

Feral!Harjl saves Hiro

Harjl was in a foul mood already as it was. She was still very hungry. She had been feeding on local livestock when humans had driven her away. She *hated* it. The 50 foot dragon was slinking through the alleys, digging through the garbage.

Not far from there, Hiro Hamada wasn't doing so well himself. He was trying to hide from some rather sore losers. He'd won a bot fight, and they didn't take it too well. He was hiding behind a dumpster when he heard what sounded like loud snuffling. Slowly, he turned around, and his heart dropped into his stomach.

Harjl was just as surprised as the little human seemed to be. Amber eyes widened as the young boy scrambled back from her. As soon as she leaned in to take a better look at him, he took off with a yelp. He quickly vanished around the corner. Now, she wouldn't have paid much mind to it if she hadn't heard a pained cry soon afterward.

Hiro got clocked by one of the thugs he'd been fleeing from. "Goin' somewhere, **Zero**?" the man sneered. His two friends stood by with smirks of their own. "Face it... Y-you lost... It's just a game... G-g-get over it...!" The man gave Hiro a vicious kick to the stomach at that. "My rep's down the drain thanks to you, you *little rat*! Gotta teach you a lesson. Boys~ Hold him for me." The other two held Hiro up while the leader proceeded to beat the younger boy senseless.

Harjl couldn't wrap her mind around this. At all. Why would adults do this to their young? Or other young ones of their kind!? The huge dragon gave an angry growl, and began to advance on them. With each step she took, her claws dug furiously into the ground beneath her. Her tail lashed about behind her as she went.

Hiro's vision was spotty, and he was in excruciating pain when a deep, reverberating growl sounded from somewhere close by. "What was THAT?" "Beats me." "Think the rat's had enough?" "Nah." They soon went back to beating on the poor boy when one of the men suddenly disappeared with a scream. Hiro looked up, and his blood turned to ice. It was a dragon. One hand was sticking out of the dragon's maw, his screams neverending. Something blue and glowing wrapped around his hand none to gently, breaking it, and forced it into the jaws. Hiro heard a big gulp, and the man soon disappeared down the dragon's throat, his muffled screams and visible struggles sending shivers down Hiro's spine. He was in TROUBLE.

Harjl ran her tongue over her lips. Not the most tasty of things, but it was sating her hunger. She normally did not eat humans. Except she didn't feel that these men were humans. They were monsters as far as she was concerned. The ravenous dragon turned to the last two men. Amber eyes narrowed with a blood-curdling hiss, and obsidian teeth were bared. The black and gray beast used her snout to knock the last underling away from the boy. Then she snatched that one up into her jaws. His screams were ear-piercing, and his kicking was starting to hurt. Harjl tossed him around in her jaws, pressing him against the roof of her mouth. She once again extended her bio-luminescent feelers from her throat pouch, and constricted his legs with them. There were some audible cracks and snaps as she easily broke the bones. Then she stuffed him down her throat, too.

Hiro watched in horror as the dragon had just eaten two of his attackers alive. The slightly disgusted look on the dragon's face suggested this wasn't its usual diet. So why now? Why was it doing this? He didn't have much time to ponder over this before the last man grabbed him roughly by the back of his jacket, and hoisted him up in the air. "T-take him! Take him, but leave me alo-" The man's legs were yanked out from under him, and Hiro fell to the ground. The boy's stomach turned when he heard the man's scream

abruptly cut off, and he saw the dragon **shaking** him like a dog would a toy before gobbling him up, too. The dragon tossed him about in its mouth a few times, trying to angle him head-first before swallowing. It cringed, scraping its tongue against its teeth after sending the cruel man to his doom.

Harjl shuddered. That was a *bad* idea. Human blood tasted NASTY. But, at least she wasn't hungry anymore. Now she diverted her attention to the injured young one. Her head slowly came down to his level, following him as he tried to back away. Tears were welling up in his brown eyes, and blood was running down his face from his nose and a deep cut on his face. "I-I... Please... L-leave me alone... I j-just wanna go home..." His voice was weak. He was breathing hard, and a little blood was running out of his mouth, too. She gave a soft, worried bellow. Harjl reached out with one hand, and gently picked him up. Compared to before, she was remarkably *gentle*.

Hiro felt helpless. Scared. Was this dragon gonna eat him, too? It was, however, acting very differently than it had before. It was far, far more gentle. Like... It DIDN'T want to hurt him...? This was weird. "What do you want from me...? I-I don't have any food, and I REALLY don't want to be food... L-let me go, *please!*" He pushed against its scaly fingers. Didn't budge. Then the dragon opened its jaws. Tears were running down his face as he braced for cruel jaws to snap shut on him, except they didn't. Instead, he felt something warm and wet lightly drag up the side of his head.

Harjl began licking the blood off his face. The boy wriggled a little in her grasp, but she worked past that. It was when she was actually getting the cut over his eyes that she tasted something salty. She paused in her cleaning efforts to look at his face closely. He was... Crying? His little body was trembling, and his eyes were squeezed shut. The dragon sighed. He was just scared. He didn't know she wasn't gonna hurt him or eat him.

Hiro opened one eye when he noticed it hadn't really hurt him so far. Then the head came back, jaws open. "Oh come ON! DON'T--?" His fearful exclamation died off. The dragon did close its jaws over him, but *it did not hurt him* in any way. Then it removed its jaws from him, and just held him for a little while longer. Then it actually put him down and stepped back. He stared back up at it in shock.

Harjl had understood his request to be let go. Yet she wanted him to understand that she wasn't going to do him harm. The dragon slowly backed away, and turned to leave. She'd done her job. Harjl came to a stop when she heard the boy cry out. Her head swung around, and saw that he'd fallen down, clutching his belly. The dragon came back to him, one great eye peering out at him. "I-it hurts..." He was in pain? Harjl snuffled at him, taking in his scent and trying to find any other injuries. To her dismay, she could find no source of his pain. Harjl parted her jaws, and gently wound her tongue around him, and hoisted him up into her mouth. From there she kept her tongue pressed against the back of her throat to keep him out of there. She was trying to *help* him, after all.

Hiro stayed as still as he could when the dragon came back and sniffed at him. It was acting really, really weird...! His pulse sky rocketed when he found himself inside the dragon's mouth. "N-no NO DON'T DO THAT--" He broke off into a fit of harsh coughing. He was hurt, badly. Hiro felt the dragon begin to move. Jeez, it was in a hurry! He was pretty sure the dragon was running. On the bright side, it hadn't made any moves to swallow him so far. Maybe it was just carrying him? His theory was confirmed when he found himself being gently set down in front of a very familiar building.

Harjl had found his lair. Two humans had come out. A woman and a young man. "HIRO! Oh God, no... Aunt Cass! Call an ambulance!" The ashen woman, Aunt Cass, shot back inside. The man took Hiro into his arms, and gently hugged him. "You knucklehead... Why, why won't you listen!? I TOLD you this was gonna happen someday!" Hiro gave him a funny look. "Never told me... About a dragon, Tadashi..." Tadashi scowled at him, but looked up to Harjl. When he had first seen her, he had recoiled in terror. Now

he regarded her with a grateful expression. "I don't know what happened, I don't why you did what you did... But thank you, for saving my brother..."

Hiro watched as the dragon gave Tadashi a gentle lick upside the head, nearly taking his hat off with it. "Heh... Looks kinda feminine... Maybe she acted out of instinct? Or she just saw how helpless you are-" "Dashi, SHUT. UP. I harj..." His speech began to slur.

To Harjl, it sounded like her name, a name she'd been given many many years ago by other humans. Tadashi seemed to notice this. "Harj? Hiro, I think this thing was raised by people. She has a name!" Tadashi was not only trying to relay this find to his brother, but he was trying to keep him awake as well. Harjl seemed to recognize the need to keep Hiro awake. She began nudging him, gently mouthing his arms until EMPs arrived.

Hiro made a full recovery. He had been bleeding into his stomach, but had been saved. Tadashi discovered the dragon's full name after a while, and made sure Hiro knew it. Harjl, of course, opted to hang around their home. Keeping watch over Hiro.