The Last Hope

997 words

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*The sun gleamed outside but inside the cavern Elsie Baharen, Guardian Of The Gem, exchanged a worried look with her assistant Beatrice Rose. Both had long silver hair like starlight that matched their ungarnished robes. Elsie Baharen’s puddle blue eyes gleamed with wisdom “The new guardian has come,” she whispered.*

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I gasped as the air was knocked out of me. I was on the ground. I pushed myself up then slid quietly through the bushes, pushing them to the side. I gasped. A shimmering shape lay on the ground. It lifted its head. “A dragon.” I whispered.

“Yes, I am a dragon, and *you* woke me up.” The dragon stood and lifted her head. Once she was at her full height, she was huge. She was fifteen feet tall and barely fit in the clearing. Her leathery wings were slightly unfolded.

“Wait, can dragons speak English?”

“No, only dragons who have special powers can speak in different languages. Do you understand me? Do you have powers? What…?”

“I guess I do. I have been able to transform into animals since I was little, but I’ve never been able to talk to animals! What is happening?”

“Well maybe, just maybe…”

“What!?”

“You might be able to only talk to dragons. Some of the past occurrences with humans and dragons have suggested that some abilities have been only useful for one species. Your new powers must not be advanced enough to do other things yet.”

“Oh. Sooooo, why are you here? Dragons never come anywhere close to the village. We normally can’t even see their colors.”

“Clearly I am here for help.” She glared at me. Then gave me a curious look. “When did you get those powers?” she leaned closer.

“I was born with them! Why are you so curious?”

“Because you might be the one. The dragons are going extinct, and you might be the one to save them.”  
 “You have to be joking! Me? Save the dragons?” I didn’t feel like laughing but this was great humor.

“No, I'm serious. The dragons are going extinct, and they actually need help!” Then I saw the worry in her eyes, and I knew l had to try to help.

I nodded, turned on my heel and ran back through the forest. When I pushed through my door my mom was not home. She must be working a late shift. I searched for a couple travel bags and filled them with food, a water bottle, and a blanket. Then I pulled everything onto my shoulders and ran to the forest.

When I arrived back at the dragon, I strapped the bags to her, and we took off. We shot up and I had to hold on for dear life.

After about an hour the dragon broke the silence “What is your name?”

“My name is Makayla or Mika for short. What is yours?”

“My name is Tayla.”

For the first time I noticed that her scales were a shimmering gold and she had a lily tucked behind her ear that seemed to glow. We flew through the first night. I didn’t dare fall asleep for fear of falling off, though halfway through the night I strapped myself to the bags just in case. When day broke our pace was starting to lag. I could tell immediately that Tayla was exhausted. We slowly began to slip lower in the sky until I cried out as a tree smacked me in the face.

“Tayla!” I cried “We need to rest. Please stop!” Tayla seemed to realize what had happened and pulled up hard. Then she landed right at the edge of a swamp. I leapt off her back and immediately began to stroke her neck. “Sleep,” I murmured. She closed her eyes and was asleep in seconds. After a short rest, I went to look for food. The water was seeping into my socks and making it hard to walk. Eventually I looked down when it was all I could do to keep walking and gasped. Mud was creeping up to my waist. I couldn’t move. Then out of nowhere something plunged in beside me and pulled me out. Tayla was standing above me covered in goop and breathing hard.

“Thank you,” was all I could muster. After an hour I broke the silence. “You risked your life for me, why?”

“I couldn’t just leave you. I somehow knew you were in danger, and that was weird,” We didn’t speak again for the rest of the day.

Days past and finally Tayla whispered, “We’re here.”

We landed in an old courtyard. Cracked stone pillars surrounded us. Moss grew, seeping into every crack. Yet the place seemed welcoming. A lavender dragon walked toward me. She was bigger than any of the other dragons. She walked with immense gracefulness and had an air of importance about her. “So, you are the one Tayla brought to save us.” She circled me as if investigating.

“I promise, she is special. She can speak dragon. Just let her try.” Tayla begged.

“Fine. My name is Kaia, the dragon queen.” The dragon said. “We need a new gem keeper.”

“I will try my best, your majesty,” I said, bowing deeply.

  “No, you won’t because you aren't the one.” said a voice. “I am Elsie Baharen, current guardian of the gem.” The other dragons looked confused, but I had an idea.

“I may not be, but I know who it is. Tayla,” I said turning toward her “You have risked your life for me and believed in me even when I felt I wasn’t special.”

“She is mostly correct,” said Elsie “You both are. You and Tayla have a special bond. You are meant to be together and that is why you will both be guardians of the gem. The gem chose you. You are bonded.” I was astonished.

“I knew it!” Tayla smiled. It was true. We are gem keepers. We are the last hope!