

((**Note:** This section takes place during [chapter 24](#).)

Zeditha and Chi walked back through the corridors of the city hall and back to the outside. The hybrid said, "Looks like another class of people is filing in."

The dragonet walked along in silence. She was rather shy around all these people. She found that, as she trotted along after Chi, there were more dragons and humans to avoid. Skipping to the side in order to avoid a particularly mean-looking human, she found herself nose-to-nose with a fluttering multicolored pygmy. Zeditha squeaked and jumped back; she wasn't a large dragon herself, so a pygmy to the face made a difference. "Sorry," she squeaked, then looked ahead to see if she could spot Chi. The hybrid was further ahead, beyond a tight crowd of people and dragons. With a small sigh, she resigned herself to being lost, and turned back to the pygmy.

((**Note:** This section takes place during [chapter 26](#).)

Zeditha flew around a bit, unsure of what to do now that the fireworks and the fair were over. "What should we do now?" she asked Chi, flying at head height next to her friend.

Chi stretched and let out a yawn before murmuring, "Well the festival is over, so I was actually gonna head home and catch some sleep."

Zeditha smiled and replied, "Sounds good to me. I'll sleep in the forest; though, I'm used to that. Do you want to take care of Mia? I'm afraid that if she gets any bigger, I won't be able to take her anywhere..."

The hybrid looked at the dragonet thoughtfully and then to the baby. "I suppose I could. Hehe, not exactly how I thought my first child would go," she said, gingerly lifting the basket. "Baby it is. Well goodnight, Zeditha," she said before she spread her wings and flew off towards the forest.

((**Note:** The following sections take place during [chapter 28](#).)

Zeditha blinked, then stretched and got up. She must have fallen asleep. Scampering away from the soft moss she had been lying on, she followed her nose until she found a mouse. With a few swift flaps, she was on top of it before it could do anything and it was dead and eaten in five seconds. With breakfast out of the way, Zeditha decided to catch a rabbit or two before heading back to Chi's treehouse. She proceeded to do so, returning with a heavy load of rabbits within half an hour. Chi glanced up at the

dragonet and her wings flickered lightly. The hybrid sat on the floor next to a large pile of smoothed twigs. A few were in her hand and she appeared to be weaving them together with a few pieces scattered around the floor. Mia was sleeping on a bed a few feet away. Chi said, "Oh how lovely. We can make some rabbit stew out of that. I'm afraid human babies cannot eat meat in the raw." She glanced at the baby on the bed. Then she explained softly, so as to not rouse the sleeping child, "Weaving a crib. Dragons usually use nests, but humans I found use something a little different. Miniature beds if you will." Chi rose from her spot and beckoned the dragon to follow her to the kitchen.

Zeditha trotted happily after the hybrid without saying anything. Partly this was due to a lack of anything to say, but mostly it was because of the rabbit in her mouth. The second one dragged along behind her, wrapped up in her tail. She got to the kitchen and deposited the rabbits in a small pile. "I normally cook my food," the whiptail admitted. "Especially if it's cold out. It tastes better that way."

Chi looked curiously at her, "That so? Interesting. Usually don't meet dragons like that. Many anymore are just against the way humans do things on principal." She started to skin the rabbits over the stone counter-top. She looked at the fur and commented, "This should make nice material for the baby."

Zeditha smiled and admitted, "I never really *liked* humans. But my parents taught me many of their tricks and habits when I was young. They were pets once, kept inside their houses by electric collars, and saw many of the things humans did. They let me choose for myself which ones I would do and which I wouldn't. Since my mentor was killed by humans, I've hated them, but I didn't stop cooking my food. It works and it tastes better. That has little to do with whether or not I like humans. Humans breathe too, and drink water, and eat, and walk! Should we stop doing those things just because humans do them?" She stopped, realizing she was ranting. "Sorry," she apologized.

The hybrid chuckled with a nod. Then she explained, "That is true. On the contrary, I never terribly disliked humans. Some were horrible, sure, but particularly the children were sweet. I could poke around the human city sometimes because of Albel. He was the main one that instilled the hybrid fear. The general public didn't even know about hybrids until the breakout." She was now skinning the second rabbit. "But hopefully things will calm down now with the new city."

Zeditha sat back, listening. She wasn't really sure how to respond, so she tried to think of something else to say. "How are you going to cook the rabbits?" she asked. "I just breathe fire on them. Anything you'd like me to help with?"

Chi looked back to her and smiled, assuring, "I'm going to make some stew. It's alright, I can handle it." The hybrid set the furs aside and walked to the pantry, taking out spices. She seasoned the rabbit meat and cut it up with a knife, placing the pieces in a skillet over the stove. The aroma filled the room as the sizzle of the meat was a low, pleasant hum. Zeditha smiled; stew sounded nice. Suddenly curious about the fur, she stalked forwards and began examining how it had been removed from the meat. Chi glanced at her with a smile and explained, "It has to be dried and cleaned before I use it to make anything. When you hunt, it's best to use every part of the animal. Furs are very useful." She turned, letting the meat on

the stove simmer. "Ever had cooked rabbit? I mean human style, not just with fire," she asked shortly after.

The dragonet stopped nosing the furs and said, "Usually I just burn the fur. It makes the fire last longer and cook the rabbit better. But no, I haven't had anything cooked except with my own fire." She watched carefully at what the hybrid was doing.

Chi finished cooking and pulled the rabbit stew off the stove, serving some onto two plates. She set one out in front of Zeditha. "Go ahead and try it. I've come to love these human seasonings. They're quite good," she explained, grabbing a fork and starting to eat some. Zeditha sniffed the stew; it certainly smelled good. Cautiously, she flicked out her tongue and licked at the sauce. It was wonderful! The spices danced inside her mouth, but the feeling quickly disappeared. Eager now, the whiptail bit happily into her food, her tail swishing with happiness. Chi chuckled as Zeditha woofed down the stew. She on the other hand, took her time nibbling at the pieces. "Just don't choke on it. Don't need to wake up the baby. It's nice and sunny today, so it shouldn't take long to dry those hides. They'll make something nice and warm like a blanket for her. Rabbit fur is wonderfully soft," she mused, looking up at the ceiling as she spoke. The whiptail looked up from her stew and realized that there was not much left for her. Grinning guiltily, she slowed down and allowed the flavor to fade away nicely on her tongue. She looked back to Mia, who was still sleeping peacefully, and smiled before continuing to eat slowly. The hybrid looked back down to Zeditha and then at a piece of rabbit on her fork. She turned it as if regarding it in detail thoughtfully. "So, what do you plan to do with your newfound freedom?" she asked before eating the piece of rabbit.

Zeditha looked up, licking traces of the stew off her mouth as she considered how to answer the question. "I've always been free," she replied. "I was born after my parents managed to escape their humans. So...what will I do? I never think about it much. I just hunt rabbits and eat them, occasionally I run into something interesting, but once it's over I just roam the forest again. Is anyone truly free? We are all bound by the limitations of our society, and even if we are outsiders, we create our own rules to bind ourselves. We still have to eat, so we are kept to places where we can find food. We can't venture into a desert without expecting to die from dehydration. We can't fly too high without the air thinning... And not everyone can fly. So, what am I going to do with my newfound freedom? Well if anyone ever had any freedom, mine certainly isn't newfound." She paused, looking a little sad, and then went back to the delicious stew.

Chi looked at the dragonet with something of surprise. "Your parents escaped? Was this before or after the Spell?" she asked, murmuring.

((**Note:** This section is not canon to the RP.))

"Before the Spell," Zeditha answered. "Some burglars tried to steal them to sell for profit, but they made a slip-up and dad attacked them, so that he and mom could get away from them and their owners."

"Your parents must have been lucky that happened or you might have been raised as a pet."

"Yeah, lucky," the dragonet said. "I'd hate to be trapped in a cage and force-fed some nasty food. I'd never want to live that kind of life my parents had. I'd rather have fresh air and wild food like this rabbit." Her eyes shifted down to the rabbit and she ate up the last meat of her prey.

Chi chuckled to herself, "I'm sure everyone would. Freedom is great, isn't it? You aren't forced to do what someone wants you to and you get to live your life however you want."

"That's very much true," Zeditha agreed. As she thought about the pre-Spell days, she mused, "If everyone had freedom and no slavery, then there would be less unhappiness, less deaths and maybe less hatred, too." Perhaps the Vulture Horde wouldn't exist if not for slavery. Even if they have reasons to be angry at the human race, their motivation didn't justify the deaths of innocent humans.

Chi finished her rabbit in silence before saying, "That would be really nice if life was like that. But then the hybrids probably won't exist at all."

Zeditha looked at her in surprise as the hybrid put her plate in the sink and rinsed it off. "No hybrids?" the dragonet asked. Would that mean Chi wouldn't exist at all? It would be sad think about if this sweet girl wasn't around in this world.

"None," the hybrid repeated as she turned away from the sink. "I would probably be born as a dragon or not exist at all."

"What about human?" asked Zeditha. Besides looking draconic, Chi looked a bit like a human with her hair, face structure, breasts, clothing and hands. So maybe she might possibly be human in the other life if slavery never happened.

Chi shook her head and responded, "We may be half-human, but we're mostly dragon. All of us hybrids were born from dragon eggs. No human has ever given birth to us."

"Oh," said Zeditha. She guessed the scientists wouldn't want any women of their species to have their killer slaves as children. After all, why would any arrogant being want those they considered as lesser than themselves as part of their family? Chi took the dragonet's plate and rinsed it, too. "So your mothers were all dragons?"

The hybrid put the plate in the dish drainer and turned back to the whiptail as she answered, "Yes, though they were never motherly to their hybrid children. They all just saw us as killer monsters who can't be trusted. Albel's mother was the only one who never acted this way. She loved her sons dearly

and died protecting Albel when another hybrid tried to kill him."

Zeditha felt sorry for the girl after hearing what the mothers were like. "I'm sorry for bringing this up. I mean I know the dragons here don't like hybrids, but I didn't think your mom was going to be bad to you."

Chi just smiled gleefully like the past was nothing. As she walked over to the whiptail, she replied, "Hey, it's alright. Who needs spiteful old moms when we can have nice and fun friends like you?" She gave the dragonet a playful poke on the top of the head, making Zeditha laugh cheerfully in response. "I have nothing to worry about as long as I have people like you in my life." Zeditha smiled at the idea of being friends with this hybrid. If she was going to be considered a friend, then their friendship will definitely be official. Suddenly, Mia's cries were heard coming from the living room. Zeditha got worried thinking something bad must have been happening. But Chi seems to think otherwise as she said, "Oh, looks like it's time to feed the baby. Let's go give her that food you brought for her."

"On it," said the dragonet. Chi took a third and smaller plate out of the cupboard and put the last of the rabbit stew on it. Then she carried the plate over to the living room to feed Mia as Zeditha followed her to make sure the baby was doing alright.

Baltia flew around, staying in the shadows, searching for someone interesting to nip or throw a stone at. She had a good one in her paw, and was eyeing up every possible target. Hopping from her perch, Baltia snapped a midge from the air and landed on another branch. Her bright green eyes surveyed the forest around her as she swallowed the insect, scanning for any signs of larger movement. It had been too long since she had been around anyone else, human or dragon, and she was looking forward to biting a tail again. Looking at the pebble she held in her paw, she eyed up a very breakable-looking branch. Deciding that she probably wouldn't get a better target anytime soon, she drew back her paw to throw and spotted a dragon below her. She instantly forgot about the breakable branch, and her eyes glittered with excitement as she aimed her stone at the new target who was talking with two other dragons. With a careful aim, she threw the stone at the large orange cassare dragon's head.

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

The Vulture Horde waited for Axle and his friends to arrive, so that they can go through with the inquisition. Baltia decided to hunt in the meantime. The brute dragon, that had been sent to fetch the dragon lord and the others, has returned with them. The dark myst vaguely noted their arrival, but continued heading off to hunt. She dipped to collect some stones and then flitted from shadow to shadow, searching for a good target. Spotting a small doe not far into the forest, she threw a stone at it,

stunning it briefly, and bit it several times on the ears. This let it bleed without trying to bite through thicker skin. Once the doe fell over, she moved to its neck and scratched that open, confirming the animal's death. She left her kill to hunt some more and came back with two rabbits, as much as she could carry, and dumped them onto the deer. She waited a while and then sent a telepathic message to Aeolus, *'I have a deer, but I'll need help getting it back. I'm not that far into the forest, so just follow the scent.'*

The horde leader replied, *'Alright, I'll send someone to help.'*

Baltia waited for the helper to arrive. Soon, a magi dragoness showed up and went up to her, saying, "Hello Baltia, nice catch you have there."

The dark myst flew up happily at the sight of another dragon. "Thanks," she chirped. "I'm a little bit small to carry it though..." she giggled.

"Yes, I can see," the magi dragoness said with a smile.

Then they turned their attention to the ground where several small stones lay in a pile. Baltia requested, "I was also wondering if you had any spells to help me carry lots of stones? Humans have bags, made of things like animal skin... And dragonskin... But I figured that it wouldn't be a good idea to be carrying around a human item among a dragon horde." She smiled and looked cute. She was quite good at that.

"I most certainly do," said the magi. "Watch this!" She cast a magic spell and light blue sparkles came together to form a transparent light blue bag with a soft and smooth feel. The bag softly with grace descended down to the dark myst.

Baltia looked over the bag carefully, poking it gently, and then picked up a few stones and dropped them inside. She made sure not to do so gently as she wouldn't always have time for that. The bag held them nicely and she found that she could wrap the bag around her middle, just forwards of her wings and it was easy to carry. "It's perfect!" she chirped happily.

The magi beamed, "Thanks; I'm glad I can help." Then she said, "I have to warn you; it only exists for 24 hours. So if you need me to renew its time, just let me know, okay? And also, using any kind of mana crystal on it will work just as fine, too."

"How do I use a mana crystal on it?" Baltia asked sheepishly. She picked up the rest of the stones and deposited them in the bag.

The magi answered, "It's simple, sweetie. You just hold the crystal and feel for the magic energy inside. Then you use your mind to channel that energy into the bag."

Baltia grinned and chirped, "Thanks!" She decided it was better to drop the magic conversation at this

point. She still had no idea what the magi meant, but it was a conversation for a time when there wasn't prey to be transported. "So, could you help me take this back? There's more than I'll eat, but we can share." She gathered a rabbit in her claws and rose into the air, struggling under the weight of even such a small animal.

The magi suggested an idea, "You know? We can make it all easier if I just teleport us and the food back to camp."

Baltia made a face, but nodded, "Good idea." The magi warped them and the stuff back to the lake. The dark myst looked around and said, "I wonder who wants to share some deer? I'll just have..." She eyed the pile of meat, trying to decide which piece was the right size. "I'll just have the rabbit, I think. Are there any other pygmies here who'd like to share it?"

"Hmm..." the magi hummed as she looked around for others who looked to be carnivorous. She went over to a group of crimson flares and asked, "Excuse me; Baltia wants to share the deer she caught with someone. Would you all like to eat with her?"

The crimson flares nodded their heads and said, "Yeah sure. I'm all up for food!"

"Great! Then with me; I'm eating, too," the magi said. Then they followed her over to the deer. Baltia chirped happily. She liked sharing her food; it meant that none went to waste. As the other pygmies fell on the deer, she tore the rabbit in half and put it into her bag, then went to eat the other half a little bit away from the deer. The magi went to eat some of the deer as the crimson flares ate some of it as well. They listened to the conversation between Aeolus, Atlas and the Shadow Wind siblings as they ate.

Baltia finished eating her half of rabbit. Flying up into the air, she caught the last part of Aeolus's conversation, "Ready to go, Axle?"

The dark myst was immediately curious, so she flew closer to them. "Where are you going?" she asked. "Should I come? I'd like something to do..."

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

The Vulture Horde was warped to the village in the desert where a clan known as the Eternal Wind once lived. Aeolus assigned his horde into two sparring partners, who would train against each other while he went with Kekul and Cirrus to get new recruits for the horde. Baltia was set up against a healer dragon named Hewey. As soon as the horde leader and his two soldiers warped away, she looked up at the healer and got into play stance as she bounced up and down, asking, "Ooh, so who's going to start? Me or you?"

Hewey answered, "Well I guess I'll be the one to start." Then without warning, he swiftly raised up his talon and slammed down at her.

But the dark myst was quick to evade the first strike. She wagged her tail and taunted, "Ha ha, missed me!" When Hewey tried to swing his other claw at her, she jumped over it and said, "Missed me again!" The healer watched for a bit as if to plan how he was going to get his hit at the dragonet. Then he went at her again using both of his claws this time, one swing immediately followed by another. But again, Baltia dodged and now she ran underneath the healer and tickled his belly. Hewey let out a laugh as his frontal body fell to the ground first before he turned over on his back with the dark myst still tickling him. Baltia smiled at him, seeing as how he was left vulnerable by her trick. Then she looked over to his flapping tail that was hitting the ground. Having a love for biting tails, she quickly flew over to Hewey's tail before he would notice she stopped tickling. She landed right at the thickest part with her mouth would be able to hold and bit down on it.

"Ouch!" Baltia heard Hewey wince. His tail began to thrash around, trying to throw the black pygmy off.

Baltia struggled to hang onto the tail as she was dizzy by the world shaking up and down in her view and her body being flung around. "Whoa-oa-ahh!" she cried before her teeth lost its grip and she was hurled through air. After hitting the ground on her chest with a grunt, Baltia got up back on her feet and saw her opponent doing the same. He ran at her and looked like he was about to blow out his breath attack at her. The dark myst dropped her mouth in worry with a soft gasp, knowing that a breath attack from a normal-sized adult dragon would damage her whole body. She mustn't let that happen to herself. As soon as Hewey breathed out fire, Baltia ran out of the way and went around him. But then the healer's claw came in her way, catching the dragonet off guard as she stopped herself from running into it. She was then slammed, knocking the breath out of her, and held down on the barren ground underneath the heavy weight of the healer's talon. Baltia tried to slide herself out from her opponent's grip, but her efforts were in vain as she couldn't budge from the strength of someone who was a giant compared to her.

Hewey smiled smugly at his opponent's struggle and said, "You know? If this was a real fight, your enemy would have crushed you dead. Looks like I win this time." Then he lifted his claw off of her. Baltia got up and made a mad face at him. No way was she going to lose against this big doofus next time. She got a plan that would take him down for good. Hewey asked, "Ready for round 2? I'll let you go first." The dark myst smiled mischievously; now she was going to get her revenge. Her first move was to fly up straight for the dragon's head screaming as she did so. As expected, the healer lunged his head forward with his jaws open to clamp down on her. But Baltia swerved around out of the way and came up behind his head. She went for her bag with the stones she collected and took out the rocks to throw at him. Hewey let out pained grunts as he was pelted by the little stones. Baltia's attempt was to get him annoyed to make him chase after her and run into other sparring dragons that she was luring him to, so that he would get hit by collateral damage. She looked around for the perfect pair to bring Hewey to.

She saw Aeolus's cousin, the navy blue dragon, getting beaten by the brute dragon named Tavruth. Brute dragons were one of the physically strongest breeds on Veleia. If Baltia needed to do some real damage Hewey, it would be through the brute's attacks. Besides, the healer can use his magic to heal any serious injuries he sustained. The dark myst began to fly backwards towards the navy blue & brute pair as she continued to throw rocks at her opponent and taunt, "Can't catch me!" Hewey gave chase to her as he tried to evade the flying stones. Some of them still hit, while others missed.

As Baltia passed over the two dragons, she heard the cousin complained, "Aww damn, it's no fun! Why do I have to spar with someone big, strong and rough as you?"

"Stop whining and learn how to fight," Tavruth told him as he headbutted the other dragon with his horns. Aeolus's cousin stumbled from being dazed before he collapsed onto the ground with his mouth open and his tongue out, looking unconscious. The brute raised his claw to hit his fallen opponent, but then as he swung it down, he accidentally hit Hewey who came across without looking. The healer roared in pain as the surprised brute cried, "What the hell?!" Baltia laughed at Hewey after her plan had worked. Her laughter was cut short when she started hearing someone screeching in agony. She and some of the other dragons stopped sparring and looked to see a black ghost dragon being burned alive by Yopple. Tavruth growled, "Now what?"

A female dragoness was heard screaming worriedly, "Eatorn!"

Hewey ran off and pushed his way past the crowd towards Yopple and Eatorn. The healer told the cassare, "I heard Eatorn's getting burned. Yopple, stop it this instant! You're doing damage to him."

While Hewey was momentarily distracted, Baltia grinned and darted around, collecting a few more stones to use in her fight. She grasped one in her tail and grinned, flying up as high as she could, and then hovered and prepared to drop a few stones on the other dragon. She also chucked a stone at Yopple, her sharp green eyes allowing her to clearly see the nose she was aiming at. As she was doing so, she heard Bam asked, "Does this ground taste like dirt?" It seems he was still dazed by the headbutt.

((**Note:** This section is almost canon to the RP and takes place during [chapter 33](#).)

Zeditha has been hanging out at Chi's home for quite a while now. They have had conversations about each other's lifestories as well as stories about Zeditha's parents and other hybrids. They've even played with Mia, once the baby woke up again. Zeditha got to learn how to entertain a baby human after she watched Chi play peek-a-boo and tickle the baby. The hybrid girl really knew a lot about human children. Perhaps if the whiptail were to spend time with her often, she would eventually come to know everything she needed on how to raise Mia. She would take the burden of raising the baby from Chi and raise her as a surrogate mother like she initially set out to do. Until then, Zeditha needed to learn

everything she can from her new friend. There was a knocking on the door as a male voice were heard calling, "Hello? Chi? Are you there? It's me, Fayt." Zeditha looked towards the door intently. Fayt was one of the hybrids that Chi told her about yesterday. He is the guy who is supposed to be nice like Chi is.

The female hybrid responded, "Hi Fayt, come on in. I'm not too busy at the moment."

The door swung open and in stepped a black-maned white hybrid that looked like an anthropomorphic dragon without any wings. Fayt noticed the girl's guests and asked, "Huh? You have guests here? Who are they?"

Chi introduced them as she started with the dragonet, "This is Zeditha, she escaped from a ruthless horde that was going around killing humans." Then she panned her hand out to the sleeping baby in the crib as she continued, "And this is Mia, the baby she rescued from the horde." Withdrawing her hand, she explained, "Zeditha was having trouble taking care of the baby, so I decided to take Mia in for her."

Fayt shook his head and clicked his tongue before saying, "Some dragons... They just can't let go of their grudges, can they?"

Zeditha looked at him and agreed, "Apparently not. They can be just as vicious, if not worse than humans."

Chi asked him, "So Fayt, what brings you here?"

The white hybrid answered, "Well the other hybrids and I were thinking about setting up a home of our own. You know? Like a clan or something. We'd thought it'd be best if we were to stick together so that we would be safe from humans and dragons alike. Nick and another hybrid we just found will be living with us, too."

Zeditha found that what he just said was contradictory to Windfall's relationship of the hybrids. She questioned, "Wait! I thought humans wouldn't dare to mess with you after your brother scared them. Why do you need to be away from humans and dragons now?"

Fayt told her, "Because some nutjob just tried to kill my brother. Thankfully, her stinkin' claws never touched him because of how good a fighter my brother is."

Chi asked, "So what did Albel have to say about that? Did he really want in on this plan? Because I don't think a grouch like him would want to be around us, even if we're all hybrids."

Fayt said, "Well he didn't really like the idea at first until Akuma said that he would get to show off his strength all he wanted. You know how Albel doesn't like keeping it a secret."

"Well I guess that makes sense now."

"Anyway, I was wondering if you could get your dragon friends to help create our cave in the mountains. They have the power to do that, right?"

The pink hybrid nodded and said, "Sure they do. Hang on; I'll use my telepathy right now." Then they all stayed silent for a bit as Chi tried to contact her dragon friends using telepathy. Zeditha was surprised to hear that the girl has dragons other than her as friends, given all the prejudice she heard her race had towards hybrids. It was pretty nice to know that there were dragons other than the Aquarians, who were perfectly fine with the hybrids. After Chi's telepathy was over, she said, "My friends are on their way right now. They showed me where our new home will be."

Fayt replied, "Great! We'll meet them over. Chi, you lead the way for us, okay?"

The woman said, "Alright, just let me take Mia with me. I'm supposed to be taking care of her, since she's living with me." She gently lifted up the wicker basket the baby was sleeping in with all the care she took to not wake Mia.

As Fayt went out the door and down the ladder, Chi walked towards the door with Zeditha following behind. The dragonet said, "Do you think this cave your friends are making will be nice?"

The pink hybrid smiled, "I sure do! My friends know how to make everything right. You'll see when we get there." Zeditha looked forward to how Chi's friends will design the cave. Perhaps it'll be large and spacious and maybe decorated with some crystals if they or the mountain had any.