

Standing in front of the double doors to Marigold City's best mall was a yellow vixen, wearing a blue jacket with matching blue pants over her black shirt. Looking around, she walked inside. She checked the clock hanging on top of the store map when she stepped into the building then looked around again. The stores were just opening and some early shoppers followed in behind her, nothing more than a small crowd of twenty people at the most. She whistled beautifully as she scanned over the map with her finger, starting with the spot showing where she was.

“8am and all's well,” Nora said to herself as she bent down to find the new spa section that opened yesterday. “If all goes well, the girls and I can plan for this little spot to be our monthly hang out.” Her finger traced the map, finding the area she was looking for. “Southwest corner on the second floor...” She walked around the map and headed up the escalator.

Three figures in the crowd saw the yellow vixen and nodded towards each other. One ran around the corner on the first floor, the other in a long coat went in the opposite direction, and the third one scanned the room. The remaining figure found where the security room was and slowly approached the door, all three with sinister grins on their faces.

Nora walked down the hall on the second floor, watching as some of the restaurants inside were already open. Shoe stores, candy stores, toy stores, and more met her gaze.

*I'll be sure to tell Zenny about the crafting shop, Dria about the plant shop, and me and Natha can go get some new clothes from there,* Nora thought to herself.

She turned the corner and saw the new sign, “Ladies Lounge”.

“And just my luck, I'll be the first one to enter,” Nora said to herself as she came closer to the store. When she approached, she saw a dragon sitting in a chair waiting for customers. She wore what looked to be renaissance clothing, long red clothes with a black jacket and a belt with various items around it. Nora raised an eyebrow but avoided eye contact.

“Ah milady,” the yellow eyed dragon addressed her. “Come hither to see thy fortune told,” the dragon offered as she gestured to her store.

Nora waved a hand. “Morning, but no thank you.”

“Ah but for thee, lovely lass, thy first visit is free of charge,” the dragon responded with a wave back towards the shop.

Nora smiled a bit but shook her head. She stopped for a moment to look at the store name. The title “Seven Wishes” appealed to her a bit. The map didn't show anything about it and inside seemed completely dark. She looked inside to see mirrors, various fortune teller trinkets, tarot cards, a magician's hat with a baton, a stuffed rabbit, and several lamps and bottles.

“Dost thou maiden,” the dragon smiled, “enjoy what she sees? These rare commodities are some of the world's finest, and I assure thee they cannot be obtained anywhere else.” She flashed a

small grin. "They are indeed, one of a kind."

"Alright, you've bought me," Nora said. "Can you tell me more about your wares? I could probably get something for my little brother... Also, not to be rude, but could I ask you to speak moderately?"

She nods. "Was it convincing? I must apologize, it is my first day on the job," she smiled sheepishly.

"It was good, though a little forced," Nora replied.

"Come in, come in, I'll tell you your fortune. You are my first customer of the day." The dragon put a finger to her lips. "But don't tell anyone."

Nora winked in reply. The dragon smiled and turned around, opening the double doors wide to walk inside. Nora followed her but had to pull the doors open herself. Inside was a tent, taking up most of the store, and in front of her was a small passageway into a spacious room. She followed, a bit surprised by the level of detail she put into her store. She went inside and saw to her right the dragon sitting in a chair in front of the table. The table held a pedestal and a crystal ball, illuminating the tent in a blue light. The wall mounts held books, fake scrolls, candles, and magic hats on display. The dragon lit an orange incense stick on the table and sat patiently.

"I have to say, I love the decor," Nora commented.

"I'm glad; I thought it might add to the mysticism. But, let's get started shall we?" The dragon smiled and motioned to the seat opposite her.

Nora nodded and sat down opposite the dragon. The dragon placed the back of her right palm on the table and asked for Nora's hand. Nora gave it to her and the dragon breathed in and out. Nora waited, looking from side to side then at the orb. She knew it was a gag but humored her for fun.

"I sense," said the dragon, waving her hand around the sphere, it changing from blue, to red, to other colors. "That you have a very... colorful family... You're here, at this store, for them and for yourself."

Nora nodded. She was in the mall; why else would she be there if not for herself. She kept quiet and the sphere turned yellow. Nora jumped when all power to the building shut off. The sphere and the lights from outside went off then back on again. The sphere glowed yellow again and she sighed, keeping still. The dragon had her eyes closed but smiled. She took another deep breath and opened her yellow eyes, looking at the vixen.

"I sense, in your future, there's great conflict to come," she said in a more serious tone. Nora raised an eyebrow and leaned forwards a little. The dragon watched as she inhales the incense from her candle then looked at the yellow sphere. "I see... great struggles, for you and the ones you hold dear. I see... Oh... I see..."

Nora eyes widen in anticipation. The dragon held her hand firmly, making Nora squeak softly out loud while her mind giggled at the entertainment. She looked up at the dragon then at the sphere.

“I see... death.” The dragon ends her speech dramatically.

Inside the misty sphere Nora saw something shining inside. When she heard those words she looked back up at the dragon slowly. The dragon held a poker face but Nora's heart beat picked up speed. For a moment the two stared at each other, unflinching. The dragon's eyes confirmed she was hiding something. Her pupils shifted slightly, the dragon's lips curled upward, her brow got lower, and the air about her felt increasingly ominous.

Nora tried to take her hand back but the dragon yanked it back and gave a devilish grin. With her right hand the dragon tugged on a string leading under the table. The sphere in front of the two broke as a shining dagger pierced free, aimed at Nora's face. Nora reacted, turning her head slightly as the dagger cut her cheek and hit the ceiling.

“Gotcha!” The dragon gripped Nora's hand tighter and a hidden blade emerged from the dragon's sleeve, piercing through the vixen's palm. Nora screamed as she yanked it back and used her left hand to flip the table over. The dragon flipped backwards out of her chair and landed on her feet. Nora took a step towards the dragon, readying herself when a lasso wrapped around her from behind. Before she could turn to see this new enemy she was yanked and tossed through the window out into the open. The two watched as Nora broke through glass, hit the metal banister, and fell to first floor.

“Nice work,” said the dragon, taking off her disguise as she walked towards the larger female reeling in her rope. “You came sooner than I expected.”

“I wanted to see this vixen up close and in person,” said the cheetah as she cracked her knuckles. “And I want first dibs on her.”

“You certainly take on that Amazonian spirit as I've heard. Very well, keep her occupied while we set the plan in motion,” the dragon said as she ran to get her outfit.

“With pleasure” the cheetah smiled as she walked out of the store and looked over the broken banister. She saw a spot of blood on the ground and a trail of it leading down the hallway. “And so, the hunt begins.”

Nora held her hand as she ran down the hallway, heading for the exit. Around her she started to notice an eerie silence. The shoppers who came in with her were gone and the shops were still closed. Further down the hall she turned and saw the exit was closed off.

“Tsk, what's going on here?” Nora questioned to herself. She readied her defenses, her hand mostly healed from the stab wound inflicted on her. The microphones in the store rung through her ears and she covered them, hearing someone singing soothingly over the entire store. “Now

what?" She turned around quickly and saw a familiar face. A yellow furred folf came out of the candy store wearing some blue pants and a white shirt, his hair black, with black tipped ears and blue eyes. "Gia?" Nora asked. The wolf/fox hybrid turned to Nora and Nora's eyes widened. The pupils in Gia's eyes were gone and his swaying movement showed him possessed as he walked.

Nora noticed his strange behavior as well as the soft moans of other men coming from the stores. Nora looked around finding male furs, with the same eyes and movements as Gia, approach her.

*What's wrong with them? Nora thought. This can't be the dragon... Nora took several steps back then turned quickly. I need to leave.*

Nora ran to the middle of an open area, seeing the windowed ceiling above her. She arched her back, sprouting long white majestic wings as she prepared to takeoff. Three flaps and she flew into the air, heading straight up. In mid flight her ears heard the tone of the woman singing into the microphone change. It was louder and boomed with a sense of urgency and anger from its tone. From behind her, three furs on the second floor of the mall went from walking to running. They growled with their fangs bared as they jumped from the banister and piled on top of Nora. Faced with a bear, a deer, and a raccoon weighing her down, the flying fox came down with a large thump on the floor. The bear roared and clawed at her wings, gashing through it with his claws while the raccoon bit her arm and the deer kicked her back.

Nora growled and yelped in pain, attempting to roll away before she sustained too much damage. She shielded her face with her arms and dispersed her wings the moment the bear took another hack at them. The deer stomped on her tail, sending a sudden wave of pain up her spine.

Nora screamed and jumped up instantly, hitting the raccoon's jaw with her elbow before she turned towards the deer. The man threw a punch but Nora ducked, striking him three times in the gut, and ending in a roundhouse kick to his face. She reached into her pocket to pull out her yellow orb. Before she could get it to hover, a possessed ram smashed into her back and pinned her against the bars of a closed down shop.

"Ahh!" Nora clutched the metal gate and pulled herself up before the Ram could get another hit against her back. She looked behind her, males surrounded her and some jumped up to claw at her tail and legs. She searched through the sea of mad men, all with white eyes and faint groans. When she found the orb she had dropped, she reached her hand towards it. The orb glowed, levitated, and floated into her palm. In a second it fused into her fur, down to her skin and into her body. Nora closed her eyes and jumped, falling into the sea of claws waiting to dig at her. When she opened her eyes her white pupils coursed with electricity. The hue of her body glowed yellow and the bite on her arm healed rapidly. She roared and brought her arms towards each other. Her arms glowed brighter than the rest of her body, covered in the sparks of condensed electrons. The magic traveled from her shoulders to the palms and fingers of her hands. With a loud grunt she clapped her hands together. She felt her hands pulse and an electromagnetic pulse launched the furs away and on to their backs. The shock wave from her magic traveled a fair distance across the mall, sinking into ever fur's body. She landed on her feet and breathed, watching the males twitch or pass out from the attack.

Nora panted softly and took a moment to breathe, healing the bite from her arm, the bruise on her back, and the slash of her wings, just enough to ease the pain. She immediately took off for an alternate exit, expecting another trap if she returned the way she came in. Around another corner she saw doors still open and ran for the outside.

Partially hidden under the speaker's vocal music, the sound of wings flapping caught the vixen's attention; she immediately stopped. Nora turned around quickly as the sound approached her but saw no one. The flapping grew louder but the more Nora turned around to catch it, the faster it vanished out the corner of her eyes.

Her eyes scanned the hall surrounding her, jotting from the signs of small malls to the ceiling, the exit, and the open room she just left. Her heart started racing and her breathing grew heavy. The music from the speakers created an echo. She gripped her head. "Stop that music!" She growled loudly. Using her orb she launched the floating sphere at the speakers wherever she saw them in the gaps on the ceiling.

Hidden in the shadows, the dragon took notes of her reactions. "So the incense has some effect on her," she said to herself. "What else can you do my prey?"

Nora broke the last speaker she saw. Even though she could hear the singing from speakers further inside it gave her relief and peace of mind for the moment. "I need to call the others and ge-"

The sound of a female's screech pierced her concentration. When Nora turned towards the exiting doors, she saw the blur of a person and talons closing in on her face. She reacted instinctively, blocking her face with her arms instead of rolling away like she intended. With little effort the one tailed vixen was picked up into the air. Stinging pain pierced through her fur as the talons of this new enemy clutched her tight and squeezed into her skin. Nora cried in pain, flailing as she tried to break free from the grip. The creature let go after building enough momentum to slam Nora into a closed gate. The collision left a large dent in the metal after she collapsed to the ground.

"Give in creature, I'll end you soon enough," said the enemy.

Nora looked up, surprised to see a human's face attached to a bird's body. With radiant brown skin and long, slightly curled red hair, this creature flapped her armed wings and stood on top of a feral bull statue in the middle of the room. Her legs and feet matched that of a bird, only soaked with blood and a piece of Nora's blue jacket.

"Who... augh..." Nora slowly rose to her feet, stumbling a little while her back slowly healed. "What are you?" The harpy didn't answer and instead started to sing again. Nora saw an earpiece attached to her left ear. Her soothing, enchanting, hypnotic voice carried through the speakers down the halls and throughout the building. Nora's ears flicked when she heard the sounds of groaning men approaching. When the harpy looked at Nora the other furs ran towards the vixen,

weapons ready.

“I admit, you and your friends caught me by surprised,” Nora said, a little winded. The harpy continued singing but kept her eyes on her. Nora closed her eyes and put her hands together in a prayer position. Her feet engulfed in fire and the flames traveled up her legs until her entire body vanished. A moment after the blazing light subsided, Nora stood offensively. Her attire changed from a simply blue jean and jacket combo to her battle robes. The harpy took flight again, backing away from the vixen.

“I’m ready for you now!” Nora put one foot behind her and turned to her side. Her body gave a faint yellow aura and her angelic white wings sprouted from her back. In a quick flash her two scimitars appeared in the palms of her hands. She twisted her ankle and launched from the ground with incredible force.

The harpy stumbled in the air for a moment before she flew down the hall. Nora followed with her blades ready. The harpy's arms flapped furiously, staying ahead of Nora by a few feet. When Nora got close the harpy turned around, screeched, and flapped her wings. A gale force wind shielded her when Nora went to attack, the shield redirected her to the harpy's side and she clawed at her back. The harpy managed to cut three gaps into the back of Nora's outfit, damaging the white Infinitium family emblem. Nora grunted and yelped in pain then turned around quickly. She swung her blade to the side of the harpy. The harpy grinned, knowing the blade would bounce off as the gale force wind protected her.

When Nora grinned back and dropped the sword from her palm, she brought the orb out from her pocket and fused it into her body. Nora's eyes glowed once more as she channeled electricity through her finger tips, and at close range she shot at the harpy, piercing through the wind shield to make a hole in her enemy's right wing.

The sheer pain of that caused the bird creature to screech into the microphone as loud as she could. Nora covered her ears and wailed; the pitch of the bird's voice enough to shatter the store windows. Nora landed abruptly on the ground, trying to regain her senses while the creature flew around frantically, disappearing around the corner.

“Not too bad,” said another female voice as she clapped. “Though I'm rather disappointed.”

Nora turned to her side, seeing an incredibly tall female cheetah approach her. Wearing a red shirt and long brown pants, along with traces of metal armor on her hips, chest, wrist, neck, head, and ankles, her muscles almost compared to her brother Zenaku; her figure however, nearly flawless.

“And you are?” Nora growled, baring her teeth as she reached over and grabbed her sword, readying herself for anything.

“Shena,” the cheetah grinned, a beam of confidence in her eyes. “I was told that you and your family are fearsome foes. The way I see it, you've been man handled and tossed around like slave

off to service.”

“You're with the pentagon aren't you?” Nora said.

“And what gave that away?” The cheetah cracked her knuckles loudly. Nora looked Shena over again, noticing a lasso around her waist. Nora thought back and that lasso matched the rope that flung her around.

*Strong, very strong, Nora thought to herself. A dragon, a harpy, and an Amazonian... The pentagon's getting serious with the people they send out to kill us.*

“Call it a hunch,” she said to her. “Though you're not what I was expecting? I'm guessing a new hire?”

“Well you're a sharp one.” The cheetah jumped from the second floor and landed on her feet, standing up again. Nora felt the air of confidence around this opponent. She left few openings in her stance and her eyes seemed fixed on her, like a prey for the predator. “Let's see what you've got vixen.”

“Come here darling,” Nora mused. “If you're half as good as the others the Pentagon sent my way then I'll be sure to actually try this time.”

“Tough talk,” the cheetah dashed forward at frightening speed, closing the distance between her and Nora. Each step she took was heavy enough that Nora felt the floor shake. “Now back it up!”

Taken aback from her initial speed Nora dodged when the spotted cheetah slashed diagonally. Her sharp claws cut through the metal bars of a clothing store. Before Nora rose to her feet, the cheetah yanked her by the back of her shirt, gripped it tightly, and slammed Nora through the broken gate. Nora yelped and crashed into some clothing racks, getting buried under shirts, pants, and coats.

“I heard you were a fast fighter,” her enemy said, causally pulling apart the remaining bars in her path. She walked over to the pile Nora lay under and folded her arms, tsking. “So much for giving me a challenge!”

She lifted her large foot and slammed on top of the clothing, making a crater in the floor but no sounds of broken bones. She raised an eyebrow, bent down, grabbed some clothes, and pulled them up to find no one there.

“What?” She looked around the room, and then saw a yellow tail flick further inside the room. Nora raced around the electric outlets, short circuiting the lights overhead. “So you plan on pulling tricks?” She cracked her knuckles and walked forward while listening around her. “That's fine; I can end your life here and now. Just try not to scream too much, it takes a bit of the fun out of it.” When all the lights clicked off she stopped. She looked around again to find fox ears poking out of some clothes a few feet to the left. She smirked, grabbed a clothing rack, and threw

it there, watching it fly through with ease but hit nothing. It impacted the wall and Nora grinned.

“Something wrong?” Echoed Nora's voice. The cheetah's body shivered as she stood firmly planted into the ground. “Are you alright? You're looking a little pale.” She said again.

The cheetah's eyes scanned over the dark room but couldn't detect the vixen. Her sense of smell didn't help because the entire store smelled. With a sudden jolt the cheetah's felt a bash against her side, making her jump back in reflex and place her hand over the hit. “Where are you?”

“What's the matter? Can't you find me?” Nora's orb bashed her again on the back of the head. The cheetah yelped and gasped. As she descended to the ground she stopped herself and growled, roaring all around her.

“I'm going to kill you! Show yourself!” She broke into a cold sweat, panting a little as she continued to scan the room. She started running, slicing at the clothes, metal racks, and wall mounts, the sight of more clothes than she remembered increased her confusion. She froze for a moment as she looked in front of her, seeing her snickering enemy wait patiently for her, swords ready. “So now you show yourself?” The cheetah started to grin, her confidence rising steadily once again. She knew she could take her out with one solid hit. “Let's end this!” She darted towards the fox, jumping from clothing rack to clothing rack. She leapt in the air, pulled back her fist, and struck the vixen's cheek.

“Hmmp!” Said the illusion. The cheetah's fist went through the image of Nora's face and her entire arm passed through her. The eyes that sparkled with electricity were replaced by two sets of mixed wires touching each other inside the power box. The cheetah's eyes widened in horror but her momentum couldn't be stopped. Her fist smashed into the box and the current went straight through her body. Despite some of the rubber items she wore around her fur, the wires pierced her fur and bit into her flesh. Nora, waiting at one of the outlets, placed one hand on her yellow floating orb and the other in front of the wall outlet. Her orb glowed brightly and acted as a converter, she transferred the electricity stored in her orb, through her body and into the current. She listened as her enemy screeched to the top of her lungs in agony. The added charge from Nora sent a paralyzing shock wave through her Amazonian body.

The box exploded and the cheetah flew a few feet away, smacking into one of the stone pillars holding up the store and several shelves of fashion items. Nora stopped, got up, and cautiously walked towards the cheetah. She saw passed some fallen clothing as she approached the fallen cheetah. The cheetah shook violently from the attack, her body twitching with her fur standing up in all directions. While most of her body was buried Nora saw her arm twitch for a moment, then lay still.

Nora walked towards the exit. She let out a sigh of relief when she entered into open air hallway, happy to see light again. The danger didn't stop there and as she was forced to duck as an arrow flew towards her, embedding in the tiles of the floor behind her. Before Nora could look up at the attacker she felt another arrow fly towards her, the archer quick to reload, aim and fire. Nora ran rapidly, leaving a small electric after image behind. She stood around the corner, out of direct fire

of the archer. She panted for a moment and after recovering from the surprise attack she looked down the hall. She made a mad dash for the door but an arrow, quickly followed by a second, pierced through her knee and she fell.

“You're one hard creature to kill,” yelled the dragon as she jumped from the second floor to the first. “Taking out Avera then Shena... The Pentagon's anxiety towards your kind is justified.”

Nora tried to get up but yelped and fell back down. She looked at her legs to see that the tips of the arrows were coated in her blood.

“One for muscle relaxant and one to release a virus through your body,” The dragon came around the corner and tossed a small metal ball towards Nora before putting on a mask herself. The ball opened, releasing the same incense she breathed in when she was in the renaissance shop. Nora shuddered and the infected leg went limp, she couldn't move it and the other leg was getting harder to move and it was becoming harder to breathe.

The vixen's eyes watered and the scent made her eyes shrivel a little. The light coming from outside dimmed slightly and the voice of the dragon blurred.

“You've certainly met my expectations creature.” The red dragon stood in front of Nora and watched as the vixen squirmed and trembled under her own weight. The dragon walked to her side but stopped and looked down surprised. Nora clutched the dragon's ankle, her hands shaky as her weak grip tried to squeeze firmly. “The poison must be up to your neck. Right now I could imagine, your insides burning and twisting, your muscles shaking and weak like your bones were brittle, and your eyes from the smoke can hardly see a thing... can they?”

Nora coughed and weakly tried to look up. When the dragon kicked her in the gut it felt like a crushing blow to her life force. Nora cried weakly as she shriveled up. Although she started to heal naturally the arrows administering the two poisons kept the process slow. The incense affected her senses and being forced to exhale from the kick to her stomach then inhale to keep living made her choke hard. She coughed up blood then flinched and cried again when the dragon kicked her in the back.

*You should be dead*, thought the dragon. “The bleeding has stopped in your legs, you're still breathing, and you can still speak... Impressive.”

The dragon used her boot to pin Nora to the ground. She leaned down slowly and whispered into her ear. “Tell the devil Zonia sent you.” She stood back up and looked down the hall, watching her harpy partner walk towards them from around the corner. “We'll get your wing fixed,” she reassured.

Nora, as tears fell down her cheek, paralyzed, pinned, and suffocating, closed her eyes weeping for a moment.

*I'm not going to die...* Nora said to herself.

The dragon looked down at Nora then reached for an arrow in her quiver. “The Pentagon wants her alive or dead, but I'm feeling merciful. So we'll make sure they get a body at least.”

*Naku... Zenium... Zen... I'll be damned if they take you...*

Nora balled her hands into a fist and opened her bloodshot eyes. She heard the dragon pull back the string, ready to fire straight into the back of her head. Nora bared her teeth, roared, and touched her stomach. The orb infused in her body sent a rush of power through her veins. When the arrow was fired Nora screamed and rolled to her side. The arrow pinned and tore off some of her hair but she powered through the pain for a moment. Nora rolled to her back and both saw the majority of her yellow and white fur turn yellow and black, along with her brown hair turning slightly black. The harpy saw her move and came forward to scream at her at point blank range. However, Nora's tails broke from one into six, managing to trip her before she could scream. With a final wail Nora brought her arms out, sprawled out, lifted them quickly, and brought her hands together in a powerful clap. The dragon and harpy lifted from the feet with their ears bleeding.

A force pushed them off the ground and sent them flying towards the wall. The windows and glass in every part of the store shattered to pieces. When the two fell to the ground the window glass from above fell, shards piercing their bodies. Weak foundations like the metal statue in the middle of the hall, random parts of the building, and several escalators stopped working or broke. The harpy screeched in agony while the blood ran down her ears as the boom from Nora's thunder damaged her hearing. The dragon lay unconscious from the attack. Nora, panting hard, rolled over to her chest and lifted her head towards the open ceiling leading into the sky. When the sight of her two brothers rushed down to her aid, she passed out smiling.