

Khael

The morning sun arose over the mountainous peaks, casting crimson rays on the wilderness and wooden roofs of the nearby cottages. A field of oak wood trees towered above me, serving as a green shield to spare my vision from the sun's heat. It's quiet ambience was disturbed by the crunch of grass and fallen tree branches after each step. Solitude and isolation was finally achieved before a muffled tremor buckled the earth beneath me.

THOOOOOM

Stopping at attention, the tranquility of the wilderness was drowned out with a familiar rhythmic pounding. Each pulsation rumbled inside my eardrums, blurring out the woodland around. Trying to raise an idle hand, my fingers wrapped around my heart. Parting my lips, the fresh air filled my lungs to sooth the racing organ, whilst I prepared to speak.

"W-What on earth-?" I whispered before a secondary tremor stoll my attention, this one louder than the last. "-is that?"

An eerie tremor that sought to disturb my equilibrium as my legs turned to jelly, forcing a nearby tree to support my weight. Feeling the tree bark, I look between the bushes and leaves to the lakeside. What was in front of me, filling my pupils, defied imagination.

Just in the distance, a monolithic figure that broke the square cube law from its sheer existence, eclipsed the world around it. A brown and white striped reptilian snout was pointed to the heavens, slightly open to expose his piercing crystalline fangs. Two rows of teeth that were perfectly locked together to conceal his salivating cavern. Past his lips, two satellite-sized ears curved around his black crown of spears. Looking at the draconic beings' eyes, those green irises matched the lush vegetation around. That same shade of green appeared in the oval gem on the silver chained necklace, shining bright between his cream scaled pectorals. Tracing my eyes down, staring at those

bulging muscles that appeared to be chiselled by the gods. All he adorned was a cloth that wrapped around his waist.

Then, there was his posture, the way he presented his almighty form. All that connected the anthropomorphic dragon to the ground was his striped tail, supporting his cross-legged form in the air. A rumbling vibration was emitted from his chest as two pairs of tree-stump fingers pressed against one another, helping channel his meditation.

"What is it doing-?" I muttered to myself, staring at the titan creature whose complexion had become hypnotizing. Watching the dragon blink, a low rumbling came from his chest before his snout lowered down to me with a soft smile.

"Well...hello there" he cooed softly, letting the words resonated within my core. Even at a whisper, the creature's voice vibrated my internal organs, sending adrenaline pumping through me.

A spotlight was cast upon me as the dragon addressed me, triggering a state of petrification. The dragon's pillar-like legs parted from their crossed position, maneuvering down to the ground with a boom. Those two tremors cracked the earth beneath his soles, sending spider-web fissures radiating out from the impact site.

"So...what brings you here?" The dragon smiled, concealing his fangs as he stood at his full height, casting a shadow that sent goosebumps down my arms.

Taken back by the daunting giant, I tried to shift my statue-like legs as the dragon's sole began to peel off the ground. Boulders of debris rained down from the ascending sole, slamming onto the ground and splashing into the lake. With dexterity, his right foot ploughed into the water as the reptile marched cautiously towards me.

"Little one, please...do not be afraid. My name is Khael" he mumbled with a deep-throated voice, slowly crouching down with his green eyes on me throughout. **"Are you lost?"** Khael asked with a silky voice.

The dragon's inquisition caught me off guard as I faced those green orbs with a jaw dropped expression. Wrapping my fingers around one another, trying to offer comfort in the titans shadow. Focusing on those eyes, I shook my head slightly.

"I see...would you like a lift home?" The enormous reptile spoke down to me, encasing my body in his warm breath. As he replied, Khael lowered a hand platform down to the lakebed, and that same comforting smile returned. **"Come on...it's gonna be alright, you are safe"** Khael insisted, staying still.

As the mighty scaly palm greeted me with open invitation, calling me over like a siren, I was frozen. My eyelids parted.

"No one...is going to hurt you" he said calmly, minting that gentle tone. I remained silent.

Closing my eyes for a moment, I raise a foot and start to walk towards the awaiting palm. Taking fragile steps, leaving behind the woodland that surrounded me. Each successive step led me closer to the palm that beckoned me over. Any glance around to the towering trees that were overshadowed by Khael's knee became a further reminder of the size-difference. Approaching the side of the dragon's palm, raising a hand to wrap my fingers around his digit, I stayed still.

"See..safe, I promise. Take your time" Khael mumbled delicately, conveying each word to ease my troubled mind. His eyes stared in awe, offering a comforting smile to motivate me to take that crucial step.

"Everything...will be okay, I promise" the dragon whispered. Delicately, I left the cold ground, only to be greeted by Khael's firm palm.

Lowering his other palm, Khael's digits that held such power, curled around to form a protective barrier. A palm with fingers that hovered over, I sat down in a cross-legged position, and faced the dragon above.

With dexterity that betrayed his size, Khael gently rubbed his finger tip against my little frame, brushing across my back. As it continually dragged cautiously down my spine, his palm began to lift in sync with the dragon standing up. His hand pressed against the expansive field of muscle, tilting delicately to hold me next to his heart. Placing my ear upon his right pec, a gentle rhythmic pounding came from behind as the dragon's heartbeat offered to sooth me.

"Shussshhhhh...come on, let me take you home" he snickers softly, inhaling gently, raising the chest against me. All the while those log-sized fingers curled around me, becoming a scaly fortress that secured me against his warm embrace.

As the sounds of the world around were drowned out by Khael's heart, it was replaced with the thundering booms as the dragon's legs fired like pistons, propelling the creature across the ground. The dragon, and his new friend.