

((Note: This whole story is not canon to the RP. Also, this section takes place during [chapter 14](#)..))

After they have rested their tired bodies at the park's bench, Katerina and Zee went to their house to go retrieve the girl's library card from her room. There was nobody at home, which means that her parents still haven't returned. Either they were stranded at their jobs or in the woods, or they may have been killed off. But Katerina couldn't care less about them anyway. The girl took her card off the shelf and grabbed some other stuff she wanted to put into a backpack to take with her back to the forest. She took a flashlight, batteries, bug repellent, some story books, snacks, and some of Zee's toys, including her most favorite one. Katerina left the house and locked it with the house key before she got onto the dragoness's back and rode to the library. Once there, the girl got some business books and a fiction novel checked out to take with her to read. Katerina and Zee went at one of the tables and sat there. The girl started reading one of the business books, hoping to learn everything she can before attempting to start their business so that they don't make mistakes and fail first time. She read one of the pages aloud, "Let's see... So to start a business, we need to get a permit from the city. I bet we're going to have to fill out some paperwork for this one."

Zee asked, "Think it'll take too long?"

"I hope not," replied Katerina. "But it might." Knowing how professional places worked, she could see this process of registering for a business permit to last either half an hour or probably a whole hour if the paperwork was plenty. If not, they may have to return to the house to get some information needed to fill out the paper(s). The girl continued reading the page and came across the words "tax identifications number". She knew a lot of businesses taxed their products, but some businesses like the farmer's market with the many small bakeries and farmers selling their produce don't tax customers. Not even children's lemonade stands and yard sales do this. But Katerina wonders, can she really make a business that doesn't need to tax her buyers. Well maybe she can start off with selling her stuff on her parent's lawn first like a yard sale before she gets enough money to pay for a business permit. Then with that, she would be free to set up a stand wherever the city permits and continue selling for more money. The way she planned that out just might sound like a good idea to do without having to go to a business loan to get the money. "You know what? We can let the permit wait. We'll start out at my parent's house before we make it official."

Zee blinked in confusion as she asked, "Really? Even without the city's permission?"

The girl replied, "I'm sure they won't mind a simple yard sale. I mean it's not like the police will be patrolling the neighborhood to see what I'm doing. Besides, we'll be selling our stuff every other day. So no big deal."

The dragoness decided to trust her friend with this decision, "Well okay, you're the smart one. Let's hope everything goes well."

"We'll see," replied Katerina. She continued reading the book's chapter before she would look to the next chapter on advertising.

((**Note:** This section takes place during [chapter 19](#).)

The next day came by as Katerina and Zee began their yard sale of the stone figurines, pots and vases that the earth dragoness has crafted back at their home cave. The girl had thought to include pots, vases and other things that stones can be shaped into to attract more buyers needing such things. After all, the more variety they had in objects and designs, the more likely someone will want to shop at their yard sale. These objects came in all different sizes and shapes. It was the same thing with the figurines as they took on the forms of different animals, plants and popular fictional characters. Dragons weren't included as a design as Katerina feared that it might turn off the humans and make them think she was a dragon sympathizer, a type of person that was more frowned upon on than they were before the Spell. It was for this reason that Zee was keeping her distance from the stand, so to look like to people that she was just there. But she was still close enough to hear and make sure that everything was going alright with the yard sale. The dragoness laid down on the grass of the next door neighbor's yard, watching to see who would come and buy. Katerina and Zee had put out signs to lead the neighbors and those passing by to their little "shop". Katerina wasn't going to expect a hundred buyers in one day, but she knew that she would at least one or two people purchasing Zee's crafts.

A man walked down the street and with a dog held by the leash in his hand. Both girl and dragoness stared at him, anticipating for the man to come over and perhaps buy something. But the man seemed not to notice their stand as he and his dog just kept walking on. Katerina thought to attract his attention to her wares, so she called to him, "Hey!" The man stopped and so did his pet as he turned his head to look at her. The girl offered, "I'm selling some figurines and stuff. Would you like to look around and buy some?"

But the man waved his hand in decline and replied, "No thanks, I'm not interested." Then he walked off and left.

So Katerina had to wait for the next potential buyer to show up again. Earlier, she encountered two of her neighbors, but neither of them wanted to buy from her and it took a while for each of them to show up. Zee herself was a bit discouraged from how the beginning was going to so far. She asked the girl, "So when do you think someone will come and buy?"

Katerina let out a small sigh and answered, "I don't know, Zee. Maybe they'll come soon or probably later. We just got to be patient for now." Sure they haven't made any success so far, but it was still too soon to know if the yard sale was a failure or not. They've only have plenty of time before 5:00 PM, in which they'll store the unsold crafts inside until tomorrow or sometime later, in which they'll have their

2nd day of yard sale. Several minutes later, a pair of young women who appeared to in their late teens or early 20s showed up talking to each other and giggling like they were enjoying a gossip. Katerina was about to advertising to them, but one of the ladies saw her first and pointed to her friend the yard sale nearby. The two decided to check it out as they began to make their way to the stand. The girl smiled as she may finally get to sell something.

The women got to the stand and looked at all the figurines and pots, but most of their attention was on the figurines. One of them who was blonde looked at a particular miniature statue that was in shape of a kitten with a collar and beamed, "Oh my gosh, that one is so cute! Don't you just want to pet the little thing?"

Her curly-haired friend nodded and agreed with equal delight, "I sure do!" Then she looked at the winged pig figure and continued, "Just like that little piggy here, too. I could totally buy them if I had the money right now."

Katerina was pleased that they liked Zee's work, but it was too bad that they didn't have the money for it. But maybe they can come back later to purchase them. She told them, "I'm glad you like them, miss. If you're still interested, I'll be here until five. So there's plenty of time for you to go get your money."

The blonde woman replied, "Okay, I'll go get my wallet. Just keep one of these kitties for me, alright?"

The curly-haired woman said to the seller, "And for me too and also the pig." Then the pair walked away to return home and retrieve their money.

Once they were out of earshot, Zee said to her friend, "Looks like we finally got a customer. Well actually two."

Katerina nodded at her and replied, "Yes, and about time, too. Maybe now we'll have some money to go to that carnival that's going on today."

"The carnival," the dragoness repeated. "You mean the kind of place where humans have fun going on these strange mechanical rides and eat things like popcorn and cotton candy?"

The girl nodded and said, "Yes, that's what a carnival is. We'll be going there after we're done with the yard sale." She smiled with glee as she continued, "This will be the first time you and I do something really exciting together." She hoped she would be able to find games and attractions that dragons can take part in there and enjoy. They deserve a fun vacation like this after all these miserable years.

Zee began smiling too, interested in this carnival and she said, "That sounds great! We should totally go there!"

Kat nodded in agreement, "Yes, we should!" A little while later, the two women returned and purchased

the figurines they were attracted to.

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

The yard sale was now over and it ended with only five people having bought from Katerina. As disappointing as the sales sounded, the girl knew that this kind of number was to be expected. After all, they were in a suburban neighborhood, not a business area. Katerina counted her money she got from her sales on the table as she said, "Sixty-six... Sixty-seven... and sixty-eight. Sixty-eight, that's all we got. I think we have enough for the carnival, Zee." She put all of the silver coins into her pocket.

Zee smiled happily and replied, "Excellent! Now we can have a fun evening! Maybe I'll get one of these face paintings and look pretty!" Maybe one of the employees there will be nice enough to draw something like a butterfly or a flower on her, or color her whole face with a wonderful-looking color scheme.

Katerina giggled lightheartedly and said, "I bet you'll look like the cutest dragon the world has ever seen."

"I sure hope so," said the dragoness. "I do not want some jerk making me look ugly out of spite." She imagined this would be the possibility if face-painter was a racist.

The girl joked, "If he does, be sure to splash some dirt on him. That'll make him look just as bad."

Zee chuckled at the thought of doing just that with her earth magic. "Sure, whatever you say." Thought she really wasn't going to do it as she didn't want to make the problem escalate and get worse. "Come on, let's go to the carnival."

"Alright," replied Katerina. Her friend lowered herself to the ground to allow the girl to climb onto her back. Once Katerina mounted, Zee spread her wings and took off into the air. She flew over the houses as she went out of the suburbs and into the city area to get to the town center where the carnival was taking place. When they got to the town center, the dragoness and girl kept watch for things like tents, stands and rides as they soared through the air to know that they had finally made it to the right place.

Soon, the dragoness started to smell a stronger cluster of people scents mingling than she did at the other parts in the downtown area. There were also the scents of food like meat and sweets. Zee wondered if they were all coming from the carnival, so she traced the scents down to their point of origin. That was when she saw crowds of humans and dragons with some stands and tents at the place. Anticipating with joy, Zee asked, "Is that the carnival?"

Katerina confirmed, "Yes Zee, we're finally here. Let's go down now."

"Okay," replied the dragoness before she dove down towards the clearing and landed. Her friend climbed off and looked at her surroundings to see which rides or games they can go to first. The girl saw a big building with a line of people, mostly those with children, waiting to go down the very long slide. The building also served as a house of mirrors, which means that people will have to go through the maze of mirrors in order to get to the slide. But Katerina wasn't going to take her friend there as the entrance wasn't big enough for adult dragons that were Zee's size. Also, Zee wasn't very fond of cramped places either. There was also a teacups-style ride where instead of the teacups, the rides were in the form of chubby bears that people sit inside the stomach and ride around as the bears spin themselves on the propeller. But that too was out of question as big dragons won't fit in there either. The rainbow ride was also off-limits too for the same reason. It seems like every ride was going to be too small for Zee. No one has invented an amusement ride for dragons yet. The only things the dragoness can do here for fun were the games such as that Hit-A-Target game where a purple dragon was spewing fireballs at the ring targets. Zee asked the girl, "So Kat, where do we go first?"

Having seen the first game she saw, Katerina already knew what her answer was going to be. She pointed to the game and said, "Let's go to this one. I think you'll like it."

Zee looked at the game her friend was showing her and saw the dragon player hit one last target before he was awarded a prize that he chose in the form of a human hand-sized celestite crystal cluster. Zee admired the beautiful-looking object that the purple won. If she played this game too and won, then she will get one of these, too. "Will I? I think I already like it!" she beamed.

Katerina was a bit surprised by her friend's sudden strong enthusiasm. Sure, they've done a game that was almost similar to the carnival's back at home in the slavery days, but Zee was never this excited about it. Was it the prize that made this game special to the dragoness? The girl knew dragons loved crystals as much as they did gold. This must be why Zee is so eager to play. Katerina said nothing as she and her friend went to the Hit-A-Target game stand. The host of the game who was a winged magma dragon, which was a Rudvichan version of Solomos's magma dragons, greeted them, "Hello ladies, would you like to play a game of burn the targets? It'll cost two silver coins."

Zee answered, "Oh yes! I came here to win myself a crystal and I'm going to win no matter what!"

The game host smiled and said, "Ha ha! Somebody's pretty confident! Well missy, I'm going to tell you the rules to this game. You get three chances of hitting the targets and the higher you hit the targets, the more points you're going to get. And the more points you have, the bigger your prizes will be." Katerina and her friend looked to the prizes on display and saw a variety of clusters, stones single crystals and shards. Apparently, the big clusters were the greatest prizes and the shards the cheapest ones. Zee was aiming to get the tourmaline cluster as its green and pink colors with a very thin line of white reminded her of the tasty fruit watermelon. This was much better than the celestite as the colors on the tourmaline were more vibrant. The game host continued explaining, "But be careful, because all

the targets will be trying to dodge you. The highest targets will dodge the fastest. So you better be fast before they hide. You get what I'm saying?"

The dragoness nodded and answered, "Yes."

The game host said, "Good, now pay up so you can play." Katerina took two silver coins out of her pocket and gave them to the game host. The winged magma took the coins and said, "Alright, begin!"

Zee looked at the cobblestone ground below her and focused on one of the stones. She used her earth magic to separate grains of mortar from around the stone they held. Once it was freed, Zee used her magic to lift up the stone and threw it at one of the highest targets as fast as she can. Just as the stone was midway, the target swung back upwards and let the stone fly into the hole behind it. The dragoness moaned her disappointment, "Aww, I missed."

Katerina told her, "Don't worry, you still got two more chances. You can still get them."

Zee replied, "You're right and I'm going to make them count!" After the first target fell back into place, she took off another cobblestone and threw it at the same target. Just like before, the target dodged the stone. She tried one last time and threw a third stone at another of the high targets, but that one missed too.

"Strike three, you're out!" cried the game host. Then he said, "And since you didn't hit any targets, you don't get any prizes. Sorry miss, but better luck next time."

Zee wasn't about to give up just yet. She was not going to leave until she had a prize. She would do this a second time, even a third time and perhaps a hundredth time. She said to her friend, "Kat, I give him another two coins. I'm going to try again."

"Alright sure," said the girl. She took two more coins out of her pocket and gave them to the game host. As the dragoness took up another cobblestone, Katerina advised her, "Try going for the second highest, maybe you'll get them this time."

"Okay, I'll try," said the dragoness. She threw the stone at one of the 2nd highest targets. It barely missed as it hit the target just as it was swinging backwards to evade. This excited her into triumph as she jumped and cried, "Yes!"

Katerina clapped her hands, proud for her friend as she praised, "Good job, Zee!" As the girl watched the fifth stone being launched at another target, she noticed a pygmy dragon moving on a wooden beam that was sitting atop the target board. It looks like it was pulling up something. The stone hit the moving target again and Zee let out another cheer. That was when the girl figured out how the targets kept evading, the pygmy was the one making them move. Zee threw one last cobble at one of the highest targets to see if she was lucky this time. The target swung back, but the stone didn't fall into the hole.

This time the stone hit the wall instead; Zee had missed.

The game host congratulated, "Good job, lady! You get a prize this time. You can take either a stone, a crystal or two shards."

Zee looked at the prizes available to her. It was too bad that she never managed to win the tourmaline cluster she was going for, but the tourmaline stone was just as beautiful with its glass-like form with green outer edge bordering the thin white in the middle and the dark pink at the center. She pointed to it and said, "I want this one."

The game host took up the chosen prize and said, "Okay, here you go!" He gave the tourmaline stone to Zee and advised, "Be sure to get yourself a bag for safekeeping. Maybe even let your little friend carry it."

"Alright thanks," the dragoness replied before she gave it to her friend to carry.

Then as the two friends walked away, the game host said to them, "Have a good day, you two!"

Katerina said back to him, "Thanks, we will!" Then they went to go look for another game to play. The Duck Pond game was what caught the girl's eyes next. Kat decided to take her chance at getting her prize as well as Zee getting another. "Let's go there, Zee."

"Okay, sure if it's fun," said the dragoness. Then they went to pay to play the Duck Pond game.