

Dragon Assassin

Synopsis

CHARON is a water dragon half-breed, currently on an assassination contract in Los Angeles. Her ability not only to shift between dragon and human forms, but also look like any human she desires, makes her ideal for undercover assignments such as this one, where she is impersonating a barista at a beach-side coffee cart.

Her attempt to poison her target using the fluids her body can produce is almost foiled by a handsome, if cocky, young man who appears to be contracted for the same job—a huge no-no in her profession. Charon takes advantage of her current, attractive form and schedules a date to discover more about who contracted him.

Unfortunately, her shyness born from a lifetime of hiding from humanity and her own kind, both of whom would kill her if they discovered her existence, makes the date awkward. The rumble of his car triggers an unexpected orgasm, which isn't a good start, then over dinner Charon is struck by an unprecedented, insatiable hunger that causes her to devour many times more food than a normal human could possibly eat.

During conversation, she learns he is indeed an assassin and is unwilling to split the bounty with her, nor to disclose from whom he obtained his contract. Thugs from her earlier job show up at the restaurant. Charon sneaks him out through the kitchen, where she takes him down to the beach.

The water calls to her, despite being nighttime. Inexplicably aroused, she lures him into the ocean, where he's clearly uncomfortable, and they make out. She confesses her true name to him, and he does the same: ADAN. A rogue wave ruins their fun, made worse when they find the thugs waiting for them on shore. Things turn ugly. Adan puts on a brave front but is outmatched. A strange possessiveness overcomes Charon. She breaks her rule of survival and transforms into a lithe dragon, twelve feet in length, killing the attackers with huge jaws and brutal efficiency. Adan is shocked and screams for her to go away. Charon slinks into the ocean and swims away, feeling utterly dejected.

Three weeks later, Adan finally reaches out to her and asks to meet. Charon agrees and is only mildly disappointed when he shows up with a mammoth rifle. She manages to convince him she means no harm, and is even more surprised when he gives her a bikini as a gift to apologize. An attraction she's never felt before compels her to confess her codename to him, which is legendary in the assassin community. Adan is duly impressed.

They have lunch the next day at a sushi restaurant, where Charon again eats an inhuman amount. Her libido also flares again. Adan asks to apprentice to her, and she agrees only if he'll be her lover. When he demurs the point, she comes on too strong and ends up producing a chemical that turns him on as well. To her dismay, Adan resists anyway, confessing it isn't because he doesn't like her, but because he wants to do things right, which she grudgingly accepts. They agree to help each other, although Adan asks for four days to prepare.

Charon traces Adan's contract back to Vienna. Adan shows up at her place. Her desires stoke her into transforming into her most provocative form, where she entices him, naked. Adan sees through her disguises talks her through a gentle exercise, recalling her trauma as a child that ultimately got her mother killed, and finds herself in her natural form of a modest Mongolian woman.

Desperation convinces him to bathe with her to give her at least some relief. Several attempts to convince him to go all the way fail, but when he brings her to the height of passion, she instinctually bites his arm, then finds she has unconsciously shifted into a hideous half-dragon, half-woman form she'd never seen before. She flees the bathroom before he sees and locks herself away until, hours later, she eventually resumes her normal form.

They travel to Vienna and meet with the furniture dealer who had apparently contracted Adan. The woman soon reveals herself as CEORRI, an ancient air dragon. Charon prepares to fight and manages to end the combat by administering a paralytic before Ceorri transforms. Afterward, they discover that Ceorri arranged the conflicting contract with Adan to lure Charon here so she could ask a favor—to make her fertile again, which only the nearly-extinct water dragons can do, so she can help repopulate her own species. They also discover that the bite Charon gave Adan is slowly turning him into a dragon—also something only water dragons can do—which he is *not* okay with. Hurt by his rejection beyond reconciling, Charon flees. Ceorri explains to Adan that water

dragons mate for life, and that his rejection may cause Charon unimaginable suffering.

Adan tracks her down and confesses that he's afraid. The only way forward he sees is for Charon to force him so he doesn't back out. Another bath session allows her to successfully transform and bit him. But, as she feared, it also pushes her over the edge, and she tries to take him again. She prepared this time, however, and handcuffs herself to the railing to give him time to flee so she doesn't break her promise.

Unfortunately, Adan doesn't return. Charon injures herself getting free and is stuck in dragon form. She manages to use her phone with her tongue and discovers that Adan has been kidnapped, and the kidnappers want to meet her in person. She calls Ceorri, who arrives later with buckets of fish. She teaches Charon how to access the energy from all the extra food she's eaten lately and use it to shift back to human, and also explains that not only is she coming into dragon puberty, but her time of growth may hit any day. She also informs Charon that Adan's kidnapper, JARIDEX, is a ruthless fire dragon who is likely after Charon—the last known water dragon in existence.

Charon calls every favor and assembles an assassin super squad to rescue Adan ahead of the scheduled time. She penetrates the Japanese castle under disguise and locates Adan, but her time of growth explodes her into a water dragon many times larger than her previous form, half-trapping her in an elevator. Jaridex catches them and tries to entice Charon to stay and be his breeding slave, but she manages to escape to the roof. They fight an epic battle and, even though Charon is outclassed, she manages to drown Jaridex and take Adan to safety.

Weeks later, after they've both healed, Adan takes her to a surprise location, where he's retrofitted an entire fishery to be a water dragon's playground. Charon romps and plays and eats and has a wonderful time, then makes passionate love to Adan while both in their mating forms, at long last satiating her burning desires.

And, finally, she knows Adan is hers.