



DRAGON FORCE

INFINITY'S SECRET

Also by
KATIE & KEVIN TSANG



DRAGON REALM series

DRAGON MOUNTAIN

DRAGON LEGEND

DRAGON CITY

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DRAGON FORCE series

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KATIE & KEVIN TSANG

SIMON & SCHUSTER

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*For our daughters,
Evie and Mira*

DRAGON'S CLAW

THE LABS

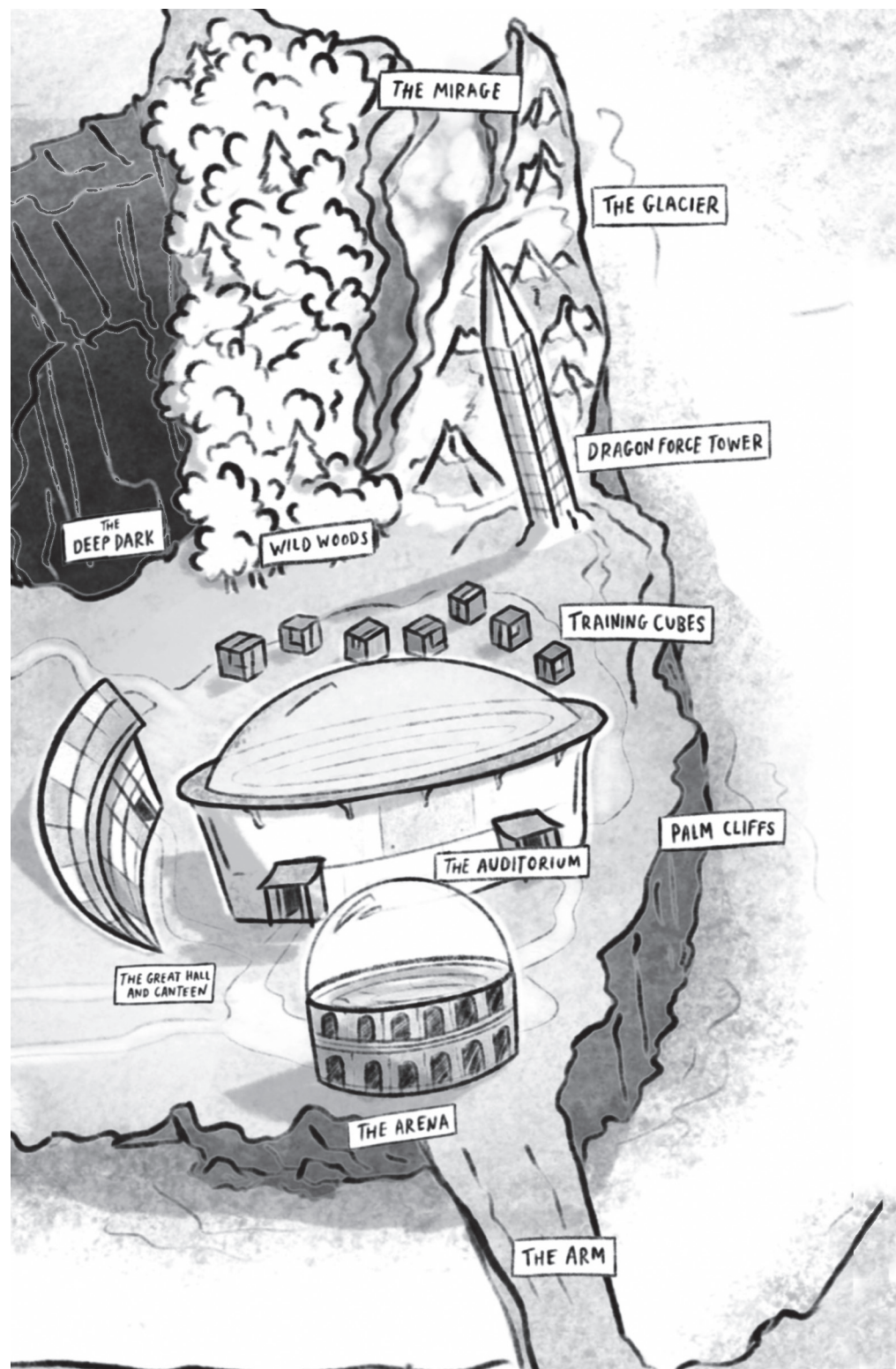
UNDERWATER JUNGLE

VOLCANO

CLAW BEACH

DRACORDIA





THE MIRAGE

THE GLACIER

DRAGON FORCE TOWER

THE DEEP DARK

WILD WOODS

TRAINING CUBES

PALM CLIFFS

THE AUDITORIUM

THE GREAT HALL AND CANTEEN

THE ARENA

THE ARM



A Song of Warning

Beyond the stars, a creature is stirring.

It can smell something that it wants. Something far away but delicious. It can almost taste the magic in the air. And it is hungry. So very, very hungry.

But what it wants is a long distance away. It will be a long journey. Yet the creature knows the trip will be worth it. It will follow the scent until it gets what it wants.

This creature is always ravenous. No matter how much it devours, it is never satisfied. It could swallow everything in its path and still want more. And it will not stop.

The creature stretches and snarls, and as it does,

the stars in the sky shake, frightened of what is coming, scared of what they cannot stop. And so they begin to sing a song of warning, a song that only few can hear.

In a world changed for ever by the arrival of magic and dragons, there is music in the air; a quiet humming that only few can hear.

A young dragon hears it, and recognizes the alarm. She tilts her head and listens, and hopes that the one she is seeking can hear it too.



Dragons in the Woods

Lance Lo was used to seeing dragons.

He usually spotted them with his younger sister, Zoe, when they walked home from school through the woods. They lived with their parents in a small red house on a busy street, in an even busier city, but behind their house were the woods. Woods where they played, but also where dragons had chosen to make their home.

Lance and Zoe knew, as all children did, to be respectful towards the dragons and to let them approach you first. Most dragons that lived in human-populated areas were friendly after all. But on the off-chance that a dragon became aggressive,

which was unlikely but had happened, they knew they could blow their emergency whistle to call the Dragon Force for help.

Lance had only needed to use his emergency whistle once before – two years ago when he and Zoe had accidentally woken up a sleeping rock dragon. The rock dragon had not been pleased, and when it'd roared its displeasure, snapping its giant jaws at Lance, he'd been frozen with fear for a moment, before remembering that this was the very reason he wore the whistle everywhere he went.

Moments later, a beautiful blue and green dragon with giant yellow wings had appeared from a portal and swiftly subdued the rock dragon. Lance tried to thank the rescuing dragon, but it flew off before he could say anything. As it did, Lance noticed that it wore a Dragon Force pendant around its neck.

The Dragon Force was the global protection unit, created five years ago when dragons and humans had first been forced to live together in what was now known as the New World. Led by Billy Chan, who was only seventeen years old, and his dragon, Spark, the Dragon Force consisted of a small group

of human heroes and their dragon counterparts who had saved the world when the hidden Dragon Realm had crashed into the Human Realm. They protected humans from dangerous dragons, dragons from dangerous humans, and, most of all, humans and dragons from their shared enemies, of which there were more every day.

Because dragons weren't the only creatures to enter the Human Realm; dangerous beasts had found their way in too. Lance had seen reports of huge two-headed scorpions, giant grasshoppers with metal pincers and razor-sharp wings, flying fish that could swallow aeroplanes, and even a rampaging squid the size of a town. And these new creatures had no interest in building relationships with humans *nor* dragons. That's where the Dragon Force came in.

Lance had never forgotten the dragon that saved him and his sister from the grumpy rock dragon. It was like meeting a real-life superhero. And from that moment, it became his mission to one day join the Dragon Force and protect those who needed it most.

But after that day, to his secret disappointment, he hadn't needed to call upon the Dragon Force again.

Most of the dragons he and Zoe saw in the woods ignored them. The speckled dragon spent most of its time curled up in the top branches of trees, peering down at people passing by. Dragons also settled all over the neighbourhood. The maroon dragon who lived outside the woods above the cheese shop was friendly, and if you brought it sweets, it would sometimes tell you a story. There was even a tiny pink dragon who loved cars, and when someone had car trouble, it was usually because the pink dragon was sleeping under the bonnet.

Lance and Zoe lived in London, or at least where London used to be, as the world they once knew no longer existed. When the Dragon Realm fell into the Human Realm, the two realms became one, for ever altering the landscape. Humans and dragons referred to it as the Great Collapse, and for the first year, the maps changed almost daily. New rivers, mountain ranges and even entire continents appeared out of nowhere, and the world itself grew, making room for new lands. Physicists and geologists were baffled – the rules that humans had lived by for so long were no more.

On top of that, dragons brought dragon magic, and that meant nothing was ever quite as it seemed. Sometimes Lance couldn't believe he had to go to school and learn things like grammar and chemistry when there were real dragons with superpowers flying around.

So it wasn't out of the ordinary for them to see the shadow of a dragon overhead on their walk home on the last day of school before the summer holidays.

At twelve, Lance was two years older than his sister Zoe, and he told all his friends that the reason they walked home together was so he could look after her, but the truth was it was also because he felt safer with her by his side. As they walked, he noted the dragon overhead – its long shadow and the whoosh of air that signalled it was flying low. But it had flown by too fast for Lance to make out any other details, which was a shame because he liked to record every new dragon in his dragon notebook. This one probably wasn't even new, he told himself. It was most likely the speckled one out for an afternoon flight. But then the dragon turned

around and flew closer and lower, and Lance saw that it was indeed a new dragon.

It was lavender-coloured, with a long and slender snake-like body. It had dozens of gossamer wings, all different sizes and shapes, and, interestingly, asymmetrical, in a way that Lance had never seen before. It looked a little like a wildflower that had taken flight, and there was a sweet scent in the air, like the smell of roses. Lance swayed on his feet and found he couldn't quite look away, almost as if he had been hypnotized.

And then the dragon swooped right towards them, and Lance broke out of the trance.

'Zoe! Get back!' cried Lance, leaping in front of his sister. He fumbled for his whistle, but it wasn't round his neck. Where was it? Was it in his backpack? His pocket?

The dragon was almost upon them, so close now that he could see its bright purple eyes above a long snout sprouting with whiskers. Lilac-coloured smoke curled out of its nostrils.

Why couldn't he find his whistle? 'Zoe! Do you have your whistle? Quick!'

But Zoe didn't move, staring at the approaching lavender dragon with an expression of awe. The dragon swooped around Lance and flew near to Zoe, so close it appeared to be smelling her hair. Its eyes began to glow.

'Stay away from her!' said Lance, whacking the dragon with his backpack.

The dragon didn't seem to notice. There was a rush of wind, and before Lance realized what was happening, Zoe was propelled up into the air, and landed on the dragon's back.

Lance leaped up, trying to grab the dragon's tail to clamber up after her. 'Don't take my sister!' he cried. 'Zoe, don't worry!'

But Zoe wasn't afraid. She was beaming. 'Lance! I think . . . I think this is my dragon! I can feel it!'

Lance was so startled that he stumbled backwards and fell, hard, on his backside. As he stared up at his sister, and the dragon she was riding, he saw the telltale gold charge running from Zoe's heart to the dragon's heart. Lance gasped. He had heard about this, about what happened when a dragon and a human found that their hearts matched, but

he had never seen a heart bond form before. The heart bond linked the dragon and human for ever, granting them both power. And it was the thing Lance wanted more than anything – a heart-bonded dragon of his own.

Here, right in the woods by their house, was a dragon who had sought out Zoe and awoken the heart bond between them. Zoe closed her eyes, her expression one of utter bliss, and a moment later the dragon gently landed next to Lance, who was still staring, gobsmacked. Zoe slid off the dragon's back, as if she'd done it hundreds of times before.

'I will see you at Camp Claw,' said the dragon. And then, with a burst of speed, it disappeared into the sky, leaving only the lingering scent of flowers behind.