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TUI T. SUTHERLAND

ART BY MIKE HOLMES

WINGS OF FIRE

THE GRAPHIC NOVEL



BOOK FOUR

THE DARK SECRET



SCHOLASTIC



WINGS OF FIRE

THE DARK SECRET
THE GRAPHIC NOVEL

For Oscar and Beatrice, two of the most awesome
people ever — we feel so lucky to have you as friends!
—T.T.S.

For Ruby and Gabby, who I hope will always
let me know if my art's any good
—M.H.

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Library of Congress Control Number Available

ISBN 978-1-338-34422-6 (hardcover)

ISBN 978-1-338-34421-9 (paperback)

10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

21 22 23 24 25

Printed in China 62
First edition, January 2021
Edited by Amanda Maciel
Coloring by Maarta Laiho
Lettering by E.K. Weaver
Creative Director: Phil Falco
Publisher: David Saylor

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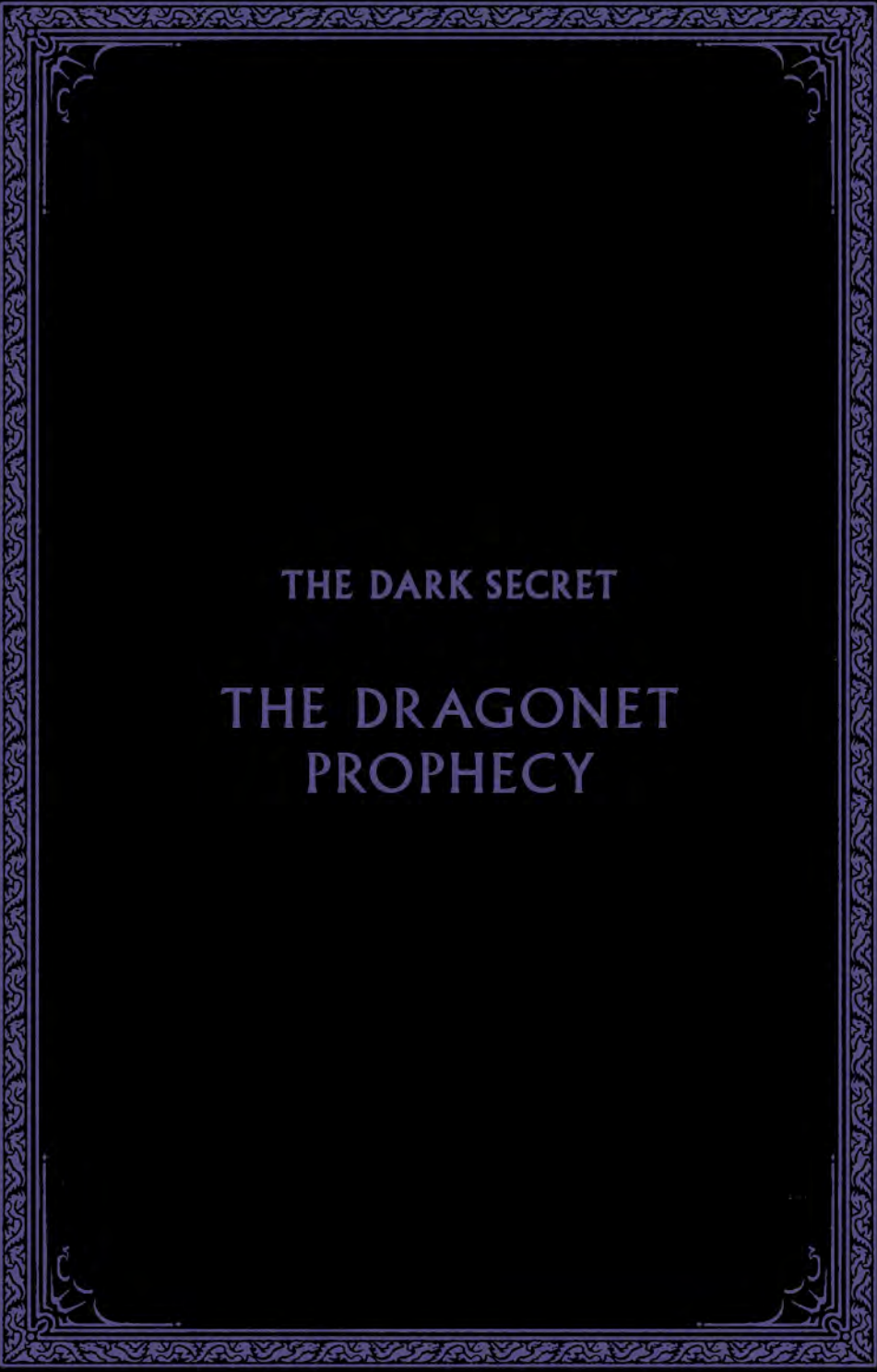
ADAPTED BY BARRY DEUTSCH
AND RACHEL SWIRSKY

ART BY MIKE HOLMES
COLOR BY MAARTA LAIHO



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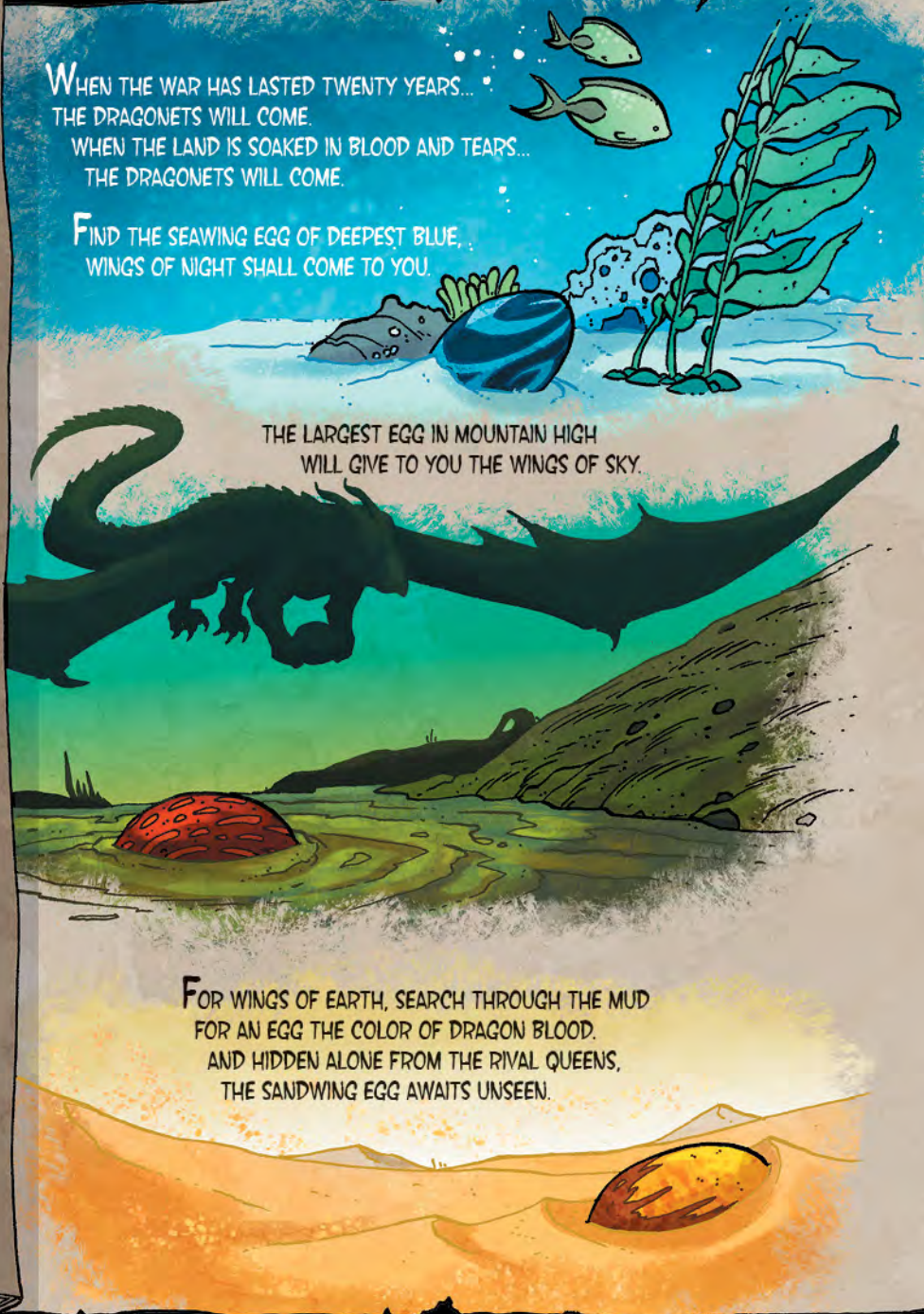
THE DRAGONET
PROPHECY

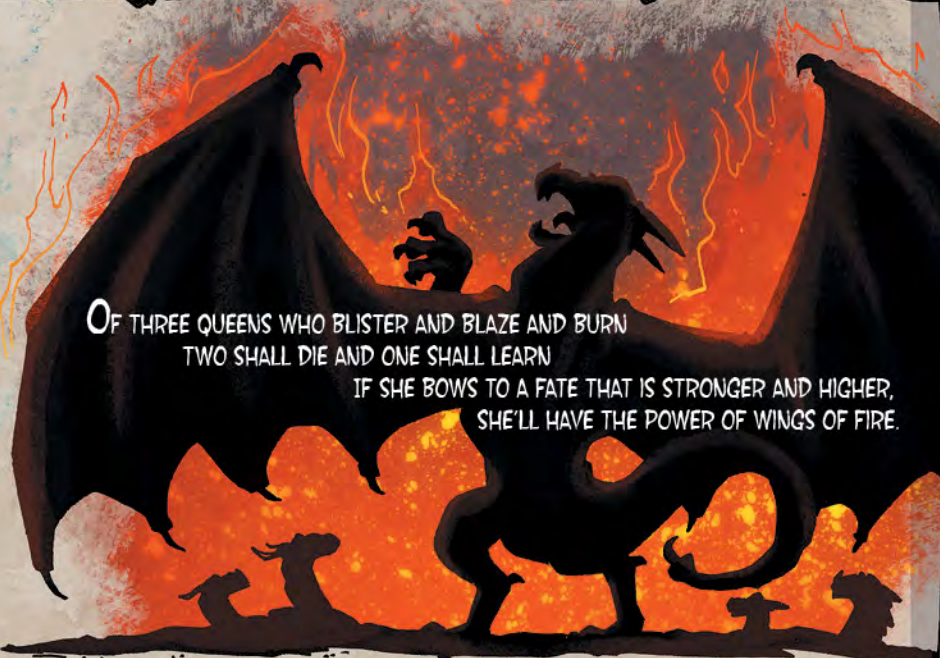
WHEN THE WAR HAS LASTED TWENTY YEARS...
THE DRAGONETS WILL COME.
WHEN THE LAND IS SOAKED IN BLOOD AND TEARS...
THE DRAGONETS WILL COME.

FIND THE SEAWING EGG OF DEEPEST BLUE,
WINGS OF NIGHT SHALL COME TO YOU.

THE LARGEST EGG IN MOUNTAIN HIGH
WILL GIVE TO YOU THE WINGS OF SKY.

FOR WINGS OF EARTH, SEARCH THROUGH THE MUD
FOR AN EGG THE COLOR OF DRAGON BLOOD.
AND HIDDEN ALONE FROM THE RIVAL QUEENS,
THE SANDWING EGG AWAITS UNSEEN.





OF THREE QUEENS WHO BLISTER AND BLAZE AND BURN
TWO SHALL DIE AND ONE SHALL LEARN
IF SHE BOWS TO A FATE THAT IS STRONGER AND HIGHER,
SHE'LL HAVE THE POWER OF WINGS OF FIRE.



FIVE EGGS TO HATCH ON BRIGHTEST NIGHT,
FIVE DRAGONS BORN TO END THE FIGHT.
DARKNESS WILL RISE TO BRING THE LIGHT.
THE DRAGONETS ARE COMING...

PROLOGUE

WE'RE ALL
GOING TO DIE!
JUST LIKE
CRANE!

MARSH! KEEP
IT TOGETHER!

I CAN'T LOSE
ANOTHER SIBLING!
IT'LL KILL ME.

RETREAT!!

I THINK WE
LOST THEM.

I PROTECTED THEM *THIS*
TIME, BUT I COULDN'T PROTECT
CRANE WHEN IT MATTERED.
WHAT IF I FAIL AGAIN?

I'M NOT EVEN SUPPOSED TO BE
THE BIGWINGS. IT'S SUPPOSED TO
BE OUR BROTHER CLAY.



PART ONE: THE SECRET PLAN

WHERE AM I?
WHERE ARE MY
FRIENDS?

IS SUNNY OKAY?

EVERYTHING IS FUZZY...
I CAN'T REMEMBER...

MAYBE I DREAMED IT ALL.
MAYBE WE'RE STILL UNDER THE
MOUNTAIN AND IT WAS ALL
A NIGHTMARE.

NO, I *COULDN'T*
HAVE MADE UP
MORROWSEER.

NIGHTWINGS HAVE A
REPUTATION TO UPHOLD.
YOU MUST MAKE THE
OTHERS FEAR AND FOLLOW
YOU, OR YOU'LL BE THE
GREATEST DISAPPOINTMENT
IN NIGHTWING HISTORY.



OR THE
RAINFOREST...
THAT'S WHERE
I WAS, WHEN
SOMETHING...

I THINK THERE'S
SOMETHING WRONG
WITH HIM.

MAYBE THEY KILLED
HIM. THAT'D BE ALL RIGHT.
THEN I CAN BE IN THE
PROPHECY INSTEAD.

I DON'T THINK
THAT'S HOW IT WORKS,
FIERCETEETH.

I BET HE'D
WAKE UP IF I
BIT HIM.

HE'D BETTER
WAKE UP AND
BE INTERESTING
SOON.

I BET MORROWSEER WOULD
THROW YOU IN THE VOLCANO
IF HE FOUND TOOTH MARKS
ON HIS PROPHECY PET!

OOH, I HAVE
AN IDEA!

SUNNY,
I HOPE
YOU'RE
ALL RIGHT.

PLEASE DON'T
HATE ME FOR
WHAT THE OTHER
NIGHTWINGS
HAVE DONE.

I COULDN'T BEAR IT IF YOU
THOUGHT I WAS LIKE THEM.



ACK!

SPUTTER!

SPLASH!

IT WORKED!

DRAT.

I THOUGHT
HE WAS DEAD.

WHO ARE YOU?

HUH. I THOUGHT
HE WAS GOING TO
ATTACK US.

THAT'S WHAT
I'D HAVE DONE.

HE DOESN'T LOOK VERY
DANGEROUS. I THOUGHT
THEY'D PICK A DRAGONET
FOR THE PROPHECY WHO
WAS BIG AND FIERCE.

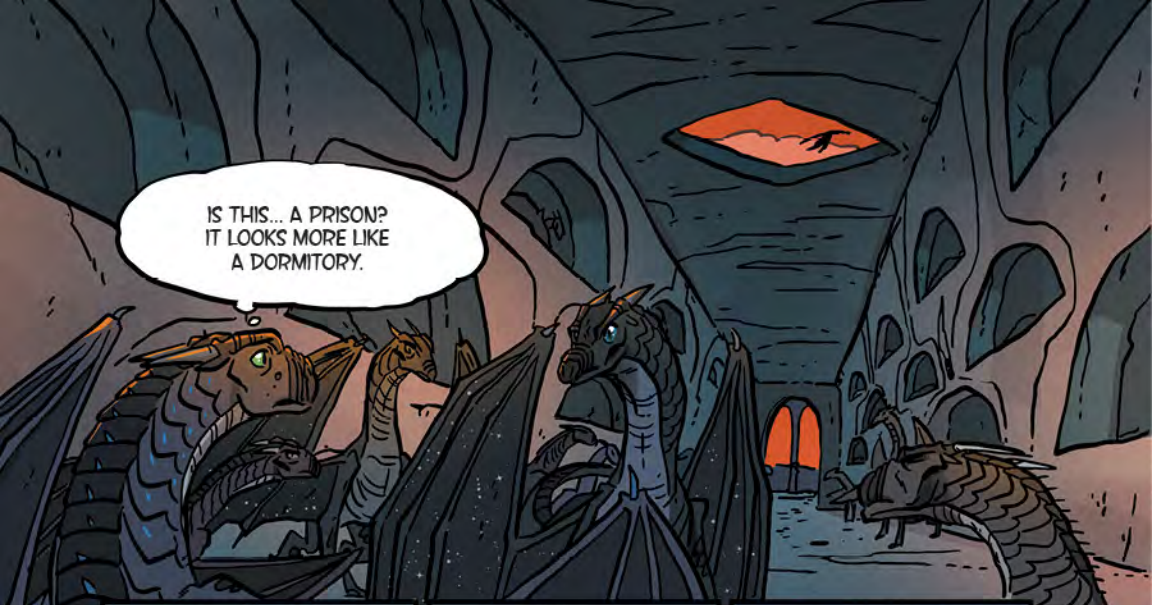
YOU SOUND
LIKE A
TINY-BRAIN
RAINWING.

THEY TOOK HIM FOR THE
PROPHECY WHEN HE WAS JUST
AN EGG. THEY DIDN'T KNOW WHAT
HE'D BE LIKE. OR ELSE OBVIOUSLY
THEY'D HAVE CHOSEN A GIRL.

LIKE
ME.

WHY DOES HER
BREATH SMELL
SO AWFUL?





IS THIS... A PRISON?
IT LOOKS MORE LIKE
A DORMITORY.



I DON'T SEE ANY
GUARDS. BUT MAYBE
THERE'S SOMETHING
REALLY CREEPY OUT
THERE, KEEPING US IN.



ALL THESE DRAGONETS
LOOK LIKE THEY'RE
STARVING.



WE CAN'T AFFORD
TO LOSE ANY DRAGONETS.
EVEN PECULIAR LITTLE
ONES.



BACK IN THE
SKY KINGDOM,
MORROWSEER
HINTED THAT
SOMETHING WAS
WRONG...



ALL THESE EMPTY BEDS...
PLACES FOR DRAGONETS,
BUT NO DRAGONETS TO
FILL THEM.



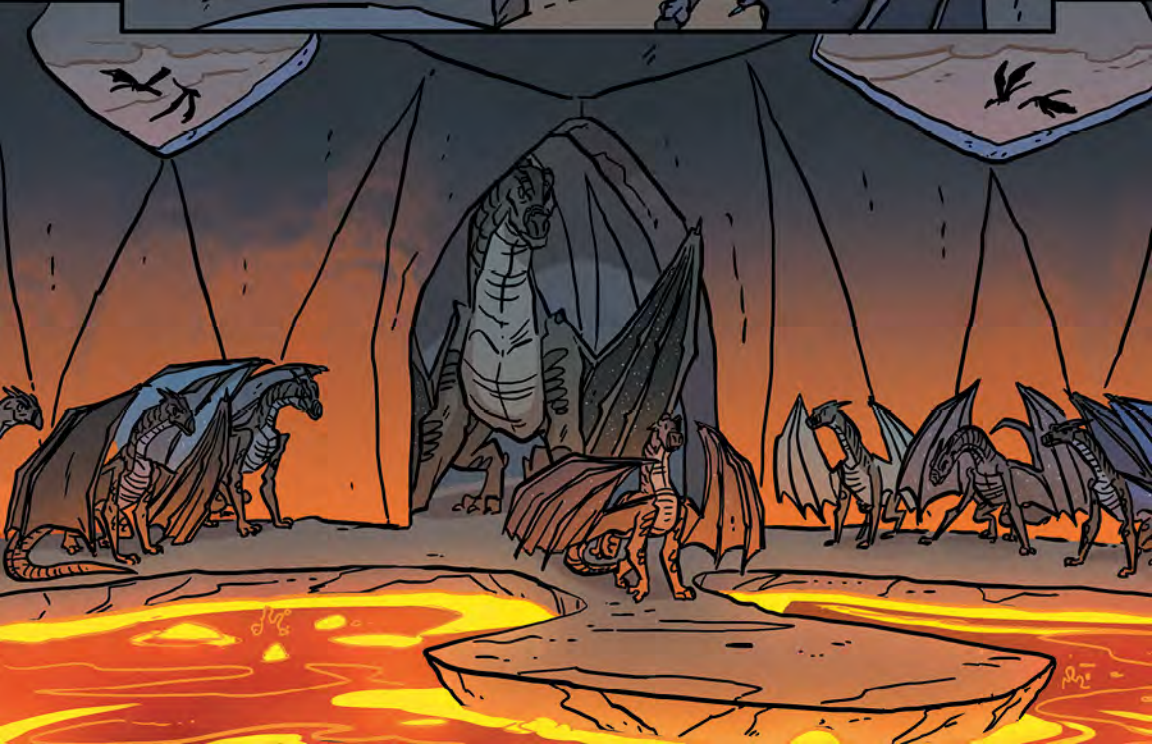
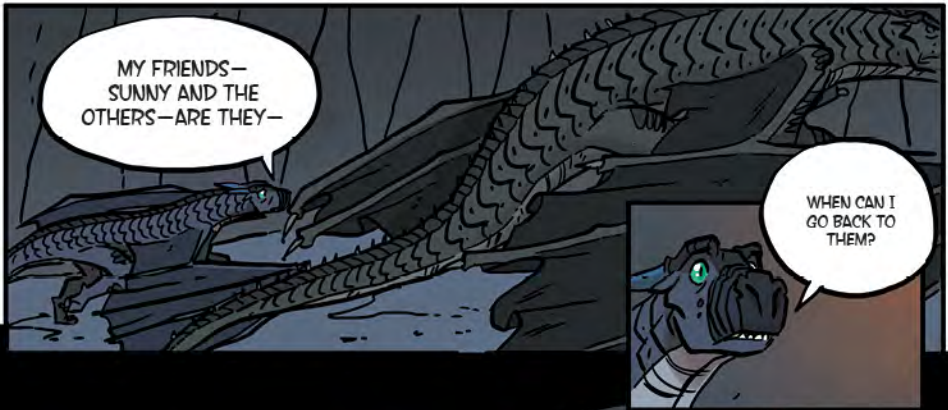
EVEN THE ONES WHO
SURVIVE ARE IN PRETTY
BAD SHAPE.

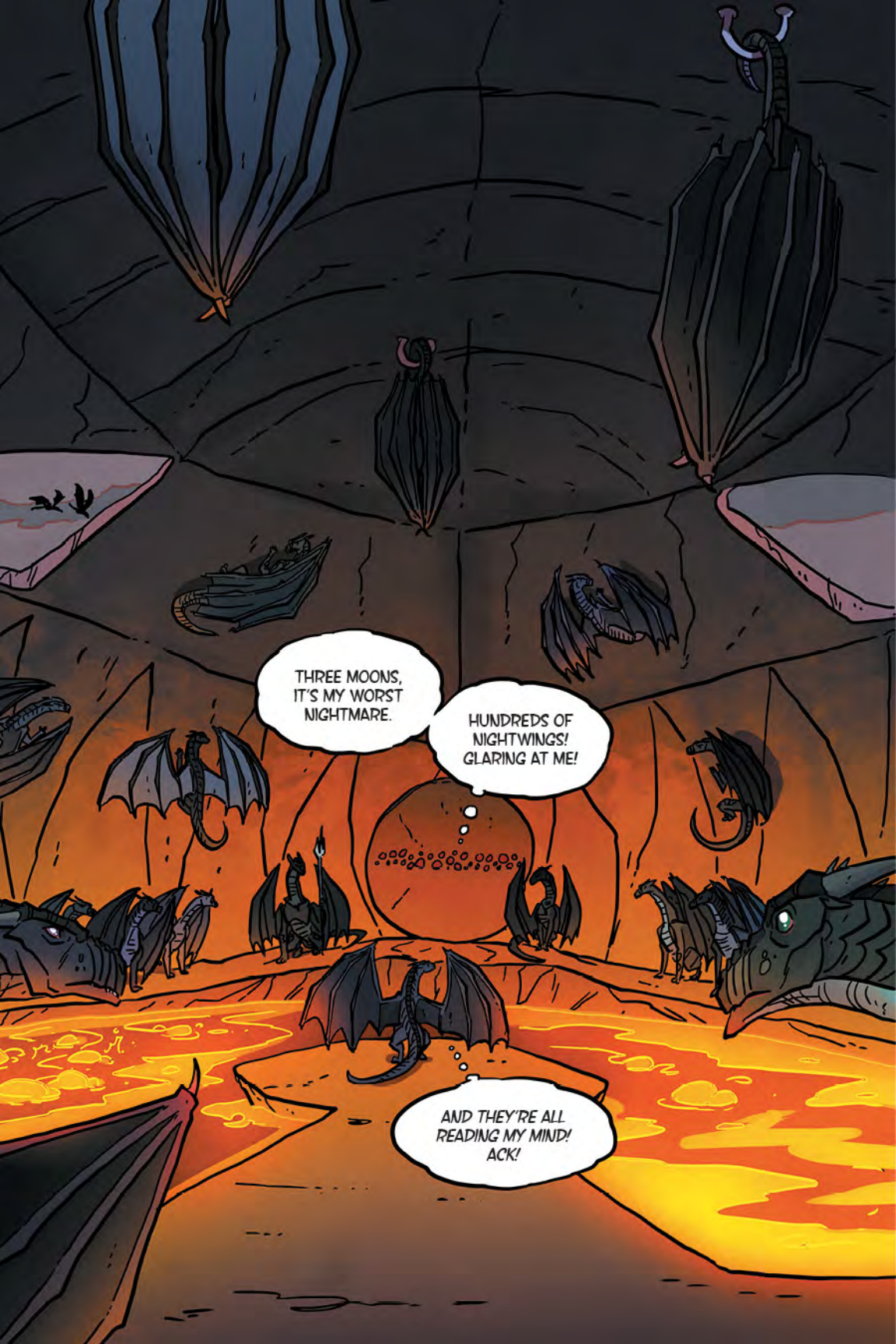


WHAT IS WRONG
WITH MY TRIBE?









THREE MOONS,
IT'S MY WORST
NIGHTMARE.

HUNDREDS OF
NIGHTWINGS!
GLARING AT ME!

AND THEY'RE ALL
READING MY MIND!
ACK!

THEY KNOW I'M
TERRIFIED AND WEAK
AND USELESS



AND I DON'T
THINK BLISTER
SHOULD BE
SANDWING QUEEN



AND I THINK
THIS IS A HORRIBLE
PLACE TO LIVE AND



STOP THINKING
THINGS YOU DON'T
WANT THEM TO
HEAR!



THINK ABOUT
WHAT YOU SEE,
NOTHING ELSE.



IT'S NOT
"HUNDREDS" OF
DRAGONS. IT'S
ABOUT FORTY.



ALL OF THESE
DRAGONS ARE
SCARILY THIN,
TOO.



THAT CAN'T BE THE
QUEEN. SHE DOESN'T
LOOK VERY MAJESTIC.



THE QUEEN MUST BE
BEHIND THAT SCREEN,
WATCHING US.



BUT WHY HIDE FROM
HER OWN TRIBE?

BECAUSE IT'S EXTRA
TERRIFYING.













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