

((Note: The whole story is not canon to the RP. This section takes place during [chapter 12](#).)

It has been 3 days since Katerina and Zee left Cypress. The two have made their new home in the woods where they lived inside a cave. The cave was a safe haven for both of them, considering that there were hunters and slayers out there seeking revenge on the dragons and hordes trying to kill humans. The best part was that the cave had a lot of space inside, since the dragoness dislikes cramped places. Due to their new life in the wild, the two friends' roles had been seemingly reversed. Zee, who had spent most of her life being taken care of by Kat, now had to be her provider, since the girl didn't have a weapon to defend herself or hunt prey. Right now, the dragoness was carrying some fish in a basket made out of twigs that she created herself. The fish weren't too hard to catch, thanks to her ability to hypnotize creatures with just her magical gaze. It was a power she had been surprised to see that she had it. The slave collar must have been suppressing it all these years until now. Zee wondered what she could do now that she was free. She would have to find out later, because right now it is breakfast time and Kat needs to eat. The dragoness landed at the entrance of the cave and put down the basket. She called out to her friend, "Kat, I brought you some fish. Do you want it?"

The girl, who was sitting against the wall, turned her head to the dragoness and answered, "Yes!" She smiled hungrily at the thought of having some protein for breakfast.

Zee used the top of her snout to push the basket towards the girl. Then she told her, "Come and get it!"

Kat got up and went to the basket to take up two of the fish. The rest would go to Zee, who would eat them all up. The girl turned the basket over and dumped all of them out for her friend. Then she went to the firewood, which was surrounded by rocks to prevent fires from spreading. These pieces of wood were charred black from having been used as a campfire over and over again. Now they were going to be used to cook again. Kat picked up two sticks and rubbed them together to start a fire. She put the blazing sticks onto the firewood and created a fire on them, which spread until it got bigger. Then she got a longer & thicker stick and ran it through her two fish like she was making a kebob before setting the stick on the two standing long sticks for the fish to be cooked over the fire. It took several minutes until her breakfast was ready to be eaten. Kat picked up the stick off the stands and touched one of the fish with her finger. She hissed in pain when the scales burned her finger hot. The girl decided to let them cool down a bit before she was able to tear off the scales. She would blow on them to speed up the cooling process. After a few seconds, she attempted to remove the scales again. They were still hot, but not as hot as before, so Kat had no problem taking them off. After she dropped the scales to the side, the girl bit down into the delicious flesh of the fish and ate them. Looking to her friend with a satisfied smile on her face, she said through mouthful of fish, "This is really good, Zee! You should get some more next time."

The dragoness promised, "Okay, I will for tomorrow's dinner." The two continued to eat their breakfast until they were done.

((**Note:** The following sections take place during [chapter 13](#).)

A short time after breakfast was over, Kat and Zee went to play outside. The dragoness was chasing her friend as they laughed, trying to catch the girl, so that she could pin her down so that she could land affectionate licks onto her like a dog does to its master. Kat put her thumbs to the side of her head and flapped her fingers at Zee as she teased her, "Nya nya nya nya nahhh! Can't catch me!"

Zee smirked and vowed, "Oh I'll get you alright!" The two ran through between trees and up and down the slopes, trying to escape or capture the other. The dragoness had kept her speed a bit slower than normal, so that the chase and fun would be prolonged. There was no use in ruining the excitement if the "prey" was caught too early. The pursuit went on for quite a while until Zee's legs were about to tire themselves out. The dragoness thought that now was a good time to get Kat before she would lose. She picked up the speed and started to run harder, letting out a roar to let her friend know that she was in trouble.

Kat heard that roar and looked behind herself to see her friend gaining on her fast. The girl let out a playful shriek before she kicked up the adrenaline to try to outrun the dragoness. Unfortunately for her, Zee was much faster and she finally caught the girl with a foot slamming her down to the ground onto her front. Zee began to lick her friend, rubbing her tongue from the brown-haired head to the back of the shirt. Kat felt the wetness of the saliva on where she was licked, but didn't mind as at all as she was enjoying herself. As she laughed, she begged, "Zee, stop! Ha ha ha ha! That tickles!"

The dragoness denied that request as she said, "Nope! You lost, so you get what you deserve."

Kat tried to bribe her way out by offering, "I promise to give you a back massage later, if you let me go!"

Zee giggled in amusement and said, "Isn't that what you do for me often? It's not really a deal if it's nothing special."

"Er, I guess you're right," admitted the girl. Trying to think of what else to offer, she said, "Well... what if I... uh... hunt for you?"

The dragoness smiled teasingly and said, "You can't do that, remember?"

"Oh, right..." No other idea came to mind, Kat decided to surrender and say, "Well I give up."

"I guess I really win after all." Zee continued to lick the girl until she was done. She released her friend and let her stand back up.

Kat looked at Zee with a faux evil expression and said, "I guess it's my turn now!" She began to pursue the dragoness to try to retaliate with some tickles. Zee went away fast, but repressed a bit of her speed to not widen the distance between them too much. Laughter filled the air as the chase went on through the woods. They kept going and going until Zee saw a trio of dragons up ahead. She stopped at the small cliff that was among a thick huddle of trees with a small enough space to see the dragons. They appeared to be having a conversation as they walked. The dragoness was about to listen in onto them, when she felt her friend hug her hind-leg and cried triumphantly, "Gotcha! Now I'm going to tickle you."

Not wanting to attract the dragons' attention to the girl should they be dangerous towards humans, Zee shushed her, "Kat, quiet! We got dragons over there."

The girl's excitement quickly died down and she released the leg as she asked, "Dragons?" Kat went up next to her friend's foreleg to get a closer look at the pair of dragons.

The taller green dragon said to his companion beside him, "Man, this Windfall city sure is something."

The shorter red dragon agreed, "Yeah, a city where dragons and humans live together and they're all free? That sounds unusual given every blasted shit that happened in this world. I wonder how they did it. I mean there's nice humans out there, but these guys are like hard to find."

The tall dragon suggested, "Maybe these nice humans banded together with us dragons to make that city. I'd like to check this place out once we get there."

The short dragon said, "Me too!" The two walked on until they disappeared into the distance.

Kat and Zee looked at each other, thinking about the city the dragons mentioned just now and how it's gotten them interested. The former asked, "Did you hear that, Zee?"

The dragoness nodded and answered with a smile, "I did! That city they talked about sounds like the perfect home for us. We can go around the place together without a collar and getting strange looks from those mean people." Back in Cypress, the law said that all dragon slaves must wear collars with a leash held by their masters. Loose slaves were returned to their owners or put in the slave shelter for pick up. Collarless dragons in the city were considered to be wild and treated as such, even if they were slaves. They were either captured to be sold to new owners or slain. In Windfall, there seemed to be no worries for such things. It must be a utopia for dragons and their human sympathizers alike.

Kat added another advantage, "And we can live inside a house again. Well, if you want. I'd rather be out here in the forest. You know how much I don't like humans." Whether the humans liked dragons or not, Kat was an asocial teen who doesn't like crowds or being the center of attention. She'd rather be around dragons and animals than humans, due to seeing all the abuse, stupidity and cruelty from her kind. The human race was very flawed and they weren't worth her time.

Zee responded, "I know and I don't want to be around any of them, except you. You're the best friend any dragon could have. I'd like in the forest, too." She knew a quiet and tranquil environment would be nice for both of them as opposed to a loud and crowded place with artificial wastes like car exhaust and smog ruining the fresh air. "But still, it wouldn't hurt to check out this city. I'd like to see what it's like. Want to come with?"

The girl nodded and said, "Okay, sure!"

"Then let's go then." The dragoness lowered herself down to allow her friend to ride her. Then she followed the scents left behind by the two dragons on their path, hoping that they would lead the two females to the city of Windfall.

Kat and Zee eventually saw a stony wall in sight over the horizon past the trees. The girl wondered if that wall belonged to the certain city she's thinking about at the moment. She had to ask her friend for clarification, "Zee, is that Windfall over there?"

The dragoness smelled the scents coming from past the wall and identified them as dragons and humans. She said, "I think so. Let's see if we're right." She took off into the air and landed on top of the wall. She balanced herself on the slim top like a performer on a tightrope. The two began to take a look at the city and were bewildered to see that the place was fashioned in a medieval era style. To Zee, the city just looked like it came out of a picture book her friend used to read to her when they were younger. Kat on the other hand was shocked that the place had decided to take on a very old form in this modern day and age. She wondered what the builders were thinking when they were designed this place.

The girl gasped, "Oh my gosh..." These words basically described her feelings about this place.

Zee commented, "It's so strange. I can't believe it looks so much different from Cypress and I thought all human cities looked the same."

Kat said, "Believe me, they're not. Some human cities aren't as advanced as Cypress is. Or was..." While on their way there, the girl had noticed that Windfall was in the same direction as Cypress was from. Even more curious was that this city was in the exact same location as Cypress, which leads her to wonder. Did the builders remake the destroyed city and christened it?

Zee looked at her friend curiously and asked, "Was?" She wondered what the girl meant by that.

Kat answered, "I think this place used to be Cypress until now. Did you notice where we were headed when we got here?"

The dragoness shook her head, not getting a clue. "I can't say I have."

The girl realized an important fact about her friend and said, "Oh right." Zee had spent all her life in the city and most of it was at Kat's family household. Because the dragoness never left, she wouldn't know how to get back to Cypress, or Windfall as of now.

Just then, a dragon flew overhead and landed onto the cobblestone street where his kind and the humans were walking on. As the friends hoped and expected, none of the dragons there had on slave collars. Windfall was truly a place of equality and freedom. Zee commented, "Looks like they were right about this place. It's a dream come true!"

Kat agreed, "Yeah. After all these years, it's finally happened. Humans and dragons living together as equals. I never imagined the Spell would lead to something like this." Then something started to nag at her hindsight and it was telling her something bad. "But I can't believe that people would change this fast in just a few days. I mean they've lived their whole lives oppressing dragons. Does a tragedy like getting their loved ones killed and their homes destroyed really change their perspective overnight? Things like that make humans more resentful, even if they threw the first punch."

Zee looked to the citizens again and then back at the girl. She noted, "Well it doesn't seem to be that way from the looks of it."

"That's because you're looking at it from a first glance," Kat told her. "Maybe they've made a new law saying that humans can't be mean to dragons or something like that." Then she snorted, "I don't think I'd be surprised if the humans there turned out to still be racists."

The dragoness suggested, "Well who knows? Let's just go down and find out."

"Okay," replied the girl.

Zee flew down towards the street and landed. She looks around for the closest dragon and spots him walking by her. She follows him up to the side and asks him, "Excuse me sir, but can you tell us about the humans here? Are they all nice and friendly to us dragons?"

The dragon answered sarcastically, "If by nice and friendly, you avoiding us like we're sick and calling us nasty names, then yes. They're all as kind as a puma with a stick up its ass." His tone softened a bit as he said, "But at least they're not hunting us like prey or working us to death. Windfall ain't perfect, but at least it's an improvement compared to the old life. I'll tell ya that."

Kat thought, '*I was right.*' She knew people either don't change fast or they never changed at all.

"I see," said Zee. She kind of hoped that the humans would at least be a bit more friendlier than that; but as Kat said, humans were resentful towards those who caused them harm, no matter what. She

wondered if they would get along better with the dragons if her kind just simply escaped without laying revenge on the humans. "Well thanks anyway. You have a good day."

The dragon replied, "No problem and you, too."

Zee slowed down to a stop to let the dragon walk ahead on his own. She looked to her friend and said, "Looks like you were right, Kat."

"I know," the girl said. "I told you these people were going to hold grudges."

The dragoness asked, "But if these people are angry at the dragons, then why live here?" It would make a lot of sense if the hateful humans were to move out of Windfall and make their own city.

"That's a good question, Zee. I guess they probably stayed here because this city's been their home their entire lives. But then again, most humans are stupid. I guess they're rather be miserable while having all that comfort than try to learn how to survive in the wild and build their own city."

"I guess so, too." As Zee began to walk, she said, "Oh well, let's go see what's around Windfall. You'll never know what we'll miss if a next disaster destroys it again." The dragoness was curious as to what city life of a free individual was like. They went around looking at the stores, houses and everything in this city.

((**Note:** This section takes place during [chapter 14](#).)

A few hours had gone by since Kat and Zee started their tour. During all that time, they had found a lot of things different in Windfall compared to Cypress. For one, they had learned that the city now had a new type of police that were the foreign dragon soldiers called Aquarians. They were not only there to protect the city from criminal activity and break up racial tensions, but they had also been the ones responsible for helping to rebuild the city into Windfall and, by the orders of Mayor Esteed and their leader, Woltar, bringing humans from around the northeastern region into Windfall and keeping them into the city against their will for protection. Second, the streets had been re-routed and some of the businesses were put into different places. There was also the appearance of new businesses from the humans who were taken in. And lastly, there was recently the ban of all vehicles today. Kat was surprised the most by all this. This place was absolutely nothing like the Cypress she had remembered. The Aquarians had turned this place upside-down, though not in a negative way, but not in a positive way either given the ban on cars. The girl commented, "Windfall sure is something else." She was now walking alongside the dragoness.

Zee agreed, "Yeah, it's really not like Cypress at all. I wonder why they decided to revamp the city like

that."

Kat assumed, "Probably to try to put the horrible past behind, I guess."

"I wonder if things will improve after a while. I mean the humans can't stay mad forever, right?"

The girl shrugged and said, "Who knows? I guess we'll just have to wait and see for now."

"Right," said Zee. She decided that she had enough of the topic on Windfall's humans and wanted to change the subject to something more cheery. Forming a smile on her face, she asked, "Well anyway, I had fun today, what about you?"

"It was good," Kat responded back with her own smile. She got to see all sorts of interesting places as well like the moonlight dragon fountain for example. The fountain was well-crafted and beautiful; an amazing piece of art. "This city does have some amazing stuff. Too bad I don't have any money to buy something, though." She couldn't go to her family to ask for some cash. Her mother's business trip was far from over, her father would probably beat her up, her grandma was dead and her grandpa probably croaked as well.

The dragoness, having heard that her friend's parents would get income from having worked their jobs, advised, "Well I think you might make some if you were to have a job."

Kat told her, "Zee, I'm too young to get a job. I got to wait like a whole year to get a worker's permit first."

Zee asked curiously, "Really? Is that how it works?" It appears there was still much to learn about human culture.

The girl nodded and confirmed, "Yes. They have this law that says children under 15 can't work without a permit. It's to get kids to spend more time in school."

"Oh," the dragoness said. "Well, you're a pretty smart girl. I'm sure you can do any kind of job to get money, even if you're not old enough."

Kat felt flattered and said, "Thanks, Zee! Though I think it doesn't hurt to learn some more things before I get a job. But I'm not in school now, so I think we have plenty of time to make our own business before it's back to school." She thought about the things she could sell. Maybe she could get Zee to shape up some rocks into stony figurines and make money off of them.

Zee looked confused, "Wait, but I thought it's illegal for kids to have jobs."

The girl grinned cleverly, "Yes, but there's a loophole we can exploit. We can't be hired, but we can

make and sell stuff. Plenty of kids do lemonade stands."

"So we sell lemonades?"

"No, we're going to sell figurines and you're going to make them. We'll be rich and we can buy whatever we want!" Kat was sure that her idea would work. She needed to have the figurines modeled after well-liked animals and fictional characters and she would profit.

Now Zee was becoming enthusiastic about the idea. She said, "That sounds wonderful! You're such a genius, Kat!"

"Thanks, I'm sure this is going to work." After going around the corner, the girl saw what seems to be a park just up ahead on the left side of the street. Her legs were feeling quite tired and she was pretty sure that her friend was feeling this way, too. Pointing to the park, she said, "Look! There's a park up ahead that we can rest at. C'mon Zee, let's go hang out at the park!"

"Okay," Zee replied. The dragoness's legs were indeed tired and she could use a good rest as well. Then maybe soon, they can go play with each other there. The two friends made their way over to the park.