

((Note: This whole story takes place during [Chapter 12](#)..))

Nick flinched as the electric shock ran through him and let go as Akuma yanked free. He watched as the hybrid boy ran out and walked to the door, watching him storm off. "Ungrateful little twerp," the mage said bitterly as he closed the door and returned to the living room, wondering what he should do next. Shrugging, he walked into his study, picked up a book and sat down. He would do the only thing he had done his entire life, study magic. Still, he could not help feeling a pang of loneliness. If Akuma wanted to be a pig-headed bastard then that was his choice though. In the end, Nick would be alone anyways, so it did not matter what happens along the way anyways, does it? The boy looked up from his book. He had only been reading for 10 minutes, but he could not seem to focus. Closing the old leather tome, he got up and looked out the window. It felt like he was going on walks a lot lately. He did not know what else to do though. Maybe he should just leave and walk forever. He could if he wanted to. No one would even notice he was gone. He doubted anyone would even care. There was no one to care. The only few people, who knew who he was, knew him as a nuisance. Sighing and shaking his head, he left his study and headed outside. Maybe the fresh air would clear his head of these thoughts and provide a better idea.

Nick walked through the town with his hands sunken into his pockets, looking in the store windows as he walked by. *'I seem to be doing this a lot lately,'* he thought to himself, staring into his reflection in the one the store windows. Moving closer to see past his reflection, the boy scanned over the store before looking up to see what it sold. "Ancient Antiques," he read out loud to himself. "What a creative name," he muttered before pushing the door open halfway to look at what the store had in stock. It was mostly dusty old books and tit-bits of random junk here and there. Picking up a random book bound in old leather, he stroked the binding a few times before flipping it open and blowing off some dust. It was about necromancy. "Heh," he breathed out. Nick wandered aimlessly through town, moving through every major street. What does one do to fill an infinite amount of time? And furthermore, where does one find the motivation to do anything when you always have an endless amount of time to do it later? Opening a hand, he watched as a puff of wispy purple smoke rose out of his hand. Arcane magic, one of the most difficult schools of magic that one could learn. It was also one of the most unpredictable. The blast that granted him eternal life was arcane magic. It could have just as easily burnt him to a crisp or turn him into a rock. You could never tell, especially when the magic is uncontrolled. Looking around at his surroundings for the first time in a while, he found himself at a park. With nothing better to do, he plopped down onto the grass and lay back, watching the clouds drift by.

The boy watched as the clouds drifted by: a dog, a sheep and a dragon. He made a game out of it, trying to see what shapes he could make out of the white puffs in the sky. One of the clouds looked like a skeleton and it oddly reminded him of Kai. The thought of her brought a blush to his cheeks. He quickly hid it when he noticed, though no one knew what he was thinking, or paying attention, or even cared for that matter. He got up feeling a strange urge to go see the necromancer. Brushing the grass and dirt from his time spent lounging on the ground, he got up and made his way out of the city and through the forest, eventually ending up at the old shack that Kai called home. Reaching out to the door he hesitated

for a moment before knocking quietly. The door opened with a crack and the girl furrowed her brow at him. Her door had a small chain latch on it, keeping it closed for the most part. She asked in a snide remark, "And what do you want? Did I do something else to earn your criticizing, your holiness?"

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Nick followed her towards the river and shrugged, "At least you're company of a sort. The closest thing I have to a friend anyways."

Kai replied, "I'd expect as much from the soft-hearted. I'm not much of a friend either. I don't do anything for free."

The boy shrugged and said indifferently, "Good thing I'm not asking anything of you anyways." Walking over to the river, he crouched down and ran his hand through the cold waters. It felt good against his skin. He questioned, "So what do you do when you're not about stealing gold and digging up corpses?"

"Well of course I-" she choked off at the end.

Nick raised an eyebrow in response and hummed, "Hmmm."

She laughed awkwardly, "Play around somewhere or potion-making. Whatever suits me." The necromancer rubbed the back of her head. "And just what were you expecting to do?" she asked, her hands coming to her hips again.

Nick shrugged, "Well, I was watching clouds drift by before I came here."

Kai dipped down, splashing water from the river onto her face. "Watching clouds huh? Sounds like a wonderful time." She rolled her eyes and he stuck his tongue at her. "Well, what exactly do you want me to do for you? You detest everything about necromancy and thievery so I'm afraid I've run out of conversation. I don't think you're up for a drink either. So what? Should I just harass you some more? I'm pretty good at that I think," she said smugly, looking over at him. He crossed his arms as he thought about what she just said. He looked around a bit thinking of something to do before grinning mischievously. Quickly, he gathered a sizable ball of water from the stream and launched it at the girl before diving behind a nearby tree. This was either going to be very amusing and fun, or very painful. Kai did not seem to be the type to play around, but it was too late to go back now. Kai glanced over and flopped back, avoiding the blur of water. A glint appeared in her eyes at the challenge. She exclaimed, "Oh ho ho. Does someone want their soul to be taken?" She ran around the tree and tried to tackle him.

Nick jumped to the side, rolling as he landed before dashing for shelter behind a tree, his efforts doubling as Kai mentioned soul stealing. "I don't think that will be necessary," he laughed as he began to climb the tree he hid behind, aiming to attack from above.

Kai put her hands on her hips and called up, "Why do they always go for the tree? I can climb too, you know. Climbing a tree just traps yourself, twinkle toes."

Once in position above the necromancer, the boy smiled as two more balls of water formed in his hands. Launching one from above, he cried out, "Ah ha!" Kai swiveled to the side out of the way, though feeling an after splash on her leg. Her hands came down to her pockets as the boy's cry of glee became that of fright as the branch he was standing on broke with a loud snap. The girl took a step back. During his descent his robe, not exactly tree climbing apparel, caught onto the jagged end of the branch, successfully suspending Nick upside-down from the tree.

"Good job," the necromancer uttered. She moved forward, jabbing the middle of his forehead with her finger. "Sorry, but I'm the one here that's good at gymnastics. Not you."

Nick smirked and said, "I could be good at gymnastics if I wanted to, it's just the danged robe that's slowing me down." He was still dangling from the tree.

"Yeah sure," Kai said in a patronizing tone. "But...while we're here..." The boy was about to get ready to throw the second ball of water at her when she raised her hands and started to jab at his sides, particularly common ticklish pressure points.

The response was instantaneous. Nick began to squirm and giggle as he tried to pull away from the contact. "Mercy mercy!" he cried out. The tree was preventing him from getting away. He started to thrash more violently before he shook himself free of the branch that had snagged his robe and fell to the ground with an audible thump.

The girl lowered her voice, "Where was the mercy when you made me crack my head on the pavement? That's still bruised just so you know."

The boy mumbled quietly, "You smashed my face in with a door first..." The second the mage hit the ground, he quickly wheeled back and away from the girl, walking like a crab. "No fair!" he cried out. He mumbled, "My only weakness..."

Kai cocked an eyebrow at him, "Ohhhhhhh, that's FAR from your only weakness. Let's see." She looked up, starting to list things off on her fingers, "You're a terrible liar, you have a weakness about hurting and helping others, ticklish I guess, you're terrified of women, and there's always the little kiddie which I guess ties to the second one." She looked at him with a smirk.

Nick scoffed, "First off, I can lie just fine! Second off, I could hurt someone if I wanted to. Third off, why would I be terrified of women? That's just stupid." Nick scoffed as he scooted back before standing up and crossing his arms. Kai straightened up, rolling her eyes. She looked off to the sides looking bored. The boy looked away and sighed, "And he's gone now so it doesn't matter much, does it?" He looking

back at Kai and defended, "Being ticklish isn't really a weakness by the way."

"Alright twinkle toes," she looked back over to him. "You are terrified of me. Even before you knew I was female. So, it must even be instinctual."

Nick stuck out his tongue and protested, "Emotion isn't a weakness." Then he argued, "And I'm not scared of you!"

Kai corrected, "Oh emotions are a very big weakness. They make you vulnerable in every way. If you care about something, someone can use it against you easily. Secondly." The girl narrowed her eyes, "He's not dead, is he? I still call that a liability in weakness." She smirked again.

The boy frowned. "Eh," was all he said to that.

"That's what's nice about being a thief necromancer, see? I don't have to care about anyone but myself. My work revolves around death and using people and their bodies for my own means. Now that's a life of no weakness." She leaned down over Nick with her hands on her hips.

The boy shook his head. Kai laced her fingers behind her head as he accused, "Everyone has a weakness; it's just a matter of finding it. And another thing, what do you think makes a person want to use others for their own personal gain? How does one simply throw away empathy?"

She was quiet for a moment before making a small cough of laughter, "Quite easily actually. I have no weaknesses because I don't CARE about anything. I was never trained to. See it's really easy to not care; all it really takes is a bad childhood. I didn't grow up with parents or anyone for that matter. So it was very easy to distance myself from anything like empathy. I was never trained to care for others as a child. I grew up looking after me. So you see, I don't throw away empathy, I just don't even know empathy." She made a low chuckle.

The boy smirked. "Nonsense," he said. "My parents got blown up in a violent explosion when I was a child and I'm fine."

She advanced, jabbing him in the chest. "And just what do you have to smirk about? I know your weak points. You can't even pin one thing on me," she laughed, pushing past him.

He explained, "And who ever said you need to be trained to care about others? I was never trained. It's hard wired into us. Empathy is putting yourself in their position from their prospective of belief. Anyone can choose to do it; you just choose not to."

"Actually care is trained in people. It's trained by social interaction. But my interaction was being looked down on and treated like dirt. So it's very easy for me to dismiss anything like empathy. And if you don't believe me." She paused, turning on him again, "Try me..."

Nick shrugged. "Yeah, I got tons of social interaction. Locked up and left alone to my studies for literally hundreds of years..." He still thought she had no excuse.

Kai sarcastically asked, "Oh yes, silly me. Why would I expect someone who's lived hundreds of years to learn anything?"

"You should have more empathy then anyway if you were treated like dirt. You have felt what it's like to be the lowest of the low." He started, "You should be able to easily imagine what someone is going through and place yourself in their shoes. You know what the pain feels like, you know loss and solitude. You can deny that you felt anything, but I know that it's not true. Everyone feels emotion. Some people are just better at pretending than others."

The girl scolded, "Yes, I know what it's like, but I also learned that the only way to survive was to play dirty. Honest living unfortunately doesn't get you far in life."

Nick shrugged and said, "I didn't play dirty and look how far I got."

"Listen twinkle toes, you can preach to me all you want, but you haven't one ounce of proof to back yourself up. If I say I care for nothing, what can you possibly say against it? Nothing."

He stubbornly said, "I don't need to prove anything. Because I know you do care about something just because I don't know what it is, doesn't mean it doesn't exist. You can continue to live in your own self-delusion if you want. Search hard enough and you'll see there is something." He knew he was right, but he also knew that she could not be convinced otherwise.

"Yeah sure, you just keep telling yourself that, sweet cheeks." Kai waved her hand off at him in a dismissive manner.

He paused for a second staring at her intently. "Maybe you're right, I am a bad liar. But you on the other hand, you're a master at it."

The girl snorted in response. Kai folded her arms across her chest and smugly asked, "So did you come here for fun or to preach to me?"

Slumping his shoulders, he mumbled, "Fun."

Kai circled around behind him and entered the comfort zone, grabbing his arms and bringing her head around the side. Nick stiffened at the contact. She chirped, "So what does the mage want to do for fun? Surely you didn't come over for me to take your soul? Or would you like me to start a mess of trouble. I'm quite good at that and it's a heap of fun on its own." She snickered, "Just so long as you don't start making it rain again. That's just unnecessary. It really didn't help you at all."

The boy replied, "Not entirely sure. That's why I came to you." Kai gave a large shove, trying to push him face first into the tree. Luckily for him, he was able to put his hands in front of him and stop his face from smashing into the bark. Turning away from the tree, he fixed his robe and leaned back against the rough bark. "Whatever your idea of fun is," he offered. "You seem to be the one with all the ideas after all."

"I'm the one with the ideas? Let me just add on here...the ideas you don't like. I mean, my idea of fun is toiling around in necromancy. The thing you hate but..." She turned, smirking at him as the thunder rolled overhead.

Nick groaned, "Nnnngghhhh." Then he smirked, raising a hand. Thunder boomed above. "Hey, rain is tons of fun," he said. "I thought you would like storms with all the chaos they cause after all. Seems to fit your personality."

"I would agree I do have a chaotic personality. You know, hitting you in the face with a rock and all." She swirled her index finger idly.

He was about to go on some tangent about necromancy when he noticed shadows darting across the ground, curling around the tree the boy was leaned against. He tried to move forward away from them, but found out he could not move. They coiled around him and quickly bind him to the tree. The restraints went tight as he tried to move again. He said a bit worriedly, "Hey now, what's the meaning of this?"

She looked him up and down. There was a small chuckle at first that escalated into loud laughter. Then she asked, "So wanna try the chaotic factor then? I think it's only fair since I'm about to get a shower." She glanced up at the darkening clouds.

"Let's not tie up ole' Nick now. Just because it thunders, doesn't mean it's going to rain... Heh..." He did not know what she was planning or why it involved him being tied up, but he did not like where this was going one bit.

Kai tapped a finger against her cheek, "Oh yeah, except it does. In all reasonable nature. That is unless twinkle-toes makes it otherwise."

Nick rolled his eyes at her constant use of name "Twinkle Toes". He taunted, "I don't know about this 'Twinkle Toes' person, but I sure can stop the rain...if you asked nicely enough."

Kai cocked an eyebrow at him. She rolled her eyes and said, "Oh yes, ask the necromancer to ask nicely."

"Doesn't hurt to try."

The girl winked at him, "Oh in fact it can. You can be sure of that."

Then the boy choked, "Oh look at the time, I've got a really important....dentist appointment... Yes, dentist appointment that I must get to. It was fun, really it was, but you can untie me now."

She smirked, "Oh but I know you have the ability to teleport. Sheesh, if I didn't know better, I'd say you liked being tied up. Is this an offering to your local necromancer to eat your soul? I'm sure it'd taste quite sour, but all the same."

The boy stuck out his tongue and said, "A lovely offer, but I think I'll have to pass." He pressed against the tree he was bound to. "Teleporting is so anticlimactic though."

She continued, "Okay listen, I got your fun." She turned and raised a hand. A ball of darkness rose from the ground and one of her undead dragons crawled out. Its skin was mended to look new. The dragon seemed normal save for the empty look in its eyes. Nick narrowed his eyes at it. "You remember this one. The one you almost destroyed with stone. I fixed him, well...have your fun," she laughed, snapping her fingers. The dragon charged forward at Nick.

The mage narrowed his eyes at the dragon. "But in this case, I guess it doesn't matter," he said teleporting behind the tree and bringing out two stone pikes from the ground on each side of him, positioning them to be thrown at the dragon with his magic. "You know what makes a good battle better?" Nick questioned, smirking. "A good ole' thunderstorm!"

The clouds rumbled again overhead, causing her to make a small snort of laughter. "Mmm, sorry twinkle toes. You can roll around with the corpse in the rain, I'm fine where I am," she smirked, checking her nails. The canopy of the tree did a good job cutting out the pour of rain. The dragon's horns gorged into the tree that Nick had previously been tied to. Ripping them out, it turned on the mage again, plowing towards him and snapping its jaws.

Nick was satisfied after hearing the dragon's crash. Jumping to the side and throwing a pike at the dragon's leg, aiming to hamstring it, the boy swirled his hand in the air, rainwater forming into a bigger goblet around his hand. He threw it down to the ground in front of him and the dragon watched as it spread out across the ground, quickly freezing into a thick sheet of ice that continued to spread across the area. "This should make the fight more interesting," he said as earth spikes formed under his shoes, effectively acting as cleats.

The necromancer laced her fingers behind her head as she watched the fight ensue. The spike Nick threw pierced the dragon's leg. Despite this, the dragon's face remained the same and it did not stir aside from faltering in its run. The dragon stomped a foot and the ground rumbled. Stones started to erupt from the ground, spiking up through the ice and shattering it in places. The cracked surface made for more traction and it started to barrel towards the mage once more. Kai chuckled, "I forgot to mention, dead things can't feel pain. That thing won't stop till it drops." She grinned at him, "Don't

worry, I'm being gentle."

Nick shrugged and kicked off a nearby tree, sending himself sliding across what remained off the ice. It was easy for him to slide alone so quickly due to his smaller size. As he slid, he turned to face the dragon. He was still sliding across the ice away from the dragon, but he was sliding backwards. Raising his arms, he channeled a large portion of the flowing river into the air and towards the dragon, making Kai flinch. Suddenly clenching his fist, the water froze into many different sized icicles and continued to fly towards Nick's assailant. He smirked, "Good, because I'm being gentle too."

Kai raised her hand and a translucent purple shield appeared over top of the dragon, blocking the shards of ice. She purred, "Nuh uh uh, not letting you win that easy." She lowered her hand when all the ice had hit the ground.

The boy wrinkled his brow and called, "Cheater!" The dragon's purple shield faded.

Kai cocked an eyebrow and chided, "Since how is using my magic cheating? I do hope you are aware that you are in fact, fighting me indirectly. My toy wouldn't move without my saying so, so I can use my magic all I want."

The dragon continued to hobble towards Nick speedily, dragging its injured leg without the slightest care. It created a stone wall behind him and dove at him from the front. The necromancer's hands went back around behind her head, lacing once more. Nick backed up and, in a bright purple flash which made Kai squint her eyes briefly, turned into a full-sized stone dragon. The ice underneath him crackled and shattered under the immense weight of his new form. Turning his entire body, he whipped his tail around like a giant mace of solid stone, aiming directly for the undead dragon's head. "Take this you smelly zombie," he rumbled, his voice sounding like the deep rumbling of an earthquake.

The necromancer made a small snort and teased, "Running out of options, are we?" The green dragon raised a stone pillar, blocking the brunt of the attack. It shattered with a loud clash, giving the dragon time to duck as he was pelted with debris. Kai raised a finger thoughtfully to her chin, "Hmm... We'll try this." She snapped her fingers. The green dragon reared up, smashing its claws onto the ground. The green responded, shaking violently in an earthquake contained to a small area by magic. The ground started to split and give away under Nick's feet.

A slight smile found its way onto Nick's lip as he got an idea. The ground crumbled under him and he began to fall as lightning struck nearby with its light causing a blinding effect. He took advantage of the temporary cover and closed his eyes, his stone body cracking and falling away like an outer shell. From inside, he shot into the sky as a gray dragon almost as fast as the lightning that gave him this opportunity. The green looked into the hole for a moment. Kai furrowed her brow and lowered her hand. "Hmph, run then," she muttered, looking at the skies next. Her puppet was still fixed blankly on the hole now.



Looping over in the sky, Nick touched down very lightly behind Kai, using the storm brewing above to help cover his movement. Lunging out surely from behind, he aimed to grab her in his paws. "This seems pretty direct of you ask me," he said snickering, the laughter coming out as a raspy flow of odd growls.

Kai's shadow moved. A blanket of darkness shot up, smashing hard and fast into the gray dragon mage's chest, making him stumble back. The necromancer watched that with interest. Purple energy rippled at the point of impact and around his form before fading away again. The darkness took shape into a pitch black Shadow Walker. Kai turned on her heel, smirking and sniggering, "Oh, sneaky, sneaky. But I'm afraid that doesn't work with me." She gloated, "This is my special dragon. You'll notice most shadow walkers are white. This is a special one that shares the same fondness of dark magic."

Nick gave her a toothy grin and a mock bow. "I have my own defenses as well," he mentioned before backing off. The shadow walker growled in a rumble as it remained still in its composure. Then the gray teased, "Wouldn't want to get aggressive and break you, so I'll let you be."

Kai cocked an eyebrow. "Break me? Ha, not likely. Even as...petite as I am, there's a reason I've survived so long in my business, twinkle toes. Looks like you're the one running here," she mocked as he shot back into the stormy sky.

"Hate to break it to you, but how old are you? Twenty? That's not that long."

The necromancer retorted, "Actually, that's a quarter of a typical lifespan for a human. So yes, that is a while." The shadow walker melted back into her shadow. She grinned, "My friend is a bit out of human league. See he can shift between plains of existence. Which means you can't touch him. But he can touch you."

Then the gray dive-bombed the green dragon as he smirked, "Good thing that I'm not human now, isn't it?" Electricity shot off his body and spun around him.

Kai said in a snide tone as she looked at her nails again, "Actually you are human. You're just like the rat that got into the radioactive sewage."

"I was human once, but my accident changed that. My DNA was completely rewritten. Humans can't use arcane magic." It was true; humans could not directly control arcane magic. If they tried, it would rip them apart at the molecular level or some equally horrible side effect.

She grinned, "Yeah, yeah. You're still human at your core. As I said, just a rat that got into some radioactive sewage. Don't worry, one day you may be as cool as...oh what was that show? Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles?"

Nick stuck his tongue out at her TMNT remark and said, "Believe what you want to believe." He began to rotate during his fall, aiming for the green's side.

She scolded, "You forget I can be its eyes too." The green whipped around and raised a boulder from the ground, launching it at Nick in his dive path. Nick stopped his spiral and opened his wings completely to rapidly slow his decent. He shifted back to his human form after he had slowed enough and kicked off the boulder right as he touched down onto its surface. He raised two more earth pikes from the ground, this time though their tips glowed and pulsated a deep purple color. Raising his hand, and in turn, one of his spears he waited for the dragon to make its next move. Kai sniffed briefly. "What in the..." she uttered, looking around. She looked at her dragon, sinking it into the ground away from the smirking Nick and pulling it back up by her. He lowered the spear was about to make some extremely cleaver and witty remark, but then he noticed her expression. She leaned forward for a brief sniff of the earth dragon. The boy did not even have to ask as the earth began to rumble. He could smell it, too; the scent of death filled the air. She frowned, "Either there's another necromancer nearby or someone just moved an entire cemetery." She paused, looking at the dragon, "And just look what you did to its leg. Tsk tsk." She moved over, mending it with dark magic. The skin of the dragon twisted and contorted, mending back together like yarn until only a smooth surface remained.

Backpedaling until he reached Kai with his earthen spears drifting alongside him, Nick asked in a semi-hushed tone, "What did you just do?"

Kai pet the leg of her dragon, dusted her hands and stood up again. She turned around, pausing as Nick had scrambled over to her. "Scared, are we?" she laughed. She smirked at him, "Oh please, twinkle toes. I was just playing with you. You're not worth the effort of summoning my whole collection. You're not that special."

A smirk found its way onto his face and he asked, "I'm not THAT special?" Kai snapped her fingers and the green sank back into the ground. "So I'm some kind of special, huh?"

She smirked and said in a sly tone, "Oh yeah. You're some kind of special alright."

Nick narrowed his eyes at Kai and said, "Hey now, let's not go there."

"Curious though," she walked off through the forest and into the clearing where Windfall sat in the distance. Nick followed her and he cringed as the smell of death got worse. Over to the side they saw many corpses trudging from the forest. Nick's eyes widened at them along with two dragons and a human hovering overhead. Her hands came to her hips and mused, "Huh. Someone has a wolf fetish. I think dragons are a much better collection. They're stronger, more diverse for more jobs, and come in all sizes."

Nick replied, "Yes dragons may be better, but they are harder to get as opposed to wolves which are easy enough to find and kill." He asked, "But that's beside the point, do you have any idea who could be behind this?"

Kai stared out into the field of zombie wolves thoughtfully and cleared her throat. She mused, "No clue. Didn't know of any other necromancers around here. Though, they could be strays however unlikely." The necromancer looked over at Windfall and muttered, "I imagine this is going to draw attention soon?"

There was a rustling from the forest behind them, making them turn curiously. Rika emerged, slowing to a stop a few feet away. She adjusted the bow on her shoulder as her mouth sloped into a slight frown. She growled at Nick, "Oh, it's the babysitter. Are you making all this racket? I'm trying to hunt."

He bowed to the huntress mockingly. "Oh yes, that undead army is my doing, please forgive me." His words dripped with sarcasm.

Then Akuma appeared flying down to the trio, jittering his wings into a folded position. He stared at Kai and asked, "Hey, you're a potion master. Can you heal that guy?" He pointed a wing to the blonde-haired man in black clothes in the distance. Nick paid him no attention at all, not even as he turned to look over the undead horde. His eyes did not pause for a second as they passed over him, looking past the hybrid boy as if he did not even see him.

As Akuma and Kai talked, Nick watched the wolf army vanish as quickly as it had appeared. Not even their smells were left behind. "Strange," he muttered to himself. He looked to the two newcomers, a dragon and a human, but it seems the dragon could shift as he saw him landing into human form. People were showing up fast. He looked over all the faces. He knew Rika, Kai and Akuma, but the other two were new faces. '*So that makes five,*' he went over in his head. He wondered how everyone had gotten here so quickly and out of seeming nowhere, too. Rika was hunting dragons it seems, Kai was with him, but he did not know much at all about these two newcomers. It was strange that the wolves showed up when they did; he shook his head. As for Akuma, he did not really care.