

## Aurok Chapter 9 - Complete Piece

Me, Dreke and Xene sat there for a little while before heading out of town and to the caves. We first went to our old cave, Xene wanted to show me something. I followed her quite confused, "What do you want to show me?" I asked as we walked into our old room. My jaw dropped and I gasped softly. Xene had put it back up and cleaned it to how it was when we were all in it together. "Xene... How did you?... Why did you?..." I muttered softly in amazement. "I did it for us. All of us. Our memories are precious, Aurok. We can't forget them now, especially since we now live alone. We have no parents, nor any offspring." Xene said, her face showing she was serious. "Memories..." I muttered, looking outside. It was just how I remembered it to be. "Never forget us, Aurok. And we will never forget you." Xene said. "I promise..." I replied. I wondered why Xene was saying this. But I didn't even think to ask her, just in case it brought something on.

A tear rolled down my cheek and onto the ground as I hung my head. "Aurok?..." Dreke said, walking up to me. "It's just how I remember it... You fixed it up for us to remember... And it's perfect..." I said with great gasps of air as I felt my throat become dry and more tears roll down my muzzle. I lay down, still crying, and felt Dreke and Xene lay there next to me, their wings hugging me. "Let it out, dear brother... Let it out..." Xene said, nuzzling against my neck. "It's okay to cry... I did, Dreke did... We know how you feel." She added softly. I cried for quite a while, memories flooding back of the life before this. I couldn't hold back tears, I couldn't hold back sobs. I had to let it all out, as if it was flooding me. I had held back tears for the whole time Xene and Dreke had been moved away from me. I could hardly bear the thought of having to be separated again, despite we weren't going to be, it was just how we thought before this. We thought we'd be together forever... But we weren't.

It took a while, but I finally finished crying. I just lay there, even after Rashal had come back to the cave. Xene and Dreke had just said to leave me for a while. I finally stood up and looked around. I heard talking in the old dining chamber and walked into there. Xene smiled, stood up and came over to me. "Feeling better?" She asked softly. I nodded. Afterwards, she took me to spot between her and Dreke and told me to sit down. I did as I was told.

"Aurok, this is Rashal, my mate." She said, pointing to the turquoise dragon opposite me. I smiled, "Hello." I said, my voice still crackling from crying. "Greetings." Rashal replied, nodding his head. "So you're the brother of Xene." He said with a smile. "I hear when you lived together that you were quite close." He said with a smile. I nodded in reply, "But it's broken now... I thought bitterly. We aren't as close as before... I looked to the ground in sorrow.

Xene and Dreke looked at each other, I could tell they had read that thought and had been thinking the same thing. I could hear them whispering behind me, but I couldn't make out what they were saying. Why don't they just speak from mind to mind? I thought, but then realized they must've thought it to be informal.

Rashal was looking outside when I finally looked up, he seemed to always do that, did he

find peace in it? Or was it just a nervous habit? In any case, he did it. "Aurok.." Dreke started, "You feel distanced from us, don't you?" He asked. I didn't reply. "There's no use in hiding it, it's shown in your eyes plain as day." He laughed. "Yes... I do. We've been away for so long, and I just feel... I don't know you anymore." I said, hearing the gasps from everyone in the room. "You don't know us?..." Xene asked. "You've both changed so much, I just can't fit it all in at once..." I replied, looking to the ground again.

Xene stood up, I could hear her short breaths. She was starting to cry. "If... That's how you feel... I'll take you to your cave..." She said slowly. "Come on." She said, walking outside. Great work, Aurok. You've crushed us both completely. Seems we're not the only ones who have changed. Dreke's voice echoed in my head as I followed Xene. As I followed her, she kept distant. If I came closer, she'd walk a bit faster. She stopped in front of a small cave. "H-here is your cave..." She said, looking at me with tear-filled eyes. "I-I have nothing more to say..." She said before taking off and flying back to her cave.

I sighed and walked into the cave, laying down on the cold, hard floor. I rest my head on the ground and shivered. "I messed up..." I muttered. "I shouldn't have said that... It wasn't what I meant..." I added. No one was there to hear me, no one probably even dared.