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Roman Kurepa's character profile

Written by Blue Kitty Tales.

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Date of birth: September 20th 1984

Name: Roman Kurepa

Gender: Male

Species: Western dragon

Weight: 89KG

Height: 6ft 0"

Colourings: Blue and silver scales

Hair: N/A

Eyes: Gold left eye, missing right eye

Favourite colour: Blue

Clothing: Dark blue T-shirt, black pleather coat and blue jeans

Footwear: None

Accessories: Eye patch (right eye)

Marital status: Taken

Ancestry: Serbian

Occupation: Drummer of Slezy Drakony and firmware designer at Heron Instruments

Residence: 48 Fulton Drive, Davidson City

Roman regards himself to be as ordinary as any immigrant to North Triston was perceived, looked upon as wanting to earn their stripes in a country they hoped to call home upon their emigration from Russia to Serbia in 1991, then to North Triston in 1997. Though he has found it easy to bond with the inhabitants of North Triston, he has sometimes felt like an outsider, a feeling his parents Mirna and Arkady and his older brother Anatoly know only too well.

As a result of where he has lived, both Roman and his brother are trilingual. They can perfectly understand, write and speak Russian, Serbian and English, and though born in Russia, their parents both hail from Serbia and spoke their native language in their household. When Roman speaks in Russian or English, his speech is inflected with a strong Eastern accent many mistake for Russian, his accent being much thicker than Anatoly's. While Anatoly thinks of Russian as his first tongue, Roman considers Serbian his native language and the one he is best at speaking, and he will sometimes subconsciously slip into saying things in this language when speaking either of the other two.

The first thing many notice about him is the patch over his right eye, which he never removes. Just after his 2nd birthday, his parents noticed that his right eye appeared silver instead of red in their photographs and that he was having trouble seeing through that eye. Their doctor instantly referred them to the city's hospital, where a scan revealed that he had developed leukocoria caused by retinoblastoma. Worse, this cancer was an aggressive kind. With no other way to treat it or restore his vision, his right eye was removed and the remaining socket had needed to be eviscerated, the socket being sewn up afterwards.

Being left with only one eye resulted in him lacking any depth perception, hindering what would otherwise have been his natural ability to fly. Other than this, he had seemed as sociable as his parents and his brother had desired him to be. But as time went by, he wasn't slow to pick up on the fact that his missing eye detracted from the perception many creatures had of dragons as being intimidating, and instead saw him as weak. Consequently, he learned how to overcome this by sweet talking and manipulating others when he saw a way to gain something from it.

His years in high school saw him date a string of girlfriends of varying species, although none of these relationships lasted for any longer than a few months. This was something his parents had bemoaned, having desired grandchildren even at their tender ages and fully believing that he and Anatoly would quickly find stable relationships. Roman had suspected that this was due to dragons being very feared in some quarters, but highly desired in some others.

He had difficulty finding members of his own species as a result of not many inhabiting either half of Triston. This was to change when he started a course in IT and business at the Thistlewood College in East Bridgegate, when he found himself seated next to a woman he fell utterly in love with, Nikoleta, who was an immigrant from Rostov on Don, Russia. The two dragons quickly hit it off and were soon spending as much of their available time as they could with each other. Whenever they were separated, Roman found himself believing that half of him was missing.

Unfortunately, his father fiercely disapproved of the relationship. He had formerly worked for the Soviet Union's KGB and had known Nikoleta's father, who had defected to North Triston in 1988. Due to his loyalty to the former regime and his political leanings, as well as its influence on both he and his wife's home countries, he viewed Nikoleta and her family as being wrong for Roman, going so far as to try to sabotage their relationship on several occasions. This only increased the young dragon's desire for her, triggering vicious arguments in their household. Arkady hated either of his sons defying his orders, particularly where relationships were concerned.

Nonetheless, he still sneaked out to attend his dates with her. But the turning point came when his father discovered them kissing on a park bench after a romantic evening. Without making his presence known, he pulled Roman away from the dragoness. Despite Roman and Nikoleta fighting against his grip, he threatened that he would make sure the friends he had in Russia would hunt down and kill her father if he ever caught her coming near his son or any members of his family again.

The very next day, Nikoleta left the college mid term without telling the faculty. The only clue he had was a handwritten note that had been left hanging out of his locker, which simply read, *'For my father's safety, we can't be together, Roman. I'm sorry.'* He raced to her home, only to find that she and her family had already left, leaving their furniture behind. Searching for her name online proved fruitless, for she had given no clues on any of her online profiles where she was.

Utterly heartbroken at the loss of his love, he confronted his father the instant he got home, but he remained unrepentant, convinced his actions were the right ones. Roman was so angered, he started to violently attack his father, and was about to send Arkady's flames back towards him when his mother and brother stepped in and pulled them apart. Both Roman and Anatoly registered their disgust at this treatment, and following this, Arkady ordered both of his sons to pack up their belongings and leave.

At his lowest point, all he had left in his life was his brother, with whom he always remained close. Anatoly's job with a company who made music recording equipment meant that finding a property to rent proved fairly easy, settling on a studio flat in the heart of Davidson City. Although they stayed with one of Anatoly's friends for several weeks until then, they turned down her offer to let them live with her long term, as they felt like doing so would be taking advantage of her.

Although Roman still attended college, he was much less social than he had been, focusing on nothing more other than his work and rarely leaving the campus during breaks. He missed Nikoleta intensely, and the dragoness was nearly always in his thoughts. Eventually this became too much for him and his despair had emerged upon returning home at the end of a week. Anatoly had spent the evening comforting his brother.

From then on, however, Roman began to look for ways to fill the void Nikoleta's departure had left inside him. Nobody else had seemed to know where she was, nor had there been any sign that she was still in North Triston at all. Even phone calls to addresses in Rostov On Don had proven fruitless. Consequently, the exploratory phase of his life began when one of his college peers brought him to the city's largest strip club one Friday evening. By the time the morning came, he had enjoyed private dances with every performer who was there that night and had arranged for a sexual session with one of them the following evening.

From then on, he made weekly visits to the red light districts of both Davidson City and East Bridgegate, and on many occasions had one night stands with both men and women of a lot of different species. He soon became known in those towns as a player and a lothario. While some despised him for the fact he would never stay with any partner for very long, some also desired a chance to spend a night with him. This reputation irritated Anatoly, who tried all he could to calm down his brother's libido, at the same time knowing that deep down, Nikoleta was the only thing that would fill Roman's void.

After passing his course with very high marks, he was inducted into World Computer Systems, a global manufacturer of computer hardware, as a designer for the firmware of their newest line of hard disk drives. But the dream was not to last, for only one year after the new drives went on the market, it was reported by many sources that they were failing far sooner and more frequently than normal. He was fired for his part in

designing their firmware, and after a series of failed odd jobs, joined Anatoly in his company as a firmware designer and tester.

It was during this time that he began developing a fascination with the music industry, and after seeing so many musical acts come and go from Anatoly's business, he started to form a desire a few years into the job to get involved himself. In particular, some of the bands the business sold to were Folk Metal bands, and he soon found himself developing a liking for this genre regardless of where these bands originated from. Some of these bands gave the dragon brothers posters advertising where they would tour, with a few even inviting them to their concerts.

In October 2016, the poster a Dutch band named Wolfpack left them would be the one that sent Roman on his next journey. This poster instantly reignited his desire for his lost love again, for not only was a picture of her on the forefront of this poster – she was now the lead singer of a Russian folk metal band named Slezy Drakony. He started to search for their music online and was instantly captured. Not only by the sound of Nikoleta's singing and growling, but also by the sombre tone nature of many of the band's songs. All of the band's music was in Russian, meaning he had no trouble understanding the lyrics. He was certain that in some of the recordings, he could hear her start to sniffle at the very ends of them.

He paid for two tickets to the concert, hoping to reconnect with the woman he had once loved with all his heart. From then on, she occupied his thoughts all over again. What's more, the month before the concert was due to go ahead, their drummer quit the band as a result of undisclosed personal problems, requiring them to use session drummers for their live performances.

The day finally came on January 21st 2017, and he watched ceaselessly as Slezy Drakony, who had chosen his town as the final stop of their tour, came onto the stage. And before the band could begin their first song, Nikoleta recognised Roman in the audience and asked him to come up to the stage. Cheers erupted from the audience when Roman rushed up and the dragons caught each other in a tight hug. Upon introducing him, he spent the evening duetting with her in each song, before they left together at the very end to catch up.

When their set finished, she offered him the chance to join the band as her new drummer, and he accepted in a heartbeat, requiring only a month to memorise the drum sequences for all of the songs they were to perform in their next tour. As well as his lack of a right eye, he is known as the band's only member not to wear any clothing on the upper half of his body during the band's live performances. He has also contributed some of his own lyrics, these being in Serbian and covering his own country's mythology.

As a powerfully built dragon, he has a lot of physical strength at his disposal, but in many other ways, feels outshone by Anatoly. Like both of his parents, he can manipulate fire, but unlike his father, he lacks the ability to breathe it. He sports a pair of rigid horns either side of his head, and his vast wings, spanning nearly twice his width when spread out.

Roman cares deeply about his brother and his many friends, getting on very well with his fellow bandmates and thinking of Nikoleta as the love of his life. Outside of Slezy Drakony, he enjoys playing chess and backgammon, although he avoids playing the former with Anatoly, who is known around North Triston as one of the country's most powerful chess players, having attained the rank of Grandmaster. He also enjoys tennis and watching horror films.

