

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

Garin was sitting on the floor of a cave in the side of one of the Rudvichan mountains. He was a 5' 6" tall teenage halfling with light skin, a lean build, striking blue eyes and dark straight hair that playfully touched the top of his ears. His black horns stuck out from above his ears, curving forwards and reaching his forehead before curving straight up, just above his head, where they end in a fine point. His dark black, dragon-like wings stuck out from his back; they were proportional to his body size. He was wearing a bright red shirt with a human skull on it and denim jeans. Though he was the age of 33, he looked and was 17 in human years as halflings aged half the rate compared to humans. *'I finally made it! I'll finally be able to have some freedom!'* Garin had flown from a faraway land, searching for a place where he would be able to do what he wanted and not get caught due to some form of advanced technology. When he felt the wave of energy from the Spell, he flew towards its source, eventually arriving in Rudvich. Garin lay down in the cave and slept, tired from his long journey.

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

Garin woke up, completely recovered after his rest. And then it hit him, he had been sleeping in an unexplored cave that may have hidden dangers that could have killed him while he was asleep. *'What was I thinking? I need to make sure this place is safe before I set up a permanent camp here.'* Garin proceeded to get up and head down the back tunnel to explore the cave. On the way, he found a human skeleton, clad in medieval armor and stripped of organs, muscle and skin, on the ground leaning against the wall of the tunnel with a small satchel on the ground next to him. The halfling curiously opened the satchel and found a worn notebook and writing utensils inside. The book was a complete set of drawn maps outlining all of the important and interesting areas of Rudvich and the surrounding areas. *'This should come in handy, despite being outdated.'* Garin carefully placed the book back in the satchel and picked it up, slinging it over his neck and shoulder to keep it from falling off, and continued to explore the cavern.

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((**Note:** The following sections take place during [Chapter 31](#)..))

Garin had been exploring around the cave for a while now and had found that all of the tunnels led to dead ends, meaning if the entrance got blocked, he would be trapped. So, the boy decided to leave and look for a cave with a more strategic and safe position. He eventually found another cave along the mountain side and saw a white dragon and a magi dragoness standing at the edge. He floated in mid-air and watched from a safe distance to see if they were hostile. The white asked her, "Mind if we just walk

there? It would provide much needed time for Juna and Mekarth to train Aeolus and the others. Maybe."

The magi replied, "Well okay as long as I'm going there as a human." Then she looked around behind herself until her purple eyes fell on the halfling. She asked, "What are you looking at?"

Garin smiled before he replied back, "You and your friend, who else?"

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Another dragoness, a lumina named Ohimia, entered the scene and told Atlas how she got attacked by a black hybrid. Garin skillfully flew into the cave's entrance, just barely squeezing past Axle and Atlas, before landing next to Ohimia. He said, "Well, since it seems we are all doing introductions, I may as well introduce myself. I'm Garin; it's a pleasure to meet all of you."

The lumina dragoness looked up at the halfling and slightly stepped forward. She asked, "Hello. Did you overhear my name? I-I was going around looking for training."

Garin answered, "Yes Ohimia, I overheard your name."

Axle looked at the magi coldly and said, "Atlas, don't do anything stupid. Remember why you are here and who you do it for."

But Atlas was dead set on punishing the hybrid as she said, "Don't worry, I'll make this really quick."

Ohimia tried to stop her from getting into trouble, "No no no!" But it was too late. Atlas has already warped off to punish the attacker. The white dragon looked like he was pissed. He turned into a black-haired man in a white shirt and went to sit against the wall closest to him. He put his hands together and it seemed like he was now meditating. His breathing started to slow down.

Garin felt the intensity of the conversation and said, "Well, that escalated quickly..."

Ohimia sighed and sat down. "Oh... she's gonna get herself killed! No, wait, I almost got killed because I had no battle skills and she is probably better than me in every way. I need training, but have nowhere to get some and..." The stressed dragoness kept rambling on, eventually stopping because her nonsense was getting nowhere.

Garin then sat down on the floor and folded his wings, pausing a moment before saying, "Ohimia, if you really want training, I could help you... to an extent. Although, you should probably get yourself cleaned up first."

"You would? Really?" said the lumina, who looked in slight disbelief. "W-What should I do in return?"

The halfling smiled and said, "Ohimia, I'm not asking for anything in return, I'm just trying to help people in need." He went out to the cliff and looked up at the cave he was in earlier. He continued, "We should probably spar in that cave up there. Wouldn't want to disturb our pal over there." He was concerned that training right here in this cave would disturb Axle's meditation and he didn't want to do that to the "man".

"Okay," the dragoness said.

Then Garin and Ohimia flew up to the top cave and landed inside. He turned to her and asked, "So, shall we get started?"

Ohimia looked in surprise before saying, "O-Okay. I guess I am ready." Then she got into her battle stance.

Garin pulled his sword from its sheath, put down his satchel, and enchanted his sword so that it sparked with electricity. He explained about his weapons, "The enchantment on my sword isn't strong enough to hurt you, but it will give you a little shock every time I get a hit." Then he told her, "Alright, attack me." Ohimia nodded enthusiastically and readied her stance, which was a bit crappy. She jumped forward, claws outstretched and fire building up in her mouth. The halfling ran forward quickly, sliding under the dragoness and swinging the blunt side of the sword upwards towards her chest. *'This could be a bit of a challenge,'* he thought. *'But in this way, I cannot only get a combat refresher, but I can also train her to be ready for smaller enemies.'*

"EEP!" exclaimed the shocked lumina. It slightly dug a bit, since just a tiny bit of the sharp side managed to hit her and the pinhole cut dropped blood, one at a time.

"Oops..." Garin said awkwardly, noticing the blood. "Sorry about that!"

Ohimia still panicked and said, "Eep! Not ready, not ready!" She turned around nervously before she charged again, this time shooting some fire. The halfling turned around and jumped, boosted by his wings, towards her snout. Ohimia scrambled and then coughed out a decent sized spit glob at the boy. Garin took one hand off the sword and summoned a searing flame, which he shot at the spit, evaporating it into steam. Garin then landed on the dragoness's snout and tapped the side of her head with the blunt side of the sword, giving her a small shock. Ohimia jumped back and ran around in circles like a scared woman with a roach on her dress. Then she shook herself, apparently as to get herself under control. The dragoness swung her tail, attempting to hit the halfling.

Garin did a somersault off of her head, dodging the tail and landed on her back. He turned around and ran towards her neck. He thought, *'No wonder she needs help! She's leaving her most vulnerable spots open! When this is over, I'll see if I can teach her a thing or two.'* Ohimia scrambled before she dropped onto her belly. The boy, realizing that she was starting to roll, spread his wings and hovered above the

dragoness to not get squished. After the roll, Ohimia uncurled herself and scrambled again in surprise. She flailed, roaring and accidentally slammed against the cave wall, making a hole. Garin used the flailing as a distraction and dove for her neck, swinging the blunt side of his sword towards it.

Ohimia screeched and ran forward suddenly, slamming into another wall. She accidentally created another crater in the wall and she pulled herself out. Flailing some more, she screeched, "Uncle, uncle, I give up!"

The halfling stopped and hovered in mid-air. "You look like you need to learn a thing or two..." he said. "Just calm down first, I wasn't going to seriously injure you." The dragoness tried to calm, but she hyperventilated and was about to start panicking. The boy became concerned for her and asked, "Are you sure you're okay?"

Ohimia panted, "I dunno anymore. That huuuuuurt."

He told her, "If this was a real fight, it would have hurt a lot more..." Then he asked, "Tell me, why do you want training again?"

The dragoness sighed, "I want to train because someday, I might come across Yopple again. If he isn't out of his bad state, he will probably try to kill me out of cold blood. So, I need to be able to defend myself. Or if I come across those hybrids again. Or just about any time in this damned war. Can you show me some tactics?"

Garin pointed out her flaw, "You keep leaving all of your weak areas open for starters..." Then he told her, "You need to protect your neck, belly and wings. These are the areas the other dragons will take advantage from. Let's put it this way, if I was a dragon and you jumped at me, I would get under you and attack your exposed underbelly where you can't reach me, correct?"

"Well how can I protect those spots?"

"Here are a few common sense rules without getting into complicated techniques," the halfling said. "Don't try to jump at someone, face your opponent at all times. Don't open your wings up unless you plan on fighting in mid-air or you plan to run away. Keep your neck in line with your body, if someone gets under you; get out of the way ASAP. And fire is all about diversion and timing, you either use it to corner your opponent by blocking their escape, or you wait until you find an opening where you can trap them and burn them to the ground. And finally, if someone somehow gets behind you, USE YOUR TAIL!" Garin put his sword back in its sheath and pulled a round, wooden practice sword from a second sheath right next to the first. "Seeing as you overreacted a little to me using an actual sword, why don't we try again using this and you put these rules into practice. You may get a little bruised if you mess up, but I doubt it'll hurt anywhere near getting shocked."

"Like this?" asked Ohimia, who did a clumsy version of what he told her to do.

Garin said, "Looks good; you just need to straighten up your posture a little bit and you should practice the techniques a few times, but other than that, it looks like you're ready to spar again."

Ohimia perked her ears and wiggled her smaller wings. She attempted to straighten her posture and then looked at the halfling hopefully. "Like this?"

"Yeah, looks great!" he said. "Wanna try out some of those techniques now?"

The dragoness perked her head up and replied, "Sure! Why not?"

"Alright then, let's get started!" said Garin. He then landed on the ground and held his wooden training sword in a ready stance. "Go ahead, make your move," he said, smirking.

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((**Note:** This section takes place during [Chapter 32.](#)))

Ohimia rushed forward at Garin, trying to use the techniques he taught her. '*Wow, she learns fast...*' thought Garin, watching her stances. He quickly tucked into a ball and rolled between the dragoness's legs. She placed her tail in his path, which the halfling thought, '*Smart.*' He quickly rolled towards the left, out from underneath Ohimia. She quickly dived for the halfling, but then slipped and fell flat on her snout. Garin smirked as he rolled away from her dive. He told her, "Next time, try digging your claws in so you don't slip." He then started running straight towards the dragoness's body.

Ohimia groaned, "Okay." She then curled herself up and clumsily rolled in the direction of the halfling.

"Nice tactic," said Garin. "It's hard for me to hit those sweet spots if they're in constant motion and hard to distinguish." The dragoness appeared to be happy with the compliment. The boy continued running towards her and then jumped at the last second, using his wings to give him a boost, right over her body. Ohimia looked at him fly over her and then tried to grab him... but then lost balance and fell on her side. A little while later, Atlas flew up to the cave they were in and watched them continue to spar one another.

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((**Note:** This section takes place during [Chapter 38.](#)))

Throughout the whole day, Garin would keep training Ohimia in combat. She grew better at fighting for each tip the halfling gave her and where to improve on moves & positions. They would sometimes take

breaks so as not to overwork their bodies and do some exercises to build muscle. Eventually, the sky became dark and the moon & the stars shown bright in the sky. Ohimia noted the fact and asked, "I think it may be nighttime, may we get some sleep?"

"Sure, why not?" Garin said, landing on the ground. "I'll go sleep in the corner over there if you don't mind." He pointed towards a dark corner at the back of the cave. The dragoness nodded and curled up in another corner where she started to shut her eyes. The halfling walked over to the corner and lay down, letting his exhaustion carry him off to sleep.

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((**Note:** This section takes place during [Chapter 40](#).)

"Hey Garin. Time to wake up," a certain lumina said. Garin woke up to Ohimia prodding his back with her snout. He had a swift, well deserved, dreamless sleep that had completely rejuvenated his energy from the fighting and from his long flight here. He slowly opened his eyes, turning his head towards the patch of blurry haze he believed to be Ohimia.

"I'm awake," he said sluggishly, coming out more slurred than he would have liked. He sat up and blinked the blariness from his eyes before realizing that Ohimia was still prodding him. "I'm awake, geez, quit it," he said, pushing her snout away playfully with the palm of his hand. After the dragoness backed away, the halfling asked, "So, what do you want to do?"

The lumina asked hopefully, "I've been thinking about those two dragons that we met recently, one of them rushing off to... something. I kinda want to find them. Want to come along?"

"Sure, why not?" Garin replied. "I came here looking for an adventure, but I guess it found me." He smiled cheerfully as he said this. "So, if you have an idea of where they went, I'd be happy to tag along."

Ohimia suggested, "An idea of where they went... hm, yesterday the magi ran off when I mentioned the hybrid that tried to kill me... and... if I remember right, it was in one of the forest clearings. So, we might want to start our search there."

"Alright then," the halfling replied. "Lead the way!"

A wide smile spread on her snout, her surprisingly dirty snout. "Alrighty then! Let's go find them!" she chirped and then started walking towards the exit of the cave.

Garin walked over to the mouth of the cave next to Ohimia and leaned forward. Just as he was about to go horizontal, he pushed off the cliff and flipped through the air, falling towards the trees below and smiling all the way. Just as he was about to hit the canopy, the halfling spread out his wings, causing him

to have a burst of speed as he looped back around towards the cave and hovered in front of Ohimia. "Let's go!" he said with a goofy grin plastered on his face.

The dragoness smiled and twirled in the air. "Now... I think we go northeast. C'mon!" she chirped and beat her wings. Garin followed Ohimia, soaring over sparkling rivers, bright green splotches of forest, gigantic mountains, and the occasional cliff or two.

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((**Note:** This section takes place during [Chapter 42](#).)

After a few hours of flying, Garin realized something. "Ohimia," he began. "Can't you just contact them telepathically and ask where they went?"

The lumina chirped, "Oh, right! Lemme do that. Thanks, Garin!" So, she started her telepathy and grinned during some of the first several seconds. After a little while, she turned her head to the halfling and said, "I got in contact with her. Let's land." Then they dove towards the ground and landed their feet in soft dirt. Garin started to eavesdrop on the entire conversation with his telepathic link bond to both Ohimia and Atlas, just to see how it was turning out.

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((**Note:** The following sections take place during [Chapter 43](#).)

Atlas teleported Garin and Ohimia to a place where they would meet up with Axle. There, she introduced a new companion named Violet, a vampire human who once worked for evil dragons. Ohimia was the first one to greet her, "A vampire, huh? Well, nice to meet you too, Violet!"

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

The vampire girl made a small smile and said, "Same here."

Atlas asked the lumina, "So Ohimia, I saw you've been training with Garin yesterday. How did that go?"

The lumina answered, "Well at first, I was clumsy and panicked a few times." She turned her head to the halfling and continued, "But Garin gave me some pointers on how to be a good fighter and eventually got it all right."

Garin nodded and said, "We trained all the way up till night. She's still got a few things to learn, but she can handle herself against a pack of bears."

To the magi, fighting a group of bears would be easy due to her magic powers and teleportation. But Ohimia didn't have none of that, so maybe it would be challenging on the lumina's terms. Atlas had said that she wanted to see how much Ohimia has learned, so she decided to test her out right now. She said to the halfling, "Really now? I'd like to see how good she is." The magi turned to face the lumina and said, "Ohimia, let's have a mock battle right here and now."

The lumina got into her perfected battle stance, looking eager to prove herself, and said, "Alright!" She tucked her wings in tightly and held them close to herself, just like how Garin taught her. Then she ran towards the magi to attack. Atlas had already prepared herself for that as she predicted this would be the lumina's first move. The magi teleported herself onto the other dragoness's back and bit her lightly on the back of the neck. Ohimia yelped in surprise and asked, "Ack! You got behind me just like that!"

Atlas let go of her neck and smiled in amusement as she said, "I guess Garin didn't teach you to watch out for teleporting opponents. Did he?"

The lumina answered, "Nope." Garin never considered the idea that Ohimia might one day go against an enemy who can warp themselves from one place to another. He will have to train her on fighting people like that later.

Atlas got off the lumina and went around to face her. She said, "Then I guess I'll have to make this easier for you and pretend to be someone who can't teleport." Might as well lower the bar a bit to see if Ohimia can handle simple magical foes. Before they would resume, the magi gave her a fair warning, "But don't think that I'm going to be easy, Ohimia. I should let you know that I'm a dragon champion and I've never lost a fight against anyone, even when I couldn't teleport with that stupid slave collar on me."

Ohimia dropped her mouth in surprise and asked, "You're THE Atlas from those dragon tournaments?"

The magi felt a mix of emotions nagging at her. One was of pride for being the strongest and the other was of shame for taking the lives of her opponents. It was unknown if the lumina's surprise was that of joy of being around a fighting celebrity or of horror at discovering a murderer. It was probably most likely the latter, since killing innocent people was a bad thing. Averting her eyes to the ground, Atlas said, "Er... yeah, I am." Then she looked back to the lumina and nervously asked, "You're not mad, are you? Because I didn't really want to kill anybody there."

Ohimia forgave her, "No, I'm just surprised. I understand if you just forced to kill for entertainment. I don't think any slave wanted to kill each other for fun there." The magi relaxed, feeling glad that the lumina didn't take this too badly.



Garin shook his head in dismay and said, "Some humans can be such sadistic bastards." He had his experience with really unpleasant humans before.

Atlas agreed, "I know, right? Those apes wouldn't be in deep shit with our kind now if they didn't bother us in the first place." She didn't feel sorry for humans who hurt dragons and then get killed in the Great War. In fact, they deserved their destruction. Turning back to the lumina, she said, "Anyway Ohimia, let's see how well you do against me now." The two dragonesses engaged each other and fought, trading swipes, bites and dodges. Atlas would sometimes cast spells and Ohimia would use her fire breath. Garin and Violet just sat on the side and watch.

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((**Note:** This section takes place during [Chapter 44](#).)

After a while of sparring, Atlas came out on top and won. Even though she defeated Ohimia, the magi acknowledged that the lumina can fend for herself. She said, "I guess you're pretty capable, huh."

Ohimia said worriedly, "Yeah, but I still lost. I don't know what I'm going to do if I faced someone as tough as you."

Garin assured her, "Hey don't worry, I can still train you along the way. That way, you can become stronger and face off anyone better."

Atlas nodded, "He's right; you still got room for improvement, Ohimia. It probably won't be fast, but if you keep making a dedication to become stronger, then eventually you will." Then she smiled and added, "Besides, I can also help train you, if you want to learn from the champion."

Ohimia smiled with glee and said, "Oh thanks, everyone. I'm so happy you're both willing to help."

The magi said, "That's great, but we can't train right now though. Because we need all of our energy to get to Trident Mountain fast and kick somebody's tail over there." Exhaustion would just slow everyone down and that was something they didn't need if the dragons were to get to the mountain before nighttime.

The lumina looked disappointed and moaned, "Ohh..."

Garin tried to cheer her up by saying, "Don't worry, there's always next time." After they waited for Axle to return, the white dragon appeared to be crestfallen and Atlas decided to have a private talk with him away from the others, probably to talk his problems out and cheer him up or something.

Ohimia placed her chin on her front feet before she turned her head to Garin. She asked, "I realized... that I'm not entirely sure what's happening besides "oh, the humans and dragons are fighting." I have a feeling that there's much more. I wanna know more. What about you?"

"Well, to some degree, that's why I came here," said the halfling. "I want to help develop a solution where humans and dragons... and mix-ups like me can all live in peace and harmony. Don't you?"

The lumina nodded and said, "That's my biggest dream. I want to see a world without race wars, a world where dragons and humans don't hunt each other like predators, and a world where everyone is treated as equals." Garin can certainly sympathize with that. The world would be a pretty nice place if it became what the lumina wanted it to be.

Violet said to Ohimia, "Your dreams sounds nice and all, but really difficult to make true as long as people insist on hurting each other." Garin knew this to be true; people were too stubborn in their own pride, greed and hatred to change their ways. But still, it wasn't impossible to change a horrid culture into a wonderful one full of love. It just takes time to make it happen. The vampire girl continued, "Malice breeds malice, anyone who's impacted too much by evil or taught by others to be this way may become the next cruel man or dragon."

"So true," said the halfling. "That's why we need to put a stop to this once and for all."

Violet looked at him and asked, "And how do you plan to do that? People don't change easily, you know."

"I know," said Garin. "But I plan working up an idea." He was determined to make tolerance happen, one way or another.

Ohimia said, "Well there's a prophecy of two people who will stop the war in the northeast region. My friend, Yopple, and I found them. But..." Her face fell into despair and she sighed, "They refused to help. They were taught we were crazy, so we gave up on them." She sighed again and said, "If they won't use their power to stop the war, then who will?"

Garin suggested, "Well maybe they're not the ones chosen by the prophecy. It probably could have been about some other people." He wished he could see this prophecy for himself, so that he would know if the prediction was right or not.

Violet added another reason, "And maybe prophecy was just a prediction and not a fact. We've had many prophecies history and some of them didn't come true. So, what's to say this one will?"

The halfling said, "What we mean to say is that with or without a prophecy, we can still make our dreams come true. We don't need these two rejects. We can work without them." He smiled an encouraging smile at the lumina.

Ohimia cheered up again and said, "You know? You're probably right. I bet we ourselves will be able to change the world."

Garin grinned, glad that she was seeing the bright side. "That's the spirit!" he said. "We just need to believe in ourselves and we can make peace happen."

The dragoness nodded and said, "Yeah!"