

((Note: This story is not canon to the RP and this section takes place during [chapter 11](#)..))

Shiba ran hard after her fleeing friend, Kakoli. Earlier, she had encountered some hunters, one of who had damaged her wing. The experience was terrifying as she had almost been killed by these humans. She desperately wanted to keep the same thing or worse from happening to Kakoli. The male dragonet ran on and on, hoping to find the perfect place to turn and then hide to lose the pursuing dragoness. However, his tracks soon led him to a winged mint dragon that was up ahead eating long green grass. Kakoli got the mischievous idea to spook the mint. He stopped running just before his steps got into the mint's hearing range. Then he moved in on to his target, keeping his footsteps quiet while approaching as fast as he can be. The dragonet wanted to get to the mint before Shiba can stop him. The dragoness was now getting closer to Kakoli now that he's slowed down. But she also saw that he was about to prank someone else. Wanting her friend to leave the mint alone, she roared, "Kakoli!"

The mint dragon got startled by the roar that he widened his eyes a bit and stopped eating. Just as the mint raised his head up to look, Kakoli pounced onto his back and brought the dragon belly-flat to the ground. The mint let out a startled yelp and cried, "Ahh, don't hurt me! Please!"

The dragonet laughed at his prank victim and got off of him as he laughed, "Hah, gotcha!"

Shiba finally caught up to her friend and scolded, "Kakoli, that dragon was eating. You ruined his lunch!"

The smiling dragonet was unfazed by his friend as he assured, "Hey, relax. I'm pretty sure he can still eat it. I mean it's just crushed grass. What's the harm in it?"

Shiba could see that her misspoken sentence had elicited the wrong response. So she corrected herself, "No, I mean you interrupted his lunch. You know? Jumped him while he was eating. Anyway, you shouldn't be running off like that. I just ran into some hunters a few minutes ago. They might still be around. We need to get out of here before they come looking for us."

The mint dragon's eyes went wide again with fear as he cried, "Hunters?! They're around?!"

The bright pink nodded, "Yes, and they might be trying to track me down. We have to go!" She took off without another word, not wanting to stick around any longer in case the hunters really did try to follow her.

The mint dragon didn't want to be alone in this danger and decided to follow after her, believing that there was safety in numbers. "Hey, wait up!" he said.

Kakoli quickly picked up human scents that were coming from a distance. Even though they were far, the scents appeared to be getting closer and closer. As he lacked decent combat skills to fight off hunters, the dragonet knew that it would wise to flee from these killers. "Well, gotta scam," he said to

himself. Then he began running after his friend and the mint, keeping them in his sight so that he would know where to go.

The three dragons continued to run through the woods as they moved around trees that were in their way. They wanted to get as far away from the hunters as possible. Soon and without looking, Shiba stepped into a larger than normal foot hold trap. Its metallic teeth clamped down onto her left forefoot, causing a pained roar from her. The dragoness shook her foot hard, trying to rid herself of the trap. She cried, "Oww, get it off of me!"

The mint dragon stared at biting object in shock, his heart beating with anxiety and feeling the pain the bright pink was going through. "By gosh, what is that?!" he asked.

Kakoli went over to Shiba to help and answered, "It's a dragon trap. The humans use these to ensnare dragons for the kill or to take them as slaves." Unlike Shiba, who was a slave-born dragoness that was raised in captivity until the Spell, Kakoli had been a free dragon all his life and knew more about how to survive in the wilderness. He watched how humans hunted, how to avoid them, and what tools they use for their hunts. The dragonet got next to Shiba's left foreleg and said, "Here, let me take it off." He took hold of the levers and pulled them towards himself. The trap's jaws became open, allowing the dragoness to free herself from it.

The bright pink licked the trap wounds that were dripping blood to soothe the sharp pain that stung her foot. She winced, "Ugh, my foot hurts!"

Seeing as how her foot was too injured to walk without getting hurt, Kakoli suggested, "Then just fly low with us. You can still get away like that."

Shiba shook her head and said, "I can't; my wing is sore."

"What?" asked the dragonet, troubled that his friend may not be able to escape. The bright pink opened her right wing to show the bruise where she had been hit. She winced in pain from making that movement. Kakoli did not like how things were turning out for his friend. She would be slowed down by her injuries, thanks to the hunters. "Oh bummer," he sighed.

The mint dragon came to the rescue as he offered, "You want your wounds healed? I have a friend who can fix them for you."

Shiba smiled at him and asked, "Really? He can do that?"

The mint nodded and said, "Yes, he can; he's a white dragon. Just follow me and we'll get to him." The dragons followed after him as the dragoness kept her wounded foot up above ground, lest she hurt it. After a while, the trio saw a cave on the horizon. That must have been the mint's home, because they were heading over there. By then, they could no longer smell human scents, which meant that they

were far away and safe from the hunters.

The dragons finally reached the cave where they were greeted by a wingless mint dragoness standing outside. She looked to the male mint as if she knew something was wrong and asked, "Snively, why are you running? And who are these dragons?"

The trio panted to catch their breaths as their hearts beat fast and their chests ached with tiredness. Snively puffed once more before he answered, "There were hunters, we had to run away from them." Then he turned his head to the other two and continued, "And as for them, well I don't know who they are. I think one of them was called Kakookie or something."

The dragonet stopped panting and corrected him, "No, it's Kakoli, not Kakookie."

The bright pink was next to introduce herself as she placed her claw on her chest and said, "And I'm Shiba; it's nice to meet you."

The male mint smiled and replied, "Ditto! My name is Snively and this dragoness here is Mentha. Gabriel and I met her yesterday and we let her stay in our cave." He looked back to the female mint and asked, "Mentha, is Gabriel still here? Shiba here got hurt by humans and needs to be healed."

Mentha nodded and answered, "He is; I'll call him out right now." No other word was spoken out of her mouth. Shiba and Kakoli assumed that she was using telepathy to summon him. Within a few seconds, the mint dragoness told everyone, "He's coming; he'll be out right now."

Kakoli replied, "Okay." Then he turned to Snively and asked, "So Snively, what's your friend like?"

The male mint answered, "Gabriel? Well he's a nice guy. Friendly, helpful and polite."

The dragonet smiled and commented, "He sounds like a nice guy."

Snively responded, "Which is what I just said."

Right then, a white dragon stepped out of the cave. His seemingly smooth scales and feathery wings gave him a soft angelic appearance. He asked, "So what seems to be the problem?" The bright pink approached him as she showed him her injuries. She told him how she got them and Gabriel felt sorry for her and said, "Oh my, these do look quite painful. Here, let me fix you up right now." The white went for her foot first and used his healing magic to stop the bleeding and close her wounds. Shiba tested her foot by shaking it up and down for a bit to see if it was fine again. There was not an ounce of pain. The dragoness was joyed with relief at being able to use her foot again without getting hurt. Gabriel went for the wing next and used his healing magic to restore the damage. After he was done, he stepped back a little and said, "There, all done! How do you feel now?"

The bright pink jumped and flapped her wings, hovering a little above ground to check and make sure that one wing was okay. Seeing how she was fine, Shiba landed down and answered happily, "I feel great! Thanks, Gabriel."

"You're welcome, my dear," the white replied. Kakoli eyed Gabriel's wings, most particularly the feathers. He thought about taking one of them to use as an object to tickle Shiba later. The dragonet snuck towards the white from behind, not taking his eyes off the prize he was going for. As soon he reached him, Kakoli grabbed a feather with his teeth and plucked it off. "Ow!" Gabriel cried out. He looked down to where his wing got attacked and saw the dragonet with his feather in his mouth.

The winged hatchling grinned and made a nervous laugh quietly, "Heh heh heh."

Shiba shot her friend a glare and scolded, "Kakoli! That was not nice!"

Kakoli felt her sharp tone sting him a little that he said, "Er... sorry?"

Gabriel decided to let it slide as he assured the bright pink, "Don't worry about it. My wings' feathers can grow back in quite fast. My healing magic can even help tend to it as well."

Seeing as how the white was cool with his action, Kakoli smugly told Shiba, "See? Everything's going to be alright. No big deal."

The bright pink snorted in displeasure with the dragonet's cheekiness and said, "You're such a brat sometimes, Kakoli." She could easily compare him to a stereotypical annoying little brother, but otherwise he was still a good dragon and a friend.

"I know," the dragonet replied shamelessly.

Snively asked the bright pink, "So, now that you're healed. What are you going to do?"

Shiba felt unsure of what to do next. The hunters were still out there and she was afraid of running into them. "I don't know," she said, shaking her head in doubt.

As if to read her mind, Mentha made a warm offer, "Why don't you stay with us for a bit? I'm pretty sure you don't want those awful apes trying to shoot you down."

The bright pink was willing to accept the offer, "Well I guess we could stay for a while." Then she looked to the dragonet and asked, "What do you think, Kakoli?"

Kakoli liked the decision and answered, "Yeah, I guess this seems fine." His mischievous thought was, *'At least I'll be tickling other dragons besides Shiba.'* Pulling pranks was what he does best and it makes him smile to annoy others.

Seeing that they both agreed, Shiba turned back to Mentha and said, "Okay, we'll stay here for now."

The female mint smiled and replied, "Great! I'm sure it'll be nice having you two around. We can share interesting stories about our lives to pass the time."

The bright pink was enthusiastic about it. She loved hearing stories, whether they be about people's lives, myths, legends, or any other thing. "That will be a great idea," Shiba beamed. So the dragons went into the cave and started to tell their histories. Shiba went first and spoke about how she used to be a pet of a rich family before she fled into the woods during the Spell. She would then meet Kakoli the next day and become friends with him. Her tale led to Kakoli speaking about his. He was orphaned after humans killed his parents for their pelts. He was forced to survive on his own by teaching himself how to hunt, forage for food, and avoid or fight off predators. He also picked up a playful hobby of pulling pranks and demonstrated it by tickling the bright pink with Gabriel's feather. Shiba let out laughs and tried to push her friend away as she told him to cut it out. The dragonet didn't listen and just mercilessly continued to tickle her until he was done.

Snively was next to talk about his slave life. His 1st slave master gave him the name he grew up with after he cried and wailed after at the time of his birth after his master punched him for biting his finger. The young mint would then meet the newest slave, Atlas, at the age of 8 months. He and Atlas would grow to form a close friendship, which their master had taken notice of that. Originally, little Snively was to grow up and be butchered for his delicious meat. But the man changed his mind and decided to use little Snively as a hostage as a means to force the magi to fight in the dragon tournaments and earn him money. If she were to refuse to fight or die in the matches, then the mint would be killed. So Atlas fought hard for the sake of her friend's life and won every tournament. The slave master saw how powerful the magi dragoness was and suggested to his son use her in the tournaments to score big money. Thus, the use of Snively's life to get the magi fighting was passed on through the slave master's lineage for a few generations. Atlas's undefeated streak made her the famous dragon champion in Northeast Rudvich. The Spell was the last night the magi would fight in the very last tournament season. After Atlas freed Snively from his cage, the mint would go to live in the woods where he found his childhood friend, Gabriel, and live in a cave.

Shiba had heard of Atlas before today and found it amazing how she survived the tournaments all these years. She was a really powerful dragon. But now after hearing Snively's backstory, the bright pink wondered if the magi ever felt regret for taking so many lives against her will. Shiba herself would be terribly ashamed and feel like a demon if she had to kill innocents for to save a friend. Kakoli admired the magi's fighting prowess and said that he wanted to meet her in person someday. When he asked where Atlas is now, Snively told him that she was travelling to the northwest region to raise her orphaned nieces away from the hybrids. Then the mint felt that talking about him was enough and decided to let Gabriel take a turn.

Gabriel confirmed that he and Snively were indeed childhood friends who once shared the same master

before he was sold away to another human. He never got to see Atlas, but his parents were there to know her. The white's father would heal Atlas and her sparring partner's injuries when the master was having her trained for the tournaments. Meanwhile, Gabriel would be used at the hospital to heal sick or injured humans. In some years, he was treated very well in the last recent years before the Spell compared to most dragons.

With the white's turn over, Mentha became the last to speak. She had been a wild dragon all her life from birth to present. Nothing tragic happened in her life, but she had witnessed some humans before and managed to escape capture or death a few times before. The mint did once have an encounter with a very nice human. He was a photographer who took photos of nature; he even once took a picture of her close up. Once her story was over, the dragons felt the hunters were still roaming out there. So they decided to make a new conversation topic about what they did today. The dragons told each other what they did, everything that happened and how their day was. After two hours had passed, Shiba and Kakoli believed that the hunters were gone now and decided to take leave. They said their goodbyes to Snively and his friends and left the cave.

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

Three days after meeting Snively, Shiba and Kakoli had entered the city of Windfall to check out the place where the civil laws held dragons and humans on equal level. They had heard about it from a dragon that Kakoli pulled one of his mudball pranks on. Looking at his surroundings from the inhabitants to the buildings, Kakoli imagined that both races would maybe start to have respect for one another, since they both helped to rebuild the city. The dragonet asked his friend, "Hey Shiba, do you think the dragons and humans will be friends with each other here?" It sounded difficult to believe, but it was a possibility.

The bright pink looked at an angry human yelling at a hatchling and telling him to stay out of his shop. After seeing the bitter racism displayed, she answered uncertainly, "I don't know, Kakoli. I mean the Spell is still recent and I don't think some of the humans would be quick to forgive our kind for what happened back then."

Kakoli blew a raspberry and sneered, "Hah, what hypocrites! If they're mad about that, then they shouldn't have tried to hunt and enslave us. You know what they say, you reap what you sow." Just then, he smelled animal scent coming from his right. He stopped walking and said, "Hold up!" His friend halted immediately after she heard him. The dragonet continued, "I think I smell prey coming from somewhere in this city. I'm going to go take a look." He walked off to track down the scent that was coming from an alley.

Shiba noticed right away that the scent smelled feline. She knew, because her owners had a pet cat

before they died. The dragoness had to warn her friend quickly as he knew nothing of city life, "Wait, Kakoli! What if that's a human's pet you're smelling? You're going to get in trouble if you eat it."

The dragonet threw off her words as he replied so surely, "Relax, Shiba. That thing smells all dirty and wild-like. There's no way the humans would have a pet that didn't smell nice." He may not have seen the animal he was going for, but he could tell by scents which organisms were domesticated or wild. The domesticated ones as Kakoli said smelled nicer than the wild ones. The hunting dogs the humans used smelled better than the wolves and Shiba, a former pet, had a sweeter scent than the wild dragons. The dragonet continued to stalk into the alley to hunt his prey. Shiba went after him to make sure that he wasn't going to make a mistake. The scent took the two to the middle of the alley where a lone cat was licking its paw. Using every hunting trick he knows, Kakoli told his friend to stay where she was at, so that she could keep the animal trapped between her and him. The bright pink obeyed as the dragonet flew up above the building and went to the other side from the cat. He made a U-turn and swooped down towards the feline creature with his claws aiming to grab hold of the animal and deliver the killing bite. But just before he could reach it, a lightning bolt suddenly appeared out of nowhere and electrocuted the animal that let out a loud shrieking yowl. The cat's body flashed, showing its skeleton between blinks, and its fur strands stood straight up like a hedgehog's spikes. Kakoli stopped in his place and hovered as he watched the prey's death in surprise. "What the heck?!" he asked.

When it was over, the cat fell over stiff and lifeless. The fur of its body was scorched dark with bits of smoke coming from it. What happened next was the appearance of a mirror dragoness who revealed herself below the dragonet where she had camouflaged herself. She walked over to the dead cat and placed a talon down over it. Then she looked up at Kakoli and sneered, "Sorry, baby boy, but this prey is mine now."