

The Dragon Sisters, Part I

1. Birthday Surprise, April 26, 1997

When her twin daughters, Amber and Dawn turned 18, Pauline had some shocking news for them. Her husband, Benjamin, was there also.

"I am not your biological father. I have known this for a long time. I am infertile," Benjamin said.

"Do you know who our real biological father is," Amber asked.

"He is a dragon. He looks a lot like the creatures of mythology, though he does not breathe fire like his mythical counterparts," Pauline answered.

"So not only do these creatures actually exist; they are capable of producing half-human babies," Dawn inquired.

"I know it is a lot to take in. I can tell you exactly where I found him, or perhaps more accurately, he found me," Pauline said. "His name is Zhaluoka, though he will let humans call him Zach if have trouble pronouncing it. He is approximately 30 feet long, 10 feet tall, has a roughly 50 foot wing span, and weighs about two tons. He is one of the largest dragons, which may be because of his age. I saw him and the others fly, which amazed me given their size. He carried me in his arms as he flew me back to his herd. His skin is dark green, though his color brightens when he is horny. He is missing part of his left horn, and he has a brown oval birthmark on his right shoulder. Dragons do not keep track of dates well, but he estimated he was about 900 years old, and some dragons live well past 1000."

"I guess this explains why we are so much taller than you, though I am not sure why it would not be more apparent," Amber replied. Amber was about 6 feet and 2 inches tall, and Dawn was about 6 feet tall. "I have always thought that my sister and I were 100% human."

"I don't know. I know you did not inherit your height from me." Pauline was only 5 feet and 6 inches tall. Her husband was 5 feet and 11 inches tall.

"Where did you find him," Dawn asked.

"He found us in an obscure wilderness area called Longfire Grove. It is about two miles north of a small parking lot. The parking lot has a sign with an image of a dragon breathing fire and the words, 'Here be dragons' " Benjamin answered.

"Why did you go there? There are lots of stories of people who go there, and disappear without a trace," Dawn asked.

"We heard about the dragons and we were curious. Besides, in vitro fertilization was quite expensive," Pauline replied. "I haven't looked into it but I suspect it still is."

"I hope I get the chance to go there," Amber said.

"I'm wary. They are large predators. They might just decide to eat you. Besides, your vegan diet may be off putting to creatures that only eat meat, especially if you try to explain animal rights to them," Dawn replied.

"We were with the whole herd for about one week. None of them threatened us in any way. Zhaluoka told us that humans are considered their kin and anyone who kills a human without provocation can be put to death. The other dragons backed him up on this. Hunger is not a defense, so killing humans to eat them is strictly forbidden. That said, there was one female dragon they caught and executed for eating humans about 100 years ago," Benjamin replied.

"That is reassuring, but it sounds like some of them would still eat us. I would still want to bring a gun just in case," Dawn replied.

"I wonder how people will react if they find out we are part dragon," Amber said.

"No one will believe it. They might think we are crazy if we bring it up," Dawn answered.

"I have a funny story about that. Zhaluoka told me he could get me pregnant after we told him that Benjamin is infertile. I responded, 'PROVE IT!' He said there was only one way he could think of to do that. You can probably guess what happened next," Pauline said in a jovial tone. "Though in reality I do not think it takes much coaching. Dragons love sex, and they are not shy about it. I asked Zhaluoka if they ever had sex in private and he said it was rare. They also speak about sex in great detail, and they have a rich sexual vocabulary."

2. A Dragon's Divorce

Amber married in 2001 and Dawn married in 2005.

Amber's marriage was going well. She had married a fellow vegan and animal rights activist named Noah. She told him about her mother's story that she was part dragon. He laughed it off, after saying it would explain why she is so tall.

Dawn's marriage was more tumultuous. Her husband, David, was constantly jealous and occasionally violent. She got a divorce, finalized on December 10, 2013 and took their three children with her. David insisted on a paternity test. It confirmed Dawn's fidelity but also revealed that her DNA was roughly one half reptilian and her children's DNA was roughly one fourth reptilian. The species could not be identified.

Shortly after Dawn left, they had the following conversation.

"How could you," David asked angrily.

“How could I what,” Dawn replied.

“Leave me,” David said.

“Because you would never let me do anything on my own,” Dawn answered.

Common sense would suggest that Dawn did nothing to become half dragon. If there were anyone to be angry at, it would be her mother or her biological father. The judge said little to Pauline, who was there throughout the proceedings. She admitted that her twin daughters were half dragon and said she didn’t know how it was possible for a human and dragon to produce a child together. The judge asked her to describe the dragons and she gave essentially the same description she gave to her daughters 16 years earlier.

The court granted David full custody of their three children, with a semi-coherent ruling that discussed how one could never trust a dragon. Dawn appealed, saying the decision was arbitrary and discriminatory, but the appellate court affirmed without providing any reason.

3. The big decision

Amber and Dawn faced the biggest decision of their life, whether to search for the dragon society that included their biological father. Their mother was supportive, but cautioned them to bring some weapons just in case. Earlier, Amber was the enthusiastic one, but now she was more cautious while Dawn was enthusiastic. In the year after her divorce, Dawn only got to see her children three times, and she did not think seeing them that infrequently was much better than not seeing them at all. Dawn struggled to get in touch with her children because her husband would not answer phone calls.

However, Dawn still talked regularly with her mother and stepfather, and she decided not to leave them behind. When they died, she would consider it again. Amber agreed.

Pauline and Benjamin were in surprisingly good health for their age. However, on June 12, 2016, they both died in a car crash. Dawn and Amber were at the funeral, as were Amber’s husband and children. Dawn called David and left a message about Pauline and Benjamin’s death that he never responded to.

As Pauline and Benjamin’s closest living relatives, Dawn and Amber had a lot to take care of. It took them about seven months to sort out the estate. In January 2017, they began seriously planning their trip to Fire Fish Grove, though their expectations were quite different.

Amber imagined spending a week or so with the dragons, and she planned her trip accordingly. She packed about a week’s worth of supplies.

Dawn was fired from her job in December 2016 and the manager explained it was because she was conceived through bestiality. Dawn explained that she did not even exist when the

act took place. She compared it to the discrimination people conceived out of wedlock faced for centuries. Then she talked to an attorney who said there was nothing he could do because dragons are not a protected class under antidiscrimination laws. She was so fed up with society that she considered joining the dragons permanently. Thus, she packed a huge bag with clothes for all seasons, as well as a wide assortment of dried food and easy to open canned food.

4. The Quest

Amber told her husband, Noah, about the planned trip in January 2017. He was baffled. He wanted corroboration. Amber suggested he speak with her sister Dawn. Noah called Dawn and they talked for about half an hour. He could tell she was very lonely. Dawn talked about losing custody of her children and losing a job because of something they knew she was not responsible for. She brought up the trip, and said she was so fed up with the way people treated her, that if she found a society of dragons, she might look into what it would take to join. Dawn also said that she has spoken with Amber about the trip several times and each time Amber insisted that she planned to stay no more than a week or two.

Amber got two weeks off for Christmas, while Dawn was still looking for a job in early 2017. That seemed like the perfect opportunity to meet dragons. They both observed Christmas, and then on the next day Amber drove Dawn to Longfire Grove. The drive took about two hours. Then, they watched and waited for a few hours. Eventually, they would have to pitch a tent to stay at night.

Dawn saw what looked from a distance like an airplane. She alerted Amber, who said, "Look at the wings flapping. That is not an airplane. It is by far the largest flying animal I have ever seen."

"I hope this dragon is as kind as the ones our mother spoke about," Dawn replied.

Dawn then went into a large wooded area to retrieve her bag. This meant Amber would encounter the dragon alone. Dawn retrieved her smartphone and was ready to retrieve her gun if needed. She was already recording by the time the dragon landed about 30 feet in front of Amber.

The dragon began, "My name is George. What is yours?"

"Amber," she responded. "I think it is funny that you share a name with a mythical dragon slayer."

"It is a name I came up with for humans who cannot pronounce the real one. When I am ready, I will reveal my real name to you," the dragon responded. Dragons typically had one name for each language, or fewer if the languages were similar. George had a lot of names in English alone, which might have scared off Amber if she had known, as anyone with that many aliases is probably up to no good.

Amber began looking at the dragon. His horns were intact and he had no birthmark, though there were other injuries, including the fact that he was missing most of his tail, as well as a claw mark on his left arm just below the shoulder.

"You are half dragon. I can smell it," George said.

"That is why I am here. I wanted to know more about dragons, and not just the legendary kinds," Amber said.

"We have heard a lot about those legends from humans contrasting the legends with what they found. People think dragons can breathe fire and like to destroy villages. None of that is true. But a lot of humans are most worried about getting eaten. Our herd kills dragons who do kill humans without provocation, as do most of the other herds we come across," George replied.

"Do you know my father? Mom said he has a broken horn and a big birthmark on his right shoulder," Amber asked. "She said his name is Shaluoka."

"His name is Zhaluoka. He is a member of the Council of Elders. He is at least 900 years old. Most dragons do not live anywhere near that long, but there are two or three members of the herd who are older than him. I am the one in doubt. We do not keep track of ages precisely, so all that is known is that Zhaluoka is approximately my age. I believe I am slightly older than him, and he believes he is slightly older than me," George replied.

"What is the Council of Elders," Amber asked.

"They are seven dragons who make decisions about a lot of both serious and trivial matters, though for some of the most serious, such as criminal cases, other dragons have a say in the decision. Also, the Council of Elders is all elected, though it is very rare for someone to be voted off the council, as it was generally the most popular among us who got chosen anyway," George replied.

"How many of you are there," Amber asked.

"There are about 200 in our herd, though we are not very good math, so none of us could produce a better estimate. I do not know how many herds exist, but I came from another one as an early adult as part of a member swap, and I have been around for about 30 of these member swaps since then. Cutting out two duplicates leaves about 15 herds that we know of."

"How have you managed to avoid being noticed by humans for so long," Amber asked.

"I don't know. Maybe is some grand conspiracy between your government, the Catholic Church, the Illuminati, the Rothschilds, and whomever else," George replied.

"So you are a conspiracy theorist, then," Amber observed.

"I don't know what a conspiracy theorist is, but I think some people postulate too many conspiracies. I was joking around because I do not have a credible answer. I don't even know what the Illuminati is or who the Rothschilds are," George replied.

"What brought you out here," George asked.

"My mother told me who my real father was, and where she found him. After she and her husband died about eight months ago, I started to deliberate over taking a trip out here. I thought this would be a good time since I am off work for a while."

"Do you mind me asking how your mother died," George asked.

"They both died in a car crash," Amber answered.

"I hate cars. They are little pollution factories. There must be a better way to get around," George replied.

"I wish we had something less polluting. For what it is worth, I have a plug in hybrid," Amber explained.

"What does that mean," George asked.

"It means that the car runs on electricity most of the time, but has a small gasoline engine for when the electric charge is depleted," Amber answered.

"I guess that is an improvement, but it depends on where you get the electricity," George said. "How many humans are there anyway?"

"The last number I heard was 7 billion," Amber replied.

"So, did you come out here just to observe, or do want something more like your mother did," George asked.

"Are you asking whether I want to have sex with you," Amber asked

"Yes! Get your clothes off, they will get in the way," George responded enthusiastically.

Amber took off all her clothes. She was so excited she did not think to look down and see if George wanted the same thing she did. George slowly approached her. While he had started about 30 feet away, now he was close enough for her to reach out and touch him.

"Could you roll over," Amber asked. "I think you are too big to be on top."

"Oh, you think I might hurt you. I know what I am doing," George answered.

Amber was starting to get nervous. She started backing away from him toward her bag, where she had a loaded handgun and some extra bullets. She noticed that he had been slowly walking toward her, so that now his head was right above her. He quickly grabbed her in his mouth and swallowed her whole in about two or three seconds.

Dawn had been recording the entire encounter on her cell phone. She put it down and looked for her gun. She walked out of the wooded area, pointing her gun directly at George's head. "COUGH HER UP NOW OR I WILL SHOOT!"

"I can't do that. Dragons cannot cough things up. Our digestive system is one way."

"YOU SHOULD HAVE THOUGHT OF THAT BEFORE YOU SWALLOWED HER," Dawn shouted angrily.

"I'm hungry," George replied.

"THERE IS PLENTY TO EAT OUT HERE! BESIDES, I DON'T SEE HOW YOU COULD LEARN OUR LANGUAGE AND STILL SEE US AS FOOD," Dawn said, still furious. "What do the other dragons think about this? You said a few minutes ago that you could be executed if you killed her without provocation. Was that the truth, or were you just trying to gain my sister's trust?"

"You won't believe whatever I say," George replied. He then ran and started flapping his wings and he was soon airborne. Dawn could not believe a creature his size could fly, but she was not too concerned about that. She turned her gun toward him and aimed for his hind legs, hoping to shoot him but not strike her sister, in case she was still alive. He screamed in pain as she struck his right buttocks, but he kept going, his altitude steadily increasing. She took a second shot and missed.

Dawn then went back to her bag. She put her gun back in it, and then she retrieved her cell phone. She called Noah. He recognized her number and answered promptly.

"Amber is dead," Dawn told Noah.

"How did it happen," Noah asked.

"A dragon ate her whole. I made a video of it. Do you want me to send it to you," Dawn answered.

"I guess. I have to get the word out," Noah replied.

"I will send you an email then," Dawn answered. "I have to conserve my phone battery because there is no way to charge it out here. I feel like I got her into this."

"Didn't your mother tell you that the dragons had agreed to kill any dragon who killed humans without provocation," Noah asked.

"Yes. I hope I can find one who actually believes me. I am sick of being treated as less than human because one of the dragons was my father," Dawn answered. "Do you want to know exactly where I am so you can get her stuff?"

"Yes," Noah answered. She promptly gave him the coordinates on her phone.

Dawn then hung up and sent Noah the video she had mentioned. After she sent the video she turned her phone off. She figured anyone she cared about would leave a message, which she could get when she turned the phone back on.

About 10-15 minutes later, three dragons arrived about 30 to 50 feet in front of her. She did not initially see them because she was crying so much.

"I am Zhaluoka. I am one of seven members of the Council of Elders of Ivakashnie. There are my assistants. On my left, which is your right, is Dlakavu. On my right, which is your left, is Ksumiaf. It is easy to tell who is male and female. Females have brown skin while males have green skin."

Dawn looked at could tell promptly that Ksumiaf was the only female of the group.

"Is this your first meeting with a dragon," Zhaluoka asked.

"No, another dragon ate my sister about 15 minutes ago. My sister's name was Amber. She was practically the only support I had left. The dragon said his name was George. He admitted it was not his real name. I don't think he wanted us to know who he was. He managed to convince Amber he was horny and she took off her clothes." Dawn answered.

"Could you describe him? We don't recognize the name George," Zhaluoka replied.

"He has a claw mark just under his left shoulder, and most of his tail is missing," Dawn answered.

"His name is Roipfkho," Zhaluoka said. "Which way did that heartless monster go?"

"He went that way," pointing almost straight in front of her. "If you find a bullet that missed and fell to the ground, that will tell you that you are going in the right direction. My mom said I am half dragon. She said my father's name is Zhaluoka," Dawn said.

"What was your mother's name," Zhaluoka asked.

"Pauline. She came here with her husband, as they could not conceive a child together. His sperm count was too low. Nobody could figure out what caused it. She said she couldn't believe that a dragon could get her pregnant so she asked you to prove it. She also said that another member of the Council of Elders had sex with her husband, as they did not him to

feel left out, though it sounded from her account like dragons don't need a reason to have sex," Dawn answered.

"You are my daughter. Was your sister my daughter as well," Zhalouka asked.

"Yes, we were twins," Dawn answered.

"Most of my human children disappear into your society and I never see them. What prompted you to come out here," Zhaluoka asked.

"I divorced my husband because of how he was treating me. I thought I would get custody of our children, but he asked for a paternity test, which revealed I am half-reptile. My mother answered truthfully about her encounter with you. The court awarded my husband full custody, and has ignored my repeated complaints that I never get to even speak with my children. My employer found out, I would guess from my ex-husband because he was one of the few who knew, and he already had a track record of vindictiveness. My employer fired me after nine years simply because I am part dragon. I feel like I have nothing left to go back to," Dawn answered.

"I believe you, and I think the other dragons will too. We can tell by your scent that you are part dragon. We can also recognize individuals by scent. Even though we had never met, I was able to tell by scent that you are my daughter. Roipfkho has a long history of expressing hatred toward humans, and an even longer history of lying whenever it suits him. I think with your testimony we will be able to convince the others that he is eating humans, and he has probably eaten a lot more that we do not know about. We have been unable to do anything because there were never any witnesses. The same thing happened with his mate Luzhkor; she was executed about 100 years ago," Zhaluoka replied.

"Roipfkho mentioned that, but he never said her name nor that she was his mate," Dawn said.

"Knowing him, he probably told your sister about how we would kill him if he ate her, and then said something different to you after he ate her, hoping you would not trust us," Zhaluoka replied.

"He told her the herd would kill him if he killed her without provocation. I asked if he had just said that to gain her trust, and he just I probably would not believe whatever he said. No, actually, if he stood by his earlier remark when it was no longer to his advantage, that would make me believe it. If he had changed his answer, I would not know what to think. I caught the whole thing, up to when he swallowed her, on my cell phone. I have it turned off to conserve power, since I have no way to recharge it out here, Dawn answered. "How big is the herd?"

"There are about 200 of us. Good luck showing that video to everyone. Offer to show it to the ones want to see it," Zhaluoka replied. "Have you shown anyone the video?"

"I sent the video to my sister's husband. He was only one living human I could think of who knew I was part dragon and was ok with it. I wonder if dragons who think like Roipko might take sadistic glee in watching that video."

"I think the only dragons who think like Roipko would be some who are too close to him and will want to destroy the video so he gets away with it," Zhaluoka answered. "I hope the humans do not conclude that we are all like Roipfkho. I have been around about 900 years. Roipfkho is about the same age I am though we do not track it as precisely as you do. There are only two members of our herd, both female, who are definitely older than me. I have already figured out who all the troublemakers are. I can tell you who to stay away from. So, are you willing to come with us? You won't have all the technology you want, but most of the herd will welcome you once they know what happened," Zhaluoka asked.

"I noticed you fled in here. Is there a safe way you can take me so I won't fall," Dawn asked.

"We just carry you by folding our arms under you. That is exactly what I did with your mother. We will carry any of your belongings you want to bring," Zhaluoka replied.

"I have no idea what I have gotten myself into, but I believe you. I need to think about whether I am joining you for life or just long enough to put an end to Roipko," Dawn replied.

"There are not a lot of humans who join us long term, but let us talk about that later. I have to get the word of what Roipfkho did. He was flying low and slow when the three of us past him and he exclaimed that he had been shot. Considering what he did, I do not anticipate any charges against you for shooting him," Zhaluoka said.

"Ok. I will bring my bag over here. This is my sister's bag and I am leaving it for someone to find. I told my sister's husband how to find this place. I hope he is the one who finds it," Dawn replied.

"Have you let anyone know where you are," Zhaluoka asked.

"I told Noah, my sister's husband. It took us about two hours to get here. So he and/or whomever he has told should be showing up before sunset," Dawn answered.

"We need to get out of here before the humans show up," Ksumiaf said.

"I concur," said Dlakavu.

"Ok, I will carry Dawn. One of you needs to carry her bag," Zhaluoka replied.

"Is there a way to seal up this bag so stuff doesn't fall out of it," Ksumiaf asked.

"This zipper," Dawn replied. "I'll close the bag." She did in fewer than 10 seconds, and then Ksumiaf lifted the bag.

“Do you want to face my chest, or do you want to face down,” Zhaluoka asked.

“I like facing down. I have more interesting scenery that way,” Dawn answered.

Then they took off. Zhaluoka advised Dawn that the flight was likely to take about 90 minutes.