

((Note: The whole story is not canon to the RP. This section takes place during [Chapter 46](#).)

Rhino stared at the cold dragoness, feeling awkward that he must have accidentally stolen her prey. After he had greeted her, she replied, "Hello. Were you going after the same prey I was hunting?"

The fleshcrowne confirmed, "Yes, I didn't know. Sorry about that." Pushing the deer slightly over to her, he asked, "Here, do you want it?"

The dragoness shook head and replied, "No thanks, it's yours. You caught it first. I can always find another one."

"Alright then," said Rhino. He began to eat the deer as he ripped a piece of its flesh off using his teeth. As the cold dragoness began to leave, he thought of an efficient idea that would benefit them both. He asked the dragoness, "Hey, do you want to share this deer with me? We can hunt the next one down after this and then eat it to make us full."

The dragoness stopped and looked to him, saying, "Sure, that would be nice." She went over to him and they both ate the deer together, sharing half of its meat for them both.

As they ate, Rhino thought to know who he was going to cooperate for the hunt of their next prey. He asked, "So what's your name?"

The dragoness swallowed the piece of meat she chewed before answered, "I'm Frostfire and you are?"

"Rhino," the fleshcrown answered simply before taking another bite.

"Rhino..." Frostfire repeated the name quietly. "That sounds familiar..."

"Familiar?" Rhino questioned through the food in his mouth.

The dragoness told him, "Like the name of one of those strange animals we don't see often here. Gray with a couple of horns on its face."

Rhino tried to picture the creature that was just describe. He didn't know exactly what the animal which species shared his name looked like and it may have ended up looking like an awkward freak in his imagination. After he swallowed the chewed up meat, he commented, "Doesn't sound like any animal I've seen in my life."

"I know," said Frostfire as the fleshcrowne took another bite. "I think they might be foreign animals that humans love to bring to one of their zoos, but I'm not sure where they're from."

"Probably," Rhino replied. "These humans really love to take creatures from their homes and keep as property. I find that disgusting to be honest." He thought it was a waste of food to just keep animals around for simple amusement. The humans could have eaten them, or better yet they could have gone to some hungry dragons and other predators. The use of animals as living tools, provided they weren't abused like the slaves, were all okay since it meant the animals have plausible purposes. But the zoos however were just nonsensical.

Frostfire agreed, "It's kind of like slavery, isn't it? What they do to us dragons."

As she took another bite and swallowed, the fleshcrowne said, "Yeah, but for some reason, animals seem to get treated better than us. It's like these humans must have something against us." The humans could have simply asked the dragons for help with their creations of buildings and other tasks, but instead they chose to subdue them violently and force them into slavery.

"It really is strange, isn't it?" said the dragoness. Then she assumed, "I guess the humans probably needed us weak, so that we can't escape from them."

Rhino grunted, "Still, they could have at least tried to tame us or request our help, instead of starting a war against us before the dark ages."

"You're right. I still wonder why they've never thought to use that tactic like they did with the other animals."

Rhino shrugged, "Who knows? Humans can be really strange sometimes as much as they are brutal." Then he remembered that he had Ryan to feed and he mustn't waste any more time with this conversation. "Anyway, let's finish eating. I have a boy that I need to feed after the next kill."

Frostfire looked at him curiously, "A boy?"

The fleshcrowne nodded and said, "Yeah, a human boy. I was hunting for me and...that acquaintance of mine. We're taking a lunch break before we head on over to Windfall."

"Windfall?" the dragoness asked. "What kind of a place is that?"

Rhino explained, "Apparently, it's this place where dragons and humans live together without any hunting or slavery. It sounds like a utopia for anyone who wants to live alongside humans." Though the word "utopia" may have been stretching it too far. He can't say for sure what the place was actually like he got there.

"That sounds fascinating," said Frostfire as she smiled a bit. "I think that a couple of young humans I know would like to live there."

Rhino inquired, "Young humans?"

The dragoness nodded, "Yes. They live outside the city we dragons destroyed and are raising a hatchling like a family member."

The fleshcrowne smiled at this brief story and said, "Sounds like nice humans. They should move to that Windfall place. It's much suitable for them than here out in the woods with no city." He didn't think humans would be able to adapt to living in the forest alone. They always headed back to their civilizations and never stayed in the wilderness for too long.

"I'll have to tell them about this city later."

"Do so," Rhino recommended. "They'll need it." From then on, they continued to eat the deer until the animal's body was left with bloodied bones and little flesh too thin to be eaten. With their first shared meal done, the fleshcrowne said, "Alright, let's go find the next critter." The two dragons went hunting together, smelling out scents for their second prey.

After a while, they came across several scents coming from ahead. Frostfire identified what Rhino was exactly thinking, "Wolves... A pack of them."

The fleshcrowne grinned at their lucky find. If they find and kill enough of these wolves, then they will have more to eat and some leftover for Ryan. "Let's go get them." They tracked down the scents through the woods, going around trees that were in their way. Then they heard a howl from a distance, apparently warning the other pack members of the dragons' presence. Rhino said, "Looks like they've found us."

"Yes," Frostfire replied. "But we're not going to let them get away. We should take to the air after them."

Rhino agreed, "Right, let's get 'em." They spread out their wings and ran before jumping into the air to flap them. They gradually gained altitude and rose up above the trees. They soared just above the woods as their eyes scanned the ground below the trees for the wolves. Wolves may run faster than dragons, but with the obstacles such as the trees that would be in their way, Rhino and Frostfire would have no problem keeping up with them. Flight was their advantage in this chase. And even if their wings grew tired, they would have the legs to continue on land until their wings regained the energy to go on again. They could exhaust the wolves that way and make them easier to kill.

Soon, they found the gray shapes of the wolves running across the ground. As the dragons dove down for the kill, the pack split up and went separate in an attempt to distract their predators with a few unlucky members that would be hunted, while the rest escaped and survived. The dragons parted off and followed after their chosen prey. Rhino followed after two wolves as he charged up energy into his breath in preparation to electrocute the animals. Once he was fully charged, he shot out a lightning bolt

at the farthest wolf that was just breaking off the path of its sibling. The creature yelped out loudly as it fell over and died. With one down, the other was next to go. The fleshecrowne charged up for another breath attack before zapping the second wolf that went down as well. He landed down next to his kill and ate it. This wolf was going to be his, while the other would be for Ryan. Before he could do that, he needed to check with Frostfire first, since he proposed the idea of sharing the next kill. He formed a telepathic bond with her and asked, *'Hey, did you get your wolf yet?'*

The dragoness response was just like he hoped it would be, *'I did. Would you like to share it with me?'*

Rhino replied, *'No thanks, I already caught my own. You just eat yours and I eat mine.'*

Frostfire said, *'Okay, whatever you say. Thanks for hunting with me.'*

'No problem. Just wanted to make it up for that deer I accidentally stole.' Since the dragoness had her prey, now the wolf will definitely go to Ryan.

She sounded pleased as she said, *'That's quite generous of you. Again, I should thank you.'*

'And again, you're welcome,' said Rhino as he continued to eat his prey.

Frostfire wished him well, *'I hope you and that human friend of yours have a safe journey out there. You hear?'*

'I will,' the fleshcrowne replied. He knew to be well aware of his surroundings at all times as dragon slayers are known to ambush their dragon victims. *'And you have a nice day as well.'*

'Thank you.'

Their telepathy ended and Rhino eat up his wolf until he was finished. He went to collect the other wolf and carried it by the scruff in his teeth. He took off into the air and flew to where he left Ryan behind. He sniffed out for the boy's scent and followed the path of its smell until he found him and started to descend towards the ground. Ryan, who had been bored to death waiting for his friend's return, saw the fleshecrowne returning with some food for him. He grinned eagerly at the dead creature as he was finally getting his lunch to eat. He called out to him, "Rhino, you're back! What took you so long?"

The dragon landed before him and dropped the wolf. He explained, "I took someone's prey by mistake, so we shared it before we hunted a pack of wolves to eat our fill." Pushing the prey over to the boy with his nose, he said, "Here, I got one for you." Ryan looked down at the prey and made out what its species was. It was a wolf, one of his favorite animals. The boy felt kind of sorry that such a majestic creature had to die to become his food. Rhino noticed his hesitation and inaction and asked, "What's wrong? Aren't you going to eat that?"

Ryan's thoughts snapped back to reality as he turned his attention to the dragon. He admitted, "Sorry, I was just thinking about that wolf. It's one of my favorite animals. I wasn't sure if I could eat that."

Rhino shook his head and said, "You humans and your love for animals." He assumed the boy must have been one of those people who were picky about their diet when it comes to animals they really like. Then he advised, "Look, just because it's your favorite animal, doesn't mean you shouldn't eat it. We're in the woods, kid. You can't be too picky out here. Food isn't as abundant as it is in the cities you humans live in. You got to eat what you can find, got it?"

The dragon had a point; life is harder in the woods. Ryan looked down at the wolf lying before him. Rhino did spend a lot of time catching it for him, so he needed to show that he was grateful for his work and not let his efforts go to waste. He said to the dragon, "Okay, I get ya. I'll take whatever you can get me." He knelt down and picked up the wolf into his two arms. He carried it over to the campfire that he had made to use as a way to cook, while his friend was out hunting. The boy sat down and pulled an arrow out of the quiver he had behind his back. He used the head of the arrow to cut into the wolf's body and started to cut open its abdomen. He removed every organ out of the wolf and tossed them to the side. When the last organ was out, Ryan began to cut some of the flesh inside the body. He took out the fillet and took it to the campfire where he grabbed the stick off the posts holding it. He ran the stick through the fillet and then set it back on the posts to allow the fire to cook the meat. Looking at the wolf's body, the boy said, "Sure hope you don't come haunting me tonight for this."

Rhino made an open-tooth smile in amusement as he quietly giggled, "Heh." The thought of a wolf's ghost coming to scare and chase the boy was funny at best.

(**Note:** This section takes place during [Chapter 47](#).)

After Ryan was done eating his cooked fillet, he kicked dirt into the fire to put it out. He can't let a wildfire start while this campfire was still burning. He walked over to Rhino, who was just lying next to the half-eaten remains of the wolf the boy had eaten from. The dragon asked him, "Ready to go, kid?"

Ryan nodded, "Yeah." The dragon got up and they both started to resume their journey to Windfall.

They didn't get too far from their resting spot as a certain cold dragoness appeared with a couple of young humans and a techno hatchling. Judging by their scents, the two humans seem to be brother and sister. The siblings appeared to be packed up with bags and suitcases. Even the hatchling was carrying a small bag too in his mouth. Frostfire greeted the dragon, "Hello again, Rhino. I told these people here about your trip and they decided that they want to go to Windfall, too."

The white-haired girl beamed in enthusiasm, "So you guys are going to a city? We want to go there, too!"

Can we join you, pretty please?"

Rhino frowned at the idea of having to travel with two more humans. Not only would he be bombarded with more stench, but these people may also want to ride him with all their luggage. The fleshcrowne imagined all that weight on his back as he traveled with them; it was not going to be comfortable. Before he could object the girl's request, Ryan went and answered for them, "Sure you can! It will be fun having more people with us." Looking at his dragon friend, he asked, "Right, big guy?" The boy could imagine all the fun conversations that fellow dragon sympathizers would have on this trip as they got to know each other.

Rhino looked from the boy to the others, who were all eager to go to Windfall. The hatchling's pleading eyes had the most effect on him. The fleshcrowne would be ashamed of himself if he was to turn down a baby dragon's wish. Defeated, he let out a quiet sigh and said, "Alright, sure. They can come."

"Sweet!" the girl beamed. "Now we have someone to protect us on this trip!" Then she introduced herself and her companions, "Oh by the way, my name is Yukki. And this is my dorky brother, Henry."

The blonde-haired boy waved at Rhino and Ryan in embarrassment from his sister's comment. He greeted, "Hey..."

Yukki continued, "And this is our friend, Eddo."

Eddo the hatchling put down the bag and greeted, "Hi."

Likewise, Ryan returned the favor of getting to know each other. He said, "I'm Ryan and this guy here with me is Rhino."

Henry commented, "Rhino? Is he like named after that animal from Gwenyar?" So that was where the animal that Rhino and Frostfire were talking about earlier came from. Gwenyar, the continent with jungles and savannas.

The fleshcrowne corrected the blonde, "No, that name was just a coincidence. Rhino is a common name among dragons. I don't think my parents would just name me after an animal." In draconic language, the name Rhino meant "confident and steady". It was a name that meant that one will keep going on, no matter how tough things were. It must have been something his old folks wished of him when they named him that on the day of his birth.

Henry asked, "So you dragons have names that sound like animals?" He tilted his head to the side and let it rest on the palm of his hand. In thought, he said, "You know? When you think about it that way, calling a dragon names like Rhino or Cat just sounds weird."

Rhino retorted, "Hey, you humans have animal names too like Robin, Kitty, Bunny and Hawk." Similar to

the blonde's opinion, the dragon also thought that calling a human by an animal-like name was strange, considering the two were different species.

Eddo looked up at his male friend weirdly and asked, "Robin, Kitty, Bunny and Hawk?"

Henry seems to have understood the hatchling's peculiarity. He made a small smile and scratched his back as he said, "Heh heh, you're right. I guess it must feel weird for you dragons to call us humans these names."

Ryan corrected the fleshcrowne, "Uh Rhino, that Hawk name ends in an E. It may sound like it's named after that bird, but the name's not really the same."

Rhino commented, "Huh. It looks like I made a little mistake there." He brushed it off, but admitted, "I'm not really knowledgeable on how you humans make your words or names."

The redhead forgave him, "I get you. We humans and dragons don't know each other's' cultures. We're bound to make mistakes like this." He remembered that one time when he mistaken two male water dragons wrapping and moving around each other as mating when they were really just wrestling to compete for a female.

"Yeah, I suppose," said Rhino, knowing the boy was right about that. Then looking Eddo and his human friends, he said, "So anyway, since you're coming with us to Windfall. Are you going to drag all that stuff with you? Because I'm not carrying all of that on my back." He eyes shifted to their luggage, looking at them with distaste.

Yukki complained, "What? Come on! You don't expect us to drag all this by ourselves, do you?" It seems the luggage had been too much for them as well. Well, it's their fault.

Henry sighed in a whining way, "Yeah, my arms hurt..."

The fleshcrowne huffed, "Well, you should have thought of that before carrying too much stuff for this trip." Then he wondered about the possibility of how they were about to bring all their luggage here if carrying them all was too heavy. He asked, "How did you guys manage to bring all this here with you?" He was a bit skeptical about the teenagers' claims since they claimed they can't carry all these things and yet they were here.

Frostfire answered, "Because I helped carry some of their things."

Rhino looked at her and asked, "You did?"

"Yes," confirmed the dragoness. Then she offered, "I don't plan to move to Windfall, but I can help you carry some of these humans' suitcases, so that you won't be burdened too much on the way."

Rhino smiled gratefully for her help and said, "Thanks Frost! You definitely saved my back from breaking." He was totally content with carrying half of the family's possessions. Though a little less was more preferable, but he didn't want give Frostfire much more to be burdened with than he thought she could handle.

Frostfire winked, "You're welcome. We dragons have to look out for one another."

Ryan was glad that her willingness to help made it easier for everyone. Now they only had one thing left to do to get this trip ready. He asked, "Well now that that's settled, how do you propose who rides who and who carries what?" He looked to the dragoness and wondered how she was able to carry the luggage. His first thought was the siblings must have tied them on ropes to her, but that couldn't be it as there were no ropes to be found. So how did she do it?

Frostfire asked the fleshcrowne, "Rhino, do you want to go first?"

Rhino looked at all the possessions Henry, Yukki and Eddo had. The girl seemed to have the most, which was a lot, with her. The blonde boy had like 5 suitcases. He thought over his plane on which ones to carry and who would ride with on him. He already knew that Ryan was afraid of heights, and because of that, he can't be left alone on the ground. So the fleshcrowne needed to pick only one out of the trio and what luggage to carry, and how he would take them along while walking with the redhead. He thought about taking Henry and all of his suitcases plus two of Yukki's luggage. But still, that would leave Frostfire with the greater half of the luggage. So Rhino thought of a way to remedy that and got the idea to make Ryan and Henry help as well. With all of his suggestions planned out, the fleshcrowne responded to the dragoness, "Yes." He told her about taking Henry and the luggage he chose.

Frostfire said, "Well it looks like that leaves me with Yukki and Edo." She glanced to the girl and hatchling.

"It does," said Rhino matter-of-factly. "But I don't want you carrying all that girl's stuff while you're flying. They look a bit heavy taking them all." He looked to Ryan and then Henry as he said, "I think these boys should help carry something with them on ground."

Henry looked at him like he was crazy and cried, "What?! You're leaving us to travel on foot?"

The fleshcrowne told, "Pipe down, you worry-wart. I'll be going with you on the ground. I just don't want Frostfire to be slowed down and get tired with all these stuffs your sister has."

Frostfire looked flattered as she said, "Oh thanks for thinking of me, Rhino. I admitted taking this much will be a bit troublesome in the air. In fact, I carried a little bit more than that when we were getting to you and it nearly wore me out."

"Wow..." Rhino flinched, feeling the imaginary ache on his body. He was right figuring the weight of the amount carried would be heavy. He also knew that she didn't carry all of these luggages by herself. The fleshcrowne looked to the siblings and asked, "And did you help out bringing your stuff here?"

Henry answered, "We did. I took three and my pot-" He looked as if he had just made a mistake and glanced at Yukki to see her shoot him with daggers from her eyes. He quickly corrected himself, "Ahem! Perfectly nice sister took two."

Now Rhino knew what the blonde boy was capable of carrying, he would decide the amount the boys would carry. He told them, "Well then Henry, you and Ryan both carry two of Yukki's things."

"Okay," said the boys simultaneously before they went over to Yukki's luggage. Ryan took two suitcases, a big one and a slightly smaller one. The redhead grabbed the suitcases by their handles and dragged them behind as their wheels below rolled with him.

Henry picked a small red & pink duffel bag and grabbed a suitcase. His sister approached him with a stern look on her face and threatened, "You better not lose my stuff, baka. Or else!" She showed him her frying pan and held it at him like it was a weapon.

The blonde looked at her and the pan fearfully as he made a fake grin that attempted to mask how scared he was. "Y-y-yes Yukki," he said, taking heed of her warning. Then he walked away over to Rhino and Ryan.

Ryan looked up at the fleshcrowne and asked, "So, since you're with us on ground. How exactly are you going to carry the suitcases and stuff?" Looking at the dragon, it doesn't seem like he could carry all the luggage in his mouth or hold them with his forelegs as he may need them to walk.

Rhino answered, "Well they got to have some ropes or something to hold all these things. Otherwise, Frostfire wouldn't be able to carry them." Even though there didn't appear to be a single thing on the dragoness, he assumed that the siblings must have put them away before they met. But why when they were just going to use them again so soon?

"Oh we got ropes alright," they heard Yukki say. The dragon and the redhead watched her open up one of the duffel bags and pull out some ropes. She dramatically showed it to them in a "ta-da" fashion. "We came here with these just for when we join you so you'll be able to carry our stuff on your back."

"Just for when?" asked Rhino who was taken aback by the girl's choice of words. He asked, "You mean these ropes were only for me?" It seems like this girl must have been one step ahead in her plan when she and her family were planning to travel to Windfall.

Yukki confirmed, "Yes."

If what she said was true, then what about Frostfire. Rhino asked, "So how did Frostfire carry?"

The dragoness answered, "I froze the luggage and my legs in ice, so that I would be able to carry them around."

The fleshcrowne replied, "Oh that makes sense." If she were any other breed that wasn't of the ice element, she might have gotten something like a frostbite or hypothermia. But since she was a cold dragon, she would be immune to ice. With everything and everyone assigned to each dragon, Rhino said to the humans, "Alright kids, start tying the stuff onto me."

Ryan replied, "You got it!" Rhino laid down and let the humans set the luggage on his back. Ryan got onto his back and held the luggage together in case they might fall off. When Yukki got the ropes ready, the redhead called to her, "Yukki, toss the rope over to me." The girl threw the rope up at him and he caught it. Ryan put the rope through all the handles of the luggage before he looked down to Henry, who was on the Rhino's other side. He told the blonde, "Henry, I need you to catch the rope and then throw it up back to me." After he threw it down to Henry, Ryan went to the other end of Rhino's wing and caught the rope as it was thrown up at him. Then the redhead went to the other wing and did the same thing of rounding the rope around the wing with Yukki's help. Then to finally get the rope tied, Ryan told Rhino, "Alright big guy, stand up. It's time to tie the ropes." The dragon did as he was told and stood up. The redhead dropped the rope and Yukki went to tie it around the chest. Now they were all ready to go. The boy gave a thumbs up as he winked and said, "And done!"

Rhino said, "Alright, let's go." Frostfire let Yukki and Eddo on her back before she went over to Yukki's stuff. She held her legs to them and used her ice magic to encase them all in ice thick enough to hold them, but light enough for her to fly. As the dragoness took off, Rhino and the boys began to walk after her through the forest.