Venturing: Down Came Four

‘I will be fine down here!” Hollered Natty as her voice carried from the hole below up upon our ears. We gave a silent nod back to her and said nothing else as our attention was turned towards the darkening atmosphere around us, my face hardened and I gave a long exhaled shaking my head. The room was the same size as we had left it before. But with the darkness surrounding our eyes, it seems it had gotten bigger or smaller. I am honestly not sure which term was correct, however. Regardless, we had an objective that was crystal clear in our eyes. And we are to see it thoroughly without problems. Upon that thought in my head, my face lightened itself up and I had conjured up a smile upon my lips. Shifting my attention to Yang, she started pointing off Northward towards a wall that was closest to us. I nodded and we walked up the small flight of stairs. Onto the stadium’s stand where four stands were waiting for us. The fifth was an empty hole where Natty had fallen in. We bypassed the hole and the four stands, walking a bit further off towards the deep end of the room. Thus faceplanting upon the wall, we finally found what were looking for.

The yellow door. To be honest, I was surprised the door was yellow. I had anticipated it to be orange or black or any other color besides yellow. But with my overthinking, I had realized that Yang was looking strangely over to me. Her face wore a confused look. Eyes were narrowed. Nose wrinkled and her mouth’s curves downward pointing to the grounds below. Even her wings were raised higher above her head. That I said nothing and shook my head. Throwing away every thought that I had in my head out the window. Or in this case, down into the abyss below. We started forth the doorknob. Yang grabbed it and tilted to one side. The door opened and allowed us in. With it widening, groaning, and whining all at the same time, we headed in.

Exchanging one room for another, we were in a new environment. A place were it was nosy but tranquil none the less. Two pairs of chairs sit on opposite sides of the room, pointing towards the corners. A table was stabbing the corner, white grayish clothes were on top of it. A candlelit was on top of the cloth. The table was brown. Maybe white. I could not tell because of the lightning from the castle. As I stared at it, discussing with myself of what color it may be, I felt a nudge dug deep into my side. I growled and sharply shifted my head over to Yang who equally faced me with a darken look and raised her claw upward pointing to what was in front of us. I followed rather quickly and my expressions changed suddenly. From anger to surprise, we had found the book we were looking for! With a smile upon my face and Yang’s expression had lightened up suddenly, we started forth towards the book in front of us.

It was upon the half wall. A bell sits adjacent to where it was. As I grabbed the book’s cover and flipped the page, we were struck upon the first page. Inside was a table that extended down onto the corner of the page. It was divided into four. Each of them had a category. ‘Contestant name’,’ date of joining’,’ money to bet for’, and something else. The fourth column was blanked. Nothing was written on it. As I and Yang turned to one another in silence, she split her lips and stabbed the page scrolling down until she had reached the first name. ‘Sabyre’ “Who the heck names themselves that?” I commanded, earning a giggle from Yang as she scrolled once more further down. A name called ‘Yrian’ came after. Then ‘Evia’ and ‘Orar’. “These must be names belonging to the first contestants,” I commented glancing at each of them, one by one. Yang nodded also, but her face tells something different. It was like she was curious yet deadpanned upon something. Perhaps chewing on a thought? I wondered, shifting an eye over to her.

“What I do not get is why these four contestants have no money written in that category.” Yang wondered. As if to emphasize her point, she randomly took one of the names and quickly scrolled leftward to the category that she was mentioning about. To her anticipation and my surprise, indeed none of the four had anything written onto it. It was like it all disappeared somehow. “To not cheat on the game show perhaps?” I asked and Yang shook her head, “Was it because the host wanted to keep secret of the money that each contestant bringing? Perhaps it is the reason why the fourth took the three other contestants and made them all gone missing. Right there and then.’ Yang explained and finished by sealing her lips before turning her head over to me. “What do you think, Ling?” “I got no comment.” I finished shaking my head with an exhaled breath, then we both turned our heads over to the door as Yang grabbed the book. “Come on.” She replied to the sudden pause between us, “We need to catch up to Natty.” “Yeah.” I smiled afterward following her, “She must be lonely down there.” We each took an encouraging laugh as she grabbed the book before we retreated through the door.

Thus entering back onto the familiarity of the room, we stepped forward a few before coming right up upon the black hole underneath us. And when we planted our feet, we dived right in. It was pitch dark inside. Although we could see a path ahead of us due to the faintly shimmers of lights up ahead. Yang hollered and her voice echoed into the walls. Her tone was sad yet fearful and her expression seems to match it, however. As I motioned Yang to follow, I took the lead in this operation. And moved quickly ahead with my heart beating fast as I gripped tightly upon my pistol that was ready upon its safety holder. We walked further through. Bypassing the lights that came closer to us. One by one each of them passed. Until we reached the fork in the road was where we both stopped and shifted our attention towards opposite sides of the branching path. I screamed and raised my tone of voice upon the walls surrounding me as I waited for Natty to reply back after mines died down. I heard nothing in the seconds’ responded. And grew worried before looking over my shoulder, Yang mirrored me suddenly, But I shook my head and pointing the path of where I was going. Yang nodded and followed me.

We started walking through the second path. It was brighter than the previous path we had entered into. More lights shone in our eyes as we growled each and closed our eyes in response, hoping that we would not get blinded by them. Walking through the path until we had reached the end was where we had spotted Natty. But she was together with Zander and Kyro, both of which and glanced over to us with smiles upon their faces and waving as we drew closer to them. Yang smiled afterward in response, waving her claw before we had regrouped. I gave an exhaled breath again and smiled faintly before glancing at Natty who asked us, “What did you guys find, by the way? Was it something interesting?” “Or boring?” Kyro followed. I shook my head responding to them, “Neither. It was intriguing.” “Hey!” Complained Natty, grounding her fangs as she stomped her foot of where she was standing. Looking angrily at us while Kyro and Zander was chuckling behind her back, I smiled in response while looking to Natty as Yang stepped forth between us. The book already opened.

This time, with the silence fallen before us. Our ears pricked up and grew erected. Listening in onto what Yang had to say as she coughed to clear her throat before lowering her eyes down to the opened book. “We found this upon the front door after the five stands.” Yang started and flipped over the book so the interior was facing them. “Notice how there is a table here. Four columns were imprinted onto this page. And each of those columns had a category upon them.” Natty squinted her eyes as Yang said this, nodding at the same time as the silence fell from Yang before stepping away and frowned “So. Despite these categories and columns. What did you guys find interesting?” “On the far left side of the page. Upon the category of the money section, there was no print number of money. Nothing.” Yang answered, poking the page with her claw pointing to the money section. “This perhaps tells us that the prize is not about the money. But perhaps something else.”

“Like…?” Natty asked, trailing her words as it to encourage us to continue. But both me and Yang shifted our attention towards one another exchanging dreaded looks before we answered to the pink dragoness, “We do not know.” Yang finished, “I could not find where the host was at the time when we had entered through the frontal door.” I explained, snapping my claw in disappointment and frowning while Yang puts her claw upon my shoulder giving me an assurance as I nodded in silent reply. With our words departing from our mouths and silence falling seconds afterward until there was ringing in my ears, Yang decided to change the subject at hand and crossed her arms speaking to Natty. “Well. What about your end of the investigation?” “We found this.” Kyro piped up as our heads looked to the red dragon. Looking curiosity at him than to one another then finally settling into Natty, she started raising her shoulders and turned around facing us with her back while she spoke up to us, “Well. Come on you two and follow us.” “What did you guys find?” I questioned, but none of them answered my question. As I watched Kyro, Natty and Zander turned around and moved forward, I glance over to Yang and she muttered something to me.

“Something is off…” She started, I said nothing but nodded as we went. Wondering why Zander and Kyro had sudden came by joining up with Natty even if we had left them both by the police station. I nodded without hesitation as we both followed the dragons as they took us through a series of path where we reached upon our destination. Our eyes widened. Yang opened her mouth but words remained stuck upon her throat. I could not believe my eyes at all. For standing before us were a huge black hole. Waters were running down from their streams and disappearing below. But we know that they joined up somehow beneath us as I shouted over the huge loud noise covering my ears, “Well? Where is it Kyro and Zander?” “Down below. Upon the abyss.” Zander remarked, stretching his arm forth pointing north towards the abyss. I followed and looked northward before commenting, “I do not see anything there.” “You just need to go up a bit closer.” Zander replied. I glanced over to Yang who shrugged. Our wings spread and jumped forward. Descending into the abyss below us were we disappeared later on. Furiously flapping our wings, we hovered and slowed down our descent towards death.

As I frowned, I shifted my attention to Yang. But she never looked back, her eyes returned to the wall ahead of us. Glancing at it as if something would happened. My heart pounded in my chest, racing from the anxiety thrill of the gravitational pulling our tails towards death below. I had a mixture of feelings rolled into one. But I breathed slowly, calming myself down as my ear flickered. Zander, Kyro and Natty joined us. Hovering behind us while Yang turned her head to them and growled, “Where is this interesting thing you wanted to show us?” and Zander answered, “Soon. It is not that far.” “I hope not.” I split my lips commenting as no one answered after that. We hovered downward, slowly and steadily until we reached the destination. A cavern upon a cliff. Blinking in surprise, Yang and me hovered forward. Natty with the other two followed behind us as we all landed onto solid ground before walking in.

A short walk through the darkness and we were upon the dead end. A stone brighten blue rock stands blocking our path. But to our sides were four red shaded dragons. On their chests were familiar names and I gasped in shock before snatching the book away from Yang flipping the page and looking upon the names upon the first category. There it was. The names indeed match. Slowly, I closed the book and shoved it to Yang who growled at me. Ignoring her, I stepped forward towards the four and kneel down to them. Extending a claw outward, I placed it upon the chest of the four dragons and tried to listen to their heartbeats. Faint it was as if they were unconscious but never dead. As I shifted my glance over to Kyro Zander and Natty, I questioned them. “How did you find this cavern? Where are the four dragons now? Are they spirits? Are they dead?” “Calm down Yang,” Natty remarked, walking up to me and kneeling also. “They are fine.” “But there is something else you might want to see…” Zander trailed adding in his own voice as I and Yang looked at him. He pointed to the huge rock adjacent to him as Kyro and Natty ran up to it; grabbing onto it and tried to pull back.

The rock was extremely lightweight as if it was paper! And Kyro and Natty could pull it out with no sweat or hesitation at all! It came as a surprise for me and Yang; however, when I looked over to her, she seemed displeased. As if something was indeed on her mind. As I walked to her line, Yang ignored me and kept focus upon the revealing tunnel. Zander, Kyro, and Natty all pointed to it before entering in. And left us two alone to ourselves as Yang breaks her focus and shifted to me. Her voice a bit nervous, “Something is indeed wrong. I am honestly not sure. But I feel like these three are not themselves somehow.” “What makes you say that?” I asked her, she answered with her mouth open. But before she could speak, a voice called out to us. Familiar as it was, we knew automatically it was Natty wanting us to look upon their findings. Me and Yang looked at one another in silence before stepping forth inside. A few short walks afterward and we ended up upon a small room where the other three were gathered. And here was when we had noticed a surprise,

A machine stood before us. A big metal pole it seemed. An orb sits on top of it. Surrounding the pole was light blue shading of electricity that a touch of it would perhaps zap you. Maybe worst. As our eyes turned to the object at hand, I heard Yang growled at the three and raised her pistol up upon the horizon shouting at them. “Alright. I know you three are not the same personalities as I had once thought you guys were. Who are you guys and what are you doing here? You creatures of the dark!” I turned to her in surprise, shocked beyond belief of what I was hearing. Was this the same Yang as before? The one that I had loved? With a frown, I shook my head before glancing over to the three dragons whose expression was not there. It was as if they were used to this before. With a slow nod, I came to my senses and raised my pistol up also joining with Yang. “On the ground.” I remarked, “Who are you three anyway.” I demanded.

Neither of the three had spoken after a short while. Then Natty raised her head high up to us and started smirking at us. For her face was light and joyful expression, her lips split up and spoke to us. “You would never know that, Vaster Police. Or more precisely, Yang and Ling.” We aimed our pistols at her. “Where is Natty?” “Somewhere. But why could you find out? Just through the machine’s portal and you will meet up with them.” Natty remarked, I turned to Yang who nodded slowly. We withdrew our pistols and said nothing else. Thus moving forward, we noticed a portal opening up before our eyes. We entered without hesitation.

Upon the snowy grounds of an unknown territory, we were left here on our own. Reappearing with the grounds just shy below us, we landed. My face narrowed and shifted to Yang while she dusted her scales and arms. Cold air washes over us as we shivered, the flames of our bodies grew weak upon the touch as I and Yang turned our heads over to the entrance standing at a short distance before us. There, we spotted Natty and the three other contestant. The three contestants were unconscious and faint. Same as it was on the other side. However, we were cautious of Natty herself. And slowly raised our pistols up into the air aiming straight for her, she turned to meet up. Eyes widened before drawing her own pistol aiming right for us. A mexican stand off emerged between us as me and Yang snarled, narrowing our eyes upon the worried pink dragoness standing before us. Silence fell as breaths remained white pur mists everytime we had exhaled.

I started first, yelling as if I did not care what the result was afterwards. “Only the real Natty would answer this.” “What are you guys talking about?” Natty screamed at us in reply, but swatting that comment away I barked. “In what year did Ling’s story first started.” “That is the most stupidest question I have ever heard, Ling.” Yang narrowed her eyes, looking deadpanned at me. Same with Natty who nodded her head. We all lowered our pistols, I chuckled without hesitation as Naty snuffed but said nothing else. Regrouping with a fellow officer, we hugged one another before I grew worried. And splitting away from the rest of them, I spoke. My voice was lowered, “How are we going to get back to our realm?” “By finding out who was the culprit all along.” Natty smirked, raising to her feet as she pointing to the wall. “And this portal is going to help us.” “What portal?” Yang asked, blinking while she tapped the wall and a sudden door emerged before our eyes. Revealing a hidden dark room, me and Yang grinned.

“Great!”

“Let us do this then.” Natty demanded, first clenches turned to white.