

## Prologue:

The night had come early that evening and Garnet was pacing outside her cave on the cliff, two of the three moons shone down making the jewels embedded in her scales glitter, Garnet once again, was worried about when the egg was gonna hatch, *HER* egg, *jeez*, she thought, *is my dragonet gonna look weird? Is she gonna lose all of her fire? Or is she gonna look slightly strange and die for it? No*, she thought, *I won't let them touch her. I will love her no matter what.* Garnet knew that the skywings were very very picky dragons and hated strange and possibly "Dangerous" dragons, Garnet was slowly feeling more and more paranoid as the moons made their cycle across the night sky.

A slim yet strong-looking male Skywing came out of the cave, "My jewel," he started sounding worried, "what is worrying you?"

Garnet turned around startled to see her husband who had been drafted for war just a week ago, "Our egg," Garnet started uneasily, "what if the tribe rejects her for being strange like those flamescales? Or how the others reacted to the mudwing-skywing mix? I don't want to lose my first child... You understand that right, Storm?"

Storm fidgeted with his claws nervously as he stared at the ground looking worried and falling silent. Garnet walked over and patted his shoulder, she then lifted his chin and kissed him on the cheek, he smiled weakly at her and Garnet felt slightly more hopeful, "if we don't get a daughter then we can still enjoy life together, I know it. Ok?"

Storm sighed and nodded, "Alright, as long as we are together."

Garnet rested her head against her lovers and they both walked back to the cave, their tails were twined together and Garnet's father lay watching the still sitting egg. He leaned his head close and put an ear to the outside of the shell, "Garnet come and listen, I hear movement." he said smiling and motioning her closer, Garnet lay down by her father and listened as well, the dragonet inside was shifting in her sleep.

Storm snapped his talons as his eyes widened, "Darling," he said growing excited, " I think I have a name we can both agree on."

Garnet shifted a bit folding her wings so they lay on the ground and covered the egg instinctively. "What?" she asked with a sarcastic smile. Storm wasn't the best at names, but he could create a fictional character's personality within half a second. Garnet listened carefully to her husband's idea.

"Gale," he said with a smile that made him look happier than he has been in weeks, Garnet smiled back, this was the first decent name by him in a while, well- the first decent name ever, she thought.

The grandfather interrupted this moment by proudly saying, "Alright Gale it is then." as he plopped his talons on top of the egg. The egg started shaking a bit more than usual.

Garnet rushed over, picked it up, sat down, and stared at it as little cracks appeared on the top of the egg, it rocked more and more until the cracks in the shell split it open, and there sat a still slightly gooey dragonet, it looked right at Garnet and reached for her nose burbling with joy, *She's beautiful*, Garnet thought, her eyes were the color of sapphires and her horns had a rare color not seen on most dragons, white and gold stripes. Her tiny nose booped her mother's as she hugged it staring into Garnet's eyes. The grandfather chuckled in appreciation at this spectacle, he looked down at his talons smiling secretly knowing he helped. Storm walked over and held his arms out for a moment, Garnet placed Gale in his arms, and Storm laid down and sang a lullaby he learned from his childhood to the dragonet, Garnet turned to her grandad for a moment and asked partially suspicious, "Cardinal, is it just me or did my dragonet hatch when you touched the egg?"

"Well, Garnet, I think she just came out because she wanted to. Besides, why would a skywing be an animus? That's ludicrous... but If you think about it though, it could happen..... I'm just kidding Garnet, HAH! Your face is priceless."

Garnet frowned at her father unamused and sighed, Storm walked over to Cardinal and gave him Gale for a moment, the elderly dragon accepted carefully and whispered sadly, "Peregrine would've loved to meet her. Garnet, Storm. Congratulations."

The Dragonet poked her claws into Cardinal's nostrils for a moment causing him to sneeze, Gale then crawled on top of his head muttering,

“fshbfsjnfjmsnfbrrfffttt...” Cardinal sneezed again from a toe in his nose and the dragonet giggled at this reaching for his nose horn trying to play with it.

Garnet felt extremely proud, her daughter was absolutely beautiful, she had the perfect daughter, and if anyone harmed her amazing dragonet, they had to face an angry mother first. Storm suddenly broke up her thoughts saying, “I think Gale is gonna do great things darling, so amazing, they almost seem magical. Trust me...”

“Yeah,” replied Garnet looking at her dragonet dreamily once more, “magical...”

# Part 1: Wind under your wings.

By Britton.



Map of Pyrrhia

(gale lives by the mountains closer to the words “sky kingdom”)

(All pictures are from online, none are mine, they are meant to be a reference point)

## Chapter 1:

Leaves and pine needles on the ground crunched under her claws as she walked, and the shadows of the trees made the path she was on look more winding, she stopped for a moment, pondered, and then walked off the dirt road she was on and went farther in. She knew she wasn't going to get lost.

“Welp... got lost. again...” she said to herself annoyed as the sun started setting slowly, the path was nowhere in sight and it was getting darker. Gale thought about her situation in the forest. “Why did I go off the stupid path again?” she asked herself, “Oh yeah, monkey thing. Gale focus, we gotta find it sometime...” She kept muttering to herself about the monkey thing as she marched forward.

Gale heard some of the Skywings in her village talk about the hairless monkeys(or scavengers), they piqued her interest and she decided to start looking for them. When she wandered into the woods her first thought was that the tiny monkey things were not food, but was in fact study worthy; of course, wandering off the path was necessary to find anything strange and new. The bad side of this, “new” study was that the dragons in the village

she lived in were unfond of anything "new". But Gale decided that this wasn't important at that moment, the little monkey thing was. but as she wandered deeper she saw something that caught her eye.



(this is gale, she's kind of a nerdy skywing  
this is the only pic that's mine, this is the only drawing that's mine.)

Gale saw a light and some shadows on some trees ahead, she crept towards the flickering light. The light danced across the trees like the tribe did to songs of the days before the scorching, an interesting topic to read at home later, she thought. Gale inched closer and expected to see a sleeping dragon; instead, she saw the monkey thing she was looking for! Around it was trinkets, jewels, mirrors, and other rarities, Gale leaned in closer to see the thing the scavenger was polishing, it looked suspiciously like dragon jewelry. As she inspected each one carefully and saw all the items missing from the village! *This is the little dragon thief...* she thought, and saw a little scroll right beside it; as she looked at it she saw little markings on the page that looked like... Writing! This thing was able to write?! *Wow*, she thought, *if they could do this, what else could they do...* She snuck behind some trees and picked up the scroll carefully, hopefully, the little creature wouldn't mind, and inspecting the scroll she saw words that didn't make sense to her but then there was a translation underneath, the little creature snuck forward and yanked the scroll away smacking her claws and making angry squeaking noises at her. Gale didn't know what was happening but she knew it had to be time to go.

As Gale ran she remembered the jewels she swiped (or yeeted) from the creature is the one thing the other dragons thought she swiped from them... so if she returned them, would she get blamed for it? or would they believe her story about the little monkey creature? She knew she had to get

home soon or else grizzly bears are known to attack young dragons, of course, she knew her way around the forest, so no biggie; but then she saw a light ahead brighter than the campfire she was at.

## Chapter 2:

As Gale wandered closer to the bright light she saw her entire village burning in crimson flames. She immediately ran off to get as many water pails by the river as possible, but she was too late. she saw the burned ashes on the ground, and the trampled footprints of another type of dragon... Sandwings... They **used to be** part of a war that was divided into three Sandwing groups, *but that ended years ago?!*, she thought, Gale walked around looking for anybody left but there was no one, a small pokey thing stabbed her and she pulled it out of her knuckle, it was a seed, under some more ashes and found a pod, *Dragonflame cactus*, Gale remembered, she tried burning one before and learned to regret it, it exploded and she flew home covered in the sharp seeds. Gale walked to her now destroyed home and found something shiny in the ashes, it was covered in soot and burned, her mothers favorite necklace. She gave it to Gale for her sixth birthday and Gale knew she was forgetful and left it at home for safekeeping, Gale never thought something this bad would happen to her mom, and yet Gale wasn't there in time to stop it. This was all on her, if she was faster she could've saved family; Gale sat down and covered her face with her claws. she cried for what felt like hours until she heard a little squeak behind her, it was the little monkey creature that followed her somehow. it walked up and patted her on her foreleg. she held back a tear and patted it as it tried comforting her. She ducked her head down and allowed it to sit on her shoulder as she flew to the desert to find any prisoners that might've been captured by the attackers. she thought that if she would do this she would need backup, sooo she turned around not wanting to die stupidly.

Gale headed east towards the mountain range, as she looked across the landscape, Gale found a nearby training camp for any skywings who wanted to join the army. As she flew down, softly dodging some trees, Gale could hear dragons practicing with spears and she dropped the Scavenger, (the monkey thing) and told it to wait by the tree. It looked like it was grumbling to itself as it sat down watching Gale carefully. As she walked towards the camp, she bumped into a young but tall Skywing, about 10-11

yrs old, and her eyes widened for a moment then she asked in a hurried tone, “Hey-do-you-know-where-the-commander-is?”

“Woah there,” said the trainee holding his talons up, “I’m new here, so why don’t you ask one of the bigger guys?” as he pointed to the bulkier dragons training with spears.

Gale didn’t even muster a “thanks.” As she ran over to them, she explained her situation to one of them. He nodded and walked her to the commander’s tent. and in about 6 minutes after the commander was done with an “important” conversation about the food tent, she then was head to head with the commander, “What is it kid? I ain’t got all day.”

“W-well you see sir...” Gale then spent the next ten minutes telling of what happened and pulled the Dragonflame cactus for good measure. The giant red dragon let out a groan as he got up from laying down, *Dang*, Gale thought sadly, *is that what happens when you get old?* The commander was still thinking about it then said suddenly, “we’ll send a search team,” he confirmed with a deep guttural voice, Gale hopped in place excitedly, The commander had a coughing fit then said, “ but if we don’t find enough evidence, we can’t go assuming there was an actual threat at the village.”

This made Gale ever so slightly hopeful for a chance at seeing family again, but also worried. She walked out feeling better but a claw tapped her on the shoulder and she turned around looking up at the commander and he said, “hey why don’t you have some food?” as he pointed toward a tent with some sort of commotion going on, “you look starved.”

Gale made her way to the tent with some strange looks in her way, as she wasn’t there normally. Gale entered the food tent and saw some dragons chanting on two older dragons that were arm wrestling. She scooted by and took some of the free cows nearby, one of the soldiers grabbed her shoulder and asked, “hey kid, wanna try old Pine over there? You look pretty capable compared to the others.”

Gale worriedly shook her head and tried walking out again, he grabbed both of her shoulders and dragged her towards the buff Skywing flexing near a pile of gold and boasting, he stopped and eyed Gale as she was shoved in his direction, “Her?!” he asked the soldier, “Ha! I can snap this kid like a twig!”



Gale took a deep breath as she was pushed to the table where the previous dragon had a sore arm. She put her elbow onto the mat and clasped claws with the elder dragon, "How old are you anyways?" Gale asked, trying to ease the tension, "29," he replied, "you might think you get taller in your twenties but no, growth stops at about 18. You're pretty tall for a dragonet your age, usually you guys are at my shoulder."

Just then Gale's stomach dropped when the referee yelled "GO"

Pine almost shoved her entire arm down before she could react, Gale pushed hard against it but she wasn't as strong as some of the boys in her village, who could drag a tree across town and not break a sweat, Gale's arm started hurting as Pine pushed harder and she struggled to hold her talons up. *C'mon, Gale thought, I can do this, arm c'mon!!! Just give me enough strength to beat this guy!* Beads of sweat were rolling down her and Pine's snouts, suddenly the impossible happened, Gale felt a surge of strength in her arm as she lifted up and slammed Pine's arm down and broke the table as it went down, the Skywings around her fell silent for only a moment, then they started cheering and grabbing the gold they lost from bets, Gale walked over and helped Pine get up gladly unharmed, he was dazed but perfectly fine overall, "Wha- what happened?" he asked, Gale shrugged still in confusion. All of the other dragons left murmuring excitedly to each other as Gale grabbed a pick of jewels she knew well, they could sell for extra money in the future, Gale picked up her plate and slowly walked out of the food tent.

She took her food out to the woods to hopefully see the little creature there. He was, the little scavenger woke up and ran up to Gale waving and had a small fire set up for the both of them.

She laid down by the tree with a small fire going and cooking the raw beef. She learned the creature didn't eat raw food and went on to cook it for both of them. She felt better knowing that help was there, and knew the proof was right there still in shambles. After a quick meal she fell asleep dreaming about the chance of seeing her mom again.

## Chapter 3:

She awoke suddenly to the sound of flapping wings above her. She ran towards the search squad in hope of good news... Gale got the opposite result. "What?!" she yelled, "impossible, I was right there!"

The guards told her it was just an empty flat where the "supposed" village was. Gale tried arguing back and trying to prove she was correct, but the soldiers just sent her on her way, sadly unable to confirm anything. As she reached the camp she made last night, the Scavenger was reading, he perked up when Gale came over and layed on the grass feeling depressed. The Scavenger grabbed the scroll, shoved it in Gale's face, squeaked angrily at her trying to get her attention, Gale looked up only for a moment, the Scavenger pointed to a section of the writing that was a bit dragonesque in handwriting. It read: "Those who cover their mistakes are more likely to be successful at being hidden" as she got interested in this scroll, scanning the scroll for it was a mix of philosophy, mumbo jumbo, and the creature's writing. She knew she had to get a skilled tracker in order to find those hidden prints. Good thing she knew a skilled tracker down in the rainforest.

Going south meant that supplies were limited. She spent the whole afternoon hunting deer, stray cows, and the occasional pheasant, gathering what she and the creature needed for the trip. Gale packed it all into a large bag she wove from straw a week earlier. Gale picked up the Scavenger, put it on her shoulder, jumped, and started flying towards the rainforest. On the 3rd day of traveling Gale reached the entrance to the Rainforest, she nodded toward the now named Scavenger and asked, "well then, ready to go in Saber?" Saber nodded, climbed up her neck spikes, and pointed towards the Rainforest squeaking and posing dramatically on Gale's head. As Gale wandered through the Rainforest listening to the howler monkeys and toucans, it was a really beautiful place, the sun shone through the leafage and the wildflowers on the ground were covered in beautiful butterflies that would ride on her head thinking she was a walking flower. As Gale walked farther in she stumbled upon a village in the trees and gasped at all the treehouses in the great gleam of the sunlit area. As she

flew up to the platforms maneuvering between hammocks and platforms with sleepy rainwings, Gale landed on a large main platform and thought, *“I can start here, time to find her.”* Gale picked a random path and walked along the busy rope bridges she heard a squeak and turned around to see a bright pink Rainwing who landed on her, the dragonet shifted colors like a chameleon and said,

“Gale-nice-to-see-you-I’ve-been-bored-for-so-long-where-were-you?!” Gale giggled and said, “Cherry, nice to see you too, can you get off?”

Later on, Gale sat by Cherry in her hammock rambling on and on about how she got her own home built and won every hide and seek contest. To the readers, Cherry is a rainwing, rainwings are a gentle tribe of lazy-ish color shifting dragons that love fruit and napping, also able to blend in with their surroundings with their color changing ability, they do have only one dangerous trait that is worthy to mention, within their fangs is a deadly poison that kills any living items and dissolves it to a bubbly black pile of goo remember that. (Here’s a photo for reference. \↓/)



(This is what Cherry looks like.)

Cherry is only 7 years old and is the best tracker in the entire village. She usually finds opponents tracks early and they usually think that they are safely hidden not from her. Gale also knew her in her years at school and got quite... close to more than friends. Anyways, back to the story. Cherry was still rambling after a while about some weird fruit she ate the other day when Gale interrupted this a bit hurriedly and said, “Thanks, but I need help with something.”

“Hey quick question, does your dad still work as a guard at the skywing palace?” Cherry asked, “he was a nice guy, what happened while I was gone?”

Gale’s once calm smile turned into a silent, grim expression, her dad worked for the palace a couple years ago but died trying to protect the throne from being stolen by the now- dead queen scarlet.

“What is it Gale?” Cherry asked, suddenly worried, “what happened to your dad? Is it something else? Bullies wanting pineapples in the face? Someone stole the town's supplies? Oh wait; got it, you lost the fruit bowl I got you? Seriously what is it?”

“Thanks for the offer Cherry, but this is a bit more serious.” Gale replied looking down somberly, “Can you find hidden tracks?” Gale asked with a bit of hope.

“Pffffff, hehe... why didn't you say so? That's gotta be some mission you're doi- WAIT OMG WHAT IS THAT CUTE THING ON YOUR SHOULDER?! (OWO)” Cherry finally noticed the Scavenger on Gale's shoulder and wanted it. She saw a cute thing and looked like she needed it.

Gale pinched her temples slightly annoyed and said, “Cherry, this one of those scavenger things most dragons talked about at school, remember?”

“Ohhhhhh” Cherry replied, her eyes sparkling a bit, “I remember now, BUT IT IS SOOO CUTE THOUGH.”

Saber waved at Cherry excitedly knowing that it liked him. *“This is gonna be a long conversation if Cherry doesn't focus, which is 97% of the time, at least she listens when I talk...”* Gale thought. She told Cherry the story of how she found Saber, then the burning village, and how the search squad came up with nothing.

Cherry then scoffed and said “Bruh, those skywings are blinder than fruit bats compared to me, I'm the best of the best, the elite, The awesomest-” Gale interrupted and asked, “Cherry do wanna come or not? I can just leave you here you know”

Cherry ran up to Gale and said, “Please no, It's boring here! Besides, everything is better with you! Please let me come!”

Gale sighed staring at the rainwing giving her puppy dog eyes, “Fiiiiinne... but only because your my best friend and I can't say no to your silly looks...”

“Yay!” Cherry said happily and hugged Gale giggling, Gale felt her face heat up a bit and pulled Cherry off.

“We should get ready to go though,” Gale mentioned, “It's a long way back to the sky kingdom.”

Just then a large Mudwing walked in taking up most of the doorway.

## Chapter 4:

Gale gulped worriedly hoping this Mudwing wasn't going to be a roadblock in her plan to hopefully save her mom.

"Hi Squelch!" said Cherry, waving madly at him with a smile that looked like it could almost split her snout in half.

"Hey you little pink ball of scales," replied the bulky dragon, "I have some new things for you to study."

"Ooh goody!" said Cherry excitedly, "you're gonna like this Gale, Squelch brings me new scents every other week; he's the best smeller around, he can find a sandwing fort hidden anywhere, and he'd still be able to find the entrance." Cherry boasted, "I like it when he's on my hide and seek team." she said, putting her talons on her chin smiling.

"Well then." Gale mumbled as she noticed the mudwing was only 8 and was bigger than most of the ones she met at school.

Gale decided to tell the mudwing Squelch about her situation as well, he denied Cherry's comments though. As I would put it, Mudwings are uh well, Mudwings, they can hold breath in their giant lungs for about 30 minutes, they are more closely related to alligators that just hang with only their head poking out looking like fallen trees on the river, they have rare eggs that are the color of dragon blood, these hatchlings are impervious to burning up like most dragons. (Here is a picture of a Mudwing↓/)



(Squelches' colors are a bit lighter like the wet insides of a tree.)

One downside of Mudwings is that they are easily led off track by food. This is definitely true for Squelch, he lost a breath holding contest by

getting distracted by a sheep leg that Cherry was cooking for him when he won. Back to the story.

“Hey Gale, I don’t think I told you how Squelch and I met,”

She grabbed Gale’s arm making her and Squelch sit down, she cleared her throat and started the story,

“You see, on that fateful, beautiful, and overall strange week, I was searching for fruits with a friend of named Cherry, turns out she’s actually my older sister, but i didn’t know that yet. I was picking berries and dragonfruit when I heard a random scream and I thought it was just a howler monkey. Until the same voice called out for help in dragon. I flew over and saw an unconscious big Mudwing in a quicksand pit, I couldn’t leave him there, so I called Kinkajou over and pulled him out, we had to bring him home and help him ourselves, he stayed in my sis’s house for about a week. When I went up to him he said he was gonna send a letter to me apparently, but he said he lot it though, in return though, he brings me scents to study with him.”

Gale thought for a moment what kind of letter it was and suddenly remembered the love letter she sent, her face heated up considerably. *Welp*, she thought, *guess i gotta reveal it in another way...*

“Skywing, is something wrong?” Squelch asked, “You seem to staring blankly for quite a bit...”

Gale shook her head, “Oh, sorry,” she said chuckling, “Was thinking about something. If you want to come your smelling skills would actually be deeply appreciated, otherwise... you could just keep being a boring old messenger.....”

“Ah,” said Squelch, “I can tell you are trying reverse psychology on me but I haven’t been to a mountain before.”

Gale then tempted him by saying, “you know I think I can find a good spot where I can take you to hunt some chubby goats.”. Squelch immediately agreed as long as he could bring 90% of his scents with him, he also wanted the scent of Saber for the “Weird monkey scent” Gale slapped her forehead and agreed to this. Then they were off for the wreckage site but had to pit stop for a gajillion bags of food. (mostly fruit.) Cherry insisted because Saber probably wanted some too. Gale didn’t argue because she knew Saber loved the giant bananas that were in the

forest. She also felt worried that the squad wouldn't be able to focus on the task.

## Chapter 5:

As they flew off they were distracted by what looked like a dragonet getting mugged in the desert, as they flown down, Gale set of a strong gust of wind to knock back the attackers that were clawing and slashing at the young dragon, Squelch rammed into them then roared to scare off the two sandwings that were attacking the smaller dragonet. Gale checked the kid and saw that she was another sandwing about only 4 yrs old covered in wounds and bleeding spots all over her, Gale checked the young dragonet and saw that she had a small scroll with her. The tiny dragonet looked up at Gale and said “Hey, you’re pretty...” then fainted. Gale blushed a tiny bit but then picked her up, put the scroll in the bag and said, “let’s go find a healer.”

Flying and carrying a small sandwing was hard at the time but Gale didn’t care, this kid needed help even if she tried running when she woke up, which wasn’t the case a while later when they stumbled upon a young traveler that had healing supplies. Later a fire was going and the traveler asked what the group was doing and Gale lied, “ just trying to get a good group for hunting.”

“Ah,” said the healer, “and you just stumbled upon this kid?”

“Yes.” said Gale, “some older sandwings were mugging her for this,” She held out a scroll with very old markings on it. The healer studied the scroll and said “I used to take ancient calligraphy for dragons,” he pointed to some markings and said “This right here is an old saying: Those who cover their mistakes are more likely to be hidden.”

Gale’s eyes widened, “THAT’S WHAT MY SCROLL HAS TOO!”

“Hm” said the healer, “this is no coincidence, how do you and this dragonet have the same scroll, yet in different languages?”

“Alright” said Gale wincing slightly, and she told him the truth about her situation and he said, “So this scavenger-now-pet, had this when your village got attacked?”

“Yes.” said Gale, then she wondered if this scroll caused the attack in the first place, “wait a minute if Saber stole this why was he able to read it?”

Saber squeaked something like: “I learned it, why do you judge me?”



Gale looked at Saber and wondered what this little guy has been through. Gale said to Saber “hey if you can read dragon can you hear it too?”

Saber looked at Gale with a glare that said, “Uh, yeah.”

Cherry interrupted with a weird noise like “deguhjflfflflfbbttt!” and Gale looked at her eating a smokeberry and realized what she did. “No!” she said, “why did you bite into that?!”

Cherry replied with “whaaat? No! I did nuffin, silly little... who are you again? Ooh! Is that a flying flock of blueberries? Can I have one...hee, hee... Whee...” Cherry looked like things were rainbow colored and honey drops were raining from the sky. Gale knew that if you ate a smokeberry you’d have hallucinations and act loopy for about 3 hours, she asked the healer if there was a cure to it and he said, “um, not really. She’s gonna be like that until morning.”

The next morning Gale checked on Cherry and she was purring like a leopard in a sunbath, then Gale checked on the young dragonet and she was having a conversation with Squelch about what happened, the dragonet calmed down because of the aromatherapy around her, calming her mood. Gale asked the dragonet what happened then she looked at the ground really shyly then looked up and told the story from the beginning: *“Well I was on my way across the scorpion den to my orphanage home. Then I saw some big bad sandwings carrying some money bags out of there and I guessed that they stole money from the orphanage funds, so I followed them and snuck into their base which was a huge clay multi-level house, then as I snuck in through a window I noticed there was a room with a open scroll with strange writing on it. As I peeked in, I saw some shifty stuff going on, like some kind of dragon cult. Then I noticed there were two scrolls, “They wouldn’t miss them” I thought. Wrong both were stolen somehow, I snuck out with a scroll and as I was going to tell the Outclaws, the group that was the law and order of the city, I was stopped by two bulky Dragons and they asked: “hey kid, happened to notice You just snuck out of our house right over there.” I skadoodled off before they could grab my nabbey bag and I flew over the wall hoping to find shelter in the desert and hoping to reach jade mountain and find help there, a day later they found me... Well, You know the rest.”*

“Wow,” said Gale, “I didn’t know that this one scroll was so important to them.”

Cherry popped up and said, “I know how to solve this!”

“How?” asked Gale, dubious of what Cherry’s thoughts were.

“It’s that we go find these dragons, pass some gas, then shove some pineapples right up their-” But Gale interrupted the plan with “Not in front of this dragonet CHERRY.”

“Sorry,” said Cherry, “well how about we go investigate the site and see if the dragons who destroyed your village left any clues those dumb skywings couldn’t find?” She asked, smiling slightly with a shrug.

And so the group was off with a farewell to the healer and with a key to the ancient writing, they also learned the name of the pale sandy colored dragonet, Dune. Gale liked it.

## Chapter 6:

When Gale's group reached the site it was as empty as the soldiers said it was, they searched for hours and nothing, that night they set up the camp and told stories by the fire and they learned more about Dune as she told stories from fights, nabbing jewelry from rich dangerous dragons, stealing to feed the orphanage dragonets and how she got into a coconut launching contest. Cherry told of how she knew Gale from the gold winglet at jade academy and how she met and saved Squelch from quicksand



(This is just what Dune looks like, or how I imagined her)

When the stars came out to travel, the 3 moons shined extremely bright, which was the rarest of all moon phases, and the group looked up at them whispering their deepest desires, (I'm not gonna say them or else you're gonna hate me) as they fell asleep Gale dreamt of seeing family and hugging her mother slowly as consciousness faded away.

Gale awoke to a shriek that was quickly muffled, from the tree branch she fell asleep on, Gale slowly gazed down at the clearing. She quickly realized that there were more than 3 dragons at the bottom, about 3 more were there, one was wearing a shrouded cloak around him? Her? Gale couldn't tell but saw one of the 3 fiends tying knots on the wings of Cherry whose claws and legs were bound, they wrapped cloth around her snout to gag her, and she was dark red with anger. Then Gale saw Squelch tied to a tree with some sort of chains holding back brute strength barking at the dragons angrily; but Dune was hovering in front of the shrouded dragon

unable to move, she could barely hear the conversation but she could hear the snake-like voice under the shroud asking where the scroll was, but every time Dune said she had no idea. Gale knew both scrolls were in her bag on the branch, She watched as Dune let out a shriek of pain as if an invisible knife was twisting into her stomach. Gale had to do something, but what?

She thought it out and realized what to do: knock out the dragon guarding Squelch, undo the locked chains, have Squelch knock out the dragon holding Cherry, then take the cloaked one by surprise and save Dune.

As Gale glided down behind the one guarding Squelch, as she snuck by she accidentally stepped on a twig making a loud snap and dodged almost 20 knives coming in her direction, they all stuck onto the tree where her head was 2 seconds ago. She looked at the clearing, the dragon holding Dune was looking in that direction and it gave the signal to check out the noise as the 2 extra large sand wings passed her, she realized that she could knock them out easily. As the 2 dragons passed her, she took a coconut and hit the first one on the head, she caught him and rested him on the tree, the next one she ran up and rammed him into a nearby boulder which made him lose consciousness. As she walked back she could hear Dune crying about not knowing the location of the 2 scrolls. Gale knew how dangerous this magic dragon was, she snuck behind the tree with Squelch struggling against the chains, She used a pick Saber pulled from the bag, Squelch hid behind the tree with Gale and whispered, "I know why he wants those scrolls," pointing toward the dragon in the clearing, it was to resurrect an ancient monster, or something like that, and take over the sand kingdom."

Gale thought about it for a second and said "hey if one scroll is a translation of the other, doesn't that mean if I read from the original one and the translation, does it allow me to use any of the spells he needs to complete the thingy?"

"Yeah guess so." said Squelch shrugging. Gale studied the two scrolls for a second and read one she thought was good, "Enchant the Item I point at, come to me." as she pointed at Cherry still struggling to get free. Cherry let out a muffled shriek as she was pulled by an invisible force. Gale

undid all the knots on her friend as soon as she reached Gale. “pew,” whispered Cherry bright green in fright, “I thought the magic guy was gonna put me in a nearby grizzly cave.”

“Well I saved your tail so you're welcome,” replied Gale bowing sarcastically, “now let's go save our other friend's tail.”

As Gale made a full circle around the dragon wearing a cloak, she saw Dune twitching, and looking like she had most of her energy drained. As Gale finally got in range of the magician, he chuckled, “ah, so you finally come for the little brat who took what's ours,” He turned around and took off his hood. Gale gasped at the sight of his face, it was shriveled with age, his eyes were as white as a dying fox waiting in the cold for death to open its arms and swoop it away. And yet his voice was my drewry and fighting then his fogged eyes it was as if his voice was the very embodiment of decay and wither.



(This is cactus, he's the evil blind Magician)

“He's blind,” Gale thought, “that's why he didn't see me save my friends.”

“Trust me young dragonet, you don't want to get yourself in this situation” he said with a sneer.

“I already am you goat butt,” Gale replied angrily.

“Well then,” he said slightly amused, “let's see what you can do with that dirty little scroll.” And he laughed as he tossed Dune into a bush knocking her unconscious. He surrounded the area with a fire wall following his movements, He summoned a dark ball of purplish, black flame and threw it at Gale she rolled aside watching as a tree behind her disintegrated into dust. She searched the scroll as he cackled gleefully hearing her search for spells, he rushed toward her with enlarged black claws and swiped at her she jumped back and read the spell “miss” and the blind dragon stumbled into a tree he then turned around hissed, the threw a

hundred sharp objects at Gale, she panicked and accidentally read “Reverse!” the blind magician gasped and put up a magical shield around him deflecting all the sharp objects, she then read another one called launch and the old dragon was launched back into the tree where Squelches chains lay. This gave Gale an Idea. She searched the scroll and said the spell “use the chains of binding to contain the evil.” The chains popped up and sank the elder dragon's claws into the ground. He just laughed and said “Nice try but I’m not done yet dragonet. I’ll be back for more, just remember this: you haven’t won yet.” then he poofed into a cloud of smoke. Gale didn’t see him for the rest of the night.

## Chapter 7:

The next morning began with curing Dune of any curses she might have had. Gale quickly learned how to use the scroll with ease, she could find the right ingredients for any potion on there and used her book skills to find the spell to heal Dune of the life drain on her. Cherry was feeling better to go back to her pink self with shades of blue in determination. Squelch embraced Dune, hugging her to calm her mood. They all were rattled from the night before, Gale knew what she got herself into, Squelch felt weaker knowing he couldn't help, Cherry was just steaming about how she was caught and tied up by that "meanie", Dune was shivering and feeling bad about herself for taking the scroll in the first place. "Guys, this is serious, I think I need to do this job alone ok?" Gale started.

Cherry walked up, poked her in the chest, and said, "you aren't going anywhere without us ok? Especially not without me miss."

Gale and Cherry argued back and forth about how the scroll should be used and whether or not to go as a team or not.

"Gale, listen, I care about you, so whether you like it or not I am sticking with you!" Cherry yelled turning red, "Think about Squelch and Dune as well! You can't just leave them here! It's almost like you don't like me right now..."

Gale's cheeks turned red and she sighed and said "Cherry listen, they're gonna hurt you, all of you on sight," She said fearfully, "I don't want what happened last night to happen again to you all. I'm scared I'll lose another dragon that I love, especially you Cherry. I was afraid to mention I like, like you until now."

At this Gale slapped a palm over her entire snout realizing what she just said.

"Wait, do you have a crush on me?" asked Cherry, eyes widening at this statement.

"I-uh-well-um-in a way... Fine yes I do... I've had a crush on you since I left the school we went to, I wanted to see you again since you

made me happy just being near you.” replied Gale turning redder than she was already and mumbling something to herself.

“Wow” said Cherry, “I secretly thought of you that way, well fantasies were always unreal to me; but my favorite one came true!” Then Cherry hugged Gale turning a raspberry pink and whispered, “Thanks for telling me this, I’ve secretly been hoping that you like me back.”

Gale’s face heated up still embarrassed and confused on what to do she hugged Cherry calming down a bit.

“Eeeeeewww” said Dune sticking out her tongue, “no kissing please, it’s gross enough.” Saber walked up beside Dune, nodded, and stuck out his tongue making a retching noise, Dune giggled at this.

Squelch laughed his head off at this as well and said “Well if you think that’s gross lemme lift up my arms to expose the beautiful scent of armpit town!”

Dune jumped back hugging Saber carefully and said “I’m sorry guys! I’ll respect this... relationship, in a way.” She put him down and Saber just sat down crossing his legs watching it unfold.

“It’s alright,” said Gale without a worry, “we won’t be the love doves you’re thinking of, we’ll just focus on what we have to do first.”

Later that day... “Hey guys look at what I found!” Gale’s head shot up and saw what Cherry was pointing at, it was a small black jewel that was really reflective. Gale snorted some smoke out and said sarcastically, “wow... it’s pretty, but how are we gonna find that gang that attacked us last night? Or the guys who had this cactus?” She held up the dragonflame cactus; the mirror-like jewel answered this for her. “Useless maggots!”

All of the dragonets jumped back at the sound of this and looked at the smoke, it showed three sandwings arguing with each other, listening to the polished obsidian they heard the entire conversation, “Useless ingrates!” one of them said, “You had a simple job and you got knocked out by a 7 yr old? She didn’t even use a spell yet a-a-and you failed me! ME! Why did you even join this group? I should banish you for this you...” From a darkened corner he was interrupted by a booming regal yet angered filled voice that not even thunder could overpower



“Reverend, do you blame these two workers for not grabbing the scroll that you had to retrieve?”

“no Master.”

“Good, now let us discuss *your* punishments in front of these two, hm?”

“Please Master, spare these two of what I have felt all these years, they aren’t ready to hear what I have done to get here!”

“No one asked you, Cactus,” said the voice. on the mirror the dragonets saw the rest of the conversation on the surface of the obsidian, as the Sandwing leaned in to whisper in cactus’s ear showing that his form was only a illusion as he leaned in, his form began to shift and move revealing a single skull with floating eyes glaring cactus down filled with an unending rage.

“unless you want to age once more and join the young 300s,” the master asked.

“No sir” said the magician cactus, “I won't fail you master of the forgotten monsters, lord of necromancy, thy greatest of magic, Scorch, my faithful lord.”

The dragonets looked at each other with fear in their eyes of this monstrous evil doer, Squelch broke the silence with a fearful fart. Nobody laughed.

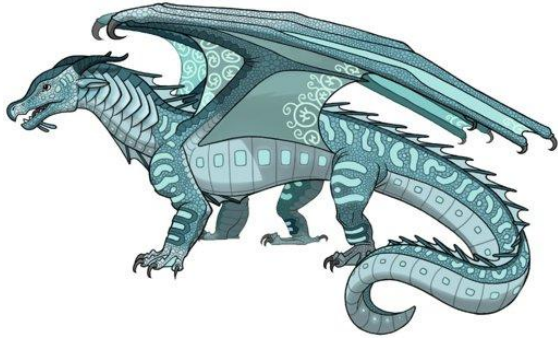
# Chapter 8:

They set off to the eastern beach to find the healer, when they saw him flying toward them with ease, he said “When did you decide to come back?”

Gale said “When Scorch decided to send people after us.”

The healer replied confused by this, “Who?”

Later on that night the healer told them who he was, he said his name was Ray and he was a seawing.



(this is Ray)

As Ray told them all of his stories about what happened within a few days, then Gale told him her side of the story of how Cactus caught her and her friends off guard, to how she learned how to use magic, and about the obsidian mirror. They left out the part where Gale said she loved Cherry. Ray was extremely surprised by the news of Scorch and said “Who again? Is he a really old evil dragon that died way back then?”

“Well,” said Gale, “if you say it like that, then yes, he escaped his grave and is now back to resurrect a horrible monster of some sort.”

“This monster you speak of, I heard some stories about it. Though I believe them not to be true.”

“What?! C’mon tell us!,” asked Cherry, “tell us, tell us, tell ussssss!”

“Fine,” said the young seawing, “*it began in the years of the years of the sandwing wars, when 3 daugh-*”

“Booooring!” said Cherry, “I just wanna hear the part where I can shove some smoke berries down that monster’s throat, you know how that will end; with me going Blam! Kapow! Kick it til it’s ded, by me! The greatest hero ever!”

“Do you want to die a horrible painful death not knowing when the monster will appear?” Ray asked, giving Cherry what looked like the hairy eyeball Gale’s grandfather used to give to her.

“No.” Cherry squeaked out shrinking a bit.

“Good,” replied Ray, “now does anyone else want to speak? Please do now or forever hold your quotes.”

Gale listened carefully as he began with the story of the sandwing succession and how the dragonets of destiny saved all of the dragons on the continent from war. Going back to the war of the 3 sandwing princesses and told of how the daughter named burn asked a magical dragon in her kingdom to resurrect a ancient horror, It was a gruesome beast full of anger and malice for the changing of the world it consumes oases with a single bite, cities fall before it, the group summoned a ancient nightwing named darkstalker, he awoke and killed off the three sisters and took the throne for himself. The dragonets of destiny stood up to him and after defeating the animus, the sandwing dragonet Sunny took the throne. Apparently the right ceremony was never completed when the war ended, so the group angry that the pay from the princess was never payed, they went on and continued the summoning. But way back when; their old leader was executed when the old queens saw his crimes and punished him for it. The gang already resurrected him, “we didn’t know of this dragon revival until now.” he finished.

Ray told the 4 dragonets there might be some magic powered items they need, probably because in order to stop this evil dragon, what they needed was the Lost scepter of banishment given to the Mudwing territory, The obsidian mirror which they already had, the 2 scrolls of truth and hidden secrets. They just needed one more to complete the banishment of Scorch.

“Well it’s gonna be easy to find that little scepter in Mudwing territory isn’t it?” Asked Gale.

“Ummmm,” said Squelch, sucking his teeth, “well about the scepter... The queen of mudwings has it.”

## Chapter 9:

“Breaking into the Mudwing palace to steal it?!” said Gale befuddled by the quote as they flew to the mud kingdom.

“Yeah.” said Cherry, “it's like stealing a polar bear from an Icewing, hilarious, yet dangerous.”

“No, no, no, no, nooo,” said Dune, “I tried that before and regretted it. Don't make phrases you don't understand, Berry.”

“It's Cherry,” Cherry corrected annoyed, “and I will not be bullied by a tiny 3 yr old.”

“Ok,” said Gale to herself as she landed outside the palace, “all you have to do is use a copy spell on the Scepter, then you can go on your way.”

Squelch looked at the 3 dragonets arguing and/or busy overthinking it with each other, they were his “team” apparently. So he did the most sensible thing and walked in and out for a total of about 5 minutes. He walked out with the scepter. He then put it in Gale's thought infested claws. “Oh,” said Gale, suddenly disappointed, “How did you do that?”

Squelch held up the 2 scrolls and said “Copy spell, take the real one and put the other one by the empty throne, no questions asked.”

“Wow,” said Gale, “well, this is kind of awkward.”

The 4 dragonets went to an open field set up camp and layed down for the night, the next morning Gale noticed something was wrong, “Where's saber?” she asked suddenly worried, “he was sleeping right here,” as she pointed to a spot of flattened grass.

Gale looked over and saw Dune playing pat-a-claw with Saber as he hugged Dune. “Aww,” Gale said, “you two look really cute together.”

Saber perked up then ran up and climbed up her scales pointing toward the forest. Gale sat up and started going in unsure of the reason why she was. As she traveled further in, Saber looked kind of fidgety and happier. “Hey Saber, where are we going?” she asked, Saber just drew a picture of a house and pointed to it.

“Ok so we are going to your home?”

Saber nodded. Gale just went with it and kept going forward.

When Gale stumbled upon the clearing in the woods, and she was in awe, Gale saw all of the Scavengers working about the tiny village and none of them noticed her until a child stopped and looked at Saber gasping and yelling to him in excitement, Saber hopped down and hugged the small child as if it were family. All the other Scavengers saw her and gasped in fear, Gale lay down and waited for Saber to tell her what was going on. Saber let go of the small child and walked into a hut and he and two gray haired scavengers came out with him and gasped at Gale as well. Then he pointed to Gale and squeaked some words to the village she couldn't define but the rest of the villagers ran to Saber and congratulated him for something Gale didn't understand. Gale laid down with her chin on the ground watching the Scavenger village communicate with Saber about something. Then Saber walked the 2 elderly scavengers and pointed to Gale, the 2 creatures hobbled over as they patted Gale on the snout and squeaked something to her. Gale had no idea what was going on and made a shrug gesture at Saber, his eyes widened and he ran towards a nearby hut. He ran out with some paper and a feather. Saber wrote something and held it up for Gale to see, it said in dragon, "Dear Gale I have extremely enjoyed being your shoulder pal, but as a town warrior I must leave, I have told this town about your kindness to others and they believe if they can learn dragon it could change everything, we must ask a favor of you, will you leave us a scroll with dragon conversation words and pronunciation for when you might come back we can talk to you or any other dragon that comes around. When you come back please tell us of the adventures you had, I must stay, but I enjoyed traveling with you. Do what you must, but don't let others eat us. We humans dislike it. Goodbye Gale."

Gale held back a small tear and whispered her thanks in Sabers direction, he ran up and hugged her leg like he did the first time they officially became pals, Gale spent an hour writing and practicing scavenger and dragon with Saber, when the sun was setting Gale had to whisper goodbye sadly, Saber looked up and smiled hopefully as he stepped back and waved goodbye to a friend.

Gale walked back through the forest sadly and reached the clearing and sniffled a little bit as Cherry finished the game of flat card match with Squelch and Dune. "Hey, where is Saber?" asked Dune.

“He went back home,” said Gale, “to his village, where he had family waiting for him.” Gale smiled knowing she would see Saber sometime soon.

When Cherry put up the game of flat card match she asked Gale, “hey, what about we go to jade mountain for a while? We can possibly get Dune signed up for it, I mean, I would like to revisit some old class memories.”

“Yeah, that’s a pretty good Idea Cherry,” Gale replied, “Dune what do you think?”

The little dragonet had her chin in her claws and replied, “What is it like there? Is it nice? Will I learn about the whole continent?”

Gale answered by saying, “well I’ve spent a whole year there and it’s really cool. I think you’ll make a bunch of friends from across the different tribes. Each group has at least one of every type of dragon, and some of the teachers are the dragonets of destiny, even though they aren’t dragonets any more.”

“Wow,” said Dune looking starry eyed, “could I possibly learn to read there too?”

“Wait a minute,” asked Cherry, “you’re saying you don’t know how to read?!” Cherry looked bewildered and then said, “know what? I’ll definitely agree to let you in if you are able to read my book series that I’m writing when you’re done with school.”

Dune thought about it for a second and said, “sure I’ll go, but don’t I need a parent to sign me in?”

This thought made Gale realize something, you needed to be over 10 yrs old in order to take parental responsibility for a dragonet. Nobody in this group was older than about 7, until Gale remembered that any dragonet is allowed in. Parent or not. She responded to the comment by saying, “Actually this school is pretty open to anyone who wants to learn, also if you already went there before, then you can take advanced classes too.”

Squelch replied, “Then it’s settled, let’s go everybody.”

Gale packed everything up and said, “Wait! We need a way to contact each other since the 3 of us are getting Dune back from school after we storm that sandwing gang’s hideout.”

“Hold on, wait a minute!” cried Dune, “can’t we wait for that? We’ve been through enough already, can’t we learn more before we do anything?”

Gale thought about this, she knew the longer they waited the more likely Cactus and Scorch were able to summon the monster, her thoughts were interrupted by Dune saying, “The bad guys don’t have the scroll they need, so they can’t summon whatever, whenever they’re gonna want. So can we go to the school pleeeeeease???”

Dune had a point, Gale thought, she had the scroll that was needed for the summoning. Scorch had nothing to use for now, so, why not take a break?

“Alright,” said Gale, “let's go to school.”



# Part 2: the learning curve

## Chapter 10:

Arriving at jade mountain was impressive enough, but when you get inside all you can say is, woah. Gale felt the same way that she did when she entered a couple years ago, as they walked in a nightwing walked up to them and cheerfully said, “Hi, Gale, Cherry, Squelch, and... Who are you little dragonet?”

Gale said, “Fatespeaker, this is Dune, we met her the other day and now she’s a good friend of ours, we were wondering if you could possibly apply her to a basic course and prepare us a cave maybe?”

“Well,” hummed Fatespeaker, “since we always have open spots here, we can work on a new winglet of dragonets for an obsidian winglet.”

“Then it’s settled.” Gale assumed, “Wait, what about Dune?”

“Oh, oh my, I’m so sorry I forgot to add her to a low grade winglet, we have space in the jade section, those dragonets kind of never want to stay put.” Fatespeaker said with a giggle, “We do have some other dragons that are already educated but wanna learn more about other tribes, that is why the newly added obsidian winglet is always open for returning students.”

“Wow thanks Fatespeaker,” said Gale, “umm about the caves?”

“Oh! Yes, your caves are down there by the green hall.”

As Gale’s group walked toward the green hall Dune asked,

“hey is this mountain just a big scary-” Dune’s comment was cut off by her looking at the light green hallway with vines hanging from the ceiling, a large amount of sunshine filled the green cave top’s leaves. The moss covered floors were comfortable to walk on, then Gale looked at the little dragonet seeing the wonder that Gale had all those years ago at jade mountain. As Gale walked into their room she saw a small hammock, an extra large bale of hay, a small rocky outcrop, and a bamboo mat on the floor. All beds came with deerskin pillows with wool inside, and there was a wooden scroll holder by the doorway, as Gale settled on the outcrop she

noticed that Dune was pacing on the bamboo mat and fluffing on her pillow a lot. "You stressed?" asked Gale in a worried tone.

"Yeah-I mean no not at all, I'm fine, heh heh." Dune replied sheepishly looking down.

"I can tell," said Gale smirking, "I replied the same way when I first started at this school, no sense of what was going on, lost, friendless, until Cherry came along and showed me different, I was only 5-ish. Right Cherry?"

Cherry looked up from the hammock and said, "mrm hmph." She had a face full of mango that she was snacking on, she swallowed and then replied with, "yep, most nervous Skywing I ever met, what a bore that she only wanted to hide under her pillow, until I dragged her tail to class and she cheered up a little bit, then when she went to the (air quotes) *nerd-section* and she sat there reading and so I walked up then asked about being friends, and now you know what happened."

"Hm," said Dune, "will you at least accompany me during lunch?"

"Yeah! We all will meet up by the fruit pile with our own food to eat, Gale will be there, Squelch too, you could also invite some of the dragonets you met Dune!" replied Cherry looking optimistic.

"Hey Cherry," said Squelch, "if you don't mind, I gotta bring my scents by the library tomorrow morning is that ok?"

"You don't need to ask me Squelch, that's all on you, ok?" said Cherry.

"Ok but hear me out, let me use one tonight," Squelch replied.

Gale watched as Squelch opened a scent jar and let the smells come out; Gale noticed that his nostrils were closed up and she realized what was happening, "Squelch don't do that!" she yelled.

But it was too late, the smell filled the room with the smell of cow farts and everyone was coughing and gagging at the scent of methane. "Don't worry, I made this one so it dissipates quickly and quietly; on the other hand, ALL OF YOU JUST GOT PRANKED BRO!" Squelch laughed his head off as everybody was yelling at him for making it in the first place, they

all calmed down and giggled at this practical joke a bit as he pulled out another jar and let out the scent of lavender to calm the angry dragonets.

“You suck.” said Gale as she un-pinched her nostrils, “was that actual cow farts?! Or just a smell?”

“Just a smell Gale, did you think I’d store a flammable gas in a jar? That would be too dangerous for the fire breathing dragons in this room.”

Later that night, Gale glared at Squelch as he fell asleep on the straw bed hugging his pillow then eventually snoring, Gale looked up at the ceiling wishing what happened in the mountains didn’t.

*“You’re not where you’re supposed to be,”* Gale awoke with a start, she was in a room that was all dark except for the red glowing eyes on the walls, *“now tell me little dragonet, why do you have what’s ours?”* asked a slithery voice coming from everywhere, *“You know that it is impossible to hide forever, I can see all things of course, why don’t you look over here where we can make an arrangement?”* Gale looked over by a torchlit wall and saw an exquisite looking dragon by the wall sitting on a regal looking chair playing with what looked like a little blue star, he looked over and said, *“Ah, so you’re the one who made my favored magician fail; such a pity, you are so young, so innocent, so...WEAK. HA! I can tell you’ll be an easy dragon to extract information from.”*

Gale squinted at the sandwing for a second and saw who he was, then let out a stifled gasp backing up into a wall, “Y-you’re the one who sent Cactus!”



(This is What Scorch looks like faraway)

*“Ah, an admirer I see. Why don’t you come closer to me so we can formally talk?”*

Gale felt herself being pulled forward and collapsed at his feet, she looked up in distress to see the true face of horror. The once stunning looking dragon now rotting apart like a fruit left in the sun. Scales dripped down his oozing flesh, maggots squirmed and crawled in and out of the gaping holes of his body giving way for all of those who gazed upon him to have a good glimpse of his shrunken and rotten insides. he smiled at her and said

*“ah, yes, the illusion of youth, while I was resurrected; I also had to deal with the absence of the skin I lost, I had no taste, no feeling, and no sense of life, until I had the scroll in my claws, it gave me the power to fully restore what was my youth; but now, You have it, and I want it back. If you don’t take the deal I can convince you in other ways ok?”*

“Why?” asked Gale scared, “Who are you anyway? You can enter dreams which are pretty dangerous and could destroy everything! Why can’t you satisfy yourself with that power?”

At this the rotten corpse laughed in a way that was impossible in his state, his shrunken lungs wheezed in protest, he looked at her in annoyance and said, *“Satisfied? **Satisfied?** Oh, never! I have spent too much time dilly-dallying with these... simple magic tricks! Now is the time to take this useless little continent into my own claws! With the power of that scroll I can resurrect any ancient beast and force them down like the worms they always were, I can make myself fully living! You want to know who I am? I was the head commander during the scorching, I killed thousands! I am the one who was executed under fear, I am Scorch the animus, and you will bow to my will!”*

Gale looked at Scorch and said in a bored tone, “You know, you were pretty scary at first, but this is a bit overkill.”

*“Well then if this is too much then why don’t we try toning it down a little bit?!?”* Scorch replied angrily as the temperature dropped dramatically, Gale fought for warmth as the room started freezing over and cracks appeared under her talons, but then she realized that it was only a dream, she looked at Scorch and stuck out her tongue and said, “Nice try sucker!”

As she pinched herself on the arm as hard as possible and finally woke up, it was morning; and Gale was late for class.

## Chapter 11:

As Gale rushed to her class and went in and saw the 4 other students watching and listening closely to the teacher, one of them was a nightwing doodling hexagons on the corner of his paper, another was an icewing, with waves of coldness coming from her, a sandwing in the back corner was snoozing on her books, and finally the seawing; it. Was. Ray. Gale's eyes widened as she walked by him and whispered, "How did you get here before us?" He whispered back, "I was already here, when you saw me I was collecting herbs and animal parts for medicine."

The teacher looked up at them and said, "Ah, Gale, you're finally awake after your "zombie dream"?"

Gale shot a glance at Cherry viciously and Cherry shrugged it off at Gale and said, "what? I was trying to explain the situation of why you're late."

Gale glared at Cherry and then turned her focus back to the teacher talking about how the Scorching changed the entire continent of Pyrrhia, the Nightwing raised his hand and said "Excuse me ms.Tsunami? Do you have any Idea how the Scorching happened?"

Ms.Tsunami replied with, "Truthfully nobody knows, no-one has been around to study Orion. Some say it was a war between scavengers and dragons. I don't buy any of that junk personally, I say it was global warming."

Gale's eyes widened again, was that Tsunami the lost princess from the dragonets of destiny? *Wow*, she thought, *she always learned under one of the dragonets of destiny's care-takers Webs, but now her?!* Gale sighed and put her head in her claws, this was gonna be a pretty good year she thought. Just then Cherry's arm shot up and she said, "Ooh,ooh, I know! I know!"

Tsunami looked at her and said sarcastically "Really, you know what caused an entire continent to change shape? *Wow*, tell me everything."

Cherry took a deep breath and said, "Well me and my friends Gale and Squelch were checking out a burnt down village when some bad guys appeared and caught some of us and Gale went Kablam! Kaplow! Then

she stood up against a magic guy who was, like, 200% evil and beat him up with another bit of magic she found then the next morning we found a piece of obsidian and heard the leader of the bad guys talk to the magic bad guy and say his name Scorch and he was like, a bajillion years old, looked undead and stuff, and I think that's who made that happen."

Tsunami stared at Cherry with a sarcastic expression and said, "Anyone else want to share before we lose more of our brain cells to a story?"

Cherry crossed her arms and huffed as Tsunami described the days before the scorching where scavengers ruled supreme over the large continent and how there weren't as many dragons around. The Icewing raised her hand and asked, "How could those tiny creatures stick around? How were they able to rein over the continent when there were still a lot of dragons around?"

Tsunami replied to this comment with "Well what I know is that the scorching reverted this continent to what it is now, but good question Polus."

As the class ended with Tsunami handing out homework sheets, Gale walked with Cherry to the lunchroom and asked, "How did you know about my dream?"

Cherry replied, "well you were murmuring in your sleep about a zombie dragon, must have been some nightmare."

"Cherry, that was exactly my dream! Scorch had a weird little blue star and was in my dream controlling every bit of it."

"Hey look," Cherry interrupted, "Dune has already made some new friends."

Gale looked over and saw what Cherry said was true, Dune was sitting with a small seawing by the lunch caves mini river and talking to him about her adventures with Gale; she looked over and waved at Gale. Gale smiled at this and unknowingly intertwined her tail with Cherry's. Cherry's eyes widened for a second, her face slowly turned a raspberry color; Gale noticed it too and looked away smiling at what happened, she then turned her attention back to Dune. Dune's jaw dropped seeing Gale holding tails with Cherry, giggled at it for a second and then whispered something to her friend, he gasped and whispered something back to her. Then Dunes' face

perked up and walked over to ask them, "My friend Clam over there wants to know if you two know if his older brother Ray who goes here, wait a minute... Ray... That healer guy is here??!!"

"Yep," replied Gale smiling, "we met him in the first class for today and guess who our teacher was?"

"Who?" asked Dune.

"The lost princess, dragonet of destiny, and principal of this school; Tsunami. She's just as awesome as they say she is." Gale replied smiling.

"Wow, I've heard of her all over the school as The Principal, but never met her in person! Do you think that you could introduce me to her pleeeeeeease?"

"Sure, but the thing is that the other dragonets of destiny might be here too." said Gale with a sneaky smile.

"Well except Glory, she's busy running the rainforest." Cherry mentioned.

The small seawing hopped up, walked over to the 3 dragonets talking and randomly asked, "Hey I just noticed both of your tails are twined together, are you and the Rainwing dating?"

Gale's eyes widened and undid her tail from Cherry's and they both blushed deeply at this comment. "Sorry," Gale said, "but no, me and Cherry aren't really dating yet. We like each other though." she said fidgeting with her claws.

Clam looked at Dune and said, "Hey see ya later, i'm going to hang with my older brother near the river out in the clearing over there."

He pointed to an open wall of the cave where there was a small forest and a snaking river with some dragons cooking fish in the distance. Clam waved bye to the 3 dragonets hopped out and flew toward there.

Gale finished her food and went straight to the library with Dune holding her hand, Dune skipped and sang about palm trees along the way. As they walked in they saw the blind nightwing Starflight, one of the older dragonets of destiny, sorting out scrolls by touch, he turned to the sound of a door opening and said, "Please state your names before you read."

"Hi Starflight," said Gale, "I have come with a new student, and I have also come to get her a library pass."



“Ah, nice to see... well eh, hehe, talk to you again Gale,” said Starflight adjusting his blindfold, “and what is your name little dragonet?”

“I’m Dune,” Dune said proudly, “I have come to learn how to read.”

Starflight walked over and felt his claws across Dunes face to see what she looked like and then said, “Dune, there is a bag and a stamp over there to use for scrolls, pick up any scroll you want, just remember to return it.”

Dune picked up the bag and stamp then walked over to a wall to pick up a scroll with the dragon alphabet on it.

Gale searched the shelves and saw the scroll called animus items, she picked it up and started reading, it started off with an introduction of animus dragons through history, it started with a handsome looking Nightwing named Darkstalker he made multiple items, then he turned evil and then was sealed away in fear of him. The scroll had an erased section with what looked like a slight desert with a dragon on it. *I think they used to have Scorch on here until a while ago...* Gale thought, the next one was Jerboa, a sandwing animus that worked for the queens and then mysteriously disappeared.

The next five were Seawings, Prince albatross, Fathom, Orca, Anemone, and Turtle. Only princess Anemone and prince Turtle were alive now. The next part was a bunch of Icewings that were animus too, *Too much*, thought Gale, then she skipped ahead and found the animus items she was looking for. She realized that the little blue star thing was a Dreamvisitor, an Item used to go into the dream of any named dragon.

She realized that the third missing Dreamvisitor was in the claws of Scorch. He could imagine her and find her dream as easily as finding a great white in a small pond. She walked out and told Dune that she was gonna sleep for the night, “Time to fight this darn Dream dragon...” Gale said to herself.

## Chapter 12:

When Gale walked into the sleeping cave she saw Squelch working on the homework Tsunami passed out earlier. "Is it hard at all?" Gale asked.

"Nah," replied Squelch, "it just required you to actually listen to the teacher in order to get the answers, besides, she was the one who wrote the questions."

"Oh," said Gale, "well then, I can complete this in a short amount of time."

Gale finished it but had a little trouble for the first few questions for she wasn't there for it, but finished it quickly without any other problems. Cherry walked in yawning with Dune following behind, still reading the scrolls she had surprisingly quickly learned how to read. Cherry plopped down on the hammock, finished the work and started to snooze. Dune put down the scroll she was reading and asked Gale, "What did you mean by dream dragon? You were talking to yourself about it when you left the library"

"Oh, um, it's not something you have to worry about for now Dune." Gale replied, faking a smile.

Dune yawned and fell asleep, probably dreaming about another really cool school day.

Gale watched as everybody in the room fell asleep. She lay on her back thinking about the night before, Why her? Why is he targeting me? She thought to herself about the reasons why Scorch was going after her, she soon fell asleep knowing that he would appear again.

*"Welcome back dragonet." Scorch said behind Gale, "I haven't forgotten how you rudely left our... Little conversation."*

He said the word "conversation" like it left a distasteful feeling in his mouth. Gale turned around to see Scorch standing right behind her looking down at her like she was a bug that landed on his food. "What do you want now, Scorch?" Gale asked concerned.

“Me?” he asked innocently, *“Why, I came for you of course. Why wouldn’t I take the chance to terrorize what I consider an enemy right now. Of course it does get boring when there are only two dragons in the mix.”* Scorch smiled and said, *“how about I add one more?”*

He snapped his claws and Dune appeared from nowhere. She looked around for a second confused, saw Gale and immediately ran to her side hugging Gale’s forearm fiercely. *“Aww, you got a little buddy, how cute, but I remember this troublesome dragon, she evaded my men for three days straight. Now, I have all my enemies here.”* Scorch said teasingly waving at Dune.

“Why would you bring her here, this is between us, but why terrify her?” Gale asked. “To get me to side with you? This doesn't change anything, I have a good feeling that the mountain we are at is impenetrable. Besides, you wouldn't find this school even if you had a student here.” Gale immediately realized she gave up her location to him and backed away holding Dune in her arms.

*“Well, well, you finally told me exactly where I needed to find you.”* Scorch said sarcastically, clapping his claws together, *“Well done Gale, you have that one scroll, that one tiny thing I need, all that I need to officially become a **GOD**; you did such a good job trying to hide the truth from me. Too bad your mind is not as secure as you thought.”*

He reached his slowly decaying claws towards Gale’s forehead, his face looked blank but she knew he was enjoying this. Gale was holding a sobbing, terrified dragonet, in her arms. His claw was about to touch her forehead when he arched backward then backed up writhing in pain to an invisible force when he dropped to the ground, Gale saw who saved her and Dune, it was Cherry holding a Dream Visitor with multiple smoke berries in her claws.

“hey bet you didn't know smoke berries had anti magic properties!” She yelled, “Dune, Gale! Get out of here! I can take him!”

Scorch got up, pointed, and hissed, *“Begone dragonet!”* Cherry gasped and disappeared from the dream. Scorch got up, breathed in and stared at the remaining two dragonets huddled in the dark rooms corner, he started advancing towards Gale and Dune once again, *“Not even the most powerful spells can stop me!”* he said losing the look of a beautiful dragon

phasing in and out of the dream, *“I am tired of these small games, time to end every, last, one! If you think winning is possible, think again! You have no chance, no family to rely on, no hope, this dream world is mine to command! You will never see light, time to ensure an eternal slumber for those who oppose me.”*

Gale looked at the rotting dragon looking for any- she realized what flaws there were in this dragon design, it was a decaying corpse after all, Gale put down Dune still shivering in fear and started charging toward the angry rotting dragon at full speed, she imagined him breaking up into a million pieces. Almost quite comically Scorch’s eyes expanded in realization when Gale’s horns hit, the gruesome remains of what was Scorch lay in a heap of flesh and bone on the ground. Gale stepped back from the slowly disappearing pile and shook Dune to get her out of shock, “He’s gone Dune,” said Gale, “he won’t bother us for a while.”

Dune looked up and saw what Gale said was true, there where what was once a deep dark room was now an open field free to explore.

The morning following the dream Gale looked at Cherry’s sleeping area to find a stolen Dream Visitor and smoke berries in her hammock, Gale realized that Cherry stole the dream visitor from the office of jade mountain and in order to protect Gale from Scorch taking precautions probably. Dune got up yawning and glanced at Gale with a smile knowing that she was saved from the “zombie dragon” and had a good dream for the rest of the time.

Gale picked up the Dream visitor from the claws of Cherry and put it back in the office. She walked down the hallway to her sleeping cave in order to get school supplies, when she walked in everyone already left for class, Gale knelt down to grab her homework and scroll bag when she was grabbed from behind.

## Chapter 13:

Gale was dragged down the hallway by some invisible force, she tried calling for help but was quickly muffled by a large claw over her snout. She was dragged outside right into the forest surrounding the mountain range and thrown into a tree. She sat up groggily as the two attackers took off hoods and showed their two heads, it was the two sandwings from the night she and her friends were attacked, she stared at them for a minute then collapsed from a sudden feeling of exhaustion. Gale saw that the dragon approaching from between the two males was a dragon she dreaded ever meeting again; Cactus. "Ah nice to see- well, not really see but meet you again young one, that tracking spell worked quite a charm now didn't it? My lord Scorch is so smart." said Cactus in his wheezing tone, Gale tried to get back up but the two other sandwings shoved her into the tree holding her still.

Cactus summoned a black knife and pointed at Gale's heart, "I've been wanting to do this for a while now young skywing. Time to actually kill y-" he didn't even finish his sentence when a swordfish hit him in the face.

Ray walked out from between the trees with a bag full of fish in his claws, "Sup," he said looking at the situation, "hope you don't mind some extra heavy fish in the face this morning, heard it could wake you up. Oh, hi there Gale, looks like you might need a little help. Don't worry my fair maiden, I'll dispose of these two." He then posed heroically.

"Get him." hissed Cactus still laying on the ground.

Ray stepped forward dropping the bag behind him and started walking toward the two large sandwings, they lunged at him and he by stepped the first hit holding his arm out and tripped the first sandwing. Ray ducked under the other jumping at him and raked his claws across the dragon's stomach, the sandwing fell with a nasty scratch on the side of his stomach. The tripped sandwing got up and breathed fire in Ray's direction, he simply sidestepped it and rammed the first dragon in the ribs, Gale heard a cracking sound and winced at the sound of it.

She stood up and stared at Cactus slowly get up like he he had trouble standing in the first place, he glared at her, then pulled out a ring of

purplish black fire and shot all twelve at Gale, she ran off and dodged all of them except for one but a flying fish stopped it as it almost touched Gale. She turned around and saw Ray trying to fight off the magician but Cactus had too much range for Ray to land a single hit, he was knocked down by a pile of heavy branches slamming into him, Gale saw what happened flew straight at the old sandwing and as he was about to land a final blow on Ray's beaten body, he looked over and gasped as Gale pushed him back, Gale then flapped her wings to cause a small whirlwind and blow Cactus off key to finally whack him upside the jaw with her tail to finish him off, she looked at Ray and he was sitting there casually taking sticks off him like nothing happened, "What?" he asked, "I already took out the other two, what more do you want?" He pointed to two sandwings struggling to get out of a fishing net hung from a tree.

Just then a dark hole appeared under the unconscious Cactus swallowing him as he was taken back possibly to the gang hideout, Gale looked at the now empty fish net where two sandwings were just there. Ray picked up Gale's things and said, "lets go to my mini office."

It was afternoon by the time they finished walking back to the school, they went down a gray-blue hallway; the color of the ocean, and Ray opened a door and said, "the office is always in business if you need some help." Ray's room was a bit smaller than Gale's, but this was because a small cabinet was in the corner full of healing supplies, ranging from crab leg cream to heal burns, to seaweed bandages for helping stop bleeding, also there was... "WHAT ARE YOU DOING WITH THAT?!" Gale roared pointing at the open scroll laying on the cabinet, not just any scroll; The magic scroll.

"Sorry I had to steal- I mean borrow some of the recipes in the potion section in case the concoction I was making went wrong." Ray muttered.

"What concoction?" said Gale, still fuming.

"Ummm a medicine with the power to erase an item with just your mind. Heh."

"DUDE! That medicine probably could possibly hurt someone, or summon something that looks like Cactus's purple fireballs!" Gale yelled watching Ray shrink a little.

"Oh, I didn't know that, sorry Gale."

“You should be sorry!” She said storming around the room, “Do you know how dangerous that could be...”

Gale scratched her chin for a second and then asked, “wait does this concoction summon the weird fireball things?”

“No! It just says to name any harmful thing and make it disappear forever.”

“Oh,” said Gale, “move along then, sorry about that, still traumatized about what happened this morning. I really am sorry.”

“It’s ok.” he said, went straight to the cabinet, pulled some seaweed bandages and then wrapped it around Gale’s bruises, and his cuts. They both sat down and Ray asked, “Who were those guys?”

“The same bad guys we told you about when we saw you again.” Gale replied as she felt the seaweed press against her scales, “We have the darn scrolls and magic items hidden from them, but they can still find us and try to force an answer out of us.”

“That’s awful,” said Ray scooting closer and placing his talons on hers, “how do you deal with this? They are literally hunting you down and you shrug it off like it’s nothing.”

“I know,” said Gale pushing him back and hugging herself, “Scorch has been visiting my dreams ever since we got here. It’s been annoying.”

“You know there is a temporary mind protection spell in that scroll right?” said Ray holding up the scroll.

“Wow thanks Ray, but this is pretty lengthy to me...” said Gale looking nervously over at the scribbles he was pointing at.

“It’s just a two sentence spell.” replied Ray.

Gale thought about this and agreed, then the two dragonets began the spell and Gale felt woozy the whole way through, when it finished she felt like retching a little bit. She looked at Ray passed out, snoring, *he looks kinda cute when he’s sleeping*, thought Gale, she pushed the thought out of her head immediately and headed toward the green hall to her sleeping cave, when she walked in a bright green thing tackle hugged her and said “DON’T WORRY ME LIKE THAT AGAIN GALE!” Cherry was holding onto Gale like a sloth does to a tree branch bright green in fear. “Where were you?!” she asked hurriedly, “I thought that someone took you away and it

made me nervous,” she smooched Gale on the cheek and said, “I’m glad you’re okay though.” as she hugged again.

“Well, (ouch!) not exactly,” said Gale, “Cactus got me and Ray pretty badly.”

“What?!” cried Cherry, “Cactus got you?!” she turned a darkish coloration of red and orange, “Why that- when I see him again he’s gonna wish he had sight! To see me splash poison in his darn face! Gimme that scroll for a sec, Gale shush, lemme take care of this”

“Cherry gimme that.” Gale snatched the scroll from Cherry as she walked Gale into the room and she got tackled and hugged by Dune and then dragon piled by Squelch with a monster sized hug. Gale got back up and sat on her ledge, she took a deep breath and told everyone about what happened in her dream, to what happened in the morning and how she put a mind protection spell on the room they slept in, and it would only go away if everyone in that room left the school.

The next morning Gale woke up and hopped off her stone ledge to get to class, when she got there nobody was there yet and she remembered that it still was morning so she sat down and started reading about the sandwing royal lines which was strange to her because most of the queens didn’t share the same last name and none of them looked even remotely related.

As everyone entered the room Gale took the chance to meet some of the other dragonets in the room, she walked up to the nervous Nightwing and asked him about what happened recently, he smiled because no-one had talked to him yet, he told her that his name was Orion and he wanted to be an architect when he grew up and was pleased someone wanted to actually talk to him. He whispered to Gale about seeing something that looked like a fight in the middle of the forest and some trees exploded and looked like they turned to dust, though nobody believed him when he told the others about this, except Cherry who saw such a thing before. Gale said thanks to the young Nightwing for the info, and she walked over to the Sandwing in the corner and asked about her, she sleepily said her name was Tarantula and she was born in an oasis outside of the scorpion den, she also said that if she were a queen she would have all thieves in the scorpion den arrested and she wanted world peace extremely badly; she



glanced around and secretly pulled out a compass, "This is a magic compass," she whispered, "It will point you to whatever you ask it to, I found a lot of lost items with it, it was originally enchanted by an animus named Jerboa, my great-great-great-great grandmother, I think you're trustworthy, so keep this a secret."

"Cool." breathed Gale. She stared for a moment longer at it, Gale then thanked Tarantula for sharing the magic compass and went to see the last student.

Gale walked over to the last student who was an Icewing and she looked at Gale like she was a moldy piece of bread, the Icewing squinted and then shook her head for a moment and held out her claws for what looked like a talonshake, she told Gale she looked like a Skywing she got into an argument with the other day and apologized for the dirty look and said her name was Polus, her family had a farm up north and she knew all about animals in the ice kingdom, she also stated to stay away from the coo coo Nightwing who saw trees disappear. Gale could tell this was a strange class, dragons thought Orion was insane, there was one who slept forever and another who was a bit judgy. Class started normally but the day had other plans.

## Chapter 14:

Tsunami talked about a war between two tribes, the Nightwings and the Icewings, the war started when the Nightwings sent two dragons to bargain a trade in supplies, Tsunami said supplies because she didn't know what it was truly about. Anyways the two dragons were mother and daughter, the daughter fell in love with the young prince, they snuck away back to the Night kingdom and had 2 children, one was the legendary dragon known as Darkstalker, the other less known sibling was named Whiteout. Tsunami was talking about it for the rest of class until a sentence suddenly sparked Gales interest, it was how Darkstalker put all his power into a tiny vessel like a scroll. Gale raised her hand and asked, "Excuse me Ms. Tsunami? How did he cast spells and magic from this scroll?"

Tsunami thought for a moment and told Gale, "Well from what I've seen him do , he wrote down the spell and it happened, it also worked again whenever you spoke it."

Gale rummaged through her bag and pulled out the scroll, "Like this?" she asked as she read the ancient scroll and said, "ⓈⓂⓂⓂ" which meant "Burn". In Gale's claws there sat a burning ball of fire, the whole class gasped except for Cherry and Squelch who had this expression: (- - -). Tsunami stared at it for a second and said, "How did you do that? I thought we destroyed all traces of him... There are only a few animus dragons in the world right now, and even then, is this like an already written scroll? I know this isn't your writing but how?"

"Well... Um... Uh, you know that "fake" story Cherry told you about Scorch? I um, found it and uh, I kind of learned how to use it but not quite yet so don't expect me to do anything magical yet. Heh." replied Gale looking down embarrassed of her decision.

Cherry stuck out her tongue and wiggled it at Tsunami. Tsunami looked at Cherry and sighed, she then told Gale, "You might think this is a bad Idea but, you are gonna have to turn it into the office for an inspection."

"What?!" replied Gale holding the scroll close to herself, "You have no Idea how dangerous it is, if it falls into the wrong claws it could cause havoc!"

Tsunami looked at Gale carefully eyeing the inspected scroll, she sighed and said, "Well if you put it that way, then tell us how truly dangerous it is and we'll- I mean I'll judge whether or not you get to keep it."

"Okay," said Gale, she took a deep breath and she told the whole class about the true use of the scroll, what happened the first night they were inspecting the burnt down village, then the dreams, and finally why she wasn't at class the day before. Gale glanced at Tsunami, her eyes wide with shock, she looked at her classmates whose jaws dropped, Gale looked at Tsunami once again and said, "If this isn't enough to convince you to leave this one scroll alone, I don't know what."

Gale found Tarantula hugging her in the hope it made her feel better, she peeled the Sandwing off her and said, "Tsunami, could we limit this conversation between us in this one class?"

Tsunami shook her head to get out of shock and said, "Gale, this is a possible school level threat that would harm us all, but, if you are able to stop this before it reaches this school then maybe I'll consider it a passed off subject, but for now I'll name it as dangerous, you can read and control it, so on that I'll allow you to keep it. Also using this scroll in the school is from now on prohibited."

"Thank you," said Gale, "you can count on me to stop whatever comes of this."

Tsunami stared at the scroll once again and said, "You know what? I think I might know a dragon that can help."

## Chapter 15:

Gale walked down the hallways with Tsunami to a room with a single mat and the one thing that saved Gale's memories, the dream visitor. *Hopefully she doesn't know Cherry took it*, Gale hoped. Tsunami motioned Gale to lay on the mat and hold the dream visitor, she told Gale about a brother of hers that knew all about magic, his name was prince Turtle and he had the most animus magic in the sea kingdom. Gale lay down and thought of the name Prince Turtle as she closed her eyes.

In the dream she saw a dark green Seawing writing at a desk, she walked up to him and tapped him on the shoulder, he turned around said, "Oh, hi there, you're just someone who came from jade mountain aren't you?"

Gale nodded as she looked around the room, seaweed covered the floor like a carpet, the walls shimmered like they were- Gale panicked and held her breath hoping she wouldn't drown underwater, Turtle looked at Gale amused, he said, "You know this is a dream right? You can't drown in a dream."

Gale opened her mouth and realized that she could swim and talk in this dream. She shook herself out of her shock and said to Turtle, "Um, yes, hi, Tsunami sent me."

"End of the world again?" He asked with a bored voice, "Tell Tsunami i'm not with that anymore, i'm retired, by that I mean i'm done with hero stuff, i'm a writer now."

Gale stared at him confused and said, "No, it's not that, Tsunami sent me to ask about magic, like scroll magic."

"What kind of scroll magic?" Turtle asked, suddenly curious.

Gale told him about the magic scroll she found and was able to use any spell written on it. He responded to this with, "How?! Peril destroyed the only scroll that was like that," he pondered for a moment and asked, "question, how old was this scroll?"

Gale said, "About as old as the scorching, why?"

Turtle swam around the room clutching his chin, he hummed a couple times and turned toward Gale, "I know that it seems impossible for this, you're too young, but Gale, do you know who that belongs to?"

Gale looked at him and said, "Yes actually, most of this magic was derived from a not so dead unknown animus."

Turtle looked at her with a questioning glare, "What do you mean not so dead?"

Gale sucked in her lips and said, "His name is Scorch and he was never mentioned in any history lesson because he was executed out of fear that he'll destroy everything. And they took him out of history in the chance someone will try to revive him using special necromancing because he knew how to control the ancient giant beasts before us dragons were around to take over the continent." Gale stared into Turtle's purple eyes, "That's just an educated guess though, anything I know was told to me."

"By whom?" asked Turtle, suspicious of the young dragonet.

Gale knew that he'd regret finding out that a zombie dragon was strolling around in the scorpion den casually hunting down these 2 scrolls. She looked at the floor and said struggling, "Scorch himself."

Turtle's eyes widened and he looked at this young skywing, knowing that she was tormented by a zombified animus, possibly keeping the whole world safe by holding onto some sort of instructions for summoning a monster, he remembered something that scared him for a long while. Gale looked at him and saw as the realization hit, she gulped and said, "please tell me anything else that is required to fully understand a bit of this magic."

Turtle sat against a wall drooping and said, "I don't know, please go. I don't have anything else to help. If I was the dragon you were looking for, guess again," he said mopily scribbling on his scroll once more.

Gale looked at the depressed dragon, sighed and then exited the dream.

## Chapter 16:

Gale sat up and turned around to look for Tsunami, she wasn't there, Gale walked into the empty hallway, it was almost nighttime; the sun created a purple-orange light that filled the hallway, she looked down both ways of the corridor. She stepped out of the room to hear commotion down the left hallway, Gale snuck down the corridor and took a peek around the corner. Gale almost shrieked at the sight but slapped her claws over her mouth to stifle the noise.

She looked down the hallway and saw as two sandwings dragging Tsunami toward a regal looking dragon Gale knew all too well. "Ah thank you rattlesnake, oh and you too rune, now leave her to me, I think that I should handle this retrieval better than that blithering idiot Cactus."

Scorch looked at the two sandwings and pointed to the green hall, "The rest of them are in there, bring them to me, and I shall pay what you need."

Gale watched as the two large sandwings walked down the green hall. She stuck her head out to see a bit more. . . Then to her demise she slipped on a pebble and landed hard on some gravel making the entry hall echo from the bouncing rocks. Scorch's neck snapped as he turned it 180° toward the source of the noise, "well, well, well. . . Looks like we have another lead boys! This time I'll actually finish the job."

Scorch's body disappeared then appeared in front of Gale getting up trying to pick out rocks from between her scales. Scorch lifted her head up with his claws and said to her, "Nice to see you again, it's Gale isn't it? Don't worry I finally got the info on you by sucking out some memories... Honestly you did quite an ok job against that old fool. Too bad it was all for *Nothing!*

He grabbed her throat and threw her across the hall landing next to Tsunami who looked like she fought for three seconds then failed to brute strength. Gale got up and looked at Scorch walking toward her chuckling while shifting between a young sinister sandwing and a Decaying nightmarish terror, Gale remembered how he kept coming after her and

attacking any emotion or hurting her physically, in only one week he has pushed her to the very edge of sanity and back, she felt tired, as if she hasn't slept for days. Scorch picked her up as if he had psychic powers, he stared into her eyes and, Gale saw the pain of a million souls hiding behind his all black eyes, Scorch saw this fear and smiled. He looked over and showed Gale all her friends bound together in tight chains, they all seemed to be struggling but one, Dune looked like she was planning something, Gale turned to Scorch and in desperation she inhaled and breathed as much fire in Scorch's face as possible. He got blinded by the fire and broke his hold on Gale, she whipped around and scraped him with her claws then punched into his bony chest. Scorch looked down at her like she was a lost pet, "Aww, the dragonet tried to dismantle me. You know that won't hurt in the real world." he said with a sneer looking completely unharmed.

Gale looked horrified at this unhurt nightmare dragon, she hopped back as he lunged at her with the dark claw spell, *Huh*, she thought, *they really do use that spell a bit too much*. Gale scabbled away from Scorch as he stared into her eyes with unending malice. Gale saw the gong on the other side of the room, started running towards it, but tripped and dropped her library bag, all of the scrolls rolled out across the stone floor. Gale heard laughing behind her and saw Scorch slowly walk toward her now completely skeletonized and aflame, with eyes deep unending holes, Gale reached for her scroll and backed into the wall, her eyes scanning the paper, she looked at the gong again and threw her bag at it ringing it so it filled the whole school, all of the students walked out of their rooms to see the main hall, they formed a ring around the 7 dragons gasping and scared at the abomination of Scorch, just then one of the large sand wings collapsed with a groan and behind him was Dune hissing and brandishing her barbed tail, Gale looked at the rest of her friends sitting on the other sandwing and gave her the thumbs up which meant they were fine.

Gale's view shifted back to the skeletal dragon, he smiled at her and said, "No amount of dragons can help you now Gale, I pretty much know all of your dirty tricks and cheats. What do you think you got out of this? A crowd to watch your dying body lie on the floor? Well I think that can be arranged."

Scorch relit his entire skeleton on fire and charged at the young skywing roaring as she stared at him in fear, he was about to reach her when she smiled and splashed him with a nearby water jug putting out his flames, he sat there and spluttered for a second, Scorch looked at Gale and said, "Really? Water jug in the face?"

Gale smirked, pulled out the scroll and said, "Yep, also teleport spell."

She pointed her claw at the scroll and read the spell that would teleport the sandwings back home where they belonged as fast as possible. Scorch found himself falling into a void and tried to claw his way out of the dark circle, swallowing him and screaming out his hatred for her, then Dune and the others lifted the adult sandwings and pushed them in as well. They all disappeared into the floor with Scorch still trying to climb out roaring angrily. The portal closed and she stared at the empty circle of dragonets who just stared at the center where the sandwings used to be and Gale, for a single moment, felt at peace. All the students then exploded and crowded her and started asking a gajillion questions as Gale made her way to the lunchroom calmly.

Gale sat down at the center table and started explaining to most of the students who the undead dragon was, most of the other students on the other hand, were just hanging out by their friends and talking about the scenario in the entry hall, but only a couple were in the healing room to watch Ray, who was a temporary healer, do work on Tsunami who was still unconscious and had some broken arm bones from her battle against the two sandwings. Cherry walked over to Gale's table, nudged her friend's shoulder and said, "Gale you are the awesomest, coolest, way over the top dragon I have ever met, also I'm finally establishing that me and you are now dating!"

"Cherry, you know that all I did was send him back, he will come again for more."

"I know!" replied Cherry, jumping up and down, "But now we can actually finish a school year together without worrying about an angry, spooey, zombie dragon hunting us down! Relax Gale, we're fine, besides Dune did pretty well against those two big guys."

"Wait," said Gale, smiling impressed at this, "Dune did all of that?"



“Yep,” replied Cherry peeling a banana, “She had Squelch stretch out his stomach so that she could wiggle free knock down the first guy, then hit the other in the back with her tail, I told her a spot that made a dragon go to sleep if hit, not with the dangerous part of her tail though.”

Gale looked at Dune talking to Clam who was watching her escape the whole time, she looked back at Cherry and said, “Hey, if you don’t mind, I’m gonna check on Squelch.”

Gale walked over to Squelch eating a cow's leg and he looked up at Gale and said, “How’s it going?”

Gale sat down next to him and said, “It’s fine but I need someone to talk to besides Cherry and Dune, are you okay with talking to me?”

“Yeah sure, spill your emotions, I can keep a secret.” he said calmly.

“I’m worried,” Gale started as they walked down the halls, “I’m worried that if I don’t find a way to permanently kill scorch I’m going to be hunted by him until he gets what he wants, do you get what I mean?”

He looked at Gale and said, “Yeah, if this is bothering you that much then come with me.”

Squelch walked Gale to the spot where she fought Scorch off until she teleported him back to his base, Squelch looked at Gale and said, “What do you see here?”

Gale looked at the area and said, “Where I fought Scorch, but how does this-”

“Where is he now?” interrupted Squelch.

“He’s at his base but-”

“Is he here?” asked Squelch, “Just remember where he is, will he hurt you at this moment?”

“No.” replied Gale, “He isn’t here, he won’t hurt me right now, but how does that help?”

Squelch replied, “If you worry too much about the future, then you’ll miss what is happening now. Think long and hard about that, it helped me in some of the worst parts of life, especially around you, breathe, then let all of the stress out like you inhaled some mountain air.”

“Alright,” said Gale, closing her eyes and took a deep breath, “Thanks for the philosophy Squelch. Also you are a zen god dude, I should talk to you more often.”

Gale walked with Squelch back to the lunch room talking and laughing about zombie jokes while the sun was setting. This was a good choice to come here, thought Gale, I actually made some new friends and I defeated a bad guy, that is another check off my bucket list she thought.

# Part 3: Listen to the sands

## Chapter 17:

Leaving the school was harder than Gale expected, she had to pack up most of her things, say goodbye to the teachers, and get ready for the sand kingdom. Gale knew what she wanted to do, she had to save any of the missing skywings from the village, the problem was that her friends refused to let her go alone. Cherry mostly interrupted the plan with how will we know if you die? Or, what if you get put in the same dungeon as the skywings? Gale couldn't argue with this logic, so she put down the bag she packed and walked back into the sleeping cave. Cherry sat across the room sorting fruit, she looked at Gale and said, "I understand you have wanted to see your mom again but you have to realize what you are doing here, You saw what only two sandwings could do to me, Squelch and Dune, how are we going to get in without being caught?"

Gale smiled and held up the scroll for a moment and smiled.

"I like this feeling," Dune said as they walked through the desert, "Makes me feel warm and happy on the inside, like my parents are right here beside me." Dune closed her eyes and sniffled a little, then inhaled and pushed forward through the sands, Gale looked at her with a bit of sadness, "What happened?" Gale asked.

"I was told by my caretaker in the orphanage that my mom was on the front lines in the Sandwing succession war, my father, whom I was named after, joined the talons of peace hoping to change the world for the better, I got news from the orphanage that he died defending the dragonets of destiny, my mom... no news." Dune stopped the conversation silently and walked ahead with only a dark trail of teardrops trailing behind her path.

they entered the desert a day ago and decided to walk by foot so no-one could see them flying overhead, Cherry finally agreed to the idea

only if she got to nap in the sand every now and then, nobody agreed with this and Cherry had to deal with the hot sun while walking instead. Gale looked up at the sky again to see if anyone was flying above them, then put on the sandy cloak tarantula gave to her as a gift. They trekked for about three hours she guessed, as they went over the next dune they saw a large wall around what looked like a busy city. Gale hustled everyone behind the dune to hide, “look, we gotta find a way in, and hopefully, CHERRY, we don't attract any unwanted attention, Dune, you be our guide and you, Squelch, make sure we don't get robbed.”

Gale took out the scroll from her bag and started reciting a small transformation spell and felt her skin bubble as she became more and more sandwing, she looked at herself in the obsidian mirror and noticed if she looked at herself at a certain angle she would look like she was missing an eye, even if this was an easy to cast away costume, it had to be perfect or else it wouldn't work. She went back to her scroll and started scribbling at it again. The others watched as she made an entire dragon eye off of a drawing. Gale turned around and said, “How do I look?” the others stared at her like she was a stranger, “hey, calm down guys,” she said, “this is easy to take off, watch.” Gale waved her claws over her necklace and said, “Gale.”

The sandwing costume came off easily, she smiled at the others who were giving weak thumbs ups, Cherry walked over and said, “Hey Gale, we were beginning to think that you ran out of space on the ancient scroll to write.”

“Cherry, I made this one to have the same capabilities as the other one, plus it has infinite paper. Usable by anyone like me and you no less.” Gale smiled at her girlfriend and Cherry smiled back weakly.

Cherry breathed a sigh of relief hoping to herself that Gale doesn't get too attached to the scroll. The group walked down with Gale's sandwing spell, Cherry looked pretty much sandwing due to her camouflage scales. Dune followed sheepishly behind with the scroll in her bag and Squelch loomed over making the guard to the city back up. Gale smiled as her backup spells made Squelch look more intimidating than he was. She remembered her preparations and checked each one off: unstealable bags, blended in with a crowd quite literally, sandwing disguise for herself, and

intimidation for Squelch. The group walked between stalls of dragons selling jewelry, cactus bombs, all other things of interest for those living in the scorpion den. One shopkeeper grabbed Gales shoulder and said, "Hellooo miss, we got good things for sale here, we got: lamp oil, rope, bombs? You want it? It's yours my friend, as long as you got treasure, here at Marsh's little shop."

Gale looked at the open toothed smile of the old sandwing and asked dubiously, "Well I don't have much, what if I gave you some money when I come back?"

The old sandwing's smile faltered, "Sorry miss, I can't give credit. Come back when you're a little MMMMMMMM-, **richer.**"

Gale huffed at the salesdragon and went on her way. As the streets became more and more winding Gale wondered how Dune would walk through these streets every day without getting mugged or lost, as the crowds thinned Gale saw the clearing where the whole city revolved around. It was a very large thicket surrounding a lake, on the outskirts of the lake were large buckets and sandwings were handing out water to those waiting in line for it. Gale saw a large clay house and Dune made a small squeaking noise as they passed it, Gale turned around and saw Dune looking at the building like she remembered it. "Dune?" Gale asked, poking at her friend's shoulder, "is this where you lived before- y'know?"

Dune nodded and turned to gale for a second, "yeah, is it okay if we go inside?"

Gale took a deep breath considering what time would be lost by Dune revisiting home, but also the other side of her brain brought up the point of asking around the locals about any suspicious going ons around the area. Gale sighed and let Dune go in, Dune looked like she was hiding her excitement as she dragged Squelch with her to meet all of her friends, Gale and Cherry looked at each other for a second and almost as if their brains synced Cherry walked off and gave a claws up to Gale as she started asking around the locals about if they heard about "Suspicious activity" Gale wandered and hid behind some back alleys and whispered off the enchanted disguise, as she leaned on the wall for a second resting, she felt the stone feeling like it was leaning backwards Gale turned around

surprised and before she could react to it she started sliding backwards on a slope like surface, she went down a winding slide head first bumping into walls and she landed she looked around and saw some halls ahead, she walked to the end of the hall and looked around hoping that this wasn't Scorch's place, she walked a bit farther and saw a poster that read: "stay fresh with the shade! The Quicksand clan will sink all who try us!"

Gale chuckled at how dumb the poster looked, Gale then checked in her bag and a lump in her throat grew, she had left her scroll with Dune and Squelch, she forgot to grab it before Dune entered the Orphanage and now she was defenseless in a gang hideout hoping nobody notices her, she turned around and immediately jumped back into the wall, two dragons adorned with some precious jewels were cracking their knuckles and looking at Gale smugly, "Hey Sandstorm, I think someone was trying to sell out our hideout." said one of them.

"Heh," said the other dragon, "I guess so, sorry miss, we don't allow snitches here, right Adder?"

"Yeah, no snitches unless ya want stitches, hehe, just made that up."

"Wait, wait, wait," said Gale, "I never meant to stumble here, I'm sorry, ok? Please show me the way out and we can all forget about it alright? How about I give you money for me to go free eh?"

Adder and Sandstorm looked at each other with a smile and nodded to each other, "We can't trust that just yet, so until then you've just gotta stay here, come to think of it Sandstorm, she's pretty cute above all else, she would make a pretty price in the markets, or let the boss play with her, Sandstorm, go get some spare rope."

## Chapter 18:

Gale stepped back as Adder tried to grab her and he ended up hitting the wall instead, she walked past him, turned around looking at him as he was rubbing his hurt shoulder, smiling to herself for a second Gale readied to hold him down and poke a knockout spot Cherry taught her in school. Then a hood was over Gales eyes and she was grabbed by a larger dragon, Sandstorm forced Gale on her stomach, grabbed her arms and tied them behind her back. Gale couldn't see anything and tried breathing fire on anything hoping it was her captors, then her snout was forced shut and something hit the back of her head making everything go black.

Later Gale was laying down gagged in an empty room tied up with Adder and Sandstorm guarding outside the doorway they chuckled about something that was related to their boss. The two dragons were able to get her legs knotted so she couldn't get up, and her wings were bound to her sides, Gale couldn't move much on her stomach, mostly because her wings would stop her from rolling. *Calm down*, she thought, *I can wiggle a bit to possibly loosen the ropes on my legs, then find a way to get up and move...*

"MMmhhh..." she groaned as she tried stretching out to loosen some knots, nothing, then Gale tried using her tail on her legs to wedge them open.

Her tail swung blindly until she felt one of the ropes, then her tail slowly wedged the rope farther than she intended, she got one foot out, and then the other, and proceeded to slowly sit herself up on the walls, using her back Gale layed back on the wall and let her legs stretch out. *What now?* Gale wondered, *Possibly this stupid cloth around my snout.* Gale started lowering her face towards her foot claws, *can't believe they put a leather layer around my first gag, hmm what if...*

Gale rubbed the side of her snout on the wall scraping her face a bit and the second layer was off, then she bent her head down and cut the second one with her toes, once she had her jaw free, Gale pondered for a moment, then she remembered an important spell she did in jade mountain, "⌘Ⓜ⌋⌋⌋"

The ropes on her wrist burned and fell off and she proceeded to slice all of the knots on her wings off, Gale shook herself for a second and got herself together, she stared at the door and said “☞X≡” the door exploded open and she walked through the halls throwing damaging spells at any dragon she saw with the gang necklace and trying to attack her, she walked out the front door and into the center of the scorpion den light flooding her pupils and her view adjusted and she saw Cherry hyperventilating over the fact nobody saw where Gale went, and it had been about an hour since they split up, Gale walked up to Cherry and tapped her on the shoulder, She looked up, jumped, turned bright green and pink and her jaw dropped for a second then she immediately hugged Gale turning a magenta and yellow colors,  
 “Gale I seriously need you to stop disappearing!  
 You-worried-me-and-dune-and-squelch-and-where-did-you-go-to-don’t-scare-me-like-that-okay?!!!!!”

Gale hugged Cherry back, Cherry soon was turning back to her usual pink color and Gale slowly said, “I got into an alleyway to take the sandwing disguise off for a second and I fell through a fake wall two badguys tied me up wanting to sell me, I escaped the most complicated bonds ever, but then I remembered some strength spells and punched my way out of there, then I found you crying because I was lost.”

Cherry’s breath slowed down, she said, “how did you deal with what happened between you and those NASTY dragons?”

“I learned to use my tail like you and loosened some knots, then burned the rest off with the magic spell, it was good practice you should try it.”

Cherry’s face blushed for a second and asked, “when it’s over, I bet we can do something like that right?”

Gale looked at her surprised for a second but then said, “sure, but make sure we focus on this.”

Cherry looked like she was daydreaming for a second, shook her head and then said, “Yeah let’s do this.”

Cherry told Gale about what she learned while asking around, “Dragons around here say they saw weird stuff happening in the obsidian



obelisk in the back corner, I say we go check it out together since you keep getting in trouble by yourself, scroll or no scroll.”

They took to the streets where it was safer than any alleyway there, as they walked farther day turned into a colder night, where they finally reached the building, Gale decided to hide their hiding spot in a dark corner where she cast a cloaked area big enough just for them, the next morning Gale woke up before everyone looked around the building with utmost caution and slowly peeked in a window hoping that she wouldn't be seen by the dragons inside, Gale looked at a darkened lower window and covered her snout from crying out, she saw Cactus wincing as he talked to skywings in a forced sitting position slowly making them mindless slaves to work for him, she saw dragonets, adults, and her mom in the corner looking extremely worn out from resisting, Gale walked back horrified to the hidden beds in the corner, she then shook Cherry awake to talk, “What is it now queen Glory? Want more claw polish? Okay give me a sec.... ZZZZZ”

Gale giggled to herself for a second and whispered in Cherry's ear, “Hey Cherry we know each other well, wanna date?”

Cherry sat up immediately and said, “YES!!!” but then her ears drooped and she said, “wait a minute, you did that to wake me up- you merterberter-grrrr. . .” she grumbled as she woke up.

Cherry walked with her friend to the window where Gale saw the hypnotized skywings, Gale looked in and gasped, they were chained to the floor breathing heavily as if extremely tired, her mother looked at the window and ran to it trying to grab Gale's hand but then was bounced back by the invisible field on the window, she got up and stared sadly, then said quickly, “Gale, you are not supposed to be here, this place has all skywings on lockdown and I heard them talking about sending a hit dragon on you, you are their most dangerous enemy, leave now, go home and start anew, they won't find you, you'll be perfectly safe..”

Gale took a deep breath and replied, “Sorry mom, I can't go back home, if they sent an actual hit dragon to hurt me then I gotta take them down so they don't hurt us, I can get you out, but I have to stay and fight, I will come back home someday; I will promise that, wake everyone up and get ready to fly to the mountains, they won't find you there. I can get Squelch to break down the walls, then you're free.”

Gale dragged a still half asleep grumbling Cherry back to the hiding spot. Cherry wobbled over to Squelches bag and grabbed a jar of bright green and then said to Gale, “Wave this under his nose, he will wake up immediately, and then close it immediately so he doesn’t smash his nose into the jar.”

Gale sniffed the inside for a second and it smelled like limes and the scent of cattails on a marsh. She took the jar, lit the candle on the inside, and let the scent waft up the big mudwings nose, Squelch blinked once, twice, and sat up rubbing his eyes, glanced at the jar for half a second, and dived for it. Gale pulled it away immediately and closed it. Squelch looked sad at this, but only for a moment.

“You need me for something?” he asked, blinking awake.

“Yes,” Gale replied, but do you think you can break down a wall with your new strength?”

Squelch smiled as if he knew the answer to this. They walked back to the clay building and he stepped back a hundred steps and rammed into the wall at full speed, it broke open with a loud cracking sound, he took a step back a bit dazed and then shook his head and gave a thumbs up to Gale, Gale took this opportunity to yell the word release at the captured Skywings, all of the chains fell off and Cherry started to usher dragons out the building, they started flying off in the direction of the mountains, possibly to go get help. Gale saw the door open and Cactus stepped through, he looked at what was happening (oh wait he can’t lol) at the Skywings escaping, and ran towards the noises and then glared in Gale's general direction, “YOU!” he yelled now completely pissed, “I am tired of you ruining my plans and Ideas!” he then spent ten minutes yelling and monologuing at Gale until Cherry walked up to him and clonked him on the back of the head with a chunk of clay, he then fell to the ground unconscious. “What?” Cherry asked shrugging, “I don’t like his voice, he annoys me.”

They dragged Cactus behind some crates on the side and Gale left a note and it said, “Sorry but we accidentally broke your wall.”

Gale sighed at the hole in the wall, and decided that the front door would be easier to sneak into.

## Chapter 19:

The dragonets walked to the front door of the huge house and started on the locks, Gale used the lock picks Saber gave her as an additional parting gift, Saber... Gale wiped a tear forming in her eye away as she started picking at the front door. The door opened slowly as the last lock gave away, Gale snuck in slowly hovered her claws over her necklace and whispered, "disappear," she felt hollow as her entire body disappeared, Gale whispered to Cherry that she had to hide no matter what, Scorch could use her as a tool to hold Gale at bay and she knew that, Cherry and the others walked back to the hideout sadly whispering "good luck" to their friend, Gale went back into the house and snuck through the halls, she found some of the sandwings sleeping in the rooms and she passed those off as not dangerous. The more Gale wandered the stranger it felt, almost as if... Gale looked at the walls and saw the ancient writing used to make spells and potions, they denied all enchantments from working inside there, Gale read some and it basically said, "this hall shall stop any intruders and people who wanna sneak by, no spells shall work except Scorch's revival spell," the last bit was scribbled on by what looked like permanent charcoal... Gale continued forward glancing around every corner hoping no-one was there because she was completely exposed now and anyone could catch her now.

As she found her way to the second floor, she breathed a sigh of relief that there were no counter spells on the wall. She glanced at her talons and they were invisible again. *No one could've made it past that without turning back or being caught*, Gale thought. The rooms on this floor were mainly laundry rooms or kitchens, only about five dragons here, she put a mental note on that. Gale gulped as the only way to get to the next staircase was through a kitchen with two Sandwing women cooking, a large male came down the stairs and yelled something at them, they glanced at each other and followed him up the stairs. Gale made it through as quickly as possible, she ran up the stairs and then flattened herself against the wall to avoid a young sandwing carrying dishes past her, Gale crept forward through the third floor and this one was the most busy, dragons were laying

on couches and rugs enjoying the food the gang provided for them. The more Gale looked the more she saw how Disgustingly twisted this place was; it had gang leaders getting high and drunk from all the partying they were doing in some of the rooms, there was a single stairway left and it led to the black dome on top of the house. Gale carefully made her way up and quietly opened the trap door, the room was a mess, potted plants were trashed, the nearby desk had ancient writing scrolls littered all over it, pillows were strewn on the floor and Gale saw the person responsible for the mess, It was Scorch standing by a window, he didn't look like the disgusting nightmarish ghoul Gale knew, it was his beautiful disguise which made him appear normal to the eyes of those who worshiped and obeyed him. "Gale," he murmured, "I thought you were smarter than this."

He turned holding Cherry at knifepoint in his arms and she was struggling to escape his grasp, "You know that love is too dangerous to use loosely, I knew that myself once."

"Run" Whispered Cherry, her legs kicking and her voice shaking with fear.

Gale finally realized he wasn't a skeleton anymore, this was the real hm, he wasn't dead at all, *he probably faked his demise to escape the looming jaws of death itself*, She thought. Scorch looked like he just read Gales mind and said, "Wow, you finally figured it out, I just traveled to the future to ensure I was still known, of course they assumed I was dead, and I found out that they completely erased me from history, just as good of course, I decided to make that zombified nightmare fuel of a corpse to just instill fear, besides, cactus didn't do anything, he entertained me though, truthfully, only a true animus could raise the dead, I would love to explain more but I'm afraid I must either restrain or kill you, besides a giant monstrous dune worm won't summon itself."

He lowered the blade from Cherry's neck and sighed, with a flick of his talons he threw it at Gale as fast as possible, she felt time slow down as the knife flew towards her heart, she couldn't move, couldn't think, all she could do was watch it fly towards her. It embedded itself in her chest as she fell to the ground sparks of pain going throughout her body, she heard nothing, her vision was becoming blurry, Cherry's screams were just blank, Gale saw only Cherry's bright white scared scales and Scorch's smug grin,

she felt like she wanted to sleep, Gale felt very tired... it was all slowed and blurred. Her eyes closed and it felt like it wasn't the end she wanted.

## Chapter 20:

Gale woke up in a dark room, it looked damp, cold, and gloomy, there was a fire in the center. It was the old cave her mom and grandfather lived in, they only moved out when he and her father passed away. Gale glanced around and saw an old Skywing, tears filled up her eyes as she realized who it was, she ran up and hugged her deceased Grandad. He embraced her back, tears poured down Gale's face as she knew she failed. He glanced at her and said, "You know I never really left, I was there as a cardinal the whole time, it's fun being a spirit animal, going wherever you want. I just didn't tell you until now."

Gale wiped tears away as she stepped back, "I failed though, why are you trying to comfort me?"

"Because," he said, "I wanted you to feel better about getting this far, how many other 7 year old dragonets do you think would be able to do this?"

Gale looked into his eyes and sniffled a bit, "I could've done so much more though!!! Scorch got away with my girlfriend, Dune and Squelch, I-I don't know what happened to them, I just want to fix this really badly but I can't when im dead!" She then continued to sniffle and cry quietly.

"Yes you can Gale," said the old dragon lifting her chin up gently, "remember the multiple times you used spells without the scroll?"

"Yes," Gale said shakily, "but how did you know about that? Only I remember that..."

Gale's grandfather smiled at her, "if only you know then why am I here? To guide you little one, your body is slowly dying anyways, if you can use magic without the scroll then why not now? What if this is all just in your head? Think about it. Now go save everyone." he said tapping his head with a smile Gale knew well.

Gale took a deep breath and focused, she said to herself, "Enchant this body to reawaken and be fully healed... Bye grandad..."

Gale's grandfather waved goodbye and walked out the cave, the world changed, her eyes were closed, she could hear something....

Gale opened her eyes to find herself face to face with Squelch trying to get her breathing back to normal with mouth to mouth breathing, she pushed him yelling "EW! Please get off me!"

Squelch stepped back looking hurt, surprised, and scared at the same time, Gale grabbed the knife handle and pulled it out like it came out of a knife block, she waved her hand over the wound, it closed and healed itself also cleaning up all the dried blood around the wound, Dune and Squelch gaped at this the whole time as Gale got up, brushed herself off and picked all of her things up and put them in her bag. The two dragons stared at their friend as she got up as if nothing just happened.

"H-how?!!!! Y-you died by being stabbed in the heart and y-you just brush it off like it's nothing?! What the viper Gale?!" Squelch roared at Gale pushing her backwards.

Dune just sat there and stared, just stared, she shook herself out of her daze and walked up to Gale hugging her and softly crying to herself. Gale hugged Dune back and looked at Squelch and said, "I don't know what happened, but I saw my grandfather and he convinced me to get back up. What happened while I was dead?"

Squelch looked bewildered for only a moment longer, looked sadly at his friend and said, "I'm sorry Gale, he just swooped in and took Cherry while we were walking back to the hiding spot. We had no idea, all we knew was that Cherry was taken while walking back. I flew into the black dome and smashed the top I saw the knife flying through the air, I heard Cherry scream your name, it hit you in the chest and he glanced at me, smirked, and teleported away, I tried to stop him but all I could do was carry your body back to our spot. I couldn't tell anyone, I was scared, I didn't know what to do... I'm sorry Gale."

Gale stared at Dune still hugging her sniffing, "Please don't die again Gale, I need you... my parents weren't there, I just want my family back; you are family to me now, please don't leave again..." Dune whispered shakily, squeezing Gale's neck.

Gale took a deep breath, she looked at the smashed dome by the hideout.

"I need to find Cherry, Squelch, I think that Scorch is gonna make her food for the giant dune worm or something like that."

Squelch looked at her for a moment and said, “Wait a minute, Wait a minute, when I crashed into the dome, why wasn’t Scorch in his weird zombie form?”

Gale sighed and told him about Scorch time traveling to the future to ensure his plan would still work, Squelch layed down letting Dune lean into him, he got up when it ended and started pacing, “I didn't know where Scorch went Gale, but... I don't know his destination... Do you?”

Dune waved to Gale and Squelch and then took out Tarantula’s family magic compass out, she walked over and gave it to Gale with a smile, Gale asked where Scorch was to the compass, it pointed northeast, Gale motioned to Dune and Squelch to follow her, they started flying and following the compass, it went from northeast to north to west again, when they finally reached the destination, they saw what made Scorch’s grave hidden, it was a opening in the sand that led to a large maze, Gale stared into the dark and ran in.



## Chapter 21:

The stone walls of the maze made it a bit more claustrophobic and hard to navigate, but every now and then they would reach an open area and take a quick break. Dune stuck to Gale's side the whole time, it was extremely dark and hard to see. Squelch took out his candles to over power the scent of decaying corpses.... Gale sniffed the air for a moment, she walked over to one of the maze walls and knocked on it. It sounded hollow, she took her talons and punched the wall as hard as possible, a hole was where she punched. Gale lit a torch with lamp oil she stole from the Morshu shopkeeper. As she peered in little black dots started swarming out of the wall and as she looked back in, the light shone on some of the whiter parts inside the wall, i looked like a skull at first but.. Wait.. her talons stretched out and picked it up, as Gale pulled it out she let out a shriek and dropped the skull as more spiders crawled out, Dune hid behind Squelch in fear, it was a dragon skull withered and old, but it wasn't hollow, Gale picked it up and saw in the part where the spine goes in the brain still alive and twitching slightly. Gale sucked on her teeth for a moment, "Squelch, Dune; look away, what I am about to do is very gross and you might not want to watch."

Squelch listened and turned around, Dune watched curiously until Squelch covered her eyes with his claws. Gale whispered to herself the ability to read minds, but only if she wanted to. Gale put her talon onto the dragon skull and entered it's conscious thoughts.

*GET OUT!!!!* It screamed at her, Gale winced but pushed back and found out why it was there, all of the skulls in the walls were undead Nightwings minds who had mind reading to inform Scorch about intruders. *SCORCH*, it started, *INTRUDERS WHO DARE DEFILE YOU HAVE ENTERED THE MAZE*. Gale dropped the skull immediately and turned to Squelch and Dune, "We gotta go. Now."

The trio ran through the halls and Gale's head was filled with evil and loud voices yelling foul insults at her but neither Dune nor Squelch could

hear, the laughter from all the minds she passed was slowly driving her insane, *how do I turn this off?! She thought.*

As they followed the torchlight, the compass led them to a doorway that led to a crawl space that was small enough for an adult dragon to crawl through, one downside, the crawl space was filled with malicious spiders and piercing eyes that would make any young dragonet scream in terror upon the site of it. Gale mustered her courage and crawled in. As she went farther in Gale noticed a bunch of scribbled runes that apparently used the scepter of banishment, it wasn't for Scorch, it was for the dune worm he was summoning, Gale scribbled them down as a reminder for later and crawled onwards with Dune stepping cautiously behind her, Squelch started complaining about his body mass and the nasty spider webs that had to be repeatedly swiped away to see where he crawled. Gale stepped out of the small hallway and into a room the room had multiple branching exits but only one wall, it had hieroglyphs that depicted a giant creature eating the scorpion den, it wasn't a worm though, it was almost as if it was a hippo that ate some smokeberries and found a set of dragon armor that was covered in spikes. It almost had a hedgehog-esque shape to its shell. Gale saw the writing and read that it created a giant blackhole that would swallow anything remotely close to it, it wouldn't eat them Gale realized, it would only destroy what it wants when it wants, Dune walked up to the creatures picture and playfully booped its nose, then the wall started sliding away, it led to another room that held Scorch's belongings, inside were some Sandwings guarding something. Gale stepped out of the doorway and peeked in carefully with Dune sitting on her head looking in as well, the Sandwings were playing dead dragons match, a version of flat card match, but you had to give up something if you lost, they were betting on some of Scorch's belongings but in the corner was... CHERRY! She was in a cage tied up with her snout tied shut, Gale's eyes widened and she stepped back and came up with a quick plan, Gale reached into her bag, she found Cherry's smokeberries and slingshot, Gale lined up at each one and let the six smokeberries loose, the room exploded into a cloud of smokeberry dust, the sandwings were coughing and hacking at the smoke, Gale took a bandanna, covered her nose and ran in knocking down some of the guards she grabbed the lock to the cage smashed it with a rock, opened the cage,

picked up Cherry, and got out of the room smashing the door shut and summoning a pillar of rock so it wouldn't open, Gale untied her girlfriend and Cherry got up about to say thank you to this unknown dragon, then Gale took off the bandanna and smiled at her, Cherry's jaw dropped and she was shifting confusedly between dark pink(love) and grey(sadness), "G-G-Guh..... Gale?" She asked, grabbing her friend's shoulder, Gale smothered a laugh and smiled at Cherry, still dumbfounded, Gale said softly "I'd never let us be separated like this again, not even death, I remember your story, remember what it said when the main character came back to life?"

"But the soul refused to go, it had love, life, and a reason to stay." Cherry replied, turning magenta and stuttering at the same time.

Gale then pushed Cherry's chin up to look into her eyes, Gale kissed her girlfriend and Cherry's tears stopped and stepped back dazed, she then ran up to Gale and hugged her while shifting to all colors of the rainbow at the same time, "Aww this is cute." Squelch said, watching the two lovers.

"BLAHHHHH" said Dune shielding her eyes from the multiple colors shifting and the love stuff.

Gale let go of Cherry and she calmed down returning to her usual pink and purple color scheme, Cherry then glanced at Gale and said in disbelief turning red and grey at the same time, "Gale I thought you were dead! You died in front of me laying on the floor not moving and blood, BLOOD Gale! Spilling out onto the expensive carpet! I was scared to find out that the only dragon I consider my girlfriend and hero of the world was dead, I want to stab you more and make you say sorry for dying! Why aren't you saying anything yet?!Urghhhhhh!!"

Gale smiled, she knew Cherry had only a short amount of time to cool off and decided to take the time to explain what happened. Cherry sat there in interest and asked about being "half-dead" the whole time. Gale sat there explaining to her that apparently you will see the deceased who are important to you will be in the gateway to guide you to an afterlife, but she left the first chance she got. Cherry took a moment to process this within her 3 brain cells, "okay," she said, "so you died, met your grandad, said nope to dying and came to find me and save the world?"

“Yes.” Gale replied.

“You know, when I think about it; it sound like something stupid I would write in my book to create emotional drama yet this is real life... Wow.”

Gale then walked over to Squelch and Dune to check on them, Squelch was just chilling there, his candles still overpowering the scent of undead dragon brains, Dune was sitting in the corner defiling Scorch’s hieroglyphs by drawing scavenger hair on his snout and head. Gale summoned them all up and traveled farther into the darkened, cracked, and ruined halls.

## Chapter 22:

Gale and the others started down one of the hallways together so they didn't get caught, the walls sent a shudder down Gale's spine, she thought about the monster the whole time, the one Cherry picked was long and windy but had a dead end with a chest that had a black pearl for a lock, Gale looked inside and a thousand screaming souls started streaming out; "NOPE." Gale said slamming the chest lid shut, they all walked awkwardly back to the room never once mentioning the chest. Gale chose the next hallway this one was different, claw marks signaled that the dragon who came down this one was clearly agitated for some reason, Squelch paused for a moment and asked with a hint of fear in his voice, "Gale, this is a not a very important question but also important in regarding the fate of the word per say, but, who did you leave the scroll with before you went into Scorch's hideout?"

Gale paused her eyes widened remembering her worst mistake ever, *I am a freaking idiot*, She thought, *I left the scroll with Cherry because her venom would be the best source of defense, and Cherry's bag got taken by Scorch... oh moons.*

"You what?!" Dune and Squelch roared at Gale, "I left the scroll with Cherry because rainwing venom is a better defense than fire or brute strength, I mean that stuff could melt a dragons face off! I saw what it did to now-dead-evil-Queen Scarlet! Her face was disfigured for the rest of her stupid life." Gale said.

Dune and Squelch gave her a look that clearly said: *you did this, now fix it*. Cherry shrugged nervously and started to camouflage with the rest of the room in embarrassment. Gale shook herself and started running down the hall faster, as they reached the end of the winding hallway they saw a bright purplish light, the same color as the purple fireballs Cactus used that one time, *Push bad memories out of the way right now*, Gale thought, they got into the room and saw a dark otherworldly shape surround the casket in the back of the room. Scorch turned around with both scrolls smirking, "Hi there! Come in, come in! You're just in time for the end of the world!"

He pointed a single shaking claw at Gale and said, "I should've known to keep you around! Great potential! Great power! you would've made a great asset to our clan, but you fought back, you refused death, a feat almost impossible except by a true animus, but how? You had no scroll to help you, no one in that idiotic group of dragons could've... ah, I see. I guess that makes you more dangerous. Welp, I don't mind killing anymore, who needs a moral compass when you can just kill without hurting what's already broken? Sometimes a dragon has to go back to the grave, not me of course. Goodbye Skywing."

Gale stood her ground snarling and stared menacingly at him, he chuckled, "Know what? I think that your *annoying little group* is more than enough to stop me, so I guess- oh wow, lookit that, a bird..."

Gale looked around confused, Scorch took the chance to push Gale's friends out of the room with a flick of his claw and create a barrier at the entrance, "That wall will only open if a dragon in this room is not here anymore or dead, I'll make sure the death option is long and painful dragonet." Cherry ran up to the barrier banging on it, Squelch took a step back and rammed into it with all of his strength; he fell over from the knockback onto his back his wings and legs flailing.

Gale turned around to glare down Scorch again, he was laughing his head off as he started mutating and growing extra spikes, his wings disappeared, being replaced by an extra set of arms, then he grew extra tails with barbs on each end, his face then became horribly disfigured, it grew multiple eyes, it wasn't even a dragon face anymore and his monstrous teeth started spilling out poison like a fountain, he screeched and his arms waved around madly, this wasn't even Scorch anymore, it was a scary as fuck amalgamation. The creature started crawling on the walls of the room muttering backwards gibberish and the face was constantly going split directions showing innards and bloody teeth even in its throat. Gale sat there horrified as it crawled around the walls and it finally lunged at her, a set of claws came out the throat as its face split in to four, Gale hopped out of the way and broke the arm as it screeched in displeasure, the creature spat at Gale, she summoned a random iron shield that was weak but could handle the rainwing venom being spat at her, she started flying around in circles hopefully to confuse it, its arms extended

and tried grabbing her mid flight, she looped around punching, dodging, burning and even encasing one in a metal box, then talons came out of nowhere and grabbed her dragging Gale towards the mouth of the . Gale struggled to escape its grasp but no luck, Cherry started pounding on the barrier louder and yelled, "USE THE ANTI-MAGIC SMOKEBERRIES!!!"

Gale remembered them and she grabbed last one, Gale glared into the mindless beasts eyes and crushed it in her talons then threw it into one of the multiple bright red eyes, its whole body started spazzing out and fell to the cracked and dusty floor. Gale flew out of its grasp and watched as it turned back into Scorch breathing heavily almost weak, he pointed to the casket and said, "HAH! You are too late, the scroll has completed the spell for me!"

Gale picked him up by his neck, he was laughing his head off maniacally and she slammed him into the casket top, he wheezed out of breath and realized what was happening, he stopped for a moment horror, "No wait! Let me g-!" he yelled.

Gale let go and watch the Gigantic maw come through the floor eating Scorch, Casket, wall, all of it.

The maw sank back into the floor and the area started to crumble, the barrier disappeared and Gale picked up Dune dragged Cherry, Squelch ran behind them and they crawled back through the tight crawlspace whacking aside spiders and webs, the cursed catacomb halls were still laughing at Gale despite the situation they were in, as they reached the end the doorway had a giant boulder covering it, Squelch scooted Gale out of the way, tossed it easily and quite literally punched the door open, they got out into the setting sun, the sandwing palace in one direction, the Scorpion den a tiny lit dot in the distance. The sand started shaking and the giant hippo, hedgehog, whatever it was, crawled out and started marching towards the Sandwing castle, a gray blue Seawing then started running towards the behemoth, a form shaped around him encasing him in a light blue light, his form became huge, it was a giant energy form of this dragon and that dragon was RAY!!! *That dopey freaking DRAGON*, Gale thought, *That tail-hole made a stupid copy scroll and used it to his advantage, I'ma beat the fuck out of him after this, he deserves it.* The two gigantic monsters fought, Ray pushed it back, he took a giant glowing rod, *the Scepter of*

*banishment, wow.* Gale took the time to let her anger build up at this Seawing. The monster sank back into the ground defeated by the most unlikely person Gale would have thought of.



## Chapter 23:

Gale walked over to the slowly shrinking seawing Ray was covered in cuts and bruises due to fighting the gigantic monster, Gale stomped faster to meet up with him, he opened his mouth to explain, Gale raised her talons and slapped him as hard as possible, "OW" he said, rubbing the side of his snout, "I'm sorry okay? I knew what was gonna happen so I followed carefully and invisible I used the obsidian mirror a couple times to check on you. By the way Gale, you look pretty cute tied up not gonna li-"

Gale punched him in the gut, took the scrolls, ripped them up and melted the golden scepter by burning it, Ray fell over groaning flopping in the sand. Dune walked over, poked him to see if he was okay, Ray got up holding his chest, he sat down wheezed for a moment, and then started again, "All right this time, WOAHH, WOAHH, I- I alright, please don't punch me again, I am trying to explain why I had those okay?"

Gale snorted some fire out and lay down grumpily, Ray started out his side of the story, "Alright, so here it is, I came from the sea kingdom the first day you met me, my mom; queen Coral, had me pick up some supplies to bring to some towns and the school okay? Then I met you guys by healing dune on the way to the town consensus, yes actual town name, but on the way there I met you guys and this little ball of cuteness," he said patting Dunes head, "after you guys left I had to go to a small river town, you guys came back when I went back to camp, you told me about this Scorch guy, I suggested some artifacts I learned about during my travels, I also went into the tomb you guys went in last year and learned about the monster thingy. I got back to school and saw your camp as I flew back, I signed me and my younger brother Clam up, then first class I'm in, you show up. I learn more about Scorch's gang. I st-borrowed your scroll during lunch that day, I used a bunch of copy spells and then the next morning I went to go fishing for the school's hunting cave. Someone brought a crazy old magician into school grounds, (\*Cough\*) Gale, I found her about to be beat up by the creepy old guy, I saved her, brought her into my office and cleaned us up of any injuries, about two days later, the gong rung in the main hallway I ran there and saw who this Scorch guy actually was, he was charging at Gale

entire skeleton lit aflame, she stopped him, I brought my eldest sister to my office, she's fine now. When you guys left, I took all of the copy items left in the school and nobody noticed, I invisibly followed you guys into the Scorpion den, lost you in the crowd," Gale smiled at this because she knew she did this on purpose, "let's see, I finally found you guys at the center of the Den, I didn't see Gale though, Cherry was asking around and She then went back to the center, called out your name a couple of times then started freaking out. I decided to land on top of one of the roofs and check the obsidian mirror which you dropped accidentally in the desert. I looked up you by starting a quick fire and envelope it in smoke, I put the fire out, looked at the piece of obsidian to see Gale bound and gagged somewhere but I didn't know where, as I watched longer I noticed something strange, Gale cast a spell without a scroll like it was nothing, she broke open the door, and absolutely destroyed the older sandwings trying to catch her again. She walked out disguised as a sandwing, and she came back into the center, after all that I went to this tomb right here after and then Scorch appeared out of nowhere, I hid behind a dune some distance away, he told his men to watch over a dragonet I had trouble seeing, and to leave when they feel an earthquake like shake. I waited and fell asleep for a bit, then I felt it. The earth started shaking and I ran towards the exact spot for it and I started reading out the spell that would make me strong enough to take the beast down. And you know the rest."

Gale was un-surprised by most of this and the others not so much, Dune had her jaw dropping the part he mentioned that his mother was queen Coral, "I can't believe this!" Dune said, "I am best friends with two princes and I had no Idea?!"

Squelch just sat there nodding to the whole story and muttering, "that makes sense," or, "okay so that explains a lot."

Cherry sat there just as unsurprised as Gale was. Gale took a breath for a second and turned on her mind reading for a second and read Ray's mind, "*wow, she is still so pretty... is now a good time to ask about going out? Keep it simple Ray, okay, here it goes.*" Ray sucked his teeth for a second, and leaned closer towards Gale and started to ask, "hey Gale, I noticed that you were single, I was-

"No."

“No?”

“Yes Ray, I am already dating someone that I am very close to.”

Ray's smile dropped for a second, “Who?” he asked.

Gale smiled in amusement at this, “my one best friend,” she scooted Cherry closer, and smiled at her girlfriend, Cherry smiled back, the underside of her eyes turning a dark pink, Gale then said, “me and Cherry are dating alright?”

Gale kissed Cherry and turned to Ray, his eyes wide open with his claws on his head.

Ray stuttered for a moment, and then yelled in disbelief, “WHAT??!!!! YOU AND HER ARE?!!..”

“Yep.” replied Gale calmly smiling at Ray's reaction. *At least this is more enjoyable than Cherry on smokeberries, hopefully he gets over it soon.* Gale then patted him on the shoulder as he stared into the sunset sadly.

Sorry readers, this is where the story ends so far, hope you enjoyed it and I am looking forward to the next book. Look to the epilogue for more information (↓)

## Epilogue:

*One year later...*

“Dad, who was this guy?” asked Tarantula as they carried the sarcophagus towards the ocean, “Someone very important to where I work sweetie, you don’t need a name.” replied the father figure.

“Shut it Adder,” one of the sandwings said, “our boss died of old age, he was unable to survive more than 5,000 years.”

“Wow,” said Tarantula, “no wonder he is important.”

The six dragons set the sarcophagus onto a raft and pushed it out to sea, Tarantula watched it disappear in the distance, she watched the sun set with her father, “hey Dad, is there anything else special I can know about this guy?”

Adder paused for a moment, “yes actually,” he said, “he had a very long grudge, his last words to us were to get revenge on that Skywing...”



(this is pantala, the sarcophagus went into the stream shaped like a mouth.)

The sarcophagus floated across the ocean for a month and ran into a river on an entirely different continent. It snagged on some vines on the way in, these vines though, were sentient. It pushed the lid open and slowly grew vines into it. A week later, skeletal talons pushed open the lid sending it flying far away, the lid came off and the vines infested skeleton of Scorch roared now reborn,

“Gaaaaaaaale!!!!”

Gale woke up with a start. Cherry woke up groggily beside her and asked if she was okay, “No,” Gale replied, “I think we gotta find the lost continent, like now.”

Cherry grumbled something like “Sleep first; bad guys in the morning.” and went back to sleep, Gale growled slightly at this, walked out of the treehouse into the moonlight, she moved in with Cherry for a year after the big monster disappeared, her mom was fine with it, but she had to visit sometime next month, Gale put her focus back on her awakening, she walked back into the house and took out the obsidian mirror from the corner. Gale walked back outside and snorted some smoke onto the reflective surface, she whispered, “Scorch.” and to her horror it showed a skeleton covered in vines shambling through a forest, “Oh moons.” She said, shaking in fear.