



Dune's ears perked up excitedly, she knew that Squelch's older brother made the best eggs and bacon on the entire continent, Dune ran back inside almost immediately and sat down by the already set table, Caiman was roasting a fat hog he bought from the farmer not too far away. The youngest sibling Mudskipper sat down beside Dune and started rambling on about what he decided to be when he grew up, most of it was being a crocodile trainer, but the rest was all background noise compared to the sound of sizzling bacon on hot coals in the corner of the hut. Caiman picked up a still hot piece of the giant bacon and chomped it down in a couple of bites. He scratched his chin for a moment thinking, Caiman then tossed all of the pieces onto a wooden disk and brought out an array of spices. Dune watched as he mixed and interchanged them with ease, Caiman walked over to the table and plopped at least two pieces for each member of the family, Squelch was still half awake when he got his, Caiman looked slightly annoyed and whacked the top of his brother's head. Squelch sat up in a soldier-like position fully awake, Dune found this funny and giggled to herself quietly. As all of the bacon was passed out to each person, Dune noticed that there were still multiple pieces left. "Who are those for?" Dune asked in curiosity.

Caiman smirked and replied by saying, "The reason we brought you back here this morning, you don't want to miss a visit from your friends now do you?"

Squelch and Dune were surprised by this news, Who was it? Is it Ray and Clam again? They didn't know. Dune took a wild guess and asked, "Is this someone we haven't met in a while?"

Caiman with his mouth full of food grunted, "mmhm"

Dune and Squelch looked at each other in confusement for a moment and shrugged their shoulders. Outside they heard the sound of flapping wings, "They're here." Caiman said, pointing his thumb towards the door.

The door opened and a red dragon walked in, not just any red dragon, Dune's favorite Skywing ever. "Hi Dune!" waved Cherry poking her head in the doorway nudging Gale out of the way, sniffing the air she butted in asking, "Are you guys eating bacon right now? Ew, Gale might like it but I'm out. See ya later with some bananas!!!"

## Chapter 2:

Dune ran over to hug Gale as Cherry flew to her “Secret” fruit stash. Having Gale visit, this made Dune overjoyed, being with her best friend made it better than any playdate with Clam (*Note to self: never tell Clam this*). Gale peeled Dune off for a moment and asked, “Hey Dune, I mostly came here to talk seriously, okay? We can share what we did later.” Gale walked over and sat down by Squelch talking to him in a hushed voice only others at the table could hear. Dune ran over and sat down a bit grumpily as Gale talked to Squelch about some sort of lost continent, *Whole bunch of pig hooves*, Dune thought to herself, *There is no such thing as the lost continent, if there was, I’d eat my tail, HA!*

Squelch and Gale nodded to each other and then turned to Dune in concern, Squelch then asked Caiman, “Hey... So apparently something bad happened and Gale and I need to talk to Dune real quick, okay?”

Caiman shrugged in an okay sort of way as the two dragons ushered Dune into the back room of the house and Gale grimly said, “Dune the reason me and Cherry came to visit wasn’t to play, it was to warn you guys. Scorch is sadly still alive Dune.”

Dune covered her snout to muffle her scared squeak, Scorch had been a recurring nightmare of a dragon Dune had to deal with the year before. Squelch nodded solemnly as he turned up the obsidian mirror to her, Gale snorted out some smoke onto the reflective surface and then in a shaky voice whispered, “Scorch.”

The obsidian mirror showed Scorch skeletonized and covered in vines, gigantic leaves replaced where his wings once were, he was still able to fly but in an awkward state, he was inside of some sort of palace taking down what looked like gigantic wasps, turns out they were a dragon Dune had never seen before, the three dragons watched in horror as Scorch destroyed more and more of the palace with his unnatural strength and magic power. He finally reached the throne room as the queen stood there in full armor unwilling to let anyone take the throne, he charged at the wasp dragon queen, and then the smoke ran out. Gale turned to Dune and

said, "This is why Cherry and I came here, to grab you and Squelch as a backup."

Dune started chewing on her tail, it hurt but she remembered that she said she would, Dune still remembered the monstrous form Scorch took last time Gale went up against him. The obsidian mirror never lied though, it did not help the fact that the Skeleton of a dragon who haunted her in the back of her head most of the time was still alive. Dune straightened up and put on a slight-but brave face that she could muster, "I'll help." Dune said reluctantly to her friends. *At least if I help I can hide my fear in front of these two, I won't let them underestimate me!*

"Okay," said Gale, "I hope that we can form a plan before Cherry butts in and makes it all flop.... Like she does."

They all whispered to each other Ideas and plans on how to take down Scorch until Dune heard the door open and a Rainwing yelling: "Gale! I brought fruit for all of us!"

Dune sighed with the rest of her group as they went and joined Cherry at the table for the rest of the morning. Cherry walked over and asked Gale, nodding towards Dune, "Did you tell Dune about... you know?"

"Yeah."

"Okay cool, so Caiman, we have something to tell you."

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Caiman sat down in the living area with his claws on his head muttering to himself over and over, "I can't believe it, I can't believe this is true..."

Dune sat beside him patting his shoulder and said, "Caiman calm down, I experienced all of this and your brother was there too. We survived and came out just fine. . . Okay, not so fine if you consider PTSD as a side effect."

Caiman sat up with his ears suddenly perked remembering something random and walked over to Cherry and gave her a letter, "This is for you," he said scratching the back of his neck, "my little brother dropped it while he was taking off on a mail run a long time ago."

Cherry took the letter from his talons and ripped it open, she started reading the letter and Gale looked like she was about to run out of the room. As Cherry kept muttering the letter to herself she started turning a

dark pink on her face as she read a bit more. Once she was done, Cherry sat there with her jaw open and her eyes sparkling anime style, Cherry's face was dark pink and she turned to Gale stuttering and babbling in confusion for a bit, Gale grabbed her girlfriends chin and said, "this was a letter to you that I wrote a month after school ended because I couldn't forget how wonderful you were okay? I'm sorry this hasn't gotten to you until now but, I needed someone that made me feel the way we feel about each other already. I-I, I felt a bit lonely, okay? And coming to visit you may have been the best decision ever."

Cherry sat there smiling, she and Gale were already dating but this note seemed to increase Cherry's appreciation to Gale, Dune sat there watching all of it unfold and felt a bit grossed out, *Love doesn't exist to me, she thought, and honestly, being orphaned by my own parents makes this feeling worse, I don't remember feeling it or appreciating the fact that people enjoy being around me, they sometimes look at me weird because im just small, but the thought that two girl dragons loving each other more than the old couple living together next door to my old home kind of bothers me a lot...*

Gale turned her head to look at Dune moping and crouched down putting a talon on her shoulder, "Listen," Gale said sadly, "I heard your thoughts and I understand that you find this relationship confusing, but listen, I have an appreciation for Cherry not only being super supportive, but being also super nice to me, she's also the one keeping me from becoming a hot mess, not many dragons make me feel this way okay? (sigh) Dune, love is super confusing at times alright? This doesn't mean I would leave you behind just so I can hang out with Cherry, I will always consider you family and you will always be like a little sister to me, I-"

"I'm not little..." Dune muttered under her breath grumpily.

Gale let out a small chuckle and said, "Dune, I understand that you feel underrated but I would never consider you weak, you are stronger than most of us, emotionally even; but you listen to me. I know that I can let you come because you proved extremely great at adventuring with me, alright Dune?"

Dune sighed and muttered a weak, "Okay"

Caiman walked over and poked his head into this and said, “excuse me Skywing I-”

“Gale.”

“Gale whatever I am just asking now as an in-progress, guardian figure, WHAT THE HECK ARE YOU DOING BRINGING A SMALL DRAGONET ON AN ALMOST DEADLY AND DEATH INDUCING ADVENTURE???”

Gale sat there sucking her teeth for a moment and then said, “I am bringing her because I can trust her to help in any way possible, also she is very good at detective work from the recent letters Squelch sent to Cherry and me.”

Caiman sat there listening to Gale’s soothing voice and re-evaluated the situation in his slowly operating head, Squelch looked at his wrist and said, “Hey guys, my timekeeper is showing that the sun is moving into the afternoon zone, so if we wanna pack, now is the time okay?”

Dune remembered that Squelch invented a time-keeping device that he hasn’t patented yet, he got rich in a couple of weeks and it almost was a top seller in the market, but he ran out of stocks and was tired of making them. Dune, Gale, and even Cherry had one. Caiman grabbed Squelch’s shoulder and said, “Wait, if you and Dune are going, you got to at least bring me and your little brother as well, you may be strong but that spell you had on you faded away, I can help you with the heavy lifting.”

## Chapter 3:

Dune sat on the shore watching the waves tipping crabs over and washing up a couple of starfish, Dune felt bad for them and tossed any she saw back in, “Hey,” said Mudskipper butting in, “what are you doing?”

“Throwing the starfish back into the water,” she said, “why are you asking?”

“I’m asking because of how many there are, the many that may wash up, how are you gonna make a difference if you can’t save all of them?”

Dune picked up one and tossed it back and replied, “I made a difference to that one.”

“Hey Dune, Mudskipper, focus, we need to finish packing supplies, c’mon!”

“Urgh...” Dune and Mudskipper said at the same time, they looked at each other and smiled a bit, *I didn’t think that he was a normal kid at first, Dune thought, his strange antics made me question him a bit, but I guess he’s okay after you get to know him better.* Caiman was carrying what looked like a casual paper bag, but when he dumped it out there was a mountainous pile of food in there, it was all packaged up nicely and salted to preserve it. Dune walked over and put her arm into the bag; *Where is the bottom of this thing?* Dune thought, *guess there’s more down here somewhere...* “Ack!” yelled Dune when she fell in, it felt like she was falling infinitely when she spread out her wings, hovering in place she looked around and she saw only darkness in this infinite void. *Hm, Dune thought, infinite carrying space... seems like a good way to sneak in somewhere.*

Her thoughts were interrupted by the sound of arguing above; Dune flew up and peeked out the bag, she saw Gale and Caiman going at each other for some reason. “You were the one who was with her last Gale!” Caiman roared in Gale’s face.

Gale pinched her forehead and groaned loudly before saying, “Sigh, Caiman, I didn’t specifically volunteer on child watch. Also, you have been her legal guardian since last year!”

Caiman thrust one of his talons into her face pointing and said, "Don't bring legal stuff up with me madam! last I remembered you broke 87 laws during that (air quotes) epic adventure, you had."

Dune pulled herself out of the bag and trotted up to them asking angrily, "Why are all conversations about me so heated? No Gale, don't try to explain, I can handle myself for a while."

Dune walked away and sat behind a crate fiddling with the grains of sand around her.

Caiman and Gale sat there with mouths agape silent. After a couple of minutes they walked off with their heads hung low and continued working on the boat.

The almost finished boat slid off the shore and into the water, as Dune watched it slide away she made the executive decision to pull it back. Hopping in the ice cold water sent a chill up her spine but she tried dragging it; nothing happened. Dune kept tugging until she almost ran out of breath, she hopped onto the boat taking a break, and the shore seemed to get farther and farther away until a pair of blue scaly talons popped out of the water and a familiar seawing's head popped out of the water. "Sup, Dune?" he asked, Dune sat there silent for a moment ignoring his question and asked, "Can you drag this back to shore please?"

Ray sighed and nodded and proceeded to push it back onto shore and he stopped when he saw a bunch of small crates lined up along the beach, "What exactly are you all doing?"

Cherry casually walked by and said, "We're going to the lost continent."

Ray stood still for a moment and asked, trying to keep himself from laughing, "You know the lost continent isn't real right? Pfft...heheh"

Gale walked out from behind the crates and said, "Yes it is, we are going there to try to keep Scorch from taking over an entire continent and also kill a lot of evil plants."

Ray scratched his chin for a moment and asked, "That scary skeleton dragon right?"

Dune sighed and replied, "Yes. Him."



Ray shrugged and asked, "How about you let me have this one," he said winking at the group in front of him, "Besides I handled that giant beast by myself remember? *Sniff*. So, whaddya say?"

Everyone sat there silent and almost simultaneously said: "NO."

Ray drooped a bit and then said, "Fine, I'll at least join this group of dragons."

Gale shrugged and walked off, no one else argued with this idea and loaded up the rest of the boat. Dune sunbathed while the older dragons did all the heavy lifting, once the boat was finished being packed, they all hopped on one at a time. The boat finally launched and Cherry yelled optimistically, "This is gonna be the best couple of months ever!"

# Chapter 4:

The sun beat down on the boat as it floated across the water, Cherry groaned and said, "This is the most boring amount of days ever...When are we going to get there... ughhhhh."

They spent a week on a good breeze and then suddenly they learned it blew them off course by a bit, Caiman and Ray grabbed oars and started paddling. It was the 6th day of the second week that they finally saw land again, it was a rocky outcrop where the waves crashed against the rocks and made huge splashes, they docked the boat into a cove and sat inside a cave listening to waves splash for a bit, Mudskipper broke the silence with, "We're here now. What do we do?"

Dune watched as Gale paced back and forth while Cherry slumped against the wall and layed down tired. Gale was tapping her nose the whole time thinking until she perked up and said, "I think I know what to do, we go out there and check the landscape out before we do anything. Caiman, Ray, and me. Squelch, Dune, Cherry, and Mudskipper stay here."

The older dragons went outside the cave and flew up the cliff. About an hour later the dragonets in the cave heard something, they pulled out a torch from a crate, lit it, and went down the cave. Dune led the group and they kept walking forward until Dune accidentally stepped into a circle of vines, her claw snagged on one and instantly she found herself hanging upside down with her claws bound together. The others rushed to help her down but then they heard a weird slithering noise, the vines on the walls lashed out and wrapped around each dragonet dragging them into the darkness of the cave. Dune watched and tried calling for Gale but then a vine wrapped her snout shut muffling the noise, and she was dragged into the darkness as well.

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Dune woke up in a strange hallway attached to a wall, she looked around wondering what the tiny orbs floating around was. Dune wriggled a bit and found her entire body bound to the wall by vines, she tried to open her mouth and burn it but her snout wouldn't open. She looked down at her

nose and saw vines wrapped around her entire snout and she couldn't do anything. She sat there for a moment struggling and grunting but it was no use. A little while later Dune heard another grunt across the room, she looked and saw Squelch ripping himself off the wall and collapsing to the floor, he got up, saw Dune and tried calling to her, he only grunted and looked at his snout tied shut as well, it took a bit for him to take it all off, he finally took off the remaining vines and ran over to Dune. "Are you okay?" he asked.

"Hrmp." Dune replied, giving a sarcastic look in his direction. "Oh, sorry, lemme help with that." he replied.

Dune was off the wall in a moment and she rubbed her snout feeling lines from how tight the vines were. The two looked at each other and down the hallway, it was semi-dark and weird vines covered the floor and glowing orbs were the only light source. They started walking down the hallway and rounded a couple corners looking for Mudskipper and Cherry the whole time. Dune heard groaning near the next corner and looked around it slowly. What she saw spooked her; it was one of the wasp dragons attending to the care of a vine flower, its eyes were all white and it made slow quiet groaning sounds as it finished watering the plant. Suddenly its head snapped in Dune's general direction, Dune hid behind the corner and her chest was heaving up and down in fear. Squelch crouched and shakily asked, "What did you see?"

Dune made a shushing sound as the wasp dragon slowly walked past the hallway each step echoing. They watched the white eyed dragon slowly walk into the dark hallway disappearing slowly. Dune knew PTSD was something you could not get rid of, and this thing was on that list. Squelch lay down shaking and muttering incoherently, Dune gave him a hug slowly calming him down, they regained themselves and kept exploring the winding hallways, they heard a ripping sound and walked towards it. What they saw surprised them, Mudskipper was fending off the vines himself but he was soon out-numbered, the vines grabbed his legs and started dragging him towards a dark hole, Dune and Squelch ran forward yelling his name, being distracted the vines took advantage and wrapped around his entire body making him fall down. Squelch then decided to attack one of the large flowers with fire, it withered and all the vines around it as well, but

in turn a smoke with a strange scent poured out. Mudskipper was still wriggling on the ground and Dune ran to his side. She ripped off all vines and helped him up, "Thanks Dune," he said, shaking slightly, "I hope this never happens again."

The three dragons sat there in the dark listening to the silence of the green-grey hallways. Mudskipper suggested to continue forward and the group continued on, soon they were in an open area, with what looked like a shopping area, they saw a skylight and flew up to it, it was messy with vines but Squelch rammed through it and flew out. The sun was setting on the plains below and they hear woops and calls of different creatures filling the night. They flew for about three hours until Dune came to an abrupt halt, "I think we forgot somebody." she said. "Who?" asked Mudskipper.

Dunes' face turned red in embarrassment and said, "I think we forgot Cherry."

The group landed in the savanna and tried coming up with ideas but they all agreed on one thing, get Gale and the others, and then make a plan with them to save Cherry.

In the distance four dragons were flying towards the group and Squelch stood guard in front of them until they came into view, Gale, Caiman, and Ray as well... They took a long guess at the last dragon for what it was, it had antennae, butterfly like wings, and metallic colors that were more vibrant than any rainwings. The butterfly dragon landed and he wore an assortment of bottles and they contained different liquids inside. Dune, Squelch, and Mudskipper looked at this beautiful red, orange, and silver dragon with their mouths agape, Gale waved her talons in front of their blank expressions and said, "Hellooo? Anyone there?"

Dune's group shook their heads and apologized sheepishly still amazed by this new dragon, "sorry heh, still not used to seeing new dragons..." Dune smiled weakly and sat back still eyeing them. Gale sighed and was about to talk before the butterfly dragon spoke up and said, "I must ask, Gale was your name yes? Ok. So right now I suggest we go to a cave because adapting to this lifestyle taught me something extremely important..."

"What?" almost all of the dragonets asked.

"The horde comes out at night," he said.

## Chapter 5:

The group flew for about twenty minutes and reached the shore again. They went inside a cave and the butterfly dragon lit a fire inside the cave and everyone lay down. Dune asked the question almost everyone was thinking, "Who are you?"

The butterfly dragon cleared his throat and said, "Ahem, my name is Monarch and I am a chemist, master glassblower, I weave in my spare time, and one of the few free dragons around here."

The group sat silent, impressed by his introduction. Dune started fiddling with rocks on the floor to try to ignore the question that was probably on Gale's mind. "Dune, Squelch, Mudskipper, I have a question to ask," Dune winced and her eyes started tearing up slightly, Gale then asked them the question they dreaded hearing, "Where is Cherry?"

Squelch took a deep breath and said, "Gale, we um, kind of left the place without saving her sorry..."

Gale sat there with her jaw dropped and she started muttering and then yelled, "What?!!!"

Dune started sniffing and said, "Pwease don't be mad..."

Gale looked into the dragonet's tiny eyes and sighed calming down, "Alright then, I guess a rescue mission is in order then."

Monarch looked at Gale like she was insane, "Go back?!" he said, "Have you lost your thoughts?!"

Gale stared blankly at him and said, "Yes."

Monarch calmed down and said, "Okay then."

Some awkward silence passed as the night went on but then the group got startled by loud screeching noises outside and the sound of what sounded like the buzzing of flies, Monarch put a talon to his lips and made a shushing sound, he blew out the fire and said, "Do not say a word, Okay? They must not find you no matter what."

The rest nodded in agreement and silently hid, Dune watched the cave entrance from behind a rock and saw what Monarch meant by hide. The wasp dragon crept by the front of the cave and it had a vine with a flower wrapped around its neck, its eyes were a milky white and every time it breathed, green smoke would pour out.

Dune held her breath in hopes that she didn't inhale any smoke, The wasp dragon stepped into the cave once and then it heard screaming above, it changed targets and left. Dune made a sigh of relief and peeked out of the cave the others joined and nobody was there. They relit the fire and sat around it asking questions until Monarch suggested it was time to sleep. Everyone agreed and found their own spots on the floor. Except for Dune, she found Gale sleeping and snuggled right next to her for protection. Gale sighed and allowed Dune to sleep there for the night.

In the morning Dune saw Monarch return with a big bag of fruits and meat. The rest woke up and took their fair share, Ray saw no sea life in the bag and jumped into the nearby water to hunt breakfast for himself. Dune chomped on what looked like a watermelon but Monarch called it a "cantaloupe" Dune laughed at this ridiculous name and kept eating. Once the bag was empty everyone stretched and got ready to go to the giant structure again. Gale looked a bit like a leopard slinking through the grass towards the structure with a silent and grim expression that Dune could tell was anger. The others followed her with either wonder or fear, Dune couldn't tell. They walked up to the front door and Squelch randomly decided to punch it open, the sound echoed through the halls and he turned around and shrugged at the group. Suddenly vines came out and grabbed Squelch dragging him into the inky blackness. The others rushed towards him but the door closed in front of them and they could hear his screaming on the other side. Monarch took a step back, grabbed a bottle, shook it, and tossed it at the door. The vines withered and the door turned into a pile of ashes in a matter of seconds. They stared at each other in amazement for a moment, shook themselves out of their daze and ran in, they could still hear Squelch and they followed the noises to a grand doorway where the sounds of ripping and fire were on the other side. They opened the door to find a shocking sight.

## Chapter 6:

Squelch was fighting nothing, or so it seemed, upon closer inspection, he was fighting himself. Half of his eyes were green and he was spewing fire and green gas at the same time. Monarch pulled a bottle out again, popped open the top and poured it down Squelches throat, and held him down at the same time, Ray ran over and held Squelches snout closed forcing him to swallow it. The vine around his neck withered and his eyes regained color. He sat up blinked a couple of times and said, "alright what time is it? I had this crazy dream that... oh, it wasn't a dream huh?"

Dune nodded and Squelch stood up woozy, the team's strongest members had been weakened. Monarch stood up and said, "Thinking about it now, we should postpone saving the whole rainwing thing whoever they are."

Gale walked over to him angrily, poking his chest with a talon saying, "We are not leaving her, she is my girlfriend and I refuse to let bad things happen to her, understand?"

Monarch was a bit taken aback by this and said, "alright fine but I still think this is a bad idea, being a pessimistic dragon is not that bad you know..."

They walked out of the room and kept walking down the hallways until they heard some roaring in the other room. Gale ran over, stood behind the door, and then rammed it open with her shoulder. Inside there was another wasp dragon, this time though they weren't covered in vines, they wore glasses and looked in the direction of the group, "O-oh, h-hi, I just was..." the dragon stuttered and looked at Gale with wonder, "Who and what are you?" Dune decided to ask, walking up fearlessly.

The wasp dragon sat up, adjusted her glasses, and said, "I'm Ladybug."

Dune nodded and asked, "Why are you in here though?" "Well, you see I was hiding from the plants, a-and I got stuck in here behind a one-way door. My boss keeps telling me I'm clueless like that, heh," she replied.

Gale was getting antsy, "Dune we should leave. I have a feeling we have alerted something..."

"Ok." Dune replied and started leaving but Ladybug grabbed her arm and said, "Please don't leave me here.... i-I can help?"

Ladybug was shaking a tiny bit waiting for an answer from the others, Ray spoke up and asked, "How can you help?"

Ladybug sat down fiddling with her claws, "I saw a skeleton dragon come here and take the throne from the queen, I was one of her servants and I know my way around here..."

Gale looked to the others and they nodded to each other in silence, "If it's ok can you show us to the throne room?"

Ladybug stood up and nodded shyly. Dune decided to walk out of the crowded room to make sure no one was nearby, she went down one of the hallways and saw something weird, a large doorway with locks and stuff that the plants were trying to get into. Dune started ripping into them trying to open it, but the vines grew back just as fast, Dune was stumped and started thinking for a moment, she felt a tap on her shoulder and she turned around to see Ray standing there, "let me handle this ok?"

Dune stepped back and watched Ray pull out a blade and start slashing at the vines, he was able to clear the plants in a couple of seconds. Ray opened the door and walked in silently but he stepped on a stick and the sound echoed around the large room, Dune ran into the room to see what happened. She saw Ray cursing and pulling a splinter out of his foot. Dune walked over and said, "welp that's a stupid way to get hurt." She pulled out the splinter quickly and Ray muttered something about it not being his fault, Dune heard a snoring noise and her ears perked up to the sound. She turned around and saw a gigantic boar made of bones and plants, her eyes widened and she backed away from the sleeping boar, Ray looked in the direction that Dune did and he yelled in surprise, "What the F@#\$?!"

The boar woke up and growled at the pair, it snorted and prepared to charge, Dune and Ray pushed each other as they started to run from it, both of them got out and grabbed a door and closed the double doors as fast as possible.

"Holy moons," Ray said out of breath, "what the hell was that thing?"



“I don’t know,” Dune replied, “but I think it’s something Scorch created...”

The two dragons walked back to Gale and the others, they heard the booming sound as the boar rammed the door trying to get through. Gale was with Ladybug and pointing at the corridors and telling the group where to go. Ray ran up to Gale and whispered something into her ear, Gale nodded and told everyone to start going down the path, as they reached the hall Dune and Ray were at, the boar finally smashed through the doorway.

The boar growled and snarled at the others until it saw Dune and Gale, it sat still staring its mouth agape then it shook out of its trance and screeched at everyone causing the vines to block up all exits. Gale ordered Ray, caiman, and Monarch to work on the vines around the doors, “Dune Squelch, Ladybug, let me handle the monster ok?”

The three dragons sat in a corner watching the battle happen between Gale and the boar, she shot magic at it but to no prevail, Gale decided to get up close and tried burning it, but the creature started to snort out smoke blocking everyone's view, Dune waved the smoke away and heard Gale let out a cry of pain, Dune looked up and saw Gale’s arm impaled by the creature's tusks, Dune let out a roar of anger and flew into the creature's face and stabbed her tail into the creature's eyes which were made of flowers, the creature screeched and shook both Dune and Gale off, Dune ran over to her friend checking on her, *please be ok Gale...* She poked the side of her friend's snout and Gale woke up suddenly then grimacing from her arm, it had a bloody hole that went clear through bone and scales, Ray ran over but was knocked unconscious by the giant boar who rushed into him, the boar started charging at Gale and Dune again but then Monarch took charge at the beast and pulled out a bottle and smashed multiple of the same concoction at the creature’s face, it screeched and sank to its knees, it fell over shaking the floor slowly disintegrating. Caiman finally got the vines off the walls and allowed the passage to be open, he turned around and asked, “What’d I miss?”

# Chapter 7:

Everyone was gathered around Gale and she just sat there groaning in pain, Dune rushed over to Ray, took his bag, and dug through it, “Mudskipper help me please!” Dune yelled, Mudskipper ran over, pulled out the bandages and disinfectant, he helped Dune make a ball out of bandages, fill in the hole on Gale’s arm, then wrapped it up to hold it still.

Gale sat up slowly and asked, “Is it dead?”

Everyone nodded, Caiman helped Ray get up and Ladybug was congratulating Monarch and Dune. Squelch, and Mudskipper was helping Gale up. Ray was still hazy and he also asked if the creature was dead, everyone ignored him and continued forward, Dune was scouting ahead with Mudskipper this time and he asked her, “Why are you so brave sometimes?”

“Because I’m only afraid when someone I know gets hurt, for example, Gale, she is technically my big sister, and I care for her, so that’s why I attacked the creature.”

Mudskipper then asked, “Do you think I could be that brave?”

“Maybe.” Dune replied.

“Well guess what,” he said, “I bet I could beat you in a fight or beat you in strength.” Mudskipper said growing bold.

“Pfft,” Dune giggled at this, “like the time you had (air quotes) the strength to beat up a fully grown saltwater croc?”

“That was true though!”

“Righhhhht...”

Dune suddenly shushed Mudskipper and pointed to a highly decorated door, “I think that’s the throne room, if we get in there, then we can take down Scorch once and for all.”

Mudskipper nodded and they went back to the group telling the good news, they were all glad but Gale looked like she was about to throw up. “Gale, are you okay?” asked Squelch, Gale nodded but held her hurt arm, it had a slight green tint to it and she squeezed it and green blood came out. Caiman fainted at the sight of this being caught by Monarch as he fell over.

Gale winced and told the group to keep going, no one argued, and kept moving forward.

When they reached the doorway, Gale pushed it open and the room seemed empty, there also was an empty throne at the end of the room, "This is it," Ladybug said, "This is the throne room."

Dune kept looking at the walls covered in vines and how the room constantly looked dark green, she watched a shadow move and then shrugged it off... Dune looked back at it immediately surprised, the shadowy figure in the corner lunged at a clump of vines on the ceiling with a pink tail and a pink snout sticking out, Gale looked at what Dune saw and yelled, "Guys we found Cherry!" Her joy was immediately replaced by shock when the green figure rushed out of the shadows and took the vine bundle carrying Cherry away and he flew out the window with leaf-like wings.

Gale sat there stuttering for a moment, but she shook her head and took off flying towards the green figure, Dune heard something snap off the ceiling and felt time slow down as she rushed in to save Gale. Dune pushed Gale out of the air, getting hit by the chunk of ceiling and falling. Dune watched as Gale hit the wall and she closed her eyes as the rock was gonna crush her anyways, she accepted her fate and closed her eyes

. . .

Dune sat up her wing bandaged up and a fire going on in the throne room, everyone was talking to each other not noticing Dune until Gale walked over and said, "You need to lay still for a while, Ray told me you have five broken bones and they all need to heal, I am so sorry for taking you along, if I considered this, you would've been safe at home with your brothers..." Gale laid down next to Dune, tears filling her eyes. Dune smiled and said her chest was hurting a bit, "Don't apologize, besides, I'll be fine... *Cough, Cough* I just need some time right? Then we'll be adventuring in no time..."

Gale winced and said, "About that, we made an executive decision that you, Squelch, and Mudskipper are going home. I'm sorry but we have no choice but to do so."

## Part 2: The poisonous friendship.

### Chapter 8:

Cherry heard shuffling footsteps around her and she was scared, hungry, and wrapped in vines. This reminded her of the time she and Gale took time to- The vines around her suddenly were cut open and she flopped out breathing heavily from the newly fresh air around her. Cherry sat up holding her throbbing forehead but found a spearpoint pointed at her neck before she could react. "Who are you?!" Yelled the small green and brown dragonet in front of Cherry.

Cherry waved away the spear and casually said yawning deeply, "small green dragonet, I don't care right now. Ok? So, if you can let me pass I won't have to deal with you and I can get back to my girlfriend faster."

The small brown and green dragonet held his position and said, "NO! I won't let you pass! Mom told me to stay here and guard the weirdly wrapped dragon so that's what I'm gonna do!"

Cherry just sat there staring the child down until she just decided to start flying away. She was a couple of feet in the air when something snagged her talons and slammed her to the ground again. She sat down groaning and looked up in confusion as a mysterious voice said, "Blossom, what did I say about watching the stranger?"

A large green but mostly golden dragon came from between the trees frowning at the two like they were pests. Cherry opened her mouth to speak but it was wrapped shut by quick-growing vines. "Sorry, mom..." Said the small dragonet dropping his small spear and drooping a tiny bit.

The mother figure sighed at this and twirled her talons around taking the vines off Cherry but binding her talons together. Cherry laid down and said, "Alright listen, I'm very dangerous and you don't seem to be the type to take excuses...could we try bargaining something?" She eyed the mother and quickly thought of stalling options or fighting if needed. The large dragon huffed and said, "Yeah I don't bargain with *Strangers*, but I do know this, You were the one who brought that horrible Skeleton dragon with

you. So, if you comply, we'll make your death painless, if not, death either way."

Cherry just sat there in disbelief and said angrily, "I didn't bring that thing here okay? I am here with my girlfriend and some friends to take it down." Cherry took a breath and calmed down before continuing, "Also you are very pretty by the way, is that real golden scales or makeup? Plz tell me your names, and uhh... oh yeah, WHY THE FREAK CAN YOU CONTROL PLANTS?!"

The mom laid down in front of Cherry, stared menacingly into her eyes, and calmly said, "My name is Rose and this is my son-now-daughter Blossom, we are both leafwings and I control plants with my leaf speak, you technically are an outsider so I and my group assumed all of you were the ones who endangered us all so we captured you and wanted to interrogate you for info, apparently you have none so I must do the most sensible thing. Leave no witnesses."

"I uhm- disagree with that idea?" Cherry tried running out of stalling options in her head, she had to say something or else death was the most probable result. "B-besides... does it look like I'd destroy an entire continent for fun?"

Rose stared at Cherry and sighed, "To be honest, no. you look more like a dragon who'd go nuts over a banana in your face."

Blossom whispered into his mom's ear and Rose sat up, "Oh my, I am deeply sorry, w-we just got a message from our village that the dragon responsible for this is undead, you- aren't a zombie right?"

Cherry nodded quickly, she then said, "I'm glad you weren't paying attention to me because I can now escape! Goodbye suck-AAAH!"

Even though Cherry burnt off the vines secretly with her venom, she felt more plants wrap around her and force her into an embarrassing pose. "Ok... this is a bit much don't you THINK!?"

Rose chuckled at the rainwing and smiled, "Truthfully, we could be Allies if you agree to my terms, you seem like a dragon of potential."

Cherry thought about it for a moment, on one talon, she could just pretend to join and sneak away when she wanted, on the other talon, she could make a decent alliance with these plant dragons and possibly help herself and her friends. Cherry nodded, and Rose removed the plants leaving one

on Cherry's wrists. Cherry stood up and held out her talons to shake, Rose nodded silently before returning the gesture. "So what now?" Cherry asked suddenly curious of what the leafwing had in store for her.

Rose gathered her things and started going into the dark rainforest, "Come." She said gesturing to Cherry. Cherry followed along through the dark forest with Blossom trotting beside her, "So uhm," Cherry started, "I wanted to ask, isn't Blossom a girls name?"

Blossom looked to her and said, "Yeah, but being a boy just felt wrong to me, my name used to be Basilisk and I told my mom about wanting to be a girl and she let me change my name and my identity to Blossom. She was really supportive and ok with it unlike the others in the village, my friend left me because he found it," he used his talons to make an air quote gesture, "unnatural."

Cherry blinked, "Well that's rude. I support you as well being brave enough to go to your mom and telling her that becoming what you want to be makes you happy. I think most dragons would be scared to do so at first. I think that's really brave of you."

"Wow, thanks!" Blossom perked up a bit feeling better about herself.

"Anytime." Cherry said grinning, she was glad she made someone happy today. She picked up the pace catching up to Rose, "We're almost there," Rose said, "two things, first off, no foreign shenanigans that'll come off wrong with the locals, second off, they probably won't trust you so i'll have to bring you in partially restrained."

Cherry nodded secretly excited about the second part, "I promise to try my best to not be too weird."

"Ok we're here." Rose said stopping at a random tree. "Huh?" Cherry started as she stared at the large tree, "It looks like a normal tree."

"At first it does." Rose said, "But watch the entrance." She dug her talons into the dirt in a specific spot tugging three times and the tree shuddered making a doorway that spiraled down inside the gigantic trunk.

Cherry peeked forward and suddenly felt the vines wrapping around her snout and making a collar with a lead on the end, her face heated up considerably making her scales go pink, "Hey, your emotions are showing you weirdo." Rose noted, "Tone it down to something else please."

Cherry nodded grunting and changed to a tone of gray that seemed believable, "Swell," Rose said, "Come along then foreigner."

Cherry went down the steps looking around, it opened up to a large area full of shops and leafwings conversing, as they walked through the crowd, multiple glares shot in Cherry's direction as she was walked to Rose's house. Cherry's sad gray scales felt sincere after that walk, she walked into the hut that Rose took her to, it was decorated in some spots with leopard print and small reading nooks, it was comfy and Cherry glanced into Blossoms room, Blossom ran over shutting the door in Cherry's face, "T-that's private!" she stuttered blushing a bit. Cherry shrugged and sat down waiting for Rose to let go of the leash, Rose twirled her talons changing the bindings into a single wrap that went around Cherry's arm. Cherry lay on one of the blankets on the spread out floor returning to her usual shade of purples, pinks and blues, "I feel... Resented." She said, hints of cyan appearing on her frills, "Like, I truly don't belong for once."

Rose went to the corner of the house littered with cooking supplies, "I'd get used to that if I were you honestly. We leafwings aren't that welcoming to... Strangers like you."

Cherry sighed and laid down as Rose started to make food, "I'll talk to the council later on tonight, I need to convince them you're not as dangerous as they think." Rose said, "I hope they'll listen to me."

Cherry nodded solemnly as a bowl with vegetables and broth were laid in front of her, She sipped sadly and once she was finished Rose helped prepare a bed with the spare room they had, Cherry heard the door lock behind her as she entered and sighed laying down to rest. "This kind of sucks, but doesn't at the same time," She said to herself, "I was kinda hoping that they'd accept me easier after that note Rose got..." Cherry sighed again and pulled off her ring, it was a promise she and Gale made to each other that they'd never leave each other for another love interest. Cherry fidgeted with the ring staring sadly into it as she fell into a deep sleep.

## Chapter 9:

Cherry looked around, she was in a gray-toned hallway that stretched in both directions with a couple branching paths, *School...* She thought, and she wandered the halls until she reached her and Gale's sleeping cave. Cherry went to open the door and to her surprise a talon moved through her opening it, Cherry watched as a younger Gale walked in and passed through her like a cloud of dust. Cherry followed along laying next to her as Gale unpacked her things and took the stone ledge to lay on, Gale seemed to fidget nervously messing around with her things to try to calm herself, suddenly a small rainwing burst in running around the room her scales a bright shade of pink, and lots of yellow spots. Gale tried hiding herself under the pillow but the rainwing walked up returning to her normal colors tapping Gale's wing, *"Hey, you okay?" She asked suddenly worried, "I didn't mean to startle you when I ran in, I'M JUST SO EXCITED!!!"*

Gale poked her snout out from the pillow and said, *"I-It's fine... I didn't expect you to run in like you were filled with sweets..."*

Cherry then slapped her forehead in idiocy, not realizing the small rainwing was her, she watched the two start conversating and Gale becoming less and less nervous and becoming more open to Cherry. Cherry smiled, she knew she played this memory whenever she was upset, it was kind of comforting to remember how Gale used to be. The memory shifted to the next day where Gale was shaking head to toe about going to class and meeting the other students, young Cherry grabbed her tail and physically dragged Gale out of the sleeping cave until Gale walked with Cherry to class, Cherry chuckled at this remembering how Gale's tail felt tuggable and how she finally stood up and decided to stick close to Cherry as they navigated to their first class. The memory shifted once more to a scene in the lunchroom where Gale was nervously conversating with a couple skywings and eating the hawk she just caught, one of the skywings then decided to be a jerk and started making fun of Gale for being blue eyed but having no firescales, the others joined in taunting her insecurities, young Cherry walked up and angrily asked what was going on and one of them replied, *"Oh, the non-skywing? You shouldn't worry about her, she's obviously not one of us, I mean, look at her! White and Gold horns? She*



*probably painted those on to look fancy... oohhhhh... HAHahaha! Or claiming her father was a soldier, i don't believe it because he made a wimp! Please rainwing, if you were to hang with us instead of this liar, i think we could be friends... but ditch this skywing first ok?"*

Gale shrunk wrapping her tail around her legs and using her wings to hide her face, Cherry frowned seeing Gale this upset, but she liked the part that happened next. Young Cherry bared her fangs and walked up to the skywing and poking him in the chest angrily, *"LEAVE. HER. ALONE."* She growled, The bully laughed even louder until Cherry spit some venom onto the ground beside him almost hitting his tail, he jumped back in surprise, *"jeez, you didn't have to do that you know... Ay! Chill! Chill! Chill!"* He held his talons up in defense, *"Put your stupid venom away and I'll leave you and your weirdling to yourselves..."*

Young Cherry slid her fangs back and grabbed Gale still shaking a bit out of the room, *"Where do you want to go?"* Young Cherry asked her friend, *"I- the library please... just to probably hang out with you and read..."*

Young Cherry nodded and wiped away the tears on Gale's face, they walked down the hallway and the memory started shifting again flashing multiple moments of her and Gale together, Cherry felt a bit woozy after the transition and watched the memory of the last day they had together, Gale was trying to secretly intertwine her tail with young Cherry's, Cherry gasped now finally realizing what Gale was doing on that day, the two had their wings wrapped around each other, Gale looked to Cherry and said sadly, *"Well, it's the last day of school, and it's a free day, what do you want to do?"*

Young Cherry sat there thinking about it and then said, *"Whatever makes you happy, that's what I want to do."*

Gale nodded and then said, *"Ok... wanna go prank Lightning?"*

Young Cherry sat up excitedly, *"Definitely. He still hasn't paid for all the bullying done this year."*

The two ran off Giggling to do some mischief together, on that day, gone was the nervous wreck Cherry saw Gale as, instead Cherry saw Gale suddenly having feelings for her, Cherry then regretted about not asking her friend out on a date, for she didn't think that Gale truly reciprocated

those feelings, she just thought they were extremely close friends. The memory ended with Gale hugging young Cherry goodbye, afterwards young Cherry turned away and started fly home not wanting her friend to see her tears. Cherry watched as Gale held her outstretched talons in desperation quietly sobbing as her only friend left, Gale's mother then landed on the cliff beside her and the memories of school ended.

Cherry felt the shift happen again and it was post Scorch battle when Gale moved in with Cherry into her treehouse. A memory flashed of her and Gale having to share a bed and they laid back to back both of their faces quite heated in embarrassment. Another memory passed of when she and Gale were invited to a dinner party at the Skywing Queens palace, Cherry stood defensively in front an unconscious Gale staring down a crazed seawing assassin, the memory skipped ahead to Cherry breathing heavily, cut and bruised, and bleeding in multiple spots. That night she proved to the assassin that she was a force to be reckoned with, especially when it came to defending her love. The assassin sat in the corner growling with nasty cuts and bruises, he held his injured side that had a splash of venom on it, the two stared at each other collapsing simultaneously, Cherry watched as the memory switched to her watching over her girlfriend in the medical ward. One final memory appeared and it was her and Gale sitting on the beach holding each other, Gale stepped back and pulled out a box that was hidden under her wing, "*Cherry...*" She started, "*We both love each other and are dedicated to each other no matter what... so I made an item myself as a object of promise.*" Gale opened the box, It was two rings crossed laying on each other, "*Do you, Cherry, promise to be mine, until death separates us, to be my beloved for as long as we are together? To not betray one another, and not to harm each other as long as we live?*"

Cherry in the memory sat there, her talons covering her snout, she sat there a single tear sliding down her snout, she turned a raspberry color and took Gale's talons, "*Forever and ever my love.*" The two then kissed as the sun set in front of them, Cherry watched the memory, tears streaming down her face, she sank down and sobbed, she missed Gale, she missed home, she was unable to be useful whatsoever at the beginning of the trip, Cherry sat up wiping her eyes as the surrounding area became a black void, "*Such a pity...*" said a voice in the darkness, "*I expected those*

*memories to have more heartbreak so I can tear you apart mentally, Piece. By. Piece."*

"W-Who are you?!" Cherry asked looking around wiping tears off her snout, "Why are you in my head?!"

*"I'm here to obliterate you of course, you are obviously an important ally to what I consider my greatest nemesis. The one dating the animus skywing."* A skeleton of a sandwing appeared covered in vines creating a false skin, *"Hello again gorgeous rainwing, missed me?"*

Cherry backed up scared as Scorch started making memories of him flash around her and she stared at the skeleton terrified, "I'm not that scared of you anymore... Understand?" She started to babble incomprehensibly as he walked up to her picking her up by her throat, *"I don't believe one bit of that spiel, because obviously you stand here shaking before me and them."*

"T-them?" Cherry gasped kicking her legs desperately, "What do you mean by them?!"

The vines on Scorch's face shifted into a different shape hissing at her, *"We are many, we control all... and we shall control YOU!"*

Scorch slid the vines back and said, *"We came to an agreement, these sentient beings asked for complete control of 'their' continent. We both got what we wanted."*

Cherry felt an outside force shake her, she looked to the skeletonized Scorch and the vines before spraying a lot of venom at them escaping allowing her to wake up. *"NO!"* the two screamed simultaneously as she left the dream.

## Chapter 10:

Cherry woke up suddenly only to see it was Blossom shaking her, “I-I had a bad dream...” she said, “Mom refused to let me sleep by her, would you mind if I hung with you?”

Cherry sat up looking at the young dragonet, “How bad was the nightmare?”

Blossom gave her a scared look that said everything, “Fine.” Cherry said, lifting her wing allowing him to snuggle up to her, “Thank you again...” Blossom said, “I guess you’re not bad at all...” she then fell asleep purring every now and then as she slept, Cherry stayed up for a little bit before falling into a dreamless rest.

Cherry awoke the next morning and saw her door was wide open she stepped through the doorway watching as Blossom was making little weavings with the pile of silk beside her, Cherry walked into the empty living room and she turned around to see Rose walk out her room, “Hey Rose I- mnph?!”

Rose wrapped the vine around Cherry’s snout shutting her up, “No talking to me until I got my coffee, understood?”

Cherry nodded grumpily grunting some choice words knowing Rose wouldn’t hear them. Rose returned with a mug full of the brown liquid returning the vine to Cherry’s arm, “Finally...” Cherry muttered rubbing her snout, “Rose I have some things to ask, did the meeting go well?”

Rose blinked sleepily sipping her drink, “Yeah, you’re off the hook, but i’m going on an assignment to Bloodworm Hive, apparently there’s survivors there, the committee wanted me to take you as a test in your ability to work.”

Cherry nodded along, Blossom trotted over and asked, “What about me? I can be useful!” she sat down her tiny tail wagging back and forth, “I’m sorry Blossom,” Rose said, “You’re staying home, they have scouted this hive and apparently the infection rate is higher than the others... so you’re staying home and that’s final.”

Blossom’s tail stopped and her ears drooped, “Pretty pwease? I’ll be super helpful! I’ll even do twice as many chores when we come back if you let me come!”

Rose stared at her and said in the most serious tone Cherry had ever heard, "No."

Blossom turned her back to her mom crossing her arms angrily muttering. Cherry turned to Rose and asked, "When are we leaving?"

"In about three hours foreigner," Rose said, "We need some supplies first though."

About three hours later, Rose had multiple supplies, rations, and a babysitter to watch over Blossom, the two dragons stood outside the secret exit, "Ready to go?" Rose asked, Cherry raised her talons to say something but Rose interrupted her and walked off saying, "Too bad, come on, we need to get a move on."

Cherry followed Rose out of the rainforest sticking close to Rose's tail to make sure she was near the right dragon the whole time. They exited the rainforest into the open plains of pantala spotted trees every now and then. Rose took off flying and Cherry followed along silently scared to say anything at the moment, they finally reached the hive and Rose pulled out a blade slashing at the vines locking up the door, soon the doorway was open and they walked into the green infested hallways. Cherry shuddered at the massive amount of vines around her and asked, "Rose?"

"Yeah?" replied Rose turning around to look at Cherry.

"Can you control these vines?" Cherry asked curiously.

"No." Rose replied, "If I do, I run the risk of becoming infected myself."

Cherry looked at the walls, "Ok..." She said cautiously moving onwards with Rose, Rose then stopped suddenly, "This is where one of my comrades found you..." she murmured.

Cherry looked around, "You said your comrade found survivors here correct?"

Rose nodded, "Ok..." Cherry said looking around. The two progressed and found a gigantic hunk of vines that once were the giant boar, "Woah..." Cherry breathed as she inspected its remains.

Rose suddenly motioned to Cherry and pointed to a light up ahead, Cherry nodded and crept forward with the knife Rose got for her, Rose ran in and Cherry heard sounds of scuffling, Cherry ran in and let out a squeak of surprise, Rose was holding a wounded Gale at knifepoint as the others

were around her staying back in case Rose did anything. "Gale!" She yelled as she ran in but stopped when Rose held the knife closer to Gale's neck. "You know her Cherry?" Rose asked suddenly suspicious of her ally.

"Yes!" Cherry said worried, "Please let her go! She's my girlfriend of course!"

The rest of the group stared in disbelief at Cherry as she went back and forth with Rose trying to convince her to let Gale go. Gale stopped struggling when she heard her girlfriends name, "Cherry?" she asked, "Is that actually you?"

"Yes! It is, Rose, seriously, let Gale go!" Cherry started to feel desperate.

Rose stared at Cherry before releasing her grip on Gale but keeping her knife out in defense. Cherry ran over and helped Gale up, Gale stared at Cherry, "I'm so sorry I didn't save you fast enough..."

Cherry sighed and rested her head against Gale's becoming a dark pink, "You tried your best and that matters to me..."

Monarch raised a talon and randomly asked, "Wait, this is your GF?"

Gale nodded still holding onto Cherry. Cherry let go and looked towards Rose, "These are my friends, the group I came with, but I don't know the butterfly dragon or the wasp one."

"Monarch." said monarch casually.

"I-I'm ladybug..." Said ladybug.

Rose looked around, grunted and looked to Cherry saying, "This is the group i deemed dangerous?"

"Yep." Cherry replied still holding onto Gale.

Rose sat down and asked, "Well, this place isn't the safest place to camp. How about i bring everyone back with me?"

Gale looked hesitant, but Cherry nodded eagerly and the others looked slightly hopeful. Dune scooted forward and squinted at Rose's wings and gasped, "Your wings look like leaves!"

Rose nodded, "yeah," she said slightly confused, "I'm a leafwing..."

A little ooh went around except for Ladybug and Monarch. Cherry cleared her throat and and started telling everyone what happened, by the time she was done, everyone was packed up and done, "Dune, no, we agreed on you, mudskipper, Ladybug, Monarch and Caiman going home,

and that's final." Gale said to Dune pointing the opposite direction of where she and Cherry were going.

Cherry then watched the two argue until Dune gave up and ran off with the ones who were leaving.

Gale sighed staring at the smaller group, Cherry nuzzled up to her and said, "It was probably for the best..."

Gale's ears drooped and she nodded, "yeah. It's for the best."

They all grabbed the food bags and followed Rose out of the hive and towards the forest.

# Chapter 11:

Cherry lay down on the leopard print carpet once again, of course, it didn't feel lonely anymore now that her friends were there. Ray went to go into the infinite bag and grab some food from it, he jumped back when he pulled an arm that looked like it belonged to a small Sandwing, "What the..."

Gale glared at the tiny arm and growled, "Dune...."

Dune popped her head out of the bag her face completely red, "Sorry... I just wanted to come so badly! At home is boring and blegh, also, it's too late for me to leave now!"

Dune struggled to wiggle out of the bag and Blossom walked up and helped her out, "Thank you very much my handsome sir," She said jokingly before actually looking at her.

Cherry then watched as the two looked at each other and bumped their snouts on accident, Cherry had to hold a laugh in when they blushed at it. "Cherry, who's he?" Gale asked pointing at Blossom.

"She." Cherry corrected, "Blossom is Rose's daughter who became a girl because she was unhappy."

Gale blinked, "Do you think it would be possible for the two to hook up?"

Cherry stared at Gale in disbelief, "Gale! They're just kids!"

"I know but, I'm sorry, I just wanted Dune to find someone before she becomes too unhappy, she's currently going through some sort of depression right now, she doesn't really believe there's anyone for her right now. Maybe Blossom might fix that." Gale said, fidgeting with her tail, "You understand why right?"

Cherry nodded scooting a bit closer to her Gf, "I understand..."

The rest of the night was just conversating similarities and differences of the continents with Rose,