

November 24
The Beginning of The End

I awoke with a start. The pain was immense, and I didn't know where I was. As the room came into focus, I saw a familiar face staring at me. My vision cleared, and I saw the familiar face or Talis Riverwind. I tried to sit up, as apparently I was laying down, and fell back to my previous laying position.

"You must rest, Caius." He said. I moaned a little bit, at the force of my body hitting the bed.

"Talis, I haven't seen you in over a years time. How fair thee?" I inquired weakly. He smiled.

"I am well, as I wish I could say the same for you. How did this happen? What happened?" He asked.

"Well, it's a long story, but I can tell you the damage was from Draco Disciples." I told. A worried look came over him.

"Draco disciples? Here? This does not sound good. I just had trouble with Draco's not to long ago. What could they want here?"

"I could not tell you. But I know that they will not rest until Tso reaches Tiamat." He gave a startled look.

"How do you know that?" He asked. I reached to my side for my bag. As I did, I brushed something wet and rough. I looked as best I could at my side, and saw the wound. I looked at my hand to see blood smeared on it.

"I must apologize, I am trying my best to heal you. But I have not been the same since Lady Tso took some of my power..." His voice trailed off. I was shocked to hear this.

"She took your powers?" I said. He shook his head.

"I can no longer connect with my Fire. It is as if it never existed." I sighed. She was not about to stop, either. Who knows who she'll go after next. But what gets me is why she's taking her time to get to Tiamat.

"Talis, I know you and what you can do. It is still inside of you. You must believe, and all things will become possible." He arose from his crouched position, and placed his hand on my shoulder.

"Spoken like a true Guardian." He said. He turned to leave.

"I am sorry to leave you like this, but I must go inquire about... a matter at hand. Please, I beg of you. Stay put until you are fully healed. You should be ok to at least walk by tomorrow." He explained.

"I can't waste a whole day! Lady Tso just barley escaped me . I must catch her." I told quickly, trying not to sit up to get better eye contact. Talis chuckled.

"You are in no condition to be Draco hunting. But you will be safe. Just rest. I will return soon." I nodded as best I could.

"I will. Thank you. I owe you. Who knows what would have happened if I wasn't found."

"Honestly, I think you were very lucky. As far as I know, a person should be dead after all the blood you lost." I lay, stunned. I should be dead.

"How much blood?" I asked. I really don't know if I want to know.

"Well, lets just say I don't think two people would have that much combined." I lay there in disbelief. How could I be alive to have lost this much of blood. He turned to the door.

"I am sorry to leave, but I must. When I return, you must tell me everything. How you got here, and how you ended up like this." Talis said.

“I will. I at least owe you that much.” He walked out the door and closed it all but a crack. “There’s a few rations next to the bed for you, if you feel the need to eat. Please do. And do not move, as the spell works best while you are motionless.” And with that, the door closed. I didn’t have time to reply.

I lay there for what seemed like hours. The sun that was shining had set, and the faint moon glow cast shadows upon the floor. The pain in my side had almost vanished, though I dare not move. Although I wished I could have gotten up to try to catch Lady Tso, I knew it best if I did not. I shut my eyes and tried to sleep. The sooner tomorrow comes, the better I will be. I was almost asleep when I heard voices outside the door. Had Talis returned? I tuned my senses up and listened to what they were saying.

“You are sure he is in here?” One said.

“Yes, this is where the blood trail leads.” Yeah, that didn’t sound suspicious at all.

“Well, hurry up and pick the lock. Let’s kill him and get back. I’m hungry.” I gasped. Those must be Draco’s. But they cannot get in, Talis locked the door. Even a talented locksmith would have trouble getting through. After all, I’m sure Talis, being a smart fellow, would have enchanted the lock. I heard a click. My heart nearly doubled in speed. I began to shake a little. I could not fight. I could not even sit up. So I had to come up with something. And fast! The door creaked open, and I could see figures as the moon’s light flooded into the house.

“There he is.” One whispered. I had to think. Time was running out. If I don’t act fast, they will kill me. I saw shadows get closer to the bed. Doing the only thing I could in this situation, I took a deep breath, and closed my eyes. Maybe they’ll think I’m already dead.

“Is he already dead?” One of them asked.

“It is possible, no body could have survived after losing all that blood.” I hope they leave it at that.

“Well, just to be safe. You don’t want to disappoint Lady Tso again, do you?”

“Oh, no,” the other said quickly, “Give me the Dagger.” I began to panic a little more. No, actually a lot more. I had to come up with something. Now! I heard a dagger being slid out of its sheath. I opened my eyes and took a breath. They stopped and took a step back. I sat up, ready for the pain. But it was very minimal. Almost bearable. I looked at them.

“You really don’t think you can...” I stopped. These two looked familiar. I wonder if these were the same guys that were at the small cabin in Copenhagen, where they tried to get me drunk. Just then, the door opened, and a third Draco walked in. I could tell this because she wore a lengthy dress of the Draco’s colors.

“What is taking so long?” She said, not afraid to not whisper. Something glittered off the moonlight when she talked. Is that a gold tooth?

“We were about to kill him, but he woke up.” The taller one said. Apparently not the brightest either. The lady sighed.

“Must I do everything myself?” she quickly walked over to the tall one, and grabbed the dagger out of his hands, then walked at me, and thrust the dagger at me. I quickly caught her hand, and pushed the dagger away.

“Really? That was your attempt?” I said.

“Like you can do anything anyway? She sneered. I laughed.

“If you don’t want to end up like your other Draco’s, I’d turn and leave now.” I said, trying to remember the images from the fight I had last night. She thrust the dagger at me again. I caught her arm, and with my other hand, grabbed the dagger.

“Last chance...” I warned. She looked at the other two men standing there.

“Get in here you idiots!” She screamed. I stood up, knowing what was coming. The pain to stand up was not that bad. But anything else may push the limit. The two men, each drawing their swords, came running at me. Here goes... I dodged to the right with speed. The pain prickled a bit. The other one came right at me, and swung. I ducked, and struck his knee. He let out a scream, and fell to the floor. The lady came at me with what appeared to be a large candle holder. I stood up, sliding to the left real smooth. My side burned. The other guy came back at me, swinging like a madman. I blocked his swing with the tiny dagger I just realized I was still holding. The pain shot through my side fiercely. I felt a little dizzy. The lady swung around, still wielding whatever that thing was, and caught me in the side. The very side I was suppose to be protecting.

“AAHHHGGHH!” I yelled real loud, and hit the ground. I grabbed my side, the pain was blinding. I couldn’t make out anything in the room.

“Now’s your chance. Strike!” I heard the feminine voice cry out. I rolled instinctively, not knowing what would happen. I rolled at least a few times before I hit something. There was a clatter, and a lot of shuffling around. I felt a heavy weight on top of me.

“I got him!” One of the men called. There were two more sets of hands on me in an instant. I was pulled to my feet. The pain was unbearable. I couldn’t breath right. Looking at my situation, the two men held each arm. I struggled to get out.

“Let go, you...” I couldn’t finish. I was hit hard across the face with something hard. I recoiled, and pain shot through my head now. My vision blurred again, and I was left limp. I couldn’t act with all this pain.

“Now, Caius. Hold Still. Don’t make this harder on us.” I tried to move, but my body refused.

“You don’t want to do this...” I pleaded. The lady laughed.

“Oh, but I do! You gave us a good run back in Copenhagen, but you will not get away this time! No more Tricks!” I kind of half smiled. That was a good time. But I can’t bluff my way out of this one.

“Good Bye, Caius Shadowsworn!” She cackled sinisterly.

“Stop! I ca...” I was cut off mid sentence. I felt a sharp piercing sensation in my chest. I looked down to see the dagger complete its motion, right into my heart. There was a sharp, somewhat of an explosion that went off inside of me. Then I felt myself falling. The fall seemed like it took forever. I don’t know what to expect, except for the thud of my body crashing into the floor. It came and went, and I felt no pain. I lay there, unable to move, the world fading quickly. And once again, everything went dark.

The lady brushed off her hands, and turned to the two men.

“Come, let us report back to Lady Tso.” They turned to leave, stepping over the corpse. The smaller, heavy set man took time to turn back at Caius, and spat on his corpse.

“Filth.” He muttered. They reached the door, and slid out quietly. The door shut, and there was a soft click of the door locking, once again.