Dinner with Dragons

Natalie was sleeping peacefully in her room, until she awoke to the sound of her wall shaking. Looking out the window toward the source, she saw a wall of lime-green scales, and a pair of green eyes were peering at her. “Natalie, are you awake?” Asked the dragoness Dahneer. “I am now.” Natalie replied.

The dragoness could not get her head through the window, but she still asked “Would you like to come away with me for something special?” Natalie trusted her friend, and as she sat up, she asked half sarcastically, but part seriously, “Is this one of those situations in which you kidnap a maiden and keep her for a pet?” “No silly.” Dahneer replied, “I’d like to take you to meet my family. We’re having a dinner party tomorrow and I’d like you to come with me.”

A family of dragons? The thought of meeting Dahneer’s family had never before crossed Natalie’s mind. Knowing how dragons could be from experience with her friend though, she had to say “I like being invited to dinner, but I won’t appreciate it if I’m the meal.” “Don’t worry, you’ll be fine. My family won’t hurt you if they know you’re my friend.”

Convinced, and excited to meet Dahneer’s family, Natalie said “Alright, I’ll go with you.” Dahneer reached in for her, but before the dragon could get ahold of her, Natalie said “Hold on.” The dragoness watched as the human undid her nightgown and said “I won’t be needing this.” Once she was completely naked, Natalie gave Dahneer permission to grab her, and the dragon abducted the human, carrying her off into the night.

Natalie passed out at some point during the flight, but when she awoke, she found herself laying against Dahneer’s smooth flank; the dragoness was curled up and sleeping around her. Her stirring seemed to awaken the sleeping dragoness, and Dahneer let out a displeased groan as though she wanted to sleep longer. She still rose her head and yawned like a lion before looking down at the human.

“Good morning.” Natalie said to her sleepy-eyed friend. Dahneer blinked, then smiled as she replied “Good morning.” Natalie stood and stretched with her arms over her head as she asked “Are we there yet?” “Not quite,” Dahneer answered, “My parents live in a cave on that mountain. That’s all the further we have to go.”

Natalie felt she was more eager than she ought to be, but she still said “Oh, I can’t wait! When can we go?” “In about an hour I should think.” The dragoness replied as she stood and stretched like a cat. “Why do we have to wait so long?” Natalie asked.

“There are certain rules when you’re in a dragon’s home you know.” Dahneer answered, “Since you are unfamiliar with them, allow me to explain some of the important ones. Number one: Never enter a dragon’s lair uninvited, it’s considered a challenge, and you do not want to challenge a dragon. Number two: Never wake up a sleeping dragon unless you want to be burnt to a crisp. And thirdly: You can admire a dragon’s horde, but don’t touch or take anything that was not given to you unless you want your bones added to the collection.”

Natalie understood that dragons would have house rules just as humans, but it definitely called for further obedience when dragons had harsh punishments for rule breakers. “I see.” Natalie said, “Well, what can we do for an hour?” Dahneer grinned evilly at Natalie’s question as she answered “Oh, I’m sure I can think of something.”

Natalie wasn’t so sure she liked the look in her friend’s eye, but before she could act on it, the dragoness pounced her and knocked her to the ground. Natalie looked up into her friend’s green eyes as the dragoness said “Run prey; run away as fast as you can.” Dahneer then let her up, and as told, Natalie ran. Dahneer gave her a head start before finally bounding after her.

It did not take long for Dahneer to catch up, even in the woods, and the dragoness leapt over the human, turned in midair, and landed in front of Natalie in a crouched position. “Oops, try again.” Dahneer taunted. Again, Natalie ran, and again Dahneer got ahead of her. This time Natalie rushed the dragoness, quite to the large predator’s surprise, and this caught her off guard long enough for Natalie to run straight through Dahneer’s front legs. She did not get much further than that though, for Dahneer twisted about, and knocked Natalie back onto the ground.

Natalie slid across the ground from the impact. She held her side from the soreness of being struck, but still managed to lay there laughing about it as the dragoness walked over to her and pinned her. Natalie did not have time to ask Dahneer her intentions before the dragoness began to nuzzle her belly roughly. Natalie began to laugh and plead, “Stop Dahneer, I’m ticklish!”

Dahneer knew this well, which is why she did not stop, for she enjoyed hearing her human friend beg. She continued to tickle her, until Natalie was on the verge of passing out from not being able to breath. Finally, with her prey subdued, Dahneer stopped. Natalie felt her friend’s jaws close around her midsection, and she hung limp as the dragoness pranced around with her like a proud and triumphant hunter taking home a new trophy.

Lip muscles held Natalie up off of the sharp teeth, but that did not keep Dahneer from wrapping her tongue around her friend’s hips and licking her all over from upper leg to navel. This felt really good, and caused Natalie’s hands to squeeze Dahneer’s hard snout. Then she looked into her friend’s eye and said. “Yah know, it’s been a while since I took that trip to your stomach.” She rubbed her friend’s crest as she continued, “Would you like some breakfast?”

The dragoness smiled, and looked to be about to comply, until a long, echoing roar caught their attention. The two of them looked up to the mountain, and then Dahneer said, “Dash my fasher.” She dropped Natalie into her palm and finished, “He must have spotted us, let’s go.” Natalie was a little disappointed they couldn’t complete their roles as predator and prey – finding it peculiar that she actually desired to be eaten – but was eager to meet Dahneer’s parents. The dragoness rose to the sky and flew toward a cave at the peak of the nearby mountain.

Dahneer hovered just outside the cave, and let out a roaring call to let its residence know she’d arrived. From the darkness of the cave, a pair of bright green eyes could be seen, and their owner said “Dahneer, welcome back.” The dragon’s voice was deep and powerful, and obviously male. Finally, the dark green dragon stepped out into the sunlight, and Natalie was in awe, for the powerful creature had to be over three times larger than Dahneer.

“Hello father.” Dahneer said to him as she landed on the balcony in front of him. Unlike Dahneer, who was smooth and slender, her father was very rough scaled and muscular, and had a row of six proud horns on the back of his head, whereas his daughter only had two that were stubby by comparison.

Another dragon emerged from the cave then, this one too was larger than Dahneer, but only half the size of the first. This one had a similar build to Dahneer, even if its scales were a lighter shade of green and had eyes like beautiful sapphires, and Natalie was led to assume this one was the mother. “Welcome home dear.” The mother said.

The male looked down at Natalie, who was still held in Dahneer’s grip, and asked “Who is this.” Dahneer set her friend on the ground and said, “This is my friend, Natalie.” “So you are the human we’ve heard so much about.” The female said, “My name is Atosha.” Then her mate said, “And I am Dirnook.” “It’s nice to meet you.” Natalie said politely.

Atosha’s head tilted as she looked the human over, then asked, “Is something wrong with you little one? I thought humans normally wear the furs of other creatures?” Natalie shifted, a little embarrassed as she said “Well, I know dragons never wear anything, and I figured it wouldn’t bother anyone if I was naked. Does it?” “Of course not dearie, I’ve never seen much sense in that human custom anyway.” The old female said with a smile, and Natalie smiled in return.

That was when Dirnook said “You know, Dahneer tells us you’re quite tasty.” “Does she now?” Natalie asked. “Well, that’s only to be expected when it comes to virgin meat.” There was a hungry look in the great dragon’s eyes, and a feeling of intimidation fell over her. This dragon was the lord of his lair, and would clearly have the last word even if Dahneer stepped in. She really hoped he didn’t intend to eat her… or did she?

Atosha said to her mate, “Now Dirnook, you know we don’t eat invited guests.” Dirnook recoiled with guilt as his intent was made clear, but he still said with all the innocence he could muster, “I know. I was… I was just asking!” Dahneer covered her snout with her wing as she tried to hide a chuckle, and even Natalie found it quite funny to see such a large dragon acting so childish.

“I’m sure you meant nothing by it.” Natalie said to him, trying to make herself look as cute and innocent as possible. “If you’d like to taste me though, I have no problem with that.” Dirnook was surprised at her willingness. “Are you sure child?” He asked, and Natalie answered, “I’m sure one little taste isn’t going to spoil your dinner.”

Dirnook’s mouth parted slightly, saliva already dripping from it, but he restrained himself as he looked at Dahneer and said, “Since she is your friend, do I have your permission, my daughter?” Dahneer nodded, saying, “Just don’t hurt her father.” And with that, there was no turning back. Dirnook’s head lowered toward Natalie, and his jaws widened and allowed his humid breath to spew upon her. This is just going to be a taste, she told herself, though when his jaws opened completely as they descended upon her, she knew she was about to get more than she’d bargained for.

As the rows of teeth came together around her, she stepped up onto his lower jaw’s inner gums to avoid being penetrated by the three rows of sharp teeth. And then, trapped in this prison of flesh and fang, she was completely at the dragon’s mercy. Natalie did not feel quite as safe as she had the last time she’d been in a dragon’s mouth. She knew Dahneer would never intentionally hurt her, but her father was a different story. She could only hope that she had not offered herself to a dragon who might take things too far.

As Dirnook’s head lifted and then leveled out, Natalie noticed his mouth was far larger than Dahneer’s, and with her legs straddling his tongue as they were, she could almost sit upright before her hair brushed against his upper jaw. His inner flesh was also a different color from his daughter’s, for his was such a dark shade of navy, it could easily be mistaken for black.

The next thing her gaze fell upon was the large dark pit of his throat, and Natalie wondered how many maidens he’d actually eaten through the years; she wondered of terror those girls must have felt as they plunged down his gullet. It was an experience she almost had herself, for Dirnook’s tongue shifted then, and were it not for the angle of his head, she would have been thrown headlong down the dark fleshy tunnel.

His tongue manipulated her again, and she found herself caught between his opening and closing teeth. Thankfully, he pulled her out of harm’s way just before the teeth fell upon her, only to be tossed and flipped all about by his tongue like she was some sort of hacky sack. From the sound of smacking lips, and the very thorough examination from his tongue that was quickly drenching her in saliva, she could only guess that he was savoring her. Still, the activity left completely dizzy and disoriented, and she was rather grateful when he finally stopped.

His jaws opened slightly, and Natalie thought he was going to let her out, but that was when she saw another set of jaws approaching Dirnook’s. The gums and tongue of the oncoming mouth were pink, and Natalie figured this had to be Atosha, but what were they… “Oh boy!” Natalie realized.

The mates kissed with mouths agape, and Natalie slid from the male and into the female’s welcoming maw. She avoided sliding too deep by planting her feet on either side of the dragon’s tonsils, as well as with help from Dirnook’s tongue wrapped under her arms and around her breasts. The muscles under her feet began to vibrate as Atosha moaned, clearly enjoying Natalie’s present location.

Dirnook did not part from his mate, and so far as Natalie could tell, the dragons were making out with her sitting between them. Though this was a position Natalie never expected to be in, she couldn’t complain as the tongues of the two dragons caressed and constricted her body, being sure to enjoy every part of the young human they held between them. Finally, the dragons’ mouths parted, and Natalie found herself set upon Dirnook’s large palm, completely soaked in saliva.

“First Dahneer and now her parents; I’m turning out to be quite the little vore-slut.” Natalie thought to herself. “How did I taste?” “Heavenly,” Atosha replied, and her mate added, “Surpassed all expectations.” Natalie sat up, wet and sticky from the coat of saliva dripping from her. Atosha said, “We should get her something to dry off with, that way she looks presentable when the other guests arrive.” “Alright,” Dirnook replied before speaking directly to Natalie, “Hold on child.” He then walked into the cave with Natalie sitting on his palm holding his thumb and index claw.

The cave was well lit with torches on the rock walls. She was not surprised by the homely touches to the cave system, but she was surprised to see numerous humans wandering about.

Natalie covered her breasts and crotch as she blushed with embarrassment, and said, “I wasn’t expecting to see other humans here.” Dirnook looked at the others and replied, “Oh the servants… Don’t worry, I’m sure we can find a dress for you once you’ve been cleaned up.”

The great dragon looked at a few of the older female servants and said, “We have a new guest tonight. Get her cleaned and properly dressed.”

“Of course master.” The old women answered, and draped Natalie in a towel to cover her nakedness.

Natalie was taken to a back room where she was given a warm bath. She looked around to the different servants, and she saw men with musical instruments, dirty muscular young men with tools, and lovely young women scantily clad in cloth and jewels.

When her bath was over, she dried off, and was given a green dress that barely covered her shoulders and hung down to her shins. She walked barefoot back to the main chamber, where servants were setting up a large, oversized table and covering it with food. She also found the other dragons greeting two new arrivals. Natalie went to the protective cover of Dahneer’s forelegs as she observed the new dragons.

They were both males, with large horns growing out the back of their heads. One was a very dark shade of green with yellow eyes, and the other was white with soft blue eyes. The albino was smaller than the green, and looked even shorter than Dahneer.

Natalie pondered for a moment the ranging scale of all the members of this family. Dahneer was 40 feet, Atosha was 60, Dirnook was over a hundred, the dark green was around 50 feet, and the albino was about 35 at most.

Atosha caught the human out of her daydreaming by introducing the newcomers, “Dinaak, Artiiran, this is Dahneer’s friend, Natalie.”

“Hello.” The albino, Artiiran, said with a grin that showed off all of his sharp teeth. The sight was rather unnerving, causing Natalie to flinch reflexively, so he quickly stopped smiling. Dinaak simply rolled his eyes and said to Dahneer, “She’s still alive? You really shouldn’t play with your food for so long.”

Dahneer positioned her leg a little more in front of her friend as she replied to her brother, “Maybe if you kept one or two girls around instead of slurping them off the post, you might enjoy their company.”

“No thanks, the screaming makes my ears ache.”

“The hatchlings are bickering again.” Dirnook said to his mate, who replied, “Yes, but I miss it, so let it go.”

A human approached the dragons and informed them that dinner was ready, so the congregation made their way to the long table to eat. Natalie sat next to Dahneer, and looked at the layout of the table. There were bowls in front of each of the dragons for servants to pour whine into, but there were no plates for food. Instead the meal was a variety of meats all set in a line through the center of the table that the dragons would reach out to nip at.

A few lovely girls were always quick to bring fresh wine to the dragons’ bowls whenever they would start to run low, and energetically catered to their masters’ needs.

One girl – a cute brunette – seemed a bit too eager, and as she approached to refill Dinaak’s bowl, the dragon shifted slightly and caused her to stumble. She landed on the rim of his bowl, causing the liquid to spill out and splash onto the dragon’s face.

Realizing what she’d done, the girl quickly went pale with fear. “Clumsy little wench.” He growled, and she fell to her hands and knees as she pleaded, “I’m sorry master! It was an accident; I meant no offence! Please forgive me! Please!”

“No.” He answered before he struck, catching her entire top half in his jaws. The girl kicked desperately as the dragon held her, but before he could bite or swallow, Dirnook ordered, “Drop her Dinaak.” Dinaak looked back at his father rather carelessly, which caused the large dragon to rise to his full height and growl, “She is my servant, not your food. Drop her now.”

Dinaak rather reluctantly opened his mouth, dropping the slimy girl onto the ground roughly. She got to her feet and ran from the dining hall, crying all the way.

Dinaak snorted, then returned to the meat that was available. With his authority established, Dirnook laid back down as well. Artiiran seemed rather offput by the whole situation, and stood as he said, “I’ve lost my appetite.” He then walked away from the table.

Natalie did not need to eat anywhere near as much as the dragons did, so she soon excused herself from the table to look around the lair. She found the treasure hoard among the nest of the dragons rather easily, but elected not to explore it to avoid offending Dirnook and Atosha.

Going back down the opposite direction, she discovered the servants’ quarters again, and within she found the girl who had almost been eaten by Dinaak earlier, finding comfort in the embrace of an old woman.

Artiiran was also in the area – though his size prevented him from entering the room meant for humans – and he asked the old woman, “How is she doing?”

“She’ll be fine.” The old woman answered.

“Does she need anything?”

“Not from the likes of you!” She barked in a way that made it seem like she could have used a broom on the dragon, causing him to drop his head a bit.

As he turned to leave, he almost ran over Natalie, but he stopped himself before his talon came down on her. “Oh, pardon me.” He apologized. Natalie was about to go on her way, but the dragon began to follow her a bit curiously as he asked, “You are Dahneer’s… uh, ‘friend’ right?”

“Yes.”

“So you are comfortable with dragons then? Though I’m told you still live among humans.”

“Yes. I don’t have any problem with your kind. I will admit, it can be scary to alone around a hungry dragon. Though, you seem alright.”

“You think so?” He gave her another toothy smile, causing her to wonder what he was thinking.

“Artiiran, leave her alone.” Dahneer called, and the white dragon quickly backed away. Natalie came to her friend’s side, and the dragoness cautioned, “You should keep your distance from him.”

“Why? He seems nice enough.”

“Yes, well he’s actually really nice to humans – especially girls – because he has no luck with in-species relationships. Unfortunately, when he got a little too friendly with one girl, there was an… unpleasant incident. I’m sure he didn’t mean for it to happen, but now he doesn’t have any luck with humans either.”

Dahneer escorted her friend back to the main hall. The table had been cleaned off and moved out of the way so the dragons could sit in a circle to watch evening entertainment. There were jugglers, jesters, and magicians that performed their craft for the enjoyment of their masters.

After the festivities, the sun had set outside the cave, so Atosha asked Dahneer, “Will your friend be spending the night with us?”

Natalie was the one who answered, “If it’s not too much trouble.”

“I’m sure we have room in the servants’ quarters.” Dirnook stated, and while Natalie considered the idea of sleeping with other humans, Dahneer insisted that her friend sleep with her.

Once she joined the dragons in bed, Natalie was further wishing that she had gone to the servants’ quarters. As cuddly as Dahneer was, she still had the hard scales of a dragon, and was not overly comfortable to lay on. To make matters worse, the family of dragons was far from quiet in their sleep. Dirnook snored so loud the entire chamber shook with each breath.

With her friend sound asleep, Natalie decided to stop acting as her teddy bear, and climbed out of the dragon’s grip. She left the dragons, and carefully navigated toward sleeping humans. It was hard to see in the dimmed light, leaving her glad she found it during the day. Even so, she had an uneasy feeling in the darkness, as if something was watching her.

She heard something approaching from behind, and she quickly turned around to find a pair of golden eyes glaring down at her. “Oh, Dinaak, you frightened me.”

“I tend to have that effect on your kind.” He stated in a joking manner. “It’s awful late to be out of bed, don’t you think?” He asked, so Natalie answered, “I couldn’t sleep.”

“What a coincidence, I was having a hard time myself. Since we’re both up, perhaps we should do something to kill the time.”

“Like what?”

A claw came forward, hooked the neck of her dress, and pulled it down slightly to expose her cleavage. Natalie backed away to fix her dress, and she noticed Dinaak was licking his lips. He informed, “Dahneer talks about how delicious you are, so tempting it is a wonder you have survived so long. I wonder if I may sample this for myself?”

While she might have allowed it with others around to make sure he wouldn’t get carried away, she was far less trusting of this dragon than any other. His predatory gaze was actually causing her a bit of fear. Perhaps she was better off in Dahneer’s coils after all, and she tried to excuse herself, “I’m sorry, but it’s late. I should get to bed.”

The dragon blocked her path, and let out a low growl when she tried to get by. “You expect Dahneer to cater to your every whim, like some trained pet? She is a dragon, and you are a danger to her.”

“How can I be a danger to her? I’m just a…” Natalie tried to think of something she could say to sound completely non-threatening, but Dinaak found the word for her, “Food. Yes, you are a helpless little morsel, one that my sister puts herself at risk to take from, and bring back to the humans. She plays with her food too long, but she won’t realize it until it’s too late. It would be best if you were taken care of sooner instead of later.”

Natalie backed away, but the dragon quickly snatched her in a forepaw and lifted her toward his head. She protested, “Regardless of your opinion, I’m still Dahneer’s. Taking me from her will subject you to punishment!” She thought rules of dragons could save her in this matter, but Dinaak simply laughed at her and retorted, “Pitiful human. You will be digested long before anyone learns of your fate, and once that happens, the worst punishment I will receive is a nip on the tail.”

His claw hooked her dress again, and this time he ripped it off completely. His mouth watered at the sight of her undraped, vulnerable flesh, and he said, “Let’s make a deal, you don’t scream, and I don’t chew.”

The dragon opened his mouth, exposing the slick black flesh housed within. His muscular forked tongue emerged, and coated her breasts with a thick layer of slime as he tasted her. She was placed into his mouth, and she let out a startled yelp as she felt sharp teeth on her torso. Her arms were still outside his mouth, and she wrapped them around his scaly jaw to prevent herself from sliding further. Even so, as she looked into the dark passage before her, she knew this was only a temporary solution.

She felt the squishy tongue slide underneath her belly and between her legs, where it curled up under her nether region and gripped over her butt. The appendage gave each of her cheeks a lick before pulling her further into the dripping maw.

In spite of the peril of her situation, she felt aroused by it. She was at the mercy of a hungry predator who desired to consume her whole and alive, to send her to his stomach, where she would be trapped and helpless as she was digested alive. The thoughts were causing her to become wet, and Dinaak hummed as he felt a fresh flavor on his tongue.

He took his time grinding along her crotch to get as much out of this flavor as possible, but still forced her progression down his gullet. Before long, she was up to her hips in the dragon’s tight, squishy throat. Only her feet were left to wiggle outside Dinaak’s lips, but that too was taken from her as he slurped her inside completely. At that point, he tickled her feet with the tips of his tongue before he finally swallowed her.

Natalie did her best to resist the final plunge, but she couldn’t fight the strong grip of the throat muscles. The fleshy walls squeezed her body tightly, making it hard for her to breath as she slid down the long tunnel. By the time her journey finally ended, she was drenched with slime, and though she was a little disoriented, she had made this journey enough times to know she was in Dinaak’s stomach.

She heard the dragon’s organs working around her. The sounds were chaotic, and the internal body heat was intense. It added a new level of disgust – as well as odd enjoyment – to find she was sitting in a mushy pile of half-digested dinner. The stomach did not discriminate as it churned and mixed her with the stew to digest her like any other meat.

She felt pressure as a paw rubbed the belly from the outside, and she heard Dinaak’s muffled voice, “This was nothing personal. Though, I will admit, you were one of the best meals I’ve ever eaten.”

Natalie wanted to beg for mercy, but she was sure he had no intention of letting her out again. She sighed, and knew her death would come in an hour or so. It was sad, and scary to think about, but she decided that she might as well enjoy her final moments. She played with herself as she enjoyed the feeling of the stomach bubbling around her, numbing her skin and working to melt her away.

The slop and fluids began to rise as the stomach walls squeezed in around her, and before long, her entire body was submerged. Even then, the stomach continued to squeeze her as if trying to crush her. Was this her end? She had hoped she would have more time.

Suddenly, she felt herself rushing back out of the stomach the way she came in, and the next thing she knew the pressure was gone, and a hard smack followed after as she hit solid ground. Cold air replaced the feeling of humidity, and she drew fresh air, no longer trapped in Dinaak’s smelly depths.

“There, she’s out.” The dragon growled, “Are you happy?” He was talking to Dahneer, who did not reply to him as she sniffed and cleaned Natalie. Artiiran was there as well, and he asked, “Is she alright?”

“Yes, she’s breathing, and her body isn’t damaged. How do you feel Natalie?”

“I’m okay.” The human answered, sitting up and hugging her friend’s muzzle. “I’m glad you came, I thought I was going to die.”

Natalie let out a soft purr, and then picked Natalie up in her talon. She looked at Artiiran and said, “Thank you for telling me.” She then growled at Dinaak, “I’ll deal with you later.” The larger male recoiled a bit from the threat, and then the dragoness walked away to get her friend properly washed.

In the morning, the dragons all stood in the main hall. “You’re sure you don’t want to stay any longer?” Atosha asked her daughter. “I’m sure mother,” the younger dragoness answered, “I need to get Natalie home before her family gets too worried.”

“Well, before you go, I think Dinaak has something he wants to say to you.”

The dragon glared down at Natalie, and then looked away as he mumbled, “…sorry…” Atosha bit his ear, causing him to shriek from pain, and he quickly exclaimed, “I’m sorry!”

Dahneer smiled with amusement at her brother’s torment. How dare he try to eat her friend!

Natalie looked at Artiiran. The albino dragon was the real reason she was alive, and she never properly thanked him for it. She approached him, and said, “Thank you for looking out for me. You really are a nice guy.” She gave him a kiss on his beaked lips, causing him to turn red with a blush.

Natalie then looked to all of the other dragons and said, “It was nice to meet you all. I hope you’ll have me for dinner again someday.” She flinched when she realized she may have used the wrong terminology, though the dragon family did not seem to notice. Dirnook told her, “You were pleasant company. You may return any time you wish.”

“Ready to go?” Dahneer asked Natalie, who nodded in confirmation. The dragoness picked the human up in her talons, gave her family goodbye nuzzles, and then flew away from the mountain.

Some time later, Dahneer landed on the outskirts of Natalie’s village; it was as close as she was willing to get during the day. She set the human down, and asked, “Will you be fine going alone from here?”

“Of course! You don’t have to be so protective of me you know.” Natalie replied, though she was sure the ness may have reason after recent events.

“Well you are clearly a delicious meal for everyone you meet. I wouldn’t want you to be caught by some other predator on your way home.” The ness had a more teasing tone at this point, and she gave Natalie a playful lick before she finished, “If anyone is going to eat you, it’s going to be me.”

Natalie smiled and pet her friend. It was an interesting thing to consider; maybe one day, she would ask Dahneer to eat her, and never let her out again – at least not as she was when she went in. Whatever could compel her to ask such a thing was far from obvious, so for now, the two friends said goodbye, and departed to their respective homes.