

# The Hidden Talent

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*This Story is about a girl who discoveries a new talent through love that could either be her beginning or the end of her life.*

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# 1 - Emotionally Alone

Awai slowly followed her friend Mizu back to the village. They both carried baskets of fruit and food. They followed the others from their village back to the middle of the town for the feast which started as soon as the sun disappeared behind the mountains. Mizu slowed down now walking next to Awai.

"Can you believe it? We become Women tonight"

Mizu looked at Awai who was staring straight forward not talking and walking like a zombie. Mizu raised her eyebrow then snapped in front of Awai's face as Awai looked startled and looked back to Mizu.

"I'm Sorry Mizu, I've been having a hard time concentrating lately..."

Mizu looked at her friend eyeing cautiously.

"Awai you know we have to find a mate in the next couple suns? who have you been thinking about?"

Awai bit her lower lip as she looked at the food in her basket then back to Mizu.

"No one... There is no one for me here Mizu. I will not find a mate by next full moon"

Mizu looked surprised for Awai was a beautiful girl and there were many handsome boys turning to men on the same night as they would become women. Mizu looked over Awai again.

"Awai...You MUST find someone by next full moon! it won't be hard i mean look at all them"

Mizu smiled as they walked past the boys who were playing football. One of the boys named Oushi smiled and waved at Mizu as she blushed. Oushi and Mizu had been best friends since they were small children and Awai knew they would mate together. Awai looked down shameful as they reached the middle of the small village. Both Mizu and Awai set the baskets in the middle by the others near the unlit campfire that was now being stocked with loads of wood.

"Awai we will find you a mate by next full moon me and Oushi will help you"

As soon as Mizu said Oushi he appeared right next to her.

"What am i doing?"

He was looking down at Mizu for he was about a foot taller than her. He was one of the cutest of the boys. He had a nice built figure. His hair was always a bit messy but looked good on him, he had dark brown hair that looked black. Even without gel it stood up spiked on his head. Mizu had been in love with him on the first day they met. Oushi smiled down at Mizu.

"We will help Awai find a mate, yes?"

Oushi looked at Awai with a surprised look.

"Awai you haven't found a mate? how is this?"

Awai was already staring shamefully at the ground.

"I apologize...but no one is right for me...I am a outcast"

"No,No"

Mizu grabbed Awai in a hug.

"It is ok Awai, you are not an outcast...we will find you a mate before full moon...I, Mizu, Promise this"

"and I, Oushi, Promise this also"

Oushi nodded then turned to look over at the stock of wood already gathered and at his other friends gathering the wood, he turned to Mizu and Awai as Mizu stopped hugging Awai and looked to him.

"I must go help fetch fuel, Awai...Mizu...Goodbye I will see you again tonight"

They both bowed their heads and Oushi stepped a pace closer to Mizu, cupped his hands around her chin and kissed her gently on the lips then stepped back bowed and hurried off after the other boys.

Mizu stood there stunned for a minute then blushed watching him run off. Awai looked at Mizu and smiled.

"Mates indeed"

Mizu looked at Awai blushing more.

"w-well I-uhh...we should go help the women..."

She was still blushing as she rushed off after the women foraging by the nearby bushes. Awai looked over at the boys carrying wood then sighed and chased after Mizu.

## 2 - Becoming a Woman

The heat began to fade on the backs of the girls and women foraging. The sun was disappearing behind the mountains. It began to get dark and then a woman, Inase, looked up and yelled.

"The moon has risen"

Both Awai and Mizu looked up then to each other. Mizu smiled and Awai gave a small fake smile then they followed the other women to the campfire in the middle of the village which was being lit as they arrived. Mizu looked at Awai after they set their food down and sat by each other on a log.

"Awai...we will find the right one for you I promise.."

Awai looked into Mizu's light baby blue eyes that shimmered from the light of the fire.

"I sure hope so Mizu....I sure hope so..."

She looked into the fire as Mizu watched Oushi walk over and sit by her. Mizu smiled at Oushi as he wrapped his arm around her waist and she laid her head on his shoulder and they both stared into the fire. The only sound was the quiet chattering of friends and crickets near by. Every so often they would hear the wind rustle through the leaves on the trees. Then Inase stood everyone looked to her and Mizu sat up as Oushi pulled his arm back to himself.

"5 girls become women and 10 boys to men...The men will fight for the women and the women will choose who they want. the winner may not always be the chosen one. all the women will have mates in the next 5 moons."

A chatter arose as the girls giggled and boys challenged each other already fuming and flaming in the eyes. Mizu looked to Oushi frightened.

"Oushi I have already chosen you...I do not wish for you to fight."

Oushi hugged Mizu to comfort her.

"It's ok Mizu I will fight and I will be fine we will live on and have beautiful children"

This made Mizu begin to dream of the things to come after they were married she smiled then sat back up straight. Oushi looked back to Inase as she blabbed on. Awai had been watching the too then looking to the others. She glanced from boy to boy then watched each boy walk up to Inase and have mud wiped on their cheeks to become men. Then the girls walked up and had mud wiped on their forehead as they became women. After Mizu, Awai walked up. the mud was wiped across her forehead and as she walked back to her seat she watched four boys smile at her. she gave a small smile back then hid behind the fire that separated them. She was a woman now. There was no man for her ...none..

"Awai? will you come?"

Awai looked to Mizu.

"where mizu?"

" The canyon "

### 3 - The Canyon

"Why are we going to the Canyon?"

Awai was still sitting on the log but turned her gaze from the fire up to Mizu who was standing by Oushi.

"Awai, everyone is going. well everyone who has turned into men and women tonight. Please come? maybe we will find the right one?"

Awai looked at the ground. This made Awai wonder...what if we did find "him" tonight? i couldn't miss out right? ...she looked back up at Mizu smiling and mizu and Oushi smiled back.

"YES! well lets go Awai everyone is leaving"

Mizu grabbed Oushi's hand and began to run after all the young women and men who began walking down the hillside that thier village stood upon. Awai quickly followed after Mizu and Oushi but with each step her hands shook a little some sort of power began to rumble within her as she thought of the right one. She was one of the last ones who arrived at the canyon she was talking to one of the other young women who had just become a woman too. they reached the canyon and everyone was looking over the side sitting down. Awai came to join and sat by Mizu.

"What's going on?"

Mizu was staring down into the canyon like all the others with a pale scared face even Oushi looked a little freaked out.

"a boy is fighting a monster...he must be from one of our kins...because he has earth bending powers...oh no the poor kid!"

The boy had just been hit into a wall. The creature he was fighting was a monster, Awai could tell, it was dark dark black like a shadow but it had horns of fire and a large tail that swung rapidly crushing the earth for it had a large ball at the end of its tail like a wrecking ball that also dented the sides of the canyon. Awai stared in disbelief she had never seen anything so horrible. It must be a demon. Awai was thinking..i have to help him..i know what demons don't like the only thing that can kill them...light...she looked up at the moon there was none...oh no the full moon became a new moon in one night how could this be? Awai looked to each person there was no light benders even in their village no adult or child could bend light. Awai didn't even have a power finding someone with one would be hard. what to do? Oh no...the boy fell the demon stepped sideways its tail coming right at the boy.

"NO!!!!"

Awai screamed it sounded like a screech everyone covered their ears but something began to happen she began to float and glow. the glowing became brighter and brighter until no one could even look at

her without going blind. Instinctively she pointed at the demon her eyes glowing with no color. from the clear night sky a bolt of lightening came down and struck the demon. its tail inches from the boy then it exploded in to dust. Awai began to dim until she fell onto the ground passed out. everyone stared at her and Mizu quickly crawled over and shook her a little.

"Awai....oh Awai!"

Tears streamed down her face and Oushi hugged her. Mizu looked at Awai again but then she began to stirr and Awai sat up.

"AWAI!!!!!"

Mizu jumped hugging her so tight Awai thought her eyes were going to pop out.

"Mi-zu..ple-ase..can-t..breeeth"

"oh"

Mizu let her go.

"Awai you scared me! i thought you were dead!"

Awai looked down into the canyon the boy still laying on the ground.

" is he ok? "

Mizu looked down at him.

"i don't know.."

Awai stood up and slid down the side of the canyon as everyone watched her. She jumped to the ground then quickly walked over to him. she shook him a little then took the pulse on his neck. Everyone was watching scared. Awai turned and gave everyone a thumbs up sign and they began to cheer. Oushi slid down and walked over picking up the boy. he had marks on his cheeks but they looked fresh. so everyone believed he had just become a man like all them. Awai helped Oushi carry the man up and they all walked back to the village alot of people asking Awai questions like:

"how did you do that?"

"did it hurt?"

"did you have a vision?"

"can you teach me?!"

But the thing was Awai couldn't answer any of the questions. She didn't know how she did it and could barely remember wat happened. it seemed like she was outside her own body watching. Once they

reached camp The man was set in an empty house and a caretaker, woman, watched over him through the night. Mizu, Oushi, and Awai were walking back to their huts. Mizu looked at Awai as her and Oushi held hands.

"Awai, you know the fighting starts tomorrow...most will be fighting for you since you are the most beautiful..."

Awai looked at her and sighed.

"yes...i don't know if i care if they fight though..."

"you will have to pick someone though and don't pick the one who loses only because you feel sorry for him ok?"

Awai looked and her as Mizu and Oushi smiled and all 3 laughed a little.

" Well goodnight..."

"night"

"g'night ladies"

They all waved and parted ways as they went into their huts to sleep.



## 4 - Meeting him

Awai awoke and walked outside, she walked over to the reed and quickly cut them with her cutter then tied them together making her small top. she then slid it over her bare body. then she cut more forming a skirt and also slipping that on. In the morning no one was dressed and had to cut reeds to cloth themselves since during the night the reeds they used as clothes shrivled and died and wouldn't stay together and fall off. Awai stood streached and yawned then walked over to help the other women forage. Mizu came up not to long later with her cute reed dress on. Mizu had a tube top like thing on and skit, but Mizu had a reed short dress that still showed her belly. It was manditory that everyone had to show their stomache because each person had a sign. today was the first time Awai ever did. she had 4 scars by her belly button making it look like a sun she smiled down at it. Mizu had a scar of a swirl. Mizu was a water bender. They Foraged then Oushi came running over. He had reed shorts but nuthing on his belly. Most men didn't.

"Hey girls he's awake"

Awai stood up setting her basket down.

"can we meet him?"

"he asked for the girl who saved him"

Oushi smiled at Awai then grabbed Mizu's hand and began to walk to the hut. All three walked in and all the boys that were in there turned seeing Awai and walked out. Awai watched them then looked at the only boy that didn't leave who was sitting on the bed. one of his arms were in a sling from being thrown into a canyon wall. He was a handsom fellow, well bit and only a few inches shorter then Oushi. he had muscules that was for sure, most earth benders did.

"Well hello, which one of you saved my life?"

Oushi pushed Awai forward and she smiled politely at him. He had a kind voice nonthreatening.

"I'm Awai..."

"Nice to Meet you Awai, I am Yochi an Earth Bender"

She was still smiling and her entire body tinkled.

"nice to meet you too"

Mizu kicked her in the leg.

"Ouch"

she glared back at Mizu then turned to Yochi with a more polite face.

"These are my friends Mizu and Oushi"

He nodded as they both bowed their heads.

"Friends of my savor are friends of mine"

He smiled and a tingle went up Awai's spine. Was this love? but if so...wouldn't it have to be love at first sight? and she didn't believe in this.

"sorry but we have to go back to Foraging...our new duties must be met. we meet again?"

He smiled again.

"Of course"

Awai stared at his smile then Mizu pulled her out as Oushi stayed and they chatted.

## 5 - The Lake

Awai and Mizu sat their baskets on the ground near the bushes and began to pick berries sitting criss-cross on the ground. Mizu looked over at Awai.

"We still must find the man for you, i think Kyoukou is handsome and gosh he's strong i bet he'll when but i think hinshu has her eye on him. but there is always Raido and that dumb founded horse of his i bet he'll try and use it in the fight oh he's so -"

Mizu looked at Awai who obviously wasn't even paying attention but picked her last berry and stood up turned around and was staring right in the face of the man she had saved.

" oh um..Yochi...umm..how are you?"

She stuttered and he smiled at her.

"I am good and you?"

"Fine...just fine"

She smiled softly then Mizu stood up.

"umm sorry for the interruption but we must be going"

Holding her basket with one arm she grabbed Awai by the arm with her other hand and began to pull her away to the other women. Awai waved at Yochi, he waved back then they both turned and left Awai practically being dragged. Once they finally reached the other women they both set their baskets down and began walking to the lake.

" Awai i can't believe you love someone who is not in our tribe...Awai what will Daifu say?! He will not be happy there is too many extra men in our tribe to be marrying an outsider"

Awai looked at her shamefully.

"i'm sorry Mizu i cannont control love"

Mizu was quiet for a while then looked at Awai and smiled.

"So you have found him Awai?"

Awai looked and Mizu and smiled too.

"Yes i think i have"

They both reached the lake and pulled off their clothes/reeds then slid into the lake. The cold water stunned their skin. Their skin was both a dark tan but not as dark tan as one of the boys in the camp. When their tribe people grew up their skin would get darker and when babies were born their skin was bright white. Both girls swam nude in the cold lake laughing and splashing each other. Then Yochi and Oushi came walking down the hill to the lake both girls looked up at them.

"Hey boys" Mizu said as she smiled.

Awai blushed.

"Join us wont you??"

"Of course" Oushi said as both smiled.

Awai and Yochi on the other hand looked at each other Awai's face flushed.

"you don't look so good are you ok Awai?"

Oushi got in then tossed his clothes/reeds onto the shore and swam over to Mizu as she smiled. they hugged. Awai thought it would be awkward hugging someone while being nude. Awai just shook away the thought then looked over at yochi who was now in the water his reeds on the bay. Awai smiled at him.