

((Note: This section takes place during [Chapter 50](#).)

Darkness continued to trace Skaia's scent as the white hatchling followed after her. Their path took them out of the park and into the suburbs. They walked on the cobblestone road as they passed by a line of houses. Eventually after they went further, the suburbs around them began to turn into an urban area with shops of goods and services. Soon, they got to a marketplace with a variety of human vendors selling their produce, sweets and crafts to the public from their stands. Darkness walks into the square of vendors, but then she soon notices that Skaia has stopped and stayed where she was at away from the vendors. The black dragoness asked, *'What's wrong?'*

The white answered, *'That's where the big bad dragon is at. I don't want to go there.'*

Darkness guessed that she must be talking about one of the vendors. The poor thing must have thought the fruit they were selling was free to take, not knowing that she would be stealing it. Darkness told her, *'Alright, you stay here and I'll check if your father is still there.'* The black went into the marketplace area and began to look around for Skaia's human. Some of the humans there, both vendor and shopper, turned their attention to her with suspicious looks on their faces. The dragoness ignored them and continued to search. Unsurprisingly, the man was nowhere in sight, but she did find that his scent path stopped at a stand selling blueberries. This female vendor was probably the last one to have seen Skaia's parent. So Darkness asked her, "Okay, you probably don't like dragons at all, but have you seen a man with brown hair and wearing a turquoise, black and white top? His child is looking for him."

The woman looked surprised and said, "Child?! But this guy looks so young. Don't tell me he's a teenage father."

The mustached man from the stand beside hers said, "She probably means that little white scaly he had with him. Who cares if that thief lost him? She wouldn't be in this mess if she didn't try to take from me."

Darkness look to him and wondered if that was the "big bad dragon" that Skaia talked about. The racial slur he used made the black mad at him. She kept her emotion under control as she asked the two vendors, "Look, do you two know where he went the last time you saw him?"

The male vendor grumpily replied, "I don't know. Why don't you use that damn nose of yours to smell him out?" The dragoness would if she could, but too many human scents here on the ground made it impossible to identify Skaia's father from the rest.

The woman gave her a more helpful response as she pointed in a direction, "He went that way, if you were wondering."

Darkness felt grateful for the woman, but not for the man. She said, "Alright, I'll go see where he went

from here." Then she left the marketplace and rejoined Skaia. She told the hatchling, *'It seems your father is not there. We'll have to keep looking for him.'*

'Okay, I hope we find him soon,' Skaia responded. The two began to wander through the city streets with Darkness having picked a random direction on where to go since she had no idea where the young man had gone.

Soon, the black got on idea on how to make their search easier. She asked, *'Skaia, do you know where your home is? I could pick up your father's scent if I had something that belongs to him.'*

The hatchling replied, *'I don't know.'*

Darkness was not surprised by the answer at all. Skaia is an infant after all, so she would not have trained her mind to map out her surroundings and locations well. *'Well then, let's see if any of the Aquarians had seen him.'* They put off their search for the father to find a helpful Aquarian. The dragoness looked on both ground level and at the buildings' tops to see if any of the armored dragons were around. A little while later, they saw a gold dragon in armor eating a skinned animal body with no head or legs. She wondered where he got that meat from. No doubt it was from a factorial slaughterhouse, but do humans give away their prey for free? After approaching the Aquarian, Darkness said, "Pardon me, sir." He turned his head away from his food to give her his attention. "I was wondering if you have seen a brown-haired man with a turquoise, black and white top. His adopted daughter here is looking for him and I want to bring her back to him."

The Aquarian answered, "I haven't seen anyone like that, but I can get one of our magi dragons to help. He will warp you two over to him."

The dragoness appreciated, "Thanks! That makes things easier." There was a pause between them for several seconds until a bright flash appeared out of nowhere. Darkness shut her eyes instinctively to keep much of the light from hurting her eyes. She heard Skaia's startled shriek at the same time. When the dragoness opened her eyes again, she saw a magi dragon wearing similar armor to that of the gold.

The magi greeted, "Hi, I'm here to take the little one back to her daddy."

Darkness placed a talon on the hatchling's back and told him, "She's right here."

The magi lowered his head down to Skaia and asked with a smile, "Hey there, kiddo. Can you show me what your daddy looks like?"

Darkness told him, "She can't do that, because she can't talk yet. She can only use telepathy, but I haven't taught her how to send mental pictures yet."

"Oh, okay. Well teach her now so I can get this job over."

The dragoness complied and telepathically said to the hatchling, *'Skaia, I'm going to teach you how to give others mental picture. I want you to imagine what's on your mind, which should be your father and you are to will it into this orange dragon's head.'*

Skaia looked at the magi for a few seconds before he lifted his head back to its usual level and said, "Alright, we're going over to him right now." He used his teleportation magic to warp everyone over to Skaia's father. Darkness felt light-headed from the sudden change in scenery around her. It felt weird how one can be in one place at a moment and then in another place at the next second.

Standing before the dragons was the young man fitting the white's description. His "pelt" turned out to be a white shirt underneath a turquoise and black jacket. He jumped a bit in surprise from seeing the dragons suddenly appear in front of him as he cried, "Whoa!" Darkness noticed that his left eye was bruised purple. He must have gotten into fight with another human for some reason.

The gold Aquarian asked him, "Young man, is this your daughter?"

Skaia bounded towards the human and up on her hind legs to paw on his knee. She let out a joyous squeal in delight of being reunited with him. The human looked down at her and smiled, "Skaia, is that you? You're alright!" He picked her up and hugged her.

Darkness said, "I found her in the park looking for you, so I helped her try to find you."

The gold added, "It was a good thing she came to me. We wouldn't have gotten to you without his help." He looked at the magi.

The flattered magi smiled, "Hey, it was nothing. It's just a little job."

The human smiled gratefully at the dragons and said, "Thank you! I was really worried if something had happened to her somewhere. But I'm glad she's still alright." Then he quickly looked at Skaia in surprise as if something was going on with her.

The gold asked him, "Young man, is something wrong?"

The man replied, "Uh nothing, I just realized that I need to go home now. My uh...favorite show is on. Anyway, thank you all again." He began to walk home with Skaia being carried in his arms.

The gold smiled at the leaving family as he said, "I'm glad to see this family back together again. Are you?" He looked to Darkness for her opinion.

"I am," the dragoness replied stoically. Then she asked him an important question, "Anyway where did you get the food that you were eating?"

The gold answered, "Oh, the beef? I got it from a place called Marcus's Butchery. I had to pay the man gold to get this meat."

"Oh okay." Unfortunately, Darkness did not have any gold or silver on her right now to buy from humans. She would need to mine some and then have a human turn the ores into coins. For now, she would have to rest and then try her luck at hunting at night. The dragoness walked away and went to find a good place to lay down.

((**Note:** This section takes place during [Chapter 53](#).)

Darkness laid down next to a huge rock somewhere in the forest. Her mind thought about Skaia and how she was doing with her human father right now. She felt good with having brought the hatchling back to her family where she will be safe. The dragoness closed her eyes and began to nap to pass the time. But not a minute passed by when she smelled a couple scents approaching. She opened one of her eyes and saw a mint dragon with wings and a white dragon. They stopped before her and the mint started speaking, "Hey uh, sorry to disturb your nap. But we're trying to spread word about a dragon tournament our friends are hosting. It's nothing official or anything. They're just holding one to show their human friend what a real dragon tournament looks like. That's all."

Darkness asked, "A tournament just to entertain their friend? Maybe I'll go, but what's the prize?" She was not too interested in this tournament, but if they have something to change her mind with, she may just participate.

The mint answered, "Well they didn't say, so I don't know."

The white offered, "Tell you what, I'll throw in my healing crystal ball with the prize if it'll get you eager to fight. Yeah, we're looking for fighters right now and we thought you might be a perfect competitor, since you're a black dragon. So what do you say? Do you want to go in and win for a thing you can use to heal anytime?"

Darkness found the healing prize to be worth competing for. If she ever were to get into a harmful situation like with the red-haired girl who tried to kill her, then the healing ball would be useful. The dragoness replied, "I will think about it. Now where is this tournament and when will it start?"

The mint answered, "They said it was going to be at the ring of mountains next Saturday. So you have lots of time to train and get prepared."

The white told, "Better do it, because we got a few tough cookies participating, too. And be sure to tell

your friends and family about the tournament, okay? I'm sure our friends will appreciate an audience, too."

"Okay, I will," said the dragoness.

The mint gave the farewell, "Thanks, see you at the tournament!" The pair walked off and disappeared into the distance. Darkness closed her eyes and went back to napping until nightfall.

((**Note:** This section takes place during [Chapter 57](#).)

After a while of searching for prey in the woods, Darkness was still unable to find anything worth eating. The forest really was experiencing a shortage of prey. The city government needs to do something about this as no dragon in Windfall can be left unfed. Darkness's legs and wings eventually became heavy with tiredness. With no more energy to spend, it looks like it was time to go to home and sleep. So the dragoness began to walk on her way home. Her feet hurt from the steps, but it was better than having to sleep out in the open where she would risk getting killed by dragon hunters.