

The world was at peace. A peace which had lasted with the return of the dragons, allowing the peoples of the world to mingle.

That left the dragoness Sisu with a lot of time and a lack of urgency with which to spend it, allowing her to go and see what had become of the land since the dragons first left.

Though she took little credit, remaining humble, she had been instrumental in saving the world, it only stood to reason that she explored it to find out and fully understand what she had saved.

To that end, she travelled far, beyond the limits of the maps that people had drawn, into new mysteries.

She didn't know how large this world might be but as long as there was water to be found, she would drift currents and flows to see more, going so far, one fateful day, as to drift off to sleep while floating down a peaceful stream, letting it take her away to new experiences.

Her eyes cracked open, mouth answering with a yawn as she stirred. She was on her side, a trickle of water pushing past along her shoulders while her neck remained grounded. The stream she'd been in had flowed into a cave, carrying her within it before draining away through rocks. Her body obstructed the flow, forming an unnatural and temporary pool which drained away with a rush as she stood. Sisu watched it with a carefree smile before turning and looking around.

"A cave, huh? Well now!" Her legs pushed out, dipping low and straining neck to tail to reach that satisfying peak of a stretch. Going down stream wasn't really an inviting option, as even if she cleared those gathered rocks, she didn't see a way her body would fit through. Instead, her elongated form turned back the way she'd drifted in her sleep. A strange dusky light greeted her as she traced the water's edge.

The cave emerged to a place unlike any she'd seen, twisted gnarled trees rubbed against each other, densely packed around the river and cave with just a narrow gap here and there. Feeling a bit like going off the obvious route, Sisu advanced on the gap, her step merry and her mood excited at the idea of an all new experience.

The forestry beyond that first bank was just as tangled and thick, only a trace of light piercing down to show it was day despite the dense shade. The forest had a gloom about it, reminding her of foggy mists without being that straightforward to describe.

Movement caught her eye as up above some woodland creature moved. "Oh hey, there." She said with a smirk, craning her head up to its level. She blinked and peered closer, it wasn't what she had expected in the slightest. Instead she saw a spider, almost as big as a man's fist, wandering along a branch. Having sighted one she started to notice more, dark blueish-black

bodies that reflected even a trace of light from their shiny bodies. “Whoa, aren’t you a weird one?”

The fog, the strange trees, the abruptly closed channel inside the cave and now these unnatural looking spiders? She came to a conclusion, she was dreaming! One of those strange lucid dreams. “Heh, well, better be careful where I step with all of you around.” Musing that she hadn’t seen any webs.

As was so often the case with dreams, thinking of something and voicing it was a sure way to make it happen. Something chill and sticky struck across her chest while her leading leg met a soft squishing of the same substance. “Wha- oh come on!” She said with a frown, turning to look. The ‘web’ was as abnormal as the spiders, rather than white-grey filaments, it was made of a thick glossy blackness. So too did it avoid the usual form of a spider’s web, instead the leavings were thicker, with strands sagging under their own weight, coupled with pools on the ground. She tried to step back from the puddle that had pressed between her clawed toes and move from the hanging smear, yet it was sticky, plastering into the fluffy fur of the water dragon’s neck.

Sisu’s hand creaked, shaking from tension as she tried to pull it free only for the web-pool to snap back, dragging her with it, the momentum carrying her forward until more of the hanging strands hit her neck and chest, with some even catching her other shoulder. “Uh oh...”

She took a breath, it was all a dream after all, she’d summoned those webs into her path by thinking about them, she just needed to will them to break, or to stretch infinitely without pulling her in. “Come on, come on.” She said, digging in with her other three other legs as she tried to pull back. A single strand of the web that had been caught on only a few hairs twanged as it pulled free, shaking around. “Yeah, like that. Okay.... Break!” She said to the still stretching mass on her front foot, even as she had to dig her claws in to not be pulled back to it. She brought the limb up and down, shaking it sharply as she said. “Break!” One more time. It refused, reaching the limits of her strength as the strands on her body had, too. When her hand gave an inch, she couldn’t stop the rest of the webs effectively reeling her in. “Wah, wait wait!” She said, claws skittering on the floor in a half run as elasticated stickiness contracted, pulling her body with it, “W-waaaah!” She gasped as she saw a thicker strand than the rest beyond those she’d hit, unable to keep herself from being propelled into it, shoulder stretching it out from the impact. Almost like a sheet being stretched over the joint, it clung tight, strong enough to keep her front leg from dropping to the floor.

“Okay, so why didn’t it break... is it a faith thing? Do I have to will myself to believe it’ll snap?!” She started to monologue, tongue getting faster as she argued with herself. “No no, of course I already believed it. Look, Sis, just shush, calm down, and uhhh... dream of something else. Rivers! No.. uh. Nice open skies and clouds, a meadow without branches or spiders.” She scrunched her face up, shutting her eyes, willing the dreamscape to change when she opened

them. It hadn't... Instead she was met with the eight round eyes of one of the glossy black spiders.

Indeed all around her a few of the arachnids had taken notice, thanks to the twanging webs she'd been plucking at.

"Oh... I'm starting to get a bad feeling..." She murmured.

The spider let itself down on her snout, wandering across the bridge of her nose. Her eyes crossed looking at it as she cracked a smile. "Hey there li'l dream spider, you wouldn't be a *talking* dream spider, would you?"

It plodded on ignoring her completely, she felt the weight of it slide along her cheek, down the back of her neck and tensed up. That was something about dreams, for all their lack of sense, there were also other things missing in them, like weight and feelings. The relatively weighty spider legs drummed a path that she could definitely feel, as with a chilling realisation it finally dawned on her this wasn't a dream.

"Oh no, oh no. Gotta get out!" She concluded, trying to bounce the webs to at least get her front leg back down to the ground and work from there. "Mh-phhhbt." She stifled in shock as she felt something below, one of the curious spiders on the ground had reached her back foot and clambered on, its limbs hitting with such precise points and rhythm that it tickled. More steady taps joined in as the spiders crowded from the floor and even from above, dropping onto her sometimes gently enough she didn't know until they walked, at other times falling straight on.

"Gah, Mngheheh... what? No, n- stop stohohohop!" She said, hold broken as the tickling points became too much, making her lose control as her body squirmed to shake them off. Her legs bucked, tail flapping, trying to slap them off until it hit something wet and sticky. Before she realised it the long limb had a whole ribbon of web wound around it. Several stubborn spiders still clung and with their motions she tried to rear, losing her grip and balance and toppling onto her side.

She felt the cool splat of the puddle on the floor that her side splashed square into the centre of, her tail and right foreleg still stretched up in the air within the rubbery webs that refused to come unstuck. "Sisu wh-whahahahaha are you doing?!" She yelled at herself. It wasn't even entirely her fault, the many spiders had already been tracing strands of sticky webbing along in their path, those who had dropped from the trees had snared her in the process making her lighter and more easily tripped.

Those she'd knocked away added their numbers to more that were still coming as the wriggling arachnids swarmed closer.

Her barrel chest swelled and deflated as she breathed in panic, trying her best to keep from laughter at the tickling sensations that grew less frequent when they were replaced with a

slowly growing pressure. The dragoness tried to swipe with her one still free leg at a thin strand of webbing but even that refused to break from her talons, pinging away. It didn't stick, though at this point it didn't matter. Still more spiders descended, some dropping with speed, all landing without issue on their end but they tacked on a streamer of web from up in the trees.

Chest to hips, even down past her tail there were many spiders roaming, drawing a black lattice of web that clung to her. The surreal stickiness grew tighter as the patches of blue fur were covered up. The spiders all seemed to be working together like a hive!

"P-please, come on now l-little buddies." She said, stuttering as a result of forcing herself to hold back from laughing. "I'm far too big for you! E-even if you tried to bite me you'd not get through my skin!" She asserted. "Come oooooon." She moaned when her words had not a single discernible effect.

Some had moved to the dangling strands, connecting them, reinforcing them and pulling them to near trees. Slowly but surely, Sisu's weight was compensated for in the webs, reaching a point where the tug pulled her off the floor. "Okay, this might be the sort of time I need to start yelling; Heeelp!" She cried, realising the spiders were not just coordinated but intent on finishing their work. "If anyone's there at all! Help me!"

No one was there to hear her. Her cries echoed until the lattice of webs had folded up her neck, drawing ever closer to her face. She tried to pull her neck away, to hold out as long as possible. Her eyes caught a glimpse of her body, bluish-black, shining layers had built up, the spots of her fur being hidden away in a coating that matched the shine on the body of the spiders.

Her flailing foreleg and tail could barely tug, the remaining three already so coated and compacted that they were useless. The webs had broken her foot from the floor, leaving her front legs tucked in fast to her chest. Her rear legs were joined into one, with the tail poking out between them.

Tufts of her thick mane still poked out where the spiders hadn't reached yet from the neck down she was completely covered in overlapping stretches of the dark fabric.

She shivered and quaked, swinging her body in response, the webbing creaked and bounced in response to her working muscles, pressed in tight enough to line each curve but it was too strong for her to contend with.

"Shoo, shoo! Go away!" She insisted as they closed in. The mane she sported protected her to a degree but she felt the voluminous fur being bunched down closer and closer to her jaw. "Oh... bother."

The strands packed down. Stretched inch by inch up and over her head, then she had to shut her eyes. The strength of the web and the extent of her struggles left her hanging limply as two final spiders finished coating her snout, highly elasticated webs stretched over her jaws and

the bridge of her nose. Stopping short of her nostrils and the tip of her lips. “Hrrffh.. Mh-mhhhrfh!” She mumbled, the rest of her jaw squeezed on enough that she couldn’t crack them to push her tongue past her teeth.

As the spiders finished, they climbed off her, showing they’d been adding even more to her weight. By the time the tension in the webs had equalised she was more than a man’s height off the floor. A shining, almost totally coated package of rubber-webbed dragoness that struggled strongly to almost no effect. Helpless to whatever it was the spiders intended to do.