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Alexandra: The big fight
Tales of the Stormthrower

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The crowd grunted a lot. Not a bad reaction for someone who did not even belong to their race. The arena was big. Even her opponent had to fly to his starting pedestal. Large boulders formed a mount on one side. A lava lake lay on her right hand.

They made the required salutes and then she waited. Her previous fights in this tournament had made her opponent cautious. He dared not risk a frontal attack, instead opted for the defensive approach. She could discern the strands from the magical net he had made to protect himself. She read them and understood the intent. The shield was weaker on the side of the lava lake. A single unnecessary movement also told her that not everything she saw, necessarily was the truth.

Moving her fingers she started her own preparations. As previously she began to pull the air and kept adding on the resulting whirl until the wind roared into an arena wide storm, seriously limiting flight. It took quite some energy, but she hoped it could be used in combat too.

Her opponent probably never had plans for an attack from the air, had other thoughts about the fight, but let her do her thing, saving time for deploying nets and other traps. Slowly she moved into the wind to the pile of stones, used some magic and jumped onto a platform she had found in an earlier battle. The dragon turned with her clockwise and went on setting nets in the lava lake. She left some traps too. No to attack, but as defense, if the battle led them to this height. Keeping track of her opponent she began circling to his starting point. Altering the nets and traps in her path into attacks which could help her.

The dragon jumped up and let himself be carried by the wind. A little air pushed her up. Ice hit straight through the wind and shattered on his shields. She let her floating screen glide to the middle of the arena and continued firing ice at her opponent. Waited a moment, let loose the screen, pushed off against and through the wind, driving a fireball in front of her, ever growing in the raging storm. Skillfully the dragon dropped out of the sky. Used the pile of stones to move across and so just dodged the fireball, which broke on the rocks below him.

Blowing small fireballs all around, the dragon made a flanking movement, ever getting closer. She recognized the movement of his paws, dived through one of the balls to avoid the net that he had spanned between them. Tore another to pieces, she could not escape from and felt an incantation nestle, knew what it was and let it be.

Her opponent raced underneath her to blow up a huge fireball. Something similar expecting, she waited and watched the movements of the dragon, chose, pushed off and had enough time to turn around and place a net in the air. Straight thru the fireball the dragon flew right past her. Could just float her incantation in his path before she recalled the maneuver,

rapidly added protection to herself before she needed to burn off many an incantation. A second fireball therefore she could not dodge, but used it to blow away the remainder of the incantations, used what she could catch from the fire and launched an attack with it, blew ice through it in a way it would explode above the dragon. Shot fireballs in rapid succession through the storm and then ran through the arena to avoid them, as the dragon deployed a twister to send them back at her. She set off near the dragon, and left behind a large fireball. The dragon made itself small and stuck a paw out to use the fire to counter, changed his mind and could just dodge the ball, but was thrown back when the ice in the fireball exploded.

Hail ravaged the skin of the dragon, she prepared a subsequent fireball, but was surprised by a net which wrapped around her and pulled the fireball ever closer. It took a few seconds with the help of the fire to unravel it while arming her selves with the ice. A gust of wind threw her into the lava lake. Leaping from stone to stone she had to use the ice against the scorching heat instead.

Full on the defensive she protected her selves with nets and air, wound into a ball that bounced where the dragon send her. Waiting for an opening, she sent the airflow from the dragon back to the lava lake. Found the net she felt previously, quickly wove some wires through there and threw it over the dragon when he got too close. Blew up her defense, tore it into pieces with a firestorm and pulled the dragon from the air in the middle of it. Wove a second net over the dragon and pulled him back through a fireball. The third was trashed by the dragon. She lost no time, bouncing to the four corners, pulling at the loose ends of the resulting net, hitting the dragon with ice and fire where she could. In the seconds it took the dragon to get rid of the restricting net, she dance around him, but oversaw an incantation and an explosion threw her into the air.

Dizzy she bounced through the air, evading the fireballs only partly. Regained control over her powers and used the stone pile to get some distance between her and the dragon. Walked into a trap and had to jump to avoid the fireball. Spent one second to get her legs working again and was propelled further through the air. Could just reach the floating screen and used it to stay put in the air. Used ice to fend off the fireballs, but came increasingly under pressure. Found a handle to throw back some of the fireballs, hit the dragon and threw him back, just then she felt an incantation pulling tightly around her. She cut the screen and used the time until she hit the ground to cut loose all the strands from the incantation. And used them to capture the big fireball coming for her, turned it around aimed and set it on its way again.

It gave her time to fill small fireballs with incantations and shower her opponent with them. Pressed against the rocks, he took the incantations apart as fast as he could, stomached the big fire ball, had no time to move. Faster and faster her incantations were dismantled by the dragon, occasionally even had time to shoot one back. She dodged them easily, however, at one point saw something she thought she recognized, tried to get higher in the air, but was too late. The big net the dragon had woven during his defense, he shot straight towards her now. She tore it to pieces, felt the incantation stick to her, recognized it, burned it off and then understood what her opponent had done. Sighed, dropped from the sky to her starting pedestal and bowed disappointed.

The end