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Nikoleta Zima's character profile

Written by Blue Kitty Tales.

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Date of birth: December 30th 1986

Name: Nikoleta Svetlana Zima

Gender: Female

Species: Western Dragon

Weight: 86KG

Height: 6ft 2"

Colourings: Chianti red scales

Hair: Black shoulder length hair

Eyes: Blue with black sclera

Favourite colour: White

Clothing: White dress, black parka

Footwear: None

Accessories: Gold watch (left wrist)

Marital status: Taken

Ancestry: Russian

Occupation: Lead singer and songwriter of Slezy Drakony

Residence: 14 Tare Avenue, Brocket, North Triston

It is a safe bet that Nikoleta is not unrecognised inside or outside of either half of Triston. Having emigrated from Rostov On Don in Russia in 2001, she is known in her home country as the daughter of a man who defected from his job at the KGB in search of a more prestigious life. Though no attempts were made on her life or her mother's, he was forced to live in exile away from his family, though they secretly remained in touch. She still finds herself regularly asked questions about her father's former job whenever she travels back to Russia.

As a result of living in two countries, she is bilingual. Russian is her mother tongue and she has also learned how to speak English, though is also in the process of learning Serbian. Whenever she speaks in English or Serbian, her speech is inflected with a thick Russian accent, which many native speakers are quick to notice.

She is known also for having a larger pair of wings than many other dragons, which makes flying long distances a very easy feat for her. This was despite both of her parents having wings about two thirds of the size of hers, which she likens to a genetic anomaly. She has also inherited their shared fire breathing and she is able to exude purple flames and exert control over them, something that has made many she has shown this to very envious.

Soon after settling into North Triston, she noticed that very few dragons were present in either half of the island. She had suspected this was due to the still lingering effects of the very repressive regime that had kept a stranglehold over South Triston until its overthrow in 1993, with the news reports she saw showing a country still in disarray. With her strong desire to chase her dream of working for WCS, she enrolled at the Thistlewood College in East Bridgegate, just a short drive from the small town of Brocket, and took up a course in IT and business.

It was in this class when she met a blue and silver dragon she fell passionately in love with, a fellow emigrant by the name of Roman. He hailed from Serbia, so she introduced herself in English, but she was taken aback when he replied in Russian. At first, she had been suspicious of him due to him knowing her language. However, once he explained where he had been brought up, she had understood. He had only one eye, having lost his right one to cancer when he was only two years of age, but this did not dampen her growing adoration for him.

From here on, they began dating, spending as much of their time both in and out of college in each other's company. On several occasions, they were spotted passionately kissing in the corridors between lessons, but no matter what their peers said, their love blossomed with each passing day. Whenever she was away from him, she missed him, desired him intensely.

Unbeknownst to her, Roman's father Arkady was a former KGB member who had known her father, and unlike him, his loyalty to the former Soviet Union had not wavered. As a result, he had tried to sabotage their dates, trying to prevent Roman from being able to meet up with her. Tensions finally erupted when Arkady found them watching the sunset on a park bench and confronted them, vowing to send the friends he had back in Russia after her father if she didn't stay away from his son.

Fearing for her father's safety, she broke off all contact with Roman and dropped out of her college course before she and her mother returned to Russia, while her father entered police protection. Believing she and her family were too well known in her home city, she instead got in touch with an aunt who lived much further away in Yakutsk and settled in her home. She started a new job as a waitress and in her first week she met and fell in love with the head chef, a deep blue dragon named Sergei.

After their shifts, they would go home in each other's arms. But whenever she brought him to her home, she would wait until her aunt and mother were either out of the house or asleep before they would give in to the desire they felt for each other. Each desired a family, viewing it as a dream come true, and Nikoleta soon became pregnant. He hatched on September 5th 2007 and was named Yevgeny after her late grandfather.

Timing it for his second birthday, the two dragons married with both of their wider families in attendance. It remains a day Nikoleta remembers very fondly despite her father's absence, although he was still able to view their ceremony via a video call. Their married life proved eventful and Nikoleta found herself pregnant again. And on December 19th 2009, their daughter, who they named Olga, came into the world.

However, their world was soon to be shattered. In October 2013, the teachers at Yevgeny's school were reporting that he was complaining of headaches that wouldn't go away. At first, it seemed inconsequential, until he had suddenly collapsed during a lunch hour and stopped breathing from what appeared to be a young heart attack. When Nikoleta and Sergei were contacted and they reached the school, the building was surrounded by medical staff. They broke the news that Yevgeny had died.

Both dragons were utterly devastated from the death of their son, compounded by the fact that their daughter had asked them where her brother had gone. Their world had been torn apart, and neither of them understood why. A month later, the city's hospital had contacted them and explained what had happened. The doctors had discovered that Yevgeny had a massive tumour in the base of his brain that had pressed into his medulla oblongata, eventually cramping it to the point that it could no longer command his heart to pump. It was found that it had been there since his birth, consisting of germ cells that had travelled to his brain during development.

While Sergei was able to find his own means of dealing with his death, Nikoleta was never able to recover, having blamed herself for what had happened despite the medical evidence showing otherwise. She developed an explosive temper and frequently argued with him, eventually no longer responding to his sexual advances. Finally, she stopped holding conversations with him. Remaining heartbroken by the death of their son, she had no longer felt able to bond with her daughter or husband, so had filed for divorce. Having felt he would be a better parent than she could, she resigned custody of Olga to him, then moved back to Rostov On Don, never to see either of them again.

She spent several months living with a friend in the city, a bear named Valentin who was a blacksmith. For the first few weeks, she regularly dissolved into tears when she saw things reminding her of Yevgeny. On Valentin's suggestion when he had heard her sing a traditional Russian folk song in the bath, she took to singing in bars situated around the city, in the process finding an outlet for the grief still inside her.

One particularly sombre song she dedicated to her son was enough to move her to tears during her performance, and this caught the attention of a group of musicians who were watching. When she got talking with them, she found out that each of them were knowledgeable about traditional Russian music and all of them had been active in Metal bands.

When she explained about her son's death, Tetyana suggested that they could create more music with that kind of tone, wanting to evoke what she saw as the best of her vocal range. She voiced a desire to perform heavier material and demonstrated her ability to not only roar, but also growl and scream, a vocal technique she refers to as a dragon's roar. Thus, Слезы Драконы (Slezy Drakony, translating to Dragoness' Tears) came to be.

Once they had put together the material for their opening demo, she returned to the studio with the band and began to write the material for their debut release. Between this, she started to contribute using a flute and accordion in between her lyrics where the songs demanded them. As well as handling the vocals, she became

the lyricist, writing every song in her native Russian. Many songs dealt with Slavic mythology and sad situations she had envisioned, and just as they'd wanted, the band quickly became known for this tone.

The following January, she was to get the surprise of her life, much to the delight of their fans. She recognised her former lover Roman in the audience, and when she called him up to the stage, they caught each other in a hug and then kissed, raising roaring cheers from the crowd. Realising how much she had missed the dragon, she introduced him and then encouraged him to sing in duet with her, and it turned out he had memorised a lot of her music.

After the tour concluded, she asked to meet with him again and asked him if he was interested in joining her band, first instructing him to demonstrate if he could play the drums. Despite his lack of depth perception, he was able to play them perfectly, leading to her hiring him outright. Thus, the stage was set for their next album. While it would still bear a title track dedicated to Yevgeny, she also decided, on Andrei's suggestion, to write a song describing their love for each other.

She will use her flames to give light shows when she performs live, but she is also known for her own lyrics moving her to tears when she sings the songs written for her son. She is easy to get on with and is very social, but avoids talking about her past due to carrying around some painful memories. Indeed, she does not wish to bear any more baby dragons due to not wanting to risk going through the heartbreak again. Her approach to her band is businesslike, as she is always looking for chances to get herself and her bandmates more exposure. When not performing, she enjoys traditional Russian dancing, watching comedies and reading poetry.

