

((Note: This section takes place during [chapter 28](#).)

Meanwhile, somewhere in Windfall, in the midst of the heavily clustered commercial district, a trial of immense gravity was taking place. *'Focus...'* A bushy-bearded 37-year-old gentleman stood silent in a large crowded room, everyone within it waiting with bated breath as he twiddled the small and dangerously sharp object between his fingers. *'Calm yourself...'* he thought to himself.

One unruly bloke was leaned against a table, glaring mockingly at the stern-faced bearded gentleman. "Just give up! You're only makin' it worse on yourself," he said, rolling his eyes and grinning.

*'One try, make it count,'* thought the gentleman, who took a deep breath and closed one of his hazel-colored eyes. He paused for a few seconds, listening to the low *thump thump thump* of his own heartbeat as he felt the weight of his only chance to turn his crisis around. *'And here, we, go.'* With that final thought, he threw the dart he was holding, wincing a little when it made its mark.

"BULL'S EYE! Nine Darter!" the bartender exclaimed and the entire tavern erupted in applause. The bearded gentleman took a short bow, before grinning at the unruly bloke, who was now standing and glaring with an expression of forced bemusement.

"Well, looks like you owe us a day's worth of drinks," the bearded gentleman stated plainly, while still being patted on the back and offered handshakes by the other bar-goers.

The bloke growled through clenched teeth, "T'was just luck, Torque. You pig-faced flea-bitten mongrel." He tossed the bartender a hefty pouch of coins.

Torque snickered, "Yees, luck. Well, I'll make sure to stay 'lucky' then. Who knows, I might run into you again. I can always make do with another day's worth of free drinks." He tapped the countered and told the bartender, "One canteen of your finest, my good man. You know who to give the bill to."

And with that, Torque departed the tavern, leaving everyone but one big-mouthed fiend happy and with plenty to drink for the day. He tucked his newfound canteen into one of the satchels hanging from his left hip, then went on his way through the city. Windfall was definitely an interesting place for him, considering the population. He'd kept from making himself too well known up to entering that tavern, but now he was seriously considering the possibility of living there for a while. There was plenty to do and no shortage of money making opportunities.

And on the subject of money, there was a very good reason he made that wager for a day's worth of free drinks. Torque had next to no money on him, and unless he was to spend the following nights on the streets, risking getting mugged, diseased or arrested for loitering, he needed to procure some cash and fast. He looked around, thinking of a viable and fast money making venture, or at least a way to find a place to stay.

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**((Note:** The rest of this story is not canon to the RP.))

His eyes gave attention to a wanted poster on the wall of a building. "Heh? What's this?" he asked himself. Torque walked up to the poster and looked at reward amount below the portrait. There was a payment of 2000 gold coins for the capture or killing of Robert Bob Dole, a serial killer and rapist. The gentleman flashed a greedy grin and thought, *'Oh this fellow is going to make me rich once I get my hands on him.'* This was a kind of job that Torque liked; one filled with excitement and riches. He succeeded and there will be plenty of money to make his life go around.

Before the gentleman could start his hunt, he looked at the guild name and address of where the poster came from, so that he can get himself a copy to remember Dole's face. With that memorized, he walked through the streets to look for the bounty hunter guild. After some time, he reached the place he was looking for and went in through the door. Torque then went to the front desk where the receptionist saw him approaching and asked, "Hello sir, are you here to collect a bounty?"

Torque responded, "Actually, I'm here to pick up a wanted poster of a certain crazed pervert. Does the name Robert Bob Dole ring a bell to you?"

The receptionist started to look through the files on the computer as he murmured, "Robert Bob Dole... Let's see..." After going through the list of criminals, he gave a short nod and said, "Ah, there he is! He's right on our database and still on the loose."

The gentleman was content about this and said, "Good! Glad I still have time to get that bugger before somebody else does."

"Anyway, I'll have the copy for you printed now," said the receptionist. The printer machine started running until the poster copy was produced. The man took it and gave it to Torque as he said, "Here you go, sir."

"Thanks, pal!" said the gentleman after he received it. Then he promised, "I'll be back with his head before you know it." With that, he left the building and started his hunt for his target.

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**((Note:** This section takes place during [Chapter 29](#).)

Cities were generally a very huge place for one to walk around, which would make it extremely hard to

find a stranger that he was looking for. But it was a good thing that Torque had researched clues to narrow down his search to specific places that Dole had been in. The gentleman was now sitting on the bench staring at the poster of Dole he was holding. "Now where should I go first to find you?" he wondered aloud while stroking his dark brown beard.

While he was trying to make his decision, a bright pink dragoness came by with her head drooping down. She sighed in surrender, "Oh, I'm never going to find my friend anywhere."

Torque put down the wanted poster to see the troubled dragoness. Being fond of dragons himself and wanted one as a friend, he decided to see if he can help her out with her problem. "Looking for someone too, lassie?" he asked.

The dragoness looked up at the man and answered a bit shyly, "Uh yeah. Who are you?"

The gentleman flashed her a grin and said, "The name's Torque, chap! Don't worry about me being nasty like all them other folks out there; I'll have you know I like dragons. They're strong, beautiful, and amazing!" He always wondered what made them the most powerful of all creatures in the animal kingdom. He was even interested in seeing what their kind had to offer as well.

The dragoness became flattered and replied, "Well gee, thanks! I've never met a human who was nice towards my kind."

Torque nodded and said, "There's plenty of us nice folks who don't look down on dragons. We just happen to be outnumbered by the majority who do."

"Well it's nice to know that there are others like yourselves," said the smiling dragoness.

"Yeah, well you just got to look hard for them," the gentlemen told her. Then he asked, "By the way, lassie, what's your name?" He figured that if he told her his name, then he deserved to know hers as well.

The dragoness answered, "It's Shiba, sir."

Torque asked her, "So Shiba, who's this friend you're looking for? I probably might have come across him earlier." Perhaps it was someone he passed by on the streets.

"His name is Kakoli," Shiba answered. Then she explained her story, "We came here to check out Windfall to see what it's like. But then a mirror dragoness came and messed with us. Kakoli got mad and decided to chase her. I tried to go after them, but then I ended up getting lost. So here I am now."

The man found her tale interesting and asked, "So you're a newcomer to this city like me, eh? I guess that makes two of us."

"Well three actually; Kakoli's one too," the dragoness corrected him.

Torque quickly nodded and replied, "Ah yes, that's right."

Then Shiba asked him, "So since we're both apparently in the same situation, do you mind telling me who you're looking for? Maybe we can help each other out."

The man answered, "Well Shiba, the bloke I'm looking for is no friend of mine. In fact, he's a wanted criminal I'm going after to get me some cash." Just as he was talking, he spotted a familiar face across the street from him. That person came out of a smoothie bar with a pretty woman beside him. "Well speak of the devil!" murmured Torque as Shiba turned her head to see who he was looking at.

"Is that him?" she asked.

Torque answered as he held the poster, "Yep! Same look, same mustache, trimmed beard, and that youthful face. That's your deadly prince charming over there." He rolled up the poster and put it into one of his pouches.

Dole and the woman were laughing happily together before he said, "Anyway, there's this beautiful place I found in the woods the other day. Lots of pretty flowers close to a lake. Want to take a look at it with me?"

His girlfriend smiled and answered, "Ooh, I would love to see them. Take me there, Robbie-poo!"

"Okay," Dole replied. Then the two started walking together.

Shiba looked at the couple puzzled and said, "You know, Kakoli's been in the woods all his life and told me everything that's there, but not the place with the flowers. Maybe he missed it or something."

"Heh, don't kid yourself," Torque told her. "It's probably just some lie he cooked up just so that he can rape and murder her." Going over to the dragoness's side, he told her, "Come on, we got to go follow them into the woods before he does his thing."

"Right with you!" said Shiba as she lowered herself down to let the bounty hunter on her back. Once mounted, the dragoness took off into the air followed the couple from the roofs of the buildings.

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((**Note:** This section takes place during [Chapter 30](#).)

Torque and Shiba stalked the couple out of Windfall and into the forest. The man and dragoness were now in the trees a short distance from the couple who had stopped to rest. The woman panted a bit and asked Dole, "So how much farther until we get to that place?"

Her boyfriend gave her a deadly stare and answered, "Actually there are no pretty flowers and lake."

The woman looked at him in confusion and asked, "Wait, what?"

Dole walked up to her slowly and said, "It was all just a lie to keep the public from seeing what I'm about to do to you."

At this point, the woman started to get scared as she backed up against a tree. "Wait, you're kidding, right?" she asked. "Robbie-poo, don't do this to me!" she pleaded in a higher pitch from fear.

"Your words won't stop me, Samantha," Dole said to her. "No matter how much you beg." With swift movement of his arm, he caught her wrist to keep her from escaping.

Samantha started to try pulling away from him as she started screaming, "Ahhh! Robert, let me go!"

"No," the bad man replied. So then the woman started to hit his arm with her free hand, but Dole defended himself and quickly overpowered her by wrestling her to the ground.

Shiba looked fearful for the woman as she cried, "Oh no, he's going to do horrible things to her!"

Taking his small crossbow off his back, Torque said, "That's the cue; time to take action." He took out a small arrow and dipped the tip in a vial of paralytic poison. Then he set the bolt on the crossbow and aimed his weapon at the wanted criminal. He pulled the trigger and let the arrow fly into Dole's back.

"Gah!" the man screamed as he rose up in pain. Samantha took the chance to push him off and run away.

Torque got onto Shiba and she flew down to meet the rapist who was trying to push himself up, but he succumbed to the poison's paralysis. The bounty hunter got off the dragoness and looked down at his prey. Grinning mockingly, he said, "Well well well, look at what we have here. Didn't your parents ever teach you not to mess with girls like that?" Dole tried to speak, but he was unable to do so as he can only let out grunts. Taking out one of his knives, Torque said to the criminal, "No matter; I should probably get to putting you out of your misery." Then he knelt down and plunge the knife into Dole's throat, letting blood seep out of the wound. The rapist choked before his eyes rolled to the back of his head. With the target dead, the gentleman proceeded to use his knife to decapitate the head for proof that he had done his job. Holding up the head, Torque said, "Well looks like my job is done. Come on, let's go take this over to the guild so that I can get my gold."

"Okay," said Shiba. "But after that, you have to help me find Kakoli."

The man nodded and said, "It's a deal!" Then he rode the dragoness all the way back to Windfall.