

Dragon Changes 11: The Coming Tempest

By

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On a windswept plane sloping away from the majestic Rocky Mountains was the Dragonville settlement. It was a mix of tents and permanent buildings. Scattered throughout the place were humans scurrying about. While flying over head, laying in the fields, and poking their heads into the village were various giant dragons.

In the skies above the settlement flew a purple dragon. It's body sort of had a bird like shape. Yet instead of having wings for arms, this dragon featured two long sinuous necks and heads that were the same as it's center head. While a pair of huge purple wings emerged out of its back.

Before long the dragon landed off to the side of Dragonville. It touched down on its hind legs and carefully walked towards a small group of waiting humans. Once close enough the dragon lowered itself to the ground using its head arms. Soon it was laying on its stomach with both head arms nearly encircling the waiting group. Each head's eyes were casually watching the humans.

The center head opened up its mouth. Underneath that head's tongue was a long fleshy pouch which the dragon pushed a sizable tendril out of. At the end of the thing was a nude twenty-seven year old female torso. This torso was limp and unconscious. However upon reaching its full length, the female torso came awake. Briefly she pulled her saliva soaked auburn hair out of her face and absentmindedly tried to tie it back until she realized she had no tie.

"Good morning," the female torso casually greeted two of the five people waiting for her. One of the people she greeted was Julie, the camp's administrator and who had a son who was a dragon.

"Morning Regan," casually greeted Edward as he pulled a folding chair close to the female torso. He had assumed the title of lead researcher after Regan, the purple dragon, had transformed into one herself a few months ago. Regan was the researcher who discovered that the dragons used to be humans. On top of that, with the help of Edward and Julie, she set up

Dragonville to study those giant beings. Then out of nowhere Regan herself transformed into a dragon.

Julie nodded her head as she sat beside Edward. "We haven't gotten to speak a lot since your change," responded the woman. "As you might have seen, a fair amount of things have changed since you were gone."

"Yea, sorry about that. Living like a dragon is completely different from before, obviously. It takes a while to get used to a lot of things from being rather huge, to seeing out of so many eyes," apologetically responded Regan. She moved one of her heads to indicate it's eyes. Briefly she lifted it up to peer at the camp. "I see you two started shifting over to more permanent structures?"

"Yep, the grant you and I wrote went through and then some. Rapidly the contractors came in, built a road and then constructed a proper lab, kitchen, and a few dormitories," answered Edward.

"I wish I could see inside the lab, did you get all the equipment we asked for?"

"Easily. We have every sort of detector we could get that doesn't need a tractor trailer. Though I hear a few of those might be coming soon as well soon."

"Sweet," Regan exclaimed happily.

"So what've you been up too," Julie asked.

"Well a large portion of time was spent just getting used to my new body. Honing my hunting skills and exploring the mountains a bit. Yet now being a dragon, I fully understand what the others were talking about."

"It's about that which we would like to talk with you about," evenly asked Edward. "First, some of the other scientists would like to examine you while we gossip," he spoke gesturing to the other people near them. Each had moved closer to her body and were moved sensors across her scales.

While Regan was gossiping with her torso, she watched the other three scientists with her two other heads. At one point, one researcher asked her to open her right mouth. While still conversing, Regan complied and yawned open the maw. Then the researcher leaned in to study her teeth and tongue. Gusts of hot fetid breath wafted out of the head past the man. Yet he wore a mask to filter out the smell.

As the one researcher investigated her right head, a female scientist went to Regan's left head. The woman asked Regan if she could get close to one of her eyes. The dragon wordlessly nodded and allowed the human to climb atop her snout. There the woman carefully moved forward until she was nearly touching the dragon eye. After that she pulled out a few magnifying devices and began peering inside Regan's eye. Then she switched over to the other eye to compare the two.

"So what's it like being a dragon," Julie casually inquired.

"Liberating, very liberating."

"How so," chipped in Edward who was taking notes.

"At this size, the world looks a whole lot different. Things that seemed so monumental before, don't seem as much anymore. Plus, just the ability to fly on my own has changed my perspective on a lot of things. Gave me freedom that I've never felt before."

"Interesting, now um, I would like to switch to the subject of your dragon compulsions. I believe you now have a few by what the other dragons have mentioned," requested Edward.

"I guess you could say I've acquired one or two," sheepishly answered Regan.

"Any you wish to discuss?"

"The biggest one I now have is the one binding me to the mountains."

"Now, you say binding, what do you mean by that? How does it feel," chimed in Julie

Regan did not respond right away as she tried to put into words what she felt. "It's a sort of urge. On the one hand, as long as I stay near the mountains, I feel at home. Yet the further I fly away from them, the more I feel forced to turn around and come back. The best way to describe it as a feeling of being uncomfortable. The further away from the mountains, the worse it gets," Regan summarized as best as she could.

"Does that feeling just come into play when you fly away from the mountains, or does it also arise when you fly to a different part of the mountains. Like, say, you chose to fly south along the peaks. Would you feel like you had to go back," Edward studiously asked.

"No, just away from the mountains. One reason I was gone for a while was that I flew south with a few dragons. They

wanted to show me something. Yet during that time, as long as we either stayed above the peaks or near them, my compulsion never kicked in."

"What did they show you," Julie inquired.

"Well we flew down to Idaho to peer at some old ghost towns. The pair I flew with had been into Urban Exploring. After turning into dragons, to keep busy, they chose to scout the mountains for old ruins and such. When they asked if I wanted to come along, it seemed like a cool thing to get my mind off my recent changes."

"Interesting," responded Julie.

"Any other sort of compulsions you'd like to tell us," chipped in Edwards taking more notes.

Briefly Regan peered about with her human head. She wanted to see if the other dragons were listening in. When she could, she checked with her other eyes.

"Um, I'm not sure if I'm supposed to tell you this. Especially as the others only discovered it within the last few months. But they've been feeling another compulsion of sorts."

"Why would they not want to disclose it," worriedly questioned Edward.

"Well it's sort of a strange feeling that some might find ominous," Regan admitted. "I can see what they mean by feeling it as well."

"Alright, it will stay between us three," promised Edwards.

"Good. But recently we've felt as if we're waiting for someone. While it's still a rather vague sensation, it seems like someone really important to us is coming."

"Can you be more specific?"

"I don't know how to say it other than it's akin to a messiah?"

"As in Jesus Christ?"

"No, not him! Just someone who is the center of our world. I don't feel it as a religious thing," vaguely admitted Regan.

"Do you have any sense when they're coming," prompted Edward.

"No, just soon."

"What will happen when this character comes?"

"None of us have any idea. That's really all I can say," Regan replied with a bit of finality. She did not want to admit anymore.

"Alright, I understand," Edward sighed as he knew he was not going to get anymore from his once fellow researcher.

The following morning found the sun barely rising in the east. It's rays highlighted the tips of the giant mountains to the west. Down below, Dragonville was dark and dormant. Few humans were moving and the dragons there were mostly curled up asleep.

Off in the sky south of the burgeoning town, were three dragons lazily flying on the outskirts of the peaks. Two of the dragons each had three eyes and six limbs. One was made up of mostly shades of gold and her name was Oni. While the other, Jake, had gold and red scales. The third dragon was Regan herself.

Each had their human torsos inside their mouths thus neither could speak. At best they made little grunts and did a lot of gesturing with their heads and limbs. While they flew, the three peered about.

Regan felt rather comfortable being a dragon now. She marveled to herself how well she took to being one. For well over a year she wondered what it would be like. At best she had the other dragons to rely on. Yet now being one, she found the experience liberating.

As she pondered her changed life, she heard a barking roar to her right. Looking over she saw Oni gesture with one of her fore limbs. Jake roared a reply while nodding his head.

At first Regan thought that Oni had found something interesting or some food. However Regan immediately felt what Oni was alerting them to. At first the sensation felt like she was waiting for someone. Over time that feeling shifted to one that suggested that person was here but not ready. However, now that same person commanded her to drop what she was doing and come to them.

Whether Regan, Oni, or Jake wanted to stay put, it did not matter. They were unwillingly compelled to follow the summons. All three banked around and began to hurriedly flap their wings heading south.

Back at the sleeping Dragonville, the dragons who were asleep all came awake. Each peered to the south and suddenly

stood up. They flexed their wings and leapt up into the air. Within moments all of the dragons in the area were following Regan and the others. Deep within the mountains, the others were doing the same.

A few hours later the humans living in the settlement came awake. Each emerged from their tents expecting to see at least a few dragons sleeping on the edges or a few gliding above. However they quickly grasped that all of them were gone.

Using their binoculars, Edwards, Bill, and Julie pondered the nearby mountains. Each was silently searching for any signs of the dragons. Yet neither had seen anything.

"Do you know where they might've gone," asked Bill while searching in vain.

"No, but I can make some calls. They're big enough to show up on radar," Edward urgently spoke. Quickly he darted back to his tent and pulled out his note pad. Flipping through the thing he found the number he was looking for. Dialing, Edward waited.

"Yes, it's me Edwards," he spoke to the person on the other line. "I know I saw it as well. No, I don't know when they left? Can you find them on your radar system? Sure, I'll wait."

After a few minutes the person picked up. "What you did? Where? They're flying to Colorado? How many? All of them? Wait, hold on are you saying all the dragons are now in Denver? No they never said anything about it? No this is the first time I've seen something like this. Alright, I'll try and find an answer."

Ending the call, Edward began rushing around his tent packing a bag. Darting out he found Bill and Julie waiting for him. He quickly apprised them of what he found out. Then he told them he needed to get to Denver. Bill agreed to drive and Julie joined them. Within thirty minutes they were driving south.

As Regan got closer to the person summoning her, the stronger the urge to come felt. Soon, like all the other dragons, she felt the need suddenly become more urgent. It pushed her on and compelled her not to stop.

Even more was that the other dragons were competing to see who could get the lead. The truly aggressive ones in the front were the younger dragons. They seemed eager to get there. She glanced at Jake and Oni nearby, both were flying just as hard as she was.

They flew day and night nonstop. Then upon the beginning of the second day, the huge mass of dragons saw the lights of Denver up ahead. Regan recognized it from the numerous flights she flew there as a human.

Though as much as she recognized the city, it was the person compelling her which she focused on. This person stood north of the city. Briefly she glanced even more dragons coming from the opposite direction.

Like groupies surrounding their favorite star, the dragons all jockeyed to find a bit of land to settle upon. Within moments Regan touched down and tried to move closer. However the giant pack of dragons surrounding the person kept her from seeing the spot she was focused on. A few began climbing on top of the others to get a better view.

"Don't worry my lovelies. You'll all get to see me soon enough," haughtily called out a female voice. While Regan saw no human near her, the voice sounded as if the person was before her. "Ok, ok, stop fighting each other and line up," the speaker called out again. Regan felt the need to comply with the woman's order and jockeyed her huge body into line beside a few other dragons.

Within moments a strange looking woman glided past peering at the dragons. She had on skimpy looking clothing that showed off her strikingly beautiful adult body. Yet what was even more odd was that the woman had numerous dragon parts. She had a pair of horns coming out of her head that were tipped with gold and her eyes were dragon eyes. A large pair of black dragon wings and long sinuous tail came out behind her. Even her feet ended in dragon paws.

"Yes you all look lovely," she cooed as she flapped her wings to gain height. "I'm Caistine, your master. Together we're going to conquer this planet and bring the joy of dragons to every human here."

For a moment she went silent. "I can tell some of you are reluctant to do my bidding. Yet I can also feel a few who are eager to follow my orders. You, you, and you," Caistine pointed

to a few dragons. Regan recognized those dragons had been trouble makers. "You three will be my lieutenants. Make sure the others stay in line." The three extended their human torso's and bowed them. Regan noted all three were teen boys.

"Now my lovelies, it's time to announce my arrival in grand bloody fashion. I want you to go to that settlement over there," Caistine spoke while pointing to Denver. "And decimate it. Destroy as many buildings as you can. You can eat a few humans, but bring the rest to me. Now go," she commanded them.

Inwardly Regan was aghast at what Caistine had commanded her. She loved Denver and remembered many fun times she had. Plus the once scientist had many friends living there at that moment.

Briefly looking around Regan could see many of the other dragons questioning what they had been told. Yet Caistine did something with her hands and everyone, including Regan, felt a pressure in their heads. This soon resolved into a deep need to follow the mage's orders. Reluctantly Regan leapt up into the air. As much as she wanted to disobey, her body was nearly on automatic as it flew towards Denver.

All the dragons descended upon the city.

Oni unwillingly followed Caistine's orders and landed in a residential neighborhood. She then swept out her tail smashing numerous houses. After that she grabbed a car and threw it at a house blasting the structure apart.

Jake likewise tried to fight what Caistine did to him. Yet failing, he flew to a small tower and used his six limbs to latch onto the structure. There he began tearing into the building ripping it apart piece by piece.

One green dragon with two heads which had formed from fraternal twins landed on a highway. Each head sympathetically looked at the other before letting out twin roars. They swept out a large paw batting aside a furiously breaking semi off the road. It flew through the air and slammed into what looked like a school.

As the dragons wreaked havoc throughout the city, a steady stream of them flew back to Caistine. In their huge paws were numerous humans all struggling to get out. Each flew close, dropped the humans before her, and flew back for more.

With a silent gesture, Caistine's hands began to glow blue. Then she threw the glow at the humans struggling to regain their

feet. As soon they stopped glowing, the humans began to scream painfully. Then abruptly their clothes ripped apart as their bodies expanded. Their frames became more stocky and muscled. Then numerous things erupted from each. Their skins became tough and scaly. While their heads reformed into human sized dragon heads replete with horns and fangs. Large dragon wings and a tail burst out of each of their backsides. Finally their feet and hands sprouted sharp claws.

Ten minutes later Caistine had a whole army of loyal half-dragons standing before her. She ordered them to fly back to Denver and assist the dragons with conquering the city. Each obediently bowed then leapt up into the air towards the lopsided battle.

Within two hours, Caistine's forces had decimated the city. A large firestorm raced through the ruins. Above them flew numerous fighter jets. Each plane fired their missiles at the dragons. Yet those projectiles harmlessly impacted against each dragon's magically protected hides. Before long the jets were being swatted out of the sky. Many surviving humans fired whatever guns they had against the dragons and half-dragons. Yet their bullets did not harm Caistine's minions.

As Regan reluctantly participated, tears dripped from a few of her eyes. Though she did as she was compelled and annihilated the University of Denver. Before long the center of learning was nothing but huge piles of rubble. She mourned the destruction she caused before moving on.

Soon she was ordered to stand guard over a large mass of human prisoners. Helping her were those half-dragons Caistine had recently created. If it hadn't been for a malcontent dragon keeping an eye on her and the others, Regan would have quietly let some humans escape. A few tried, yet a malcontent swooped in and gobbled up each escapee. Afterword she and the others reluctantly kept the humans from escaping just so they would not be eaten.

Regan had no idea of how it was going to end for her. She hated what she was being forced to do. She wished there was a way to break Caistine's spell over her. Yet she saw no way she or the other dragons could do so.