

Deragona

By Claire Heller

“Ugh, this suspense is killing me,” Wizard Charlie South complained. Charlie had orange hair, twinkling blue eyes, and a mischievous smirk. He had never known his mother, but his father was a Senator in the kingdom of Zardon, which lay to the south. However, now he lived in another kingdom called Lyda. Being a Wizard, he was in this third year at the Kupua Academy, a school for Wizards.

“I should hope not, considering you have to approach the Dragon,” Rya said. Rya Rossano had light brown hair and kind brown eyes. She had lived on a farm in Lyda all her life. Knowing that her older brother would inherit the farm, she and her twin sister, Sarah, decided to save the world instead. Rya had just finished a documentary explaining what they were doing in case anything happened to them.

It went something like this: Millenia ago, the gods of the heavens had sent down to earth their Creatures. All of the Creatures were mythical, and it was said that whoever found a Creature would then become its Guardian and fight alongside it. The six heavenly gods with Creatures were: Onyx, Queen of the gods, has her Dragon, Deragona. Fulgus, Prince of the gods, has a Griffin, Gula. Irsi, Princess of the gods, has a Pegasus, Daimana. Nalu, Prince of the gods, has his Kelpie, Wai. Alten, daughter of Fulgus and Irsi, has her Unicorn, Mahina. Altor, son of Fulgus and Irsi, has a Dire Wolf, Hoku. Seeing the Creatures on earth as an act of war, the gods of the underworld sent up their Beasts. The names of the underworld gods and their Beasts are unknown, as nobody has ever come back from a meeting alive. All the humans knew was that

whoever found a Beast became its Master. Thankfully, no war between the gods broke out and the world was at peace until a troubling prophecy was discovered. It said:

The mortal Princes will lead the charge

Heaven and underworld at war

Guardians, Creatures, Masters, and Beasts shall start a battle so large

That if the darkness wins it will shake earth to its core

A group of young people, Lord Charles South, Rya Rossano, Sarah Rossano, Sir Theo Thelassa, Princess Zelda Hetra, and Athmani Grace, began searching for the heavenly Creatures when they heard that Lord Octavin Kahewa and his followers had begun to seek the Beasts.

“I know. What I don’t know is why we are just sitting here. Come on, I’m just going to say the stupid spell already,” Charlie said, standing and walking towards the ladder. Rya followed him. The rest of the crew was waiting for them on the deck. Zelda, Princess of the Kingdom of Silverwood, Athmani, tamer of lions, Sarah, master of weapons, and Theo, navigator, and sailor. They were floating in the sea to the north of Lyda. There, they were supposed to find Onyx’s Dragon, Deragona. Since Onyx was also the goddess of magic, Charlie would have to say a special spell.

“Ready Charlie?” Zelda asked.

“As ready as I’m ever going to be,” he responded. Charlie went to the bow of the ship and raised his wand. He muttered a chant under his breath. Suddenly, he was blown back as the sea exploded. Rising out of the waves was a crystal structure as tall as the highest mountain. As Charlie leaned his head back, he saw a cave entrance at the very top.

They debated for a while how Charlie would get up there but finally settled on levitating. Charlie took a deep breath, concentrated, and began to rise. He rose steadily for what felt like eternity, faltering only once when a bird flew by. After about ten minutes, he reached the cave, only to realize that it was no cave, but a large cavern filled with treasure. Charlie made his way inside, gazing at the gems and gold heaped around him. A sudden blast of wind startled Charlie. A mighty dragon landed before him. It had shimmering scales of every color and piercing gray eyes.

It bowed and said, "Hello, Your Highness. It is an honor to meet you. I am Deragona, companion of Queen Onyx."

"I'm no prince, just a Wizard. But I guess I am technically a Lord of Zardon."

"What are you talking about, Your Highness? Your mother is Her Majesty, Queen Onyx. I am her humble companion but have lived in this cave for millennia now, waiting for the prophecy to come true." Charlie was stunned. He had never known his mother but had never expected her to be the Queen of the gods.

"Does that mean I'm a demigod?" he asked.

"Yes. If you don't mind, I'd like to make us Creature and Guardian," she said.

"How does that work?"

"We just have to leave our symbol on the other. Here, I'll go first." The Deragona reached out with a talon and pressed it into Charlie's upper arm. The image it left was a golden image of a dragon head breathing fire. "I suggest leaving your mark on the same place on my arm."

"How do I do it?"

“Just place your hand on my arm and the image will appear.” Charlie stretched out his hand and placed it on Deragona’s arm. A golden Wizard’s wand appeared spouting with swirling fire.

“Now, let’s go rejoin you friends,” he heard Deragona say, but Charlie knew it was in his mind.

“We can talk telepathically?” Charlie thought.

“Yes. And by the way, you can call me, Dera,” the dragon said.

Charlie hopped on Dera’s back, and they shot out of the cave, and began to spiral down to Charlie’s friends who had started a fire on the small beach at the bottom. Dera breathed silver flames with a roar, getting their attention. They stood up and waved as the pair descended to the waves below.

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