

((Note: This story is not canon to the RP. This section takes place during [Chapter 25](#).)

Katerina and Zee had a lot of fun playing various games and other activities at the carnival. They won prizes with the majority of them being small and the few big. The girl carried the small ones in her bag, while her friend held the big ones. They even purchased food to eat for dinner like hot dogs, burgers and even a banana split sundae. Katerina wished they had some vegetables to go along with them. Though fries were made out of potatoes, she did not really consider them to be proper veggies, since they were just fast food. Now it was nighttime and the two friends left the carnival satisfied with the good times they had. As they walked together, Zee smiled gratefully, "Thanks for taking me out to the carnival, Kat. This is the greatest fun I've ever had with you."

The girl grinned back, "I told you this would be exciting. Carnivals are a good place to go out and enjoy ourselves. I'll be sure to take you back to it next year. Hopefully they will have rides for dragons."

The dragoness asked, "What about tomorrow and the day after?" She would like to go back there again to experience the amount of joy again.

Katerina shook her head, answering, "I'd rather make this a once a year thing. I can't keep spending my money on a carnival each day when we could be saving for other stuff."

"Good point," Zee agreed. Then she asked, "So when do you think the next event will be here?" She wanted to do more fun things that humans did like go to a circus, watch a movie on the big screen, or eat at a food truck festival.

"I don't know," answered the girl. "I'll have to look it up in a newspaper or pick up a local digest magazine." She knew a few places where she could get such articles for free. Her eyes fell upon a hair salon that was ahead of her. Next to it was an art store. These were two convenient places that showed up on her path at the right time as both would have things she wants. When they got near the hair salon, Katerina stopped and told, "Wait here, Zee. I think there might be a magazine inside."

The dragoness simply replied, "Okay." Katerina entered the hair salon and looked around for a form of article. This place was bright with its white walls and counters. The hair stylist at the cash register greeted her with a welcome to this salon. Kat greeted her back with a simple "hi" and she found some business cards advertising services like event planning, charity, and graphic design. Only one business card had a special event, but it was a live concert inside a coliseum complex. There was no doubt that it was cancelled, thanks to the dragon rampage. The band that was supposed to sing was either dead or trying to survive. The girl left the salon empty-handed. Zee asked, "Did you find anything?"

Katerina answered, "No, just some useless business cards. I'll just go buy paint at this store. Our figurines could use some color." Hopefully with the figurines no longer being a dull gray color, the sales will boost. Humans were naturally attracted to things that had some shine to them. They adored beauty

as it was like candy for the eyes. If they were to choose between a DVD with a plain cover and a DVD with an iridescent one, they would be more likely to take the latter. She went into the art shop and walked down the aisle, looking for paint cans or preferably paint bottles and a brush. She came across such items along with a can of gloss spray and carried them to the cashier for purchase. After buying them, the girl left and rejoined her friend.

Zee looked at the bag curiously and asked, "So what did you get?"

Katerina opened the bag and showed her the purchases. She smiled and answered, "I got us some paint bottles to color the figurines with and gloss to make them shiny. What do you think?"

The dragoness liked the idea, "I think that's great! I bet they'll be prettier and catch someone's eyes."

The girl nodded, "I think so, too."

((**Note:** This section takes place during [Chapter 31](#).)

Zee flew on over to Windfall, carrying the apples she gathered when meeting Icefyre. She soared over the buildings and maneuvered around other flying dragons. She eventually got to one of the suburban areas of the city and landed down at the park where Katerina was choosing to sell their painted figurines. The dragoness walked up to her friend and dropped the apples next to her stand. She told the girl, "Look Kat, I got us some apples."

Katerina saw the pile of red fruits that were brought to her and replied, "Thanks Zee!"

"Anytime," said the dragoness. Katerina picked up two of the apples and washed the saliva and dirt off them with her water bottle that she bought from a vending machine. Once clean, the girl ate the fruit as she waited for the next customer to arrive. Zee ate her apples as well. Soon in the middle of her lunch, the dragoness heard her new friend, Icefyre, asking about Kat and why earth dragoness would live with a human. Zee told the blue dragoness that Kat is different from the other humans in that she is much nicer and could not relate to her own kind. However, Icefyre is skeptical about the girl not changing for the worse, but she will give her a chance to prove herself.

Katerina noticed Zee staring off into space with her mind seemingly occupied on something by the way her face looked as if she was engaging someone in a conversation. The girl asked, "Hey Zee." The dragoness snapped back to reality immediately when she heard her friend. "Are you okay?"

As Icefyre was asking Zee something, the earth dragoness interrupted her, *'Oh hang on, Kat's wondering why I'm so quiet. I'll be back in a sec.'* Zee responded to her friend, "Yes, I am. I was just thinking about a

new friend I met in the forest."

"A new friend?"

Zee said, "Her name is Icefyre. I told her about you and how nice you are, but she thinks you might change into a bad human someday."

"Really?" Katerina guessed it would be appropriate for a dragon to mistrust a human after everything they have been through with her kind.

The earth dragoness continued, "She said she'll test you to see if you really are good as I say."

The girl is glad that Icefyre is giving her a chance. She told, "Well tell Icefyre that she can definitely trust me the next time you see her." She would like to see what Icefyre for herself someday and see what she is like.

"Okay, I will," said Zee. She went back to her telepathic conversation with the blue dragoness.

Katerina saw another customer approaching and taking a look at her goods first. The woman settled on getting a gnome and the girl sold it to her. After the customer left out of earshot, Kat looked to her friend and said, "Hey Zee." The dragoness raised her head off the ground to give the girl her attention. Kat asked, "This Icefyre person, what is she like?"

Zee answered with everything she knew, "Well she's an omnivore like me and she only has one friend, but they don't talk with each other much... She likes apples and she doesn't like humans, because they killed her parents."

Katerina felt sad for Icefyre and sighed, "Oh no, that's horrible." She figured that Zee's new friend would have had a really bad experience with humans to be this suspicious of the girl's kind.

The dragoness shared the feeling, "I know and she even thinks that Windfall shouldn't have been built, because the humans here will never love dragons."

"She's definitely right about the humans," the girl agreed. "I still wonder why the dragons would just rebuild this place the next day after destroying it. I mean it's not like the humans are going to say "thanks for building back our city even though you killed us.""

Zee conjectured, "Well I said before, maybe there are some nice humans they found and they wanted to rebuild the city for them."

"That's just it, Zee," Katerina disagreed. "Sure, they got human friends, but most of us humans look down on their kind. One day they're going to find a way to overthrow the system we have now and turn

it back into the old one. And who knows when that's going to be?" Maybe not even Mayor Esteed, one of the dragon-friendly people who treated his slaves with kindness, or the Aquarians would be able to stop this situation from happening. This is one of the reasons why the girl has her home in the forest, it is to keep Zee out of a possible danger like this should a rebellion ever come. Talking about it now made her worried about the future.

The dragoness assured, "But Kat, we have plenty of guards around, they'll protect us."

"Yes, but humans can be clever sometimes. They may not have technology, but they can use magic to fight with. And did you see those Aquarians? They're all fire-type. The humans will use water and ice magic to weaken them."

Zee frowned as she was starting to get troubled by her friend's pessimism and worried that she could be right about the future. "What about the other dragons here? They can fight with different elements."

"Yes, that's true," Katerina concurred. "But who knows if the dragons will win? Humans are a majority in this city and they have used large numbers to defeat the dragons before." But then she thought about how only a small percentage of any human population were fighters as most were too lazy to risk their lives. This was the case in nearly every part of human history. This knowledge made the girl somewhat confident as she said, "But then again, maybe you dragons have a chance this time. If a civil war does happen, it'll probably be even on both sides."

At this, Zee started to feel a bit better. "I hope so, because I want this city to always be the place of equality, even if it seems impossible." She was still worried about the possible loss in the future. She was just getting to experience and enjoy human entertainment and she did not want to lose that.

"I hope so, too," said Katerina.

((**Note:** This section takes place during [Chapter 41](#).)

Katerina managed to get more than enough money for a business permit and went to a privilege license agency to buy it. Now all she needed to do was wait for about 2 weeks for the permit to arrive at her grandma's house. Now came the next day and Kat decided not to sell figurines today as she needed to keep a low profile until the permit comes. The girl and the dragoness were at the river cooking and eating the fish that Zee caught for them. Katerina torn the scaly skin off and then cut the fish in half to see which parts had the parasites or not. The ones that did were cut off and discarded. The girl let her fish cook on the fire for a while before she was sure that they were ready to eat. When they were, she ate them and spat out whatever bones her teeth found. Then the two friends heard someone nearby complaining, "Man, this sucks! There's nothing around here to eat!"

Another voice that sounded feminine encouraged, "Oh don't give up, Kakoli. I'm sure we'll find something eventually."

Katerina watched the two silhouettes walking in the distance. Zee smelled their scents and said, "Those are dragons, they must be out hunting. Think we should share our breakfast with them?"

The girl had heard that dragons were having a hard time finding food just outside the city. The release of all the slaves in the city must be dwindling the number of prey and plant food in the wilderness. But Katerina knew that she could not blame this problem solely on the dragons as humans were also part of the problem. They hunted and fished for sport when they had plenty of food from grocery stores and restaurants. The poor duo must be starving and Kat did not want to prolong the emptiness in their stomachs. She answered, "Yes, let's do it." They can always catch more fish from the river if they were still hungry. If neither one nor both of the strangers were meat-eaters, she can always take the apples from her home to give to them.

Zee replied, "Okay then." She called out to the pair of strangers, "Hi, looking for some food? We caught some fish at the river."

The dragons stopped and gave her their attention before they looked at each other. The smaller of the two said, "Well it ain't tasty, but it's still food. Be right back Shiba, I'm going to eat."

As her friend came running towards the river, the dragoness called Shiba says, "Ask them if they've seen some fruits, too."

When Kakoli got to the riverside, Kat could see that his scales were brown like a gingersnap cookie. He looked at the fish piked on sticks like kebabs standing up straight near the campfire from the ground their bases were sunk into. As the dragonet grabbed one of the sticks, Katerina told, "Take as much as you want. There's more fish where that came from."

Kakoli munched on the fish and Zee was about to catch some more when she noticed that the river is now devoid of any aquatic prey swimming around. The earth dragoness pointed out, "Uh Kat, there's no more fish in the river."

The girl saw the river and found out that her companion was right. The fish must have gone off down the watery path while they were eating. They were probably someone else's food right now. "Hey you're right. Oh well, we'll still share anyway." Then she looked to the dragonet and told him before he could ask, "And by the way, we have apples at home if your friend can eat them."

Kakoli spoke through the fish in his mouth, "Oh yes, Shiba can eat them; she's an aria."

The girl looked at Shiba standing in the distance with eyes strained to observe the details. She could see

a magenta tint on the shadowed body, a color definitely belonging to an aria dragon. This confirms Shiba's breed. "I see."

After they were done eating their meal, Kakoli put down his stick and asked, "So where's your house at anyway?"

Katerina corrected him, "Oh it's not a house. We actually live inside a cave."

This fact surprised the dragonet. "You live inside a cave? I thought all you humans lived in these things called houses."

"We do," Katerina answered. "It's just that I decided to live out here in the woods with my best friend, Zee." She turned her head to the earth dragoness to show him who was referring to. Zee smiled at him when he looked to her.

Kakoli asked, "So you're another good human? That's great! I know one myself; his name is Torque and he's a bounty hunter. Shiba met him first before I did. Have you met him?"

The girl told him, "No, I haven't and I'd rather not be around humans, even if one is good."

"Why's that?" asked Kakoli in confusion. After Katerina told him why she disliked her race, the dragonet replied, "Oh okay, I guess I can't blame you. Humans do suck after all." He continued with a smile, "But not Torque, that guy is full of action. He does all kinds of jobs fighting other humans."

Katerina stated, "He sounds like a brute if you asked me." Whoever makes a career of inflicting violence against other people were just asking to potentially throw their life away outside of law-enforcement. They were just idiots plain and simple.

Kakoli huffed with a frown, "You girls are no fun. How come none of you like a good brawl?"

"Because you get injuries and maybe even a broken bone. That's why."

Kakoli shook his head, "Sheesh, and to think I was going to invite you all to a dragon tournament I'm running."

Zee asked, "A dragon tournament? Are you looking for fighters? I'm not fighting if that's what you want."

"You don't have to, you can just watch them duke it out until we have a winner. That's all."

Katerina asked, "We're not going to watch dragons kill each other, are we?" She thought the dragon tournament would be just like human matches were they just compete until one was just simply

knocked out or surrendered. She imagined the dragons would be smart to not kill each other, but she asked just in case.

The dragonet answered, "No, no killing involved. I promise."

Then they heard Shiba calling, "Kakoli, what's taking so long?"

Kakoli replied loudly to her, "Don't worry, we'll get to those apples soon." He said to the two friends, "Hey can we go over to your cave right now? She's waiting."

Zee agreed that they have taken too long with this conversation. "Sure, we'll go there right now." To the girl, she said, "Hop on, Kat!" She laid down and let the girl climb onto her back.

Kakoli called to his friend, "Follow us, Shiba! We're going right now."

The aria replied, "I'm coming!" The dragons spread their wings and took off above the forest. Zee took the lead in flight as they made their way to her home.

As they soared, Zee started talking to the girl, "So, Kat."

"Yes, Zee?" asked Katerina.

"Do you want to see the dragon tournament? I thought it would be fair to offer since you let me participate in the humans' festival."

The girl smiled and answered, "Well if you want to go see it, then sure. I'd be interested in what kinds of games and activities you dragons do. You know? Your culture. I never really got to know much about it because of the slavery and all."

The earth beamed, "I know; but now that we're free, we can get to experience these things anytime we want to. I hope we get to see we get to see what else dragons do someday."

"Yeah, me too." Katerina would love to see if dragons have holidays, too. She could celebrate one with Zee. The dragons soon reached the cave and landed there.