

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

Stumbling through the woods closer to the city hall than she would have liked, Moonstone found a small tree with an opening. Crawling inside she watched multiple humans run past, yelling and pushing one another. Her light blue eyes, similar to the night sky, watched carefully, waiting for them to clear. She was beyond starving, scared and sad. Having just watched her family and pride be attacked by... No, she couldn't think about it. It was too much. Once the coast was clear, the blue-winged dragonet with blue fins and large crystals on her tail let her whimpers and cries echo in the trunk of the tree, her call similar to a bird's and blending almost perfectly with the forest around her. Her black scales hid her from the hateful world around her.

Soon, a 35-year-old brown-haired man with tan skin peeked inside the hollow opening with his forest green eyes. There was a single scar on his face that ran from the right side of his forehead to his left cheek. He asked, "Hello?" Moonstone stared at the human, her glowing blue eyes matching the moon she was named after. With no pupil, she gazed at the human, making soft chirps, cries for help. She could feel her stomach clawing at itself in hunger. Her wings were itching to stretch out the newly formed muscles. Moonstone slowly moved into the light, her small horns and crests tinted blue; she was a night dragon. As she got closer, she saw that he was wearing grayish-blue oriental robes. She couldn't help but hope this human would help her, would find her food or a safe place for the night. Her cries became almost desperate as her sorrow shook her small, awkward body. This naive hope that this human wouldn't hurt her, even after the horrors she saw, was unrelenting. He softly assured her, "Shhh shh shh, little one. It's okay. I'm going to help you." He reached into a belt pouch and pulled out some food and held it out to the young dragonet. "Here, eat this. It's perfectly safe."

Moonstone eyed the human distrustfully, slowly reaching for the offered food before snatching it at the last second. The very smell was overwhelming and she quickly scarfed down the treat. Her body and head were already feeling clearer and lighter as she felt safer. Crawling further from the hole, her awkward body tugging and pulling at twigs and branches caught on her growing horns, tail and wings, she carefully nuzzled the human's leg. She couldn't help but trust the human, even with the small gesture. Something called her to him, telling her to trust him. Her glowing eyes closed as she continued her nuzzle, a deep rumbling echoing in her chest.

The man smirked and picked her up gently as he said, "Come, little one. Let's get you a real meal." He took her to a hotel and laid her down on a bed. Chirping happily, Moonstone snuggled into the covers, toying with the pillows until feathers started to spread. Moon was beyond excited, having dreamed about see so many different human objects. Jumping from her place, she scavenged under the bed, toying with loose odds and ends and exploring to her heart's content. He also examined closely the weapons that the man set down orderly on the table, giving them hard looks. He called for some room service. "Comfortable over there?" he said as he looked over to the young dragoness.

Chirping at the man, Moon hurried to the door, smelling food. Hopefully it was fruit and insects which

happened to be her favorite at the moment.

The man picked her up and said, "Whoa, hold on there, little one. Back onto the bed with you, okay? Don't want you scaring the maid now, do you?" He put her back on the bed. Then he opened the door and thanked the deliverer before taking in the cart of food and shutting the door. He removed the lids. There were several dishes available to dine on. Different meats, fruits, bread, etc. but no insects. Moon's stomach growled at the heavy scent of food and she paced excitedly around the man as he plated some of the meat together. She poked and prodded gently with her muzzle until he sat the plate before her on the floor. The food was separated fairly. As he set his food was on the table, he told her "Dig in, but this is all for now, okay? I don't have pockets full of money, little one, and food is not cheap." He sat facing her curiously at the table and started to eat.

Moon couldn't quite understand the human, not having learned any other language besides the one embedded since birth; however, she felt calmed by his tone. The many vibrations from his throat seemed to echo into her heightened ears. Spinning in the occasional circle, tripping over her growing feet, she quickly started on the fruit, eating it all of it quickly. She paused for a moment at the bread and cheese, sniffing curiously before trying it. It tasted sharp and almost bitter to her tongue, however the crunchy yet soft bread made it bearable. She toyed with the various meats, tasting a bit of everything before deciding she liked chicken, or in her mind this one wing. Having only started her change for maturity, she still was unsure on how to gather her own food, use her wings and ignore the growing pains as her body started sprouting. In a couple months' time, she would be almost full grown.

Then she heard the man say, "We need to find a dragon who can teach you to speak Common, little one. I may know of one.... but finding them will not be easy." Moon chirped once more at the man, jumping onto his lap. Her pointy and heavy body was uncomfortable, too big to be held and carried like a hatchling. Her eyes, glowing like the night sky, closed as she got more comfortable. She was beyond relieved to have someone, who seemed to care about her, take care of her. She wished she understood the human better than she did; but for the moment, she was content as she could be. The dragonet felt his hand pet her like a cat before he took her up and placed her on the bed. She opened back her eyes to look at the man as he told her, "I'll try and see if I can go find them. You stay here and be good, okay?" Moon's response was staring at the man as she sat on the bed. She then watched him leave through the door and close it behind him. Having nothing to do, the dragonet decided to spend her time enjoying the comfort of the bed. It felt nicer than any ground she's ever been on. Moon curled herself into sleeping position and she soon started to drift into her nap.