

This side of the mountainous region was more than chilly. Snow covered the landscape in thick mounds, packed in tightly enough that Byrdie could walk across the land as if she stood on dirt. Byrdie's snow fairy friends huddled together, having moved from their typical perch on her horns to nestling in her frill feathers. She feared she might've taken a wrong turn somewhere near the tarn and ended up in Ilahaesa instead of returning to the Silverglade forests.

Instead of turning back though, the pink kadin trudged forward, as she'd heard there were many powerful Dasrah users in this region from someone at the tarn. He'd been rambling about an army and not to go near them. Byrdie was determined to find a real teacher though, so she opted to try and make the most of this mix up and see if she couldn't run into one of these Dasrah users.

Little did Byrdie know, her wish would soon manifest. 50 paces away a snow-white kadin with red eyes stalked through the snow, tracking this intruder into the army's territory. The bright kadin seemed oblivious to her tracker and Skarlarn snarled softly. Such obtuseness was a liability and a clear display of weakness. Nevertheless, she waited a while longer, keeping pace with the outsider and keeping hidden, giving her a little while to turn back before she suffered the consequences of naivety.

Byrdie trotted along, unaware and unconcerned, until she caught a whiff of a clear scent marking. A tall rock protruding from the snow smelled strongly of multiple other ketucari, and upon further inspection, bore a symbol in what looked like dried blood. She sniffed it, thinking that these were likely the Dasrah users she'd heard of from the stranger at the tarn. She turned to continue walking, placing one paw past the rock.

Suddenly the snow around her erupted in explosive energy. Instinctively, she triggered her invulnerability. She'd practiced it constantly since that night, and now she could fall into it easily, transforming her hide into something impervious to damage.

The snow continued to erupt, and Byrdie felt several puffs of air around her, likely hits that would've caused terrible damage if she hadn't quickly used her skill. She looked around, scrambling back behind the rock, trying to pinpoint where the explosions were coming from. The entire world just looked white as snow continued to burst through the air. This little section of land was beginning to look like a blizzard despite only a slight breeze in the air.

Skarlarn growled frustratedly. Why wouldn't the kadin die? She was detonating the molecules all around her, but despite her best efforts, the albino ketucari just couldn't seem to get a bead on the kadin herself. She decided to change tactics, having circled around into what was clearly her territory. She came charging out, yelling at the kadin hiding behind the rock.

"Get out of here. You are not welcome. Step foot in our territory again and you'll be torn to pieces- this is your only warning" Skarlarn shouted, now close enough for the other kadin to clearly see her.

Byrdie didn't need to be told twice. She wasn't sure how long she could keep up the invulnerability anyway, and clearly this kadin had no interest in teaching her. She turned tail and ran, her bird friends clinging to her feathers, hiding from the chaos. Take Ilahaesa off the list- she made a mental note. Too many hostile locals to find an adequate teacher.

Skarlarn huffed as the bright Kadin took off. Pathetic. She didn't even try to stand her ground. Good riddance to her and her odd resistance to Skarlarn's damage. Still, the fight troubled Skarlarn. She only knew of one other ketucari who could resist damage like that, and he kept his secrets closely guarded. She felt that she'd better report back on this incident in case it piqued his interest.