

The sound reached my ears first. In the distance, just over the crest of a hilltop still some ways away, I could see the lights, but they were still distant and their flashes didn't really mean anything to me. The sound though? That was real in a visceral way. It was powerful, it "Thump-Thump-Thump'd" through the ground even though I was probably still ten or fifteen minutes away from the quarry. I'd been walking on the dirt road for about a half hour already, using the stars as my source of light as my paws crunched over the compacted soil. You weren't allowed to drive up here, it was all blocked off. That didn't stop the rave from happening here though.

Each step brought me closer to a world I couldn't even imagine. It felt almost mythical, the way it was still out of sight, but I could hear it, but I could feel it. Each second took me a little farther away from the realm of reality, from the worries and concerns and thoughts of a monotonous life. It felt like something was slowly being lifted away from my back and I was becoming more aware. More free. I stood on the final bit of road before the crest of the hill and my heartbeat already thrummed with that rhythm and music. It was already so loud. I glanced back the way I had come. Though I had walked alone, there were other figures materializing in the darkness. Others on their own quest, trying to find this Avalon in the mists. I turned away from the wanderers and walked up the last trail.

I crested the hill and was embraced. Not in a physical sense, or perhaps it was, but it was an embrace just as warm as a mother's arms. I was blinded by light at first, then the sound hit me like a physical wave. It had been muted by the very landscape that surrounded the party below. It hadn't been able to completely mute it, but it had diminished it so much that stepping onto that crest was like stepping out of the ocean and onto the bright sands of a tropical beach.

The rave was being held in a granite quarry, far below. Once, this place had been one of the biggest employers in the region, but the quarry had been shut down for years and the slow rumble of dump trucks moving dirt hadn't been heard since I was little. Now, the natural amphitheater of stone and earth held hundreds of bodies, all moving like ants agitated when their mound was under attack. The sea of fur and flesh below me didn't look like individuals, but more like waves of movement. On the edges, there were massive black speakers, booming noise that bounced back and forth in the space before escaping upwards. Light danced, escaping where it could, as colors blinked into existence and then disappeared. There might've been a stage somewhere down there where the magician cast his spells over the crowd, but I couldn't see it, nor did I really care to. I was already ensorcelled. I began my descent down into that place, following the switch-backs and coming ever closer to the dream.

When I reached the floor of the quarry, there was nothing but the music. Someone could have been standing right next to me, shouting in my ear, but I would have heard only the booming sounds. In front of me, there was only a wall of bodies, behind me was the path of the uninitiated. I stood there, nervous, wanting to join, but afraid to. What if I messed up? What if I stepped on someone's foot or tail? Oh god, what was I even doing here? Doubts assailed me, and the rhythm of the world I stood at the precipice of broke with the beating of my heart. I started to turn, maybe just to look back and see the path, maybe to flee this nonsensical world I had found myself in. Before I could make a choice though, someone grabbed my arm.

I turned around, surprised, only to see two beautiful blue eyes looking into mine. She smiled, a pure smile without any of the inhibitions of the world outside the quarry. That smile and her eyes, compassionate, but also inviting, told me that she knew what I was feeling. Maybe she had felt the exact same way when she had arrived, but right now, she was part of it and she wanted me to join it. She gave a small tug and I followed without resistance. When we moved into the body of the crowd, we met no

struggle. Instead, we slid through them, like water splashed onto dry earth, only to disappear. We moved through it, then we were part of it, absorbed.

At first, she pulled me close to her. Her hands moved over my body in a way I didn't understand, like they were trying to speak a language that I somehow knew. I had never met this blond-haired woman in my life before, but here, in this place, we were intimate. Her hands moved over my muzzle, my lips, my shoulders, my arms, my chest, my groin... She smiled, spun around, and grinded her curvaceous ass into me more sexually than any girlfriend I had ever had. My hands moved around her hips of their own accord, much to my surprise, and before I knew it, they were moving over her as she had done to me. We became one. Her curves were filled by my movements, her body heaving matched by hot breath. And as sensual as it was, we were surrounded by others doing their own dance, letting loose everything they had pent up in society. In this place, there were no boundaries. The one of us become united with the greater organism.

Other bodies moved against mine. Some danced alone, their bodies jumping or weaving, hands blurring with glow sticks. Others danced in small microcosms, their group moving together in and out of the other bodies. Fur became slick with sweat, scales glistened in the flashing light, the music changed, but we kept on moving. The woman I didn't know dragged her soft body all over me, her deep blue eyes meeting mine from time to time, twinkling in delight. I didn't know if she took pleasure in just dancing or in the knowledge that my body desired her in such a carnal and obvious way, but it didn't matter. We danced.

At some point, I don't even think I heard the music anymore. Just the beat underneath it. Then a new beat broke up the rhythm of the party and everyone slowed down. I paused, confused, my euphoric high suddenly interrupted. I glanced around the quarry, the dancing slowing down in a weird controlled outward spiral. Everyone's heads were tilted upwards, towards the sky. I followed suit, confused as to the why of it. There was a minute of stillness, only the music vibrated around us.

Over the lip of the quarry, two horns arose. Everyone started leaping up and down in obvious excitement. Two glowing light blue eyes followed, with long brown hair cascading down on either side of them. The yellow muzzle shook, pushing the hair out of the way as the head arose, a scaled muzzle. A dragon, I realized. Not just any dragon either, as the form continued to rise, higher and higher. Two broad shoulders appeared, almost as big as the quarry itself. Something inside told me I should be scared at this very moment, but in this place, surrounded by these people and this excitement, I couldn't remember what fear felt like.

The dragon continued to grow over the horizon, two massive wings spread out, then wrapping themselves around her form. It was an obvious 'her' by the massive curves also appearing over the lip of the quarry, showing their full shape and fullness even through the wings tightly tucked around her form. My lips mouthed some expletive, or maybe the words actually were said, I don't know.

I was pushed suddenly from the side, breaking my concentration on the spectacle above. Everyone was moving inwards, crowding a space that had been somewhat spacious before. I jumped up and tried to see what was happening, but could only tell that everyone on one side was moving inwards. There may have been someone guiding the movement or it may have just been entirely spontaneous. Before I could turn my attention back upwards, a massive claw landed in the space where bodies had once danced. The dragoness was stepping down into the quarry, slowly, letting us move before she joined us. I almost fell backwards, craning my head up to stare into the sky. The lights flashing from the rave illuminated an utterly insane sight. The underscales of a bosom that jutted out far from the body to create a ceiling for the quarry, blocking stars that had shone overhead only seconds before. I was staring up at a naked body

that was gracefully steadying herself, using one massive claw on the opposite side of the quarry. Then the other claw descended. On either side, two huge dragon claws, both bigger than I was. She could have stepped on my and I would never have noticed. Her body settled down, weight shifting into a firm stance, and something swaying overhead pendulously much closer than the dragoness' bosom could be. It was at this point that the dancing began again, bodies moving all around me, much tighter than before. There were at least four people shifting their bodies against mine, as space had become more confined, and movement was less uncontrolled, but even more energetic and lively. Above me, as the dragoness began to shift those massive hips in time with the music, I found something moving the air just overhead.

At first, I thought it must be the tail, moving back and forth, but it didn't make sense. I was standing right under her, between both legs. The tail would be somewhere further back. As lights flashed and I moved with the other bodies, I pieced together the glimpses of what I saw. What swayed so large and dangled so close to the quarry rave wasn't a tail, but a hefty full shape, rounded in two spherical shapes. My body slowed as I watched the ball sack of the dragoness complete one motion, smacking against her (hir?) left leg, then beginning its swing back to the right. My mouth hung open as I stared upwards, but I wasn't the only one. The dragoness was a hermaphrodite, the complete package, and she wore absolutely nothing but her scales. It was fitting though, because she too lost herself in the movements. Her feet shifted up on the heels, but never actually moved from their spot on either side of the rave. She was just as much a part of the rhythm as the noise blasting out through the speakers, and the beat of her body moved with and through us. We all danced. We all didn't care, so we just danced.

It might have been minutes or hours passing, but all measurements of time were either lost or they just blended together in this place. A collective stillness started above us, and then the two giant dragoness feet began to gradually slide backwards along the ground, edging people away ever so gently. We all slowly stilled with her, curious as to why our swaying ceiling had halted the rhythms that beat in all our veins. The music kept our hearts beating, but our bodies quieted as we saw the starry sky once more. Over the exposed side of the quarry, two horns rose up, followed by glowing green eyes. Another dragoness had come to the rave, to add her undulations and swaying to the party. A massive claw reached up to brush back the thick blueish hair that almost shimmered in the dual light of the moon and her eyes. We all cheered far below. I didn't need to see the body crest the horizon to know. This dragoness would also be a herm. Shi too would join the dancing. This was the Herm Rave and we all danced.