

*Wolf Cub Sim – Stories from the World Outside*  
By Stella East  
Sample translation

## Wolf Cub Soum

### Stories about the World Outside

By Stella East

Ytou is a beautiful she wolf. She knows what it is like to run and run and never see a fence. She knows how it feels to live and hunt in a pack.

Once she lived in the World-Outside where there are trees and forests, rivers and lakes, a night sky and a day sky. Once the World-Outside was the only world she knew.

Now she no longer lives in the World-Outside. She lives in a zoo.

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One month ago Ytou gave birth, to a tiny pup. She called him Soum.

Soum has never been in the World-Outside, but he loves to hear about it. When mother tells her stories, Soum can almost see the other wolf cubs playing. He can almost smell the forest air in his nostrils, and almost hear the most wonderful howling concertos any wolf could imagine. When Ytou tells her stories her eyes shine and sometimes her tail wags.

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Sometimes Ytou tells Soum stories from the olden days, - when the only light in the world came from the sun, the moon, the stars and the fires belonging to the people. "The people lived and hunted in groups then, like the wolves lived and hunted in packs. In the olden days people and wolves could be beneficial to each other. A wolf's howl could inform the people that there was prey nearby. In turn wolves might get to pick over a carcass left by hunters, or continue the unsuccessful hunt of prey that had only been wounded. Sometimes, the wolves even had to let the hunters take some of their catch.

Some wolves left their packs and joined the people. They then became dogs."

"Why did they want to do that?" asked Soum. "Why didn't they want to be wolves anymore?"

"Because after a while that was the only world they knew." explained Ytou. "Besides that, they received food and a place to sleep."

"But the wolves had their own food and their own place to sleep, didn't they?" asked Soum. "Oh, yes, well at least most of the time" answered Ytou, and she began to

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tell about how it was when she was just a pup.

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“We were four pups. Bilk and Fralt were the biggest. Zim was the smallest. Whenever Zim pestered Bilk and Fralt they just pinned him down. Therefore he preferred to pick on me instead. Once, Zim bit my tail really hard. I was just about to bite him in return, but he was already on his back begging mercy.

A wolf just never, ever hurts another wolf when he’s lying on his back.”

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“Mother and father were the only providers in our little pack. They had to work very hard to find food for us. Dinner would usually only be lemmings, hares, or maybe even a badger.

Some days though, they just came home exhausted and hungry.”

“I’m also hungry said Soum”. Just then the zookeeper rattled his dinner bucket over by the fence.

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A huge piece of meat was thrown into the zoo yard. People stood along the fence watching. Yyou lifted herself up and walked stiffly out of the den, her hair sticking up along her back. Soum trotted beside her, trying to keep up with his mother’s long wolf legs.

*"There he is! There he is!" "Oh isn't he cute"* shouted the people along the fence and pointed at Soum.

Yyou dug her teeth into the meat and began dragging it into the den. Soum batted it with his paws and pounced on it again and again as if it were alive. The People along the fence laughed and pointed, and some took pictures of the playful pup.

Once in the privacy of the den, Yyou tore at the meat, and ate with gusto. Then she made puppy food for Sim by regurgitating what she had chewed and swallowed. After the meal, they relaxed together contently on the den floor. Yyou then began to tell the story about the time her family pack successfully hunted a huge moose.

“We were walking along the edge of our territory...”

-No text-

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“Our pack then consisted of eleven members. The five new pups that were born in the spring were left alone in the den that day.

We caught the scent of a moose. He was a lone bull moose grazing on leaves and soft green branches. He soon became aware of us. He lifted his gigantic head and antlers. He watched our each and every move as we circled around him. He made no sign as to run away.

Zim got so excited that he ran forward and tried to bite the moose’s nose. The moose rose up on his back legs, and struck out with his front foot – a strike that sent Zim rolling backwards. The moose then pivoted on his back legs and began to run – limping.”

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“Before evening that moose had become our dinner.  
Mother and Fralk were the first to run home with food for the hungry pups.

What followed were several wonderful days of contentment and celebration. We ate and ate, played with the pups and just hung out together. What we couldn't eat that first day was buried for later.

By the end of that summer though, I had to leave my family pack.”  
"You mean you had to go off all alone by yourself?" asked Soum, his eyes wide with astonishment. "Yes, but I wasn't alone for very long" answered Ytu with a wise smile.  
"Now I'll tell you the story about the time I met your father.”

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“After leaving my pack I survived by hunting hares and mice. Luckily I also came across an unfinished carcass. I slept in an abandoned fox den and in thick underbrush. Sometimes I felt like I was the only wolf left in the whole, wide world.

One day I was sitting on a hill scouting the landscape when I spotted him – Hoka, he who was to become your father. I was excited, relieved and frightened all at the same time!  
From that day on, we became a new pack.”

“But in the spring a terrible thing happened...

A deafening sound filled the air. We tried to run away, but no matter how fast we ran that sound was right over our heads. I heard a shot. Hoka fell lifeless in the snow behind me.”

“I hope I never have to hear such a sound.” said Soum sadly. Ytu wrapped her tail more snugly around Soum.

“So I just kept running with all my might, and then suddenly everything went black.”

I awoke here in this zoo. There were fences in all directions. I was trapped  
“But why do the people want you and I to be in here?” asked Soum.

Ytu and Soum looked out through the den opening. Across the wolf yard they could see the people pressed up against the fence. Everyone was trying to get a glimpse of the mother wolf and her little pup.

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"Is it really true Mother - these stories you tell about the World-Outside?" "Of course they are true, my darling". "You mean there really, really is another world? A world with real lakes and forests, and where other wolves and other animals live?" "Oh, of course there is" replied Ytu surprised "of course there is a World-Outside."

That night Soum dreamt of being moved.

When Soum awoke the next morning he was in the World-Outside where wolves really do belong.

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*This book is dedicated to the she-wolf Sno of the “Koppang-pack” who in 2002 was the first Norwegian wolf to be placed in captivity.*