

You stop and the growl dies away, turning around you walk helplessly back towards the dragon's cell.

"Don't you dare think of leaving me here." It hisses.

"I was just going to unlock that door first" You protested "Then I was coming back for you."

The dragon glares at you, completely unfooled. "Just open the door."

You hesitate. The cell door is the only thing between you and a predator more than eight times your weight. The dragon starts to growl again. Helplessly you attempt to pick the lock. It isn't easy, the lock is no different from the one that opened your door but the angry dragon only inches away makes it difficult to focus. The two of you are so close you can feel its hot breath as it waits impatiently for you to release it.

You've seen dragons before, faint distant silhouettes of them in the sky. You've hidden in terror when one landed in the town you were in but none had ever come close to your hiding spot. Once when traveling between towns with a group of merchants you were attacked in the night. A dragon slipped past the lookouts and swallowed one of your fellow travelers, but by the time you had woken it had escaped, leaving nothing but a few claw marks and an empty bed to show it had been.

You have never stood within a few inches of one, close enough for you to reach though the bars and touch its scales. you can hear its breathing, you can smell it. You force yourself to focus instead on opening the door and try not to think about the fact that you are probably feeding yourself to it.

Click, the door swings gently open and you brace myself, expecting to be grabbed, dragged into the cell and shoved headfirst into the dragon's gullet. Nothing happens.

"You're not going to eat me?"

"Even if I intended to betray you, I still need you to open the other door."

You breathe a sigh of relief, at least this is not a trap. "Come on then, lets go, but please try to be quiet"

You need not have worried about the noise. For a creature so large the dragon moves almost silently to the exit then sniffs at the door.

"There's no-one on the other side, you can unlock it."

You slip the pick into the lock and soon the door is open, you leave the room and creep into the corridor beyond, after the gloom of the cell the touch light is

dazzling and you both have to wait for your eyes to adjust.