

# Chronicles of LuCana: Kalimna

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*The LuCana, god of dragons, has been locked away, dormant inside his own soul for many thousands of years. The empire of Hexia, advanced race of planet conquering beings, have found out about this and plan on controlling him as a weapon...*

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# 1 - Brothers in the Military, and boys in minishorts

## Chapter 1: Brothers in the Military, and Boys in Mini Shorts

There was a scent of fire and ash mixed the in air. A hexian man, who looked to be in his mid-twenties, was standing outside of the military base. He was trying to catch his breath after running so far to get there. As his breath slowly calmed itself, he brushed his long red bangs out of his silver eyes. The man walked up to the base's front door. The guard stood erect as he walked up.

"Captain Shima, sir, you have been expected," the guard said in a gruff voice.

The man nodded and proceeded into the base. Shima's sharp cold face was emotionless and his long silky red hair swayed from side to side with each step as he walked inside the base's hallway. The hexian looked about at his surroundings. There were no decorations, no changes. The hall was the same all the way down to the stairs at the end of the hall. Just metal doors, white walls, and brown carpet. Hexians never had been the type to have beautiful art or decorations, except for on the battleship walls. Their interests were technology and power, nothing more. Still, after being in the forest for two days, the hexian man thought of the hall as dull.

Shima walked up the metal stairs. The clank of his boots hitting the metal was an all too familiar sound. Shima walked into a room on the right just beyond the end of the staircase. There was a large desk. Behind the desk sat a hexian, looking to be in his late twenties or early thirties. His deep gold eyes were fixed on a paper that was laying on the desk in front of him. The long black hair around his face made his eyes and tanned skin glow brilliantly.

Shima stood there for a short second, then calmly said, "Colonel Feign, did you wish to see me?"

Feign looked up. "Oh hey there!" he exclaimed happily.

"Colonel sir, may I remind you, you are not acting in a proper way. You shouldn't speak to a lower ranked officer like your equal. What would the king say?" Shima said coolly.

"lighten up, little brother," Feign said with a smile, "No one is around."

Shima looked at his brother in a stern manner. He wondered how Feign had ever made it so high on the hexian military ladder with his personality. "Do you need something from me, Colonel?"

He nodded. "I need your red division to travel to the planet of Kalimna."

"Kalimna?" Shima said questionably, "That planet isn't on schedual untill we have taken over Lyton. Why would we bother with it now?"

Feign put his elbows on the desk and rested his head on his hands. "Our scientists on hexia III have just informed us of a weapon in kalimna that will aid us greatly. We can't afford to wait and loose it.

"

"May I ask what this weapon is, Colonel?" Shima said as he blinked and wondered what such weapon could be on an underdeveloped planet like Kalimna.

"Do you remember Lucana?"

Shima was confused as to what that had to do with anything."Lucana? Yes, thats the myth that was spread across the galaxy, even before the first spaceships."

Feign shook his head. "It is no myth, Captain Shima. Its there, on Kalimna."

The red headed hexian was startled but managed to say in his calm manner, "The lucana on Kalimna? Are they sure?"

"So sure that they not only garenteed it to me, but also the king himself," Feign said with optimism in his voice, "You'll leave in three days."

"But Colonel Feign, most of the soldiers are on leave. Some have even left Hexia VI and wont be back for a week."

"well round them up, Captain! The cannot wait any longer than three days."

Shima bowed his head. "yes, Colonel"

"Oh, and before you go, Captain..."

"Yes?"

"Mommy says hi!"

"Argh."

\*\*\*\*\*

Three days later the red division of the hexian army was boarding the fleet of battleships. Shima walked into the main battleship, The Dragonfly. There was a hexian boy with a long blonde braid that reached his lower thigh and big silver eyes. He was in a soldier's top, but instead of the soldier's uniform pants, he had on tight black shorts that you could barely see under the top because they were so short. the odd boy caught Shima's eye as he was walking down the hall to the command center. The boy was looking at a etching in the wall of a dragon in human form that had a feminin face, long hair, furry dragon wings, and was in a royal looking outfit. His back was turned to Shima.

"Where are your...pants soldier?" Shima said, startling the boy who turned around very quickly.

"Ah, Captain Shima sir! Nice to meet'cha. "

Shima's left ear twitched at the use of horrible grammar. "You haven't answered my question."

"Oh, the pants? I threw them out. They were itchy and Colonel Feign said I didn't have to wear the full outfit because of my status."

Shima blinked twice and said, "You're a guardian? "

"Yes sir! Guardian Naku Maru, recently of the princess's guardians, and now reporting to the red division. " He said while saluting lazily.

This was a shock to Shima. Each division(red, blue, and green) had five guardians, and then the prince and princess of Hexia were guarded with fifteen guardians. The guardians outrank soldiers, and were usually much older and not nearly as happy, but this.... boy didn't even look like he should be in the military at all!

"Why were you stationed on my division?" Shima said. His voice was cold and emotionless as usual.

Naku said in the same tone, but more warmly, "Colonel thought me more useful in the field than Guardian Mokai, so they gave him and...early retirement and gave me the position."

Shima pause for a long second and then nodded. "very well then, welcome aboard."

"Pleasure to be here, sir!" Naku said while bowing to the captain.

As Shima walked off, Naku stared at his red hair in Awe. *No wonder hes captain of the RED division* He thought.Naku had never seen such hair on a hexian before. He decided to follow the Captain Shima and see just what kind of captain he was.

Shima entered the command center with Naku twenty steps behind him. As he checked up on everything he caught a glimps of the blonde boy staring at him in the corner. Shima decided to ignore it. He thought Naku was just doing his guardian duties.A guardians only task was to protect the Captain they are under, or the prince and princess. Naku was doing his job, while the other four guardians were down in the engine room playing poker, thinking Shima didn't know. Somehow, Shima always got the lazy guardians. Of course, that was alright since he didn't even need a guardian at all.

"Captain Shima, all the battleships are ready to launch," a female soldier at the head of the command center called out.

Shima looked at her. "Very good Leena, lets get moving then."

Leena gave the orders to all ships. Naku watched them fly by one by one. He had never seen a battleship moving before. It was one fluid motion as they lifted off the ground, flying into space.

Leena called out again, "Lifting off in three... two..."

Shima, who was standing near the boy now, looked at Naku. "Brace yourself."

"Wha-" is all Naku managed to say before getting flung to the floor from the movement. The others in the crew were hangin on to objects and kneeling on the ground. Shima, however, stayed perfectly still. Only his red hair moved, and that was only because of the fan nearby. Naku looked up at him. It was like looking at a perfect statue. *How am I supposed to protect someone that is stronger than I?* He tought to himself, still watching Shima in respect, admiration, and slight self dissapointment.

After entering a gravitational warp, the crew were at ease and Naku was able to stand up again. Shima started walking to his quarters.

As he passed Naku, Shima said in a low tone, "come with me," and kept walking.

Naku wondered what was going on and followed him. When Naku walked into the room, Shima shut the door.

"Do you need something Captian Shima?" Naku asked.

Shima walked over and bent down to Naku's eye level. He was so close to his face that Naku could smell his breath, which had a nice scent of honey.

"Why are you here?" He said in his usual cold tone.

Naku replied, "Captain, um, didn't I explain that already?"

Shima looked at Naku sternly, which was a bit frightening to the boy. "tell me everything. Why did my brother send you here? To spy on me no doubt."

Naku backed up slightly. "Well, he just wanted me to keep him informed on your progress in finding Lucana, and since I am an expert on the subject he thought it best to send me instead of trusting one of the guardians you had."

Shima stopped glaring. "So you are spying."

"Oh no sir, just checking up on progress!" Naku said nervously.

"relax," Shima said while straightening up, "I knew that my brother would send someone. He is always "checking up" on me."

Naku sighed in relief. He really didn't want his new captain angry with him. Anything would have been better than that!

"So you're a Lucana expert?"

"Yes Captain."

A half smile appeared on Shima's face."That may come in handy. I have no clue what we are actually looking for, really."

"What! you don't?!?!" Naku exclaimed.

"I never listened to legends or myths much" Shima said, with a hint of embarrassment in his voice.

Naku took a long pause, then smiled at the captain. "Well then, I'm glad to help!"

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After two days the planet of Kalimna was in sight. Naku gazed at it threw the command center front window while Leena was too busy to notice he was leaving fingerprints on it. She had gotten on to him on countless occasion for that. She even yelled at Captain Shima for it once. Leena was one very scary brown headed soldier woman.

Shima walked up behind Naku and said calmly, "So, what should we look for when we land? Will we even be able to locate it?"

Naku turned around shocked. "Gah! Do you sneak up on everyone or just me?!?"

Shima just gave a shrug.

Naku sighed and said, "Well the Lucana is a dormant soul. So he's trapped inside himself. We must find the being on the planet with the same features of him."

"I see..and what did it look like?"

"You should know," Naku said, "He is all over your ship." He looked at the wall with the same picture he was looking at when they had first met on it.

Shima looked and paused for a moment. "That is The Lucana?"

"Yes. It is only fit. The ships name is the Dragonfly, and Lucana is the ruler of all dragons"

"I know that much. Thats why it is a valuable weapon. Whoever controls it, controls all dragons and everything related to them. Dragons are the srongest creatures in the galaxy. Some can even destroy the best battleships by themselves." Shima said, tracing the etching with his finger.

Naku nodded. "And that is why he has been hidden so well, that its taken millions of years to even find the planet."

Leena called out to Shima, "Captain sir, we are reaching the destination."

"Very good. Land us quickly." Shima yelled back, then he looked back at Naku. "Are you going to brace yourself this time?"

Naku smiled. "Yeah."

~author's note

thanks for reading my first chapter!!!! =^= I am sorry if there are many misspellings and whatnot (my writing hours often are from midnight to who knows when and I get a little lazy with the spellcheck) I hope you really liked it though....plz comment!!!! T.T

## 2 - A fortunate fall

### Chapter 2: A Fortunate Fall

After the battleships landed, all of the soldiers gathered around Captain Shima for orders. The other guardians finally decided to show their faces and stood behind Shima as though they had been doing their job the whole time. Naku stayed behind Shima as well, but away from the others. He didn't like the smell that loomed around them. It was the smell of wine. He much preferred when Shima was questioning him and he could smell honey on his breath. Honey was Naku's favorite scent.

When Leena came up to Shima she nodded and said, "All the soldiers are here captain."

"Good," he said calmly. He looked around at the talking soldiers and the yelled out in a booming voice that caught everyone's attention, "listen up! We, the red division of the Hexian military, have been assigned to this important mission. It is an honor, and we shall not fail! What we are looking for as you know is LuCana. We must find it quickly for King Aidas. Rylain shall inform you on how we shall find it."

He then nodded to Rylain, a young brown haired man standing by Leena. Rylain stepped forth and started explaining what Naku had earlier explained to Shima. Afterward, the soldiers gathered into five sections, each lead by one of the head soldiers. Leena was one of these leaders. So was Rylain. As Shima was about to give the order to move out, an odd gust of wind came from the east. Naku looked up at the hills that it came from to see two odd creatures standing there. They were as tall as the trees around them and had the bodyshape of a goat and paws of a cat. The face was of a wolf, and their were symbols all over their bodies.

Naku turned to look at Shima. He was also looking at the odd creatures. Slowly he drew his phaser sword out of its Sheath. As soon as the the tip of the sword was visible, the giant creatures attacked. The legions of soldiers scattered as the animals tried to crush them under their paws. Naku stood there stunned as all the other guardians ran to hide in the forest.

"Everyone, head to the forests! Regroup on the plains on the other side of the forest that were on our maps! I'll join you shortly..." Shima said, as calm as ever. As the Soldiers all ran into the forest, Naku walked up to the Captain. Shima glanced over at him. "You should go too, Naku."

Naku just said without looking at him, "My job as guardian is to protect you. I'm staying, even if I can't do anything but watch and run around in circles trying not to get squished. I guess I can be your cheerleader for today."

The Creatures gathered around them. One lunged toward Shima. He bided his time and at the exact moment put his sword right into the beast's nose and used it to swing up on its back. It howled in pain and bucked around furiously. Shima ran down its back, slicing it with his sword along the way. the blood that came out was thick and dark maroon. Nothing like the hexian had ever seen, but it didn't effect Shima. As he was dealt with the bigger of the two, the other circled around Naku. He stood his ground and dodged every attack the animal made. When the other beast screamed from being cut by



the phaser sword, the creature looked at it and came running to its aid like a wolf would if it were part of the pack. It tried to bite at Shima. Just at the right second, Shima lifted his sword and a plasma blast rang out from it, slicing the smaller creature's head in two. The one that was left began to run and buck even more furiously as it saw its companion fall. Shima had some trouble staying on the beast and had to grab its fur with one hand. He couldn't use the phaser sword for a few more seconds. After he had used the plasma shot it had to recharge itself. He just had to hold on till then. The bad thing was, the beast was heading straight toward Naku.

Shima managed to yell out to him, "Naku, move!"

Naku managed to jump out of the way and onto a nearby boulder, but that happened to be the worst possible place to have jumped to. As the beast ran by, its tail slammed into the boulder causing it to roll off the cliff, and it took Naku along with it. Shima didn't notice. He didn't even hear Naku yell because of the animal's roaring. One milli-second later, the phaser sword was charged. He swung and the plasma blast entered right into the beast's neck, killing it instantly. The body twitched for one brief moment, and then joined the head on the ground. Shima jumped off and sheathed his sword in one fluent motion.

"Let's go, Naku....Naku?" Shima looked to the boulder and saw that it had rolled off the cliff. He walked to the edge and looked down. He couldn't see anything. *the poor boy* He thought. *There is no way he could survive that fall...and even if he did, he would be seriously injured, and there is no way for me to get down the cliff...* Shima bowed his head and pulled off his left glove, then let it fall down the cliff. It was a tradition to do that is a captain's guardian had fallen in battle. After a brief moment of silence, Shima turned and walked off toward the plains.

Naku woke up after feeling something fall on his face. He opened his eyes and pulled it off. His whole body ached. He looked around and found himself in a shallow river. He had rolled off the cliff into the river instead of just falling off in mid-air. He sat up and looked at the thing that had woken him up. It was his captain's glove. "Gah! Captain Shima thinks I'm dead!" he exclaimed, remembering the tradition.

He stood up, his body burning in agony from the scrapes and bruises. He knew there was no way to get up the cliff, so he decided to try and go around it. Naku didn't get far before his legs collapsed under him and he was sent tumbling to the ground. He didn't have the strength to get back up. He closed his eyes and was slowly dragged into an agonizing sleep by his weary mind.

"Do you think this guy is ever gonna wake up, Sam? He has been asleep a long time." Was the first thing Naku heard as he drifted back out of his long slumber. He could feel that he wasn't on the ground anymore. He was on a soft bed, and someone was poking at his side, which hurt his bruised skin. As he opened his eyes, the first thing he could see was the blanket which covered his body and his two-toed feet at the end of the bed. (Instead of five small toes, Hexians only had two large toes which helped them balance well enough on their home planet's rocky environment.)

"Hey, he woke up!" Said the small voice again. Naku turned his head just enough to see the young girl that was poking his side. She was a skinny girl dressed in clothes that were at least two sizes too big for her. She had pale skin and light brown hair that came down to her shoulders. Her face kind of reminded Naku of Leena. Naku could tell she was a Kalimnian from her black eyes.

"Hello, person. I'm glad your finally awake, I was waiting for ever!" She exclaimed happily. Naku wondered how she knew his language, but then remembered that the chip the hexian military had installed in his spine transformed all alien languages into hexian words, and made hexian words into alien language for the other to hear, and made it possible for the hexian to communicate to all known species.

"Tani, Don't bother the boy." Said a male voice in the next room.

"Oh Sam, I'm not bothering him, I'm just talking!" Tani said huffily.

Sam entered the room. He was a tall brown headed Kalimnian that had the same features to him as Tani. Naku assumed that they were related. "Go tell the elder he is awake." He said to Tani.

As The girl raced out of the room Sam looked at Naku and said, "We were worried that you weren't going to wake up. Your wounds were very bad. "

Naku sat up in the bed. "How long have I been asleep?"

"It has been three days since we first found you. Before that, I don't know how long you slept." Sam said, sitting down in a chair in front of the bed.

"Three days?" Naku said in shock. He hadn't imagined that he had been out for that long. He wondered where the Captian and the others were now, and if they were even still close to his current position.

Sam nodded. "A farmboy of the town has been taking care of you. My sister and I were just here to watch you while he was taking a bath in the nearby lake."

*A bath in the lake?!? Oh, right I forgot ,Naku thought to himself, The Kalimnians are an underdeveloped race. They do not even have indoor plumbing...*

"Forgive me, where are my manners. My name is Sam. My sister who just left is Tani."

Naku looked up at Sam. "I'm Naku."

Sam blinked a few times then looked down at Naku's feet. "So Naku, what exactly are you? We have never seen a person such as yourself. There is silver in your eyes and your feet are strangely shaped."

Naku thought for a quick second. The race might not believe that he came from another planet, or it might cause a panic that he couldn't handle without the hexian army he came with. "Well, I uh..."

"Do you come with the metal birds that landed on the Flareh Cliffs? That is what the Elder expected."

*Metal birds? They must mean our battleships...* "Yes thats right. Those uh, metal birds and I are from the uh...Northern region."

"North? You mean you are from Chesla! That explains alot. We have never had much contact in that continent..."

Naku relaxed. Now he just had to keep up with this Chesla story and he wouldn't have to worry about explaining anything before he found Captain Shima again. "Um, I'm grateful for this town's help in getting me well, but I need to get back to the people I flew here with."

"Right, I know you must be anxious to get back to your people, but you must speak with the elder first. Also, you need to see Flip before you go. He is the one who took care of you all this time after all."

Naku nodded. Just then Tani came running in. "Sam, the elder says he will talk to him tonight," She said, jumping onto the edge of the bed. "In the meantime, we need to go help mamma with the fields today."

"Oh yeah, I forgot. Naku, Why don't you go walk around a little while. It might do you some good to get some exercise." He got up and started walking out. Tani got off the bed and waved at Naku, then followed her brother.

After a few seconds Naku got up and grabbed a shirt that was hanging on the post of the bed and put it on. He looked around for his boots and found them near the front door. Whoever this Flip person was, he liked to keep things nice around his house. He had cleaned Naku's boots, his shirt, and everything around the house was also clean. Though it was neatly kept, the house had a strange look to it. There were crystals shaped as animals and such all around the place. Everything was either wooden or black and green. Symbols were painted in what seemed to be a random formation along the walls. Jewelry, in both women and men's styles, were hung everywhere for decorations, and there were strange puppies and kittens roaming around the house.

After getting away from one of the kittens that was following him, Naku slipped out the front door. He looked around. It was a small town with small cabins and gardens in the front yards. Things seemed quiet, simple, and pleasant as the Kalimnians were walking down the street and greeting each other as they passed by.

Naku walked down the street. The kalimnians all looked at him, but not in fear or anger. They all welcomed him to their town and one little girl even ran up to give him a carrot as he passed. He gladly took it, being very hungry from not eating in three days, and munched on it as he walked along.

When he got up to the edge of town he wondered where the lake was that Flip was supposed to be at. He asked an elderly woman that was picking weeds out of her garden.

"Ah, you mean kremi lake. Its just a ways that way dearie." She said pointing to the west. Naku thanked her and started walking in that direction. When he got to the lake, there was no one around. He walked up and saw a pair of black pants and a green top. *Man is this guy fascinated with black and green or what?* he thought.

As he looked to the lake there was a huge splash in the middle of the water as the boy came up for air. Naku was wide eyed in shock when he finally got to look at Flip. His hair was black and his eyes

were piercing blue. He had a feminine look to his face and his torso, and his ears were abnormally long and pointed. Naku couldn't believe it. *Its him, its the LuCana! He looks nearly exactly like the etchings. Oh what a fortunate fall!! I have the best bad luck ever...*

Flip finally looked up at him, blinked for a moment, then smiled. "Oh so you woke up. Sorry I wasn't there," he said as he got out of the lake. He stood there in his swimming trunks let the water drip off of him. "I'm Flip. Course Tani and Sam already probably told you my name. What should I call you?"

"Naku is my name," Naku said, not being able to tear his gaze away from the dragon boy's crystal eyes.

Tir smiled again. "Does my appearance stun you? It does most. As you can tell, I am not a kalimnian."

"Yes, you have color in your eyes. and you have a tail."

Flip's tail waved behind him. "Not to mention my ears. My parents were dragon-kin."

"I can tell."

"And I can tell you aren't a kalimnian either....but that is none of my business," Flip said, grabbing up his clothes. "You must be hungry. Lets go to my house. I'll fix you something to eat before your visit with the elder tonight."

"How did you know about that?" Naku asked.

"Tani told me. She always runs up here to talk to me. Thats why I wear trunks when bathing. The water is too clear just to hide under it."

They got to the house. Tani was standing next to the wooden fence surrounding the garden near the front door. "Hello Naku, hi Flip, are we going to have dinner now? I'm really hungry."

Naku blinked and asked, "werent you helping your mom and brother in the fields?"

"I couldn't do anything, and besides, I wanted to see Flip!" She said, hugging Flip's arm.

Flip smiled. "Okay Tani, you can stay for dinner."

"Yay!"

She ran into the house followed by Flip and Naku. The puppies and kittens all gathered around Flip meowing and barking. "Alright babies, I'll feed you," he said.

"Can I feed Oken this time Flip, pretty please?" Tani said picking up the smallest kitten there.

"sure, Tani. You can feed him while I fix dinner." He said while putting food in the animal bowls. Flip then gave Tani a small bottle and she went and sat at the table while feeding it to the little kitten.

Naku just watched all this from the couch in the corner. He had never known people so peaceful and loving. Hexians usually would kick animals outside and tell the little girls that showed up to go back home, because they wouldn't want to share the food. Of course, food was more scarce on the home planets of hexians. Most common hexians didn't have any food to spare.

Flip cooked a very big meal that day. Naku had never seen such a feast, outside of the palace walls that is. Tani and Naku eat up a storm. Flip didn't eat as fast, but ate as much as they did. After that Tani went home and Flip cleaned up the mess. Naku tried to help, but he had never done such things before. All he had to do on hexia VI was put the dishes in the washer. Here they had to scrub and rinse and everything just to use them again! Naku had gotten frustrated with a plate and accidently broke it. He looked at Flip, expecting to see him angry, but instead he was wearing the same happy expression as usual.

"I see you aren't used to doing such things. You must have had a maid to do it for you where you come from," he said while cleaning up the broken dish. Naku didn't expect the LuCana to be such a nice person, but then again his soul was asleep. Any personality can hinder itself in a dormant soul. What Naku saw in front of him was a mere shell that didn't even know it wasn't the actual Person.

"Uh, yes, the maids did everything at my...palace. I didn't do much of anything really. "

Flip put the broken pieces up on the table. "Do not worry about it, I will find some use for the pieces. We had better get to the elder now. Sometimes he can be quite impatient. "

As they walked down the street Naku wondered how he was going to be able to get Flip to the Captain. He didn't want to just come back to get him later. Kalimna was a rather large planet, and hexian maps didn't cover all the regions yet. It would be too easy to lose the position of the town. Plus if Naku was able to single handedly bring in the LuCana, he would earn not only the soldiers respect, but Captain Shima's also. That would be a great accomplishment to Naku. To him, Captain Shima was the only one left in the army that still had honor and dignity, and he respected him more than the king himself.

Flip stopped at the largest of the cabin in the town and turned to look at Naku. "The Elder is the oldest and wisest in the area. Please show respect when in his house. "

Naku nodded and they walked in. It was a dark, spacious cabin lit by a few candles that were around the room. Pillows were scattered about instead of furniture. Flip sat down on one of the pillows and motioned for Naku to do the same. When he did, a tall young looking man stepped out of the far room and walked over to sit down in front of them.

"Welcome," he said. His black eyes, slightly hidden behind a few blonde strands of hair that had fallen in his face, scanned over Naku. "I have been expecting you two."

"How are you feeling Elder?" Flip said in a respectful voice toward the young looking gentlemen that sat before them.

"Wha! You mean this guys the elder?!?" Naku said, forgetting his manners. Flip and the man both

chuckled at him.

Flip stopped himself from chuckling anymore and said with some tone of amusement in his voice, "I never said the elder looked his age, Naku. He is an immortal after all."

Naku's face was red with embarrassment. "Oh." Naku had forgotten about the few "immortal" Kalimnians that hexians had found on their last research trip there. They had taken them back for experiments, but none of the scientists could find out why they were not aging naturally. It seemed as though their bodies had stopped aging as soon as they were at growth climax. After a few years of being in the cold labs of Hexia, the experiments on their aging process stopped, and they were destroyed.

"Sam has informed me that you came with the metal birds as we had suspected. He also said that you wish to find your people as soon as possible." The Elder spoke to Naku in a soft voice, but there was some concern in his tone.

Naku had to think of something fast. "That's correct. We are on a pilgrimage, and I do not wish to miss anything. Is there any way I can travel up the cliffs to get to the metal birds?"

"No, I'm afraid not. They are far too steep, and you cannot go around them for they stretch for miles. The best way is to find the people you were traveling with. Travelers from the near village of Cashimi told me that they had seen a very large group of men dressed like you heading south of their town. Since no one else on the continent dresses in this way, it is no doubt your people. You should start traveling as soon as possible if you are to reach them." The elder looked at Flip. "Flip, since I do not think Naku knows this land well enough to travel alone, I would like you to accompany him on his journey."

Flip bowed his head and said, "of course elder." He looked at Naku. "If he wishes it that is."

Naku nodded silently as he thought to himself, *This is perfect, I can't believe how well things are going!*

That next morning Flip and Naku were setting out to find the army. Tani and Sam met them at the edge of town.

"I'll be sure to take care of all your animals Flip!" Tani exclaimed.

"Thank you Tani. You be a good girl and take care of your mom and brother."

Tani smiled. "Oh I will. And just you watch Flip, by the time you get back I'll be taller than you!"

"Hey," Flip said with a fake sad voice, "just because I'm short doesn't mean you should make fun of me."

"Aww, don't worry about it, Flip, I'll still marry you even though I'll have to bend down just to give you a kiss."

Sam picked his little sister up. "Tani, there is no way that Flip wants to marry you."

"Hey that's not true, Flip and I are going to get married when I'm older! Right Flip?...Flip?"

Flip was already far ahead of Naku and walking very fast. "Sorry, can't talk, gotta move! Hurry up Naku before she gets free."

Naku just laughed and followed Flip into the woods.

### 3 - Deadly kisses

#### Chapter 3: Deadly Kisses

The two boys had been walking for awhile before they stopped to rest. Naku sat leaning against a tree while Tir was laying down in the grass lazily.

"how long till we reach the next own?" Naku asked.

Tir kept looking up at the sky. "A few hours. We will get there before dark." A leaf fell from one of the trees and landed on Tir's forehead. He didn't bother to reach up and take it off. He just left it there.

Naku blinked a few times. "Aren't you going to take that leaf off?"

"Why should I? I think it was meant to land on my forehead. I'll just let it stay there for awhile."

"Meant to?"

"Yeah," Tir replied. "Kind of like I was meant to find you past out under the cliffs, and you were meant to fall there. Everything has a purpose. Don't you think so?"

Naku just sat there silently. He had never been a believer in fate, but the fact that it was the lucana that found him when that was who he was looking for did seem like destiny. He decided, maybe some things were meant to happen after all. After a bit he looked back at Tir and said. "Well, if it was meant to happen and you pulled the leaf off, weren't you meant to pull the leaf off?"

Tir giggled. "I suppose so." He sat up and let the leaf fall off his face. "Lets get going."

After a few hours they could see the town ahead. It was bigger than Tir's hometown, and some of the houses were made of stone. They even had brick roads. They traveled into the town square which was booming with people running about buying all sort of things from the stands set up around the place. Tir explained that this was a marketing town that brought many people from all around to buy many items. Naku raced around looking all the wonderful handmade objects and homemade foods. Tir laughed at his astonishment and chased after him, but in the quick pace of Naku's footsteps, The short dragon boy couldn't keep up and tripped over his own feet, landing on the bricks. He opened his eyes just in time to see someone's black boots in front of his face. Tir looked up slightly to see the person's hand reaching down to help him up. He took the man's hand and got up.

As he dusted himself off Tir said in a slightly embarrassed tone, "Thanks." He then looked up at the man. He was tall, with a fair complexion. He had long black hair pulled back in a tight ponytail. His eyes, though black like every kalimnian, shimmered strangely. His facial structure seemed to be perfect, like it was carved from stone, and his lips were as full, if not fuller, as Tir's were.

"It is no problem. You should be more careful," the man said in a deep dark voice. Meanwhile,



Naku, who had been busy checking out a fresh apple pie stand, finally noticed Tir wasn't behind him and began searching frantically for him.

Tir nodded. "I'll make sure not to trip over myself again."

The man smiled slightly. "What is someone such as yourself doing all alone?"

"Well I wasn't alone," Tir said looking around for Naku, "A boy was with me."

"I see. well I will help you find him. A woman so frail as you shouldn't be left alone"

"What! I am not a woman! " Tir exclaimed in anger and annoyance at how many times that he had been mistaken for a girl through his life.

"hmm? really?" the man said looking up and down Tir, "please forgive me. I just thought something with such beauty had to be female, but it seems I was wrong."

*gah, first he calls me frail, then he calls me a woman, now hes saying I'm beautiful, this guy is either fruity or loony.* Tir thought, trying to keep his left ear from twitching in his annoyed state.

Naku finally saw Tir and ran up to him. "Tir what are you doing leaving me like that?"

"Me leaving you? you're the one running around everywhere!"

"Oh yeah about that..." Naku looked over at the man. "Who is this?"

"Oh, Naku, this is um...What is your name sir?"

The man replied, "My name is Arkin."

"Oh, what a nice name. I'm Tir, and this is Naku." Tir said, then turned to Naku "Arkin helped me up when I fell and we have been talking ever since then."

"hm..." Naku Looked at Arkin suspiciously. Something was strange about him, but Naku couldn't pinpoint it. Whatever it was, he didn't trust him at all.

**"Yes and it has been pleasant talking to you dear Tir, but I'm afraid I must go now." Arkin said as he watched a young woman walk by. He turned to walk in the direction she was headed. "maybe we shall meet again."**

**Once Arkin was out of sight Naku shivered, "man that guy gave me the creeps."**

**"I found his company soothing...Except when he called me a girl."**

**"He called you a girl!" Naku laughed**

**"Oh shut up Two toes."**

"Hey, no need bringing my feet into the conversation long ears."

"grr."

That night the two boys rented a room in the town inn. Tir tossed back and forth in the bed, unable to sleep at all. He looked over at Naku who was lightly snoring and had his leg up in the air. Tir wished he could sleep so easily. He got up and went for a walk along the town's brick roads. As he was walking, he caught the faint sound of two people talking. He recognized one of the voices. It was Arkin. Tir walked around the corner to see who he was talking to. It was the woman he had followed when they had departed. Arkin was flirting heavily with the lady, and she was definatly flirting back. Tir felt a little odd watching them. Arkin flashed one of his sweet smiles and leaned down to kiss the woman.

Tir was about to leave when Arkin stopped kissing her and called out to him. "Leaving so soon?" The dragon boy turned back and looked at him. Tir couldn't see the womans face, but she was abnormaly still. A chill ran down his spine. Arkin let go of the lady's body and she fell dead to the ground. Tir could only look at the dead body in horror.

"Wha...what did you do?" Tir managed to say.

"Isn't that obvious?" Arkin said calmly.

"Shes dead...Why did you kill her?"

Arkin slowly walked over toward Tir. "I had to eat. She tasted well enough, but it left me hungry. Her soul just wasn't that strong I'm afraid. Probably because she was so unpure."

"Her soul...You're a Cilata!" Tir exclaimed. He had learned about the Cilata race in school. They were demonic acting creatures that disguised themselves as Kalimnians and ate the auras or souls of others by kissing them.

Arkin smirked, still walking toward the dragon boy. "Brilliant deduction, Tir." As he walked he started changing to his true self. The face was the same except the eyes turned pure white. His hands shredded his gloves as they grew into claws.Red symbols appeared on his arms, and a monkey like tail appeared. "Your soul, Though shadowed for some reason, smells so strong and delicious, which is odd because I usually prefer women's souls.I'm sure with a scent like that it will satisfy me for months. "

Tir started to run. Akin just smirked even more. "Ah, a chase. Nothing better to work up my appetite!" As Arkin Chased after him, Tir tried to run as fast as he could back to the Inn. He knew better than to scream. The last time someone alerted the public of a Cilata, there was a massacre in the streets. Better A Cilata pick off one or two people and wonder off than have the whole town kill each other trying to find out if anyone else was a Cilata.

Right as Tir got as far as right next to the Inn, Arkin caught up with him and pushed him into the nearby Alleyway. Tir landed on his side and didn't have time to get up before Arkin had

grabbed his shirt, picked him up and pinned him to the wall.

"Hm, so sad for the little dragon," said Arkin in a sadistic tone, "Not even strong enough to defend himself, and too young to have a dragon form to fly away."

"I have something better than a dragon form." Tir managed to say, even though he could barely breath from the weight of Arkin's body pinning him into the brick wall.

"oh really and what would that be?"

Suddenly, Naku, who had been sneaking up behind him, bashed Arkin on the head with a frying pan from the Inn's kitchen. The cilata yelped and fell backwards. Naku pinned him down before he could get anywhere and held up the pan to hit him again. Arkin growled at Naku, but knew the fight was over. Even though Naku didn't look it, he easily overpowered the cilata in brute strength.

Tir caught his breath and was finally able to answer his question. "A friend with a heavy metal object."

"i was getting a quick bit to eat, hints the frying pan, and I saw you running from this guy. Isn't he the one that we met in the square?"

"Yeah, its him."

"I knew there was something wrong about you!" Naku started to hit him with the frying pan and Arkin put up his free arm to protect himself.

Before the pan hit Arkin, Tir stopped Naku's hand. "No. He was only doing what comes natural to him. He was trying to survive just as we all are. We can't really blame him for that."

Arkin was astonished that Tir felt this way after he had just hunted him. Naku was also suprised, but he kind of expected it from Tir. After all, Tir was a very strange person. "But Tir he tried to kill you..."

"I know." Tir Knelt down and turned his head to look at Arkin. "I've got a deal for you, and I know Cilatas are very proud beings so you can't back out on deals!"

Arkin was silent for a moment then said, "I'm listening."

"Alright, you promise not to hunt me, Naku, or anyone that travels with us, and we will let you live. Deal?"

"....deal."

Naku let him up and he and Tir walked back to the inn. Arkin sat there for a moment in silence, then walked off in a depressed slump from being defeated. In the room Niether Tir nor Naku slept.

Naku layed on the bed and sighed."I still say it was stupid to let him live."

"I know, but what can I say, I've got a soft spot for predators." Tir said in a humorous tone while sitting on the bed holding a pillow.

"Hes going to eat someones soul...Its not natural."

Tir just looked out the window and watched as Arkin was walking away. "It is to a Cilata..."

That next morning they gathered enough supplies to reach the village that the travelers that saw the army came from. They left and had gotten a little ways away from the town. Naku looked behind them and then sped up to walk beside Tir.

"Don't look now, but Kiss-u kill-u boy is following us." He said in a hushed tone.

Tir looked back and indeed, Arkin was right behind them. "Gah! What are you doing?"

"I decided to follow you. How else am I going to get a kiss from you." He said with a sweet smile on his face

"Hey, we agreed you wouldn't hunt Tir anymore!" Naku yelled.

"I know, but that doesn't mean I can't try and trick him into kissing me. And if hes ever in the need of a quick suicide and I'm not there it would be a real waste. His soul is too delicious not to follow. Besides, you two seem like fun people to travel with and I get a bit lonely by myself."

Naku just stood there twitching from being ovely annoyed. Tir sighed and said under his breath, "First I have a little girl who wants to marry me, and now I have a male stalker that wants to suck my soul out by kissing me, I simply have the worst luck ever."

"So my new companions, where are we headed and whats the story?" Arkin said happily.

Tir pointed to Naku. "Ask him, I'm too lazy to tell you the whole thing."

"Hey, why do I gotta do it?"

"You the leader of the group, I'm just the ranger/scout boy."

"But I'm lazy too!!!"

So Arkin relaxed and listened to the arguing, which amused him very much, for a very long while before any explaining ever accured.

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## 4 - Brothers are such trouble

### Chapter 4: Brothers Are Such Trouble

It had been some time since they had landed on the planet of Kalimna. Captain Shima was growing accustomed to the lush green environment. Many of the soldiers looked at the plants in a grimace. They hated the thought that some underdeveloped planet such as this one was more fortunate and rich, than any of the eight planets of Hexia. They didn't think such a race deserved to have such a wonderful gift.

The sections of soldiers had went their separate ways searching for the Lucana. Two of the sections, Leena's and Rylain's, stayed with Captain Shima at the battleships. The four guardians, as usual, were nowhere to be seen. Shima was in his office talking to Leena.

"No Captain Shima, none of the others have reported any sign of the Lucana. Perhaps we should ask Colonel Feign to send the blue or green division to help in the search," Leena said standing before Shima's desk.

Shima looked up at her. "There is no need Leena. The blue and green divisions are probably already on their way, knowing my brother." Suddenly a red button on the screen attached to Shima's desk lit up. "Speaking of my brother..."

Shima pressed the button and Feign popped up on the screen. "Hello my little teddy bear of a brother!"

"Don't call me that." Shima twitched. Leena tried not to giggle.

"Relax Shima, no one else can hear me."

Shima glared at Feign. "Colonel, soldier Leena is in my office."

"Oh really? Turn me around so I can see her." Shima sighed and turned the screen. "Hello Leena, how are you?"

"Fine, Colonel Feign, what about you?"

"Oh fine, but I feel very unloved right now, my brother is very cold to me."

"Oh I know, Captain Shima just doesn't know how to lighten up."

The two of them just kept on chatting like they were old friends. Captain Shima finally bursted out, "am I the only one that takes this military job seriously around here?!?"

leena straightened up, "Sorry sir I was out of line."

Feign sighed and looked toward his brother. "So, how is the search going? My little helper hasn't gotten in touch with me as of late."

Shima looked down. "Guardian Naku fell in battle."

"oh...How tragic. He was a good kid."

"We have not found the LuCana yet, but I'm sure we are getting close." Shima seemed as if he wanted to change the subject quickly." The soldiers have informed me that they have heard of a giant temple in honor of him, and so I told them to search there next."

"oh by the way," Feign said looking around the room like a little kid whose telling his dad that he did something wrong." The king wished for me to send the other divisions, and I thought it best to do just that. They will arrive within five days."

Shima nodded, pretending that he had not predicted this turn of events beforehand.

"Also... The Prince and Princess are coming too."

"What!" Shima jumped up, nearly spilling the cup of water beside him. He couldn't believe it! How did they expect him to carry out his mission with them running around. The Princess was a typical spoiled brat of a princess, and the Prince was the most evil hexian that Shima had ever seen. The so called demons on the pirate battleships across the galaxy had giving The royal Hexian the title of Demon Prince, for they marveled and honored the coldness of his heart and the cruelty of his actions.

"They will be there later than the divisions, but we aren't sure when exactly. They stopped by Hexia V to visit their mother and father first."

Shima just nodded not really paying attention to his brother. He was actually trying to figure out how he could get out of this situation.

"Thats all to report. Notify me when the other divisions arrive." Feign said. One second after the screen shut off. Shima sat back down and closed his eyes in deep thought. After a few seconds he decided maybe he could get one of the other division captains to take care of them. The green captain was just promoted to his postion last month and wouldn't know what he was getting himself into by taking on the task. He might even think it an honor. Yes, thats just what Shima would do. He thought it cruel to do such a thing to the fellow captain, but then again, everything was cruel in the galaxy...

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As the sun rose on the valley where the three tavelers were sleeping by the now dim fire that had kept them warm in the night, Naku opened his eyes as soon as the light hit his face. Naku was used to getting up with the sun. When he was in training, the chip installed in his spine would send a shocking jolt through him at a minute after sunrise if he wasn't awake. It was a very mean way to wake someone up, but Naku didn't think it as such. He didn't know anything else. It was just part of the hexian life.

Naku sat up and looked at his companions. Flip was sitting up in the tree asleep with his bare feet and legs hanging down carelessly. At that moment, Naku didn't remember that this was the dormant god of dragons that had the power to destroy entire planets if he wished. He looked upon him instead as if he were a small child, helpless and in need of protection from the evils of the world. Evils like the Cilata asleep right under the tree. Flip had let Arkin follow even though Naku had tried to stop him from doing so. He did not see how the dragon boy could care so much about a soul eater. He thought for a few seconds and then realized this would be a good opportunity to dispose of the creature. Slowly he edged up to the sleeping monster, but before he could get close enough to cause any harm, Arkin opened his eyes and sat up.

"You have some sort of tar on your boots. I could hear it trying to stick to the dirt," he said in a calm tone, "when you're trying to sneak up on someone, you should go barefoot."

Naku just snorted angrily and glared at Arkin. Arkin didn't need him to say anything. He already knew what was going through the blonde's mind. It was the same thing that everyone thought when they knew what he was. They wanted him gone at any cost. Not Flip though. Flip was the only one to understand. Arkin couldn't help his nature and shouldn't be blamed for it. He had to eat to survive and souls were the only thing he even could eat. Others just wanted to wipe the Cilata race off the face of the planet, but Flip respected the nature of his people and only tried to survive himself, without the hatred that others harbored in their hearts. Arkin finally knew what it was to have a friend and an ally.

Flip stirred in the tree and looked down at the two. "Are you two still going at it? Naku, stop being so mean."

"I'm not mean!" Naku yelled.

Flip jumped down from the tree landing on his feet. A warm smile brightened his pale face. "Whatever you say, Naku. I'm hungry, let's go catch some breakfast!"

"Catch breakfast?" Naku said curiously.

Arkin snorted. "Silly boy, have you not heard of fishing?"

"Of course I've heard of it!" Naku said as he threw a rock at Arkin's head. "I just haven't ever done it is all."

Flip jumped up and down. "Oh, yay, then I can teach you! Come on, to the river!" Flip exclaimed as he ran toward the river they had passed just before setting up camp.

Arkin followed after him quickly. "Hey, Flip darling, what am I to eat!?"

Naku sighed and followed slowly. He didn't really like the idea of catching his own food especially fish. He had heard that they were extremely disgusting to gut and cook. His hope was that Tir would be nice and do Naku's fish as well as his own.

Before Naku could catch up, he heard a distinct sound behind him from the tree that Flip had



jumped out of. It was the sound of a man sized being landing on one of the sturdy branches. As he looked back he saw a figure in the shadow of the leaves.

"You should leave my brother alone. You have no idea of what shall happen if he is awoken," the figure said.

Naku squinted trying to see the person better. "What do you mean? Show yourself."

The man jumped down and landed on his feet exactly as Flip did minutes before. It was a dragon-kin, tall with blonde hair that was tipped green. He had electric green eyes and his ears were pointed like Flip's, though not as long. His face also reminded him of Flip, only stronger and somehow colder. There had been a rumor that the LuCana had a brother, that watched over his dormant soul, by the name of Chaosin. Naku assumed this must be him.

"Do not take him to that captain of yours. Just leave Flip be."

Naku suddenly flared up in anger. "Why should I? The god has a right to be set free! What kind of a brother are you to let your little sibling remain dormant and not have the life he was born to!"

Chaosin stood there silent for a moment, then chuckled. "You don't understand little hexian. Its not of my will that he remains dormant. it isn't even the wish of the people that sealed him."

"wha?" Naku stared at him confusedly.

"I'll give you untill you reach the captain, and if you haven't departed from him yet, I will be forced to step in and make sure you and your people won't be able to come after him again." And with that the dragon spread his massive black wings and flew up into the sky.

Naku stood there for a moment gazing up at path that the dragon had taken into the sky. This turn of events was actually quite fortunate. Now he knew he was one hundred percent correct in thinking Flip was the LuCana. Though Chaosin could turn out to be a problem later on, Naku was sure Shima could handel it. He turned and started back to the river unafraid of the threats that were just said to him.

Flip had already caught a fish with his bare hands when Naku arrived. He handed it to Arkin. "Here. I know you can only last so long on fish and animal aura, but its better than nothing, eh?"

Arkin cringed a bit, "Flip darling, I hope this is the last time you decide on fish for a meal."

"Oh just kiss it, Mr. Whiney."

Arkin hesitated for a brief moment and then kissed the flapping fish, sucking the aura out of it. He then handed the dead fish back to Flip, who was taking the dagger out of his boot to clean it.

Flip looked up at Naku. "There you are. What took you so long?"

"Oh nothing. I just stopped in thought is all."

Arkin grinned. "How lovely, the blonde has learned to think!"

Naku growled and said, "Oh shut up fish lips!"

Arkin covered his mouth and Flip giggled. The dragon boy went back to fishing. Naku tried to catch a few fish but only managed to catch a small one. After awhile Flip cleaned and cooked them all. Naku didn't like the smell of the fish and Arkin was almost sick from seeing the guts. He didn't show it though. He didn't want yet another thing that Naku could make fun of him for.

After eating, they packed up everything and headed toward the next town. Arkin caught squirrels along the way to steal their aura so he didn't get too weak. Tir saved all the squirrel's fur to maybe make something later. Naku just walked alongside them and went back into deep thought about how proud his captain would be of him, and how Tir would aid them on their quest greatly.

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After flying for about a day Chaosin reached his destination. He landed on the roof of a black stone castle that had been abandoned for centuries. Most of the stain-glass windows were broken and walls were unstable and crumbling. Chaosin slipped through a hole in the roof and landed in the throne room. The brilliant throne was made of beautiful marble and the back was cracked down the middle. There were bloodstains down the throne and onto the floor. One of a light blood, and then another, dark blood... Dragon blood.

Chaosin looked at the throne in sadness from what he had seen so long ago in that very same room. He could almost hear the crying, the painful screams, but something else caught his attention. He looked to the left and saw a pair of piercing eyes in the dark shadows staring at him so intensely, he felt as though they were burning into him.

"I found them." Chaosin said. "It was easy. My brother still has the same scent after all."

A dark cold voice called out. "And, what did you do?"

"I gave the hexian a chance. If he doesn't leave my little brother alone, then I will take matters into my own hands."

"That is madness, Chaosin! What if he awakens before you can stop them, we have to end this now!" The evil voice shrieked.

"If we rush things the shell of my brother might panic. You know he can't go through an intense emotion, he might break out on his own!"

The eyes glared at him furiously. "That is a risk we can take, Chaosin. We can not fail him now!"

Chaosin glared back. "Do what you wish, demon, but if it falls through, it will be on your hands!"

"Fine, I will do this on my own!" the eyes disappeared and a small feline scurried out from the shadows and out the castle.

Chaosin watched the cat go out of the door and then shook his head. "such a fool that cat is when it comes to little brother..."

Authors Note:

I hope you all have liked my story thus far. I will be the first to tell you, this is one of my lesser thought out works, and just a small part in the chronicles. But hey, you should read it anyway to know whats going on in the others when they are posted!

## 5 - A dragon god's wrath

### Chapter 5: A Dragon God's Wrath

It was getting very dark when they reached the next town. It wasn't big like the last town. No paved roads or brick buildings. Just small tents made of animal hide and bone and small farms growing vegetables to support the village. It was all centered around a giant tree. The tree's roots spread around the village. The people had not disturbed any of the roots to live there; rather they had built around it. Naku found it odd that these people would care so much about one simple tree so much.

"We shouldn't stop here." Flip said with urgency in his voice. Arkin looked over at the little dragon and saw that he was trembling slightly. Sadness and fear were in Flip's crystal blue eyes as he looked upon the village.

"Flip darling, whats wrong?" Arkin asked, reaching out to touch his shoulder.

"I...am not welcome here."

"Not welcome?" Naku said , confused at how a village wouldn't welcome such a sweet boy like Flip.

" I'm sure it will be fine if we just pass through." Arkin said.

"I don't know if its such a good idea to risk it."

Arkin held the poor dragon tightly. "Oh poor Flip darling, here, come give me a kiss and everything will be all better."

Naku growled. "This is not the time to be trying to trick him Arkin!"

Arkin whimpered and grabbed at his stomach. "Oh I can't help it, I'm just so hungry!" He exclaimed then whimpered a few more times.

Flip looked at Arkin. "I'm sorry you're hungry but I don't think we will find anyone you can eat here anyways. This is the town I was born in and I would stop you from eating the people that I know, which is most of them. "

Naku looked over the town again. No wonder Flip respected nature so much, being born in a place like that.

"Still, I might be able to find a thief or two, you never know! " Arkin said with anxious hope in his voice.

Flip giggled. As he did, he caught an odd scent in the air. Sniffing at the wind twice, he figured out what it was. "There is a werewolf somewhere."

Naku looked around. "What! A werewolf?! Where?"

Arkin glanced over at Naku. "I can smell it's soul, I think it's somewhere close. "

Flip started running to the village hurriedly following the scent.

"Flip, wait!"

Arkin and Naku followed. He stopped nearly at the edge of town and sniffed at the air again. His shoulders dropped, with what looked like it could have been disappointment. "It's gone."

Naku blinked. "How strange. What kind of werewolf can run so fast?"

Flip answered, "Maybe it was a scent that was carried on the wind. This is a disappointment. I was hoping I could see a real werewolf on this journey."

Arkin tilted his head. "Why would you want to see a beast like that, Flip darling? Such rabid things they are."

Flip looked at Arkin, glaring slightly. "That's just the kind of thing people say about your race too."

Arkin was stunned and fell silent. Naku walked up to Flip. "Well, no sense in going back now, we're already practically in the village."

"Right. Let's get going."

As the three walked into town, Naku leading and Arkin following behind, many of the people stopped what they were doing and stared. They weren't like the people in the town where Flip lived now. These people seemed to hate the travelers. Flip did his best to tuck his ears under his long black hair and hide his face. No one recognized him. For awhile anyways.

Arkin looked around at all the people like a dog looks at the food on a high table. He whispered to Flip, "Please, can't I just pick one off, surely there is someone you hate here."

Flip shook his head. "The ones I didn't like aren't here."

Arkin grumbled and sunk his head down low so as not to see any of the people and started breathing from his mouth because the scent of so many fresh souls was too unbearable.

"So you must have family here, right Flip?" Naku said in a low voice.

Flip sighed. "My parents died when I was two...and my big sisters moved away leaving me alone after that. No one is here for me now."

Naku now understood. Though a peaceful race, kalimnians were very superstitious. An orphan separated from all his family, by force or free will, was terrible bad luck. They treated them almost like a disease. He suspected that the other towns didn't know, and that was why he was allowed to travel and live in peace everywhere else.

The had gotten next to the great tree when suddenly a voice called out, "Flip...Flip, is that you?"

Flip trembled at his name, slowly turning around. The girl who had called out was standing some ways away from him. She had bright short blonde hair. Her black eyes gleamed with a intense yet blurred emotion that the travelers couldn't figure out. Her clothes were elegant and a pale blue that made her white skin stand out even more.

Flip's eyes grew wider than normal as he looked upon the lady. "Natami."

She softly glided toward him. Flip stood stiff as she approached. Naku wasn't sure if his expression was of shock, fear, or both. Natami got right next to Flip. She was taller than him by a long shot, so Flip had to look upward. There was a long moment of intense silence, then suddenly, she raised her hand and slapped the little dragon to the ground.

Naku jumped back in confusion "Eh?! What the?"

"Why you little wench!" Arkin yelled. "How dare you slap him!"

"Its alright, Arkin. Just stay out of it." Flip said holding onto his bleeding cheek. He stood back up and looked at her in the eyes yet again. "Go ahead. Get it out of your system."

Natami glared and slapped him on the other side, but lighter this time. Flip only stumbled slightly.

Naku panicked flapping his arms rapidly. "hey, hey, hey! Stop hitting the poor thing!"

"Stay out of it, Naku!" Flip glared at him as if Naku was the one slapping him. Naku was still confused but stopped the yelling.

The lady slapped him a couple of more times, and slowly her angry eyes filled with tears. She collapsed to her knees and embraced the dragon she had been slapping seconds before and wept. Flip just stood there like he hadn't been hurt and stroked her hair comfortingly. Arkin and Naku said nothing and just stood back out of the way.

"Why! Why did you leave me behind!" She managed to say in between sobs. Flip didn't answer her. He just kept stroking her hair silently. After a bit, Arkin finally stepped towards them. "Um, excuse me, I wouldn't mind a bit of an explanation."

The girl looked at him, wiping a tear away and smiling slightly. "Oh I'm sorry. You must think me a horrible person right now, but I'm really not. I was just angry."

"Angry?! Rampaging is more like it you nearly gave Flip a concussion!" Naku yelled.

"Well he deserved it...for the most part." She got up and brushed her hair back. It looked as if she hadn't been crying at all.

"Deserved it?!?" Naku was dumbstruck, and the fact Flip wasn't angry he just got slapped around was even more confusing.

The girl looked at Flip smiling happily. "So you got mom to forgive you? How lovely! You must stay at my place for tonight...." Natami waited a few seconds. When Flip didn't say anything she figured out he hadn't gotten forgiveness. "Flip, how could you come through here without forgiveness, that's dishonorable!"

Arkin noticed that the other villagers were gathering around staring at Flip and whispering to one another. Flip saw them too. "Natami, I need to go before I stir up more trouble."

Natami shrugged. "Okay, okay, but you aren't leaving me this time! Just let me get my things really quick!"

"Ack, Natami, you can't-"

Natami had already ran to get her stuff.

"Oh man, we gotta get out of here!" Flip frantically started running. Naku and Arkin followed, struggling to keep up.

As soon as they were a few feet away from the outskirts of town, Flip stopped and clasped his knees panting. Naku came up next to him. "So, um, what's the story here pray-tell?"

Flip stopped his panting and stood upright. "When I shamed the village, The leader thought it best for me to leave. Natami wanted to come with me. It just so happens that she is the leader's daughter. I didn't think it would be such a good idea to take her with me and get the leader even more angry and come after me with pitchforks."

"My mother would not use pitchforks! ... She would use sticks!" Natami yelled. She was right behind Arkin. He jumped and spun around, but tripped over his own feet and fell gracelessly on the ground with a thump.

Flip twitched in fear and slowly turned to her. "Hello Natami! We were just ah-"

"Waiting here because you didn't want to be seen? Right, we will take that so I don't have to hurt you for nearly running off on me again." Natami's glare was cold and intense.

Arkin, who had been dusting himself off, came up to Natami and sniffed her. "Is she traveling with us or not?"

"I guess she is, so no, you can't eat her."

"E-eat me?!"

Arkin huffed. "Too bad. Her smell was pretty decent. Not a bad meal."

"What?!?" Natami stepped away from Arkin. "Flip, what is with this guy?!?"

"Um, I could explain, but its kinda long. Stop scaring her Arkin, we don't need another panicky person."

Naku chimed in, "Yeah!...Wait, are you calling me panicky?"

Flip continued. "Well, I guess there is no stopping you from coming now."

"Hey, you didn't answer me, were you calling me panicky?"

"So lets just get away before anyone goes and reports me being here to your mom."

"Flip! I'm talking to you! Take back what you said about me being panicky!"

"Does anyone else hear that panicky voice?"

"I am not panicky!!!"

Arkin smiled. "No, I can't hear anything. You must be hearing things, Flip darling."

"Pay attention to me damnit!"

Flip giggled. "Oh well, lets be on our way then!" He started skipping off.

Arkin watched the little dragon as he skipped and then turned to Natami. "Was Flip always that...feminine?"

Natami rolled her eyes and said, "you have no idea," as she followed Flip.

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Naku was still trying to get someone to pay attention to him until they had stopped to rest. Arkin built a fire and made Flip sit next to it. Flip had been shivering before they had stopped and Arkin was worried that he would catch a cold or some kind of illness. Before Arkin could sit next to him, Natami pushed him aside, positioning herself next to the dragonboy. She went on telling him about everything that had happened in her life untill finally, Flip had fallen asleep because he was so exhausted by the journey (and by her babbaling of unappreciated nonsense). Naku was on the other side of the fire away from the three companions. He sat and watched them in silence all the time thinking of how he was going to lose the others and get Flip safely to Captain Shima. It wasn't so bad when it was just Arkin. He could sneak up on Arkin(shoeless next time) and kill him easily, but he had never killed an innocent girl before. Natami had done nothing wrong. She had just decided to journey with the wrong dragon at the



wrong time. This wasn't the only problem bothering him though. He was having doubts. He was going back to what Chaosin had said to him before. That it wasn't by his will that the dragon god remain dormant. Was it possible that the LuCana wished to stay in his shell? Naku shook his head to banish these thoughts. No one in their right mind would want to be dormant like that; always being shoved from one body to the next, nightmares about your true self which you can't understand, emotions and attachments to certain things you know nothing about, and a feeling of complete aloneness and that you are always missing something that you need.

By the time Naku stopped thinking about all the problems he had with getting Flip into Hexian military hands, Natami had started talking to Arkin.

"So where are we going? Somewhere far off?"

Arking didn't look at her as he spoke. he just stared at the fire, like he was imagining he was somewhere else. "We're taking Naku to his people."

Natami turned to Naku. "Where are your people, Mr. Naku?"

Naku blinked a few times. "Not sure. They are on a pilgrimage. I don't know how far they have gotten."

Arkin looked up at the hexian and said, "I'm still curious as to why a godless nation of the north would have a group on a pilgrimage."

Naku smiled nervously. What was he going to say to cover that up? He thought quickly and sighed. "I suppose I can tell you the truth. We are outcasts from the North. We were banished for worshiping the lord. We are looking for a place to call home. I didn't know anything about the people down here, I thought you might think we were trying to steal your land from you so I had to lie."

Arkin wasn't convinced, but he kept his mouth shut.

Flip stirred for a brief second. His face was scrunched up like he was having a bad dream.

Natami sighed as she looked upon him. "He's having one of his nightmares again. He used to have them all the time when he lived with us."

"What about?" Naku found himself asking.

"I'm not really sure. He could never really recall them himself. He would call out 'The blood, no, the blood' but he stopped saying that after about the fifth time."

"Poor Flip darling..."

Naku scratched his head. He thought maybe it was repressed memories of the last minutes he was truly alive. Which meant it was a violent end, and if so, it couldn't be that he wanted to be put asleep! This gave comfort to Naku in the fact that the Hexians were going to awaken him. Something was still bugging him though, not about that though. He decided to ask. "Natami, why was Flip dishonored? I

know he was orphaned but that can't be the only reason..."

Natami took a deep breath. "He scarred the great tree."

"You mean that big tree in the village?"

"Yes. You probably didn't see it, but on one side there is a giant hole."

Arkin stood up. "How could such a small boy hurt a tree that badly?"

Natami shrugged. "Not really sure, but the day he got that tail of his he was getting bullied by some of the kids. I tried to stop them, but I was thrown to the ground. They broke my leg too. When my face was in the dirt I heard him scream and something push me down even father. And when I got up... " She looked over at Flip. "They were on the ground too, scorched by demon's fire, and the tree was too. Flip was just laying on one of the roots, he was passed out and he had that brand new tail."

Naku's eyes were brilliantly lit up. The dragon god inside Flip was already starting to wake up! This was good news. Now he knew that it was intense emotion that was needed to call him forth from his shell, like the intense emotions that stirred in him before he was put under the spell of sleep.

"Maybe we should get some re-" Arkin was cut short by a rustle in the bushes that caught his attention. He looked in the direction of the sound just in time to see a black cat crawling out from the shadows.

Natami saw it too. "Aww, its a kitty how cute!"

Arkin glared at the cat and hissed slightly. "Thats no cat."

The cat's bright green eyes grew wider and he flashed a demonic smirk.

Naku stood up and backed away. "Wh-what is it?!"

Arkin growled. "He's a demon."

Naku had forgotten that this was one of the few planets that had the species that were known as demons. It was in fact, the only underdeveloped planet to have them. Most demons were on pirate battleships. They were most annoying to the hexians.

The wild demon cat chuckled. "What a smart Cilata you are."

Natami stepped away from Arkin. "Your a Cilata?!"

"We have bigger problems right now than what Arkin is Natami!" Naku said harshly.

Flip sat up and rubbed his eyes. "Whats going on?"

Natami grabbed Flip's hand and pulled him up. "We have a problem."

The demon stepped forward. As he did he started to grow larger. Suddenly his bones cracked and bent, making him an upright humanoid. There was a quick flash of red and when it was gone the demon looked kalimnian but for his green eyes, pointed ears, fangs, and black cat tail. His hair was long, dirty blonde, and mostly braided in small tight braids. His skin was a light peachy color and his clothes were as black as his fur when he was a cat.

The demon grinned and stepped up another time and smirked yet again, fangs baring this time. "I'll be taking the dragon now."

Arkin turned into his true form and glared at the demon intensely. "You'll have to get through me."

"With pleasure." The demon's evil voice echoed in the hollow trees surrounding the clearing.

Naku looked at Flip and Natami. "You two stay back, we will handle this."

The demon was the first to attack. Arkin lunged to meet him head on, but it was a trick. Just as they were about to meet, the cat demon ducked down, dodging Arkin's punch, and hit him square in the gut. As Arkin buckled from the pain, the demon wrapped his cat tail around Arkin's leg, whipped him up in the air and sent him sailing into a tree. Arkin landed with a giant crash that sounded like the tree had split into, but it held up. Flip and Natami just stood there terrified. Naku was amazed at how quickly Arkin had went down. This was one tough demon.

Arkin didn't get up from the tree. The demon flipped the one braid that had moved onto his face back to its original position and continued forward. Naku stepped in front of him.

"You too?" The demon asked boredly. "This is getting old very fast."

Flip wasn't even paying attention to the demon anymore. He was too worried about Arkin. "Arkin is hurt, I have to help him."

"Oh no you don't, you stay right here Flip!" Natami said angrily.

Naku was inching and kicking at the demon rapidly but somehow he dodged all the attacks. It was like the demon was just playing with him.

"Getting tired yet hexian? "

Naku was stunned. How did that demon know of his race? At that moment the demon gave Naku a sharp upper cut to the jaw. Naku fell back, but didn't stay down for that long.

"Hm, it seems hexians are pretty strong."

Natami was so in tune to what was going on with Naku and the demon she let go of Flip's hand. Flip took the moment and ran to Arkin.

"Flip!" Natami yelled.

The demon looked over after hearing her call him and saw that Flip was now in the open, he smirked and proceeded to walk toward him. Naku saw this and immediately jumped on his back. "Oh no you don't!"

"Ugh, you are really getting on my nerves boy!" The demon said as he grabbed Naku by the head and swung him down face first over his shoulders and into the ground. Naku was knocked out cold and fell limp on the ground. The demon then started walking toward Flip, stepping on Naku along the way.

"Come on Arkin, please wake up please!" Flip said in a panic stricken voice. Arkin was in pretty bad shape. He had large splinters of the tree tearing through his body, and a great gash on his head. The demon was now just a little ways away from him. Natami was screaming for him to run, but somehow Flip's ears didn't pick it up. His eyes were tearing up. He shut them very tightly like he was trying not to cry, but then something odd happened. When he opened his eyes again, there were not tears, but his pupils had turned pure white and black stripes appeared on his cheeks.

Flip turned sharply to look at the demon. He stopped in his tracks and looked at the dragon in shock and fear, just as Flip had looked upon Natami in the village.

"T-Tir," was all that escaped from the demon's lips.

Flip, or at least, the body that Flip had once occupied, stood up, still blank faced. For a moment, he just stood there. Then, in a brief flash, his blank stare turned into an evil glare and he let out a dragoning scream. The wave of sound blew the demon back and he fell to the ground. Flip went to his blank stare, started slowly walking toward the demon.

"Tir, stop, I was trying to- no, stop," The scared demon couldn't get out a full sentence. Tir, as he was calling him, still walking toward him, picked up one of the sharp shards of the tree that had flew from the tree. "No Tir, stop you don't know what your doing!"

The dragon got to the demon, looked down at him, and without the slightest bit of sympathy of concern, lifted the wooden shard to plunge it into the demon's heart.

The demon timidly braced himself for what was coming, but just before the dragon struck him, he heard a small voice saying, "ugh, F-flip darling w-where are you?!"

Flip's eyes turned back to normal, but the black stripes stayed, and he looked over at the tree. Arkin was trying to sit up, but his eyes were closed because the blood from the gash was running over them so it wasn't wise to open them at the time. Flip dropped the shard. As he turned to run to Arkin, the demon got up, grabbed him, and started running. Flip screamed. Natami was still petrified. Arkin heard Flip's scream of fear and rolled himself out of the tree trying to crawl toward the sound. He couldn't lose his friend like this, he had to do something, but he didn't get far in his condition. He collapsed just a little ways from the tree.

Natami finally unfroze and ran to Naku. He was coming to. She kneeled next to him and used the water in her flask to wake him up fully.

Naku shot up and looked around. "Flip! where is he?!"

Natami was almost crying. "That monster took him."

"What! And you didn't try to stop him!" Naku stood up and ran over to Arkin. He pushed the wounded Cilata over on his back. Arkin coughed up some blood.

Naku shook his head. "What a pitiful state you're in."

Arkin smiled. "I bet you love the sight, huh Naku. Me dying? Its what you wanted." He coughed a few more times. "It doesn't really matter though. I've lost the one person who cared about me. After knowing what it is to be wanted, I would rather die than be without it."

Naku huffed. " Good, we both agree you should die. Which way did he go?" Natami pointed west. "I'm going to find Flip. Natami I suggest you go home. If you can't act when your friend is in trouble how can you act when your in danger yourself?"

Natami was crying by now. She was so ashamed of herself. Arkin found the strength to crawl to a nearby tree and prop himself up. She looked at him. A Cilata was able to fight for Flip, but she couldn't. She was heartbroken. Natami then decided that she would find Flip and help save him this time. She got up and grabbed her pack, as well as Arkin's since he wouldn't need it anymore. She started following Naku's path. Its was a good thing she was a good tracker. As she passed him, Arkin coughed again. She stopped and looked at him.

Arkin heard her stop. "You will find him for me won't you?"

Natami huffed just as Naku had at the Cilata. "Not for you, I'm going to find him because hes my friend."

"I see...You are just like Naku. I do hope you save him though."

"...We will" and with that she walked off, leaving Arkin to die alone in the forest.



## 6 - The Reotai Brothers

### Chapter 6: The Reotai Brothers

Flip awoke in a dark room. He looked around. There was a small window, and it looked to be storming outside. He was laying on a four post bed with satin sheets and velvet blankets. It was too dark to see anything else in the room. Flip tried to remember what had happened. The demon had been running with him and knocked him out after he had bitten his arm. Then he remembered Arkin. Flip tried to get out of bed but something tugged at his leg. He took the covers off to see that there was a thick chain made of dragon iron that was around his ankle keeping him ontop of the bed. He pulled on it everyway possible, but it was no use. Normaly a dragon could melt chains, but this was made of dragon iron, an unmeltable metal that was forged by kalimnians who lived on the Koreem mountain.

For a few seconds Flip sat and wept like a little child. He had lost his friends, who might be dead for all he knew, and he didn't know where he was or what was to happen to him. Suddenly, he heard a sound. It was like a door creaking open. His face shot up.

"Whose there?"

There was a scuttle of footsteps on the floor. They sounded to big to be the demon's cat form, but too little to be his humanoid form too. Flip squinted as hard as he could. The dragon made out the shape he took to be a small kalimnian boy at first, but then saw it had pointed ears and a tail like the demon had. Flip moved as far away from the smaller demon as possible without hurting his foot.

"Please, don't be frightened." The little demon's voice seemed lighthearted, yet nervous.

"Who are you? Are you with that other demon?!"

The demon nodded his head. "Please just calm down."

"Why should I calm down? I'm being held prisoner!"

"I'm sorry, I didn't wish this, I really didn't, my brother said it was necessary. Just talk to me please."

Flip tried to calm himself. The demon boy sounded sincere. He decided to give him a chance. "...get some light in here so I can see your face, then maybe I'll calm myself."

The little demon scurried over to the left side of the bed. He then struck a fire stone and lit up the two big candles on the table. Flip could now get a good look at him. He was about as tall as Flip. He had bright eyes like the other demon, but blue instead of green. His hair was blonde and spiked up. He was pale and had a very cute face. The demon had a rat's tail like Flip's, but it was thicker and about three quarters of the length.

The demon looked at Flip and smiled. "Are you going to calm down now?"

"We'll see. Who are you anyway."

"My name is Cian Reotai."

"Reotai?" Flip thought he had heard that name before.

"Uh-huh. Can I get you something to eat?"

Flip shook his head. "I suppose that cat demon was your brother."

"yep, that was Forin. I'm sorry about the way he acted. Sure you aren't hungry?"

"I'm fine. Why did he bring me here in the first place."

Cian shrugged. "He wouldn't tell me. All he said was to chain you up in my room. I told my other brothers and they all agreed with him. Well, except for Seth. Then again, Seth never agrees with anyone."

"Brothers? How many do you have?"

"Five. I'm the youngest. Were you the youngest child? Its so hard. They always make me do everything."

While Cian was ranting on how difficult it was to be the younger child, Flip was thinking. Even if he could get out of the chains, there was no way he could fight five demons. He didn't think he would have to worry about Cian. Cian didn't seem to want him in the chains anymore than Flip did.

The little mouse demon sat on the edge of the bed. "I am really sorry about this. But I'm sure Forin only wants to keep you safe."

Flip glared. "Safe from what!"

"I'm not sure. Please don't be angry with me." Cian cowered slightly.

Flip stopped glaring and a sympathetic smile came across his face. "I'm not angry at you. I'm just very angry at your brother right now. See, he hurt my friends."

"Forin does that alot."

Flip saw that Cian was clasping his arms and shivering. "Are you cold?"

"Just a little," Cian said meekly.

Flip picked up the velvet blanket, pulled the little boy closer, and covered him up.



Cian giggled shyly. "Thank you. Your very nice for a prisoner."

Flip smiled. He didn't have anything against Cian. Most people would have hated him just for being a demon. Luckily for Cian, Flip wasn't most people.

After a bit Flip layed back down. Cian layed beside him. The little dragon closed his eyes. He was sill tired from what had all happened. He felt Cian snuggle up to his side like a small child would when it was cold or scared. He didn't care. Flip just relaxed and fell asleep.

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At the hexian battleship base, Shima was standing outside the Dragonfly. There was a new battleship there. It was painted blue with the yellow numbers 7902 on the side. It was the blue division's main battleship and was named Pegasus. Shima stepped up to the ramp as Skii, the blue division captain, walked down to him along with Poe, the green division captain, behind him. The ten guardians followed. When they got to the ground, they stood side by side in front of Shima.

Shima nodded at the other captains. Skii was a brown haired, golden eyed hexian who looked about the same age as Colonel Feign. Many scars covered the skin that was visible. He was taller than Shima by an inch or two and a bit more broad in the shoulders. Poe on the other hand only came up to Shima's shoulders. He wasn't a hexian by blood. He was of the race that lived on hexia III before it was taken over. That race had no name, for its history was wipped out. He was now labeled a "black blood hexian." Poe's long black hair was down to his waist was tied back in a tight pony tail, but his bangs were bushy. His skin was a dark tan and his eyes were a copper color. Poe's face had sharp features, but they were nice look to it. He was a very fair looking man.

"Captain Shima, it's been awhile," Skii said.

"It has indeed. Welcome to Kalimna."

Poe looked around at the lush enviroment. "It is a very fertile planet, isn't it? I don't see why we haven't taken it over yet. We could supply ourselves with more food and water."

Skii snapped at Poe. "Food and water is not the king's goal! We have to time to squander on supplies. We have a galaxy to take over."

Poe's face remained emotionless. "Yes, but we could do a better job if our military wasn't starving."

Skii gave one last glare at Poe then turned to Shima. "I soppose your brother has informed you of why we are here?"

"Yes he has," Shima replied, "but I expected your soldiers too. Are they not with you?"

Poe looked up at Shima. "We didn't think it was necessary. Your soldiers are the most experienced for such a planet. Besides, we were only sent here by the king because he knew it would take all three of us to make sure the Prince didn't go on a mass murdering spree."

Shima nodded. He was thinking of when he thought he was going to pass the prince and princess off to Poe. I figured now that the option had fallen because of Poe's intelligence on the subject, he had no choice but to help the other captains.

Skii had discovered a butterfly fluttering beside them and hadn't been paying attention. After the butterfly disappeared into the woods, Skii suggested they go inside the Dragonfly. They walked inside and went to Shima's office. When they got there, the image screen button was beeping.

Shima pressed the button and yet again Feign popped up on the screen. "Hello Shima."

"What good timing you have, Colonel. The other captains have just arrived. "

"Is that so?" Feign glanced over at Poe and quickly back to Shima. He sat up and started acting formal. "That's good news. The Prince and Princess are going to be arriving earlier than expected."

Shima twitched slightly. "How much earlier?"

"Tomorrow."

Shima grumbled under his breath. Skii put his hand on his head. Poe didn't seem to be paying attention. He hadn't even looked at the screen since it had come on.

"Is that all you needed to tell me, Colonel?"

"Pretty much." Feign said.

Suddenly there was a voice on Feign's side of the screen. "Is that Shima sweetie? Let me talk to him!" A woman with black hair and silver eyes pushed Feign out of the way to get her head in the picture.

"Ouch, mom, you're on my foot! "

"Oh, sorry Feign. Hello sweetie."

Shima looked down at his own feet. "Hello Mother."

Shima's mom was smiling brightly. "Oh don't be so shy now Shima! Whose my little red heart?"

"mo-ther" Shima said in an annoyed voice.

"Come on say it! Whose my little red heart hm?"

Shima grumbled. "I am."

SKii snickered in the background. Poe nudged him with his elbow slightly glaring.

"So where are you sweety?"

"I'm on Kalimna."

As soon as Shima said Kalimna, his mother's face went white. "K-kalimna?" She looked down. Something was wrong.

"What is it mother?"

"Oh its nothing, dear. Have a good time on your little mission. I'm supposed to be meeting your father for supper and I'm late! Goodbye." She said, then ran out of the picture.

Feign positioned himself back into the middle of the screen. "Sorry about that Captain Shima, I couldn't stop her."

Shima nodded. "Its alright...brother."

Feign smiled slightly. "Good bye Shima, Skii, Poe."

Poe glanced at Feign for a second then went back to gazing around the room. Skii nodded goodbye and Shima shut off the screen.

"Well, back to business," Poe said. "Lets start baby proofing the ships."

"The prince and princess are bringing babies?!"

"Shut up Skii."

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Back in the forest, Naku was running along the demon's trail with Natami not far behind. Suddenly, Naku stopped, checking for signs. It seemed that the trail had stopped at a day old campsite. Natami saw that he had stopped and ran up to him quickly. "What is it?"

Naku shook his head. "The trail is gone. Damnit, now what are we gonna track!" He said angrily, punching into one of the nearby trees.

Natami sighed and sat down on a log. "it seems a lot of demons were here. He must have had companions."

Naku paced around looking for any sign, and found nothing. "Is there a town nearby Natami?"

"Um, yeah. Not far at all."

"Lets go there. Maybe they will know of any demon nests around."

They walked along till they got to the small town. It was a badly built town, with no borders or

gardens. Just little wooden houses that were barely holding up. Natami walked up to one of the ladies in a rocking chair right outside of her house.

"Excuse me ma'am, but we need some help."

The woman looked up. "Well, I'm happy to help, child. What is it you folks need?"

Naku replied. "A cat demon kidnapped our friend. Would you happen to know if a demon nest is nearby?"

She shook her head. "No sir, no demon nests. But did you say a cat? Ah, you must be talking about that Reotai that lives in the palace up there."

Naku's eyes became wide. He knew the name Reotai well. They were the royalty of the demon race. They had been all over the galaxy, but went into hiding sometime ago. *No wonder he knew about hexians* He thought.

Natami kept talking. "Can you tell us where the palace is ma'am."

"Oh sure, hun. Its just up that dirt road there, but I don't recomend going though. They are horrible creatures, simply horrible! Course they don't bother us none if we don't go near them, and let that dog one pick off some of the cattle once and awhile."

"Thankyou ma'am but we must go. Goodbye." Natami nodded and started walking along with Naku.

Naku's eyes were glued to the road. "I think we're in for more than we can handle on this one."

Natami looked over at him. "Why? we can just sneak around and get him out. No trouble."

"Theres no sneaking around the Reotais. Don't you know who they are?"

"No. Should I?"

And so Naku explained that they were demon royalty. Natami didn't seem to understand, but Naku didn't care. She would see when they got there anyway.

Back at the palace, Cian and Flip were both asleep, wrapped up in the velvet blankets cuddling together in the middle of the bed, because it had gotten very cold in the room. Cian opened his eyes and sat up. Flip didn't wake up, he just curled himself in a ball. Cian got out of the bed, blew out the candles, and walked to the door. as soon as he walked out and closed the door behind him, Cian pulled out a magic stick and lit it. Magic sticks were like cigarettes on earth, but instead of tabacco, they were filled with fairy dust. Cian blew a puff of blue smoke and leaned against the rock wall.

"Those things are bad for your lungs you know." Forin said, walking up to his little brother.

"Yeah yeah."

"Turn back to yourself Cian. You look stupid smoking that thing in your younger body."

Cian blew another puff and then started to transform. He became taller and his blonde hair grew out to his shoulders, slicked back, and ram like horns grew from his forehead. His face turned from a cute kid's to an attractive teenagers, and his ears grew slightly longer.

Cian looked over at his other bother that was coming down the hall. "Hello Seth."

Seth was so tall that he towered over the others. He had long white hair, and his face resembled Cian's but with a green stripe on the left side of his face. His eyes were blue and he had peachy colored skin.

"Did it work?" Seth said.

"Yeah, I had that nieve dragon wrapped around my claw. He even let me cuddle 'em. Maybe I should take advantage of the situation."

Forin glared at Cian. "Okay enough with the gay stuff, tell us what you found out."

Cian puffed green smoke this time. "Nothing much. He's just angry you killed his friend."

"phf, is that all? Find out some more when he wakes up again. Like what that hexian had told him to get him to travel along." Forin said while walking away.

Cian threw down the magic stick and put it out with his foot. He changed back to his younger self and started to go back into the room.

"Cian."

"Yeah Seth?"

"Don't mess around with him. Chaos wouldn't take kindly to you hurting his brother."

"Hey," Cian smirked. "what Chaos don't know won't hurt him!"

Seth gave a glare. "Cian, don't."

"Okay, I was just kidding! Don't worry, I'll...play nice."

Seth walked off and Cian walked back into the room, crawled back into the bed, and cuddled the sleeping dragon gently as he fell back asleep.



## 7 - The Demon Fox

### Chapter 7: The Demon Fox

Naku and Natami hadn't been walking that long when they spotted the giant palace. It was old. The south wing was caved in on the rooftop. There was a large hole on the west wall that Naku thought he could sneak into, but soon rethought that idea. He knew demons were smarter than to leave a hole that large unguarded.

As he was thinking this he noticed a small black animal sleeping on one of the rocks beside the gape in the wall. It was a fox. Naku assumed this was another of the Reotais. Natami was squirming about behind him. He glanced back to glare at her.

"Sorry," She whispered.

Naku went back to viewing the castle. The fox seemed sound asleep, so maybe there was a chance to get threw if he could just ditch the noisy girl. "Natami, you need to stay here."

"What? I didn't come all this way to sit back and watch!"

"This is a one man job Natami. Besides, what would you do, you're no fighter."

Natami couldn't think of a comeback. After a second of blank staring she finally sat down. "Fine, but you better come back with Flip in one piece!"

Naku rolled his eyes and began to sneak around the trees to get in a better position. He found a dirt path that wouldn't make any sound up to the wall, but before he began to sneak up past the fox, he remembered the Arkin incident, and he took off his boots.

As Naku went by the fox he could see that it was in fact a demon, for their were jewels incrested in his body; two on his shoulders and one on the center of his neck. Naku didn't stop to see what kind of jewels they were, he just kept a steady pace foward. The fox didn't even twitch as Naku past him.

When he got inside the castle, Naku finally took a breath. He took this time to look at his surroundings. It was a large throne room it seemed. There were a few sleeping bats. An old red carpet was on the floor and on the cieling was a giant painting of many dragons. *This must be the old dragon god palace! They must know Tir is the lucana.* Naku thought to himself. *Maybe they were sent by Chaosin? No, dragons aren't as dishonorable as to send a demon out to their battles.* His eyes traveled from one end of the room. One one wall at the end of the carpet was a huge stone throne, with some stains that he thought to be blood. Naku thought nothing of it and continued to walk onward.

"He isn't here you know," a voice that Naku thought as familiar said.

Naku looked around. "Whose there?!"

He heard a snicker from the same person and then saw that in the corner where one of the bats once slept, there was a white haired, red eyed demon smirking in his direction. He was fairly tall with light skin and a face like his cat demon brother. "Do you think that my brother would be stupid enough to bring him here?"

"S-Sanja." Naku knew this Reotai from the first battle he had fought in. Sanja had been there, on the opposing side of course, and nearly killed Naku's entire fleet along with his wolf demon brother. Naku had survived only because Colonel Feign stepped in. That's why Naku took this job of being Shima's guardian, he owed the favor to Feign.

Sanja stepped forward. His steel toed boots made a loud clank on the stone floor that made Naku's heart skip a beat. "How lovely, you remembered me." Sanja's eyes went from Naku to the hole that he used to enter the palace. "So you decided to join us, Koronis."

Naku looked back to see a demon leaning against the wall. He was taller than Sanja by a few inches and had golden eyes. His hair was blood red with ebony black tips and he had dark tan skin. The demon's black leather suit was tight and showed every well toned muscle in his body. Naku noticed that he had a jewel in his neck and realized it was the fox.

Koronis looked at his brother. "I was watching him. He didn't seem like a threat and I was busy sunbathing." His black fox tail swayed behind him lazily.

"Whatever you say Koronis. Take care of the pest for us. I'll let you have the spoils."

Naku's eyes widened. This was just the thing he had been afraid of. Koronis looked at Naku and licked his lips, then bared his fangs in an almost smirk.

Naku gulped and took a defensive stance as Koronis slowly walked over to him. Sanja walked off to another part of the castle, uninterested in the massacre that was about to commence. Koronis started to circle him. "hmn, too skinny. Not enough meat, but very tender. You will do for my lunch."

Naku was not shocked by this statement. He had always heard that one of the Reotais ate almost anything, including other demons. Koronis had to be the one that they had been talking about.

"Tell me where Flip is." Naku said, trying not to sound unafraid.

"who?"

"The LuCana! Tir!"

koronis snickered softly. "You do not need to worry about him. My brother is taking very good care of him now."

Naku tried to get in a position to where Koronis couldn't get behind him, but it was no use. Koronis was just too quick. After a few leaps trying to get away from him, Naku had been trapped in the corner. The



demon grabbed him by the neck.

"Now I don't want to suffocate you. What should I do so as not to ruin the meat..."

Naku kicked and flailed around, but yet again no good came of it. Koronis was too strong! Koronis was getting annoyed with his struggles and slashed at his eyes. Naku could feel his claws tearing into him. the stinging sensation in his eyeballs was nearly enough to make him pass out. He couldn't see anything, and the pain had cut out his hearing to where he could only hear scuffles. Then a yell rang in his ears. It was a female voice. Natami! Someone else was with her. Koronis was struggling to keep ahold of Naku's neck. He let go and Naku fell onto the floor. As Naku felt around to find Natami he could hear the demon fighting with this other man. Then all was quiet, and he fell to the ground and fainted.

## 8 - The bratty princess and the deviant prince

### Chapter 8: The Bratty Princess and the Deviant Prince

"Where is my Podo, brother?" Princess Nadia yelled as she was running across the hall of the royal battleship to her brother's room. Nadia was a very pretty hexian with peach colored skin and long wavy brown hair that wasn't up in her usual bun at the time. She had just gotten out of the shower and had thrown on some pink pants and a bra. No one but her brother and herself was on the ship. It was of the highest technology know to hexian kind and didn't need a crew, so she decided she didn't need a shirt. Even if Kreedeth wasn't her brother, he wouldn't look anyway. He was interested the male gender. It was the royal family's big secret. In fact, Kreedeth had many secrets. Even secrets that his dear sister did not know.

She turned the corner and entered his room to see Kreedeth laying on his bed with his lower half under the sheets and sleeping like a baby. It was obvious he didn't have any clothes on which was probably the only reason he was under the sheets. his tan skin contrasted with the white cloth and his long blonde hair that surrounded him. His long and pointed ear was twitching to the beat of the clock on the wall. Kreedeth didn't look like a hexian. His feet had five toes and were webbed between them, and his hands were also webbed. He had a long slick tail, but it couldn't be seen under the sheets.

She walked over and yelled again. "Kreedeth, wake up! You have to help me find Podo!"

Kreedeth's ear twitched one more time before he opened his eyes. His right light green eye was the only one visible because the other side of his face was buried in the pillow. He looked up at Nadia. "I am going to hurt you."

"Whatever, have you seen him?"

Kreedeth lifted his upper body up and looked at her with both of his eyes, the other eye being bright blue. "Why would I know where your damn stuffed puppy is?"

Nadia glared and put her hands on her hips. "Well, your the only one that is on the ship besides me, you had to put him somewhere!"

"Just ask the ship." He said, rolling his eyes.

The princess put her hands on he hips. "Fine!" She turned to the wall and said, "Manix !"

A male monotone voice came from in the wall. "Yes my lady?"

"Find Podo."

suddenly, the wall opened up. A metal hand holding a freshly washed, brown, stuffed puppy came out. "I cleaned the Podo, my lady."

Nadia grabbed it and held it close to her heart. "Don't ever take it out of my room without my permission, Manix! "

The monotone voice answered again, "I am sorry to stress you, my lady. I will obey your command."

"See? I didn't touch it," Kreedeth said, laying his head back down on the pillow. "Now get out of my room."

"Hrmph, I sure hope you aren't this lazy after we land." Nadia walked off to her room with her little stuffed puppy and went into her own room to get a quick nap in before their arrival to Kalimna.

\*\*\*\*\*

Naku woke up in a daze. He found as he opened his eyes that he still couldn't see anything. Each twitch of his eyes came with a oddly dull pain. In fact, everything felt dull, including his sense of touch. His hearing had come back and was working fine though. He could hear Natami tapping her dainty foot next to him.

After a few seconds Natami noticed that he was moving. "Naku!"

"Natami, whats going on? Where are we?"

"We were saved. Well...You were saved. Were back in the town."

Another voice sounded in the room. "it was a good thing I decided to follow you."

Naku knew this voice. He just didn't know from where exactly. For now, he didn't much care. "I can't see anything."

Natami sighed. "That because you have a blindfold on, Naku. "

"I do?! I can't feel it."

The man spoke again. "You shouldn't feel much for awhile. I had to dull your pain. I thought it would be too much for you. Gashed eyes are horrible to deal with."

Naku sat up and felt around on his face for the blindfold. the light blinded him as he pulled it down around his neck.

"You almost lost your sight. Its a good thing he was there, I wouldn't have been able to heal your eyes in time." Natami sighed and scratched her head.

Naku eyes stung as the light reflected in them, but after a while they came into focus. He looked over to where the male voice had come from. "You!"

The man smiled

"You're the elder from Flip's village! "

"Yes and its a good thing I followed you. What a mess you have gotten yourselves into."

Naku sat up, rubbing his right shoulder. "It wasn't our fault the damn demon decided to kidnap Flip."

"True. In any case we must act quickly and bring Flip back to us safely."

Naku scratched his head in thought. "But we don't even know where they are!"

The elder Smiled. "well it's a good thing we have someone that can sniff out his soul."

"huh?"

Naku looked over to the open door just in time to see Arkin, badly cut and bruised but fine otherwise, limp through the door.

"You!" Naku almost jumped out of his bed.

Arkin smiled. "Sorry to dissapoint you by being alive dear, but you can blame this lovely man here for that."

"I found him in the woods a little after you had both left him there. You two are just horrible. What do you think Flip would have done if he knew you had left Arkin to die."

Naku and Natami both shrunk down like small puppies.

"Back onto the subject, Arkin is barely able to limp around" Natami said, "How is he going to travel?"

"We will wait a few days till his leg is healed."

"We don't have time!" Naku yelled. "Flip needs us!"

"Relax, Naku. I have reason to doubt that these demons shall do anything to harm him."

Naku shifted in his bed in frustration.

The elder sighed. "Besides, do you really think your up to facing the Reotai's in your condition? we must prepare you..."

\*\*\*\*\*

That night the elder took naku out of the Inn and into the woods just outside of the town.

"where are we going?" Naku asked, still squinting for his eyes were still blurry.

"You will see."

"Um...elder...What is your name?"

The elder smiled. " Ookami Oite Hitsuji Iruji "

"Huh?!"

"You can call me Ookami."

"What a strange name," Naku said. "Does it mean anything special?"

Ookami's smile almost turned into a smirk. "Maybe. You will see later. Ah, here we are."

The Kalimnian stopped near a large cave. The entrance was a beautifully carved silver and gold door. It was magicaly wonderful, though tarnished and covered in a thick green vine that stretch all the way across the cave.

"This is the Cave of Elementals."

Naku stared at the door. "Cave of Elementals?"

"Thats right. Here you will be able to obtain the power you need..."

## 9 - The cave of elementals

### Chapter 9: The Cave of Elementals

"Naku! Elder Ookami! Where did they go?" Natami said as she ran through the Inn. Arkin was laying down in his room trying to sleep when he heard her down the hall. Natami ran into the room and looked at him. "well, do you know?"

"They went out somewhere a while ago when you were shopping," Arkin said with one eye half opened.

"What! How can they just walk off on a whim like that!"

Arkin shook his head. "What are you talking about, isn't it you who walked off to go on women shopping therapy?"

"That's different!" Natami yelled. "I need this stuff!"

"Yeah, sure." Arkin got up and grabbed his can off of the wall, leaning his right side against it. "I'll go find them."

"Be careful."

"heh, yeah like you care," he said as he limped out the Inn.

\*\*\*\*\*

"So what exactly am I going to get in here?" Naku asked Ookami, still gazing upon the silver door in awe.

"Well it's called the Cave of Elementals," Ookami said as he pulled one of the vines off, "so naturally, elementals."

Naku felt a bit stupid at that comment and slumped down. After getting all the vines off, Ookami turned to him. "Are you ready?"

"I suppose so."

"Earth and fire rest within these walls. Be sure not to underestimate the things you see." And with that, Ookami opened the door to reveal the black tunnel inside.

Naku slowly stepped inside. "I can't see anything."

"That's because there isn't anything."

"Whats that sopposed to mean!"

Ookami smiled. "This is a gateway to Ethia, the realm of eternity. Nothing is eternal,even the immortal gods have their downfalls, therefore nothing is here. The elementals went into hiding here long ago, waiting for their master counterparts to come fetch them."

"Master counterpart?" Naku wasn't sure if he understood it or not.

"You'll see." Ookami said as the door shut behind them. All was dark now, though the two of them were as visible to eachother as if they had been in broad daylight.

Naku waited a few seconds. When he concentrated, he could hear something off in the destance. A soft noise, like a melody.

"Here they come."

The sound was getting louder. Suddenly Naku could make out small beems of green and brown light in the distance. Before he knew it they were swarming around him, small little chubby creatures with pointed ears and fluffy beards.

Naku looked around at them all. "what are these things?"

"Gnomes. Earth elementals." Ookami answered.

"Well why are they going around me and not you?!"

"I am already bonded to an elemental, they know it because of my aura. You don't have one, so they are drawn to you. Listen to them and see what you must do."

Naku listened to their song.

try and catch us if you can  
only then will we obey  
try and catch us if you dare  
or you can just go away

The song wasn't very good, of course, gnomes weren't known for their musical abilities.

"So I have to catch one of you? Alright." Naku reached out to grab one of the chubby furballs. As he was about to touch him, the gnome shot out a beam of green light that knocked Naku down and the gnomes started flying all about the place. Naku got back on his feet, chasing after them, but they were faster by far. It seemed as though hours went by as he tried to catch them.

"Stop trying to grab all of them, single out one!"

"Right." He saw that one of the blurred visions of the gnomes was shining more brightly than the others. He took his time studying its flight pattern. He could see that it was only flying in one circular pattern. "gotcha!" he reached out, aiming a little ways ahead of the beast, making it ram into his hand on its own, and cupping the other hand over it before he could get away. The moment the gnome was safely in Naku's hands all the other gnomes vanished in a puff of smoke, and the door behind them flew open.

Naku coughed a bit from the smoke filling his lungs. After it settled he could feel the tiny creature moving around in his hands. He opened them to see a gnome that was very different from the others.

The gnome was very thin with light brown fur and no beard. The only clothing he wore was a green night cap that was too big for his head. A strange ball of light circled around the tip of his tail which was why he had glowed more than the others. It seemed that the smoke had effected the gnome also, for he was sneezing like a cat.

Ookami walked over and blinked a few times. "A gnome without a beard? How strange."

The gnome yelled "It just hasn't grown in yet!" and sneezed again.

"Whats your name?" Naku asked.

"Its Gii." Gii stood up on Naku's palm and looked up at him.

"Gii? So your my elemental now?"

Gii nodded. "Of course I am! And you should be thankful you caught me instead of the others cuz I'm the strongest gnome in all Ethia!"

Naku smiled. "I bet you are." Gii reminded him of a child trying to prove his worth by boasting.

"I am too- er, did you just agree? I mean uh, you better believe it!" Gii stood as proudly as a beardless gnome possibly could.

"Well, lets head back to the Inn. You can get to know Gii there, Naku," Ookami said.

"right."

Naku was about to get up when he heard Arkin by the entrance. "There you two are!"

He turned his head just as Arkin limped into the cave.

"Arkin no!"

It was too late. The door slammed tightly behind him.

Arkin blinked and looked like an innocent kid. "did I do something wrong?"



Naku sighed. "Great, now we have to wait till he grabs one! And he can't even run right now, this is going to take forever."

They could already hear a noise coming closer, but then time it wasn't singing. It sounded more like a fire igniting.

"The salamandos are coming this time." Gii said, flying up and resting on Naku's shoulder.

The sound grew louder, Naku looked around to spot the salamandos, but he couldn't see anything. Suddenly he felt something rush past him and he looked over to see a small fiery elemental snuggling against the shocked Cilata's chest.

"master!" The salamando said, giggling happily. And with that the door swung back open.

"What, he didn't have to catch his that's not fair!!!" Naku exclaimed.

The salamando was fiery colored and as skinny as Gii. He also wore no clothing and had the paws of an animal and the horns of a ram. There were small patches of flames on his elbows and the back of his knees and his tail and hair looked like flames themselves.

"What the heck is going on?" Arkin asked, still confused.

Gii yelled out to the salamando. "Sala, you aren't supposed to just let them have you."

"But I like this one." Sala said as he flew up to rest in Arkin's hair. "I don't see why we have to play that stupid catch me game anyways. Besides I'm the only Salamando here, the rest are all at the sanctum."

"And still no one has told me what's happening." Arkin sighed.

Ookami sighed as well. "We will explain back at the Inn..."

## 10 - The royalty arrives

### Chapter ten: The Royalty Arrives

It was around midnight. Shima, Poe, and Skii were sitting in the office of the Dragonfly going over the incoming reports on the troop's progress. Poe's short self was buried under a great stack of papers.

"I don't get why these papers weren't already in the proper files! Did someone not put them up when they were first printed?" Poe huffed.

Shima sighed. "I told Skii to do it." Poe and Shima both looked at Skii who wasn't paying attention. "My mistake."

Suddenly, Leena came running in half dressed and with her hair uncombed and flying everywhich way. "Captains! The Prince and Princess! They have arrived!"

"What!" Poe shot up out of the pile of papers. Shima stood up and looked over at Skii, who was still not paying attention as usual.

"Skii!"

"WHA! Oh, what is it?" Skii said, blinking a few times.

"The royalty has arrived."

"GAH!"

The three captains rushed out of the ship to find that the small ship, Manix IX, had indeed landed. Princess Nadia was already halfway down the ramp. She looked very elegant and beautiful as she walked, her brown hair tied back in a small bun and a pink dress that dropped of her shoulders and fit her small figure to a T.

As she reached them, all three captains bowed.

"Its a pleasure to see you, Princess." Poe, who was right in front of her, said while bowing.

Nadia smiled. "Thank you Poe." Her eyes then went to Shima. "and YOU!"

"hm?" Shima stood and looked down at Nadia.

"You stole my guardian you fiend! I have come to get him back."

Shima was confused. "What are you talking about, Princess?"

"Naku! Colonal Feign told me you took him! where is he!!!"

"Er..." Shima didn't know how to respond to this. At the moment, he was busy cursing out his big brother inside his head.

"Princess, please calm down," Skii said in the politest tone he could manage.

"Its no use. My sister is a brat." A voice said from the top of the ramp. They all looked up to see Kreedeth standing there in all his glory, as if a general standing on newly claimed land.

"Prince Kreedeth..." The captains bowed their heads.

"I am not a brat, Kreedeth" Nadia said huffily as he walked up next to her. "I simply want my guardian back."

"Who cares about some little guardian boy." Kreedeth said, only half paying attention to his sister.

"Naku isn't just a guardian! he was my friend and I want him back....give him back!" and with that She started hitting shima upside the head repeatedly.

"ow,princess,ow,stop,ow!"

Poe sighed and looked at the sky. "This is gonna be a long day."

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# 11 - insert random chapter name here

Chapter 11: <insert random chapter name here>

Arkin sat on the inner chair at the Inn table with his feet propped up on the chair beside him. Sala was on the table dipping his head into a glass to get a gulp of ale. Naku was leaning against the wall with Gii playing around on his left shoulder. Natami and Ookami were also sitting at the table.

"So Sala and Gii are our elementals...I always expected elementals to look a bit different," Arkin said after Ookami had explained everything to him.

"Well we have different forms, sweetie," Sala replied with a smile.

Natami hit her head on the table. "My lord, they were made for eachother. Sala is like, a mini arkin plus flames!"

Sala looked over at Natami. "I shall take that as a compliment."

"Whatever." Natami lifted her head and looked over at Ookami. "Elder, are you sure these too little...things will be enough to get Flip back?"

Ookami nodded. "The journey may still prove challenging...but They will aid them greatly."

"Wait, what do you mean them? You mean us right?"

Ookami looked at Natami and said, "No, we are staying here. We don't need to tag along."

"But-!"

"No, Natami. Arkin, Naku, and the elementals can handle this. "

Natami slumped down in her chair and continued to brood as the others went on with the conversation.

"How will we find Flip?" Arkin asked. "If I'm somewhere in the area, I can smell his soul, but I can't even sense it this far away."

"I got a bit of information out of that fox demon before he got away. They took him to Carta. Once you get there, you should be able to find him."

Sala looked up at Arkin. "Who is it we're after?"

"A dear friend of mine."

"Well, if its a friend of yours, Arkin dear, I'm sure I'll love him." Sala said as he flew up to Arkin's shoulder.

Arkin smiled. "You will."

\*\*\*\*\*

Nadia was now laying in one of the bedrooms the the Dragonfly. Her hair had been tossed out of her bun and her makeup was running down her face from all the tears she had shed moments before. Shima had told her about Naku's fall off the cliff and she had to run out and get away from everyone.

She sat up and rubbed her eyes. "Oh Naku, why?"

The door opened and Nadia stood up. It was the half-dressed Leena standing at the door.

"Oh! Princess! What are you doing here in my room?"

"Please pardon me," Nadia said, doing her best to hide her bloodshot eyes. "I did not know this room was taken."

"It's perfectly fine your highness." Leena said, bowing. As she looked back up at the princess, her eyes filled with concern. "May I ask why you have been crying?"

Nadia sat back down on the bed looking down at her feet. "The person We...I came to get...isn't here anymore."

Leena blinked a few times and then realized who she would be talking about. "You mean Naku?"

Nadia nodded. "He was...My friend..." Tears started bursting from her eyes once again. "why did he have to come on this stupid mission, its all Feign and Shima's fault! Damn them! Damn them to oblivion!"

Apon hearing these words spoken about Shima and Feign, Leena became angry. Her hand drew up and she slapped the princess without any warning. Nadia just sat there holding her cheek and staring at Leena like she was trying to figure out what just happened.

"Pull yourself together, it was Naku's final decision to take the job and stop being your guardian to help Shima! And if he was really your friend, do you think that he would want you sitting here blubbering over him!? No! " Leena finally calmed down and bowed her head. "I apologize, Princess..."

Nadia finally let her hand down. Her cheek was now a fleshy pink. "Its alright...I deserved it. I guess I was being a big baby..."

Leena sat down next to Nadia. "Its okay to be a baby sometimes...But you have to be strong in situations like this."

"I know..."

Leena smiled and just sat with the sad princess for awhile talking about nothing in general, but making friends fast.

\*\*\*\*\*

In the Office, Poe and Shima were discussing farther plans when Skii ran in, seeming to be in a panicked state.

"Kreedeth is gone!!!!"

Shima jumped up from his seat, Poe fell from his, and they both yelled simultaneously, "What?!?"

The three of them searched high and low, but the prince was no where in sight.

"How could this have happened!? You were supposed to be watching him Skii!" Poe said, almost snarling.

"I was! I turned around for one second and-"

Shima interrupted him. "We don't need an explanation, we need to find him. Skii, you stay here with the princess. Poe and I shall venture out to find the tyrant."

Skii nodded. "Alright."

And with that Shima and Poe set out to find the prince, hoping that no kalimnians found him first...