

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

It has been 2 days since Green and Katherine joined Spuma's traveling group and buried the deceased Rampa. The group was still on its way to Solomos and had gotten further away from Rampa's burial site. They haven't made it out of the northeast region of Rudvich and they probably had a long way to go before they were in another region. Today, they had met a purple-flamed falconiform wyverness, whom they encountered while drinking at a river bordering her territory. They vowed not to hunt on her territory as she led them through the other side of her turf. It was then that they encountered 2 humans hunting a fox that they killed. Enraged by these intruders, the wyverness went to punish the men. The frightened men shot her with arrows to defend themselves from her wrath. Luckily, Spuma, Katherine and two other dragons intervened and warned the humans to not hurt the falconiform and hunt on her home again. Now with the wyverness badly wounded, Spuma told his group to spread out and look for a healer and some ochres to stop the bleeding. Before he left, Green used his flora magic to create a comfrey. He told the wyverness, "Here, use its leaves. They will help soothe the wounds before we get you what you need."

The falconiform smiled, though weakly due to the pain she was feeling. She replied, "Thanks."

Green went on his own as others split up either going solo like he was or teaming up with another to search as a pair. Some of them, including the plant dragon himself, went beyond the borders of the wyverness's territory, identified by the scent marks she's made. Green walked past trees and around them in the woods. The plant dragon sent out a telepathic SOS calling for a white dragon or at least someone with healing abilities. Even the others of the travel group did the same thing, too. He mentally blocked their SOSes, so that he could pay attention to his surroundings on the go and listen out for someone who answered him. It was important that he must not miss a vital detail such as a rocky earth with a hue of red, which was a good source for that ochre that heals the best. After a while of searching, Green discovered a cliff with soft red soil. He smiled gladly for being able to find one of the two things he was looking for. This cliff was a good source of ochre. The dragon went up towards its side and began to dig a chunk of ochre off it. With the red rock-like substance obtained, he carried it in his mouth and began to retrace his steps to walk back to the wyverness. But he didn't take no more than a few steps when he suddenly heard someone growling, "Hey, what do you think you're doing making off with a piece of my home?!"

Green turned his head back and saw a mad snakefang dragon behind him. The red and white dragon had just come out of his cave, which the plant didn't see until now. Green apologized to him, "Sorry, it's just that I was looking for some ochres to help someone who's been hurt by humans. Will you please let me take some to her?"

The snakefang rumbled in thought for a bit before replying, "I suppose you can take them, since she needs it more than I. But you're going to have to bring me something in return. I don't like others taking off of my property for free."

The plant asked, "And what would you like me to bring you?"

The snakefang licked around his own mouth and suggested, "How about a nice big and juicy prey. You're a good enough hunter for that, right?"

Green answered, "I'm not much of a hunter, but I can bait you a bear with berry bushes that I can create." He figured a bear would match the description of a big and juicy prey, considering it was the largest of all the animals he knew in this region of Rudvich. But he thought that he shouldn't settle with just any bear, it needed to be bigger and fatter than average. He settled for males, since they were the largest gender of their species.

The snakefang was pleased with the plant's ability, "A trapper, eh? Well, that's fine for me. I do hope your bait attracts what I need. Now let's go take these ochres over to your friend before we start hunting." The two dragons walked together all the way back to the wyverness. Green assumed that the dragon was keeping an eye on him to uphold his end of the bargain and not get away scot-free.

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

Green and the snakefang made it back to the wyverness and the 4 dragons who have been assigned to guard her. The wyverness was now laying on her back to the ground, most likely too weak to keep standing on her legs. Katherine and the other dragons turned their heads to the approaching pair. The magi hopefully asked, "Green, is that thing in your mouth ochre?"

With his mouth full, the plant could only use telepathy. He replied to her, *'It is; I just happened to take it from this dragon's home.'*

Kat asked, "The one following you? What's his name?"

Green answered, *'I do not know his name, but yes his home is where I got the ochre from.'*

The snakefang answered the magi's other question, "My name is Pyrexia. Your friend here took a piece of my home off and I'm just following him to make sure that he gives me something in return."

Green placed down the chunk of ochre before the others and told them his task, "I have to catch a prey for him."

Cadaver the ember dragoness said, "Not off of Atlarius's territory I hope."

The wyverness, whose name is Atlarius, told him sternly, "You better not..." She bared his teeth warning him to not to try to take from her home.

The plant assured them, "Don't worry, it'll from Pyrexia's territory. You have my honest word."

The snakefang also assured, "And I've got my eyes on him. So don't you worry." Atlarius just gave them a small trustful smile in return as she believed them to stay by their words.

Gogwel the magi dragon with shiny orange scales, light blue fins and a yellow underside, grabbed one of the arrows with his talon and told her, "Hold still, pulling it out will probably hurt." The wyverness braced herself as her muscles went stiff. After Gogwel pulled the arrow out, Atlarius arched her head back and roared out loudly in pain. The magi put the bloodied arrow over to the side and began to pull the other out.

After Atlarius' second roar, Pyrexia told Green, "Now that your friends are taking care of her, let's go get me that bear like you promised."

"I'm coming," Green responded. Then he began to go with the snakefang back to his part of the forest to start catching a bear.

Before the duo left, Green heard Spuma speaking to him and the other dragons of his group, *'Everyone, I found someone who can heal the wyverness.'*

The plant replied to him and the other searching dragons, *'And I've taken the ochre over to her.'*

Spuma sounded pleased, *'Well done, Green. Looks like we can save a life this time. Everyone, let's get back to the wyverness.'*

Green told him, *'I can't go back, not yet.'* He told the group leader why and that he had to catch a bear for Pyrexia.

'Okay I understand,' replied the black dragon. *'I can send someone to help you if you need it.'*

Grateful for the leader's assistance, he replied, *'That would be nice, thank you Spuma.'* He really needs any help right now, since he already had a good plan in mind.

'Anytime,' Spuma said. After they broke off telepathy, Green and Pyrexia continued back into the snakefang's turf.

((**Note:** The following sections take place during [Chapter 48](#).)

Green used his magic to sprout a fully-grown blueberry bush in a small clearing. He told Pyrexia, "Now we hide and wait for a bear to take the bait. Don't do anything yet until I have it trapped, okay?"

The snakefang replied, "Okay, just make sure that bear is big like I want." He walked away from the clearing and hid behind a dense cluster of trees to conceal his presence. Green's method of hiding was quite different. Instead of taking cover behind trees, he magically separated the earth beneath him to create a hole for himself to hide in. After he sunk down into it, the plant dragon buried himself with all the separated soil filling back the hole. The grass up top was perfectly back in place like it had never been dug out. For one final touch, he created a flower above ground to breathe through and see through to look out for the bear they had smelled, but not seen yet.

Soon, a black bear came to the bush and began to eat the blueberries. It grabbed onto one of the branches and feasted on the tiny and round blue fruits. Green observed the creature's body size. It looked just like how a bear of its breed normally looked on average. Before he would make his attempt to capture the bear, the plant dragon had to check with the snakefang first. He telepathically asked Pyrexia, *'Is this prey the right one for you?'*

Pyrexia declined, *'No, I want it to be fatter than that. Just ignore that one.'*

Green left the bear alone and continued to watch it eat until it left after it was done. The two dragons continued to wait for a while as the plant dragon used his magic to grow new berries onto the bush, replacing the ones that were eaten. After some time had passed, another black bear showed up. This one was chubby and looked bigger than the other one they saw. It was like looking at a really stuffed teddy bear. As the bear went to eat the blueberries, Green asked, *'What about this one?'*

Pyrexia replied eagerly, *'Yes, that's the one I want! Catch it, now!'*

Now with the right prey the snakefang desired, the plant dragon created some vines underground below the bear. The vines wormed their way up through the soil to get to the prey's limbs. After the first two vines broke out through the surface, they ensnared the bear's rear ankles. The bear stopped eating and grunted in surprised as it looked down to the vines grabbing it. It turned its torso to go to bite one of the vines, but then another vine and grabbed a forefoot from the opposite side of the bear's turn. The bear whipped its head to its captured forefoot. Before it knew, another vine coiled around its other forefoot and then another quickly ensnared its neck, pulling the beast down to the ground. The bear began to struggle to free itself as the last three vines roped over its body to hold it down. Green told the snakefang, *'Now Pyrexia before it breaks free.'*

He saw Pyrexia run from his hiding spot towards the bear with his mouth open to show sharp snake-like fangs. From them dripped yellow gooey liquid that is his venom. He got to the bear and sank his fang down onto the bear's flabby flesh, which made the prey roar out in pain. The snakefang waited for the

venom to take effect before the bear was weakened to make eating his meal easy. He looked back at Green, who was digging himself out of the ground, and smiled gratefully, "Thanks for returning the favor! Now you can go on back to your friends."

"You're welcome," the plant replied. He turned and began to head on back to his group as the snakefang dragon feasted on the bear.

Colin and Skaia had plenty of fun at the carnival 2 days ago. The two of them enjoyed the many rides there, played a lot of games, and even listened to a few tales from storytellers. Colin was glad to have taken Skaia there; the excited smile he saw on her face made him happy like a father bringing joy to his child, which he could describe their relationship as such considering he was raising the little hatchling. Skaia enjoyed the carnival more than the boy did, since being young and inexperienced to the world made all these things there more interesting and wonderful to her. Colin would like to take her there again, but he figured one time was enough and that waiting until next year would keep the hatchling just as excited as if she was on Christmas.

Now in the present day, Colin went to the marketplace to get some food for the house. He walked with Skaia on a leash to keep her wandering off and possibly get harassed by racists. He didn't want a young and innocent mind to have its world get darkened by fear and anger just yet. He wanted her to see the world as a bright and normal place and enjoy it for as much of her childhood. Though the hatchling was protected by the leash, it attracted the attention of Aquarians who noticed this and got the wrong idea. Two times, Colin was confronted by these armored dragons who left their perch to tell him that slavery is illegal now. The young man had to explain his intention to them, telling them that the leash was more of a child leash, to solve this misunderstanding. The Aquarians let him off and went back to their post. Colin thought about having to come up with a better idea of going out with Skaia later to avoid encounters like these again.

In his hand, Colin carried a shopping list of what to get. He needed to buy cherries, raspberries, blueberries, ground meat, chicken, milk, cheese, bread and a bottle of barbecue sauce. Carrying all these things, especially the gallon of milk and chicken with each of them being a bit heavy compared to all the other light-weight foods, were going to be hard. So he decided to start with the fruits first and then go into a grocery store to buy the rest. After his errand, he would have to hire a horse carriage or, better yet, look for a generous dragon to take him and Skaia back home. He went to every fruit stand he saw while maneuvering around crowds of shoppers and looking past those who were in his way. Colin looked at the prices of all the produce he was looking for and the quality of them as well. He needed to make sure he can get a good deal for the good-looking foods, nothing too expensive and not one berry rotting. Sometimes, Skaia would see a fruit or vegetable she was familiar with and try to eat it, not knowing that this would be theft. The boy had to pull the leash and tell her not to eat it. The hatchling would whine through high-pitched shrills as she wanted to eat them and Colin would keep denying her the produce. After going through a mental list of his chosen vendors, the boy decided to go to two of these fruit

stands to get the fruits. He started with the one that only sold blueberries in plastic containers. He picked the container with the biggest blueberries and told the woman selling them, "I'm going to buy this one."

She told him, "That'll be five silver coins."

Colin took the wallet out of his pocket and began to take out the coins, counting each one he got. As he was doing so, Skaia noticed some apples on a crate of another fruit stand. The bright red fruits look quite appetizing. She had eaten a few of these before when her adopted papa was feeding her. They were so deliciously sweet and she wanted to eat one again. She hoped this time her papa wouldn't stop her from taking one of these treats. As she rose up to take an apple, a flabby-faced vendor with a mustache saw and smacked her across the face with his hand. He yelled, "Stay away from my apples, ya damn scaly!" The way the anger on the vendor's face made him look intimidating and the stinging sensation she felt from the attack made Skaia afraid of that dragon. She wanted to run away, run far away as she can from that scary dragon. She did as she started to flee and shrill before the man could attack her again.

Colin suddenly felt a rough pull on his leash-holding hand. It caught him by surprise as he was pulled back and fell over on the cobblestone ground. He accidentally let go to the leash as it was happening. He looked off the ground and saw the white hatchling running away with the leash dragging behind across the street. "Skaia come back!" he called loudly to her. But she didn't seem to hear as she just kept going into the horizon. The boy called again, "Skaia!" Then she turned right around a corner and disappeared out of sight. Colin got to his feet and glared at the mustached vendor. He blamed, "Look what you did; you scared her! She's just a baby!"

The male vendor countered, "Well she shouldn't have tried to steal and you should have done better to control that thing!"

Colin didn't have time to waste arguing with this insolent fool, he needed to go find Skaia now. He insulted the man with these last words, "Stupid bastard!" Then the young man ran off to go look for the hatchling, taking the same path she went before she disappeared. The nearby shoppers who had witnessed the incident and the one he came across all watched him go.

Before he could turn around at the corner, four teenagers consisting of 3 boys and a girl got in his way and blocked him. The girl had her arms around the tallest one's waist, hugging him like she was his girlfriend. The tallest one with cornrows jeered, "Yo, where ya going, punk?! Da little scaly ain't that way."

That was a lie and they knew it. The annoyed Colin told him, "Yes she is, now get out of my way!" He tried to move around them, but the boy with the afro moved right in front of him.

The afro boy prodded at his chest and sneered, "Nuh-uh, we ain't gonna let you. How's bout you hang

with us fo' a while?"

"No!" Colin yelled before he tried to push the afro boy out of the way.

But the afro boy pushed him back harder and roughly as he said, "Don't you be touchin' me, dragon hugga! I'll knock ya upside down!"

The brunette loner glared with bared teeth like he was snarling as he looked the teens from left to right. He wondered how he was going to pass these them to get to Skaia. He yelled, "Look, I don't have time for this! Just let through so I can get to her!"

The boy with the cornrows sneered, "What's yo hurry, fool? She'll be fine. She's probably getting munched by a dog right now." As his mouth opened and closed itself repeatedly, emulating eating, the bullies laughed at the probable scenario he thought of.

The boy with a shaved head joked, "Nah dawg, some crazy psycho's gonna snatch her up and skin 'er alive."

The girl said, "She's gonna make a good purse." The bullies laughed again. Colin was getting more agitated listening to these scumbags heartlessly putting scenarios he didn't want to imagine for Skaia into his head. These people would gladly see an innocent hatchling dead and probably even celebrate it, too.

The tall boy taunted, "And he'll be sellin' her meat as burgers and hot dogs. Yum! I'd like to buy that!" This broke the final straw; the suggestion of having Skaia be made a meal for this contemptuous jerk was enough to make Colin want to hurt him. No longer containing himself, the young man delivered a swift and hard punch to the tall boy's face. "Ouch!" cried the tall boy as his head was knocked to the side. The bullies stopped laughing and the girl released her boyfriend. They looked at their friend in shock.

Colin yelled, "Shut up! Just shut up!"

The tall boy turned his head back to the young man and glared at him. He challenged, "Oh you want to fight? Now it's on, sucka!" His friends turned to scowl at Colin as well. "Boys, let's teach this bitch a lesson!" The 3 boys engaged the young man rather fast as the tall boy counterattacked with a punch of his own. He hit Colin square in the eye and bruised it black. The young man briefly cried out in pain before he was punched in the rib by the afro boy and kicked in the shin by the shaved boy. Colin grunted in pain with each hit he took from the boys pummeling him over and over again. Perhaps punching their leader wasn't such a good idea. Now he had to deal with beatings from them. But at least he had one thing they don't have: wind magic. If Colin could utilize that, then he might turn the table around. The young man turned and fled from the bullies to put some distance between them. But he was quickly caught by the arm and prevented escape.

The shaved boy who caught him yelled, "Where you going? We ain't done yet!"

The afro boy quickly got the other arm and delivered a punch to the head. "There's mo' where dat came from!" Colin struggled to free himself as the boys kept on hitting him. He wanted to use his magic to retaliate, but the boys' attacks just kept ruining his concentration.

"Hold him, boys," said the tall one as he came up around to face Colin's front. His friends stopped attacking and pulled the young man's arms straight. Once he was in place, the tall boy cracked his fists and continued, "I'm gonna give him a real beating." Colin had a bit of his magic energy charge during the few seconds, but it quickly drained when the next set of attacks begun. First the tall boy delivered a punch to the nose and broke it. Blood started running down the young man's nose and dripped down to his white shirt, staining it red. Then the tall boy punched the stomach, which not only hurting his victim, but also made him kind of sick like he had the urge to vomit. The tall boy kept on beating Colin as if he was living, breathing punching bag.

The tall boy's girlfriend looked on as she cheered, "Yeah, Gerrod! Kick his ass!"

The bystanders watched the scene play out; no one made any attempt to break up the fight. One of the men, sounding older than Colin, seemed to like this scene as he cheered, "Teach that dragon hugging hippie a lesson!"

After several more beatings, Colin was now lightheaded and weak from the physical torture he endured from the bullies' attacks. He wondered how much more he could take before he passed out or worse, die. Gerrod noticed the state that his victim was in and taunted, "Looks like da little bitch ain't gonna hold up fo' long. Better give him one mo' blow before we bounce out." The final hit was the most painful of them all; it was a kick to the testicles. Colin let out a loud scream as the other bullies released him. He fell down onto his knees first as he grabbed his hurting crotch. Then he collapsed onto the ground, still holding it. The bullies laughed at the shaved boy kicked the young man's head and the afro boy kicked the butt.

The one with the afro made a pun, "Now that's what I call an ass-kicking."

The tall boy gave his friend a high five and said, "You said it!" The bullies spit on Colin to add to his misery. The young man felt grossed-out and humiliated by this; it felt like he was just a piece of trash to these animals. The bullies walked away as they talked about how they how harmed their victim and asked if the others saw it. Colin laid there crying and in pain. His simple trip to the marketplace had gone so wrong. First, Skaia got hurt and fled. Now, the young man himself was bruised and humiliated by a gang of hooligans. He held back his sobs as he didn't want the bystanders, who probably felt spite and contempt for him, to hear his sadness. He wanted to find Skaia and go home. He didn't care if had food to restock; he just wanted to go home and lock himself up in his room where he could unleash his sorrows.

The female vendor, who he had bought from, came up to his side and placed a plastic bag with the container of blueberries beside him. She said softly, "Here you go. I didn't want you forget them while looking for that dragon. Also, sorry for what happened to you just now. I hope you'll be okay." Colin didn't respond to her and he didn't care about the blueberries either. He was too hurt to speak and he didn't want to say a word, because a sob might come out. The woman kept looking at him in pity as she took a few steps back before turning to go back to her stand. For a while, Colin would just lay there until time was kind enough to help him recover.