

Running Away From Destiny

art: <https://www.pixiv.net/en/artworks/61287748>

Through the eyes of an ordinary person, Kira was nothing more than just an orderly young girl who'd had her birthday recently. She attended school like everybody else, had a rather stubborn boyfriend she still loved, and had her fair share of likes and dislikes. When Kira wasn't running any errands or spending time with her family and friends, she often trained in martial arts to pass the time. Overall, even though she had her own interests and relationships, she never seemed apart from her peers in most ways. In reality, however, this was far away from the truth. Along with many secrets of their world, humans were oblivious to Kira's real identity and form.

Countless generations ago, before human civilization advanced and built empires or cities, a war broke out regarding their survival between two almighty dragons. One was hateful towards them and wanted to erase them from the face of the earth, Vezon. The other was compassionate and wanted them to thrive in peaceful times, Shirana. Along with Shirana were six legendary dragons, but Vezon fought and defeated them despite their combined power. The faith of those who struggled for humanity's sake dimmed as losses over every front came flooding, but a new hope arose before Vezon could triumph. A way to turn ambitious humans into dragons so they could protect their kind was discovered, and these new warriors allowed Shirana to gain the edge over Vezon and seal him away.

The evil dragon's defeat brought an age of peace to humans and those who strived for their sake, and Kira was a descendant of the brave soldiers who risked their lives to fight. Thanks to their effort, neither Kira nor her family had seen the misery and hardship war caused for over nine generations. Humanity had long forgotten the fear Vezon brought back in the day, and although his loyal followers persisted in their master's will to find him, they were no match for Shirana's army anymore.

After centuries of his absence, only Shirana herself and the descendants of the six legendary dragons knew about Vezon's prison. He was held in a dimension draining his energy to ensure he never got out. But unbeknownst to anyone, he had found a way to escape the dimensions curse and was collecting his power for his second coming with a raging fire burning inside him to destroy those who wronged him and what they protected.

Only an old prophecy remained to warn the new dragons. According to it, Vezon's freedom was inevitable, and once he was free from his shackles, he was going to wreak havoc again. Fortunately, the prophecy also mentioned a young dragon coming from the bloodline of someone who was once a human. They were going to seal the ancient evil once he came back. It was their destiny to start another era of tranquility. It was Kira's destiny, and she would learn it soon.

Despite inheriting many secrets of the world and having the legacy of ancient dragons, Kira's life was quite monotonous. Her power was unquestionable, but with it came many restrictions stopping the young girl from using them as she pleased. Most of her days were spent no different than ordinary humans, and knowing she was much more than that frustrated Kira. She knew about her great potential. She was sure she would be a great warrior. All she needed was an opportunity to prove herself, and she wished nothing more than that as she went to bed after another bland day, unaware that her desire was a fate she couldn't carry.

Agonizing screams from all over the place woke Kira up. Under the blood-red sky with thundering dark clouds, there were only corpses and rubble. She wanted to run away from the madness, but only her eyes moved for her to witness the horrible battlefield. High up in the sky, a tall figure stood at the center of the storm. Although Kira had never seen them before, she knew it was Vezon instinctively. As she questioned why his image haunted her dreams, a blinding light split the darkness. Another figure shining with holy light descended from the heavens to slay the evil tyrant. Their blows easily quaked the earth and created bolts of energy, making it hard to see what happened, but Kira saw one thing clearly before she woke up from her nightmare: The shining warrior opposing Vezon was none other than herself.

Kira was in her bed the next time she opened her eyes. It was a beautiful morning outside, but she could only think about the nightmare. She knew it was more than a mere dream. It was a sign. The old prophecy she was taught when she was little was soon to happen, and she was the chosen hero. It was the chance Kira wanted, but it made her feel nauseous. No matter how strong she was, the young dragon couldn't oppose the ancient evil, and she knew it.



Just the idea of following her fate sent shivers down Kira's spine. Her confidence, once a vast ocean, was now ridden with draught. Winning was impossible in her mind, and she was desperate to escape certain death. She needed someone trustworthy. Someone who would solve her problem because they wouldn't like her being the chosen hero. Luckily, she knew exactly the person she needed, Celina. Even though she was in Kira's squad, they could never get along. She constantly used her strange abilities on Kira, driving her crazy. After years of torment, it was the first time Kira wished to be the subject of her experiments willingly.

Mixed emotions, all rooted in fear, brewed inside Kira while she made her way to Celina. Uncollected thoughts buzzed like a swarm of flies inside her head. Agitated, she vacillated between telling the truth or trying to hide it. Cause of her delirium was just a dream, but its extreme clarity was enough to convince her it was real. The destroyed battlefield and agonizing screams were still replaying in her mind, horrifying her more with each step. By the time Kira found Celina, she had already lost her composure, and she couldn't control her tears while she explained the situation.

Although what she described seemed like a simple nightmare, Celina pitied Kira after witnessing her's broken spirit. Coupled with her arrogant confidence, Kira was probably overreacting. Nonetheless, Celina decided to help her with the transformation magic she was practicing since the opportunity to test it out had come crawling to her feet. The spell was supposed to turn someone into their spirit animal, but even if Celina messed it up, Kira wasn't in a state to argue. She would go and hide for a few days and come back after realizing she was wrong. While Celina grinned, imagining how embarrassing it was going to be when Kira changed her mind, Kira was planning to meet her loved ones for the last time before vanishing. Thankfully, she had a little time before the transformation finished.

With her mind at ease and her emotions abated, unorganized thoughts giving her a headache silenced. Jumping out of her bed in terror had left her a mess, so she went to her bathroom to shower. White fur slowly started growing on her already itching skin by the time she cleaned herself. As she prepared for her last day by dressing up nicely and putting a pleasant makeup, Kira wondered what her transformation would look like. The clock was ticking faster than her expectations, so she decided to meet with Kevin, her boyfriend, to spend the little time she had.

Even though Kevin argued against the sudden date with his usual stubborn attitude, he gave up resistance after Kira's insistence. Unaware of his girlfriend's dilemma, he deliberately acted slow frustrate her. To his surprise, however, Kira jumped for a hug instead of bickering. Her impatient behavior caught Kevin off guard, and before he knew it, they were already in a bedroom kissing passionately. He mindlessly followed Kira, but something felt off. Despite the intimacy with his supposed lover, Kevin felt an unexplainable disgust, growing heavier with each kiss. His hands knew Kira's body, yet they got lost as if they were touching someone foreign.

When Kira reached out at his thigh, eager to get closer, Kevin's spine tingled. His stomach felt nauseous. The strange repulsion he felt toward Kira overtook the rest of his senses. Instinctively, he pushed her away as he opened his eyes. Although the person he stared at resembled the image of Kira in his head, his body couldn't differentiate it from a mere rodent for some reason. She was much smaller now; spots of white fur had covered most of her body. Appalled, Kevin made up an excuse and fled after a last loathsome stare, leaving Kira alone.

Oblivious that her transformation had accelerated while she tried making love with her boyfriend for the last time, Kira sat silent and confused. Unlike what she had expected, the spell cast upon her changed others' perceptions and memory of Kira, along with her shape, and dread took over once again as she gradually realized. To confirm her fears, she ran as fast as she could, but when she entered the bathroom to look at a mirror, her size had already shrunk too much to see any reflection. Unfortunately, the shiny tile below her soles revealed the horrifying truth to her. Her body barely looked human, and with each passing second, her shape resembled the one of a white rat more. She froze as the reality around her warped but fell on all fours when her legs failed to carry her weight. By the time Kira realized Celina had made a mistake, it was already too late, and she was in the shape of an icky rodent.

Grossed by her image, Kira screamed, begging for someone to help her, but her cry for help came out as the cute squeaks of a small rat. In her hopeless pursuit of escaping a nightmare, she fell into another, and her descent from the top of the food chain to the bottom was about to be permanent soon. If Kevin couldn't differentiate her from a pest before, nobody would manage to do it now. Kira's only hope was to find Celina again. Unfortunately, a quick walk in the morning was a perilous journey now. Simple furniture raised tall like buildings, mere steps of a person was a troublesome distance to her. She couldn't even go anywhere if Kevin hadn't left in a rush and left the doors open. It was pitiful and dangerous, but without any other choice, Kira started running once more.

Much to her dismay, the streets were filled with people, all minding their business yet could effortlessly turn Kira into a paste with a step. Perfectly blending into the concrete, they may not even realize trampled a fragile creature. The sidewalk was menacing, but compared to her other option, the road with passing vehicles, it seemed safer. Although seeing people towering over her from far below scared Kira, what she should have been worried about was much closer to her size.

Desperate for time, she entered an alleyway for a shortcut, but hiding in the darkness, a threat she should have feared, cut her off. A black cat with delighted emerald eyes stood tall. What it sought wasn't a head pat but a tasty snack, and it had come to her feet. Petrified, Kira squeaked for help, but it was a futile attempt that only gave the cat more time to strike. Its paw pushed Kira to the side in a playful manner, bringing her back to reality. She was thrown away like a fluffy toy, but she would end up in the cat's stomach if she didn't hurry and escape before it got bored. Once Kira started moving again, she didn't stop. Her muscles burned to keep going while the clever predator chasing her played a game. Exhaustion quickly started overcoming Kira's will to live, but by some miracle, Kira spotted a small crack in the wall and jumped inside with the little strength she had left before collapsing from fatigue.

Battered and beaten, Kira fell onto the muddy ground inside the crack, surrounded by darkness. She could barely keep her eyes open anymore. Even if her disgusting body allowed her to continue her journey, the cat, now impatient and hungry, stood beside the hole she threw herself in, trying to force its paw inside. Since she couldn't wake up from this nightmare, Kira gave in to her feeble body's desire to rest and closed her eyes, hoping she would open them to a pleasant dream.

Thank you for reading! The pictures showcased on the story aren't drawn by me. One of them appears to be a scene from the anime the character belongs to and the link to the other one can be found right below the title.

Animal TF is certainly not what I am used to writing and probably not something too many people are into, but I enjoyed writing it and the challenge. I hope you enjoyed it as well.

Will Kira find Celina and return to her normal body, or is she going to end up as a snack for a curious cat? Perhaps her fate is even worse. All will be answered in the next part if it comes!

