

## The Adventures of Josh the Wolf



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### Chapter 1: Introduction

Josh could still remember it now like it was last night, even though it was ten years ago. 10 years earlier, he went to the Underworld and back. It was now November 7th, 1981. He was celebrating his 10th anniversary after the mysterious adventure into the Underworld.

Josh was a 150 pound strong gray wolf that was adopted by an owner named Harley. Josh never remembered his early life, and the only thing he remembered was cuddling with him. Their home was a big, wooden cabin that was in the wilderness of Alaska.



Harley was always acting queer: being always locked in his studio. When Josh came into the studio, Harley always quickly closed what he was doing and told Josh to go away. He once thought he saw bones through what Harley tried to hide. Even though Harley acted so unusually, Josh loved him. They went on long hikes during the day. At night, Harley would read him stories. Josh's favorites were Greek Mythology.

One day, Josh was strolling with his master on a wild trail, when suddenly his leash broke off. Josh whipped around, but his owner was not there. He searched around in vain. The familiar scent just disappeared into thin air. When night fell, he was tired and hungry. He returned to their shack, desperately wishing that Harley would be there. It was pitch dark, and he could not find any food. Josh was devastated. He howled loudly into the wild, hoping someone would help him.

## Chapter 2: Josh Goes to the Underworld

Josh did not know what to do, so he tried to fall asleep. Minutes later, he started to snore loudly. When he woke up, he felt like he was in a different environment. Was he back in time? Trees were crumpled and old, like an old man. Skeletons with rotting, green bones were walking with clicks. Zombies were going around like sleepwalkers. He saw dead people meandering, heard their creepy screams, and heard celebrations going on. Crushed stone buildings lay in ruins. Towers shot up into the sky. Lava flowed with magma bubbling up from below. In the distance, a huge, dark castle with a tall watchtower was looming above. There were many levels, all black, and steel intertwined with the black marble. Jagged rock blocked the rest of view of the black marble castle. This must be the Underworld! It felt so different, and... beautiful. Imagine someone was living in a city, and got a visit to a national park. It was that different.

Josh ran to the gates of the castle. They were black, with a stone arch. The skeletons got out walkie-talkies and simply said,

“We have a wolf visitor.”

A tall and skinny man came running out. He looked as pale as someone who had not eaten in weeks. He had smooth, dark hair, and was dressed in a black suit with black cape. He had skeleton tattoos on his forearm. He looked like someone in his mid 20's.

“Josh, what are you doing here?” he asked in surprise.

“How do you know me?” Josh growled.

The man's appearance flashed from Harley's familiar face, to a skeleton, and finally back to the young man with dark hair.

“Sorry for playing as your owner Harley for so long. I am Hades. Come in!” Hades responded.

Josh followed Hades into his castle. He could not believe his eyes. The inside was brightly lit with fancy crystal chandeliers. Paintings were stretched everywhere. It was so different from the fierce, intimidating facade outside. He guessed that the scary design outside was just to scare people.

“You must go back to the land of the living,” Hades said. “It is too dangerous here for a wolf like you.”

“I don’t want to! I love the scenes!” Josh growled.

“You have to. I, as your master, make you go back. I care about you. It is too dangerous,” Hades said.

“Can’t you go back with me?” Josh pleaded.

“No, Josh, I wish I could,” Hades said sadly. “I am not allowed to take a living creature from the Underworld back to the living. I do not know how you got here in the first place.”

So Josh had to find a way to go back. He exited the building, and wandered around. He asked everyone how to go back. None had any idea. Finally, he found a wizard that said to him,

“Go to the very west of the Underworld. Bring a glittering diamond to me. Then I will send you back,” he said.



So Josh started walking far. A day passed. Two days passed. He was so hungry. He found a nearby stream and bathed and drank in it. It was burning hot. He was bathing in the River Styx! He felt searing pain, as if he was washing a cut with alcohol, but made worse a million times. He struggled to breathe. Visions passed through him. Harley and him strolling through the woods. Harley covering the skeleton. Their wooden shack in Alaska. His visions stopped. The searing pain was also gone. In front of him was Hades' concerned face.

“Now what are you up to?” he asked.

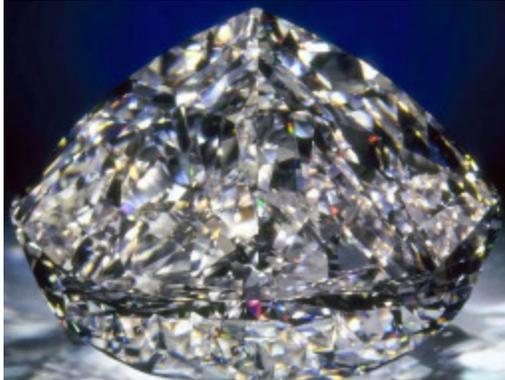
“A wizard told me that I have to go to the very west part of the Underworld, and grab a glittering diamond. Also, I am so hungry,” Josh responded.

“Sure, I can help you,” Hades said.

Hades conjured some beef jerky out of thin air. Josh licked his chops and wolfed down the beef jerky. It seemed that Hades had read Josh's mind about his taste. Hades and Josh kept walking for days, with Hades giving pot roast, noodles, burgers, and a lot more. They never went hungry. When Josh's feet got tired, Hades gave him a pair of wolf shoes, specially designed to fit him. All of the skeletons and

zombies parted for them. They passed the entrance to Tartarus, another section of the River Styx, and dead trees on short, lumped hills. They got to the diamond cave. A spider was guarding it. Hades showed the spider a keypad, and the spider let Josh and Hades pass.

The cave seemed to have a diameter of a million miles. The outside was made out of polished, grey granite. Glittering diamonds were stacked in unorganized piles. Hades swiped his hand effortlessly, and two shovels appeared. Josh grabbed a handle and started mining with Hades. They finally got the most shiny piece of diamond.



Hades and Josh went out of the cave, and went to find the wizard. However, the wizard was not there.

“I will teleport that betraying wizard here RIGHT NOW,” Hades said angrily.

The wizard came in his long, blue robes. Hades handed him the piece of diamond.

“That was a trick. HAHHAHAHA!” said the wizard.

The wizard’s voice may be loud, but Hades’ voice could be a million times louder.

“No, you may not. I AM HADES! THE GOD OF THE UNDERWORLD! And I shall NOT let someone in my realm trick Josh,” screamed Hades.

“Fine, fine,” said the wizard. “I will teleport Josh back, but no more than that,” the wizard sighed.

Josh fainted again. He saw a black and white portal around him. He felt like he was on an upside-down roller coaster that was spinning around, although technically, he was spinning around upside-down. He was finally back to his wooden shack, but he never knew WHO put him into the Underworld. Maybe it was the wizard, Hades, or another person, he never knew.

Now here he was in his bed, lying down in the same position as ten years before, when he had fallen asleep and went to the Underworld. He really liked the Underworld, but the days he spent there also had made him homesick. At least now he now knew what death looked like!