



DRAGON FORCE

DEVOURER'S ATTACK

Also by
KATIE & KEVIN TSANG



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INFINITY'S SECRET

DEVOURER'S ATTACK

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KATIE & KEVIN TSANG

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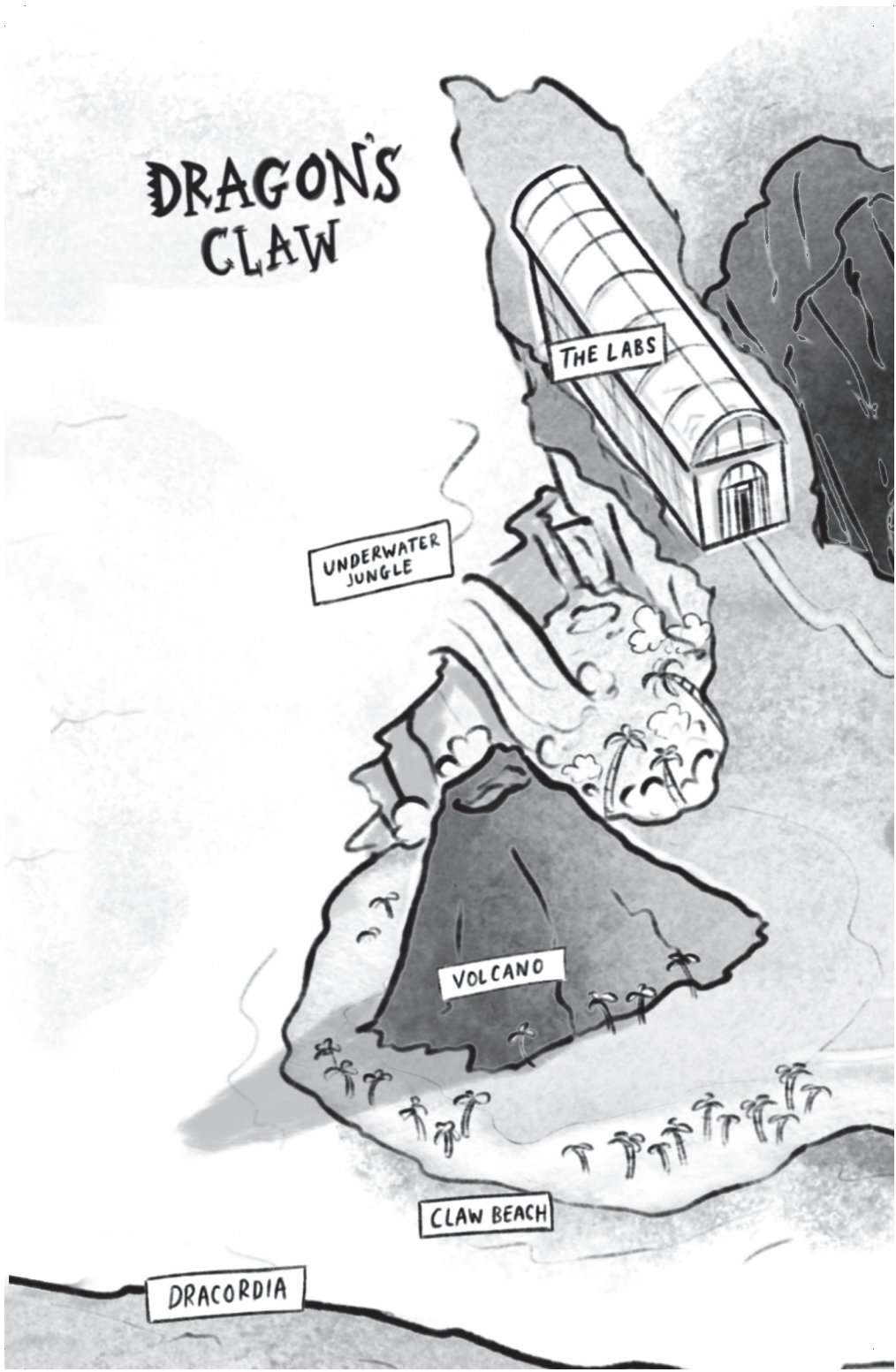
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*To Rachel Denwood, for making all
our dragon dreams come true*

DRAGON'S CLAW



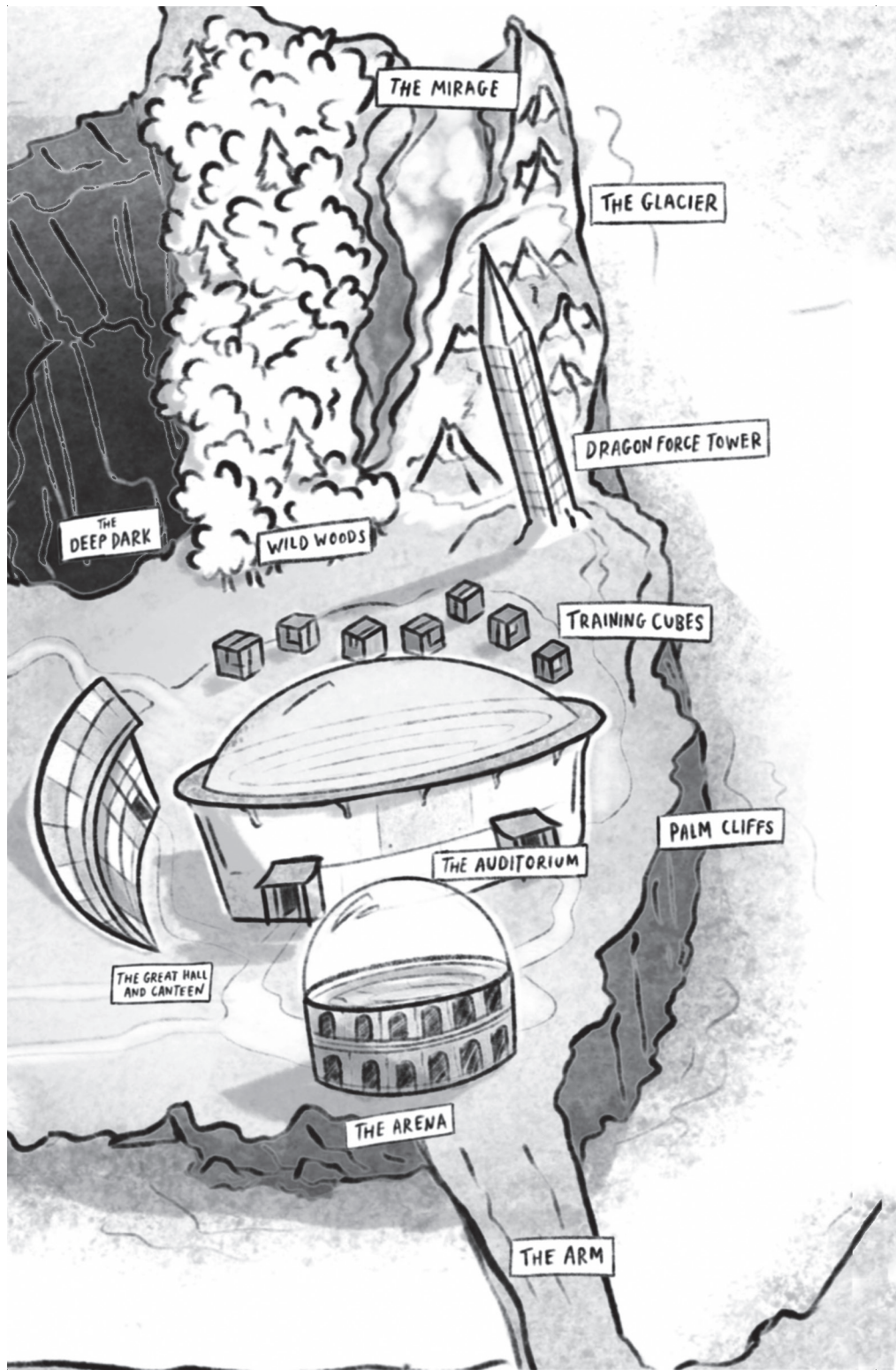
THE LABS

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



The Shadow in the Sky

There is a shadow in the sky.

At first glance, it looks like a dark cloud, but no.
It is a long shadow of something approaching.

Of something from beyond the sky.

Of something that is coming.

The shadow is there, day and night, and it is growing
and spreading. The stars that watch it shudder, for
they know that now there is no stopping it.

High in the sky there is a hidden den. Made of
bone and ice, it twists and turns, and should not stay
afloat, but it is crackling with magic. With power.

A swirling cloud of dust and fumes protects the
maze. Poison permeates the air, and every breath you

take leaves you more dazed. The closer you get to the centre, the colder it becomes. The coldness, and the confusion, is inescapable.

And what lies in the centre . . . ? What is waiting for you in the maze . . . ?

Horrors await. Horrors that will strike such fear into your heart that you will find yourself petrified. And you will join others like yourself. Frozen and floating and trapped. Unable to leave the maze, until the Devourer arrives – but by then, all will be lost.

But even in horror, there is hope.

Among the trapped in the maze are a young man and his dragon, both stripped of power and of movement, but still living, still aware. And they stare not at the rapidly growing shadow in the sky, but at the last thing they saw before the fear took over. They stare at the distant ground below. At a new land, one shaped like a dragon's claw, left empty but for four children and their dragons. The only ones who can save them all.

They are the only hope for those trapped in this hidden den in the sky.

But the shadow is growing, the cold is spreading,
and time is running out.
The Devourer is coming.



A Hidden Enemy

Lance Lo stood atop the Volcano, staring at the stars.

His dragon, Infinity, stood next to him, her orange and gold wings spread and ready for flight. Both of them were alert and wide awake, even though Lance knew he should be exhausted.

Lance gazed out at Dragon's Claw. The peninsula comprised four distinct claws of land, and three lagoons between – and when you took in everything together as Lance did now, it appeared as a dragon stretching its claws. The Volcano was on one side, where the 'thumb' would be, then the Water Jungle, which glowed vibrant colours and was full of a multitude of rare water plants, followed by the Labs,

flickering with electricity and thrumming with molecule magic, then the Deep Dark, with its fathomless inky depths, the Wild Woods, dense with trees and foliage, the mysterious Mirage, a swirling, shimmering place, and on the furthest edge, the Glacier, a tundra of frozen ice and snow. In the centre of Dragon's Claw was the Palm, the location of the Dragon Force Tower, the Great Hall, the canteen, auditorium, Arena and training cubes.

It was a magical place, with good reason. Dragon's Claw was the headquarters of the Dragon Force – the elite group of humans and their heart-bonded dragons who worked together to protect the New World. And it was also home to Camp Claw, where potential recruits to the Dragon Force were trained and, if they were lucky, found their heart-bonded dragons. It was all because humans and dragons now needed to work together to fight against common enemies and keep their shared home safe.

When the Dragon Realm had collapsed on the Human Realm, it brought dragons and magic, as well as completely changing the world with new land masses, mountain ranges and oceans. One of

the new continents was Dracordia, mostly populated by dragons, and at the edge of Dracordia, connected by a long strip of land, was Dragon's Claw.

But dragons weren't the only new creatures coming in. When the Great Collapse happened, it tore holes in the very fabric of the universe, and suddenly there was an onslaught of attacks from new monstrous creatures of all kinds. Creatures who would attack both humans and dragons.

And so the Dragon Force was created, to protect the New World. The human and dragon members of the Dragon Force were the heroes of the New World, saving the day, time and time again.

For as long as he could remember, twelve-year-old Lance had been desperate to go to Camp Claw. All he'd wanted was to find his heart-bonded dragon and join the Dragon Force. When his flame post invitation had come, he couldn't believe it. Not only had Lance been invited, but his younger sister, Zoe, had found her heart-bonded dragon in the woods behind their house in New London. Lance had been shocked when the purple dragon had appeared to them and bonded with Zoe right then and there. Zoe

was only ten and Lance had never heard of anyone finding their dragon so young.

Then the Lo siblings had arrived at Camp Claw, and it was everything Lance could have hoped for and more. Lance had found Infinity, his dragon, and she had gifted him a magical erhu which had awakened his own power of music mastery and song spells. He'd made friends too – Bea from Buenos Aires and Arthur from New New York. He'd thought it was the best week of his life, until suddenly everything went horribly wrong. What had started as a week of dreams coming true had quickly become a nightmare. Arthur had inadvertently been working for the Swarm, an evil genius who had been transformed into a giant beetleman. Amid a rise of global attacks that took away the leaders of the Dragon Force from Camp Claw, the Swarm, along with creatures under his influence, attacked Camp Claw and stole the Heart Stone – the core of Dragon's Claw's magic.

Together, with their dragons, Lance and his friends had tracked down the Swarm, and had taken back the Heart Stone. But when they'd returned to Camp Claw, it was deserted.

The Swarm had been a distraction. He'd been tasked with stealing the Heart Stone by the Devourer – a terrifying, all-powerful creature from a distant galaxy that was coming to the New World to devour them all. In preparation for his arrival, the Devourer had sent an ambush of Petrifiers to Dragon's Claw. Petrifiers were creatures of smoke and shadow that fought with fear, meaning they could strike so much terror into the hearts of their prey that they would be petrified – so filled with fear that they'd be unable to move. And almost all of the Dragon Force had been petrified and taken to the hidden den of the Devourer, ready for him to feast on them.

All except Lance, Zoe, Arthur, Bea and their dragons. They had returned with the Heart Stone and put it back in its rightful place in Dragon's Claw. And they were in time to find one remaining dragon – Kronos, the Camp Claw historian, who had managed to fight the fear long enough to escape the Petrifiers and tell the group what had happened – before the fear finally broke into his heart, leaving him petrified on Dragon's Claw.

In the last moments before Kronos froze entirely,

Lance had sworn to him that they would do whatever it took to save the rest of the Dragon Force.

After they had returned the Heart Stone to where it belonged, the shell-shocked group of friends had gone to the Volcano and into their sleep pods, so they could get some rest. They needed to be at their best if they stood any chance of finding and rescuing the Dragon Force.

Lance had tried to sleep, but it felt impossible. He tossed and turned, and his body ached with exhaustion, but his mind wouldn't quiet. After what felt like hours, he had sat up, and decided to go to the top of the Volcano to get some fresh air, hoping that the night breeze would soothe him.

Through his bond with Infinity he had sensed that the dragon was awake too, and he'd asked her to meet him. Now, Lance and Infinity were standing on the very top of the Volcano. The highest floor of the Volcano was the common room, in a ring around the edge, like all the other floors. But Lance had wanted to go higher than that, and so he was perching on the edge of the opening itself. It was wide enough for both him and Infinity to stand, and

had a small lip that curved up so he felt confident he wouldn't fall in. From this angle he could see all the way down inside the Volcano, which still hummed and buzzed and beeped with dragon magic and technology. Even with the Dragon Force gone, the tech was still running. Neon, the giant electric-green dragon that had heart-bonded with Bea, had explained that the Volcano was infused with dragon magic, but that it didn't need dragons to run. It was almost like a living thing itself.

Lance drew strength from it – the Volcano that had already started to feel like a second home. And being able to see the stars still shining was a comfort, even as the shadow in the sky grew – which meant the Devourer was coming. The stars shone like beacons of hope. For a brief moment, everything felt as if it would be okay.

Yes, their task was enormous. And yes, they had no idea even how to begin.

But they had their dragons and each other, and Lance kept telling himself that was enough, that together they would be able to do this.

Then the breeze stopped suddenly and there was

a ringing in Lance's ears, muffling the sound of the waves on the beach below. Goosebumps rose on the back of his neck, and he felt dizzy and strange, and began to sway on his feet. Every breath he took made him feel increasingly uneasy, as if he were breathing in poison.

'Infinity, do you feel that?' Lance reached for his dragon, just as the Volcano began to shake beneath them.

'Lance! Quick! On my back!' Infinity cried out as the Volcano continued to shake.

Lance leaped on his dragon's back. 'Is the Volcano going to erupt?' he said. 'We have to get the others!' Infinity flew up above the Volcano, and they watched it shuddering and shaking beneath them.

Infinity shook her head. 'It isn't erupting – it is trying to warn us about something! It is trying to shake out an intruder!'

'Dive inside!' said Lance, and Infinity flew straight down the middle of the Volcano, wings fully back and nose down. As they raced through the central open corridor of the Volcano, Lance shouted for his sister and his friends. 'Zoe! Arthur! Bea! Wake up!'

He sighed with relief when he saw his sister stagger out of her sleep pod and towards the edge of the walkway. ‘Zoe! Get down here!’ he shouted.

Zoe leaped off the edge, her short dark-brown hair flowing out around her head like a halo. A moment later her lavender-coloured dragon, Violet, zoomed in from above the Volcano, moving so quickly that she was beneath Zoe in an instant, long before Zoe had a chance of hitting the ground.

‘What is it?’ Zoe called out to Lance. ‘Is it an attack?’ Violet flew close to Infinity and Lance, and Lance could see how nervous his sister was. Even though they’d been born two years apart, they had always been close, and their time at Camp Claw had brought them even closer. They even looked similar with their dark brown hair, and dark eyes that crinkled in the corners when they smiled. The Lo siblings were dual heritage – a mix of their British Chinese father and their white British mum. Lance wanted to comfort Zoe, the way he always had, but there wasn’t time for that right now.

‘I don’t know!’ Lance admitted as he looked around the Volcano, trying to find the source of

what was making it react like this. ‘Where are Bea and Arthur?’

‘Right here!’ said a voice from above him, and Lance glanced up to see Bea on the back of her bright green dragon, Neon – they were flying down to join the group near the floor of the Volcano. Her curly brown hair was tied up in two bunches on her head, and her brown eyes were wide with worry.

‘I’m here too,’ said another voice, and Arthur and his black and silver dragon, Jaws, flew down next to Lance and Infinity. ‘But shouldn’t we be exiting the shaking Volcano instead of going deeper inside it?’ Arthur, who was blond with white skin, looked even paler than normal as his eyes darted around the Volcano.

‘Arthur has a point,’ said Bea. ‘We should get out of here.’

‘There is something in here that I do not like,’ said Neon in his low, almost robotic voice. ‘I have never seen the Volcano react like this to anything.’

‘Well, I came back in to make sure you guys weren’t trapped inside,’ said Lance, still scanning their surroundings, trying to see what was making

the Volcano respond this way. ‘But now that we are in here, all together, I think we need to figure out what is going on.’

The Volcano was designed to accommodate humans and dragons – so the central corridor was wide and open, but around the edges, in a circle, sleep pods were carved into the interior walls of the Volcano, connected with long halls.

A chill filled the air, and Lance glimpsed a strange shadow darting around the circular paths that wound up around the walls of the Volcano. His eyes couldn’t quite land on it and when he tried to look at it straight on, it disappeared. Something close to fear began to spread through him.

‘There,’ he said, pointing at it. ‘Something is up there, in the upper halls.’

‘We must stop it,’ said Jaws, growling low in his throat. ‘Before it gets out.’

‘How are we going to catch it?’ asked Zoe. ‘I can’t even see it!’

‘Do not worry, Zoe,’ said Violet, tossing her head. ‘I can catch anything.’ She began to flap her wings, and a lavender-coloured mist began to flow from her

body. ‘Nothing escapes my mystifying mist.’ Violet was both a healer and enchanter dragon, and used mist that billowed out from under her scales to either heal or harm. This signature move could confuse and entrance her victims. As she flapped her wings, the mist rose up in the air, as if it was seeking something. It moved with purpose, darting around the group of humans and dragons.

Electric sparks crackled around Neon. ‘I too am prepared to fight. We will find whatever it is that is hiding here inside our volcano, and we will destroy it,’ he rumbled.

‘What if it is a Petrifier?’ said Lance quietly. ‘The Petrifiers were able to petrify and capture all of the Dragon Force. What chance do we have against power like that?’ As he spoke, he reached for his erhu, the stringed instrument gifted to him by Infinity. The erhu looked like a sledgehammer with two strings running from one edge of the hammer to the tip of its handle. When Lance played it, he used the bow that was interlocked between the two strings to make it sing, and he ran his fingers up and down the strings to change the notes. Lance loved how the

sound echoed and reverberated in the sound-box at the bottom, the part that looked like the hammer. Lance knew that the erhu was an ancient Chinese instrument, still used in modern times, and usually the bow was made of horsehair. But his bow was made of dragon hair, willingly given to create the instrument and enhance it with dragon magic. And that wasn't the only special thing about his erhu. When he played it, he could summon spells with his song. Spells for protection, for defence, for more than he could imagine. And the erhu itself could be used as a powerful, magical hammer that could break through all kinds of things. When he wasn't using it, Lance wore the erhu on his back with an unbreakable strap. Lance was glad to always have it close, just in case he needed it. His erhu, and his power that had come from his dragon-bond with Infinity, had saved the lives of him and his friends when they had battled the Swarm. The Swarm had started life as a human named Frank Albert before he'd been turned into a giant beetle-man from a magical essence known as 'golden elixir'. The Swarm hated dragons, and he was intent on destroying

dragonkind and serving the Devourer in the hope that he would be rewarded with infinite power.

Lance knew it was inevitable that he and his friends would face the Devourer, but he hoped that by the time they did they would have saved the Dragon Force. Together they would be strong enough to take on the creature so powerful and mighty that he could travel across the universe with ease, devouring entire worlds as he went. The very thought of the Devourer terrified Lance. It seemed impossible that the Devourer could be defeated, especially as he had sent the Petrifiers to the New World first, to find the greatest sources of power for him to feast on when he arrived, and that the Petrifiers had been able to petrify and kidnap all of the members of the Dragon Force. The Petrifiers supposedly had a mere fraction of the amount of power that the Devourer had.

And yet the Petrifiers had still been able to defeat the strongest group in the New World: the leaders of the Dragon Force and their dragons.

Lance knew he and his friends couldn't give up now, no matter how bleak it seemed. They had

to try to find the rest of Dragon Force before the Devourer arrived.

‘The Dragon Force were unprepared for the Petrifiers,’ said Jaws. ‘We will not be caught unawares.’ He snapped his teeth. ‘And I am ready for it – be it a Petrifier or some other creature.’

A low howl echoed all around them, and Lance felt his skin prickle with unease.

‘I’m scared,’ whispered Zoe. And Lance too was filled with a creeping dread. The group drew in closer together.

Infinity’s four gemstones on her horns began to glow. ‘Block out the fear. You must not let it overcome you.’

There was another howl, and the air grew colder. Lance looked up and saw the strange shadow again, but this time it was leaping right towards him.