For Elliot, who is as snuggly as a sloth, as funny as Kinkajou, as charming as Deathbringer, and as awesome as Glory.

—T.T.S.

For my friends in Halifax, who supported me and my dumb art for years.

—M.H.
THE HIDDEN KINGDOM

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

SO, THESE ARE THE DRAGONETS YOU RAISED AS ALTERNATES IN CASE SOMETHING… HAPPENED… TO THE REAL ONES.

YES, MORROWSEER.

THEY WERE JUST A BACKUP PLAN. WE DIDN’T SPEND A LOT OF TIME TRAINING THEM.

I’M DISAPPOINTED, NAUTILUS. I EXPECTED MORE FROM THE LEADER OF THE TALONS OF PEACE.

THE SANDWING AND THE SKYWING ARE BRAINLESSLY VIOLENT.

ALL MUDWINGS ARE DIM, BUT THAT ONE IS… EXCEPTIONAL.

MMMMPH! MRRGH!
THE NIGHTWING I SENT YOU SEEMS TO BE DELUDED.

I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHAT TO SAY ABOUT THAT PIPSQUEAK SEAWING. YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE PUT HIM IN JUST BECAUSE HE'S YOUR SON.

HOWEVER, SINCE THEY'RE ALL WE HAVE, I WILL TAKE THEM TO THE NIGHT KINGDOM, AND TRAIN THEM MYSELF.

I'M HAVING A VISION! LISTEN TO ME! IT'S A REALLY REAL VISION THIS TIME, I SWEAR!

I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHAT TO SAY ABOUT THAT PIPSQUEAK SEAWING. YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE PUT HIM IN JUST BECAUSE HE'S YOUR SON.

LISTEN TO ME! IT'S A REALLY REAL VISION THIS TIME, I SWEAR!

ALL OF THEM?

YES, ALL. WE CAN'T BE SURE YET WHICH WE'LL USE AND WHICH WE'LL DISCARD.

...DISCARD?

...DISCARD?

INDIEED, AS YOU ALWAYS TELL YOUR TALONS OF PEACE—

IF WE WANT TO END THIS WAR, WE MUST MAKE A FEW...

SACRIFICES.
Here you go, Sunny.

Oof. Thanks, Starflight.

Clay, can we stop?

Put more weight on me, Webs.
You must love this weather, right, Rainwing?

Still hilarious. Keep it up.
I need to rest.

Wow, Clay. Sandwing venom really is nasty.

I hope the RainWings can help. Their venom is different, but they must have ideas.

First, Webs can’t fly. Now he needs to stop every ten steps.

Do you even want us to get to the RainWings?

Glory!

Webs was going to let our guardians kill me. Am I the only one who remembers that?

Well, Webs, as long as we’re stopped, why don’t you tell us about the Rainwing kingdom? You stole my egg there. You must know something.
UHHHH.

There you go again. Whenever I ask a question, you go “UHHHH.”

What are you hiding?

What was that?

What was what, Tsunami?

Stay here.

Are we going to get attacked again?

A pair of Mudwing soldiers are headed this way. They'll never see us in this weather.
We should still hide. We're only a day's flight from Queen Moorhen's palace.

And since every queen we've met has tried to capture us... more prison.

Glory! Bright red scales are the one thing they'll see! Use camouflage!

Fine.

Calm down, Glory. Think about the drip-drip of the swamp.

Everyone hide!

Think about mud squelching between your claws.

I'm hiding behind you Glory!

Think about fog winding around your wings.
I don’t like this patrol. The rainforest is creepy.

It’s not really haunted. The only things in the rainforest are birds and lazy RainWings.

Lazy RainWings. Somehow it’s even worse hearing it from strangers.

You’ve heard about the dead bodies... They didn’t kill themselves!

Dead bodies???

That’s the war. Some strategy to scare us.

Why would they come all this way just to kill a talonful of MudWings?

There is no rainforest monster.

Sure. Okay. Let’s just go a bit faster so we can, um... get out of the rain.
So what do you think about the SkyWings? Do you support Ruby, or do you think...

Think what? Or do you think what?

What if Queen Scarlet’s still alive? What if my venom didn’t kill her?

I have to know.

I’ll be right back, Sunny.

Glory, don’t go! You heard what they said!

About rainforest monsters? I’m not worried.

I won’t go far.
Which way from here?
Oh, Sunny! Don’t draw attention! Don’t let anyone know we’re here!

GLORY!

We can’t get caught again! What if...

Oh no!
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THE GRAPHIC NOVEL
BOOK THREE
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