

((Note: This whole story takes place before the RP.))

In the town of Cayetano, Bam Gallion was walking through the brick street while pulling a carriage with his rich merchant master riding him and his stock of items in the carriage to take to the store. To Bam, it was a much easier job than all the others he worked through in the past. But that didn't mean he enjoyed his new master though. Like all the others, he would feed him an inadequate amount of food to keep him weak. He only got full meals when he was dying of starvation. The slavers knew that he was more useful alive than dead. The dragon reached the front of store and stopped right there beside the sidewalk. The merchant unloaded all the things from the carriage and put them in his store. After the merchant opened his store for business, Bam sat down on the brick ground under the light of the sun. Here comes another whole day of heat on his blue scales.

Day started as usual for Selena Dawnwing. After a weak meal she was brought to the main hall of the building. Her owner was having a party at the time and she wanted her 'singing star' to sing her best. Selena however was feeling quite uneasy. Her owner threatened her that if she doesn't find something adequate quickly, there will be greatly bad consequences. She knew what that meant really clearly. Before the show, she searched around telepathically for some dragon, any dragon that knew at least one good song for the party. In her hurry, she stumbled upon a navy blue dragon, not too far away. Bam saw the pretty-looking dragoness approach him. Taking in her appearance, he thought, *'Hey she's kinda cute!'*

Selena told him her problem, "He...hello. I'm so sorry to bother you, but do you know any good songs for the party my owner has? She will skin me alive if I don't find one quickly." She panicked, though she fought with herself to keep as calm as possible.

Bam felt bad about this; he wanted to help out, but didn't have any idea of a song for her. Scratching his head, he replied, "Well gee, I don't think I have a good song in mind. But... um... maybe one of my friends have idea. I'll go ask my cousin first." He formed a telepathic bond with Aeolus and asked, *'Hey Aeolus, I got this cute dragoness here that needs a new song or else she will be killed.'*

'Shut up! I'm working,' the disaster dragon yelled.

Bam gritted his teeth, feeling stung by his cousin's harsh tone. *'Oh whoops, sorry. Ha ha... maybe I'll talk to someone else?'* he said.

Then Aeolus apologized, *'No, I should be sorry. It's just that I've been frustrated by my master working us hard and yelling at us. So, you say you needed a song?'*

'Yeah, that's what I need.'

'Very well then. I once heard a female human sing something lovely. It went like this,' Aeolus told him.

After telling Bam part of the song, he continued, *'That's all I know. I forgot the rest of the lyrics, so your friend here may have to think of the rest by herself.'*

'Okay, got it, cous!' the navy blue dragon replied. Then telepathy ended and Bam said to the dragoness, "Okay, my cousin just told me a song and it goes like this." He told her the beginning of the lyrics before saying, "That's... all he's got. He said you got to come up with the rest yourself." Wanting to spend some time with this lovely dragoness, Bam he offered, "But he didn't say that I can't help. So shall we come up with one together?"

Selena smiled and blushed a little. Even though she was social, she hasn't interacted with other dragons in ages. "Sure. I would love someone to help me. I really haven't worked with any other dragon in a long time," she shyly replied to dragon's offer. "I mean I did talk with others telepathically, but I rarely got a chance to actually work and be in the presence of others. Oh, and I'm Selena by the way."

That sounded like a lot like the dragon's current life. He too didn't get around other dragons much as he was the merchant's only slave. The navy blue smiled and replied, "That sounds like a beautiful name. I'm Bam by the way." The dragoness put her claw on the lips and started to think of a melody to fill the gap in song. She also switched the song's melody a bit to try and match it with other melodies. All while doing that, she kept licking her claw and upper lip unknowingly. As Selena tried different ways to see how the song would go, Bam took his time enjoying the sound. *'Wow, she's got a great singing voice,'* he thought.

A bit later, she found a fair set of melodies for a song. With a bit of an inhale, she started singing the melody she come upon with, her beautiful voice ringing down the street, stopping any human and dragon for a moment to listen to a beautiful tune. Even Bam was amazed by the song. Her dusk-reflecting wings glowed with a sunset orange-red tint, illuminating the walls around her as she sung it. The navy blue found the sight of her wings and what they did fascinating. "What do you think? Any ideas for lyrics?" Selena asked, but as she did, she started heavily breathing. It was a hot day and a true nightmare for a polar dragoness. Her long, dense fur and thick polar fat were overheating the poor dragoness.

Bam snapped back to his senses and hastily tried to answer, "Oh! Um..." His eyes looked up to the side as he tried to think of some words to go with the melody. He hadn't had a clue as he had been distracted by the polar dragoness's performance. *'Okay Bam, don't panic. I'm pretty sure you can think of something soon,'* he thought to himself. Selena tried to cool herself down using her ice magic on her own sweat, but since she mustn't cool it too much as it'll freeze and trap her, it helped just enough for her not to faint. Before you know, she was leaning on a building, half-conscious in a pool of sweat that was rapidly streaming down her scales and fur. Then Bam noticed how hot the dragoness looked; the warm weather wasn't doing any good for her. This had the dragon concerned as he asked, "Hey, are you alright? You need some shade?"

Selena snapped back to her consciousness, opening her big, deep blue eyes. Hardly breathing and with a

lot of huffs, she managed to answer, "I... *huff huff* had worse... *huff huff* days. Though a shade... *huff huff* would be appreciated." She finished with a big breath. In a moment, the dragoness blacked out and she collapsed on the floor. She tried to get up, but her overheated legs couldn't withstand her and she would collapse again. Her antennas rose as she scented her master calling her. "I need to go," she said weakly. "B-but I can't even s-stand on my legs. My m-master will k-kill me for sure." The polar dragoness desperately tried to move, but she would end up barely crawling a centimeter from her last position. She was panicking inside, but didn't have strength to even express it in a more than a facial emotion.

Bam couldn't bear to see the poor dragoness suffer any longer. She needed help fast. The dragon needed to escape the harness that tied to him the carriage. But the harness was made out of ember dragon leather to keep his flames from burning it down and it was too thick to chew through. He looked around to see if there were any dragons who had time to lend a hand. But unfortunately, they were all busy doing slave work like building a new architecture or pulling carriages. Seeing as how he had no other option, the dragon decided to risk the wrath of his master by stepping back from where he's usually parked. The carriage moved along as he did. Then he moved back forward while going to the side a little to get closer to Selena. He stopped next to her and raised a wing over her to block out the sun. Bam smiled and said, "Sorry if it's not much, but I got to keep you cool somehow."

The dragoness looked up at him as her scales started to cool down. They weren't overheated by sun anymore. She also stopped sweating rapidly. Selena smiled as she softly spoke, "Thank you. Thank you very much. Now I can cool on my own." She got up and "froze" her scales and fur using her ice magic. Now that she was no longer sweating, her magic didn't have a risk of freezing her completely. The ambience became cooler as well.

Bam was happy that his wing's shade had worked. "Hey, no problem. I'd feel terrible if I let another dragon suffer like that."

The dragoness continued her thanks, "I now also have a good lyric for a song." She smiled and then looked at him a bit worried. "But, won't your master be mad at you for moving the carriage?"

The dragon reassured her, "Hey, don't worry. I can handle him." Just then, the merchant came out of the store yelling at the dragon to get back to his spot. He cracked his whip at the spot Bam was once in, gesturing for him to get over there. The frightened dragon quickly moved back in his parking place and stood there, looking at his master to see if he was pleased now. The man tied the reins to a light pole, having forgotten to do that, just before going into the store. Selena turned around and her antennas rose again as she heard her master call her with anger. Not waiting an answer, she opened her wings and flew away. The dragon saw Selena fly away back to her master and thought, *'I'm glad to see she's finally figured it out. I wish I could hear her lyrics. Maybe I'll ask her tonight.'*

Selena got there just in time for her to make up and perform. The lyric she had chosen were modified version of an old legend of her clan. Everyone seemed to adore her performance, but mostly of them all, her master's young daughter, who was taking quite an interest in dragons and their folklore. Her master was really satisfied with her performance as his reputation had grown like mushroom after rain. In the dusk, the party was over. Selena was put back in her cell. Because she was excellent at the party, she was fed with better food and was given some honey to help her sore throat. She closed her eyes and remembered the navy blue dragon she had met earlier and tried to contact him telepathically. *'Hello. Thanks again for the help earlier. The performance was a full success.'* The dragoness was happy, but calm, since she still wasn't in full condition from the performance.

Once 6:00 PM hit, the merchant closed his store and untied the reins from the light pole. Bam moved the carriage back to his master's home and stayed in his shed for the rest of the day. It was now early night and the dragon was napping to get past the boredom. His sleep was interrupted by Selena telling him the performance went well. The dragon jolted away and his head fast to shake off the drowsiness. *'It did?!'* Bam excitedly asked. *'That's great! I'm glad I could help. So uh, what was your song?'*

Selena remembered she hasn't told him the lyrics. *'Oh umm... It goes like this.'* She sung him the song with the lyrics of a myth. In it, once upon the time, the sun got tired of its nonstop circling around the sky and fell down the sky, creating the dusk. To help it out, the night covered it, allowing it to take a rest. In return, the sun gave the night's spirit, the moon, its glow and gave the stars to the night sky. That's why the moon and the stars glow. Even through telepathically, her voice was still beautiful, if not the most beautiful one she ever sang with. *'Did you like it?'* She asked when the long song was over.

Bam replied, *'Oh yes, I did. It's great!'* Well the lyrics were a little bit boring, but Selena's singing voice and the meaning of the myth made up for it.

Selena smiled when she heard the dragon's words. *'I'm happy you did.'*

Then the doors of the building where the dragoness was kept creaked open, which caught her attention. A young girl, her master's daughter, slowly entered her room. She looked through the bars of the cage. The girl was fascinated by her father's dragon. "You're so beautiful and majestic. I don't understand why he would keep you like this. You and your kind deserve to live free, not like this. Here, I brought you something," she said, pulling a fresh turkey leg out of her jacket. "It's not much, but that's all I could smuggle," the girl said and offered it to the dragoness. Selena and Hannah, which is the girl's name, liked each other. Hannah would use to smuggle some fine food to the dragoness and Selena would tell her stories about dragon folklore when she could. Dragoness approached the bars and took the leg, eating it instantly. The girl smiled, but her smile was interrupted by her father's call. She ran out, not waiting an

answer, and Selena returned her thoughts on the talk with Bam. The doors of the building cracked again and Hannah entered her room again, now with keys shackling on her belt. "Here, I sneaked out of the house when everyone fell asleep. You know my parents, sleeping early to get their 'beauty sleep'." She giggled, taking the keys. "I got these. Maybe we could go for a flight. I always wanted to fly, we just need to return before dawn, or we'll both be in deep trouble." The girl unlocked the cage doors and approached the dragoness, who laid calmly as she mounted on her. The two sneaked out and flew off.

'Guess what Bam, it seems I'm going to visit you. That is if I can. And I'm bringing a guest. Can you show me where you are right now?' Selena linked to the dragon, flying high above the city to lower the chances of being spotted. The girl knew that they would fly high, so she dressed herself warmly, but kept it layered in case they land.

Bam was thrilled to hear that Selena and a guest were coming over to him. The dragon wondered who her companion was. *'Sure thing! This is where I live,'* he said. He sent her an image of the shed he was in and his master's one-story house.

The dragoness got the picture clear as the summer day and made a swift turn in that direction. "Hey Hannah, wanna meet my friend?" She smiled to the girl as they were getting closer to the house Bam lived at.

Hannah answered, "Sure thing! I can't wait to meet more dragons, so I can learn more about your beautiful species."

A few minutes later, the girl and the dragoness landed near the place Bam lived in complete silence. Selena looked around with her big eyes which, even though they looked like it, weren't built for darkness. She linked to the dragon, *'Bam, we're here, but I can't see you.'*

Bam was counting the stars in the sky as he waited for the snow dragoness to come. After a short while, he saw a dark shape in the sky pass through and cover the crescent moon for a moment. The dragon smiled, believing that this flying form must be Selena. But then he quickly lost track of her and tried to look around for the dragoness. Then he got a telepathic message from Selena confirming that she was here, but she couldn't see him. Bam tried to help her by telling her, *'I'm over at the shed, can you see it?'*

The dragoness stared a bit more around, before finally focusing on a shed bit away from her. She nudged her beloved girl and they approached it. Selena greeted, "Hello Bam, it's nice to see you again."

Bam smiled and replied, "Nice to see you, too!"

Selena turned her head around and pushed Hannah closer to him. "This is the "guest" I was talking about. Her name is Hannah and she is a great dragon fan. We use to take flights like this every now and

then."

The girl smiled as she stared at the dragon, trying to define his dark figure. "You didn't have to introduce me like that, really. Anyway, I'm glad to meet you, Bam." She bowed down saikeirei style just like how humans greet in Haniyas. It was how they greeted in their family, since her mother was from such a culture.

Bam was surprised, he didn't expect Selena's friend to be human and a very nice one at that. He thought all humans were malevolent as he had never met one who were as friendly as this girl. To be certain, the dragon asked Selena, "So is she really nice?"

Selena smiled and so did Hannah. The dragoness confirmed, "Of course! If it wasn't for her, I would still be hungry in my small, dark cell."

Hannah approached a bit more, so she could see him better. "Those night blue scales look so beautiful. I wish I can help you and the other dragons. But my father said that I can only have one until I 'get to my senses' and stop adoring you." The girl bowed her head down, letting a sigh. The dragoness looked at her with a smirk, on which the girl rose her head and looked under her jacket. "Oh, and I heard you work dragons don't get quality food, if not enough at all, so I brought you something. Well it was for Selena, but you can have it as well." She pulled out a pig leg and chunk of bacon under her fluffy coat and jacket. She offered it to the dragon.

Bam relaxed a bit easy, seeing how this human child cared about dragons. She gave him some pig meat to eat. It smelled really delicious, no foul odor of rot or any visual sign of it, too. For once in his life, he was having some fresh meat. The dragon happily gobbled up the leg and bacon, enjoying the good quality taste. Bam smiled at her and said, "Hey, that was tasty. You're not quite bad like all those other humans out there." To him, that girl was like a diamond among a large pile of coal.

Hannah mildly smiled at the dragon's comment. She was really glad that she could help the poor soul, even just a little. Then something snapped in her and she snapped out like a daydreamer from a dream. "Hey, your master seems to be a merchant, right? My father has a building right next to our house that he wants a store at. Maybe I could convince him to give the job to your master, so you two can see each other daily."

Selena rapidly brightened up at girl's idea and added, "Yeah! Your father already accepted your idea to let all dragons roam on his property at night on weekends. Now the question is only if his master will take the job." The dragoness raised her head and looked at the dragon, filled with hope.

Bam liked the idea as well. He said, "Ooh, I'm pretty sure he will. It might make him more money." Unsure of how human economics really worked, he added questioningly, "It will, right?"

Hannah lowered her head a bit and put a hand on her chin. "What is your master selling?" she asked,

trying to think of all the things her father said about economy and sales right now. However, it turned a bit of a difficult task as she never fully listened what he said to her.

Bam answered, "Let's see... He sells pottery, craft tools, dishes, cups and all kinds of stuff. He knows how to make these stuff."

Hannah smirked, "Then we're in luck. Around our town district people tend to buy this stuff often and my mother herself loves to collect beautifully done and original sets." The girl then looked under her jacket once again, pulling out a small pencil, rubber and a notebook. She then got out a small pearl which glowed just strong enough for the letters to be seen as she scrolled through the pages. "But now can I ask you some questions about your dragon culture? Or even better, could you tell me everything you can or want?" The little pencil was in the girl's mouth just as she said it, staring at the dragon for the answer.

Bam tried to think of how to explain his race's culture to the best that he can. "Well uh... let's see... I know many of us live in clans and the members of these clans tend to be different breeds depending on where they live. The leaders of the clans are called chiefs and they're like the strongest in their clans. To become the next chief, you had to defeat the current one, so that you can take over. But if the chief dies, then we hold a tournament until we have a winner to be our new leader. We don't fight each other to the death like animals do, it's against our code of honor to kill another dragon." Hannah took notes in her notebook as the dragon explained, holding the pearl in her mouth and nodding to him to continue from time to time.

"Interesting," the girl commented at the end.

The snow dragoness listened to him as well and was seemingly interested by his story. "Truly interesting indeed." Then Bam spoke about hermits, the dragons who choose to live alone or had become clanless due to humans enslaving or killing their clan. She smiled as he finished, "You see, up in the icy regions where I used to live, clans were usually formed as family-oriented groups. There the leader was the oldest and wisest family member, who passed the folklore and knowledge to younger generations. The next leader was selected by all when the old one dies or can't do his or her job anymore. And if someone wanted to forcefully take over, he or she would quickly be shushed by the rest. And there were rarely any hermits as the cruel habitat doesn't allow a lifestyle like that. I guess cultures change based on species and conditions they live in." She finished and slightly shrugged.

Bam was amazed by her clan's unique norm in leadership and how they worked. The dragon nodded his head and said, "Yeah, it certainly does. We got dragons who live in villages and dragons who live in castles. Every dragon culture around the world is unique. Ain't that amazing?"

The dragoness smiled and nodded back. Hannah wrote everything down, packed things and stood up. "We need to go, Selena. Just tell me one last thing, Bam. What's the name of your master?" The girl climbed on Selena's back and checked everything once more, just to see if everything was there.

Bam answered, "His name's Carlos Isidro." He thought to give Hannah his master's full name, knowing his and Selena's masters would have a professional meeting about the job offer. Hannah nodded in approval and the two took off. Soon enough, they returned home.