

“I know,” said Lloyd, “But I only wanted to teach her a lesson. I didn’t want her to be killed.” The monsters and people at the top of the hill saw Lloyd’s grieving and shameful state. “Why did Billy have to go so far?” May put her hand on Lloyd’s shoulder. She was about to say something, but she didn’t know what to say. Billy reverse-mutated back into a dragotops and he was very satisfied.

“I’m glad I could help you,” said Billy, “I’m going home to take a nap.” He and his siblings walked away, not paying attention to the situation. Lloyd kept weeping from his one eye.

“If it makes you feel better, her melody is shooting itself into the universe.” Lloyd looked up and saw Ella’s melody in the sky. It was speeding through the atmosphere like a quick, white streak. This made Lloyd feel a little better. Ella’s melody was free from her monster body and ready to become music. The melody was about to go further until... a strange portal swallowed it. The gang didn’t know where the portal came from, or why it claimed Ella’s melody as its next victim.

“What the hell just happened?” asked Emmett.

“Emmett, watch your language,” said Cathy. The gang was confused at what happened.

“Where did she go?” asked Lloyd.

“I don’t know,” said May. Lloyd still felt bad about Ella’s fate, so he wanted to make it up to her.

“I want to go into that dimension and rescue her!” The kids and monsters (and Cathy) were surprised at Lloyd’s request. “And I want to bring you all with me!” The gang was even more surprised with the rest of the request. Lloyd knew that this was going to be a dangerous mission, but he wanted to prove to Ella that he wasn’t a philistine and that he would move heaven and earth to do something that he thought was right.

*To be continued...*



“Billy-Bob looks awesome!” said Flyer.

“I am now... Dragotops: Cenozoic Mode!” he said. Claudia, Spitfire, and Lloyd, as well as Ella, were surprised at Billy’s new look. Billy stepped up to Ella, but he didn’t get too close. He jumped into the air and lifted his right arm so his right sword was in attacking position. A blue spiral surrounded it as he was getting ready to make his final move.

“You know what, Ella?” asked Lloyd, “Any monster who threatens a human’s friends and family doesn’t deserve to be her partner!” Billy then plummeted toward Ella with his powered-up sword. The powerful blade stabbed Ella in the chest. As a result, he created a force that blew away everything in its path (well, not quite everything). Lloyd and May covered their faces until it was over. Ella eventually fell over on to her back. Everything was silent; everybody was watching Ella. Soon, she reverse-mutated to her original form, nexia. She was still lying on the ground, with a little twitch in her right foot. Deep down, Lloyd didn’t want this to happen.

“Maybe she’s still okay,” said Lloyd. Just then, Ella’s foot stopped twitching. A white glow with musical notes surrounded her; the gang figured that something was happening to her body. The white glow rose up from inside her and flew off into the night sky. Ella had died. Lloyd randomly reverse-mutated back into a unieye at that moment.

“I’ve always wanted to do that to her,” said Billy. Lloyd was ashamed of where this battle headed. He suddenly burst into tears again.

“What’s the matter now, Lloyd,” asked May, “Ella isn’t going to bother you anymore.”

“Am I seeing double?” she asked herself. No, she wasn’t. Billy’s brother and sister arrived to help with the fight!

“Lava spit!” said his sister, Claudia. Lava came out of her mouth and singed Ella badly. These two monsters were getting the job done, but Billy had collapsed from exhaustion.

Lloyd ran outside and saw what had happened. As soon as he witnessed the damage that ensued, he felt even worse for himself. He flew into the air and glided across the street.

“Lloyd, wait!” said May, “Where are you going?” May decided to follow him. She ran down the hill at a rate where she couldn’t stop even if she wanted to. Emmett and Delilah watched this from the porch.

“Is she crazy or something?” asked Emmett. Lloyd had beaten May to his destination. He looked at Billy as he lay motionless on the ground. He knew that he wasn’t going to listen, but Lloyd talked to him anyway.

“Oh, Billy,” he said, “Ella was right. I am in no condition to protect my partner’s family. I could’ve fought longer, but I just made you fight my battle for me. And now you’re comatose.” Tears came out of Lloyd’s only tear duct. May walked over to comfort him at this time.

“Don’t cry, Lloyd,” she said as she put her hand on his shoulder, “You’re only making it hard on yourself.”

“But Ella was right.”

“No, she wasn’t. She was only trying to make you angry. She planned this battle on purpose so she could defeat you.” Lloyd stopped crying so he could hear what else May had to say. “There’s no way a jr. advanced level can defeat a top level.” Lloyd noticed the cittern that she was holding.

“Can I play a song for him?” May thought this was an unusual request, but she gave him her instrument. Lloyd played a scale on the instrument with his claws, being careful not to break any of the strings. He did this several times before putting the instrument down against Billy.

Nobody expected it, but something wonderful happened. Billy’s melodies reacted strangely to the instrument being placed at his side. Music note after music note came out of his thigh and swirled around the cittern until it was engulfed. Then, the cittern fused itself into Billy, as if it were becoming a part of him. His entire body glowed blue, like a discolored star. Emmett, Cathy, Ferdinand, and the monsters were watching and pondering about what was going on. The glow became brighter, so bright that the gang couldn’t tell that it was Billy anymore. The glow eventually disappeared and Billy didn’t look like a dragotops anymore. He was standing on two legs, but that wasn’t all; he also had futuristic features and green scales. In his hands were two gigantic cone-shaped blades that were almost as big as he was.

miss her target with such a wide-range attack. Billy tried escaping, but the dark wave got him. It was extremely effective against a level lower than Ella's. Meanwhile, Lloyd was still lying beside the tree where he fell unconscious, but he didn't return to his current level; he was still a psychopomp. Billy was really weak, but he propped Lloyd on top of his horn and flew to the top of the hill. The children moved out of the way to let him land. He turned his head to put Lloyd on the ground.

"Are you sure you can go on, Billy?" asked Delilah.

"I'm old, but I've still got a lot of strength left." After saying his statement, he flew back into battle. The children didn't want Lloyd to just lie there.

"We should take him inside," said May.

"Yeah, but he won't fit into his pet bed," said Emmett.

Fifteen minutes later, Lloyd was slowly waking up. He heard familiar voices saying things.

"He's waking up," said Delilah. Lloyd opened his big eye and saw that Delilah was staring directly at him. This scared him a little bit.

"Where am I?" he asked in a tired voice. When he sat up, he noticed that the walls were pink and there was a desk with a little lamp on it. The bed he was resting on had decorated posts on each corner; he was in Delilah's room. "Why aren't I in battle anymore?"

"You had the living daylights knocked out of you," said Emmett, who was sitting by the bed. Lloyd didn't feel that good knowing that Ella was going to reclaim her place as Cathy's partner again. "Is she going to drop me off on the side of the road and leave me there?"

"Uncle Owen's monster is still fighting out there."

"That's not fair. He's doing the fighting while I'm just sitting here in bed."

Delilah felt bad for Lloyd.

"Do you want me to make you some hot cocoa?" she asked.

"Certainly." Delilah left the room and went downstairs. Lloyd got out of bed and looked out the window to see how the battle was progressing; it didn't look very good.

"Billy is getting pummeled out there." May was getting more and more worried about the situation, so she got her B-Phone (a tiny, portable phone that flies up to your ear) out of her pocket. She turned it on and its tiny wings began flapping. Within seconds, it flew up to May's right ear.

"Dial Daddy," she commanded. A red light on the phone flashed as it was dialing the Thatcher household. "Daddy, is that you? It's me... we need to send in more monsters because hope is looking grim... you should at least try your best to get them, okay? Bye, Daddy." She pressed a button on the B-Phone and it stopped flapping its wings. It fell back into her hand and she put it back into her pocket. She looked at Emmett and Lloyd with a smile. "More help is on the way."

"Pure diamond!" said Ella. She magically made a giant, purple diamond appear in the sky. Using his head (literally), Billy blocked the crystal with his tough skull. He used all his might in this situation, despite the fact that he had almost no HP left. Suddenly, a stampede was heard that was twice as loud as Billy's entrance.

Cathy was on the porch keeping Ferdinand safe in her arms. She felt the stampede and decided to go across the street to see what was going on. In the distance, two more dragotops were stampeding toward the battle.

“What the heck is going on?” asked Emanuel. Ella grew until she was at least twice her size. She stopped transforming and everybody saw her new form. She was a humongous, black dragon with armor and tiny wings as ears. She had two sets of wings on her back, and she was no longer a one-eyed monster.

“She’s a glorygon!” said Flyer.

“But they’re usually not that dark in color,” said Sasha.

“That’s because she’s not an average glorygon. She’s become dark and corrupted.” Ella, satisfied with her form, roared really loud for all to hear.



The children wanted the monsters to fight as best as they could.

“C’mon, Billy,” said Emmett, “you can do it... Billy?” Emmett saw that Billy was covering in the corner from hearing Ella’s roar.

“Nice dragon...” he said, “wouldn’t hurt her fellow monsters.”



“Corrupted, intense glory!” said Ella. Instead summoning a wave of light like the regular intense glory attack, she summoned a wave of darkness. It was impossible to



“Billy Bob!” she exclaimed. Billy Bob sneered at Ella.

“I remember you, you were a spoiled brat! You expected everything from your musician!”

“Nobody asked you!” Billy wanted to get this over with, so he started attacking.

“Pyro horn!” he said. His horns turned bright red as he charged toward Ella. Ella jumped into the air just as Billy was about to ram into her. Billy halted by stopping his feet and kicking up dust. He looked up and saw Ella in the air. She stretched the skin under her eye and stuck out her tongue. This made Billy angrier.

“Dizzy breath!” She blew purple and blue sparkles out of her mouth. They showered all over Billy. They looked pretty, but they stung his scales. He wailed as they crackled and shined all over his body. As soon as it stopped, he felt stunned; he became confused and lost his balance.

“What the heck is he doing?” asked Delilah.

“It’s the after affects of dizzy breath,” said Sasha. “Why else did you think it’s called dizzy breath?” In his confusion, Billy rammed his horns into a tree trunk. He did it about four times until the entire tree fell over.

“Billy, snap out of it!” said Emmett, “Before you destroy the entire forest!” Billy heard Emmett’s pleas, but he didn’t quite understand them.

“Who, me?” he asked. Within a second, he regained common sense. He spotted Ella standing near him, about to strike. He quickly reacted. He flew into the air; Ella was unsuspecting of what he would do next. “Lightning stomp!” His two front feet began giving off electricity. He dived out of the sky with his front feet aimed at Ella. He stomped on Ella’s stomach, causing her to fall onto her back. Emmett, Delilah, and the others cheered.

“Alright!” said May. “A direct hit!” Ella got up, but she was hurt from all the damage from Billy’s attack. She didn’t want to quit quite yet.

“You haven’t seen the last of me!” she said.

“That’s what they always say,” said Emmett. Ella became full of rage over this whole situation. She wanted Cathy to be her partner again, like she was in the good old days.

“No, really, you haven’t!” In her rage, she glowed and showed her melodies to everybody. She slowly began transforming into something new.

“You’re on!” said Lloyd. Ella wasn’t any more threatened by his new look as she was by his old look. She was still big enough to squish Lloyd like a bug. “Give me your best shot!”

“All right, I will!” Ella flew across the street and down the hill for the challenge; Lloyd followed. Dust kicked up as he used his feet to halt at the bottom of the hill.

“Horn laser!” He fired a brightly colored shot from the little horn on his head. The attack hit Ella’s stomach, but only caused a little damage.

“Bubble breath!” A blue beam with little bubbles inside shot out of her mouth. It hit Lloyd with perfect precision. The attack was extremely effective and Lloyd lay on the ground stunned. Emmett and Delilah were watching the whole thing from the sidewalk on the top of the hill.

“No!” said Delilah, “Don’t quit now!” Lloyd moved his claw a little. He heard Delilah’s plea to keep going. He slowly got up and brushed himself off. He tried to think of an attack that wouldn’t fail. He spotted Ella and used his sniper skills for his next attack.

“Eye laser!” he said. His entire eye turned pink and a beam shot out. Ella reacted at once and decided to do something before the attack hit.

“Masking gale!” shouted Ella. With magic, she formed a pink tornado around herself. The funnel of wind blocked the beam and sent it the other direction. Afterward, the tornado disappeared and Ella stampeded toward her opponent. Lloyd tried to fly away, but Ella grabbed his leg while he was in midair. She stretched her arm back like she was about to throw a baseball, then she hurled Lloyd with a strong force. Lloyd hit a tree and bruised his head badly. It was obvious that he had been defeated.

The children, music monsters, and Cathy were all looking at Lloyd’s motionless body. They had hope for him, but he just couldn’t do it. Ella was delighted about her victory, as any monster would be.

“Now that I’ve beaten your new friend, I can finally be yours again,” said Ella. Cathy wasn’t very happy about the outcome of the battle.

“We don’t want you to be mom’s partner!” said Delilah.

“You don’t have a say in this!”

“She’s right, Ella,” said Cathy. “You’ve treated my family and friends with disrespect.”

“But I won the battle fair and square!”

“Not if I can help it!” said a voice in the distance. A new monster came stampeding into the scene. It had the appearance of a blue triceratops with wings.

“My daddy’s monster is here!” said May. The monster butted his horns into Ella’s side. Ella became enraged at this disruption. As soon as she got a glimpse of the monster, she immediately recognized him.

“How have you been doing?”

“Let’s see... I’m married, I have three children, and two of those children play instruments.” Just then, Lloyd stepped outside with a packet of artificial sweetener.

“Here’s your sweetener,” he said.

“Who are you, little one?” asked Ella.

“I’m Lloyd, Cathy’s partner.” Upon hearing this, Ella was a bit peeved. Cathy DID have a partner. “When did you start playing the violin again?”

“Just a few years ago,” replied Cathy.

“But... you promised that you would return to me someday.” Cathy didn’t know what to say. The past has finally caught up with her and she felt guiltier than ever. “How can you do this?” Cathy was a bit afraid to explain her reason, but she felt that she had to do it.

“Well... a few years ago, I decided to play the violin again.”

“You said that you would return to me once you started playing again.”

“Mom, do you have something to explain?” asked Emmett.

“Yes, I do. You see, I was ten years old when I first started playing the violin. That’s when I got Ella. I played my instrument for a few years until my schedule became too cluttered. I promised Ella that I would come back to her someday when I decided to play my instrument again.”

“I waited for so long,” said Ella.

“Listen, Ella, I’m a busy mother now and I don’t have time to go to the Rhythm and Melody World and go on adventures. Lloyd is a mother’s helper.”

“But the reason a child has a monster partner is to protect him or her in the Rhythm and Melody World! I bet Lloyd hasn’t even battled once.”

“I’ve battled once... or twice,” said Lloyd.

“I can’t believe you go out and replace me with this ingrate!”

“I am not a ingrate! Whatever that is.”

“Stop picking on him!” said Cathy, “It doesn’t matter if he hasn’t fought much!”

“Oh, so I’m assuming that he won’t do anything if I just happen to hurt your precious baby!” She grabbed little Ferdinand from his basinet and looked at him angrily. Cathy screamed. This act made Lloyd angry.

“Don’t you dare!” said Lloyd. He turned toward his worried partner. “Get your instrument, Cathy.” Cathy grabbed her violin, which was leaning on the side of the house. She put the end of the violin against her chin and started to play. She gracefully played a tune called “When Irish Eyes are Smiling.” It was a random tune, but it did the trick. Lloyd experienced a boost in power, leading up to mutation. He glowed and transformed into a bigger creature. He now looked like a green dragon-like monster with deer-like ears and purple wings (he still had his one eye). He flew into the air and grabbed Ferdinand from the clutches of Ella. He teleported back to the ground and gave him to Cathy. He was a bit scarred from the experience and he held onto his mother in fear.

“Your actions will not be tolerated here!” said Cathy, “Leave my property now!”

“I want to challenge your puny monster to a fight. If he wins, he will keep being your monster. If he loses, which he will, I will be yours once again! If he’s too much of a philistine to fight, then I’ll just leave you all alone.”



Emmett was doing his reading on the top step of the porch and didn't want to be disturbed. Flyer was looking over his shoulder and intrigued at what he was reading.

"This book is exciting, Emmett!" he said, "Turn the page!"

"You honestly think this is exciting?" asked Emmett, "This book is about the Civil War! And you don't even know how to read!"

"Yeah, but I always love a good fight."

"You should be glad that you or someone you love hasn't been in a fight like that."

Lloyd came back from the kitchen with two coffee mugs filled with tea.

"Care for some chamomile?" he asked as she showed her the mug.

"Thank you, Lloyd," said Cathy, "You're the best mother's helper out there."

Lloyd blushed upon hearing this.

All was fine and dandy, but the happy citizens didn't know that they were being watched by something. Across the street was a forest at the foot of the hill. A giant eye was looking at the Bertolli residence from a short distance. This monster recognized the woman who was knitting the blanket.

"I found her," she said. She slinked closer, and her pink reptile nose could be seen coming out of the trees. She was happy to see the familiar woman again. She noticed the four children and four monsters on her porch; she could easily guess who the monsters belonged to, but the unieye baffled her. He couldn't have belonged to the baby because he was too young to play the violin. She grew suspicious, so she decided to stop being secretive and fly into the air so she could get to the neighborhood faster.

As May chased Emanuel, she noticed the huge dragon flying toward the house.

"Aunt Cathy!" she exclaimed, "What's that?" The dragon flew closer until everyone noticed her. She landed right in front of the house, almost crushing the futuristic mailbox. She was a nexia, the species of monster that looked like a one-eyed pink dragon. The children were quite startled by her appearance. She wasn't at all angry; in fact, she was happy.

"Can we help you?" asked May. The dragon looked at Cathy.

"Is that you, Cathy?" she asked. Cathy looked up from her sewing to see who was talking to her. She didn't know how this music monster knew her name.

"Who are you?" she asked. The dragon was broken-hearted when she heard those three words, but she didn't hesitate to remind her who she was.

"Don't you remember? I'm Ella!" As soon as Cathy heard that name, it all came back to her.

"Ella! I haven't seen you in years!"

October, 2034

The serene landscape of northern New Jersey couldn't have been any more colorful and natural. The trees were showing shades of yellow, orange, and red as they were falling from the trees, soon to return in spring in shades of green. To go along with this, the sun was about the same color as the trees as it was disappearing over the horizon, even though it was only 3:30.

Cathy, Emmett, Delilah, May (Owen's daughter, which means that she's also Cathy's niece), and Baby Ferdinand were on the porch. Their monsters, Lloyd, Flyer, Sasha, and Emanuel (May's drakoro) were enjoying their time as well. Delilah was playing with her fun-o-vision (a holographic screen with a little keyboard that runs educational programs). May was in the front yard running around with Emanuel.



Ferdinand was in his basinet while Cathy was sewing a blanket for him.



“Do you like seals, Ferdinand?” asked Cathy as she was sewing a playful cartoon seal onto the blanket. Ferdinand was delighted with the half-finished blanket that his mother was making him.