

ERIC LIONHEART ADORES VANILLA DARKHORSE

Tween Manga — Artist Brief

By Dream Writer Lady Ariarose

DWAR at Your Service — Forever Friends Faithfully

THE STORY — BONE SKETCH

These are the bone dust words. The art carries the weight of what words leave open.

Eric!!!! My mom announced.

I groaned and hopped out of bed. It was time to go to magic school permanently. Humans get summer breaks. We live at school, sometimes die at school.

Magic can go horribly wrong.

My mom stared at me with her golden hair falling down her back. She manipulated a bunch of iron ore and it was gold. She smelled me and shuddered.

Dad grunted. "Why bother with a dud?"

Mom groaned deep. "He goes as I need to get back to work. He's so old. I'm tired of raising kids."

Yeah my mom not exactly sociable. But she's a dragon and a gold one. Gold dragons just don't like raising their kids when that is what dads are to do. They are about making, keeping, hoarding money and materialism. At least she is not a thief like most of them. She earns it herself.

I went to school to stay forever and got stuck being asked the same stupid question. What color is your magic?

Doesn't the gold locks from a gold dragon mean anything?

Stupid whatever. Gold.

They nodded and gave me a potion and I drank it. Tasted fine whatever. I went and sat down.

People came up said their piece got the power drink to be sure. One kid came up saying they didn't know and I held my nose and breathed in. Ah he's young. They sent him on a tasting test. Ah yes bad magic drink makes your skin turn the opposite color and eventually he found it. Great bravo another black wizard. The world needs them.

Now comes this cute but strangest girl. She's wearing this flower robe, which is like cute but not standard. Wizards we sort of color coordinate with the power as it sort of stabilizes the matrix.

They asked her to pick and she yelled "Rainbow!"

They breathed in deep and sent her to drink and she didn't change on the first one and they said White Witch.

She said, "UH UH RAINBOW!!!!" and in rapid time she quaffed them all nice and deep. And to everyone's shock she remained this pale girl with a blue eye, a green eye, black and white hair that when you looked closer in the lights had little gems in there or must as they were giving off prisms now that she quaffed the entire line.

"Vanilla Darkhorse must pick?" Declared the Elder.

She turned and said, "RAINBOW!"

The other elders said, "It's her wild family's doing we should have got her here as a baby. We elders will pick. White. We need white."

"NO WAY!!!!" She cried. "RAINBOW!!!! Is mine."

"We will table it for now." As the elders looked at each other and I thought ah yes none of you are happy with that. White Wizard piping up. Whites are healers. Rare. Very pure. But how do we have it all.

Next up was quick lessons and skills exam to see what tier we'd fit in. And I was like ah yeah this will be where they figure it out. She'd be higher in one over another.

Mine came up and I couldn't do anything as I already knew. The Gold Elder said, "You'll be in latent classes but get you're not latent. You live a million years and are forming a human body first. Your powers have to grow slowly. Understand what you want to find is the person who is your Rider."

"Rider??" I blinked.

"Your Dad is your Mom's. Not that it matters you marry them. They happened to love each other. Nah the Rider is the person who defends you in sleep and you defend when awake. It is rather special. But get kids are stupid when we shove someone into latent."

I started looking at everyone as I sort of reached and felt a pull that made sense only to me. Maybe it was the way she said Rainbow or now as she went through all the challenges smashing down the older students also proving their annual growth in their discipline for placement.

She was something special.

THE CHARACTERS

ERIC LIONHEART

Seven years old. Half dragon half mage. Gold locks from gold dragon mother. Knows every spell. Cannot perform any of them yet. Powers build over a million year dragon lifespan. Dry. Exhausted. Quietly watching everyone. Smells magic — can identify a student's discipline before they confirm it. Lands in the Latent Program.

VANILLA DARKHORSE

Five years old. Found family, gypsy background. Wild family. Pale. One blue eye, one green eye. Black and white hair that gives off prisms. Flower robe not standard wizard colors. Rainbow magic across all disciplines simultaneously. Scattery brain that cannot retain long. Warm to everyone. Absolute in what she knows about herself. Refuses to be flattened into one category. Lands in the Latent Program.

THE LATENT PROGRAM

Where both end up. Where they get picked on. Where they are more than the program sees. This is the healing place for every child who ever wore a label that did not fit.

THE RIDER BOND

Not inherently romantic but can become so as characters age. The Rider defends the other in sleep. The bonded defends the Rider when awake. Eric feels the pull toward Vanilla during the skill exam.

THE SAMPLE REQUEST

Concentrate on Eric at home before school. What does all that look like to you?

Does he see his mother as a full dragon today or is she shifted? How does that change the feeling of the scene? What does a gold dragon household look like — the texture of it, the weight of it, the gold everywhere?

This is not a dictation. It is a collaboration. The artist's choice here changes the words. Minimum 8 to 10 panels for the home opening. Show us how you see it.

My words inspire your art. Your art inspires my words. We pass the light back and forth.
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