

((**Note:** This section takes place during [Chapter 3](#).)

The city was in chaos; blood stained the streets as humans and dragons continued to fight one another. Buildings were set ablaze, sending smoke and ash into the air, and making breathing rather difficult. Most humans and some aquatic dragons struggled to put out the flames, while others were trapped in the raging inferno or fled the area. A horde of people stood outside a burning home, yelling and shouting for help, for in the group was a family with their daughter still trapped inside the fiery structure.

A nearby black dragoness named Darkness overheard the pleading shouts for help. Even though she hated humans, the thought of a child burning alive upsets her. She raced through wreckage and minor flames to reach the child before it was too late. As she arrived at her destination, the crowd screamed as she got near them. Some tried to attack while others moved away from her, hoping she wouldn't attack. She ignored the crowd's brutal comments & threats and leaped into the blazing building before her. Fire licked up at Darkness from all directions as smoke filled the air, blocking the majority of her keen senses. A faint sob could be heard from one of the back rooms, sometimes choking from all the smoke and ash. She stepped carefully across the house; the heat growing more and more intense with each step she took as well as the flames grew larger in size. A loud crack sounded above before she could look up or dodge out of the way. Part of the roof fell onto her right flank causing her to roar out in pain as her flank was badly singed and cut. She reached the room and found the young girl huddled in a corner shaking out of fear. Darkness padded up to the girl and picked her up by the shirt with her teeth before she raced towards an exit. As soon as they escaped into the outdoors, the flames engulfed the building until it was no more than a pile of smoldering ashes and smoke. She limped to the family of the girl, setting the child down gently in the mother's arms and stepped back a few feet. The crowd looked up at Darkness with awe and amazement. A few of them thanked her before turning to leave with the others, while several others glared before walking away. She snorted and half-walked half-limped to the next burning structure closest to her. She opened her mouth and let loose jets of water on the blazing fire by using a water spell, extinguishing the flame in minutes with the help of a few water dragons.

Once most of the fires were extinguished, Darkness patrolled the burnt streets; her scales blending in slightly with the blackened wreckage. She found some dragons that needed their wounds to be tended to, so she spent her time as a temporary healer for the time being. The red necklace around her neck glowed vividly as she used spells to mend broken bones and to seal open flesh, healing the damages done almost completely. A nearby crashing sound caught her attention and made her lose focus on her tasks at hand. She glanced in the direction the sound came from, squinting her crimson eyes to find once the smoke and ash cleared. It was a building that had collapsed from whatever was over in that area. Darkness wanted to investigate the cause of the fallen structure, but she knew that healing the wounded was more important. She set back to her mending work, trying her best to ignore the curiosity that clawed at her thoughts.

After the smoke had cleared, the city became empty. Nothing more could be done to its fallen mass nor

for the lost souls that had died from the events that occurred that night, buried in the debris and rubble. Darkness took one last glance at the city of Windfall before unfolding her night colored wings; the membrane covered appendages hung down by her sides the tips just barely brushing the ground. She threw her head back and roared loudly for those that had fallen to the mass chaos; its sound echoed until it faded to just a soft faint noise in the distance. She bolted down the street; her wings outstretched for flight and with one powerful stroke became airborne, ascending to the dark sky above the once standing city. As she gained enough altitude, her luminous crimson eyes increased in brightness as her night vision began to settle in, making anything hidden in the night visible to her enhanced eyes. Air filled her open wings as she glided across the cool moist atmosphere; the moonlight casting a faint outline of her shadow across the terrain below.

The woods below seemed odd; everything was still and silent, almost as if time stopped nothing moved nor made a single sound from the dense growing forestry. The black dragoness felt a odd sense of worry wash over her, for the forest to be this quiet something must of happened. Darkness descended from the sky; upon landing her wings folded delicately across her back without making the slightest sound. She held her snout up towards the sky to find the faintest scent but unfortunately there was none. Disappointed, she turned on her heels to leave when her ears began to twitch. A blood chilling agonizing scream rang out followed by a name that was unrecognizable due to its muffled tone. Without a second thought, she raced through the undergrowth and thick trees to the location of which the sounds came from, stopping short for what she saw before her eyes was horrific.

It was a bloodbath; creatures known as hybrids were everywhere, a few lay in a pool of their own blood from being severely mauled to death. Some others from what it looked like were trying to reach a wounded whiptail dragoness, who was protecting her hatchlings from the deadly swarm, and the others were wrestling with a magi dragoness, who was trying her best to defend the whiptail and hatchlings the best she could. Darkness snapped out of her trance and roared to get the attackers' attention. Her tail lashing from side to side and her wings flew open to make herself look intimidating. Anger coursed through her veins making her blood seem to boil. Her aggressiveness was rising with each moment that passed making her more lethal for combat.

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((**Note:** This section takes place during [Chapter 4](#).)

After the fight was over, the magi had thanked her and left with the hatchlings to find a better place to stay. Darkness paid her respects to the fallen whiptail and left without another word into the night. The black dragoness hardly got any sleep that night as the visions of the fight still played through her head, making sleep hardly earned.

When morning came, her eyes opened slightly to the sunlight filtering through the tree tops; its rays casting a warm glow in the forest around her. Darkness stretched; her wings opened out as her muscles

flexed beneath her scales. She looked around for any quick meals, but finding most animals would hide from her would make hunting quite a challenge. The dark color of her scales made her stand out against the soft green colors making animals spot her almost immediately. With a frustrated hiss she walked through the growth until she came across a lake, its calm water sparkled beautifully from the sun's golden rays. The dragoness wasted no time as she slipped into the water silently almost as if she was an aquatic dragon herself. The water was cool to the touch, not too cold nor too hot. She dove under the surface with her eyes glowing brightly in the depths of the lake making fish highly visible. With fast reflexes and stealth, she managed to catch enough fish to last her until the afternoon; finding this lake to be the first place to go to for quick meals. Darkness slid back out of the water as her scales shined from the waters' cleansing, casting a dark purplish-black on her hide from the sun's light. With a flying leap she took to the sky, ascending above the tree line making the forest seem small once again. She looked back at the spot where the city once was; its figure looked broken almost nothing was left except for the rubble and ash that still littered the ground. She stayed airborne for a while, enjoying the weather that accommodated her flight.

While scanning the nearby areas, movement from the corner of Darkness's eye caught her attention. She swung her head towards the direction of the city, something like electricity was being pursued by from what she could tell was the magi she helped not very long ago. The scene piqued her curiosity as another figure stepped in to stop the wild chase. From a distance, it looked as if it was using magic of some sort to block the magi's path. *'What is going on over there?'* the black dragoness thought as her eyes scanned over the scene. She glided closer towards the city, wanting to get a better view of what was unfolding but not wanting to interfere in the quarrel. She landed silently on a thick oak tree just several yards from the city. She sank her talons into the flesh of the branches' bark for balance as she watched quietly from her perch, wanting to see why the magi dragoness was so determined to hunt down the electrical creature.

She saw the magi yelling to a male teenage human, "Oh, it's you again. Trying to help the hybrid, huh? Well listen human, if you get in my way. I'll have to take you down, too."

The boy showed resistance to the magi's threat and said, "I am issuing one final warning to you, dragon. Leave this place, or die." He created balls of water on his palms in preparation to attack.

The magi in turn summoned ice spears and yelled in rage, "I'd rather die than let this killer run loose!" Then she shot down the ice spears towards the boy.

Darkness watched as the magi was getting a bit too out of hand; seeing that the extra reinforcements, consisting of two hybrids and a human girl, didn't stop her rampage. She listened to the words being exchanged, finding that the white hybrid was right; there was unnecessary violence being played out where there should be peace. She wanted to help put end to the quarrel, but she didn't want to get involved in anything that was none of her business. The black dragoness slid down from the tree she was perched in and leaped onto the top of a newly built building. Her crimson eyes gaze below to get a view of the fight more clearly seeing that it wasn't far from her location. Darkness watched as the magi

attacked, knowing what the red-orange was capable of due to the fight back in the forest. She sat quietly, wondering if she should help, but waved the thought away. *'I'm sure they can handle it themselves; they seem to have enough strength and skill for the task.'*

Out of nowhere, a mirror dragoness appeared and repelled the wind blades with her fire breath back at the magi, whose windy aura neutralized them. The magi glared down at the newcomer and yelled sarcastically, "Oh great, a human pet! Isn't that awesome? Now you listen here, midget. You're aiding the wrong side. Those humanoid creatures you're aiding aren't dragons; they're hybrids, monsters created by humans to be dragon-killers. They become even more savage and dangerous the moment they smell blood. So if you want your skin saved, I suggest you leave those scums along and help me kill them." The mirror dragoness didn't take the insult well as bared her teeth and electricity ran from her teeth to up across her features and then jumping down the line of her spine in a quick series of jumps before fizzling out at her tail. Her talons sparked slightly and her tail lashed, the fans upon her head flaring and extending outwards, spreading with aggression as she hissed.

The black-maned black hybrid sniggered and mocked the attacker, "You seem to know something about hybrids. But whatever you've faced before were shams. Jokes. Failed hybrids let go from pure pity. Good for you."

The magi yelled in response, "Oh so you're the stronger hybrids, huh? Well good for me, because I'll feel really good once you two are gone!"

The other hybrid scolded her, "You're the only one making trouble here. We were trying to rebuild the city and you just came by trying to kill us. You're the only mindless killer here." The hybrids breathed their respective magma and ice breaths at the dragoness.

The magi responded to the other hybrid, "At least I'm doing this for a good purpose. Now die!" The hybrids breathed their respective magma and ice breaths at her, but she cast a wind beam at them, blowing the two breaths back with powerful winds.

The hybrid brothers easily moved out of the way of the reflected attack. "You are an evil being and everyone here can see right through you," the white hybrid yelled. "You're the only killer here. Going after some kid. I don't know how you sleep at night," he scolded.

Darkness had just about enough of the magi's rampaging violence, knowing the only way to reason with her was to take her down. While the magi's attention was centered on the hybrids, the black dragoness made the choice to step in. Blue flames engulfed her mouth as she unleashed searing hot jets of fire at the magi's side from above. Her method was to get the infuriated magi's attention on her so the others could find a way to attack without their hits being blocked.

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((Note: This section takes place during [Chapter 5](#).)

Darkness snorted as the magi teleported out of the city. She was somewhat satisfied that the dragoness listened enough to leave them alone. It didn't take her long to realize what she had done; helping the hybrids was something dragons despised. *'Most dragons will see me as a traitor now that I defended the hybrids.'* She sank her claws into the soil; her thoughts consumed her mind as feelings of unease washed over her. *'I did the right thing though; innocents shouldn't have to die.'*

"Coward!" she heard someone call spitefully. Snapping out of her thoughts, the black focused her attention on the angered mirror dragoness; seeing that her lightning charges still coursed over her body faintly. Darkness didn't want to engage in another fight, so she stepped back and gave the dragoness some space, showing she wouldn't mess with her.

The black-maned hybrid snorted with laughter, "Hah, so you say as you run with your tail tucked between your legs." He sheathed his claws and added, "She probably came across those weak little duds running around and has a swelled head now. The weak think nipping at the heels of the strong make them stronger. What a joke."

The white hybrid shook his head and muttered, "The heck was her problem?" He turned to face the others and said with a smile, "Thank you for your assistance. We don't find many willing to stand up for us."

Darkness replied, "You're welcome. Helping seemed the right thing to do besides, I don't think your kind is bad at all; just misunderstood."

The dragoness turned her head towards the female human, who had walked over to the unconscious horned boy, and asked, "So does anyone know sleepy here?"

Darkness glanced at the sleeping human-like hybrid. *'So that's what the magi was so worked up about,'* she thought, her eyes looking over the boy. "I've never seen him before," she replied.

The teen mage released his hold on the pillar he stood on and let it sink back to ground level. Walking, he made his way over to the sleeping hybrid and looked around as he did so to see if anyone else needed help. He knelt down beside the injured boy and extended his arms, waving his palms over the white-haired hybrid and transferred some of his energy to him to wake the boy up. The young hybrid's eyelids squinted and he groaned quietly. His hazelnut eyes fluttered open, taking in the scene around him. He noticed the mage hovering over him and furrowed his brows. He growled and immediately swung his fist out at the male human's jaw. The mirror dragoness snickered at the action. The teenager returned an equally hard punch straight into the boy's gut, causing the hybrid to yelp. The boy tipped onto his side, lying on the ground. He coughed and grabbed his gut, while groaning. Then the teen quickly shot up and stepped back standing in a defensive stance as he shouted, "WHAT THE

ACTUAL FLYING FUCK!" The mage rubbed his jaw a bit and continued his rant, while the boy cringed. "I risked my life keeping that psychotic magi dragon from slaughtering you and you go ahead and punch me in the face as thanks?!" He shook visibly in anger for a moment before he took a deep breath to quell his anger.

The human-like hybrid gritted his teeth and glared up at the mage defiantly as he growled, "I never asked for your help! You're all alike anyway; like I care."

Watching the scene between the hybrid and mage, Darkness thought, *'Well, that escalated rather quickly.'* She found it slightly amusing that the hybrid would snap at the person that just helped him. *'Quite the attitude.'* She glanced around, taking notice to some newly built buildings that obviously weren't there recently and wondering about the city's construction. *'Repairing already. Won't be long until more humans come back to this place.'* The black dragoness sat quietly, wondering what she would do from this point, seeing as most dragons would hate her after helping hybrids and the fact that humans are enraged with her kind already didn't help her case.

The white-haired girl put her hands on her hips, watching in amused manner. She snickered quietly, "I kinda like this one. Kid's gotta mouth." She turned back to the black-maned hybrid said with a smirk, "Almost as forked as your tongue."

The white hybrid rubbed his jaw, as if he was feeling where the male human had gotten punched. "Need some ice for that?" he asked quietly.

The mage just shook his head and said, "You're right; we are all alike." He stopped to gesture at everyone around him as he continued speaking, "We all risked our hides saving your ungrateful ass." The male looked down for a moment before turning his gaze back to the horned boy. Taking on a stern tone, he said, "You know, the entire world has changed. You're a hybrid and people are going to hate you because of it. But there are others who are willing to help. If you push away everyone, then one day you're going to find yourself in need of a helping hand and no one will be willing to offer it." The young hybrid remained in his spot with a scowl on his face. The teen turned on his heels and walked away as the boy growled and sat up. The mage passed the white hybrid and stopped for a moment to tell him, "I'm going to go find my pack; when I get back you can ice my jaw if you'd be so kind to." And with that, the human boy walked off.

"Of course," the friendly hybrid smiled. The younger boy fumed in spot with his yellow eyes burning into the mage's back. He raised his hand; a ball of electricity forming in it and threw it at the mage's back. "H-Hey!" the white hybrid shouted as it was about to strike the human.

Thankfully, a thick slab of stone erupted out of the ground in between the mage and the projectile, which harmlessly dissipated when it stuck the stone barrier. The young hybrid snorted at the tactic, "Too cowardly to fight back. Typical."

The mage kept walking as he only threw back one cold comment, "Don't expect me to save you in the future." Soon he was out of sight. The white hybrid shook his head. A short while later, the mage boy came with a bag slung over his shoulder and stood beside the black and white hybrid. "I think I could use that ice right about now if you don't mind," he said.

The hybrid moved around the teen's side and said quietly, "Ah yeah, hold still." He gently blew a layer of frost over the afflicted area and stepped away. A shiver ran down the mage's spine as he let out a sigh of relief. "Feel better?" he asked.

"Ah, much better. Thanks, Fayt," the mage said as he ran a hand down the edge of his jaw.

The girl walked around into their view with her hands still on her hips. "Well now that you're done being slapped around by a child, maybe you can get back to the city, hmm?" she said with a smirk. The younger hybrid pushed himself to his feet and clawed at the building as he stood. He muttered a number of obscenities, which the mage seemed to ignore, as he did so and limped away towards the forest.

Darkness sighed faintly under her breath. *'That hybrid just won't let it go, will he?'* she thought. She looked back towards the direction of the forest watching the boy leave. Its quietness was tempting to make her return, but she knew that she would get chased out as quickly as she arrived.

Fayt smiled and nodded. "Sorry about that. Some of us are a bit more grumpy to our situation than others," he explained to his human friend, glancing at the other hybrid's fading figure.

A small red pygmy flew overhead and swooped down. It landed in front of the young woman, raising a wing in greeting. It was wearing a little hat and what appeared to be a mail bag. "Message for whoever is in charge... though I see that's not much of an option seeing the state of this place, so here," he said after digging through his bag and handing her up a letter. He nodded at her and then flew off.

The girl opened the letter and read it aloud, "To whomever it may concern: The nation of Aquios greets you. We wish to discuss a treaty with you concerning dragons and humans. We will be coming to your city to talk tomorrow. Signed, Woltar." She cocked an eyebrow and asked, "Who the hell is Woltar?"

The black dragoness sat on her hind haunches and said, "A treaty huh, wonder how long that will last." The mage guy simply shrugged his shoulders in response.

Taking a deep breath and shaking his head, the mage started to raise more buildings. He asked, "Hey Fayt, I had a question. Do you know if any research on hybrids exists anymore? I have an idea involving the hunter gene..."

Fayt paused, taken aback by the question as he stared at his friend for a while. "Not specifically no... but..." he trailed off, glancing at the black hybrid. "There was a scientist... Dion," he continued. The black

hybrid shifted in spot and glared at his kin. "I thought... I saw him walking in the ash last night..." he said before he got interrupted.

"He's dead, you imagined it," the black one growled.

Fayt stiffened in response. "Either way... I don't know where he is...or would be," he said before trailing off again. Darkness took one last glance at the group before launching herself into the skies above. Her night black wings extended from tip to tip as her body stretched out in the open air.

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((**Note:** This section takes place during [Chapter 6.](#)))

Darkness glided above the land until she reached the tree tops of the forest, descending onto the vegetation lush floor when she found a nice area to roam in. The dragoness tucked her wings close to her body once again as she landed. Lifting her snout up into the air to scent the area, she found nothing except a faint trace of blood. She figured it was from an animal's kill so she didn't bother to inspect it. The black dragoness walked silently through the familiar territory, somewhat cautious for anything that could cause her harm.

The sound of rustling leaves drew Darkness's attention. A doe was rummaging through the bushes in search of lush sweet berries, unaware of the presence of the dragoness nearby. She dropped low to the forest floor, her underbelly barely brushing against the ground as she silently stalked the lone animal. As she neared the deer her muscles tensed ready to hurl herself at the quick meal ahead, her tail flicking side to side with excitement.

Once the doe turned to leave, Darkness wasted no time in launching her ambush. With a snarl she flung herself at the doe's neck, claws digging into its flesh as she took it down with her body's strength. The deer bucked and thrashed as it tried to escape death, but it was useless. Darkness sank her teeth deeper into the neck flesh, blood splattering her black scales as she bit down. With a loud crack the neck snapped in two; the body was now limp and lifeless in her jaws. The doe was dead. The black dragoness devoured her fresh kill quickly, leaving nothing but a few chunks of meat and a pile of bones. Not wanting to leave traces behind, she set the remains ablaze. The pile burned down until it was nothing but ash. Darkness examined her blood stained scales and sighed as she went to get washed up. She traveled down to the lake and used her tail to clean the blood off her scales until the crimson liquid was rid from her hide. The dragoness stretched and let a faint yawn slipped past her mouth. *'I need to rest... just for a bit.'* She padded up to a area of grass bathed in the sun's light. The ground felt warm and comfortable underneath her talons. Darkness lied down with her wings blanketing her and her tail curling up beside her body as she closed her eyes and fell into a silent sleeping state.

A few minutes later, a foreign scent of a human filled the dragoness's nostrils. Her body shifted slightly



as she awakened. As soon as Darkness opened her eyes she could hardly react to the oncoming attack of the sword. The blade met its mark as it sliced her side and made blood flowed out of the wound, staining the grass a dark crimson. The dragoness screeched in pain before her eyes locked onto the enemy with a furious glare. Seeing her enemy threw her defense off; she expected something more of a challenge, not a young girl.

The teenage dragon-slayer stood for a brief moment in fear as she murmured, "Oh God, no!" Then she turned and ran away for her life. With a roar, Darkness thundered after her, racing through the forestry to catch up with the scared girl.

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(**Note:** This section takes place during [Chapter 7](#).)

The chase fight had ended badly in Darkness's defeat. The sword struck her side as pain coursed through the dragoness's body with more damage being done. As soon as the huntress left, Darkness managed to stand on her feet as her body shook violently from losing blood. With one unbalanced step, she collapsed back onto the ground as her body felt too weak and mangled to move. The sight of her was awful. Dirt and blood were smeared across her black scales and most of her hide was torn from the girl's sword. She closed her eyes once more and prayed for someone to save her from this agonizing state. With a final attempt of someone helping her, Darkness reached out with telepathy to anyone that would be willing to help her, hoping that someone hears her plea.

Soon, the dragoness heard the soft beating of wings as someone came to help her. That person swooped down and landed next to the dragoness. "Oh my, how gruesome," she muttered. As the person began to sing, Darkness lifted her head to see who it was. She was surprised to find that it was a pink female hybrid that was aiding her. The girl's hands glowed green and she lifted the blood with her water magic, forcing it back into Darkness's body. The hybrid pressed her glowing hands against the wounds and they started to mend.

As the singing continued, Darkness couldn't feel any pain; in fact, it was more of a soothing sensation that calmed her down. Closing her eyes, she continued to lie there, allowing the gentle hybrid to mend her wounds without moving or struggling away from her. Once the wounds were healed, the black dragoness sat up and inspected herself, seeing that she was healed completely. Not a scratch remained on her now repaired hide. "Thank you, I can't tell you how grateful I am for you helping me," she said. She paused and looked around before continuing. "I didn't think I would get help from anyone around here, seeing most have hatred towards our kind."

The girl smiled and replied, "You're very welcome, dear."