WINGS OF FIRE

WINTER TURNING

THE GRAPHIC NOVEL
For Dash and Jess, with love from all the dragons!
—T.T.S.

This one’s for Ella the cat and Heidi the dog, our animal friends for many, many years. You’ll always be immortalized as the animalistic inspiration for the dragons in the pages of these books.
—M.H.
WINTER TURNING

THE JADE MOUNTAIN PROPHECY
Beware the darkness of dragons.

Beware the stalker of dreams.

Beware the talons of power and fire.

Beware one who is not what she seems.
SOMETHING IS COMING TO SHAKE THE EARTH.

SOMETHING IS COMING TO SCORCH THE GROUND.

JADE MOUNTAIN WILL FALL BENEATH THUNDER AND ICE.

UNLESS THE LOST CITY OF NIGHT CAN BE FOUND.
PROLOGUE: TWO YEARS AGO...

GET EXCITED, WINTER! IT'S A PERFECT DAY FOR YOUR FIRST EXPEDITION INTO SKYWING TERRITORY—ESPECIALLY SINCE YOU WANT TO FIND A SCAVENGER.

WHAT WILL YOU DO IF YOU CATCH ONE? THEY DON'T SURVIVE IN THE ICE KINGDOM.

I JUST WANT TO LOOK AT IT.

HAILSTORM, IS THIS SAFE? THERE COULD BE ENEMY SOLDIERS EVERYWHERE!

WHO CARES? QUEEN GLACIER SAYS I'LL BE SECOND-IN-COMMAND OF THE ICEWING ARMY ONE DAY.

YOU NEED TO GET HIGHER IN THE RANKINGS, WINTER. WHICH YOU DO BY BEING STRONG AND BOLD.

I THOUGHT IT WAS BY BEING SMART AND FOLLOWING ORDERS.

LOUNGING AROUND NEAR A SCAVENGER DEN? DOUBTFUL.

MOTHER AND FATHER WILL BE FURIOUS.

EVEN IF WE DO GET CAUGHT, I'M THE BEST FIGHTER IN THE ICE KINGDOM! I CAN TAKE A COUPLE SKYWINGS.

HOW ABOUT FOURTEEN SKYWINGS?

SECOND-IN-COMMAND OF THE ICEWING ARMY? MY MOTHER, QUEEN SCARLET, WILL BE SO INTERESTED TO MEET YOU.
OR LET WINTER GO, AND TAKE ME. THEN NOBODY HAS TO DIE.

WINTER'S COMPLETELY USELESS. NOBODY IN THE ICE KINGDOM CARES ABOUT HIM.

...PERHAPS YOU CAN TAKE US, BUT HOW MANY OF YOU WILL DIE FIRST?

SO A FEW DRAGONS DIE. YOU'LL BE OUR PRISONERS IN THE END ANYWAY.

HAILSTORM, IS THAT WHAT YOU REALLY THINK?

OH, GO HOME. NOBODY WANTS TO SEE YOU FLAIL AROUND AND DIE POINTLESSLY.

GO, LITTLE ICEWING. TELL QUEEN GLACIER WE HAVE YOUR BROTHER.

HE'S SAFE. EVEN IF HE HATES ME NOW, HE'S ALIVE.

AREN'T WE CIVILIZED? NOW SOMEBODY CLUB OUR PRISONER OVER THE HEAD.

THAT'S NOT NECESSARY!
SO, THIS IS PRINCE HAILSTORM.

ARE YOU SURE YOU WANT ME TO DO THIS, QUEEN SCARLET?

YES.

PRINCE HAILSTORM IS DANGEROUS THE WAY HE IS. I DON'T WANT TO DEAL WITH ANY MESSY ESCAPE OR RESCUE ATTEMPTS.

YOU UNDERSTAND I'M NOT SURE WHAT THE CONSEQUENCES WILL BE OF YOUR UNUSUAL SPECIFICATIONS.

I TOLD YOU I'D ONLY USE YOU FOR SPECIAL CASES. THIS IS ONE.

NO ONE WILL EVER BE ABLE TO FIND HIM.

VERY WELL. THEN HE'S GONE.

TRUST ME.
THE FIRST TIME I DISAPPOINTED MY FAMILY, I WAS TWO YEARS OLD.

OR AT LEAST, THE FIRST TIME I KNEW I DISAPPOINTED THEM.

I WAS HUNTING FOR POLAR BEARS TO BRING FROM QUEEN GLACIER...

MY SISTER, ICICLE, WAS IN THE HUNTING PARTY, TOO... AND SO WAS HAILSTORM.

PERFORM WELL, CHILDREN. WHOEVER TAKES DOWN THE FIRST POLAR BEAR SHALL DINE AT THE QUEEN'S TABLE.

EASY. I'VE GOT A MUCH BETTER NOSE THAN THOSE TWO.

WE'LL SEE ABOUT THAT, ICICLE!

I CAUGHT A POLAR BEAR ON MY FIRST HUNT?

WELL, I'VE KILLED THREE!
I've been in ten hunts without catching one bear. No one in my whole family has ever ranked so low.

Wait, is that—?

Wow! She's huge!

If I hurry, I could be the one sitting beside the queen!

...Wait, what's that?

Cubs?

Don't be a fool, Winter. Just kill them, too. That'll impress mother and father.

And up in the rocks—is that a scavenger?

Is it hunting the bears? But then why has it lowered its spear?

Does it feel sorry for the cubs?

Can scavengers feel pity?

What is wrong with you, Winter? Are you hunting or sightseeing?

Kill that bear!
How could you let it get away? No kill could be easier!

Maybe he was worried about the poor widdle baby bears.

That wasn't—I would have gotten it if—

Mother's right. I have to be better. I'll claw my way up the rankings. I won't make a mistake like this again.

If you hadn't wasted time mooning around, we have to report this, son. You'll fall even farther down the rankings.

Then shouldn't I tell them about the scavenger? ...No, I can't.

I hope it will be all right.
That sent me down to the fifth circle. I struggled to claw back up for so long—

Then losing Hailstorm—no, leaving Hailstorm—

My fault we were there. My fault we got caught. My stupid, cowardly decision to leave.

I deserved having to start all over from the sixth circle.

But everything’s different now. Hailstorm’s not dead. Queen Scarlet still has him prisoner.

And I ruined Icicle’s bargain with Scarlet to save his life—

If Scarlet kills him now, it’s even more my fault.

But if I can find Scarlet before that happens… maybe I can still save Hailstorm.
I'm letting you go. Don't just stand there. I can't carry a pet scavenger with me while I look for Hailstorm, especially not one that mopes all the time.

I spent days planning and constructing this cage, and he never appreciated it. He just tried to run away.

Isn't this what you wanted?

He's the most disappointing pet of all time... but I still care about him. I can't help it.

Go on, Bandit, get out of here.

I know it's raining, but it's better than the Ice Kingdom. You'll either freeze there or get eaten within the first day.
WINTER! THAT’S HIM!

IT’S THE REST OF MY WINGLET FROM JADE MOUNTAIN ACADEMY!

MOON?

MOON, BY ALL THE SNOW MONSTERS, WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?

AND WE FOUND YOU! WE'RE AMAZING!

I AM NOT GOING BACK TO JADE MOUNTAIN. I'M GOING TO LOOK FOR MY BROTHER.

WE DO?

WE DO?

YES! I DIDN'T KNOW WE DID, BUT NOW I TOTALLY DO!

LOOKING FOR YOU.

I THOUGHT SO. WE WANT TO HELP YOU.
No way. Absolutely not. I can’t be around them—not even Moon. I mean, especially Moon.

You can’t come. I’m going to Queen Glacier. I need her help to find Hailstorm.

Wouldn’t it make more sense to go to the Sky Kingdom? Your brother must be there somewhere, right?

Or you could go after Icicle. Try to find out more about what Scarlet told her.


I don’t know where Icicle’s gone.

I have a guess.

Everyone knows what Glory did to Queen Scarlet’s face. I think Icicle’s going to the Rainforest to kill the Dragonet Scarlet hates most.

Then I’m going, too. I’m not letting her kill my awesome queen.

Thrice-cursed Moons, Qibbi’s right. Icicle is brilliant, dangerous, and prefers to hunt alone. She’d find a way to solve this problem instead of running for help.

RUMMMBLE!

AHHH!
Beware the darkness of dragons,
beware the stalker of dreams,
beware the talons of power and fire,
beware one who is not what she seems.

Something is coming to shake the earth,
something is coming to scorch the ground.
Jade mountain will fall beneath thunder and ice
unless...

...unless the lost city of night can be found.

By all the snakes what was that? That's what you've been muttering in your sleep!

Rumble
It sounded like a prophecy.
ORDER YOUR COPY!

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BOOK SEVEN
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