

((Note: This story is not canon to the RP. This section takes place during [Chapter 37](#).)

Shiba and Kakoli had taken Torque back to the hotel after he bought plums for the former to eat. The man took the elevator to his room and went inside to get his cellphone out of his backpack that was sitting on the floor. He looked up the realtor's phone number that he had written down on the piece of paper. Sitting his butt down on the double bed, he kicked his boots off and then began to dial the number to call. The phone rang a couple of times before the realtor answered, *"Good evening, this is Keller Bramblett Realty, number one realty service in Cypress- I mean Windfall. Who am I speaking with today?"*

Torque answered in his usual hearty tone, "The name's Torque, my good man! I saw a house you were sellin' on Layman Drive and thought I'd buy it off your hands."

"Layman Drive, huh?" replied Bramblett. *"Let's see..."* He paused for a bit as Torque figured that he was looking up the location of the house on his database. *"Oh yes, I do have a house up for purchase there; the one on 5607 Layman Drive."*

The bearded man nodded, "Yep, that's the one I've been looking at, ol' boy."

The realtor told him, *"Well sir, if you're really interested in this home, then how about we make an appointment for tomorrow at nine in the morning? We both meet at this house, I give you the tour and details of that place, and then you fill in the paperwork to buy it. Think you have time to make it there?"*

Torque answered, "I sure do! By the way, I already did some touring of my own there, but I'll still be fine with learning more stuff about that place. Gotta know what my new house will be like before I throw away my money."

Bramblett replied gladly, *"Well that saves me some time. Alright then, meet me there tomorrow at nine to purchase your new home and have a good day."*

"You got it!" Torque responded. After they both hang up the phone, the man laid on his bed and turned on the TV. Today will probably his last at the hotel, so why not spend it with some entertainment to enjoy himself? The man flipped through the channels looking for something his demographic would enjoy. He found an action TV show about a secret agent taking up on a dangerous mission to stop an evil scientist from taking over the world. It had some comedy in the show with dirty jokes that Torque would laugh out loud every now and then. Boy, did he enjoy a good laugh.

((Note: This section takes place during [Chapter 42](#).)

Torque had met Bramblett at the exact time at the house. He got to know more about the place from the realtor and the foreigner had not changed his mind on the house. At the end, Torque did the paperwork for the house and paid for it out of his bank account. Bramblett tipped his hat to the buyer and said, "Thanks for doing business with you, sir! I do hope you enjoy your new home."

Torque replied with a smile, "I sure will! I think I'm going to like living in Windfall. Lots of dragons to see and meet without them trying to eat ya."

Bramblett said, "Well I guess this would be the perfect city for you given what's going on with the rest of the world. Anyway, you take care of yourself and have a nice day."

"Will do!" assured the bearded man. The realtor went out the door and left his customer to his new home. With Torque having a brand new house for himself, he needed to get some furniture to liven up his home. His top priority would be a bed, since every house needed something comfortable to sleep on. He ought to look into a furniture store later to see what mattresses were available. Of course, he will need some money to buy the things he needs. Torque thought to check back at the guild to see if there is some bounty-hunting work to be done. The man left his house and began to make his way to the guild, since that's the only place in mind familiar to him. If there were any useful stores on the way, he would be sure to stop there first.

((Note: This section takes place during [Chapter 43](#).)

Torque entered the guild and walked to the end of the line consisting of only two bounty hunters. The man in front was getting himself a copy of a wanted poster and the other man behind him was holding a leather bag with a heavy blood stain at the bottom. The bearded man guessed the bounty hunter must be holding a severed head inside. As Torque's eyes shifted back to the line and the receptionist, he noticed a bulletin board with wanted posters and a list of what was probably available targets. He decided it would be wise to see this board for himself before asking the woman about who was up for kills. He left the line and went up to the board to see the list first. As he thought, it was list of wanted men with thumbnails of their mugs and their names and rewards underneath. The ones that were crossed out were the ones that were already hunted. There was also one particular face that stood out among the available others. It was a pale-skinned young man with silver hair and red eyes. On the top of his head, he donned a black wizard hat. He appears to be a mage of some sort. Torque looked below the portrait to see the name, "Tyler Garth", and his reward money being the highest out of all the criminals. The bearded gentleman had never tried to kill a mage before, but he imagined it would be almost like fighting a magical dragon. Nevertheless, Torque was up for new challenges and he was going to see if he has what it takes to defeat a mage.

Torque went back to the receptionist counter and found that the line is now gone with the second man having turned in his kill. He said to the woman, "Good day, missy! Got one of any wanted posters of this Tyler Garth fellow? I'm going to try my hand at him."

"Tyler Garth?" repeated the receptionist. "I do believe that name showed up on our database recently. He's a malicious troublemaker from another city and has shown up in Windfall two days burning and robbing a jewelry store. Let me print you one right away." She opened the program for the collection of wanted posters and printed a copy for the mage thief. The printer activated and began making sounds in the process of inking the image onto the paper. It took a few seconds for the wanted poster to come out and the receptionist handed it to the bounty hunter. "Here you go, sir."

"Thanks miss," appreciated Torque, taking the copy. He walked away from the front desk as he held the wanted poster to his face. The list of crimes that Tyler did that the receptionist did not mention were malicious mischief, vandalism, dining and dashing, and attempted murders. It seems like this guy enjoys doing bad things just for the heck of it. He probably must be some sort of troubled youth. So now that the bounty hunter knows what the mage is like, he thought to think like Tyler in order to predict where and when he will be. But he will need more information to get an idea on where to go. Perhaps, he should find out the name of the Jewelry store and see if there were any witnesses there that day. Maybe he can even pick up a newspaper about the incident or research the troublemaker online. Torque went back to the receptionist and asked, "So lady, do you know the name of that jewelry store the little rascal roasted?"

The receptionist nodded, "I do in fact; it's called Gorham Jewelry."

"Gorham Jewelry," Torque whispered repeatedly, absorbing the name into his memory. "Okay got it!" He walked away and headed out the door. It was time to see what the police know about the incident.

((**Note:** This section takes place during [Chapter 44](#).)

Torque arrived at Gorham Jewelry and approached the store owner at the counter sitting by a cash register. The floor inside was pretty glossy and so was the wooden bases of the showcases. It was quite a fancy place, though that would describe pretty much every jewelry store as they tend to look grandeur. The store owner smiled and greeted, "Hello, welcome to Gorham Jewelry. Looking for anything in particular?"

"Nah," said Torque, shaking his head to decline any jewelry offers. But then he quickly corrected himself, "Actually, yes I am. I'm looking for what you know about the young chap who burned and robbed your store." He held up the wanted poster and pointed to the portrait as he continued, "You

know? Young and cute-faced with silver hair? He's my bounty that goes by the name of Tyler Garth. Ring any bells?"

The store owner shook his head, answering, "I wasn't there when that happened. My shop was closed because I had my grandmother's funeral to attend to."

The gentleman did not feel an ounce of empathy, but he faked a slight pity just for the sake of politeness. "Ah...sorry about your loss, good chap. Well do you know anybody else that was there?"

"None at all," said the store owner. "But I did hear that an Aquarian tried to chase after the thief and stop him."

Torque asked, "Was that the only witness?" He hoped not as the Aquarians were like the police and the police was a bounty hunter's competition in catching a wanted criminal. If they got to Tyler first, then there would be no money for Torque.

"I believe so," said the store owner.

It seems like the bounty hunter may have to improvise. He could go up to the Aquarian, pretending to be someone who was also robbed by Tyler, and inquire some info from him or her, whatever the gender is. But he would have to know what the Aquarian looked like in order to find them. Perhaps that same guard would be sitting posted from where they saw the jewelry store catch fire. It was just an assumption, but that is the idea that Torque has for now. The bounty hunter figured that he would not get any more info from the man and decided it was now time to leave. "Well thanks for the time, pal. I'm going to go and see what that Aquarian knows anything about the rascal."

"Okay then, you have a good day."

Torque went out the door and looked up above the buildings for any Aquarian sitting on them. He walked to the middle of the street and went right, going down the road as he looked for an Aquarian on both sides. For every person in his way, he would move around them or stop to let them pass, so that he can continue on his way. He even went past the ADR headquarters that had been attacked the day of the robbery. He eventually got to a point where he was going too far from where the scene of the crime would be noticed by anyone. He would have turned around and go the other, if he did not catch the site of a furniture store at a shopping center that is slightly ahead of him. The man smiled to himself, "Well look what we have here. I think I'll stop for a bit and check this place out." He headed for the furniture store and went inside. Torque walked through the store, searching for a section where the beds were displayed. There they were at the farthest side where the beds were lined against the wall. They came in a variety of sizes and a variety of soft and firmness. Since Torque likes to sleep on his side, he thought to get a soft mattress so that his sleeping position will not affect the natural curvature of his spine. After all, it would not do well for a fighter to have a bad back that is hurting. He started with the first bed in line and went down the way as he checked for the firmness in each mattress. The only sizes of the soft

mattresses he could find were those of the queen and king sizes as well as only one full size. He settled on making the plan to get the full-sized one in the future after he gets his money. Now knowing where to go next time, the man left the store and went back out, retracing his steps to where he left from the jewelry store and then checking the other side. Pretty soon, he saw a brown dragon sitting on top of a barber shop and wearing armor. Torque approached him and called, "Hey Mr. Aquarian sir, I want to ask you something."

The Aquarian looked down at him and said, "Sure, go ahead."

The bounty hunter asked him, "Have you seen a young fellow rob and burn a jewelry store a couple of days ago?"

The dragon answered, "As a matter of fact, I did." With a frown, he continued, "I saw fire in the distance and went rushing there. That's when I saw him, the conjurer." His head straightened up again and he stared off into space. "I first I thought he was a victim, but then he flung the necklace he stole at me and ran away, stealing a few things. His fire lion creature attacked me, but I threw it off and circled the store, hoping to catch the thief who might head out through the emergency exit. I saw him coming out of the backdoor just as his electric elk attacked me. I chased after the thief down the alley and caught him." His eyes narrowed, looking mad like his pride has been hurt, "But he didn't turn out to be the real thing; it was a golem wearing his hat and cloak. The thief had fooled me with his magical tricks and got away."

Torque was impressed with how Tyler cleverly made his escape. He touched his chin with his thumb and rubbing index in an "L" shape and smirked, nodding, "That's one tricky fellow." Looks like the gentleman was going to have fight more than one of him if it comes down to it. Not that this was a problem as Torque has fought multiple guys before and won.

The Aquarian calmed back down and looked at him again, asking, "So what's your deal with him? You have any relation with him?"

The bounty hunter lied as planned, "Of course I do, that little bugger stole something from me and I aim to get it back."

The Aquarian commented, "So he's got another victim..." Then he advised, "You know? You should report this to the police. Maybe they'll have better luck catching him than any of us can."

'That's what you think,' thought Torque, amused by the idea of having to go to the cops for help. He pretended to go along with the tip anyway as he waved farewell, "Sure thing, ol' buddy. Maybe they'll help me out." The man walked away and left. Torque had only one clue of Tyler which was him being a conjurer-type of mage. This was knowledge for a fight, not where he will be next. The only way the bounty hunter will get to him is if he saw his face or wait until his next crime happens so that Torque will get an idea of where the conjurer will strike next. He could even research Tyler's crimes on a computer to learn more about his history. The man saw a casino ahead of him. Risking money for more money was

a good idea of fun for him. He could get the money he needs for furniture until he finds Tyler. Torque went inside the place to have himself a good time.