

((Note: This story is not canon to the RP. This section takes place during [Chapter 35](#).)

Shiba and Kakoli followed every step in the directions needed to get to the Summer Park Community Center. They flew over every building, taking note of the landmarks needed to get there. Upon getting past the last landmark, the two dragons looked at a wide building ahead and wondered if this is the very place they're searching for. Kakoli asked, "Hey Shiba, is that the community center?"

The dragoness replied, "I don't know; we'll have to go inside and see." They landed before the two doors, which were different sizes as if to accommodate the height differences of the two races.

They went to the larger door and Kakoli tried to push it up, but it never budged no matter how much of his strength he used. He growled, "Darn, this door is...ugh, how do you say it? I can't get it to move."

After the dragonet stepped back to take a second's rest, Shiba gave him a bit of knowledge from her pet life. She said, "Not all doors have to be pushed open, Kakoli. Sometimes you just need to pull to get in." She grabbed the door's handle and pulled it open. Kakoli watched what she did and got the idea of what to do next time should pushing fail.

They went inside the building with Shiba going in first and then her friend. She let go of the door the moment she went in and as a result, the door swung back and trapped the tip of Kakoli's tail with a hard close. He cried painfully, "Ack! Shiba, help!"

The dragoness realized her mistake of letting the door go too soon and felt bad about it. "Oh Kakoli," she said worriedly. She pushed the door open slightly and the dragonet bounded away from it. He brought his tail to his face and began to lick where it got slammed. Shiba apologized, "I'm so sorry. Are you alright?"

Kakoli replied to her, "Sure am, no blood on my tail. I'll be okay." The only thing hurting him was the soreness from the door, but that will heal pretty quickly. "Don't worry about it; let's just go find that classroom."

"Alright," replied Shiba. They began to make their way to find such a place in this building. Shiba noticed a woman sitting behind a glassless window looking down at something. This must be one of these front desk people, at least according to what she knew about certain human businesses. She told her friend, "Hey Kakoli, let's go talk to that woman over there. She might tell us where the classroom is."

The dragonet was skeptical of this and wary about the woman. He asked, "How do you know she won't tell us to buzz off?"

Shiba countered, "Well we won't know until we try. She might be nice for all we know."

Kakoli scoffed, "Hah, yeah I'll bet."

They walked over to the front desk and the receptionist stopped what she was doing to look up to see them. She asked, "Hello? Can I help you?"

Shiba asked, "Yes, we heard there was a classroom to teach dragons how to read and we want to find where it is before we come here tomorrow for it. Can you tell us where it is, please?"

The woman glanced at what appeared to be a map of the building before she answered, "Sure, just go down the hallway to your left and you'll find it at the second door on the left side."

"Thank you," said the dragoness. Then the two dragons made their way to the classroom. Shiba looked at her friend and said, "See, Kakoli? That wasn't too bad. That lady could have turned us away, but she didn't. It goes to show you that not all humans are bad."

The dragonet rebuked, "Not all, but a lot of them are. We were just lucky she wasn't one of those." Though he just learned about the existence of good humans, he wasn't going to let down his guard around strangers of the enemy race.

Shiba knew that he was right about the majority of humans and replied, "I guess you're right, but at least we can be thankful for the good few."

Taking note of Torque and the people teaching the reading class, Kakoli said, "Yeah, I guess we can." They eventually reached the classroom's door. They peered in at the room through the long narrow window on the door. There was no one inside, but there was some furniture that were larger than average and seemed to resemble table stands. The dragonet commented, "So this is our classroom, huh."

Shiba replied, "Sure looks like it. I guess these things in there are our desks?" She spoke the last word with confusion as she's never seen a school desk before, but has heard of them from a child she used to live with. She guessed this furniture were them.

"Desks?" asked Kakoli, wondering what these were.

The dragoness did her best to explain, "These table things that you write on and do schoolwork on."

"Work?" said Kakoli displeased. "I thought we were learning, not working. What kind of school makes you do labor?"

Shiba corrected, "I don't think that's what a schoolwork is, Kakoli." She had seen the child come home from school and write on these papers called homework. Maybe schoolwork was just like that, but then again maybe not.

"Then what is it?"

"I don't know, maybe we'll see when we get to class tomorrow."

"Alright fine, but it better not be boring," said the dragonet. "Come on, let's go get something to eat. I'm hungry." Then they left the community center and went out of the city to go find some food in the forest.

((**Note:** This section takes place during [Chapter 36](#).)

The two dragons spent a while hunting and foraging for food in the forest with unsuccessful results. There were no signs of fruits or animals anywhere, with the exceptions of eaten carcasses that had been left for a day or two. It felt like the forest had suddenly gone barren. Kakoli was getting fed up with being empty-handed. As they walked, he commented, "This is taking forever; I thought this forest has lots of prey and fruits you can find, but there's barely anything. What the heck happened?"

Shiba was just as disappointed as her friend. She sighed, "I don't know. I would say that it's winter, but it's way too soon for that." In fact, it was summer and she heard that animals tend to be more active in such a warm weather.

Kakoli joked to make light of their problem, "Well maybe it's some summer hibernator who's snatching up food left and right to store for this season."

The dragoness failed to understand the humor he intended to make and took his comment seriously instead. She asked curiously, "Someone hibernates during the summer?"

Her friend clarified, "Of course not, I was just joking."

"Oh, okay."

Kakoli looked around and said, "Anyway, if I think I might skip lunch if we don't find anything here." His stomach was feeling strange without any lunch filling it at this hour. "Maybe I'll go try the city again."

Shiba gave him a stern look, "You're not thinking about hunting the humans' pets, are you?" She didn't forget how that led him to getting into trouble with that mirror dragoness today.

"No!" the dragonet said as if that was his never-to-do list. "I'll just try to find a rat or squirrel there. Heck, maybe even a little bird. Though I'm not sure how you'll find a fruit to eat. I doubt you'll want me

stealing from a human anyway." Stealing was a good idea if one was unable to get their claws onto something. Too bad, his friend had to be a moral watchdog who won't let him get away with such petty things.

"Of course I wouldn't," said Shiba. "Stealing is wrong, you know. I can just ask someone for a fruit."

Knowing the majority of humans, Kakoli pointed out, "And then you'll be spending more time food-hunting."

The dragoness countered, "Maybe, but at least it's better than thievery." Soon, she smelled moisture from up ahead and looked forward to see the source. "Oh look, there's a river up ahead. Maybe you can get yourself a fish there."

Kakoli was interested in trying out this kind of prey. "I've never eaten fish before. But okay, I'll give it a try. I hope I get some lunch this time. If not, then at least we've got something to drink." They went to the river and began to drink its running water. After they had their thirst satisfied, the dragonet began to search the river for fish. After a few minutes later, he found a lone brown trout swimming ahead of him. Kakoli jumped and took a bit above over the river after the fish. Once he was close to it, he swooped down and snagged it out in his claws. He hovered back to dry land and ate his catch.

Shiba watched him eat and asked, "So how is it?"

The dragonet answered, "It doesn't seem to have any taste." The trout was rather bland and it tasted differently from the other animals he's eaten before. He asked in distaste, "How the heck can water dragons like this stuff?"

The aria said, "It's probably because different breeds have different tastes. You know? Our diets."

"Huh, I guess that makes sense." After Kakoli was done with his food, he went to help Shiba find her lunch. But after a while of not finding anything, Shiba decided to give up and skip lunch for now. They went back to finding Torque.

((**Note:** This section takes place during [Chapter 37](#).)

Shiba and Kakoli had finally found the man they were looking for. They found out that the reason they didn't see him the first time over at the hotel was because he was in his bathroom at that time. They decided to hang out with him, so that they could get to know one another. After getting to know his occupation, Torque asked, "So anything else you want to know?"

"Hmm..." hummed Shiba as if thinking of what to ask. Could she ask him a simple and maybe pointless question like what his favorite color is or what he likes to eat? She didn't know what good question she could ask at the moment.

Kakoli beat it to her quickly by asking, "I got one, why are you nice to dragons? Most humans would just try to hurt us."

Torque answered, "Why am I nice? Because I like them. You creatures are strong and have amazing powers. Some of us wished we could be like you. It'd be nice to fly and do crazy magic."

The dragonet smiled at the man's amazement, "You don't say. Yeah, we dragons are pretty amazing. Shiba can do magic with her songs and I'm..." He had no words to describe how special he is, because his breed didn't have any special abilities that set them apart from the other dragons. He settled for his individualistic quality, "a prankster."

Torque grinned and asked, "A prankster, eh? So how does a little devil like you go around setting up folks?"

Kakoli explained, "Oh it's easy. I pick out the ones who look easy, use my surroundings to get an idea on how to get them, and then prank 'em." He smirked at the end. "Then I use my nimble body to escape quickly and quietly. They'll never know what hit 'em."

"Is that so?"

Shiba added in another fact about her friend, "He'll also vandalize the humans' property just for laughs. One time, he dug holes on someone's yard and made it an ugly mess. Then another time, he pulled out all the vegetables out of a farmer's crop before they were ready."

Torque laughed aloud and said, "What an imp! I bet these folks were really mad about that."

Kakoli nodded and confirmed, "They sure were! I heard them cursing and ranting. They said things like "I'm going to kill whoever did this" or "those damn kids". Their reactions were priceless."

Shiba said, "I was surprised that nobody tried to hunt him down for it." She figured they would have called the pest control for this.

The dragonet said, "Of course not, they were too busy looking for other humans that they think did this. Apparently, they think dragons can't do that." With a shake of his head, he mocked, "Those dummies!"

Torque agreed, "Dummies they are. You're right about that, kid! But then again, they'd probably think all you guys do is eat and sleep. But that ain't true, huh?"

Kakoli shook his head again and answered, "Nah, we do other stuff. We mine crystals and gold, hang out and talk, build our own caves and castles with magic, and even hold festivals of our own." There were more to dragon activities than that, but he didn't feel like listing them all.

"Ah interesting," nodded the man. Then he curiously asked, "Do you dragons fight each other for fun, too?"

Kakoli answered with a smile, "Oh yeah we do. We run our own tournaments-" He immediately frowned and continued, "just not like the ones where humans make us kill each other." Such a concept was quick, barbaric and sadistic. How could anyone sane make dragons murder one another for their own entertainment?

Torque shook his head slowly in sympathy, "It must be sad knowing what these folks make your friends off each other. At least your tournaments are more friendlier." With an eager smile, he asked, "So any idea when the next one is coming up?"

"I don't know. We haven't had one in a long time, because of the humans kidnapping and hunting us."

Torque suggested, "Well you guys are free now, ain't ya? Maybe you all can start planning a date for that."

Shiba said, "If we know any fighters we can, but we don't."

The man asked, "Well can't you like advertise to the other dragons and get them to rumble?"

The dragoness thought about it as she replied, "I guess we could." She could probably talk to Snively and his friends about it to host their own tournament. Then they would go searching dragons who want to participate.

Then Kakoli asked, "You seem keen on seeing this dragon tournament, Torque. Do you like to see fights?"

"Of course I do!" said the man enthusiastically. "What man doesn't want to see a show of strength and action? It's our favorite form of entertainment."

The dragonet smiled, "I can relate to that."

Torque grinned at him, "It looks like even male dragons love it, too."

Kakoli added, "And even females, too." He turned to his friend and flexed his muscles in a way a quadruped dragon does. "Right, Shiba?"

The aria rolled her eyes in amusement and said, "Oh please, Kakoli. I'm more into music and beautiful things. None of that brawling stuff you guys like."

Kakoli snorted in mock disappointment, "You're no fun, Shiba!"

She retorted jokingly, "And you're immature."

Everybody laughed at their statements before Torque said, "Well if you ever host a tournament, let me know when and where, okay?"

"Sure thing," Kakoli promised. "We'll come to you at that hotel you're at and tell you about it."

Torque told him, "Well I ain't going to be staying at that hotel no more, because I just found me a house I'm going to buy."

Shiba asked, "A house? Where?"

The man pointed back with his thumb to the small building. He answered, "That one behind me; it's where I'm going to live now."

Kakoli said, "So we got to come here to meet you then. Okay."

"That's right," Torque replied. "I'll be settling here in Windfall fer sure."

The dragonet asked, "You're an immigrant?"

"Yeah, I'm an immigrant. My hometown got burnt to smithereens by dragons, so when I heard about this city, I came here running as fast as I can."

Shiba felt bad for the man's loss of his original home. She apologized, "Sorry to hear about your home, Torque."

The man brushed off his tragedy, "No worries, lass. At least I'm still kicking. It was a dangerous feat getting my butt out of that town, but I'm alright."

Shiba said, "Well at least maybe your new house won't burn down this time." After all, the dragons and humans were now living together as equals. Surely no massive conflict between the races will happen and cause destruction, right?

Torque replied, "Yeah, hopefully or else I'll have to sue the pants off of someone who did it." The dragoness hummed her agreement.

When there was a brief pause among them, Kakoli took the advantage to ask the question he has been meaning to get out. "So Torque, can we see you bounty hunt next? I want to see some action!"

Torque let out a chuckle, "Action, huh? Sure I'll take ya with me, if you don't mind seeing guts spill. The sight ain't for the faint-hearted you know."

The dragonet confidently said, "Don't worry, I'm used to seeing that. It's not like I haven't killed animals before."

Shiba on the other hand was unnerved about having to see such gory sight. She said, "I would rather stay behind. That kind of violence is not my cup of tea."

Torque said to her, "If you say so." Then to the dragonet he said, "Well Kakoli, if you want to see my work, you're going to have to tell me where to find ya so I can let you know when I'm on the job."

Kakoli replied, "Sure thing. You can meet me around at the thorn bushes where we live." It was only fair to tell the man his home location, since he and Shiba knew Torque's.

"Thorn bushes, eh?" asked the man. "Know any landmarks that will lead me to them? Because that might be hard to find."

Kakoli told him where to go from the city to get to his home. "And that's how you get there."

"Ah okay, I'll try to remember that when I come for you." The three continued to talk and hang out for a while until Shiba's stomach rumbled and growled with hunger. Even Kakoli and Torque heard it too as the latter asked, "Hungry, eh?"

The dragoness answered, "Yes. I didn't get to eat lunch, because I couldn't find any fruits in the woods. I'm sorry to bother you with my problem, but could you like buy me some food from the grocery store? It's okay if you don't want to, because I don't have any money to repay you."

Torque replied, "Sure I'll buy you some; I'm a generous man, Shiba. But you got to fly me over to the grocery for that and then back to the hotel. Sound like a fair deal?"

Kakoli spoke with incredulity, "That wasn't even generous." Generous is when you give something for free or give more than a fair trade.

Regardless of the man's deal or what her friend thought of it, Shiba accepted, "Yes."

Torque told her, "Alright then, let me onto your back and I'll lead ya to the store I saw." The dragoness laid down on her belly and watched the man go up to her and climb onto her back. After getting himself into sitting position, he cried out, "Tally-ho!" With that, Shiba and Kakoli took off into the sky and flew in

the directions that Torque told them to go. After they got to the grocery store and Torque went in and bought some plums for the dragoness to eat. Once she had eaten them all, they flew over to the hotel and dropped the man off there. They said goodbye to each other before Shiba and Kakoli flew back home in the forest to rest.

They sat next to the thorn bushes as Shiba began to ask, "So Kakoli, what did you think of Windfall?"

The dragonet answered, "I guess it's not too bad. Some of the people there are lousy, but at least we got to meet a swell guy like Torque." He smiled fondly for the awesome human.

Shiba smiled too and said, "I'm glad we got to see him, too. I hope we meet more good humans like him in that city."

"Yeah, me too," Kakoli replied. "Maybe we can even invite them to see the dragon tournament."

"You mean the show Torque wanted to see?"

"Yeah, we should start making plans on where we can host it and when we'll start it. Like say we can run it next week. How about that?"

"Hmm..." The dragoness thought about it for a few seconds. "I guess that's fine." She could see it giving them enough time to prepare for that event.

"Great!" Kakoli beamed. "Now the first thing we need to do is find a place where we can run our tournament. It's got to be a wide enough space like a huge clearing." He stretched his wings out to emphasize the clearing's size.

Shiba asked, "And where do you suppose we'll find that?" She figured her friend would know, since he's lived in these woods a lot longer than she had.

But the dragonet answered, "I don't know, but we got to fly around and see." Then he pointed somewhere and continued, "Maybe we'll see if there's anything past these mountains."

Shiba looked to the tall stony mountains and before turning her head back to him. "Okay, we'll look there. But let's rest first before we fly." Their wings were still aching with weariness from all that flying around in Windfall.

"Good idea." They gave themselves an hour and a half of rest before their wings were ready. Once they were, they flew off over the mountains and discovered sooner-than-expected a large mass of a grassy field surrounded by a ring of mountains. Among them was a beautifully crystal-clear lake. Kakoli admired the sight, exclaiming, "Whoa...look at all that space! We can invite a bunch of dragons to sunbathe here!"

Even Shiba was just as amazed as she added, "And it'll be a perfect place to have a tournament, too." Perfect, because this very setting here would also stand out among the places in the forest as opposed to being generic where dragons would have a hard time finding the tournament. As they glided over the field, she asked, "So what's the next step?"

Kakoli answered, "Now we get Snively and the others in our plan. We'll ask them to help us look for fighters."

"I was thinking about doing that, too. I'll talk to Mentha and you speak to Snively and Gabriel."

"Got it." Then they began to telepathically communicate with the 3 dragons they met 3 days earlier.

Shiba pictured the mint dragoness in mind and said, *'Hello Mentha, this is Shiba. How are you doing?'*

Mentha replied, *'Oh hey Shiba, I'm doing fine, thank you. So how was your day?'*

'I'm doing alright myself,' the aria answered. *'Anyway, you know how the dragon tournaments were ended decades ago?'*

'Oh I do remember when they used to have them. Sometimes I came to watch. There was even had this young black dragon who would win championships sometimes.'

'Well Kakoli and I are thinking about bringing them back.'

'You are?' Mentha sounded surprised at first. *'But that can only be done by the forest king and he's dead.'* Shiba assumed that the forest king must have been some kind of chief of his own clan or village in the woods.

'Well it's not really an official tournament. A human friend of ours wanted to see what dragon tournaments are like. So he suggested we set one up and find dragons who want to fight in it.'

'So you're running a tournament for the sake of a human?'

'Pretty much,' confirmed Shiba. *'Which is why I'm speaking to you to ask if you could help look for some fighters. Maybe you know some dragons that would be interested?'*

'Well I could ask them if they want to participate. I'll let you know what they say.'

Shiba smiled and continued, *'Okay thanks, I'll be waiting to hear from you later.'*

'Okay dear, have a nice day.'

'*You too,*' replied the aria before they ended their telepathy. By that time, she and Kakoli had landed on the ground. She looked to her friend and saw him staring out into space as if his mind was on something. It was clear that he was still talking to Snively and Gabriel through telepathy. Shiba waited for him to get through with his conversation with them, watching his face to see signs that he's done.

After a short while, the dragonet looked up at her and said, "Snively and Gabriel says they're going to help. Is Mentha in on this, too?"

Shiba nodded, "Oh yes, she is."

Kakoli replied, "Great! Hope we can get enough fighters before the end of the week. I can't wait to see who they'll be." He began to imagine all kinds of strong dragons. "Maybe we'll get to see a black dragon with powerful spells or a vine dragon who can strangle someone easily. Maybe we'll even see a guardian dragon block everyone's attacks with that shield tail of his." He ducked down and brought his tail in front of him as if he was a guardian shielding himself.

The dragoness smiled jovially, "We'll see Kakoli, we'll see." She could definitely see a black or a vine willing to participate, but a guardian dragon? Probably not, due to their generally peaceful nature. She knew of other and more aggressive dragons that would be attracted to competition such as the hellhorses and snakefangs. Perhaps maybe she and Kakoli can go looking for these breeds the next time they went out.