



87 Taking Flight (Ch.87)

Freedom, Neveah would have liked to declare it up to the sky at the top of her voice, it was only that this freedom of hers was a very unusual one... she had been moved from one cage and perhaps was being taken to another. 1

But little victories were worth acknowledgement regardless and if she could make it out of the Eclipse Domain in one piece, defying her own fate, then Neveah determined in her heart that there would come a time she would be free of the Dragon's Keep.

Neveah's smile was however short lived, it soon wiped off her face because after a short walk through the woods, the dragon shifters arrived at a vast field that stretched out for as far as the eye could see and there they stopped.

What wiped the smile of Neveah's lips was not the fact that the dragon shifters had suddenly come to a stop, it was the words from one of the dragon shifters whom Neveah had overhead was called Kirgan.

"We will take flight from here." Kirgan said and Neveah eyes widened slightly at this as Xenon finally let her down on her feet.



His hands lingered on her arm for a moment longer as though reluctant to break skin contact whereas Neveah was relieved to finally be on her own two feet.

"You will ride with Lord Xenon." Kirgan stated and Neveah could only stare with wide eyes as Xenon strode forwards and as he moved to a certain distant,

His shift took over him and in the blink of an eye, in the place of Xenon was his mountain of a dragon, in all it's large and terrifying glory.

With those familiar pitch black scales, Neveah just stared as the massive beast turned it's large head to her, it's eyes fixed on her.

A growl escaped the beast's lips as it stretched it's wings out to it's wide span, blocking out a large portion of the sky for a moment before they curled back up to his sides.

The beast stalked towards Neveah, the earth trembling with each step it took and while the other dragon shifters were unfazed at the sight, Neveah had to grit her teeth against the urge to flee.

Neveah had seen Xenon's dragon form before, she had even attacked him and so she knew just how large he was yet she was still shocked



at his massive size that could be likened to a small mountain.

Steam trailed out of the beasts nostrils and Neveah sucked in a deep breath to calm herself, she was no longer the same weak and helpless princess she used to be when she had battled the black scaled dragon.

Neveah forced away her fear and kept a calm demeanor, though the thought of riding a dragon of Xenon's size did not sit very well with her.

Soon, Xenon came to a stop some distance away from them and Kirgan who had been the only one speaking to Neveah so far nodded to her.

Neveah remained rooted in spot, though she had already overcome her terror, faced with climbing up the massive dragon, Neveah did not know if she could do it.

"Is there no other option?" Neveah asked after a moment and Kirgan passed her glance, but he was not able to say anything before a low, warning growl rumbled out from the black dragon.

"No one rides Lord Xenon but His Lordship. Your hesitation is a disrespect to him and will



only anger him, since Lord Xenon is willing to be your mount, you should not disregard him." Kirgan advised in a stern tone. 7

Disregard him? Neveah did not think the disregard was the issue here when compared to the fact that she was to ride a dragon for the first time in her life and she was not even allowed to hesitate? 3

They had been dragon shifters all their lives, they had soared the skies as easily as the wolf shifters ran through the forests, how could they understand what it meant to ask Neveah to ride such a terrifying beast?

"There is no saddle in sight..." Neveah began but regretted the words as soon as they came out of her lips as the eyes of all the dragon shifters turned to her.

"Dragons are not horses, Princess." Kirgan said and Neveah pursed her lips, avoiding the gaze of the terrifying black dragon before her who seemed just about ready to gobble her up. 1

"Move, pup." King Jian who had been silent all the while finally spoke in a chilling cold tone that had Neveah's feet moving before she realized it. 2

Neveah walked over to Xenon, staring over the



spikes and hard scales, there was no easy way to make this climb and even though Xenon had reduced his height to allow Neveah up, he was still too massive.

Neveah's gaze moved across Xenon's back, she was not certain where exactly she could touch and where she could not and so Neveah stepped back.

Just as Xenon began to growl again she leaped forwards, her boot found a hold on Xenon's upper arm which she used to lunge herself up until his back, successfully seating at the base of his neck without making contact.

Neveah eyed the large spike a short distance before her and she moved backwards slightly, ensuring there was a safe distance between her and Xenon's spikes.

"Hold tight." Kirgan advised as Xenon rose up to his full height, Neveah did not need to be told twice as her gloved hand rested on Xenon's rough scales just as the world tilted.

Neveah did not get a chance to see the other dragon shifters take their forms, not that she could avoid to appreciate the scenery when she was currently on the back of a dragon.

The familiar golden scales of a mighty dragon



shot past in a flash and before Neveah could clearly see his form, the dragon shifter had already disappeared up into the clouds.

Neveah sucked in a deep breath as Xenon dashed forwards in a flash, his wings spreading out and with a single flap, they were lifted up into the sky.

The wind blew furiously across Neveah's face, her ears were clouded with the sounds of the roaring winds and Xenon's flapping wings as he climbed upwards yet still till the fields were nothing but a small dot far below them.

Neveah held on tightly as her stomach churned within her, Xenon's flight was swift and agile, and Neveah swore she would already have tumbled down a thousand times if she was not holding on so tightly.

Xenon banked to the side and Neveah's world tilted entirely, she swallowed down the scream threatening to escape her, settling to just shut her eyes tightly as Xenon swerved through the sky, cutting through at an unbelievable speed.

After a moment, Xenon stabilised his flight and only then did Neveah dare open her eyes, out of the corner of her eyes, she could see the massive forms of a reddish brown scaled



dragon on Xenon's left and a dark green scaled dragon on Xenon's right.

Far up ahead was a flash of gold, still far in the distance that even with her keen eyesight, all Neveah could see was a speck of gold that told of the presence of the Dragon King leading the flight.

Neveah sucked in a deep breath as she calmed herself, now that she thought about it, with the wind whipping past her and blocking out all sounds but it's comforting roars,

Neveah realized that this was actually not so bad at all, she had thought she would already have nose bleeds or her ears would ring from the pressure this high up but she was perfectly fine as though she had been born to fly all her life. 2

Though her stomach churned briefly, it had also settled down and Neveah had no other discomforts save for the hardness of Xenon's scales.

Now more reassured that she would not meet her end from plunging down to the earth far below, Neveah let her gaze wander around, they were at a height far up from the existence of the life below.



At this height, when Neveah had grown used to the winds, even the sounds faded away and there was a comforting silence that settled over, a silence Neveah was certain she could not find elsewhere but at this height.

As Neveah's gaze moved, she found her gaze straying down to the dragon she rode, the terrifying black dragon that was so intimidating yet now that he was within his element, Neveah found him a rather mysterious sight.

Neveah's gaze roved over his pitch black scales that gleamed like gems, and she found herself wondering for what purpose exactly the dragon shifters had come for her.

She could understand the fortune the Alpha King had acquired from this bargain, but what exactly was the benefit of the dragon shifters?

Neveah recalled the dragon king had called her his price, but what exactly did it mean to be a dragon's price? 2

