

You glare at it, "You mean would I prefer to escape or be eaten? I think I'll try escaping if you don't mind."

"Putting aside the fact that I do indeed mind seeing my meal escape, and the fact that I could very easily call the guards, I feel I should point out that the last person to escape from their cell ended up facing me in the Pit both naked and unarmed." The dragon pats its belly, "You can guess how well that went for him."

You look at the massive reptile, it is clearly much faster and stronger than you are. "That doesn't sound much worse than facing you in the Pit with a sword. I'm dead either way so I think I'll take my chances escaping."

"It's not impossible to escape the Pit. Remember that its purpose is to entertain people so the fight cannot appear too one-sided. At the start of the fight at least, I will be holding back and giving you chances to nearly hit me. If no one survived, people would stop coming to the fights and I would stop getting fed."

"So you'll give me a chance to escape?" You ask.

"Sorry, but as I said, it has been some time since the last fight. If I have eaten recently always I give my opponents a chance but, well..." it gives you an apologetic look "I'll let you have a few near misses, try and fail to pin you a few times but after we've satisfied the audience, you'll be going straight down my throat." it licks its lips in anticipation.

"So basically you're telling me that if I try to escape, you'll call the guards and I'm dead, and if I don't try to escape, I'll face you in the Pit and I'm also dead. Right?" You try to remain emotionless to avoid making rash decisions but the hopelessness of your situation is making it difficult not to get angry.

"If I call the guards, yes"

Hope again. "So you might not?" You ask.

"I'm as much a prisoner here as you are, and in an equally fatal situation. If I lose a fight, I'm dead. If I win too often, I'm boring and my captors will kill me. If I draw then I risk starvation. I need to escape as much as you, help me and I'll help you."