

Master 851

Chapter 851 Rescue

"Do not worry child. We will remove any pathetic attempt those humans may have used to enslave you. Dragons are proud and mighty, they do not belong with ants." Midnight responded with growls and struggled. She knew if she could be free she could at least glide down from the air as best as she could.

"Your mind is clouded by them. I will have you freed. Just try and resist until we get to the village. Once there I will take some of the younger dragons to defeat them and teach them a lesson." These words caused Midnight to struggle even more.

"Sister, I am with you. I will make sure that Brother finds us and that you are not alone. Do. Not. Worry. I am here. You will not be alone." Onyx had left Walker's body and changed to a tattoo form on Midnight while the ice dragon Illia was speaking and throwing around her gluttonous desires for food. He knew too well that the dragon was not going to just forget the party.

Meanwhile...

"I don't care what we need to do but we are going to get Midnight back!" Walker was not in his best state of mind. His rage had grown much stronger than it ever had. He couldn't even think back to a time he had gotten angry in general. Between him and Lisa, the two had always been able to tough out any negative feelings they had. Their parents had always been there to help them get through things.

"Damn right we are getting her back! Not a single person is allowed to harm my family. Midnight is my sister too!" The fury Su had was making her eyes slightly red. She was just as agitated as Walker.

The sharp slap that rang out silenced Walker and soon rang out again to silence Su. "Shut your mouths and listen well." Remey stood in front of them without any restraint from the wandering blacksmith or Gil. "Midnight is our family too. You are letting your bonds with her rule your minds and push you in to a rage. Su, you are always calm. Yes, you are the draconic guardian that would protect Midnight, so we will go to her and protect her."

"They didn't even listen! We could have explained." Walker just mumbled slightly.

"And we will go and make them listen. If we need to, we will use force. But if you get some berserk skill and head there, what do you think Midnight would think? If you go there and slay a single dragon, what will she think?" All of Walkers' and Sus' responses caught in their throats. Remey was more than right.

"Sorry, but we are taking you on a wild trip. No more chopping ice and gathering and chopping at stone. It's time to be serious. If you have any hammers that are best for breaking dragon scales then be ready." Gil didn't joke around at all when he told the wandering blacksmith these words. He was serious. If the party needed to fight a dragon to get Midnight back then that was what they would do.

Remey had managed to calm Walker down and he was slowly thinking of a plan. He needed to be ready beyond what he had ever been and having every possible thing at his disposal was necessary. He stored away the food he had taken out and started to pull weapon after weapon out. His thoughts were simple, equip the best weapons possible before rushing in to the battle.

"Onyx, we are heading right for where that dragon went. It was not an ancient dragon so it would have a village with one. Maybe an ancient will be more reasonable. But you will need to share our thoughts when we get there so we don't give anything away."

There was only silence as a response.

"I'm angry too Onyx. So much that my blood boils and I don't want to defend. I want to attack. But we need to plan. Let's focus." Hearing Su struggle to hold herself in a semi calm state made Walker want to yell again. But Onyx, he, was still silent.

"Onyx, what's wrong?" Walker looked at his arms and shadow to find that there were no serpent tattoos showing where Onyx was supposed to be resting. "Where's Onyx?"

The question hung in the air for a few minutes. Everyone checked their body where they would have seen his shadow ink tattoo. Yet, they found nothing. "Walker, you can sense Midnight and Onyx through your connection, right? Where are they?"

Gil knew that there was more to this and felt that Onyx may have made a very good decision. Walker instantly felt the two connections that were part of his soul. He pointed toward the higher mountains. "There. They are up there. We will be climbing." Waker began toward the higher mountains. He did not hesitate at all and nor did anyone else.

The only person that was not part of the party was the wandering blacksmith. However, his face was crumpled up in pure disgust. He had grown close to Midnight through the crafting and learning endeavors. The thought that she had been taken from the party, her family, made him feel sick and angry to his deepest depths. He may be a blacksmith, but he was going to fight to get her back in any way he could.

While the party headed toward the higher mountains, Midnight landed on the ground after being released in front of a larger stone carved cave. It was carved out of the mountain but in an elegant way that would take anyone years and years to create. It was more easily described as a temple of sorts. The smaller buildings around were also carved from stone but had been set up to stand free. There was not a soul around until the frost dragon Illia roared softly.

Chapter 852 Midnight's Fear

"Lady Illia, you've returned. Did you find any more...You have a child now!?" The woman that rushed out was no doubt a dragonkin. Midnight could see the tail and small wings on the woman's back. There were also small patches of scales that showed off a water elemental affinity. But what put her aside from a dragon that shifted in to a dragonkin form were the eyes. Dragonkin had human looking eyes whereas, a dragon retained the dragon eyes.

Many other dragonkin left the stone houses and walked about seeing that Illia had returned. "This is a rescue. Poor thing was forced in to a taming contract after, no doubt, she was stolen from her mother and father. I will bring her to the elder for the filthy chains to be removed. Please prepare a small nest for her afterward. She has champion blood. I am sure you can all feel it."

The dragonkin who heard these words were on the move faster than anyone else would have predicted. They were lower in the hierarchy of the village because they served the dragons for their lives. This was not a new occurrence and making a nest for a dragon was a simple matter. Besides serving they were also the ones known to become draconic guardians. The highest possible honor for any dragonkin.

Midnight was still not let free. She struggle now and then when she would feel the grip loosen but soon found that it would tighten closed again and again. Illia was not a fool to believe that Midnight would just roll over. "Worry not. The elder will clean you up and you will have the true freedom to soar the skies. By the time you are my age, you will have forgotten this."

The resounding growls from Midnight were bordering on rabid. She hated the fact that Illia had just suggested she would forget the memories she had now. There was nothing more valuable to her in the world than the time she spent with the party; her family.

The carefully carved cave shook slightly as a growl reverberated along the walls. Seven dragonkin rushed out while Illia walked through toward the center of the cave. "Esteemed elder. Please pardon me for interrupting your slumber."

The cave was dark but it was slowly lit by light crystals carved and placed in to the ceiling and walls. They had been uncovered to reveal a dragon with pure blue scales. The horns were not sharp like Illia's but instead, they were smooth and sloped along with the dragon's neck. The tails came to a round end and water seemed to flow around the dragon's entire body.

"You wake me to ask another question? You know I am a pure water dragon. I am not a frost dragon. I have told you many times yet you bother my sleep when nothing has changed in the village. Go and bother that steam dragon cousin of mine." The growl resounded again out of pure annoyance after the elder dragon had been woken.

"This is not something so small. I have rescued a dragon champion from filthy humans that forced her in to chains. I am here to ask your help and clean her so she may grow the way she is meant." Illia rose to her full height and released Midnight in front of the elder dragon.

A single eye opened and slowly but surely, the elder dragon focused on Midnight. The pressure she felt was much more than any other monster or person she had met. This was not some small being but an elder dragon bordering on the ancient level.

The eye closed and a rush of cool mist blew from the elder dragons' nose. "You are foolish and young. Did you speak to them and ask about this little one?" The condescending tone was enough to cause real damage to anyone but Illia tried to remain tall.

"Of course I did. They were stealing the centennial ice I created and did not even offer anything worthy of it when I found this dragon trapped. I rescued it and even left them alive to be punished later after we have cleaned a dragon soon to grow in to a proper champion. You know how rare a dragon champion is. They are more powerful than the royal dragons!"

"Silence!" The roar was barely even a word and more of a domineering order. "Ah, I am sorry little one. I can hold back more. I forget myself when a fool speaks." Midnight was visibly shaking and Onyx was ready to jump out at any moment.

"This little dragon has a blood contract. You are old enough to be able to sense it. Not only that but this little dragon is also bonded with a guardian! You have taken her from where she was at home and forced her here for a belief you have no proof of." There was a lighter tone as not to scare Midnight but it was clear that there was a significant amount of anger in the elders' voice. "Do you know the shame you have brought by doing so?"

"I refuse to believe that a human and dragon are equal. Even the guardian was a human. It is disgusting. Humans only torture those they make their pets. They make them fight or chain them down. Worse of all they force them to carry them without rest. You know this and if you will not help then I will take this champion to someone who will free her!"

Illia started to reach to grab Midnight again. The elder dragon was done with the tantrum of a younger dragon and shot up from the laying position she had been in. The two caused the entire cave to shake and a few stones to crumble. "Sister, we can not wait for them any longer. I am going to use my skill." Onyx broke his silence and prepared.

Chapter 853 Call For A Hero!

The noise from the two larger dragons trying to put their will above the other just added to the fear Midnight and Onyx held. She was too small compared to the other two dragons that had lived for hundreds of years. She was also too weak. She knew that one of them could stomp down in their anger and she would be gone for good. She and Onyx might not make it out alive.

Onyx had the same feelings. He had the skill and he was going to use it. He had been told by everyone including Walker, that the only time he should use it was when he was in major danger and far away from the rest of the party. The call for a hero skill. Onyx and Scylla had gained this skill when they helped the party in the forest elf training.

Onyx may have been a member of the party but he did not have a hero title and therefore, received the call for a hero skill. This was even better though, now he could call on the party from where they were and hopefully they would be brought here faster. If he remembered the skill description correctly, there was only the downside The situation had to be dire. For Midnight and Onyx, the situation of being stuck in between two angry fighting dragons was dire. The hope was that the world would see it too.

The two screamed out with all their might. The drastically warped hiss and the loudest roar that Midnight could muster came together. The sound was small in comparison to what the two larger

Dragons still openly arguing. But Onyx had managed to use the skill even with the dependent requirements. The natural mana around them pulsed slightly.

The party was on the move faster than they had ever climbed and ran. The wandering blacksmith was just as determined as he pushed up the mountain. The hyper alert looks on their faces made them jump and prepare for battle at every single stone dropping. It was clear that they were on edge but even more so that they were expecting the worst from the dragon that had just stolen Midnight and Onyx from them. Not that it knew it had taken Onyx.

When Walker, who was at the lead of the group, stopped, the party was expecting the worst. "Feel-" There was no time for Walker to tell the party about the pulse in the natural mana and the sudden feeling of spatial in front of them.

"So you are the ones that have dragged me from my OWN pocket dimension to teleport you? Ugh, kids. I hate quests you know. But no matter what dimension or world I go to I have to be bound to the worlds' system. Not that it's a bad thing but it's a lot of work getting levels up when you surpass four hundred."

There was a seemingly faceless man in front of them. The only way that Walker discerned this was a man was due to the voice he had heard complaining. On top of this, the only thing they could see was a black cloak. Nothing other than that could be seen. It was the perfect way to hide what he looked like.

"Come on brats, I will teleport you all to that screaming snake and dragon then leave. And so you won't bother me again take these scrolls. I hate being taken from my dimension. I am almost able to create a planet in my space. If I hadn't been pulled away I could already be done with that!" The man threw a bundle of at least five scrolls at Walker and then waved a hand creating a white tear in space.

"Walk through here and you will be at whatever is screaming in my ears. That stupid will of the world quest calls on me for the dumbest things. Penalty for not completing the quest, screaming of the victims until you save them or complete the quest. Ugh, no one else seems to have penalties!" The man was rambling while the party was still frozen. However, Walker could feel that Midnight and Onyx were through the white tear in front of them. The man may be a mystery and so was the way he used his skills to create spatial tears. But that was worthless at the moment. Walker could only think about Midnight and Onyx.

"Move it move it move it. Yes, I am the dimensional step Alabaster. Yes, the stories are true. Yes, I have been alive for over four hundred years. Yes, I can step through dimensions. Yes, I am over level four

hundred. And no you can not be my apprentice. Heard enough? Then MOVE!" there was anger in his voice and a force started to push all of them through the white tear.

"Thank you for your service in completing my quest. Never call me again and never let the world call me again. Bye brats!" The white tear closed and the dimensional step Alabaster was gone. Nothing but a wisp of steam left in the air from his voice. Little did he know that the stories about him had been degraded so far that not even children's story books had him in them. Only the oldest books spoke of him and they were rare after so many years since he had vanished from the world.

While Alabaster left to return to where he had been before the system had interrupted his attempted experiments, the party felt as if they were no longer anywhere. The pure white that somehow seemed to be moving around them was suffocating. Both in the meaning that it felt too close and stifling and in the fact that there was no air.

For a fraction of a second, they felt that they had been trapped somehow and would die themselves, but in the blink of an eye, everything had changed. They were no longer in front of a mountain, instead, the sight that greeted them was terrifying.

Chapter 854 Elder Water Dragon

"Dragons." The whisper that escaped Gil's lips spoke of more than just dragons. It was the sheer wonder that came with seeing not only one dragon but a much larger dragon that towered over them.

The entire party was struggling to take in this sight since they were witnessing two arguing and loud dragons which had Midnight right in between them. The mana that radiated from them in waves seemed to crush their spirits. However, this was nothing compared to what Walker and Su felt now.

Su was off like an arrow, she used her maximum speed and slammed the dual shield together in front of the frost dragon Ilia. "Your pathetic claws will never touch Midnight!" Taunting a dragon much more powerful than she was not wise but for her family? It was a no brainer.

Walker already had the twin blitz swords out. He moved faster and stepped in to the air to be at the same eye level as the water dragon elder in front of him. Midnight was protected on all sides but still, the others rushed to her.

Gil had four arrows notched in his bow while Remey had her fire affinity knuckles gnashing together in her hands. The two forging hammers that the wandering blacksmith had were two of his most durable

made from a dark metal alloy he had created himself. When Onyx revealed himself coiled around Midnight at his largest possible size, it was as if they had all prepared for a life or death battle.

The tension that escalated by the second was tangible. No one dared to move while they looked at each other. It was inevitably broken by Illia, The large breath she took in was cold but the aura that came off of her was even colder. "You will be frozen to the very core of your souls for enslaving an innocent child!"

"Cease your mouth and attack or I will call you to the main village to bow before the royal dragon court!" The large elder water dragon focused only on Walker. "A human who dares to stand in challenge before me. I would say you are foolish since I feel how weak you are, but your reason is what makes you strong. Stand at ease, I will greet you a little better since you are family to the little champion there."

The shifting of blue scales and flood of water that shrouded the large elder water dragon would cause anyone to lose their bearings. It was too much motion and everyone that saw it became dizzy unless they were accustomed.

In a matter of a minute, the size of the elder water dragon had condensed and changed in to a dragonkin form. It was wondrous seeing the smooth horns before vibrant blue hair. The scales shifted to flowing blue robes. And even the wings became smaller and folded neatly behind her back. She was not old looking as anyone would assume an elder would be, instead, she was the picture of youth.

"Now, you should be more comfortable speaking with me looking this way. My daughter here has insulted and kidnapped your family. It has brought shame on our names and I do apologize. I understand what it means to lose family and can not imagine how you felt at that moment. I do not understand how you used teleportation but it is an impressive skill."

The shift in the atmosphere was enough to cause any of them to feel beaten around. The frost dragon Illia had stopped her attack after the threat of the royal dragon court and then she had shifted to such a warm appearance and apologized. It was a lot to take in with their hearts beating like hammers.

"I know you are a little flustered, but it is proper to answer an elders' question and introduce yourselves. Especially when that little champion needs to learn some proper manners from another dragon." A small amount of the pressure that they had felt before slipped from the elder water dragon and caused them all to come to reality and focus on the situation.

Walker had used his air ripple skill to step through the air and remain in position. He was burning mana and had been prepared to push as far as he needed to in battle. But now, he could feel the drain on him and he stepped back to the ground. "I-I, I am sorry for the slow introduction. My name is Walker, this is my family. Gil, Remey, Su, Onyx, Midnight, and our newer member who is more commonly known as the wandering blacksmith. I do not have spatial skills but for a storage skill. Another teleported is through some white tear in space to get here because Onyx called for our help."

Walker was very on edge saying all of this but it was clear that the elder water dragon expected politeness within its home. This was something that they could all feel would end their lives if they disregarded it.

"Ah, how refreshing. That is more like it. Now, Walker, I am Adair. I am a water dragon and my father gave me that name when I was born between the oaks near the river. I am surprised that little dragon received a name with meaning as well, she most certainly has scales like the dark of midnight with stars peeking through. I should assume you are the one that names her? I can see you two have a connection."

It was safe to say that they all felt naked in front of the elder water dragon Adair. Her eyes would focus on them one by one and seem to glean more information about them every single time. It was exactly the same as when Walker would use his all around appraisal skill, but more domineering. It was something only the powerful could do.

"If you have the time Miss Adair, I can gladly tell the story. However, can you please allow us to check my little sister and little brother for wellness?"

Chapter 855 (1) Dimensional Step Alabastor

[some other time]

The winter was in full frosty and snow outside the window. The entire home shook slightly with every gust of wind. Three children cuddled close to a roaring fire to remain warm while a tall man wearing a blanket held a book. "I met this man once in my life, so I can tell you that these stories must be true to a degree. I had to dig for some weeks through the libraries before an elf friend of mine gave me a book about him. His name was the dimensional step Alabastor."

The two boys and a girl nudged each other to stay awake to hear the story. They looked forward to their fathers' stories every night. It was the thing they loved most, they heard plenty at school or out in the city. But hearing them from their father was more than they could ever want. The stories always felt more real and held hidden details that they felt more after learning.

"The adventurer Alabastor had received his system in a time where the cities you know did not exist. There were ruins now which were in their prime when he walked the world. The adventurers' guild which is very old now was non-existent then. Instead, there were more mercenaries and hired muscle for those that tried to scrape out a living. Territories were less marked and more held by the strength of will."

The three children tried to imagine the world in this way and could not find a way to properly see it. They had only known the hand-crafted amazement of the city they grew up in. Imagining ruins and battle-worn towns was not something they had ever experienced and were too young to even see them yet.

"Alabastor had lost his parents to a territory war and found himself alone in a rundown village. Without any path to travel, he made a decision on what he would do. He chose to become strong and create a place for him to find happiness. This desire pushed him to ignore the system he had yet to block and find his village chief."

"After hearing Alabastor's words, the chief had given his blessing. They were always short on food and hearing one boy ask to leave the village to journey and become strong was a boon on its own. Every little bit of food saved could help them survive the winter in the village."

"Alabastor left that very day. He took what he could from his home and equipped himself with his best traveling clothes. He knew of a large town nearby that could hold the things he wished to obtain. But he found he could not hold everything he wished to take. That was when he saw a small burst of words in front of eyes and heard the single ding of the system activating."

The man watched as the three children leaned toward him in wonder, "The story says he awakened his dimensional traveler system that very day with a skill like this," The man pulled three pieces of chocolate from the empty air. "He gained the pocket dimensional storage skill. A little different than this but amazing still."

"The second skill he had from his system was known as the spacial step. He could step through space and teleport short distances. When he met a group of travelers besieged by wolves he pulled a kitchen knife and used the spatial step to ambush every single one. In total his first act of courage was to slay fifteen plain wolves."

There was awe painted on the children's faces. Slaying fifteen wolves was something that none could do at level one of their system. But for Alabastore, it was simple. His skills had allowed him to do so with ease.

"The merchant in the rescued caravan was stunned to see a young boy being so vicious. But what was even more was the use of spatial . users were rare and known to be reclusive in those days. Many were physical fighters and in the eyes of this merchant, Alabaster was a passing genius that saved their lives. He naturally offered a great reward if Alabastor would travel with them as a secondary guard."

"None of the hired guards could oppose the idea since they had seen the battle prowess first hand. That was how Alabastor gained his first small claim to fame. The merchant that had seen him and the spearmen that were hired as body guards spread his story like wildfire when they reach the large town of Lyre."

"He was received by the large town merchants group one day to grow in to the merchants' association and eventually to split over trade deals gone bad. The offer to become a body guard for their caravans was a job that most mercenaries and hired muscle would fight tooth and nail for. But when they heard the story of Alabastor, they did not grumble. Any who challenged him found that he would have a kitchen knife to their throats before they battle was even a minute in."

"Of course he didn't use a kitchen knife for long. The merchant that he journeyed with passed down a dagger made from a minotaur horn from the wild beats plains. Apparently, a demigod of tricks and forging had created a monster maze trapping wild beast men there. But that is a story for another day. Alabaster had only ever used one weapon after receiving that."

"The next years of Alabastors life were full of small tales. He would face bandit groups using his spatial step skill and cause them to flee in fear. Monsters were unable to lay a hand on him and merchant groups flourished when he guided them. For a teenager, he had built up the experience and name of an esteemed bodyguard."

"Is there more?"

"Yeah, dad? More?"

"He was a bigger hero than that, right?!"

"Well, I can tell you more. But that's if you will be able to keep your eyes open. He was still not known as the dimensional step Alabastor at that time." The smirk that the man held on his face made the three children want to prove him wrong and remain awake all night to hear the full story. But that would prove futile since their drowsiness took hold of them and they were swiftly put to bed with dreams of adventures in their minds.

"I promise to tell you all the rest of the story later. Sleep tight." The man walked back to the large library they had been in and placed the book back on to a shelf. "I wonder how many of these I can fill before I am old and grey. Maybe my friends will come to share some of their stories during the holidays. It's been a little while." The man wandered back to his own room where a small snoring woman was dreaming away already.

Chapter 856 Safe And Sound

"Of course. I was getting a little ahead of myself. Please, assure your little siblings are safe and sound. And you, Illia, leave and go think about your apology to these travelers. They may have touched your ice but I know you do not mark the area to warn off travelers. Nor did you have a proper reason to kidnap their family without [properly speaking with them!]" The ice dragon Illia flinched from Adia's words and left the cavern as silently as possible. She knew that arguing would bring her only misfortune and pain.

Having one less domineering presence in the carved cave was enough for all of them to relax to a degree and huddle around Midnight. She was no longer shivering in fear but she was far from alright. Her body had no injuries but she and Onyx had been shaken. "Brother, I am sorry for leaving without saying anything but I wanted to make sure sister was safe."

"You did very well. You even called for us and the world heard it. I don't know how that man was able to send us here but we owe him a lot. I'm just glad you are both safe." Onyx and Midnight were not so weak that Walker could actually crush them but the two acted as if he was squishing them to death when he hugged them both. Onyx had been quick to change his size to a more manageable level after Illia had left the carved cave.

"Sister says that she tried to escape but was trapped. She and I were sure that you would come." It was good to hear that Midnight had not given up on trying to get free but hearing that Onyx and Midnight knew to wait for them was good. They would have come no matter what and everyone in the family should know that they would never be left behind.

"A pure water dragon and a frost dragon. You all really know how to make it to amazing places." Zephyr had left the bow as soon as Gil had retracted the four arrows he had notched and ready to go. Gil still had a firm grip on the bow but Zephyr was completely relaxed.

"Aren't you cute? A pure water dragon is very rare. When I was born they hadn't even been able to fly yet. Now dragons' wings are so large. It's wonderful seeing the world change. I love this adventuring stuff."

"It is an honor to meet a grand spirit such as yourself. I hope that you feel at ease here. I know wind spirits prefer the open air." Adair was very respectful to Zephyr showing that she recognized the great difference in age between them. However, there was a slight twinge when Zephyr had called her cute. It was sure that the term was not her favorite but she would never react negatively to a being older and in certain ways, more powerful.

Seeing the actions of Zephyr stunned Gil but no one made a move. Su was still checking over Onyx and Midnight before giving her own hugs. Remey was trying to look as if she was completely calm but an occasional quiver of her lip made them all know that she was just as worried as the others. She continued to do this until Midnight and Onyx both pushed their heads to her shoulder and received a small head pat each.

The wandering blacksmith had been lost since he heard Walker introduce him as family. It had not set in just how attached and close he had grown to all of them. He knew they were more than business partners and more than just friends. But he had not openly said what they were. But it was true, they were family now, and when Midnight and Onyx had been taken he knew that he might not be wandering far and wide anymore. He wouldn't be able to deal with the feelings of loss he would have without them all in his life.

"Safe" The rough hands on their head next was another comfort. The emotion on the wandering blacksmiths' face also showed that he felt the same as the rest of the party. It was a touching moment that Adair did not interrupt. Her own heart was full seeing it and she was making mental notes to lecture her daughter in time.

"Ehm, Thank you for giving us the moments we needed. I can tell you how we all came to know Midnight if you would like. But it has been a while so the stories of our adventures after that can take a decent amount of time." Walker faced Adair and saw that she was not perturbed at all by a long story.

"You are so young and naive. Your long story is very short to me. I am almost an ancient water dragon. To tell my stories you would have to sit for years on end without rest." The amusement in her statement was not missed. She may be a very powerful elder dragon but she still had her own emotions. To her, these were nothing but newly hatched babies trying to act like those older than themselves.

While Walker told the story the rest of the party would chime in here and there. Onyx eventually began to speak up as well when he had joined the party after hatching. The constant small growls and huff from Midnight were also understood by Adair while she listened closely. Every now and then she would ask a question and glean more information. But after she had heard everything she had one question for the party and Midnight that was going to be the deciding factor in what she would do.

"Do you believe that the little champion can grow safely and properly with you? Or should I take her under my wing and teach her the ways of the dragons?" The question floated in the air waiting for a reply.

Chapter 857 Dragons To Avoid

The question put everyone on edge again. They could not imagine Midnight leaving them and staying with the dragons. It was clear that by the time Midnight grew up to the dragons' expectations they would long have passed away to the land of spirits. There was also the fact that without her they wouldn't feel like a complete family. Midnight was a very important part of who they were and they were a part of who she was. There was no removing one from the other.

"Midnight is my little sister, even if we are not bound by natural blood we have a blood contract. She is as much a part of me and I am of her. I believe that she can grow stronger and safely with us. We have faced situations that put us near death but that has made us more powerful and resilient."

Walker paused for a moment before speaking again, "But if she were to stay with you she could learn more about what it means to be a dragon. I can see the benefits to both of these things. However, it is not my decision to make. Midnight can choose what she desires to do and how she wishes to live. I will not force anything on her."

"Little champion, do you hear him? Your older brother has said that you have a choice to make. But that isn't really what will happen, is it? You already decided to stay with them forever, haven't you?" Adair was smiling knowingly even before Midnight gave a soft purring growl.

"I had to ask as a final test. You all seem well bonded with one another but I had to be sure. If even for a moment I sensed ill will toward this little champion I would take her away from you. Champions are very

rare for dragons and represent a great deal to the royals who fight over the laws that bind dragons and dragonkin."

This was all information that the party more or less knew. The royal dragons' valued the champions more than anything. However, there were many grey areas that the party did not know. "I have to tell you though, you will need to travel to the main village. The royal dragon court will need to see the dragon champion and the draconic guardian paired with her. It is by our laws and even those who are not familiar need to follow them. But you have time before you should do so. The court will convene with the little ones like you in seven months' time."

It was a heavy announcement but Walker had the feeling if they did not attend there would be some form of loss or battle. The royal dragon court sounded as if it had an eye on every corner of the world where dragons were concerned.

"Can I ask why they meet with the younger dragons in seven months?" This time Su was seeking the answers. She wanted to know why it would be necessary. This first encounter with dragons seemed to be setting a dangerous precedent when it came to Midnight and other dragons.

"Yearly there is a time to meet the ancients and royals. The court holds that in seven months. It is for the young dragons to not only have their bloodlines tested and to find mentors but also for them to know who rules them. Not that this little one will need to worry much. Champions will be able to move independently once they have a royal dragon's support."

"And if Midnight does not want the support of a royal dragon?" The fact that Midnight would only be able to do what she wanted with the support of a royal dragon was not sitting well with Remey. She believed that everyone should have freedom and that extended to monsters like Midnight and Onyx. Even the goblins had their freedom, so why wouldn't a dragon.

"If she does not then she will be able to be stolen away as a champion for another royal dragon. They have a skill that bonds a champion to them to fight for them and stand for them. That is how they deal with their law decisions and when different villages fight for territory. She has no choice." Adair spoke as if this was just a way of life. An unavoidable way of life that could not be changed.

"Do you know what the skill is called? How it performs? What effects the skill has? How much mana it cost? What it is dependent on?" The flurry of questions surprised Adair. She had not expected Walker to be so interested. She had been told he had the jack of all trades system but to her, that just meant that he was able to learn a great deal of human system skills.

"I do not know what you will do with the information but, the skill is called champions coronation. The royal dragon will recite an oath to the dragons and themselves. The champion will repeat it. Then they drop a single drop of their blood together and light it ablaze with fire breath from each of them, or the breath attack that each dragon has. My illusion mist breath and the frost breath Illia has as an example. This is common knowledge most parents would teach their children." Walker was smiling, it sounded like there were no hidden requirements for the skill.

"That is one thing that strikes me, you found this little champion with a mother who called out with a roar instead of words and no father in sight. It must have been a fairly young and impulsive dragon. If she was a dark dragon it sounds as if she was forced from the nest. The skeletal dragons are not the kind to settle down and the odds are her father took the mother on a journey then abandoned the two. It is a common occurrence but if the little champion and father ever meet, do not fight a skeletal dragon." This was another minor shock. None of them had expected to be told not to fight a skeletal dragon.

Chapter 858 Just How?!

"Miss Adair, why would we avoid fighting a skeletal dragon? Would it be hard to speak to them about why they made certain decisions?" There was anger painting Gils' face. He had always feared that his father wouldn't come back from a hunting trip. This made him a bit more attached to the times his father returned home. The thought that a father could choose just to leave, even though a different species of dragon, made his heart shake with anger.

Midnight on the other hand was not conflicted at all. She could tell that a male dragon might have left regardless. The dragons lived for exceedingly long periods of time and having both parents around at all times was a tough possibility. But she did understand that she would have not been with the party if he had been around?"

"Speak to a skeletal dragon? That is an odd proposition. They prefer to speak with the undead over the living since they share some qualities. They are battle hardened wanderers who choose not to have a village. The only time they are ever seen in the royal court. Even arrogant battle fiends will show face there. But, do not forget my words. I am much older than your elders, my advice has weight." The stern tone shook them a little. Her words could not be taken lightly. "And back to you, why did you need to know about the skill?"

"Well, I can learn every skill. We may have set out to forge and gain materials to prepare to craft a dwelling weapon for a nature spirit. But I figure I will have to learn and use the skill to make Midnight my champion so she can have her freedom. Not that a hero should be bound to any race anyway. A hero should be free to stand for all life in whatever form it takes." The minuscule ripple in natural mana

caused Walker to pause. He could feel his spirit mark react to his statement. A smile blossomed on his face feeling Fleur react.

"Are you truly saying you can learn a royal dragons' skill? I have never met another race that is so arrogant. It's not even rude to say something as such. It's completely ludicrous. You're a human." Adair was awestruck by Walkers' reaction and response. She was sure that the human before her was crazy.

"If it is that unbelievable, then please listen and tell me if you hear what skill I am using." The entire party knew what was happening and Midnight jumped forward with Walker. The two took in a deep breath and before Adair could say a word they both let the breath escape them.

The cave did not shake. But it did echo. Midnight's roar was expected. But the loud sound coming from Walkers' mouth was the very same, if not louder. The dragon's intimidation skill took the form of a domineering roar that would put others off for some time and even cause them to fall in a completely stunned state.

"That's impossible. You're a human. That was a dragons' roar. I have never- no that shouldn't be possible. Even dragonkin can not perform a dragons' roar unless they are a draconic guardian and have been granted a drop of the dragon they guard blood for their bloodline oath."

"Miss Adair, I need a bloodline oath to guard Midnight? But I am already a draconic guardian." Su caught on to this and again Adair felt as if she was a youngling dragon just seeing the world.

"You became a draconic guardian with a bond with this little champion without a blood oath!? I just- well- I don't- what are you people? Are you sure you are human?"

"Actually, Miss Adair, I am an abyssal serpent. I know it is odd but I am still Walker and Midnight's little brother even though I am a serpent." Onyx knew he was being a little cheeky, but he couldn't help it after seeing the previously scary elder water dragon acting flustered and shocked.

With her forehead creased, Adair took a deep breath. "If you can somehow manage to make her your champion that would make you equal to a royal dragon. It would be a first for that to happen. The only thing close to that ever happening was a winged serpent from across the desert escaping from a tamer and awakening a dormant royal dragon bloodline. They became an ancient wind dragon and sit on the court as one of the purest wind affinity dragons there is."

Adair knew that years ago that had been a world shaking occurrence for the dragons. But now, if Walker managed to use a skill only royal dragons could use, then it would be even more chaos for the dragon villages.

"Well, Midnight. Do you want to give it a try now? We can have you with the party and your freedom to do whatever you want. Plus we will still go to the dragon village in seven months so we should be even more prepared." Walker was sure that this was the right move to make but he would not push Midnight to do it if it was not what she wants.

"Sister says you are too slow and she is already prepared for it. She says she would never leave her family or the food." It was touching until they heard the food part. Then every one of the party burst out laughing. Even the wandering blacksmith released a rare chuckle when hearing about the gluttonous dragon.

"Su, come over here too. It will be better if you are next to us. It just feels right." Walker used some of his mana to manipulate the earth and created a small pedestal with a stone cup on top.

"You aren't doing it now? Are you? Are you sure?" Adair was not sure what to say or do. On one hand she would witness something amazing and never before seen. On the other, it might fail and they were making a mess of her home that she had made her distant cousin an avalanche dragon create for her with their earth and water affinity .

Chapter 859 Champions Pledge

"Midnight, now?" There was a little questioning in the tone Walker used. But when Midnight nearly jumped on him he knew that she wanted to get it over with and be able to stay with her family with no dragon or person trying to stop her.

"We are doing it now. The pedestal is already prepared with a cup. The draconic guardian is here. All I need to do is copy the skill methodology and hope that I get it and it works." The energy Walker had was too light hearted for Adair to handle. She was still expecting him to just bow out and say that it wasn't possible. She would stay on that mindset if she hadn't just seen a human roar like a dragon.

"You just need to copy it? Is it so simple? It is a rare and important skill. How can it just be copied?!" For a powerful elder water dragon in their dragonkin form, Adair appeared to be close to fainting.

"Trust me, Miss Adair. We have been shocked so many times by this kind of thing that our hearts don't even react anymore." Gil attempted to reassure Adair but instead, she just looked at him as if she was crazy.

"This happens often!?" There was a question there but both Remey and Gil shared a nod in response. They didn't see the need to answer any further. If a dragons' heart gave out and they were the cause it would spell disaster.

For everything that was happening, the party was too relaxed compared to what Adair expected. This was a ceremony that would have entire living bloodlines present to watch. Things like this were not so little that they could be done on a whim in an attempt to just copy a skill. "It will be alright. They are special." The simple words from the wandering blacksmith were calm as a silent snow. He had developed this sense of peace from his determined years of forging. The unwavering aura that came over Adair from his words gave her stability.

The feeling of powerlessness was not something Adair was used to, but she found herself feeling it as she watched the actions in front of her.

"Alright, so first we need to make an oath. I'm sure that there is one for each elemental ancient royal dragon but we need one for us. And I think I have it." Midnight was facing Walker and Su was by their side. They were much more serious than they were prior and it impressed Adair to a degree.

"Forever we shall be more than blood. More than just two beings. More than what we bring in to each others' lives. If our power shall become greater than the seas we shall be equally still. If our lives shall fall then our souls will find each others' side. Never shall we worry for we will always have one another no matter the time or distance. I promise you this, we are greater than family. We are without words."

The words were more than they seemed. Mana flowed from Walker as he said them and he did nothing to stop it. His body felt as if it was not only his own. The bond with Midnight from his equal blood contract was reaching out to the two.

Midnight raised herself to her full height and did not dare to lower her gaze. The small growls and huffs from her were not audible as words but Walker could feel them. The mana coming from her was the same and the bond between them felt as if it was a steel rope being braided and strengthened.

There was no hesitation when Midnight used one of her sharp claws to pierce her front leg and let the blood drop in to the stone cup Walker had created. He did the same as he pulled a basic dagger from his inventory and cut his palm. The injuries were nothing to them. It did not matter. It could easily be healed but at the moment there was only the bond between them. They couldn't even see anything around them. There was nothing but the two at this moment. It was easier to say they had fallen in to their very own space.

Midnight felt as if a hidden instinct had awakened. Her golden flame heart was beating with heat and intensity that threatened to burst if she did not breathe her golden flames. But with this act, Walker realized he had no ability to breathe flames the same way a dragon could.

The natural mana around them began to shake before being pulled towards Walker. The spirit mark on his back absorbed it as if it was a desert during the first rainstorm in years. "Sigh of life."

'The skill sigh of life has been called upon by the nature spirit Fleur. The bonded partner has been granted access to the skill sigh of life.'

Sigh of life- 50 natural mana

Natural mana is gathered within the user with the assistance of a nature spirit or greater. The user will breathe out condensed natural mana causing a soft ripple of natural mana. The area will gain new natural life and become more vibrant. All those under the effects of this skill will feel light and relief. The skill will slowly heal all affected in the area for an hour. Elemental spirits in the area will have an easier time awakening. This skill can only be used a limited number of times; once a month.'

Walker felt the mana in his lungs and he breathed out letting the sound of a soft sigh escape his lips. The mana pulled and calmed around him like a mirrored lake. The golden flames Midnight had breathed calmed in to a perfect ball that seemed to devour the blood in the cup. Golden flame ropes lept from the flames and wrapped around Walker and Midnights' necks before melting in to their very beings. The pair collapsed as they regained their sight of the world around them.

Chapter 860 Royal Dragon...

The sight of Midnight and Walker collapsing was nearly enough to cause everyones' hearts to stop. But Su was there and managed to catch the two who fell toward each other. She was quick enough to slowly lower them to the ground. The scene they had witnessed was a lot more than they felt it to be.

Zephyr was nearly shaking when she watched Walker breathe on the golden flames that Midnight had created. It was her reaction to the strength the sigh of life skill had. It was not a battle skill or a skill that would cause any additional effects to a person. Instead, it was a skill that breathed natural mana in to the surroundings and pushed for healing and growth. Any and all spirits could feel the use of such a skill using natural mana. It was the reason that the alchemy's fire spirit and earth spirit didn't dare come out of their spirit mark and dwelling.

"How! That's not. No. not right. I need. This is history!" Adair was looking much less majestic and powerful now. She was grasping at the air for something that was not there. Gil saw this and after glancing at Walker and Midnight who he had confirmed were sleeping now, he looked about the carved cave.

There were surprisingly many places for items to be displayed. It was best to call this a magnificent museum of sorts due to the older weapons, books, and even paintings on the walls. When he narrowed in on an open book with a blank page he ran and grabbed it with a quill next to it. "Miss Adair, I believe you are looking for this."

"Yes! It is history. I must record it for the next generation." She grasped the book and began to furiously write. This was the first time anything so ludicrous had happened and she would be the one to copy and send the story to every single village before the royal court convened to see the young of the villages.

In the midst of the writing, there was a sudden pause and Adair rushed over. The flames became the bond but they already had a bond. It became sealed much more strongly. Will they share conversation or will they gain each other's skills? What would be the cause? Little guardian, what do you feel?"

The eyes that landed on Su nearly made her shudder. Adair was extremely focused on what was happening and what she wanted to know. There was no room for lies or even for hesitation. "Warmth. I feel warmth. There is more there. It's like she and Walker are more open now. I can feel more. I don't know what more really, but more."

The feelings that Su had were more complicated. She had a sixth sense before about Midnight that she had not truly explored. All she knew was that the more she learned and trained with Midnight the stronger she felt about their familial bond. But now, it was different. She could feel more than just a bond with Midnight. It was a deep connection that seemed to make her blood sing. Not only this but she could also feel Walker in the same way and every movement of Onyx was echoing through to her.

'The user and Midnight have fully pledged an equal oath. The user will share many new aspects of their soul with the True dragon champion Midnight. The bond shall exist beyond life and death as per the pledge created.'

Walker struggled to open his eyes. He could feel the spirit mark on his back burning slightly as it pulled more natural mana in to him. He stayed laying on the cold stone ground processing everything that had happened. Most of his actions had been without his conscious action but he knew they were what he had wished to do.

The system had left many things for him but he felt that the greatest changes would be in Midnight. But the more he pushed in to the incredibly strong bond that he felt the less he knew. There was a mystery to it that he just couldn't crack, meaning that he would need to sit and try to understand it with Midnight for some time.

The sigh of life skill was a little bit of a mystery as to what it truly did to those around. However, the natural mana in the room was radically higher even though most of it had been taken in by the golden flames during the pledge. Although he could see that everyone around him looked energetic but surprisingly calm. There was also the fact that some small green weeds had sprouted at the corners of the stone cave. He knew they had not been there before.

The groan from Midnight drew attention to the pair. When her eyes opened Walker and Midnight both experienced a moment of loss. They could feel what each other felt and what the other was thinking much more clearly than the equal blood contract they already had.

Midnight began to stretch and growl slightly. Her body felt the same but the additional emotions and small thoughts were putting her off. By the time she stood up and shook her head she knew that Walker was feeling worried for her. She nudged him with her nose in her own worry making Walker sit up. No one interrupted them while they looked in to each others' eyes.

"I guess you are a true dragon champion now. Who knew there was a final step like that." Repeating the same gesture they did when they formed their blood contract, the pair touched their foreheads together. For them, the world was at peace. The moment was enough to express everything they could say or do.

"I can't believe you did it. A human and a dragon. You're the same as a royal dragon now. You'll have to learn." Adair spoke as soon as Walker and Midnight had separated and reaffirmed their familial bond.

