## A Dragon's Fortune

A one-off vignette

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Content Warning: Growth, Human-to-dragon transformation

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## A DRAGON'S FORTUNE

see a great change in your future. A secret dream you've shared with none but one will finally come true and will change your life forever."

The wizened old woman cracked a smile at her pudgy, black-haired customer. When he didn't react to her prediction or her smile the old woman's enthusiasm waned slightly. Despite this, she still made an effort to keep an upbeat and happy attitude in hopes of a tip even as she offered a hand, palm up, towards him.

"That will be twenty dollars."

The man's nonplussed expression turned to one of annoyance.

"Twenty bucks? For that? You basically just read me a fortune cookie. That doesn't tell me about my future!" He complained with increasing annoyance. "I knew you were a fraud! I don't know why I let myself keep believing people like you might have actual skills."

The old woman was taken aback by his vitriolic response. Annoyance replaced her surprise a moment later and she narrowed her eyes at him.

"Don't give me that look." He continued; cutting her off before she could respond. "I know all about stuff like cold reading. Not to mention your prediction could apply to like 90% of people and doesn't actually mean anything! It's so vague that I could find a \$20 bill on the floor and think that it was life-changing and it would technically count. You may as well have predicted that I'll keep breathing for the rest of my life."

The old woman's lips twisted into a frown. Her left hand clenched around some of the beads around her wrist and began to roll them back and forth like it was her version of a stress ball. She stared at the man for several silent seconds as he glared accusingly down at her before finally responding.

"I'm sorry that the prediction is not to your liking. But reading the future can't give specifics. Just the act of me telling you your future can change your future in a thousand different ways. All fortune-telling can see is the broad strokes and disruptions in your lifeline not what causes them or what their outcome is." She attempted to explain through pressed lips." regardless of whether or not you like my prediction it has been given and compensation is due."

The man snapped back immediately. "I'm not going to pay you for this fraud! The only compensation you're getting is that I won't call the cops on you for trying to scam people. And you should be grateful for even that much."

Before the old woman had a chance to reply the man already had turned his back to her and began walking away. Irritation bloomed into full-blown outrage at his disrespect both to her and her practice. Without really thinking about what she was doing the old woman rose to her feet and retaliated.

"You won't pay what you owe, Won't help those in need. So you shall embody a dragon's desire and greed."

Her words came out with a strange resonance as if there were three or four of her all speaking in different tones of voice at the same time. The man turned on his heels; ready to chastise the woman again. When he raised his finger to gesture accusingly at her, though, he froze. As he looked down his eyes slowly went wide at the realization his finger was now a claw.

"Wh-whats... " he started to ask only to trail off into a groan of discomfort and pain that forced him to double over.

The man's arms crossed over his stomach and his body was forced to hunch forward by an unnatural spasm in his spine. A sharp ripping sound briefly filled the air as the front of his shoes were torn open by the three large claws that had replaced his previously human toes! He grunted again in pain before even having a chance to react to his malformed toes while another ripping sound came from the back of his pants. His spine seemed to simply explode outwards from the base of his spine with the sudden addition of a dozen or more vertebrae that formed into the shape of a tail! The new appendage came out already covered in glittering, ocean blue scales from the tail from the tip all the way to where it connected to his spine.

His body spasmed again and one of his arms uncurled from around his stomach to grab at a nearby cabinet for support. As he did the claws on his fingers grew and blue scales erupted from their base and flowed along his wrist and down his arm like a spreading infection. When the next spasm came his hand clenched so hard that his claws dug half an inch deep into the wood before the entire corner of the cabinet was simply snapped off by the unexpected strength of his grip. Much like his hands, the scales on his new tail started rapidly spreading along his back, ass, and thighs while his legs were similarly being devoured by scales rising from inside his ruined shoes.

He tried to form words, mouth opening and closing several times but only managed to make incoherent sounds each time instead of speaking. Each time he did his face released a sharp crack of snapping and reforming bone that left him groaning in pain and the old woman wincing in reflexive sympathy. One side of his face bulged outwards only to have the other side

surge forward to match it. His jaw jutted outwards as his face grew in uneven spurts until eventually settling in the shape of a symmetrical, rectangular muzzle. A chorus of clattering sounds filled the air as the man's teeth begin to fall from his gums in a rain of ivory bone onto the floor below. Rather than leaving his gums exposed, though, his still-open mouth showed that each tooth was being forcibly shoved out of its socket by a razor-sharp fang growing in its place!

There was another pair of sharp, discomforting pops as the man's knee joints shattered and reformed themselves. The abrupt movement and change in shape tore open his pants and left their shredded remains fluttering to the floor. By now the blue scales had covered every part of him below his neck and were rapidly spreading upwards to cover his face as well. His thighs bulged and surged outwards with increasing size until they were easily twice as thick around as they used to be! His arms swelled with newfound muscle as well to the point that his arms could have passed for a professional bodybuilder's if it weren't for the inhuman blue scales covering them! Immediately after gaining their enlarged proportions, though, his arms shortened slightly in relation to the rest of his body. A moment later he was forced down to all fours has a spine reshaped itself again and his arms became a pair of forelimbs instead.

Once more, just like with his new tail, the man's spine creaked ominously before it exploded outwards with new vertebrae. Unlike the last time, this one didn't add to his backside. Rather, this time the expanding length of spine filled out and lengthened his neck! His previously thin, human neck surged forwards and expanded until it was almost as long as his tail! His new, lengthy serpentine neck swung back and forth as the man struggled to figure out how to control the new muscle groups. By the time he had the hang of it he was able to swing his head around to look back at himself just in time to see a massive pair of blue bat-like wings rip from the back of his shoulders! The new appendages exploded from the flesh along his back with enough force that both the movement and the pain that accompanied it nearly made him lose his balance topple forward!

A rain of hair follicles fell near where the teeth had landed as the man's hair fell out as well. In its place, the blue scales finished spreading across the rest of his head; leaving him fully coated head-to-toe in those brilliant, gem-like scales. There was a nauseating creaking and splintering of bone as two large ivory protrusions tore from the back of his head into the shape of horns followed by a second, smaller pair below the first. In a brief lull in the changes, he darted his eyes around the room as if trying to make sense of what was happening to him. As he did his pupils realigned and spread into a slit rather than a circle. The whole room seemed to take on a slightly different shade of color from his perspective as his eyesight changed to see in a different spectrum from normal.

Just when both he and the old woman thought the changes were winding down his whole body seemed to simply surge outwards in every direction at once! He swelled in overall size until he was as tall to the shoulder as he had been as a human even though he was down on all fours! The new definition of muscle on his arms, which had now become forelimbs, Expanded even further to proportions that would have been inhuman had he still been one. Yet they looked right at home on his new form. His rear legs did much the same; exploding in size and making his already significantlylarger hind legs and hindquarters border on disproportionately massive compared to the rest of him. The massive appendages thickened with meaty cords of steely, spring-tight muscle clearly meant to give the kind of force needed to leap off the ground and take flight. His entire torso ballooned larger as well as more muscle bulged up under the surface of his scales. The interlocking new groups of muscles that powered his wings swelled and thickened until they made him seem barrel-chested in a way that would have left him distinctly top-heavy if he was still bipedal.

Almost the entire time he had been changing the old woman had stood by and watched. The entire time she was grinning maliciously as she watched her curse take hold of the prideful, disrespectful man. Her grin faded when she heard the sharp crash of one of her glass cabinets being knocked over by the man-turned dragon's swinging tail. It was then that she realized that his wings were folded flat against his sides and his body was hunched down as

he struggled to contend with the painful transformation of bone flesh and organs reshaping themselves. Despite this, she realized that she wasn't even as tall as the top of his shoulders anymore even with him hunching down! And he was still growing.

"Oh shit, I should have waited till he was outside."

The old woman turned to run for the back door just in time. She had barely got the door open before the wall separating the back of her store from the storefront exploded outward and showered her in a spray of drywall and debris! In its place was a massive blue-scaled forelimb that had grown to be nearly as thick around as she was! The old woman didn't stop running even when she made it through the door leading outside. At least, not until she was through the alley and had made it across the street. By the time she got there and turned to watch she was just in time to catch the destruction of her shop.

A serpentine tail as thick around as a couch smashed through the front window and slammed down into the street hard enough to crack the concrete! Though she couldn't see it from her vantage point she heard the back wall of the building being smashed apart and could only imagine the now-gigantic reptilian head that must be lying in the middle of the alleyway. The sides of the buildings bulged out in either direction before a massive pair of blue, bat-like wings ripped through them and spread themselves into the evening air. The sail-like appendages were so massive they seemed to block out the sun for those standing nearby. Each one was easily more than a dozen feet across!

Slowly, the man-turned monster rose out of the crumbling remains of her shop. Hundreds of pounds of debris and broken building materials slid off of his back as if it was nothing more than bits of sand and dirt. Thankfully, the transformation had finally come to an end and he wasn't getting any bigger. Though that was small comfort considering he was still a little more than a story tall to the shoulder and three to four times that in length.

As his enormous head swung around to take in his now smaller surroundings it quickly became clear he was looking for something. Or rather, for someone. It was then that the woman realized her two major mistakes. The first was that she probably should not have turned a disrespectful angry man into a powerful giant monster as if that was some kind of punishment. What the hell was she thinking?! The second mistake she realized and regretted when those giant, now-reptilian eyes locked on her and she knew it had been her he was looking for. Her mistake? She should have kept running.

Even as the rest of the crowd that had gathered began screaming and running away the elderly woman stayed glued to her spot. What was left of her shop was demolished as the behemoth of a dragon turned his massive body around to face her. Slowly, a draconic muzzle big enough to swallow the woman whole lowered down until it was directly in front of her. The woman felt her dress and hair flutter behind her as the beast exhaled with the same force as a modest gust of wind. Then he did the absolute last thing she would have expected from him. He smiled.

"This is amazing!" he thundered in a voice magnified by both size and powerful draconic vocal cords.

The woman was forced to cover her ears from the sheer volume of his voice. When her ears stopped ringing and she opened her eyes again he was still staring at her intently. The intensity was still projected through an expression of pure joy and excitement. However, it did little to put her at ease. It shouldn't have been surprising considering that his mouth was now lined with teeth that could probably bite through reinforced steel. Even a happy smile from the monster was a lot more terrifying than he probably realized.

"If you could do shit like this I don't know why you bothered with that fake fortune-telling shit!" he rumbled with almost childlike glee.

Then an idea struck the newly transformed beast. He swung his lengthy head back around and began nosing his way through the debris of the woman's ruined shop. His nostrils flared as he sniffed around until he found what he was looking for. Almost daintily, he gingerly grasped whatever he was searching for between his teeth before he swung his head back around to drop it at the old woman's feet. When she looked down she saw that it was part of the remains of the man's shredded jeans. Specifically, the part that had his wallet partially sticking out of the back pocket.

"Hey, how much would it cost for you to turn my girlfriend into a dragon too?"

The woman looked between the dragon's face and the wallet several times as she tried to take in what he had just asked. When her brain finally caught up to the absurdity of the situation she reluctantly answered.

"Uh... fifty dollars?" she replied, her voice more a question than an answer.

"Deal!" he thundered loud enough the old woman had to cover her ears again.

Five minutes later she found herself desperately clinging to his back as he flew through the sky; assumedly towards his girlfriend's house. Her heart was racing a mile a minute and she had to keep her face pressed against the base of his neck to stop herself from looking down and getting vertigo. As she was trapped on the giant monster's back she remembered the fortune that had started all this and something clicked in her head.

Wait. Had his secret dream shared to none but one been to become a dragon?

Her sister was right. She needed to retire. She was getting too old for this shit.



## **About Author**

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