Oh my god!

The wind whips in Arieh's face as tears form in his eyes. He crawls up her tail and holds onto the base of her wings.

Blooddra growls and flies faster until she spins in a circle.

Arieh slips off and hangs on tighter to her scarred flank. He looks down and screams. His legs wobble as he heaves.

Arieh's hands slide more as Blooddra flaps her wings.

ARIEH (CONT'D)
Please, don't. Don't do this.

Blooddra glares at him.

ARIEH (CONT'D)
I can't be like my father and die
stuck writing history.

Arieh grits his teeth as tears run down his face.

ARIEH (CONT'D)
I want to be the history people
write about. I want to live free.

Arieh hauls himself on Blooddra's back. He clutches the nape of her leashed feathered neck.

ARIEH (CONT'D)
I'm tired of people detesting me.

Arieh places his leg on the other side of Blooddra.

ARIEH (CONT'D)
I like the view from up here.

Blooddra snarls in annoyance and flies various maneuvers.

This time, Arieh stays on and looks at her scarred body.

ARIEH (CONT'D)
How about we reach an agreement?

Blooddra doesn't respond.

ARIEH (CONT'D)

I'll train to become a flier. You can be my griffin.

Blooddra detests. ArieH pets to calm her. She flinches and attempts to get him off again. ArieH doesn't budge.

ARIEH (CONT'D)

We can become a team. When we're on missions, I'll let you return home.

She slows, and her wings flutter.

ARIEH (CONT'D)

That must be why you're so adamant about leaving, right?

She remains silent.

ARIEH (CONT'D)

I won't let them if you don't kill me. We'll both get what we want.

Blooddra growls. ArieH braces himself, but she stops and turns back.

ArieH gasps and laughs in victory.

ARIEH (CONT'D)

You do have a soft side. Even though we used each other, I'm glad you don't hate me.

They soar through the skies in silence.

EXT. TRAINING FIELD - DAY

ArieH and Blooddra return to every rider and professor on the field. Petra is with them.

Blooddra lands, and ArieH gets off.

PETRA

Jesus, ArieH. You had me worried!

Petra hugs him. As she does, Professor and multiple other teachers, yank Blooddra by her leash.

She screeches, and ArieH runs in front of them.

ARIEH

Stop that right now!

Everyone stares at ArieH with shock as he snatches the leash.

ARIEH (CONT'D)

ArieH Hillthorn, the scrivener, is
the rider of Blooddra, the griffin.

ArieH smiles.

ARIEH (CONT'D)

Write that in your history book.

THE END.