. . . . .

IDK how to start. how do these dinos know each other?! where do i start this story?! I feel that Penelope and Hank Ree know each other from an internet chat room group for hungry dinos who used to like eating ppl the most but due to whatever have changed their ways. Like AA but for ppl eating dinos. I want to say that tiny started taking care of rogue when her owner (died?) but idk hes so young in the story and I feel she may be older than him....maybe they are in a snuggle chatroom or a chatroom for dinos who like to hug/be hugged? then maybe pen and rogue get the invite and make hank and tinny their plus one....lets go with that... then again, where do we start this story? like at the party? if so from whos perspective?

. . . . .

Tiny the Trex, in name and in stature just turned 19 a week ago. His birthday is in the summer and he spent his birthday at home with his parents not doing much. His aunt bought him a present and his mom made his favorite dinner. His dad bought a cake from the local bakery and his older brother and sister called from their homes out of state to sing him happy birthday. But all his friends were gone for the summer. It was only a few months until he started college and most his friends were going to school out of state. He really wanted a big something special to commemorate not only his new year of life starting but also this new period in his life, leaving high school and transitioning to something new, but everyone did the best they could to make his day as special as they could.

Since his birthday he spent his time playing the new video game his parents and aunt had collectively gave him and taking lazy walks through the neighborhood. Today at the end of one of those lazy walks he saw the mailman driving off as he drove up. He waved and then went to check the mail. Inside he saw a sales paper for the local grocery story and something else. It was a fancy looking envelope shaped like a taco. It had a wax seal closing it with the letters TK engraved into the wax. And better than anything else it was addressed to him. Who could have possibly sent him this awesome invitation?

- - - - -

Rouge the raptor grew up under the tutelage of a human. She was raised as a pet, kind of like a cat, and she loved her life and her human. Her human was a girl named Mary, and when they first met Rouge was 1 and Mary was 28. Rouge and Mary spend 30 years together, 30 wonderful years but then Mary passed away. Rouge, saddened by her Mary's death moved out and into a group home for abandoned dinos. When she first got there she was very sad all the time and stayed in her room a lot. After a while she would come out some but wouldn't stay for long or talk for too long to anyone. One day while she was sitting in her room flipping thru one of the the photo albums Mary had made of them on some adventure she heard a knock at the door. She looked up to see an orderly, his name was Max. Rouge liked Max because he was fine with her being quiet and secluded. He never pushed her to talk or do anything other than what she was doing. Max told her he stopped by because she had gotten some mail. She never went down to mail call, because she never got mail so this was interesting. He handed her an envelope. It was a fancy looking envelope shaped like a taco. It had a wax seal closing it with the letters TK engraved into the wax, and it was addressed to her. Who could of sent this she wondered admiring the envelope.

- - - - -

Penelope was a teenage Trex. She was 16 and living her best life. She went to an all human school but nobody treated her any different. Well now nobody treated her different. When she was in the first grade and first introduced to human children she had some issues making friends. She just found humans so delicious she kept trying to eat all her classmates. She learned the hard way that eating your classmates is not nice, the day the goldfish tried to eat her. From then on she stopped giving into her human craving cold turkey, and since she has become quite popular. She has plenty of friends now, she is even a cheerleader and the top gymnast in the school now. She has become somewhat of an "it" girl at her school. One afternoon she was at home looking thru magazines trying to find the perfect dress. Danny Sanders, senior, captain of the football team, and the best looking guy in school had invited her to the Senior Prom even though she was only a junior! She was debating the merits of backless and scoop-necked dresses when her phone rang. Her parents wouldn't let her have a cell phone but they did let her have a cordless phone in her room. When she answered it was her best friend Katie, Katie was telling her about a party she heard about that was happening at Tom Kanes house. Tom was a sophomore but he came from a wealthy family and was always throwing rowdy parties because his parents were always gone. All the cool kids went to Toms parties, so she was a little miffed at hearing he was having another one and she was not invited. Before she could get to mad Katie told her that Tom had sent out a bunch of invitations in the mail, so retro. The theme was 80's Baby and suggested she checked the mail, as there was absolutely no way she didn't get an invite to this party. Penelope walked outside and checked the mail box. It was a weird experience, checking the mailbox. She knew what they were and what they were for. Her parents were always getting "junk mail" and bills from there but she had never actually "checked the mail." Inside she saw a fancy looking envelope shaped like a taco. It had a wax seal closing it with the letters TK engraved into the wax. Cute she thought as she took the envelope back upstairs. She meant to call Katie back but got caught up looking at her dress magazines.

- - - - -

Hank Ree was a middle age Trex who had just finished celebrating his 40th birthday. He worked as a trash collector in his town and he loved it. His dad and his granddad had collected trash in that town too. He was also a handyman and a welder, so when he saw something interesting that someone had thrown out he would take it home and make it better. He had been doing it since he was a child. His dad would bring him all sorts of stuff to tinker with and he would make all kinds of things. In the past he had made a soft serve ice coffee machine that was a big hit. He had also created a pair of headphones that played the song that you were thinking of but couldn't quite remember. He was a happy and creative dino and everyone loved him, except for one thing. Hank tended to get caught up in his work, so caught up that he would forget to do things. Like pick up his dry cleaning, brush his teeth, or eat and sleep. Often times he would just fall asleep at his desk, which kind of worked since his "bedrooms" had become workshops. The forgetting to eat was a bigger issue though. Like most people when he forgot to eat he became hangry or bad-tempered or irritable as a result of hunger. When this happen Hank Ree tended to go on rampages looking for food and destroying property. Usually he wouldn't make it out of the neighborhood before someone would get him a sandwich, but when he did make it out he would make a bee line for a human neighborhood. He thought humans were delicious and would run off to try and find some to eat. Well at least he used to do that. About a year ago he went off into one of those human neighborhoods and he ran into a kid named Hal and his dog. After their interaction Hal and Hank Ree became friends so every time he bee lined out of the neighborhood he would run straight to Hals house and Hals mom would make him dinner. The neighborhood dinos stopped trying to chase him down with sandwiches in hand and just let him go. Sometimes Hals mom made so much that Hank would bring leftovers for them all, they didn't want to miss out on that because Hals mom was a wonderful cook. Hal and his family were the only humans that could come to Hank Ree's neighborhood and not get eaten. In fact they had taken to inviting Hals family to all the dino block parties and helping Hanks mom cook. Not in Hanks kitchen of course because that's where he kept all his gears and sprockets. One day Hank Ree got of work early because he had found a broken console he wanted to transform into a pinball machine that used quarters instead of balls when he ran into the mail man. Got something for you the mail man said handing Hank a fancy looking envelope shaped like a taco. It had a wax seal closing it with the letters TK engraved into the wax. Looks like you have been invited to a taco party. Be sure to bring us back some the mailman said as he walked away. Hank Ree didn't know who TK was but he did love trying new things. As bad as he got when he was hungry he had never had a taco before.

Mmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmm

The day of the taco party has come and all the dinos are getting ready. Tinny has worn his cool guy hat, its an old cowboy hat that his grandad used to wear that has been passed down through all the men of the family. its brown leather smooth from being worn in over a decade. Rouge wore one of Mary's favorite necklaces. Penelope had to do some research but had concocted the perfect 80s outfit equipped with this great sequenced neon orange fannypack. She put all her touch up makeup inside it. Hankree was sure to pack his travel toolkit. As he took it everywhere he went. He also remembered to pick up his dry cleaning so he looked presentable for the food. mean party.

- - - - - - - - - - - ----- - - -- - -- --- --

All the dinos arrived at the same time. They didn't know each other but each was secretly glad that they were not the only dino there. As they walked in they heard cool music. and saw party lights, you know the flashy colorful kind. As their eyes adjusted to the light they realized they were in a room packed full of dragons. Dragons were everywhere and it was packed wing to wing with them. And they were all eating tacos. So Many Tacos! The Dinos were just amazed with just how many tacos fit into this house along with all these dragons. Also at the rate they were being eaten they had to have started out with so many more tacos. There were standing there awe-struck when a kid and a dog walked up to them. Hi, he said, welcome to my party, I'm The Kid and I'm super ecstatic that yall could make it. Hope you didn't have any problems finding the place.

-------- ----- ------ -----

Hankree was just about to expound the merits of GPS to The Kid when pandemonium broke out. A dragon that happen to be standing next to the window burped and a stream of fire came out of his mouth and now the curtains were on fire. The dragons in question seemed shocked, they were all shocked. The party came to a sudden holt as the music kept blasting and the lights kept flashing but everyone was staring at the burning curtains. Staring but not putting them out. Tinny grabbed the ice bucket and put the fire out. Before anyone could say anything a grumble reverberated around the room. It was all the dragons stomachs growling in unison. The dragons looked at each other, paniced. The Kid rushed over to the kitchen recycling bin and grabbed a empty salsa container. He looked at it, then squinted at it and then dropped it, He turned to the dinos and yelled something. They could not hear him over the rumbling. Rogue who apparently was great at reading human lips said it looks like hes yelleing for us to get out. Get out? Penelope said we just got here, how rude. Then it happen. All the dragons started to burp fire. The whole house went up in flames. The dinos just made it out in time. They all turned and watched the house burn down wishing there was more that they could do to help.

- - - - -

The dragons obivoulsy impervious to flames didnt rush to flee the house. Once it burnt down they were all still inside, crying. The dinos were beginning to wonder if they were crying over the destruction of the house or the tacos when the kid walked up to them. Sorry about all of this he said. It was shaping up to be a great party. What happen?! the dinos pondered. The Kid explained to them how dragons love tacos but not spicy salsa, it gives them heart burn, litteraly. He throws taco parties all the time so he has no clue how he ended up with totally mild salsa but in small print it said now with spicy jalapeno peppers. Thats spicy salsa not totally mild salsa! This has never happen to him before. What are you going to do they ask? Rebuild and throw a redemption taco party. I just wish I knew how I eneded up with this totally mild spicy salsa? I just wish i knew why dragons loved tacos so much Tinny said. The other dinos agreeded with him. Well right now I wish I had a place to live The Kid replied so I'm going to get to work on repairing the house. You guys are totally invited to the redemption party. Should be in a week or so.

- - - - -

the dinos got ready to leave when they realized that they all left their phones in the house and they got burned. How would they call an uber? The dragons and The Kid were already working on the house, sweeping up the ashes. What could they do? I know Hank Ree said, we can find out where that totally mild salsa with spicy jalapnos came from. They walked around to the back of the house and looked in the recycling bin. Yes! rouge shouted they still have empty salasa jars in here. Because all the ones in the house melted. On the label they saw that the totally mild salsa with spicy jalapanos was made at Totalymildsalsa inc 466 notsusatall lane right here in town. great, but how to get there? We need a map Tinny said. We could probly find one at a Gas station right Hank Ree replied. Penelope interjected, they dont seem to have cars here, so they are not going to have gas stations stupid! Well rouge piped in they seems to fule up on tacos so maybe they have a taco station. Great idea Hank and Tiny said in unison. The dinos looked around and in the distance they saw a sign all lit up in the night sky that said TACO CAVE best tacos in town. Looks like thats where we should go Tinny says and the Dinos start walking.

Mmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmm

The Dinos arrive at the Taco Cave at last. Oh these shoes are NOT made for walking Penelope complains. Aren't all shoes made for walking Hank Ree inquires. As Penelope yells at Hank about fashion Tiny and Rogue head inside. Can i take your order the cashier dragon asks his name tag said Paul. Well tiny starts taking out his wallet. how much can this get me he says pulling out a 5DinoBill. Whats that Paul asks him? We only take TacoChange here, well they only take TacoChange everywhere inside of Dragonland, where are you guys from?

. . . . .

dragon land is a TERRIBLE NAME!

. . . . .

Tiny started to tell Paul that they were from Dinoland and how he was from Lexdinoton and was going to Lexdinoton community Collage in the Fall but before he could a stream of fire shot past his head. A customer had burped fire, just like the dragons at the party. Mild salsa with spicy jalapenos! Tinny ran to find Rouge she was dilly dallying around the restaurant floor. He grabbed her hand and dragged her outside. Penelope had stopped yelling at Hank, it seemed that they were collaborating on shoe design when Tiny and Rogue ran up. Salsa Fire Tinny yelled as he ran and Penelope and Hank Ree looked up just in time to see the Taco Cave burn to the ground. Was it the totally mild spicy salsa again Penelope asked. Only one way to find out Hank Ree replied stomping off to the recycling bin behind the restaurant. He ran back with an armful of Totally Mild Salsa with spicy jalapenos. Dag Nabbit! Rogue shouted Totally mild salsa inc strikes again! Did they have any maps inside? Penelope asks. I got this one Rogue replies, but its only of all the Taco Caves in town. I just picked it up when Tiny saved me from the flames. Thanks for that Tiny. Tiny the Trex blushed while Rogue spread the map out on the ground. They all were studying it when Paul walked up. What are you guys looking for he asks. 466 notsusatall lane Tinny says nonchalantly. Oh Paul said that's over by the Taco Cave on Bushbrooke rd. he says pointing it out on the map. If you go behind it there is this really creepy rd. that leads down to it. As a dare we used to go there at night and see how far down we could walk before we got scarred and ran back to the Taco Cave. No one ever made it to notsusatall ln though. If you guys do promise to come back and tell me how it was. I'll always come back for you Paul, Penelope says batting her eyes. Paul started blushing. cool he said and stumbled away. After he was gone everyone stared at her. What she cried he's cute! cute is cute despite the species.

- - - - -

Hankree studied the map. Looking at where we are I think we need to head out this way first he said pointing east. But its getting dark, I'm tired Penelope said there is a hotel right over there maybe we can pack it in for the night she says pointing west. Tinny agreed that resting up sounded like a good idea. Rouge felt the should keep moving seeing as how no one here took their money anyway.

. . . . .

so what's the merits of going east at night to going to the hotel. I feel that if they go to the hotel they can stay but first thing a few must go to the bank and get the right change before the new shift manager gets there and at the bank they learn they need an appointment to get into Totally Mild Salsa Inc and thy must be important if going there because they are wealthiest cooperation in town from the bank teller but you didn't hear it from her. (she is a terrible gossip). . . . looks like that's what's going to happen now.

. . . . .

Hankree realized it would be hard to see landmarks in the dark anyway, especially if the other taco caves burned down as well. So they should go to the hotel and see what happens. If worst come to worst they could just come back and sleep behind the burned down taco cave. They walked to the hotel and were greeted by a friendly lady dragon. Hi I'm Sherral you guys looking for a room for the night? We have plenty, along with the softest sheets in town and a complementary 2 taco breakfast. Then she whispers, it used to be a taco buffet but that got out of control quick, and she laughed. Hankree pushed throu his dino pals to get to the front desk. Nice to meet you Sherral he said, Im Hankree, its really nice to meet you he said and paused just staring and smiling until Rouge nugged him. You see he continued just slightly startled. We just got in from out of town and all we have is Dinobills. we got in after 6 so we couldnt go to the bank to see if we could get change. also we dont know where the bank is. Is there any way we can stay the night and pay in the morning as soon as the banks open? I mean I can even stay here, with you, and do work for free until the debt is paied. Sherral smiled. Well we actually dont have any guest right now so yall staying the night would pay for itself in giving me something to do. You keeping me company would just be a bonus. She said smiling at Hankree. They just stood there quietly gazing into each others eyes when Penelope broke the silence. So, which room do you want us in? Sherral snapped out of it, oh right she said turning to get a key she peeked behind her to see if Hankree was looking, he was, and she giggled. She grabbed a key and handed it to Penelope girls in #5 and guys in #4, have a good night. Penelope, Rouge and Tiny headed off towards the room but Hankree was still at the desk smiling at Sherral. Tinny called out hey Hank you coming. I'll be there in a minute Hankree replied and the rest of the group went off to get some rest. The next morning the group woke up a little less than early but Hankree was no where to be found. They went back to talk to Sherral and there he was. They were sitting in the loby chairs having coffee and laughing. Oh hi guys did you sleep well. We did tiny said. did you? Hankree and Sherral just giggled. then hankree said sherral helped me map out some local spots on our taco map. The bank should be open by the time we get there if we leave now. What about the two taco breakfast? Penelope asked. Well Sherral said. I can clean up the rooms yall said in no problem, but they keep a tight taco count, you would have to pay for those or I could loose my job. We dont want that Rouge cried. Thank you for all that you have done for us Sherral. Oh it was def my pleasure Sherral replied looking at Hankree. Tinny spoke up, we should really be on our way he said nudging hankree. He's right my dear Hankree said to Sherral, but I. We will try and be back real soon. I"ll be wating she replied and blew him a kiss on their way out the door. So Tinny said as they walked. you and sherral? Banks this way Hankree replied quickening the pace.

Mmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmm

The dinos got to the bank right as it opened. Bank security was just unlocking the door as they walked up. When they walked in a sort of elevator light jazz was playing over the speakers, it seemed a little loud but then again there was not that much noise yet as they were the only ones inside. They walked up to to the teller and explained their currency situation. I can totally help with that. the teller said. Her name was Kim. As kim collected and counted their currency. She was very chatty she started asking them what brought them to town and where they were from. Tiny, being equally as chatty started a rollicking conversation with her. By the time she finished the transaction and handed them their TacoChange equivelent of DinoBills they were so caught up in a conversation that Tiny didnt even realize how much currency he was getting back. Penelope did though. 50 TacoChange Notes! What we gave you 200 DinoBucks! You sure did sweety Kim replied then Tinny interjected you know the exchange rate of DinoBucks to TacoChange is 5 to 1 right? What! Penelope, Hankree and Rouge shouted all in unison. How did you know that Hankree inquired? Kim said so just now, well, right before we got into TMS Inc, they seem very suspect. Kim interjected Sus honey, thats what all the other kids are saying. Sus Tiny corrected. TMS Inc Rouge questioned? Totally Mild Salsa TMS Kim said. I see you all are not nearly as sweet as Tiny here. Thats alright, we cant all be angels she said smiling and pinching Tiny's cheekes. Tiny just beamed, theyre alright once you get to know them Ms. K. Now I told you already its momma K to you sweetpea. Mama K Tiny corrected smiling. Now Kim said to the group I suggest yall get going to the capital building. You want to get there early, the mayor gets cranker and cranker the later in the day it gets. Tinny sweety you stop back on by anytime. If you come to the house be sure I'll have some of that pie for you. Thanks Mama K! Tinny replied as he walked away. The others just followed him out the door. Once they were outside they questioned him. Sus? Pie? Capital Building? Come on Tiny said we will be late Mama K marked it on the map for us can you get us there Hankree? Hankree looked down at the map seeing some new locations marked including a haunted wood surrounding TMS inc. huuuu he stammered. I think I can but what about. Tiny cut him off with lets go! We dont want to be late!

Mmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmm

As Tiny carted the group off to the capital building Rouge asked him how are we going to be late for something we are just now showing up to what's the rush? Had any of you been listening Tiny replied with a bit of an attitude you would know that Mama K made us an appointment. Its the first appointment of the day she said that's the best time to catch the Mayor in fact she was really surprised she was able to get us that spot but she is in a book club with his secretary so I think she just did her a favor.

They get to the capital and get ushered into the mayors office straight away. Tiny goes into an unexpected speech it seems he prepared ahead of time. all the rest can do is watch a gasp. The mayor agrees to sign off on tiny having an appointment with the higher ups of TMS Inc. as far as his seemingly dimwitted guest TMS will have to decided if they will let them in or not. Once they were outside everyone asks tiny about his speech he said mama K helped him of course and that they shouldn't be so rude.

The appointment with TMS inc will be the next day in the afternoon so the dinos have some time to kill and they decided to walk around town. Not to far from the capital building is the Taco Institute. the dinos decided to stop inside to maybe find out why dragons love tacos so much. When they walk in they don't see anyone so they start walking around. As they made their way down an empty hallway they happen to see someone in a lab coat walking out of a bathroom. Rouge runs up to them and starts a conversation. They talk for a while and rouge seems to drum up a good repour with this lab coat clad dragon. the pair walk back over to the group and they find out that the scientists name is Maddy. She is a taco shell scientist. She tells them that tours day is only on Fridays and that Wednesdays were for heavy research but since rouge asked so nice she would give them a scientist tour, not being a tour guide or even ever having gone on a tour she did not know what "official" tours entailed, but she would do her best.

As Maddy started showing them around Rouge seemed to be following her around like a puppy almost. They were getting to see inside actually labs which no one did but Hank was the only one that was really excited. Penelope and Tiny were kind of bored and rouge was just excited to be talking to Maddy. They go to a big room with a bunch of scientist staring at a giant whiteboard and mumbling. What's going on here Hank asked. Well Maddy said its classified I cant really talk about it, but you guys are not dragons so. she looked to her left and her right. Come with me she said rushing off to a door to the left of them. It turned out to be a very small janitorial closet. Or maybe it just seemed small because it now contained a dragon and four dinosaurs. Maddy clicked on the single overhead lightbulb. She whispered just loud enough to be kind of heard over the drip of the mop sink. So if I tell you guys this you have to swear to not tell any dragon ever. Deal they all said. No really if you tell any dragon and word gets out I will lose my job! We wont they said. No really you cant say anything! rouge took Maddy's hand and said you can trust us we would never do anything to get you in trouble I'll make sure of it. feeling assured Maddy started to tell them the story. About two and a half years ago the dragon scientist noticed a slight reduction in taco crops. For whatever reason the yield had slightly declined. No one paid it much attention because slight fluctuations are normal but six months after the decline it didn't get any better in fact it just got a little worse and now in the past year and a half the decline became more rapid and concerning. The scientist had been trying to figure out what was causing the issues but had no luck. They brought in a specialist human scientist named Ada Twist to try and help them figure out what was happening, as she was an expert at investigative researching techniques, but even she was having issues. If they didn't find the source soon the backup taco supply would be depleted and there would be no tacos in dragonland. If they could not get the taco crops to grow, dragons may never have tacos again! Penelope begin to ask why dragons loved tacos so much anyway but before she could get the question out tiny interrupted. Do you think it has something to do with TMS inc? We def thing they are up to something, in fact we have an appointment to go see them tomorrow. Maddy had her thinking face on when the door opened up. A little girl was standing there. she had coco brown skin and two big black afro puffs on each side of her head tied with two beautiful barrettes holding them in place. What's going on here Scientist Maddy? And who are these dinos? tours are on Fridays why are they here? Outside the door the group in the closet could see all the other dragon scientist staring at them. Maddy, quick on her feet said they are consultants I brought in to help investigate the issue. In the back one of the Dragons yelled under whos authority. Maddy replied immediately desperate time call for desperate measures! Are you willing to do what it takes to solve this problem or not, because I am. She looked back at Ada Twist. They have a hypothesis and they are going to investigate it tomorrow. Hum Ada said. I would like to know more. Come into my office and lets talk

Mmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmm

Ada Twist investigative research scientist lead the dinos out of the hall of the large whiteboard down a hall and into a corner office with a large window looking out over downtown dragonland. Nice digs Penelope said. So Ada said sitting behind her desk what's your hypothesis? What's a hypothesis Tinny said. Ada gave him a look but Hankree stepped in. Hi, I'm Hankree, don't worry about my cohort here, we are not all scientist per se but we are all on the case. We attended a party the other day hosted by The Kid, I don't know if you know him, he hosts some of the best taco parties in town. I have heard of him but have yet as to attend one of his parties. As this is an issue of national security my involvement has been quite clock and dagger, but apparently yours has not. interesting. Hankree continued. At this party multiple dragons were afflicted with spicy salsa causing the house to burn down. Now this affliction seemed to be premeditate. not by the Kid who has a history of having many parties where houses successfully did not burn down, but by the makes of the salsa Totally Mild Salsa Inc or TMS inc. Go on Ada said. You see in large print on the jar was Totally Mild Salsa but in small print and darker color underneath that was printed (now with spicy jalapenos.) Taking into account that the kid has been hosting parties with salsa he gets from the same supplier every time this salsa seems suspect. Less than a few hours after that party we went to a taco cave near the kids house and the same thing happen. We checked the recycling bin to see what salsa they were using and it was again Totally Mild Salsa. Seeing as how TMS Inc seems to be flooding the supply chain with secretly spicy salsa we suspect they are up to something. At this point Tiny interjected. We had a meeting with the mayor to get approval to visit there facility tomorrow to investigate. Hum ada said then she sat and thought for a while. Suddenly she sprung up from her desk and walked over to her white board. So From your investigation of the jars of salsa I would agree that TMS inc is up to no good as you didn't but I do know that not only is putting something in small print a ploy for you to hope ppl don't read it but also dragons are known to be farsighted so they would have a hard time even seeing something in print that small in contrasting colors in the first place. I Also believe that you all were at the kids party because he invited you and not because you are some sort of crack investigation team as a real team would not have needed approval from the mayor. I also have concluded that I will be accompanying you to TMS inc tomorrow and conducting my own real investigation alongside your less official one as some of the evidence you have uncovered supports a new hypothesis that I am currently investigating in secret. You all can keep a secret cant you. Yes all the dinos and Maddy shouted. Because its imperative that we keep this under wraps. We will they all shouted. Are you sure of that because you are all shouting rather loudly. We promise they all whispered in unison. Well then I suspect that TMS inc is a shell corporation created by some entity that wants to take over dragonland. all the dinos, and Maddy, gasped deeply.

How could salsa help them take over dragonland Maddy asked, what's your hypothesis? Well Ada said walking over and closing the door. TMS inc has not been in town that long at all. in fact they moved in about 9 months ago. I'm not sure how they happen to push the local salsa barons out but they took over all the export of salsa. Right around the time that the tri annual Salsa fest was gearing up. Triannual? Hankree started. Salsa fest Tinny interjected? Yes Ada replied. Every three years or tri annually (that's not how years work Hankree mumbled) the people of Dragonland have a festival. Its like a giant salsa cookoff. only no one eats any of the salsa that is made, because dragons are terrible at making salsa. The whole point of the event is to remind everyone why all the salsa is exported from outside of dragonland. If they don't eat it what happens to all the salsa cooked, Rouge asked? All the salsa prepared is buried in a large pit that is then set aflame and serves at the bonfire to light up the giant taco party that takes place with the custom giant salsa jar made just for this occasion that all the imported salsa is dumped into. In fact they make a new jar every festival from a good portion of all the recycled jars over the previous 3 years. So what's that got to do with TMS inc? Penelope inquired.

Ada went to her closet and rolled out a white board, then she walked in and indicated that she wanted the group to follow her. once inside a "secret" door opened and revealed a passageway that led into a room. There were papers taped to the walls and varying strings creating a bit of a web going across the room and back. On the strings were more attached bits of paper. At the front of the room was a giant chalkboard. The kind that comes with a ladder that you can move across the width of the board so you can write on every inch. Ada pulled out a laser pointer from her pocket. and begin to start a speech when Penelope stopped her. Yeah no, can you just lay out the main point because we def don't have time for whatever you were about to start. Fine Ada said putting her laser pointer away. Three years ago at the tri-annual Salsa fest TMS inc took over the import of salsa for Dragonland. Before that there were three main import companies but slowly they got bought out without to many people noticing. They didn't fire anyone they just acquired the businesses silently. So at the time of the Fest TMS inc was providing all the salsa for the event. Everything seemed to go off without a hitch. I interviewed every dragon that was at the event, and everyone said everything was in order except for one observer. A young dragon named Tim who was about 10 at the time. Tim said that he was playing kick the rock around the giant pit that had been dug to dump all the chefs salsa in and set it aflame. He miscalculated his kick and his rock flew into the pit but he heard it hit something metal. He went to investigate and could have sworn he saw a metal pipe near the bottom wall of the pit. Right before he could process what he thought he saw his parents called him away and when he looked back all he saw was salsa. I tried to interview the digger of the pit for that year but for whatever reason I cannot seem to find him. He allegedly moved the day after the fest but has no forwarding info. After that years fest besides the secret declining crop issue everything appeared to be going fine until the recent outbreak in fires due to spicy salsa ingestion which burned down the house of the Kid who invited you all to that party. I also think the Kid has been suspecting TMS inc and wanted some outsiders opinions which is why I think he invited you all. But why us Tinny inquired. That I'm not sure about Ada replied.

So what do we do now Hankree asked Ada. Now she said, I think we need to be sure not to be late for engagement with TMC inc.

Mmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmm

The next day Ada who had a driver for her stay in dragonland picked up Tinny, Hankree, Rouge and Penelope in her car. The previous evening over dinner as they were making their plan of action they all agreed that Maddy should not come as she would be recognized as a Dragon scientist. She had had a breakthrough at flavor improvement for hard-shell tacos within the last three years and also she looked like your stereotypical dragon scientist.

. . . . .

insert what a dragon scientist looks like here

. . . . .

They were greeted at the door by a Dragon in a black suit. He was very smiley and polite but something seemed off about him. He confirmed their identities and invited them in. I didn't realize you all would have a human with you he mentioned off hand as they walked down the main hall. We felt it would be best to bring a translator Hankree said, as in accordance to their plan. As we are not native Dragonlanders we did not want to be miscommunicated. At that Ada jumped in and said they mean they did not want to be misunderstood she said with a heavy dragon accent. Wow! Tiny said, he was shocked at her grasp on the language. Penolope gave him a little kick and he pointed at the doorway ahead of them and said something in gibberish. Ada, not missing a beat said to the Dragon in the dark suit, He has never seen a color scheme like the one in here. In Dinoland these colors are considered outlandish. Ah, the dark dragon said. Well then he said looking at Tiny, We have some extra paint in the basement I will be sure to get you a can to take home. Ada said some gibberish Tiny's way and he started bowing with appreciation repeating Thank thank thank and smiling.

So far so good I hope, Rouge whispered to Penelope as they entered a sort of boardroom through the doorway. Please have a seat the Dragon in the Dark suit said motioning them all to sit. Once they were all seated he asked them so what can we here at TMC inc do for you all today, its not too often that we get VIP request for an audience. We would like a tour Hankree said. Oh the Dark Dragon replied were you looking to invest? Why yes Penelope answered we came all the way from Dinoland just for that. I see the dark suited Dragon said well we usually don't give tours but in that case I may be able to make an exception. With that he slammed his fist down onto a button on the table that none of the dinos or Ada had seen. Immediately restrains were activated. Strapping the motley crew to their chairs as the Dark Dragon laughed. I know who you are, you are not investors, just some stupid dinosaurs from out of town. That Kid invited you to his party in hopes that he could somehow stop us. He has suspected us from the start. Even you Miss Ada are only here due to his meddling. We may not be able to ensnare him yet but at least we finally have you Ada! With that the dark suited dragon seemingly snatched off his head revealing a human man. All the Dinos startled let out a yelp while Ada shouted I knew it! You, she continued are William "T is for Takeover" Drake, real-estate mogul and all around evil guy! The man in the dragon costume just laughed. That would be me, and I am using spicy salsa to take over dragonland! I am going to devalue the land and run everyone out. then I'm going to pave over the entire land and turn it into an airport with the worlds largest parking lot! I'll make even more millions! But why Tiny shouted why do that to the dragons?! Because Takeover Drake replied I, HATE TACOS! at that the group made a loud wail, Rouge started to cry.

But how, Ada cried, How can you hate tacos! they are delicious! and how will you take over dragonland with salsa. Tacos my dear are disgusting, they are the absolute worst food because they are comprised of terrible foods. Lettuce tomatoes ground beef or chicken cheese. all bad they taste like dirt if you threw it into a dumpster fire swept up the ashes and ate it. And why ask dear Ada you already figured out our plan. Pumping spicy salsa into the ground to kill the taco crops. because all the crops have an adverse reaction to a spicy environment that's the only reason why dragons cant stomach spicy salsa. You know that from your research into why dragons love tacos so much. And give all the dragons totally mild salsa with spicy jalapenos because that will cause all the property damage we need. with no property and seemingly unusable soil the dragons will have to leave and my corporation can come in and buy the entire land for pennies on the dollar. And there's more dear Ada once I build the airport the only food you will be able to buy in airport and on all flights is Warm Pretzels with only mustard, extra warm and doughy and regular yellow mustard not the spicy brown mustard that goes great with warm pretzels. and you know why. Ada screams because Dragons Hate warm pretzels unless they have spicy mustard and the pretzel is not to warm or doughy. You evil man, how dare you! Now enough of this I have a land to takeover in about three more years it will all be mine. In the meantime into the totally NOT mild salsa tank for the likes of you all. drown in salsa now or later when its pumped into our inground destroy the soil environment pit. With that he slammed another button on the table and a trap door below all the chairs opened up. The chairs were connected to a long poles that were now descending towards a giant vat of spicy salsa that was not only spicy but also heated. Hot spicy salsa! Oh No! Hankree yelled. Oh yes takeover drake yelled as he started to cackle. What are we going to do! Tiny wailed. I already ordered my dress for prom Penelope cried. I just found my new Mary and now I'm going to join my Old Mary Rouge mumbled through her tears. Now! Ada shouted. suddenly there was a loud Boom! as the chairs descended through the floor doors the dinos saw dragon special ops repel down into the room from a hole they blew into the celling. they captured takeover drake and got to work on the panel to reverse the decent into hot spicy salsa. Once the dinos and Ada were free the chief special dragons ops leader walked over to Ada, it was The Kid! Great job Ada Twist Secret Agent Scientist, I wouldn't have expected anything less from someone with your reputation. We got the whole conversation on tape. Mr. drake is going away for a long time. Thanks Kid Ada replied beaming with pride. just another at the office, solving one world problem after the next. I will write up the report and be sure your agency gets a copy. With that she turned to the dinos, Thanks for all your help guys and she walked off into the haze created by the smoke from the explosion.

Mmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmm

The dinos all in shock just stare, finally Rouge manages to squeak out, Kid?! Alas yes it is me The Kid. I couldn't let you guys in on what we had planned, I'm sorry for any inconvenience that it may have caused, but I needed you all as a necessary catalyst for my plan to catch takeover drake once and for all. If its any constellation my house has been rebuilt and i will be having a Taco Party tomorrow night, you all should come. with that the Kid went back to his dragon ops team to debrief, or something.

As the dragons left TMS inc still in shock of what just happened a familiar voice shook them back to reality. Oh man you guys made it all the way down the creepy road! Cool! It was Paul the Taco Cave cashier. Penelope jumped into action, pushing all the others out the way as she ran towards Paul with a dramatic flair. I was so scarred she said as she fake collapsed into his arms. I'm so glad you are here now to keep the monsters away. Paul just grinned, yeah, they transferred me to Bush Brooke rd TCave until they can rebuild the other one. I've been looking out for your guys every day since I got here. I could take you. . . Penelope interrupted I would love that take me anywhere as long as its with you she said with a swoon. come on you can ride handies he said as he rushed towards his bike. What about us Hankree cried as Penelope hopped on the handlebars of Paul's bike. See you later she replied as they rode off into the sunset. Well then Hankree said as they kept walking towards the hotel. Before they could get too far past the Bush Brooke Rd Taco Cave a van drove up, From the dragon scientist look of her van they knew it was Maddy before she rolled down the window. OMG you guys I was so worried! I heard about what happen are you alright Rouge, and friends. We would be much better if you could give us a ride back to the hotel Hankree said. Get in Maddy replied hitting the automatic slide door button so they could hop in the back. Maddy talked non stop the whole ride to the hotel. She talked about property law and salsa science, she reproduced so many statistics even Hankree leaped out the car as soon as they got to the hotel parking lot. Thanks bye he yelled as he ran inside, seeing Sherral waving at him from the door. Hey Honey Bunches! rang out right before Hankree got out of view. It was Kim she was walking up to the drivers side window. I see my Tiny Boy in there hey sweetie. Hey Tiny's friends hope yall have been staying out of trouble. Tiny leaped out the Van Momma Kim! he yelled then he turned back to the van. Oh yeah guys I'm going to stay the night at Momma Kim's, she promised to show me how to bake her famous pie after our appointment. Bye yall Ms. Kim said as they walked away, I'll be sure Tiny brings yall back some pie ok. Guess its just me and you Maddy said to Rouge. It sure is Rouge said smiling, I would hate to spend the night in this stuffy hotel when you could tell me more about your research! Of Course! Lets Go back to the lab! and off they drove.

Our adventurers didn't see each other again until they arrived at The Kids Party the next night with their respective plus ones. The party was amazing. but most importantly the dinos all got to try Tacos finally. After the first bite they all knew why dragons loved tacos so much, because tacos, especially tacos followed up with Ms. Kim's pie were DELICIOUS.

The End

afterwards:

Tiny changed his major to soil studies and applied to Dragon Science academy. He lived in Ms. Kim's spare room while he went to school and then purchased a house not to far away once he got his first job. They have Sunday dinner every week.

Rouge and Maddy moved in together and rouge became a poet laurate writing book after book of beautiful reflective love poems all based off Maddy and Mary.

Penelope invited Paul to prom with her, they got into a big fight after but two weeks later they made up. She now runs a fashion boutique in between fighting with Paul in Dragonland

Hankree moved to Dragonland and got a permanent room in the hotel. He is their unofficial fix it man and him and Sherral continue to spend their nights talking together in the lobby.

William "T is for Takeover" Drake went to prison, in the few days it took for his lawyer to get all the charges dropped by paying off various judges and officials a prison riot broke and and Drake was a homemade jolly rancher shank. His injuries were minimal but the maker of that shank was later found to have rabies. Williams rabies was not caught in time and he went quite mad. he is currently locked up in a federal mental asylum for the criminally insane.

Mmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmm