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TUI T. SUTHERLAND

ART BY MIKE HOLMES

# WINGS OF FIRE

THE GRAPHIC NOVEL



BOOK SEVEN  
WINTER TURNING

 SCHOLASTIC



DISCOVER  
THE WORLD OF  
**WINGS OF FIRE**

BOOK ONE  
THE DRAGONET PROPHECY

BOOK TWO  
THE LOST HEIR

BOOK THREE  
THE HIDDEN KINGDOM

BOOK FOUR  
THE DARK SECRET

BOOK FIVE  
THE BRIGHTEST NIGHT

BOOK SIX  
MOON RISING

BOOK SEVEN  
WINTER TURNING

BOOK EIGHT  
ESCAPING PERIL

BOOK NINE  
TALONS OF POWER

BOOK TEN  
DARKNESS OF DRAGONS

BOOK ELEVEN  
THE LOST CONTINENT

BOOK TWELVE  
THE HIVE QUEEN

BOOK THIRTEEN  
THE POISON JUNGLE

BOOK FOURTEEN  
THE DANGEROUS GIFT

BOOK FIFTEEN  
THE FLAMES OF HOPE

LEGENDS  
DARKSTALKER  
DRAGONSLAYER

—————▶ GRAPHIC NOVELS ◀—————

BOOK ONE  
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BOOK SEVEN  
WINTER TURNING





# 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.

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# WINGS OF FIRE

WINTER TURNING  
THE GRAPHIC NOVEL

BY TUI T. SUTHERLAND

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AND RACHEL SWIRSKY

ART BY MIKE HOLMES  
COLOR BY MAARTA LAIHO



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Queen Glacier's  
Palace

Ice Kingdom

Sky Kingdom

Queen Thorn's  
Stronghold

Kingdom of  
Sand

Scorpion Den

Jade Mountain

Clouds of the  
Mountains













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!

LOUNGING AROUND  
NEAR A SCAVENGER  
DEN? DOUBTFUL.

MOTHER AND  
FATHER WILL  
BE FURIOUS.

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.

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.

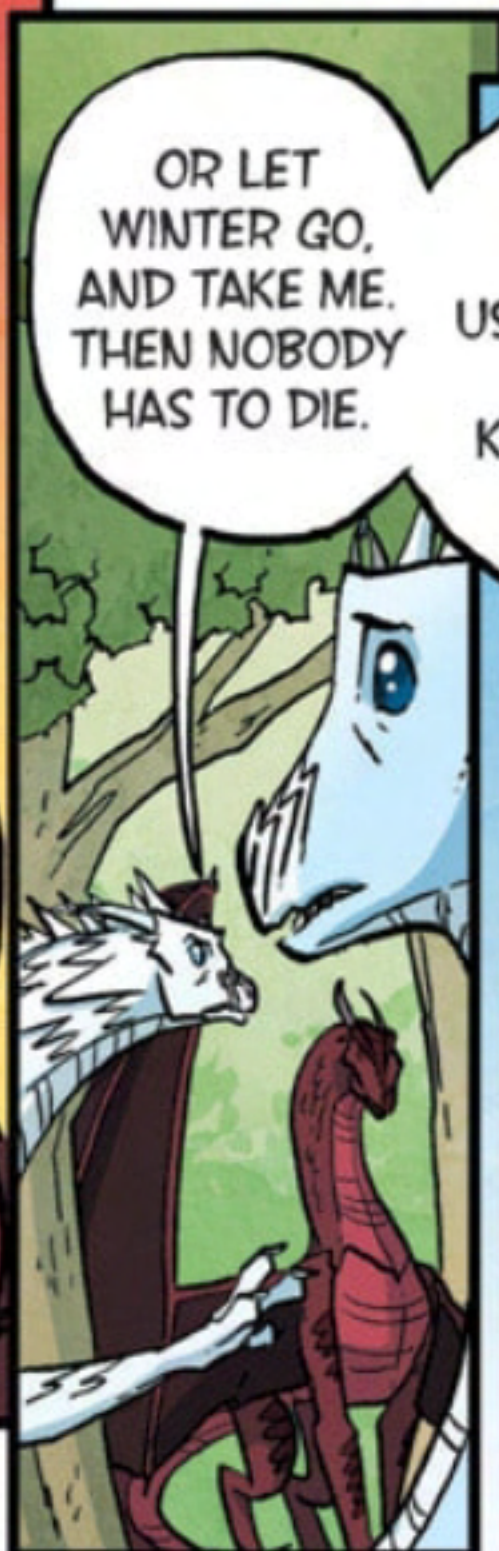




...PERHAPS YOU CAN  
TAKE US, BUT HOW MANY OF  
YOU WILL DIE FIRST?



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



OR LET  
WINTER GO,  
AND TAKE ME.  
THEN NOBODY  
HAS TO DIE.

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



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.

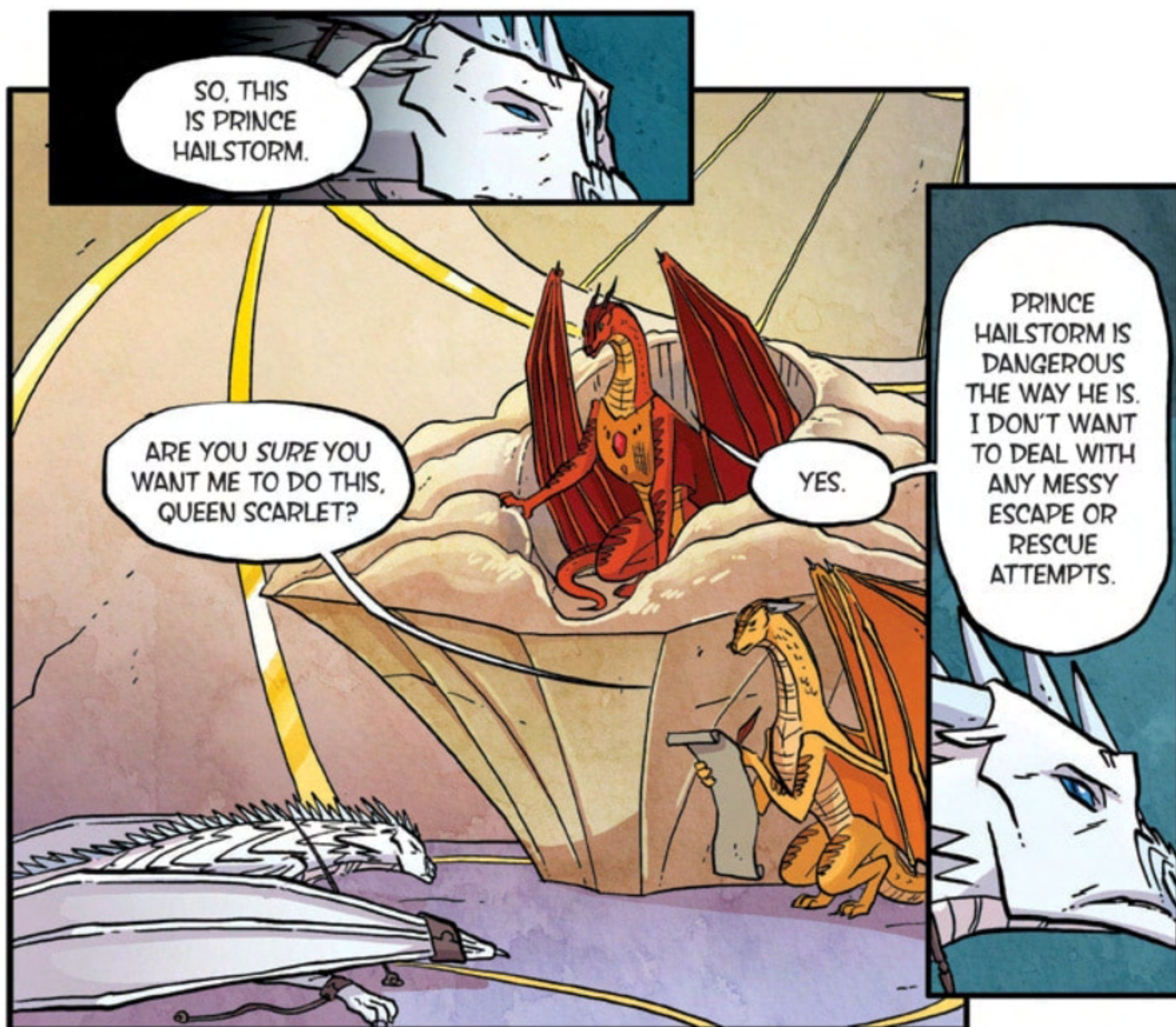


AREN'T WE CIVILIZED?  
NOW SOMEBODY CLUB  
OUR PRISONER OVER  
THE HEAD.



THAT'S NOT  
NECESS-







## PART ONE: A COLD WIND

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  
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 SIDE.

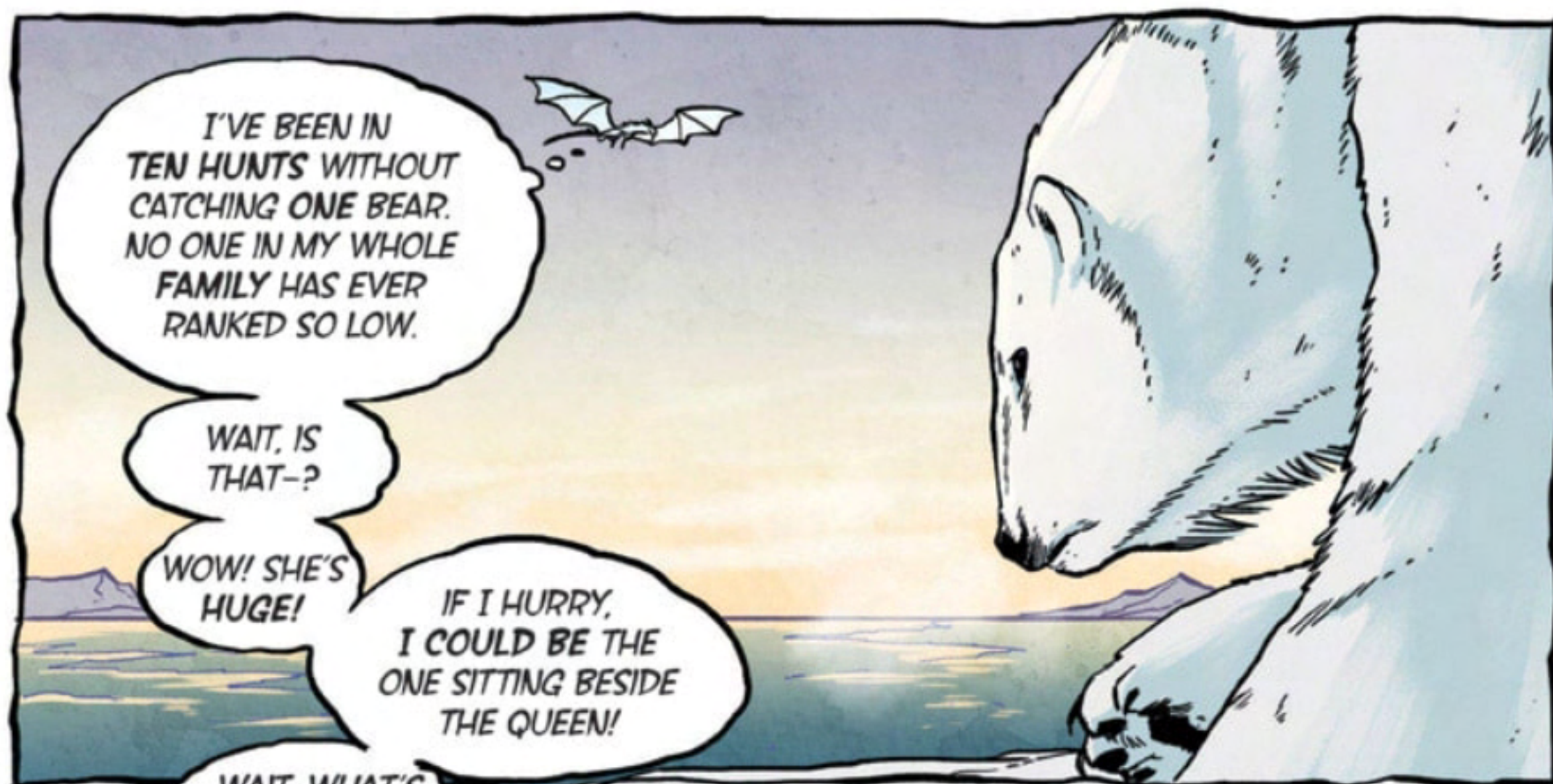
EASY. I'VE GOT A  
MUCH BETTER NOSE THAN  
THOSE TWO.

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?

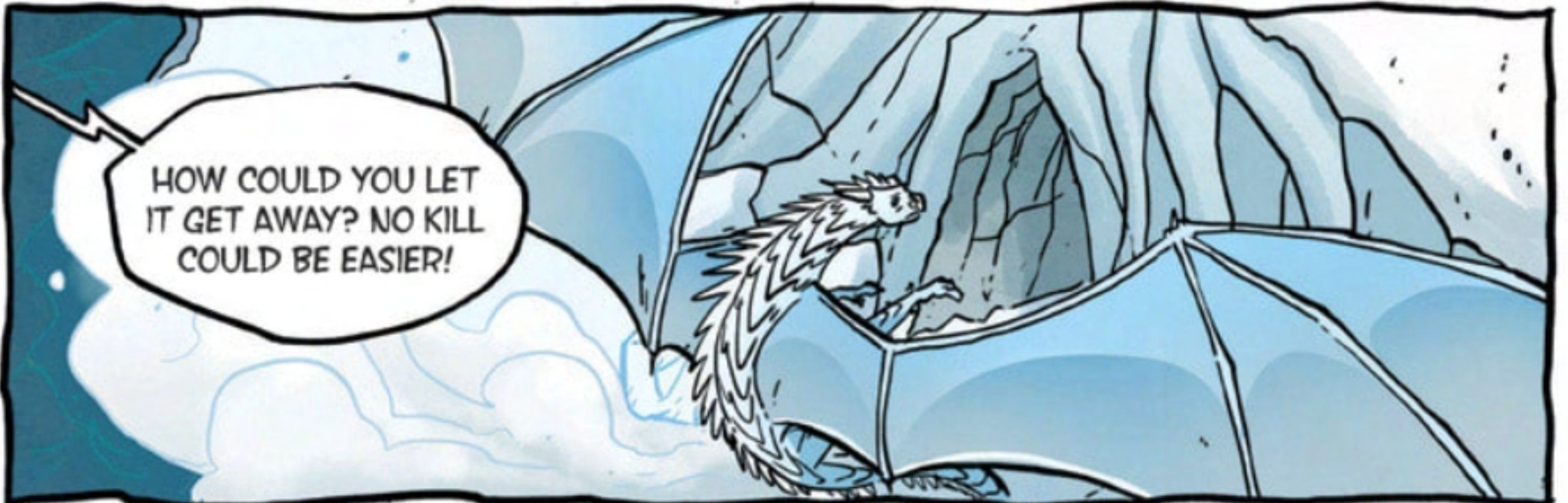


WHAT IS WRONG  
WITH YOU, WINTER?  
ARE YOU HUNTING OR  
SIGHTSEEING?



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—

IF YOU HADN'T WASTED  
TIME MOONING AROUND.  
WE HAVE TO REPORT THIS,  
SON. YOU'LL FALL EVEN  
FARTHER DOWN THE  
RANKINGS.



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.



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—



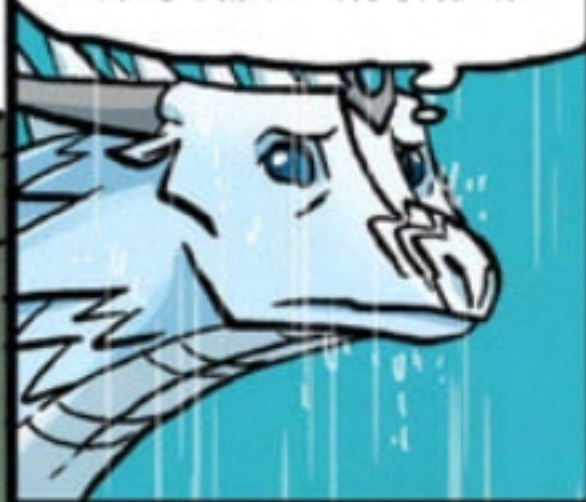
MY FAULT WE WERE  
THERE. MY FAULT  
WE GOT CAUGHT.  
MY STUPID,  
COWARDLY DECISION  
TO LEAVE.



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.



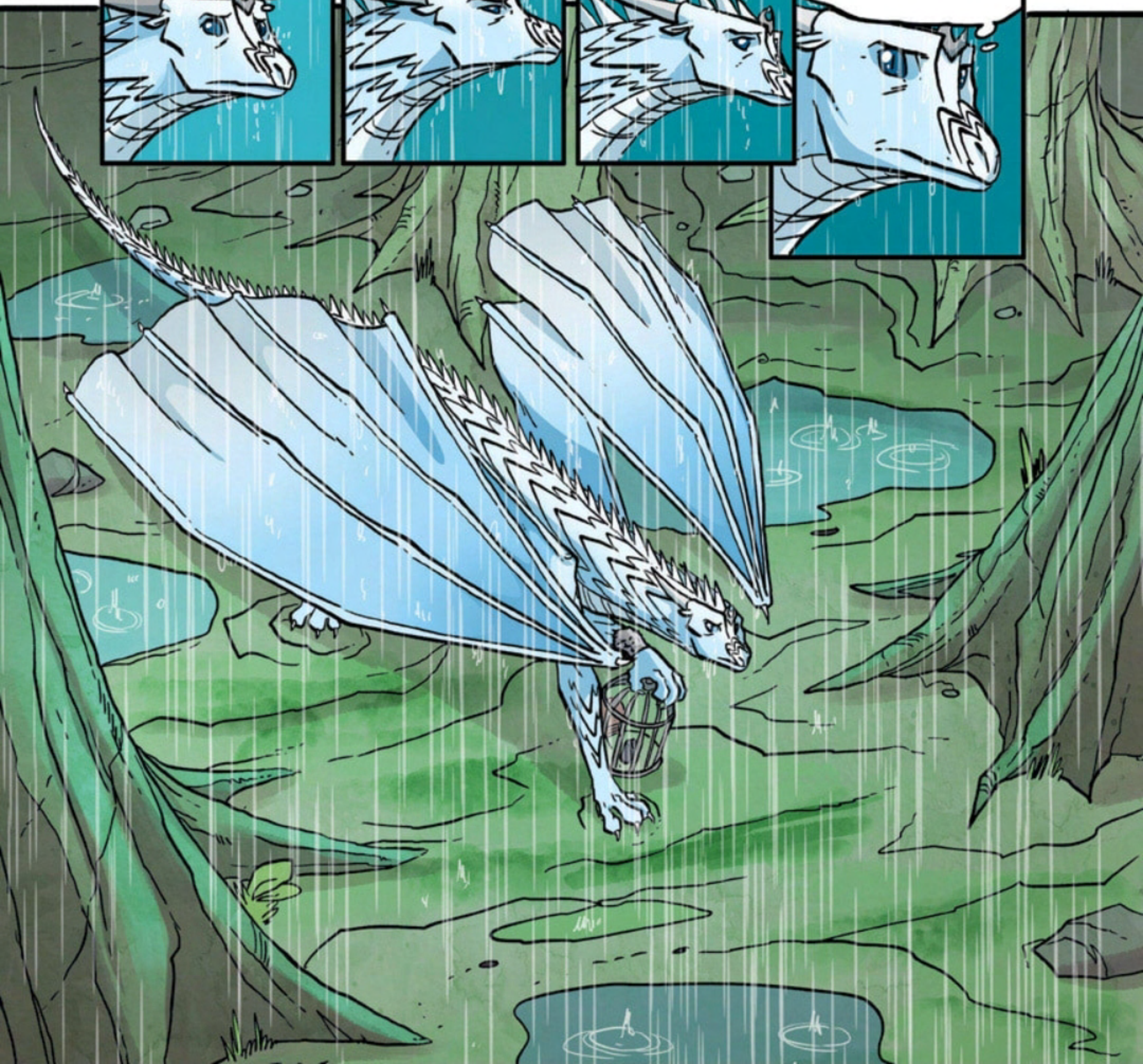
AND I RUINED  
ICICLE'S BARGAIN  
WITH SCARLET TO  
SAVE HIS LIFE—



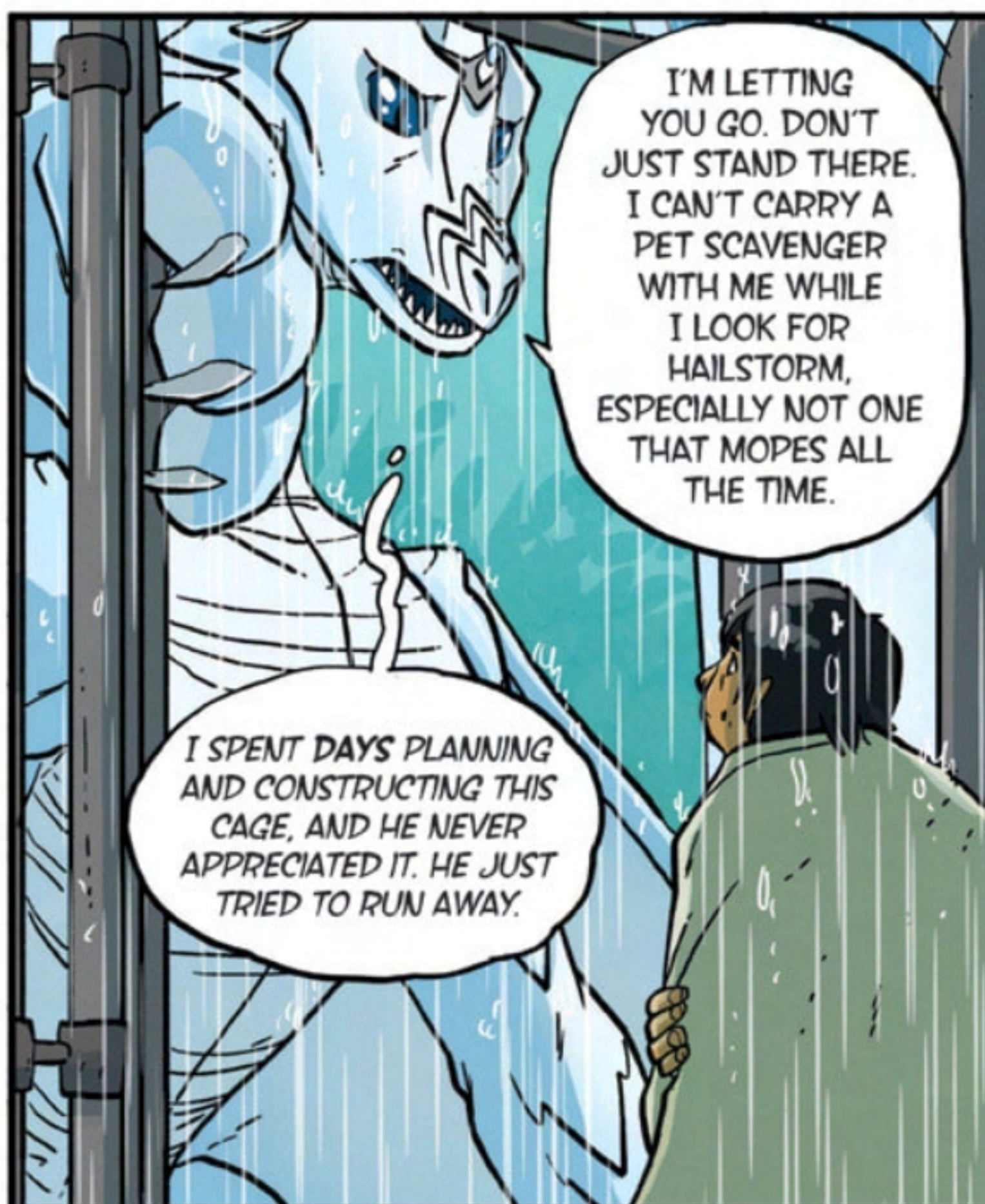
IF SCARLET KILLS  
HIM NOW, IT'S  
EVEN MORE MY  
FAULT.



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.

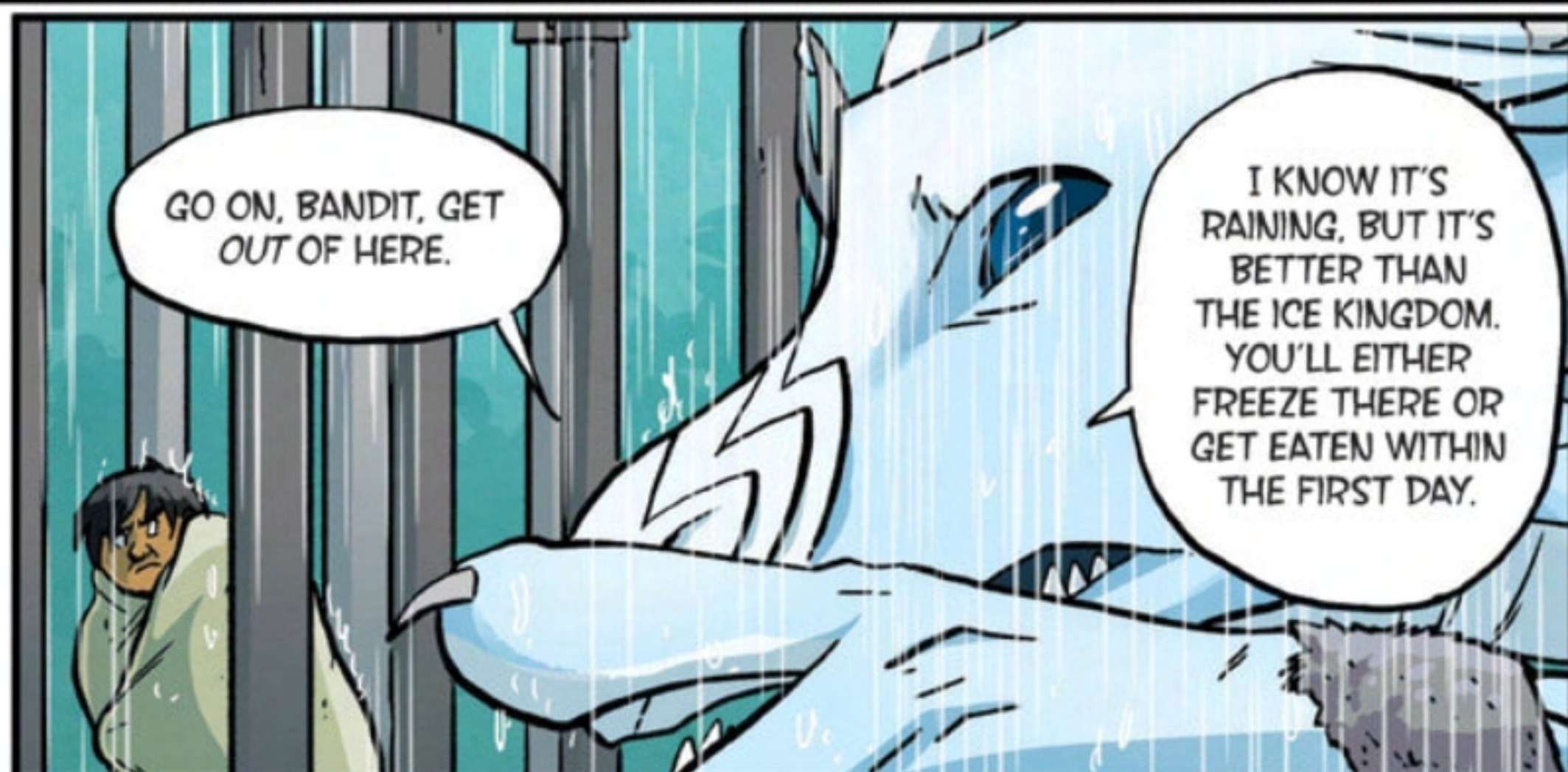
I SPENT DAYS PLANNING AND CONSTRUCTING THIS CAGE, AND HE NEVER APPRECIATED IT. HE JUST TRIED TO RUN AWAY.



ISN'T THIS WHAT YOU WANTED?



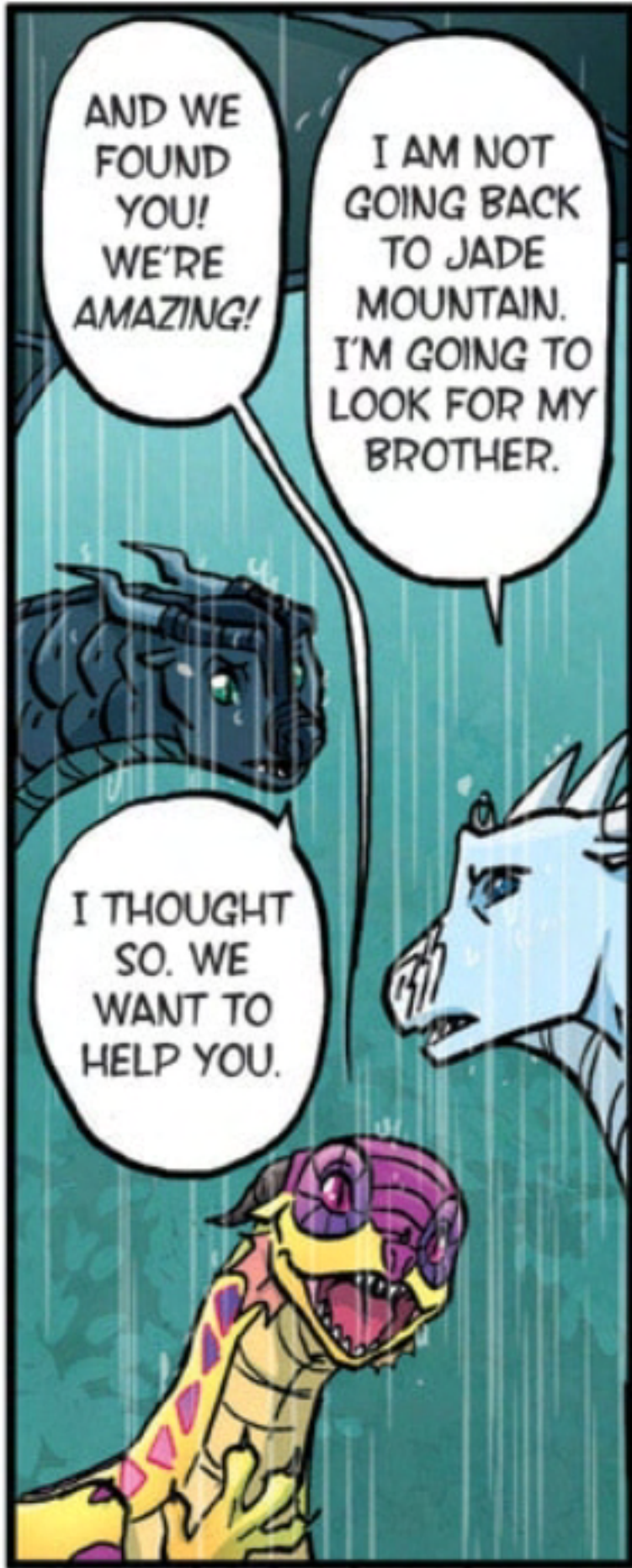
HE'S THE MOST DISAPPOINTING PET OF ALL TIME... BUT I STILL CARE ABOUT HIM. I CAN'T HELP IT.



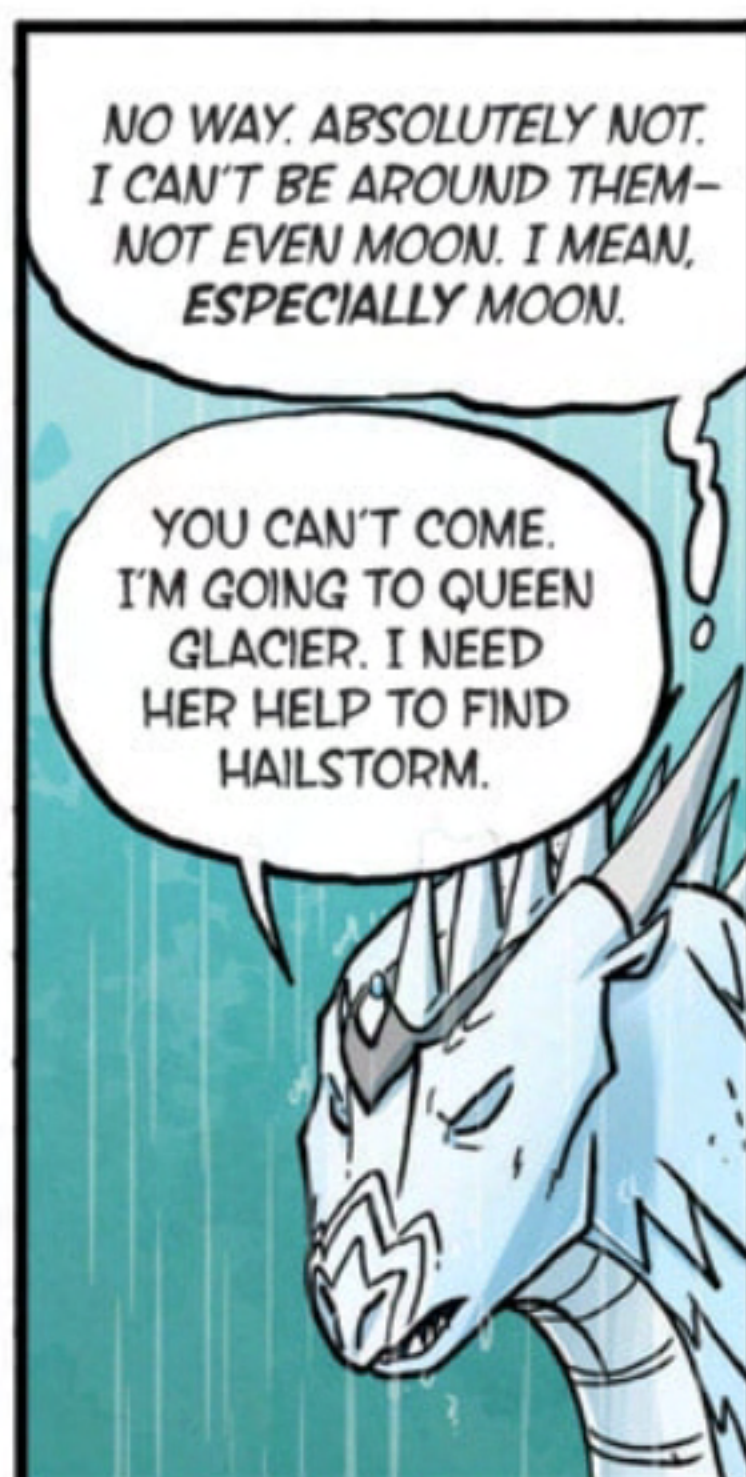
GO ON, BANDIT, GET OUT OF HERE.

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.













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.



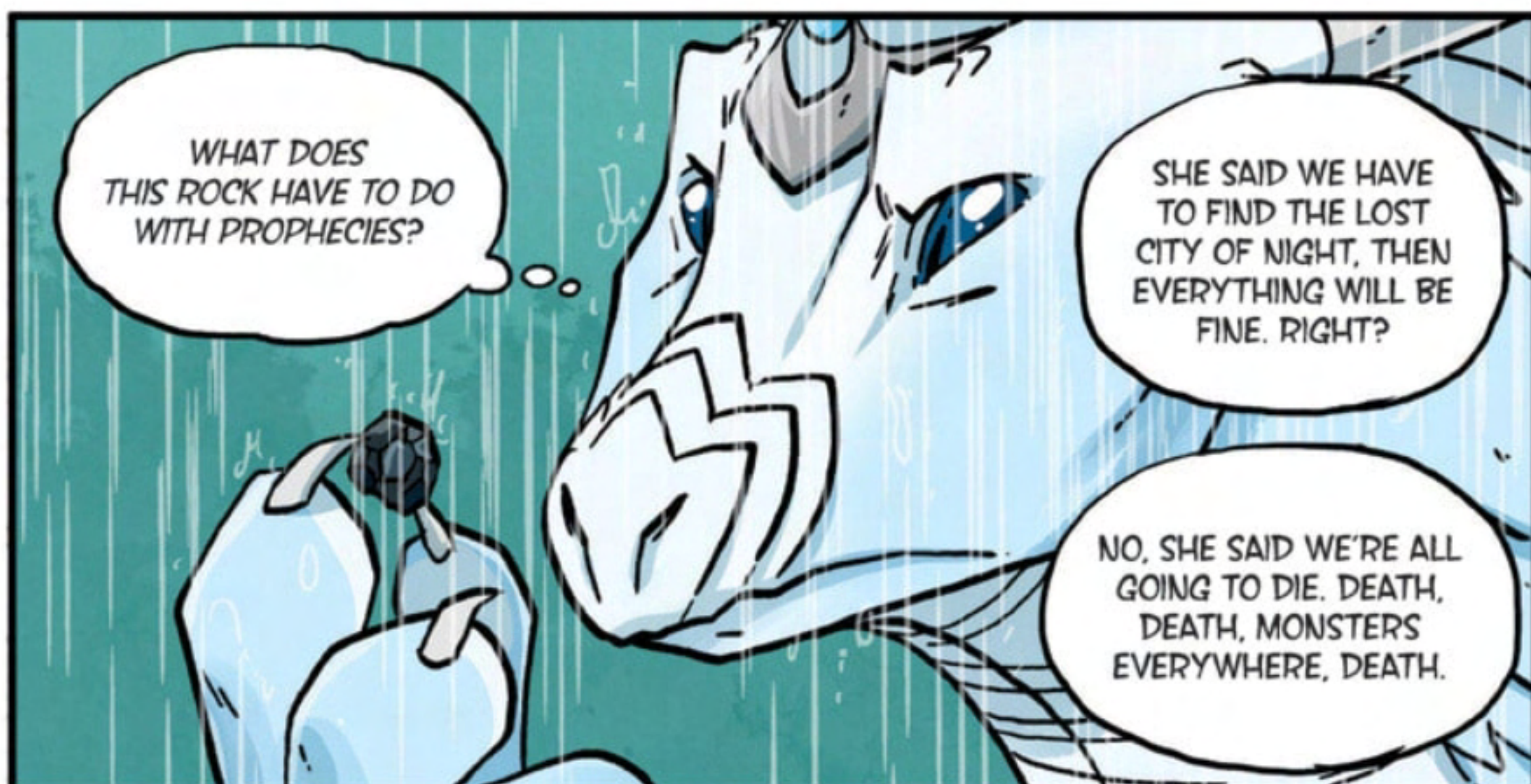
BY ALL  
THE SNAKES.  
WHAT WAS  
THAT?

THAT'S WHAT  
YOU'VE BEEN  
MUTTERING IN  
YOUR SLEEP!

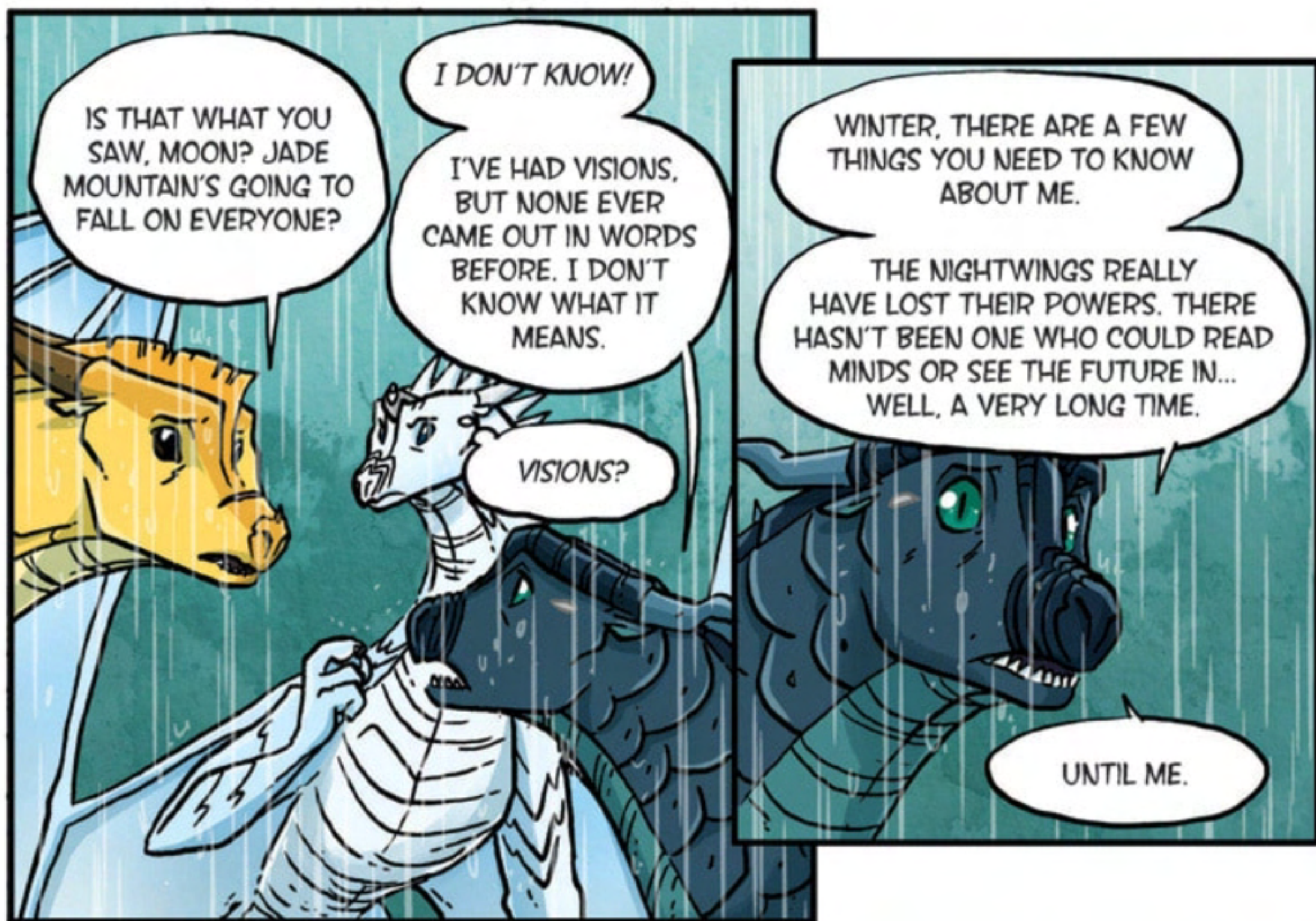
RUMBLE

IT SOUNDED LIKE  
A PROPHECY.

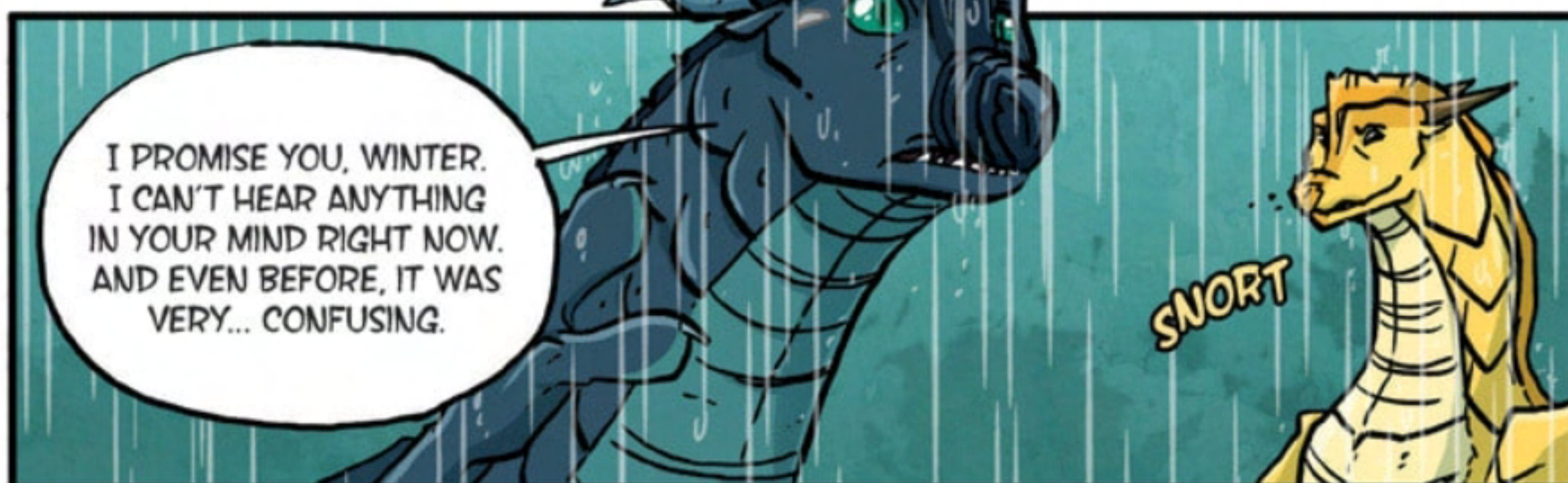




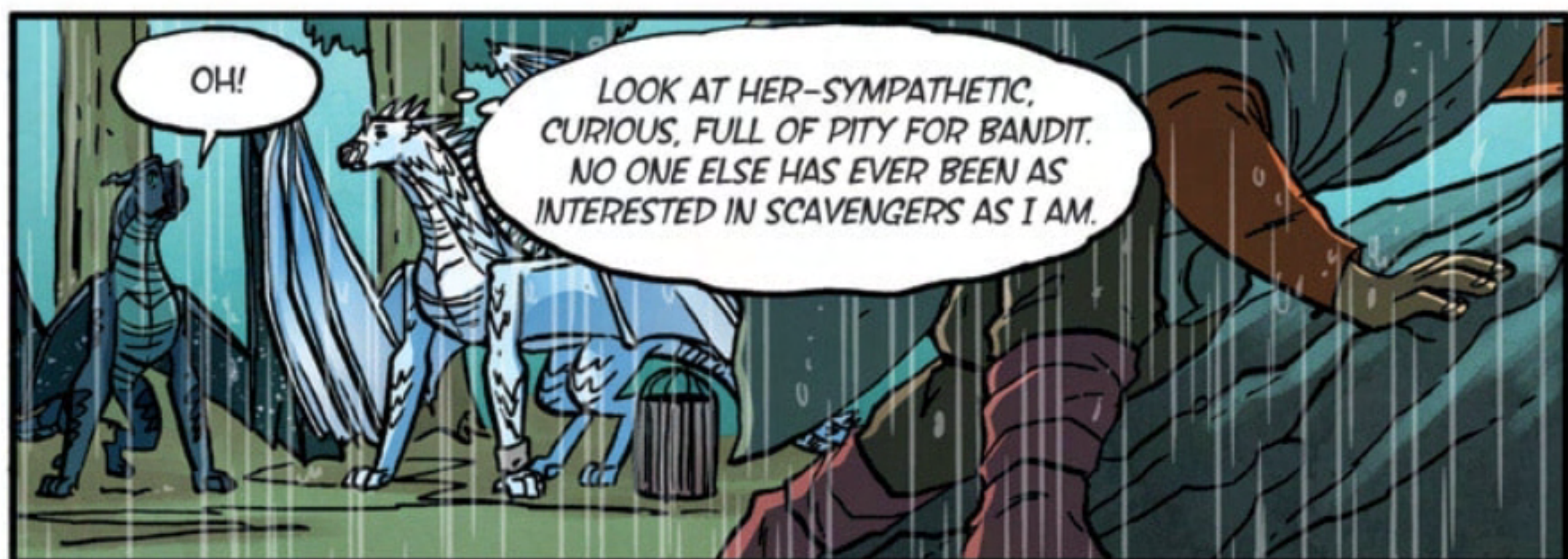
















I DON'T NEED HELP.

YOU DO, ACTUALLY. YOU WON'T GET TWO STEPS INTO THE RAINFOREST WITHOUT OUR HELP, WINTER—IT'S FULL OF NIGHTWINGS NOW, AND EVERYONE KNOWS THEY DON'T LIKE ICEWINGS.



AND IF YOU FIND SCARLET, DO YOU THINK SHE'LL JUST TELL YOU WHERE YOUR BROTHER IS? WOULDN'T IT BE USEFUL AND MORE EFFICIENT TO HAVE A MIND READER WITH YOU?



IS THAT WHAT YOU ARE, MOON? A CLEVER TOOL FOR WHOEVER NEEDS SOME QUICK ANSWERS?

I WON'T LET ANYONE USE ME. BUT IF I CAN DO GOOD WITH THIS—THIS GIFT I DIDN'T ASK FOR—I'LL DO IT.



WHAT ABOUT THE CREEPY PROPHECY? SHOULDN'T WE WARN SOMEONE ABOUT JADE MOUNTAIN?

WE'LL JUST GO TO THE LOST CITY OF NIGHT. EASY. THE NIGHTWINGS ABANDONED THEIR VOLCANO, BUT THERE'S A TUNNEL FROM THE RAINFOREST.



I DON'T THINK IT'S THAT SIMPLE, KINKAJOU... THE THINGS I SEE IN MY NIGHTMARES... I CAN'T IMAGINE JUST VISITING THE VOLCANIC ISLAND COULD STOP IT.

WELL, LET'S TRY IT AND SEE!



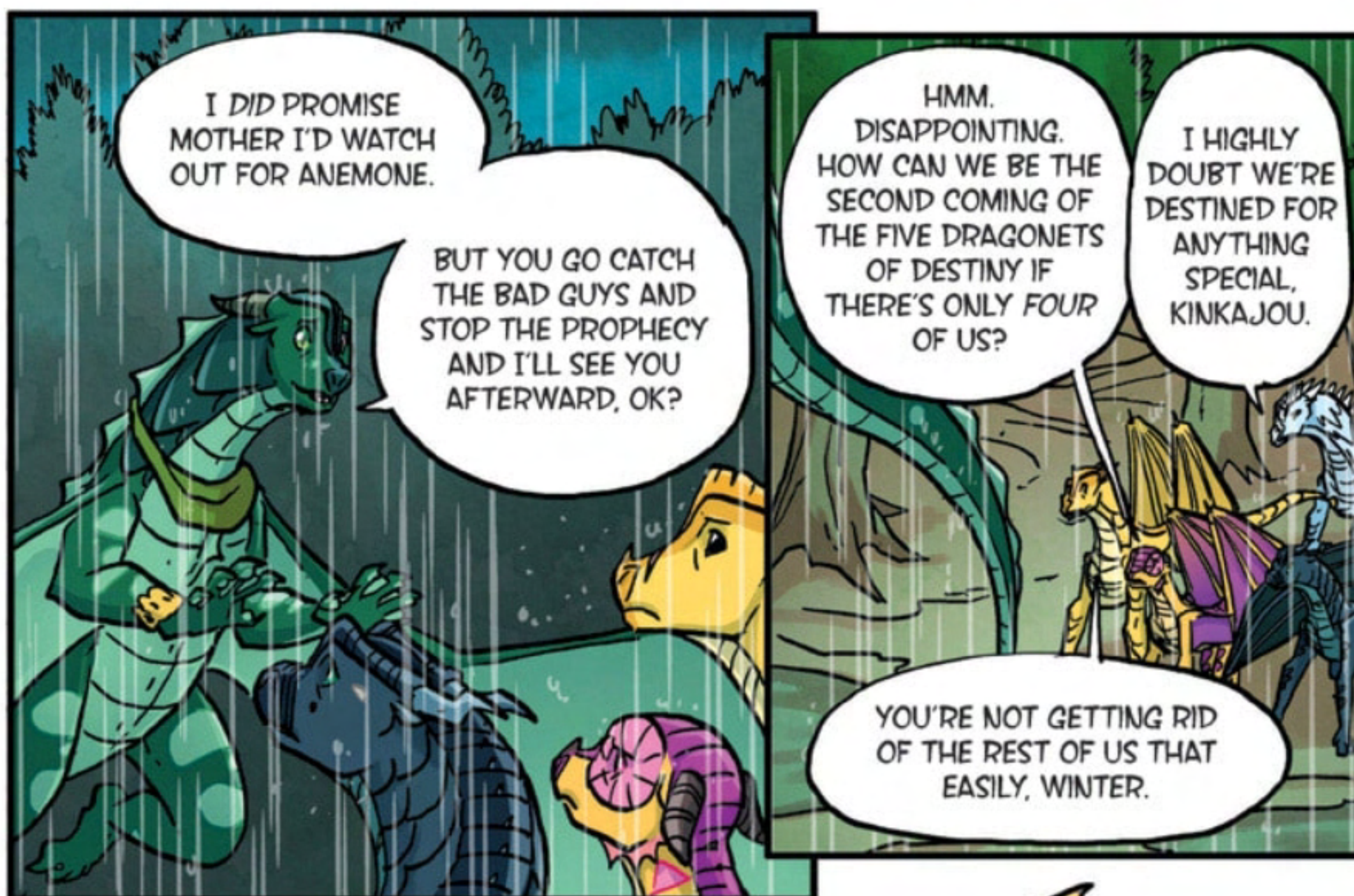
BUT IF IT DOESN'T WORK, ALL THOSE DRAGONS AT JADE MOUNTAIN—MY SISTERS—

HEY, I'M COMPLETELY FEELING THE DOOM, TOO, TURTLE. BUT DO YOU THINK ANYONE WILL BELIEVE MOON? WHEN THEY'VE BEEN TOLD NIGHTWINGS HAVE NO POWERS?














WHY AM I AGREEING TO THIS?  
AN ICEWING WARRIOR DOESN'T NEED  
HELP FROM ANYONE, LEAST OF ALL A  
PACK OF MISGUIDED DRAGONS  
FROM OTHER TRIBES.

EVERYONE KNOWS  
SANDWINGS LIKE QIBLI ARE  
NEARLY AS UNTRUSTWORTHY AS  
NIGHTWINGS—EXCEPT HALF AS  
SMART AND TWICE AS LIKELY TO  
BETRAY YOU FOR TREASURE.

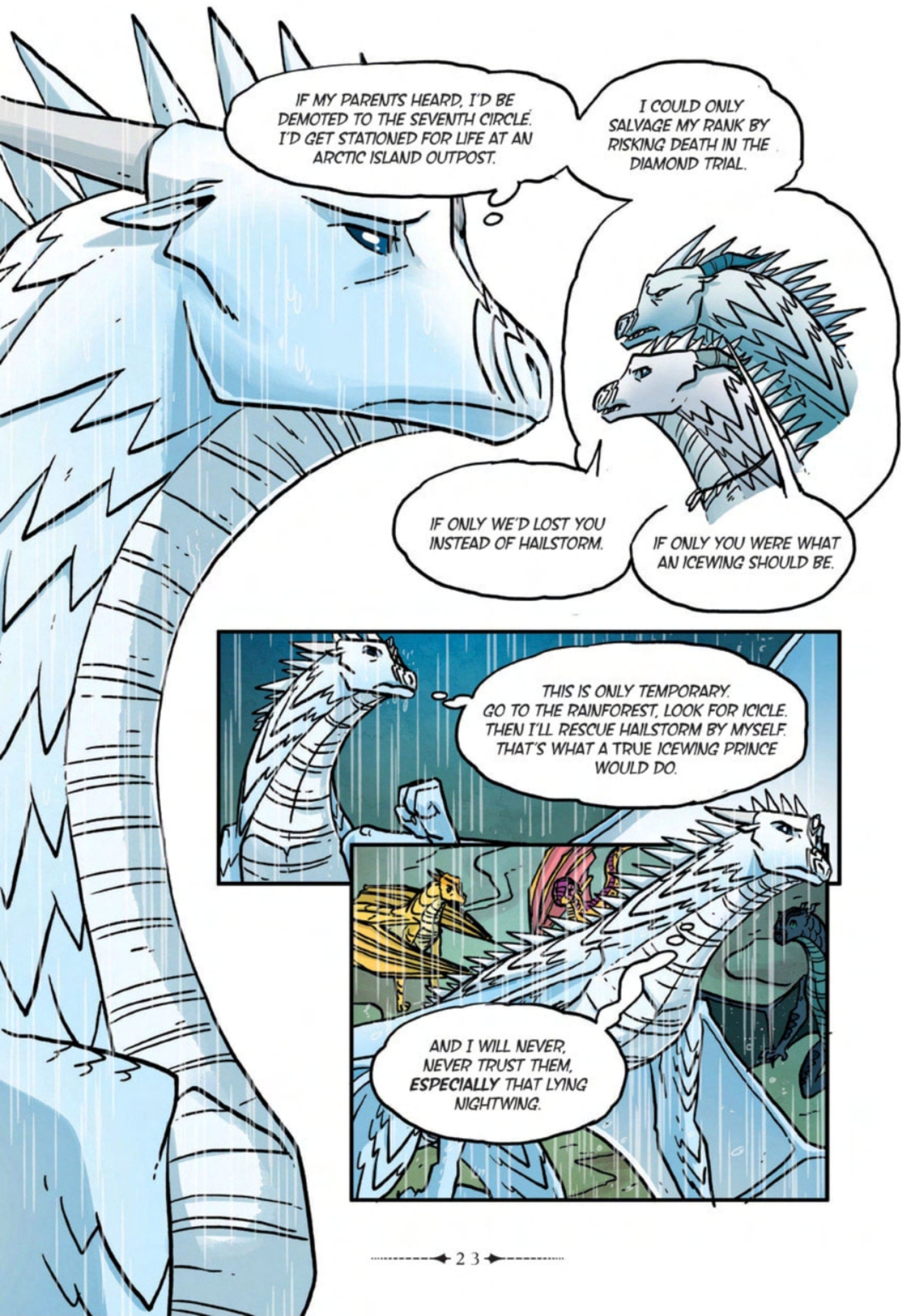
AND KINKAJOU'S  
A RAINWING! HARDLY EVEN  
WORTH MENTIONING! LAZY  
AND INSIGNIFICANT AND WEAK.  
THERE'S NOTHING TO BE GAINED  
BY BEFRIENDING THEM.

WORST OF ALL, MOON—  
HOW CAN I ALLY MYSELF WITH A  
NIGHTWING, EVEN TEMPORARILY?

TRAVELING WITH MOON,  
KNOWING WHAT I NOW  
KNOW, AND... STILL FEELING  
SOMETHING I **SHOULD NOT**  
**BE FEELING...** I SHOULD STAY  
AS FAR AWAY FROM HER  
AS I CAN.

LET'S GO.



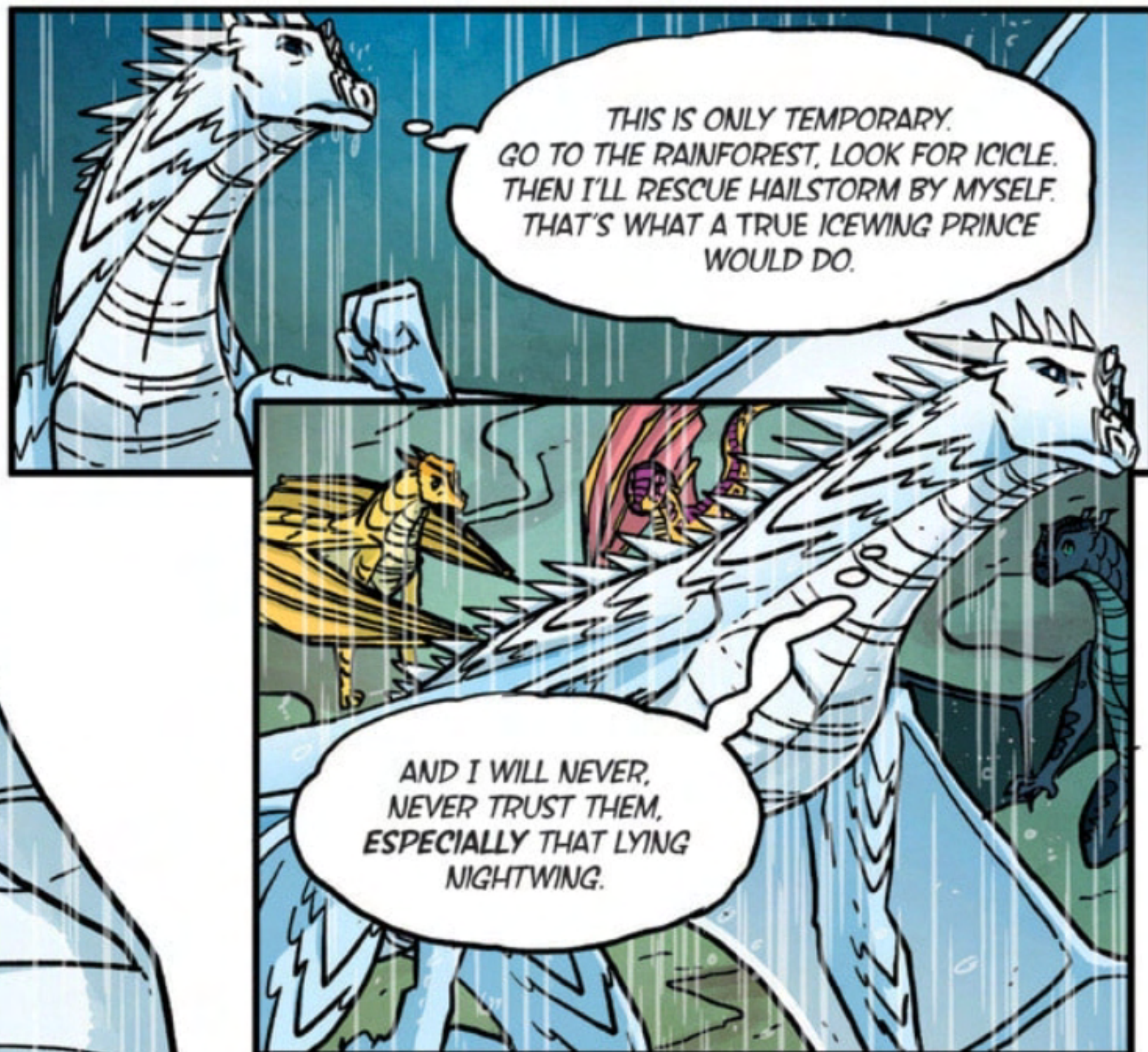


IF MY PARENTS HEARD, I'D BE  
DEMOTED TO THE SEVENTH CIRCLE.  
I'D GET STATIONED FOR LIFE AT AN  
ARCTIC ISLAND OUTPOST.

I COULD ONLY  
SALVAGE MY RANK BY  
RISKING DEATH IN THE  
DIAMOND TRIAL.

IF ONLY WE'D LOST YOU  
INSTEAD OF HAILSTORM.

IF ONLY YOU WERE WHAT  
AN ICEWING SHOULD BE.



THIS IS ONLY TEMPORARY.  
GO TO THE RAINFOREST, LOOK FOR ICICLE.  
THEN I'LL RESCUE HAILSTORM BY MYSELF.  
THAT'S WHAT A TRUE ICEWING PRINCE  
WOULD DO.

AND I WILL NEVER,  
NEVER TRUST THEM,  
ESPECIALLY THAT LYING  
NIGHTWING.



## THE RAINFOREST

THE RAINFOREST  
IS HORRIFYING  
AND AWFUL.

HO COWWWLLLL

P-WHHT TEW! TEW!



MUD  
EVERYWHERE



TOO MANY  
BRIGHT  
COLORS



TOO MANY  
STRANGE  
NOISES



FAR FAR  
FAR TOO  
MANY WEIRD  
SMELLS



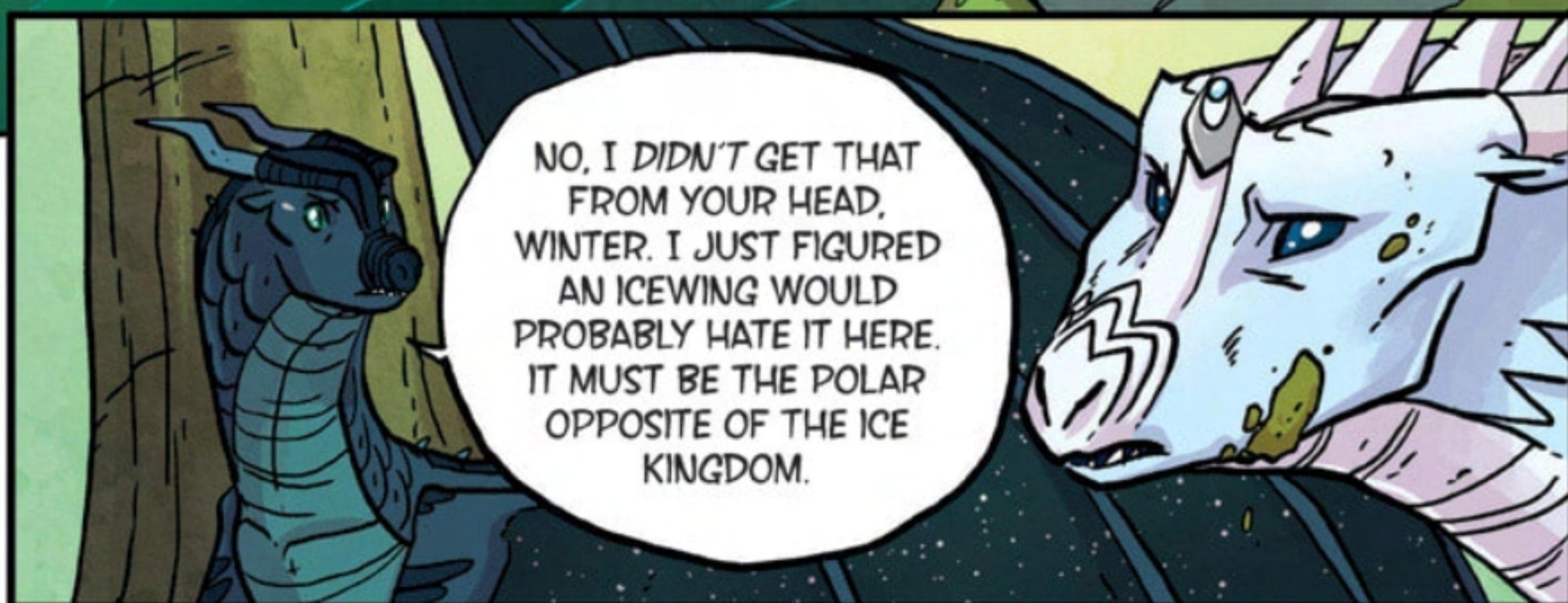
**THE HEAT!**



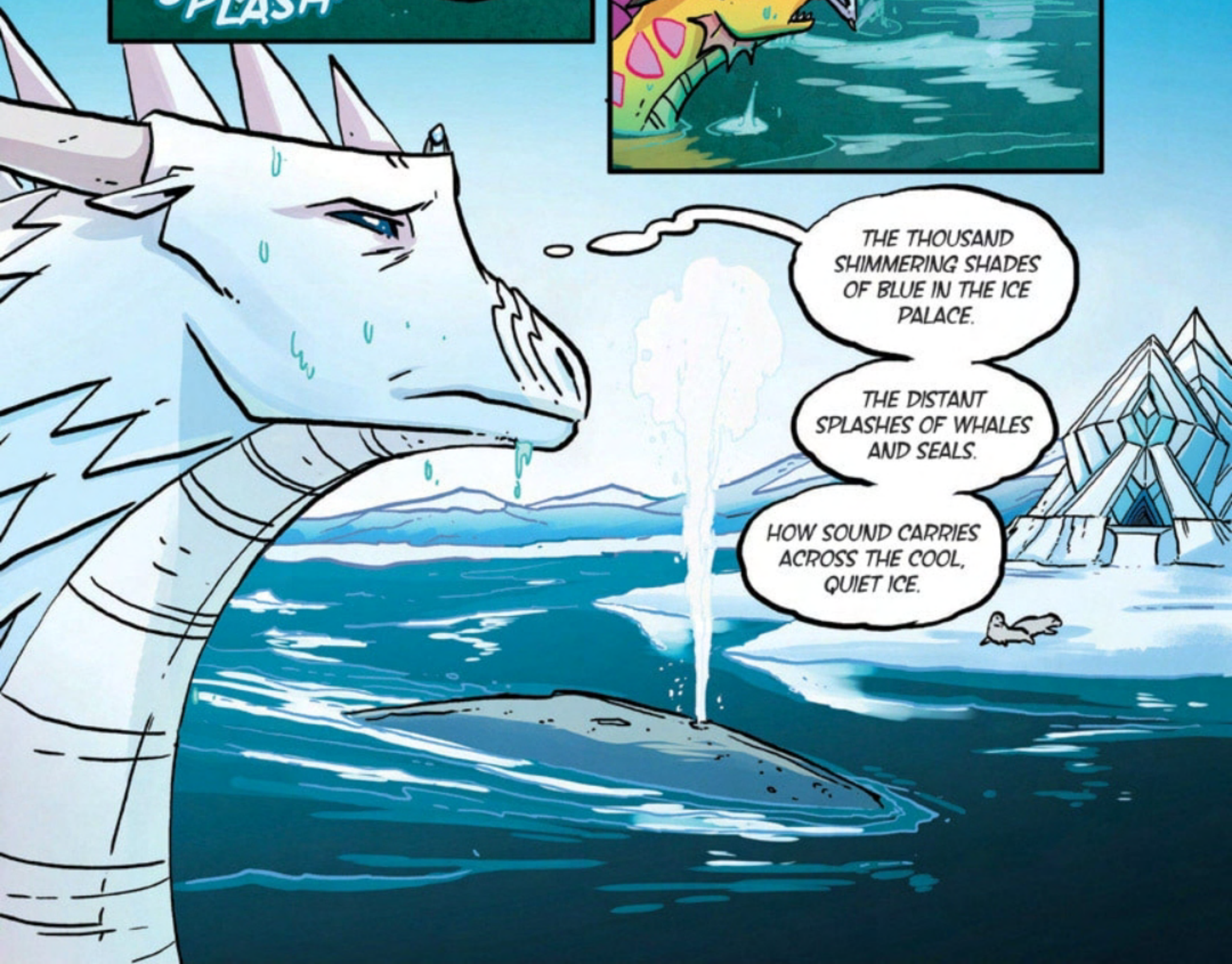
**THE BUGS!**

SPLISSSSSSSHHHHHHH









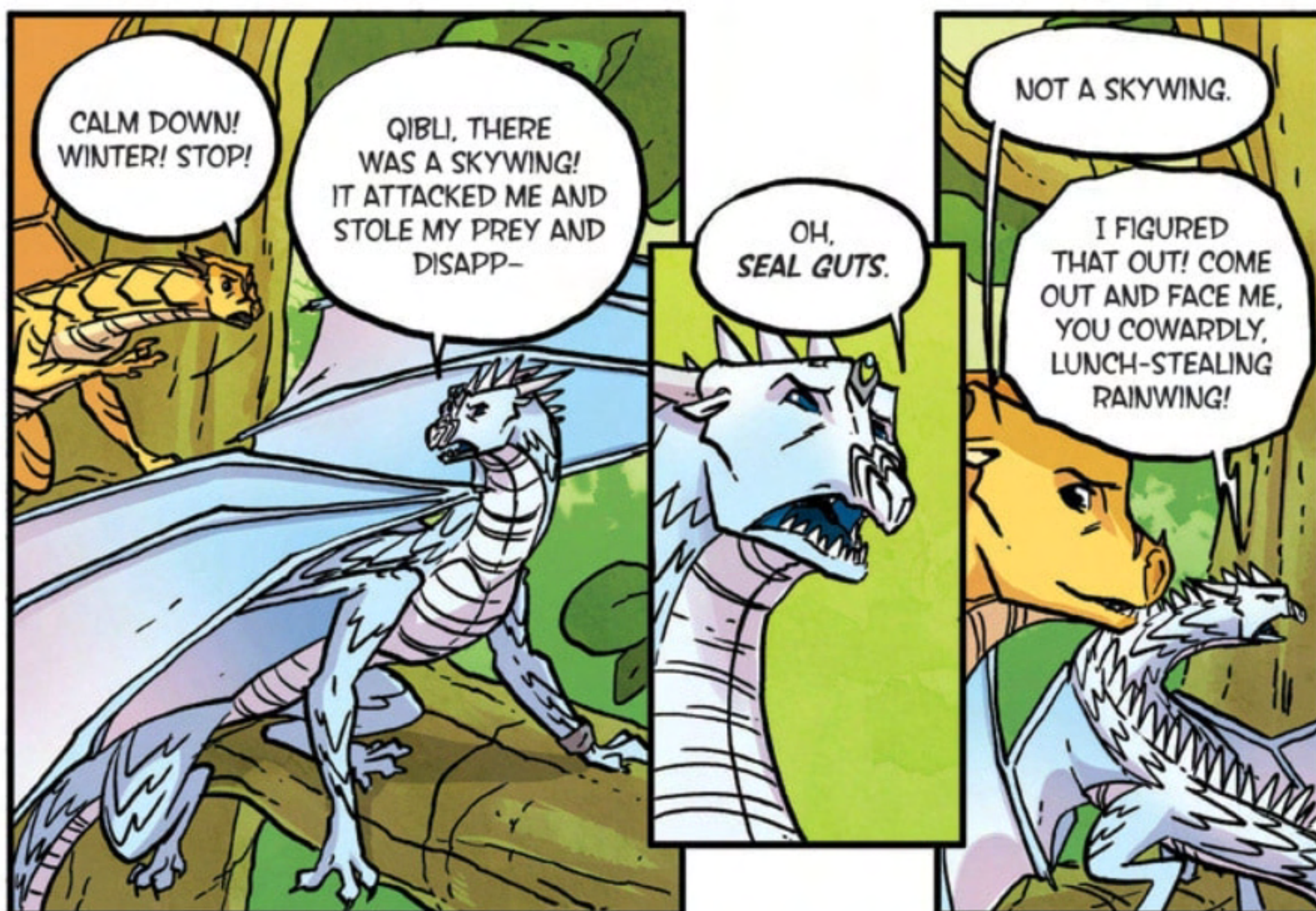




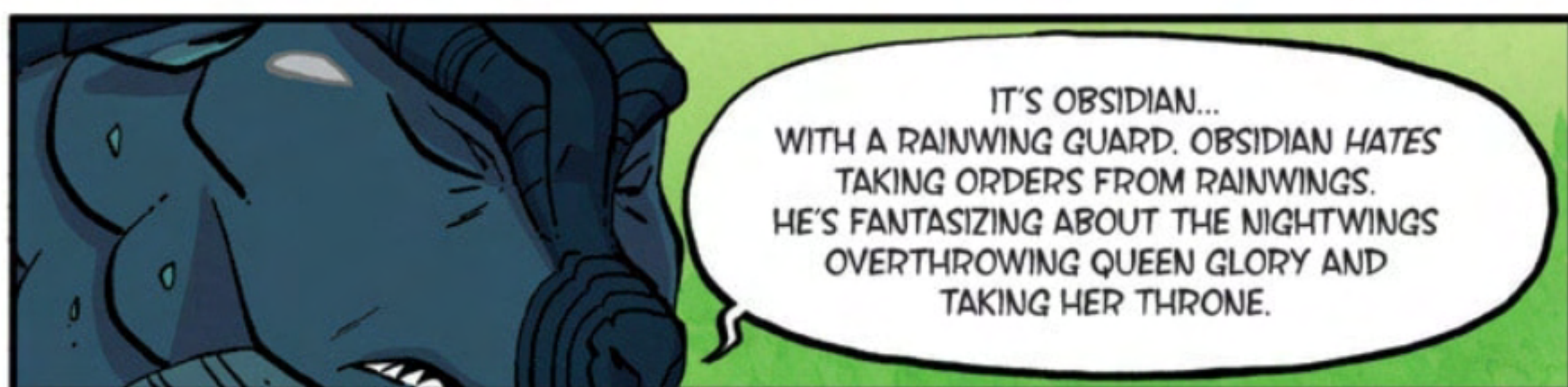




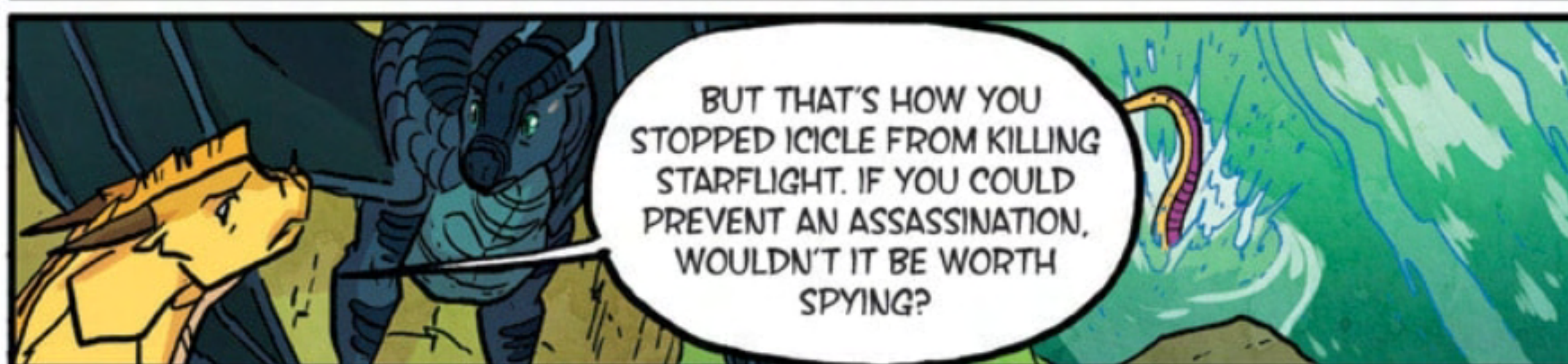




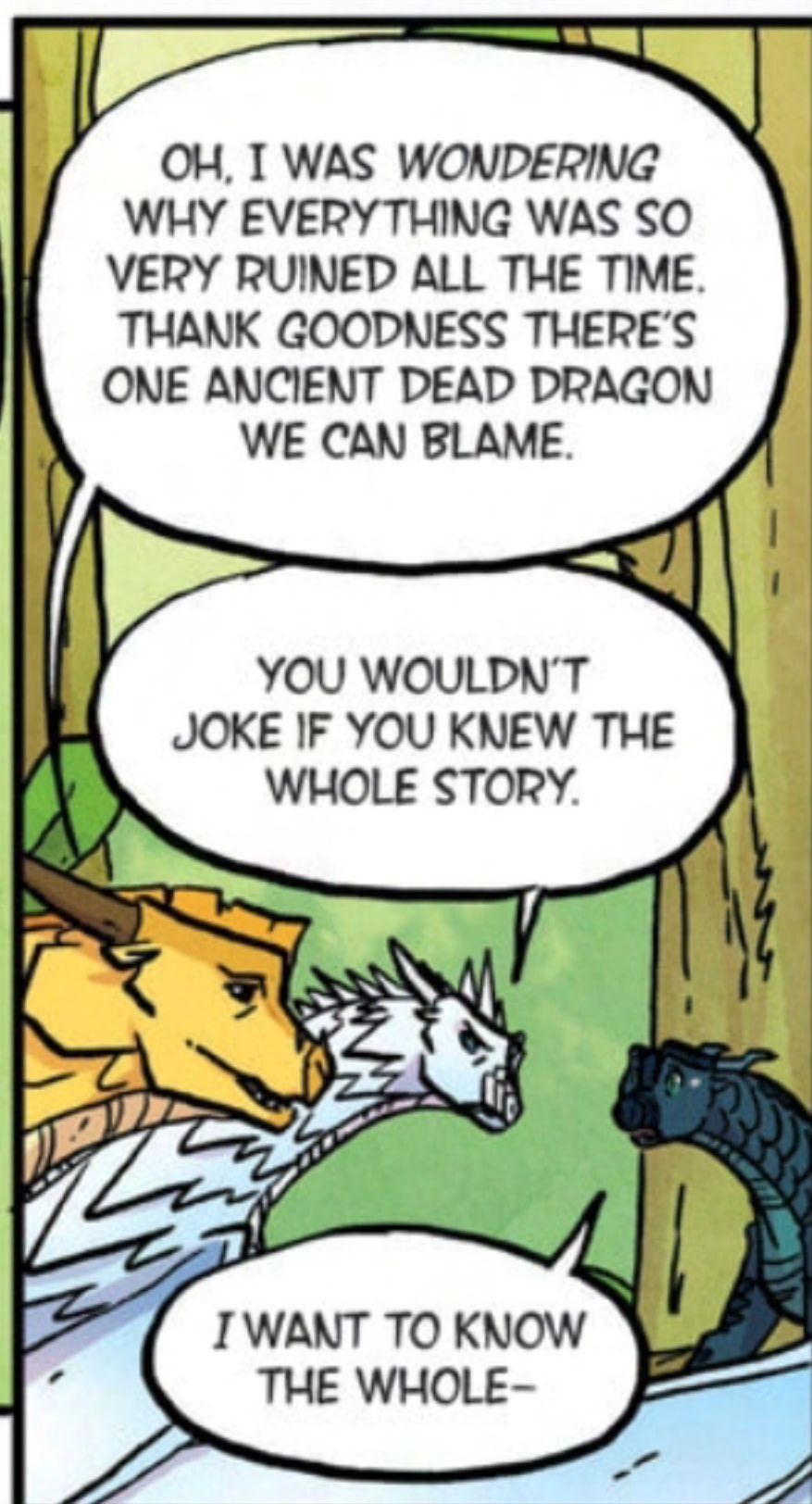
















OH, IT'S YOU.

HI, BROMELIAD. I THOUGHT YOU WERE ORCHID.

WHAT ARE YOU DOING BACK HERE?



YOU WERE SUPPOSED TO STAY AT THAT SCHOOL! I TOLD THE QUEEN YOU'D FAIL OR RUN OFF, BUT WOULD SHE LISTEN? MYSTERIOUSLY NOT!

I'M HERE TO SAVE THE QUEEN, IF YOU MUST KNOW!



AN ICEWING IN OUR RAINFOREST.

DON'T JUST LURK IN THE TREES, FRIEND. COME DOWN AND SAY HELLO.



DON'T LET HIM BULLY YOU, WINTER. YOU'RE A MUCH BETTER DRAGON THAN HE IS. YOU'RE... YOU'RE A MUCH BETTER DRAGON THAN MOST ANYONE.

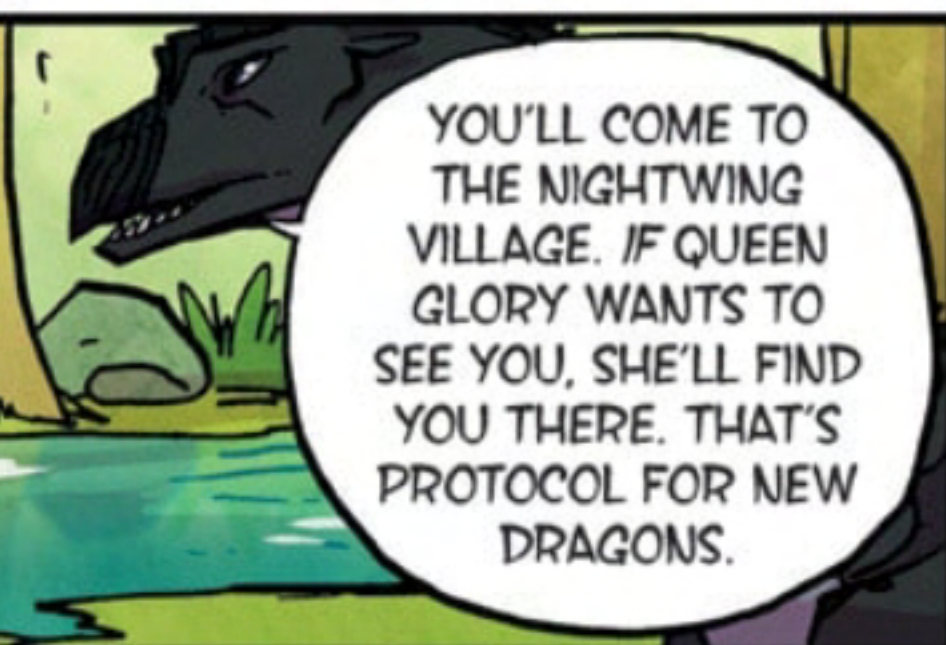
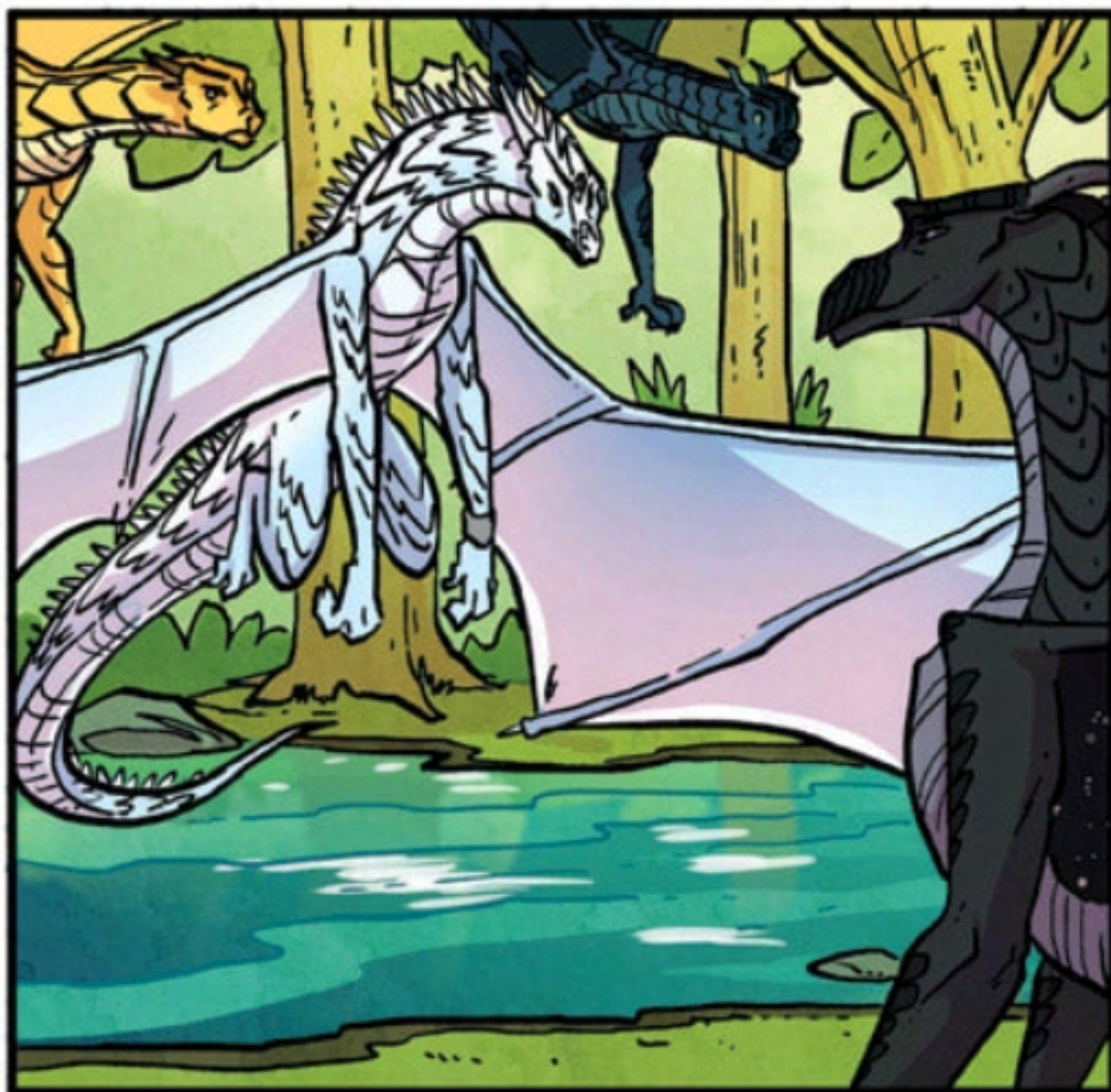
DOES MOON REALLY THINK THAT? EVEN AFTER SEEING INSIDE ME?



NOT ME, THOUGH, RIGHT? HE'S NOT BETTER THAN ME. I'M AWESOME, RIGHT? LIKE, THE MOST AWESOME?

THE WAY MOON SMILES AT QIBLI MAKES ME FEEL ALL CRAWLY AND TOO WARM.







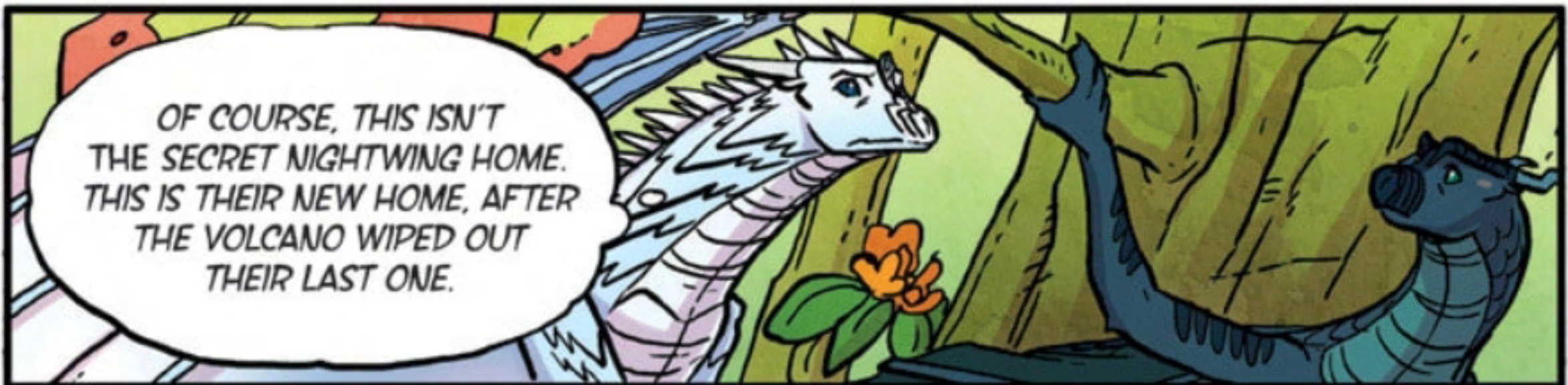


EVER SINCE THE  
ARENA MASSACRE, I'VE  
DREAMED OF GOING TO  
THE SECRET HOME OF  
THE NIGHTWINGS.

BUT IN MY  
FANTASIES,  
I'M LEADING A  
BATTALION.



NIGHTWINGS SLAUGHTERED  
TWELVE HELPLESS ICEWING  
PRISONERS WHILE THEY WERE  
CHAINED AND BOUND...



OF COURSE, THIS ISN'T  
THE SECRET NIGHTWING HOME.  
THIS IS THEIR NEW HOME, AFTER  
THE VOLCANO WIPED OUT  
THEIR LAST ONE.



EVERYONE KNOWS THEY'RE  
RESETTLING HERE IN THE  
RAINFOREST, WITH A SEVEN-YEAR-  
OLD RAINWING AS THEIR  
NEW QUEEN.




HUH, I HEAR  
HAMMERING... AND I  
SMELL ROASTING MEAT...



WILL THEY KILL ME  
LIKE THEY KILLED  
HAILSTORM?

NO, WAIT. HAILSTORM ISN'T DEAD,  
ACCORDING TO QUEEN SCARLET...





WE OFFERED TO HELP  
BUILD THEIR VILLAGE IN THE  
TREETOPS LIKE OURS, BUT  
THEY DIDN'T WANT HELP.

PLUS, THEY THOUGHT IT WAS  
TOO SUNNY UP THERE. WHAT  
DOES THAT EVEN MEAN? HOW  
CAN IT BE TOO SUNNY?

I EXPECTED PLOTTING,  
SCHEMING, BATTLE  
TRAINING... BUT MOSTLY,  
THEY'RE DOING  
ORDINARY THINGS.

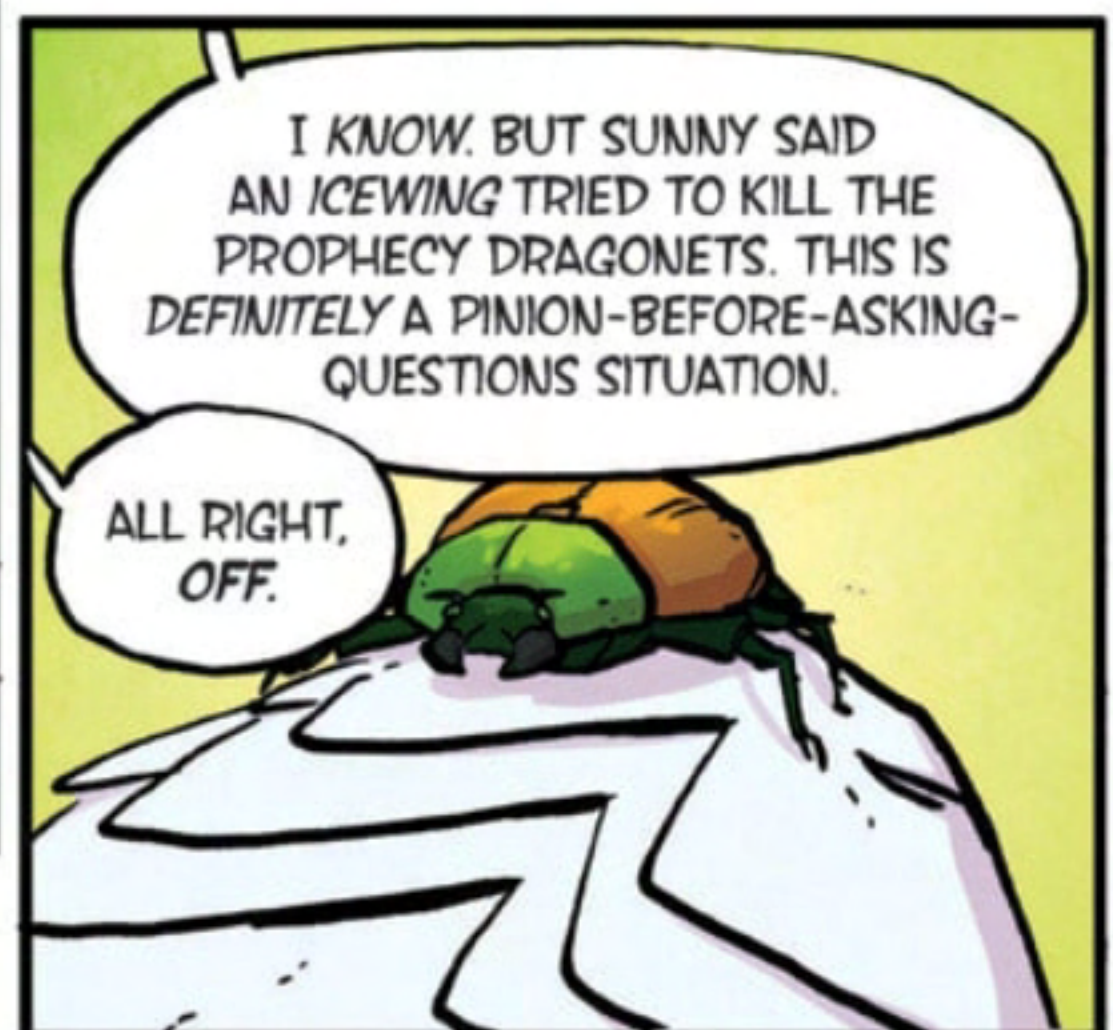




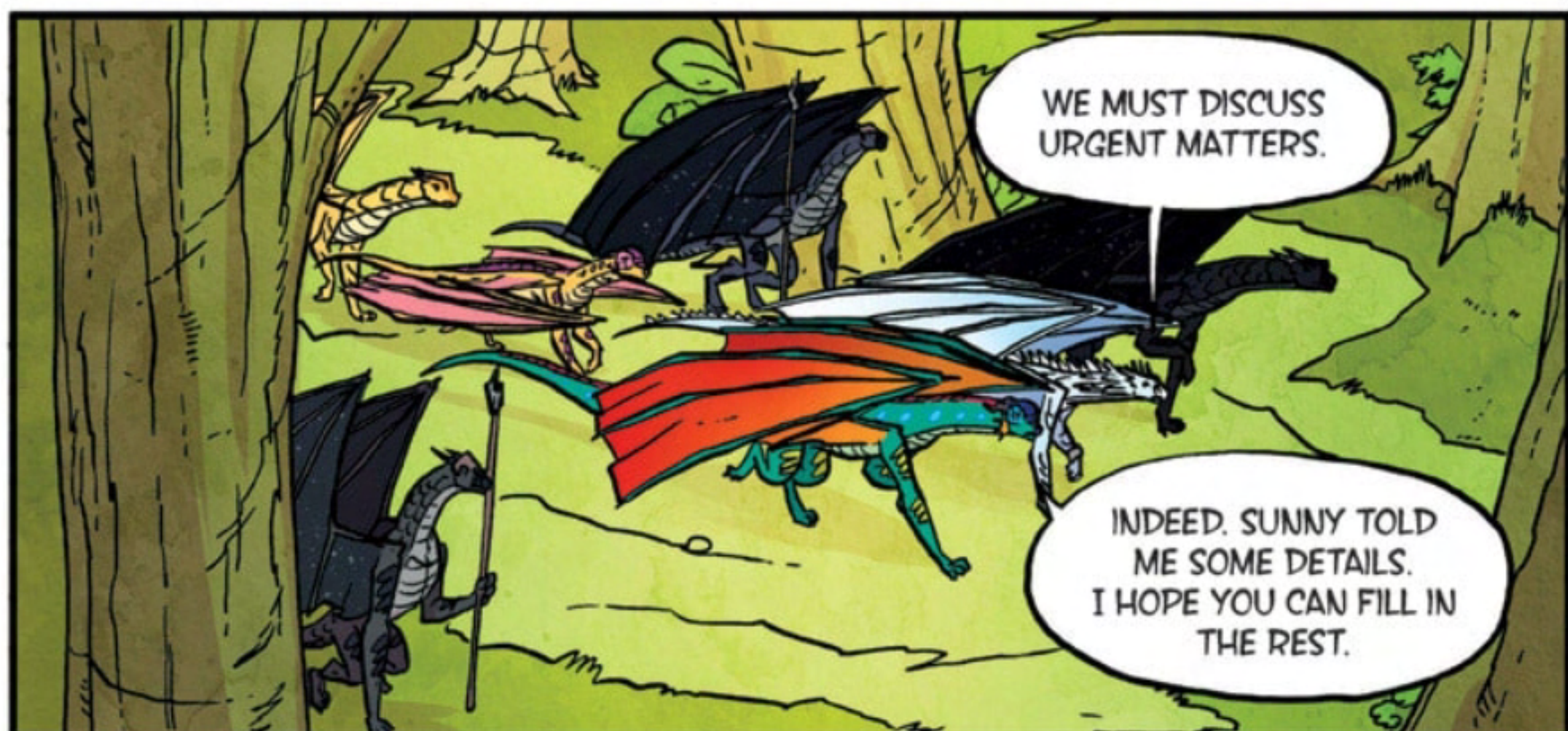
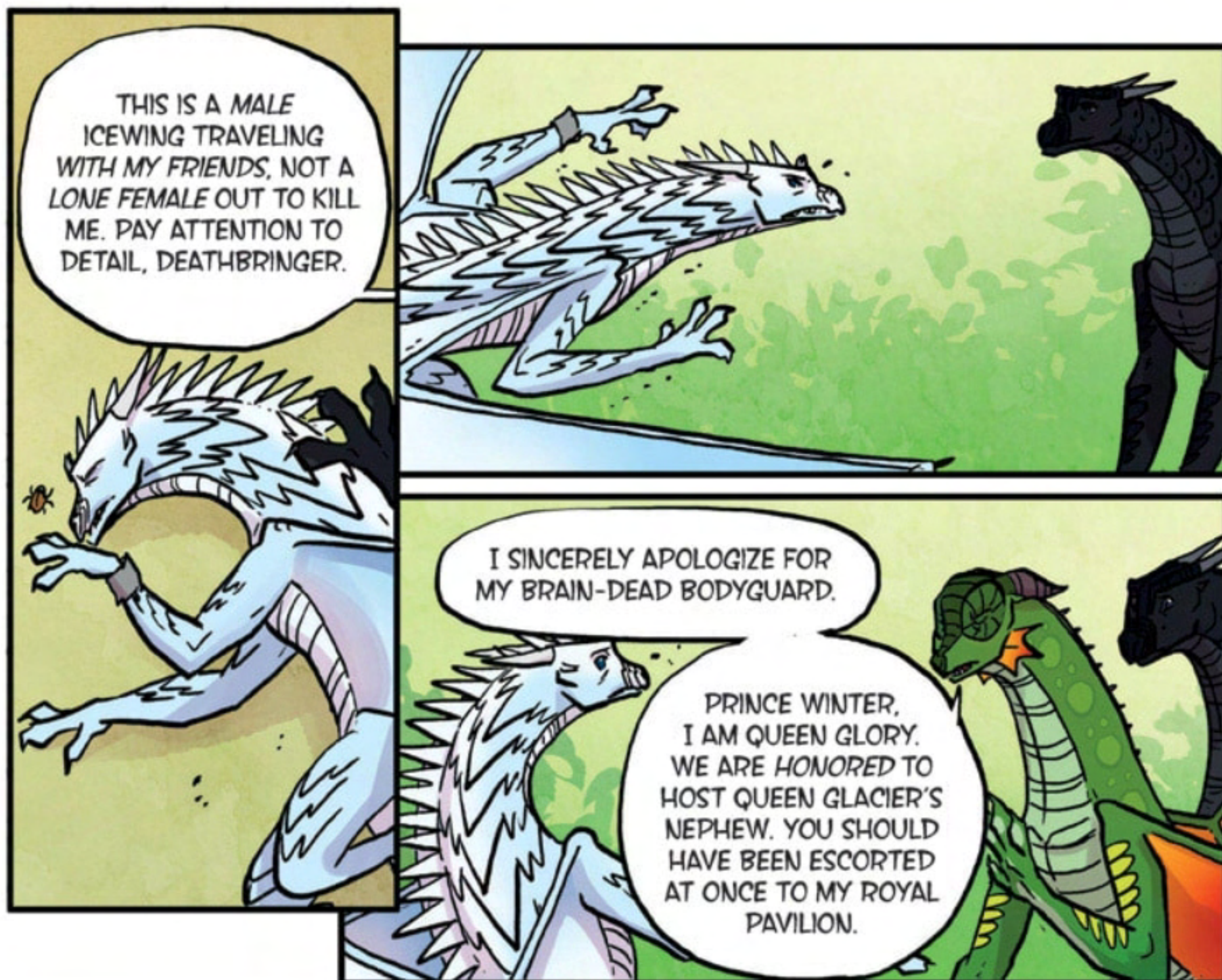




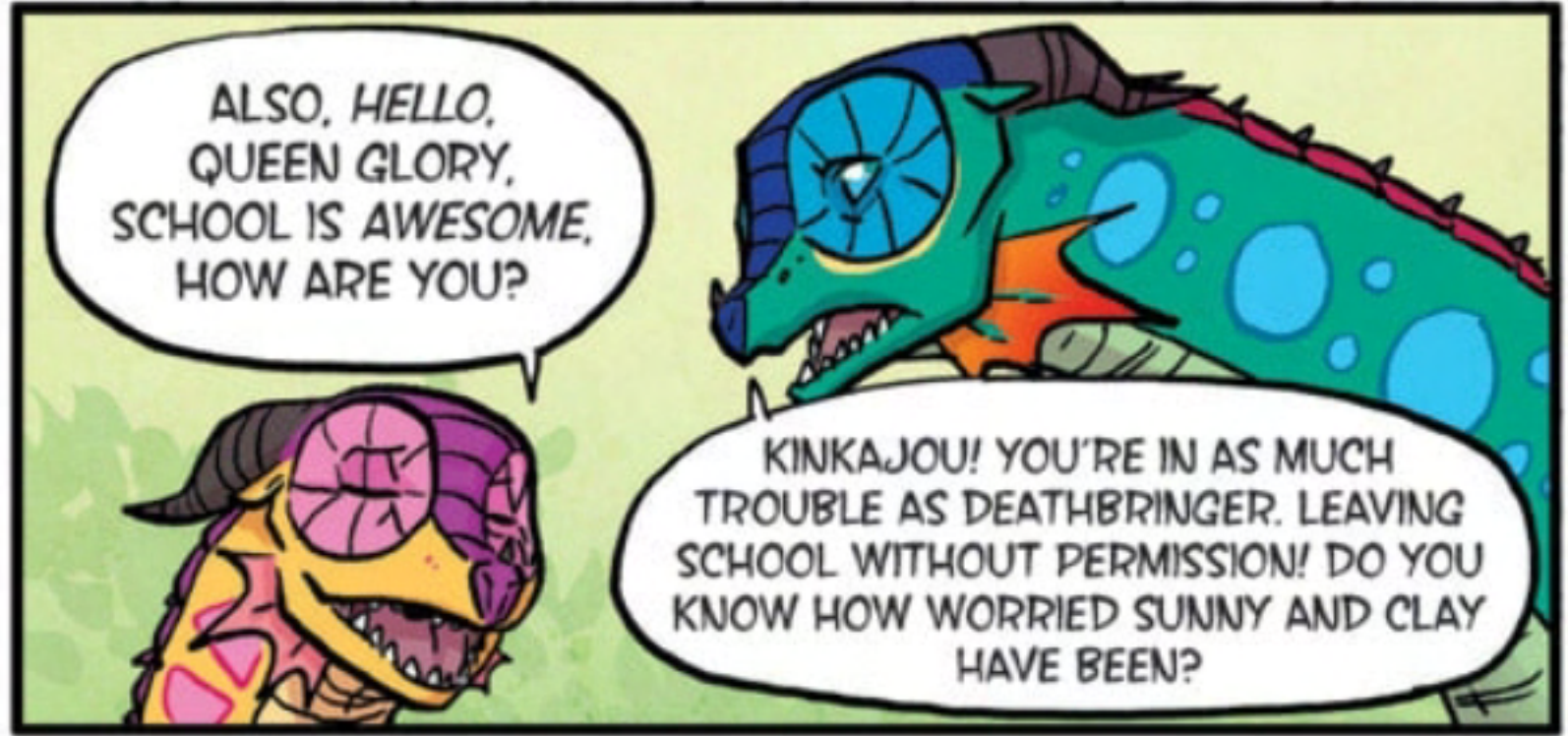








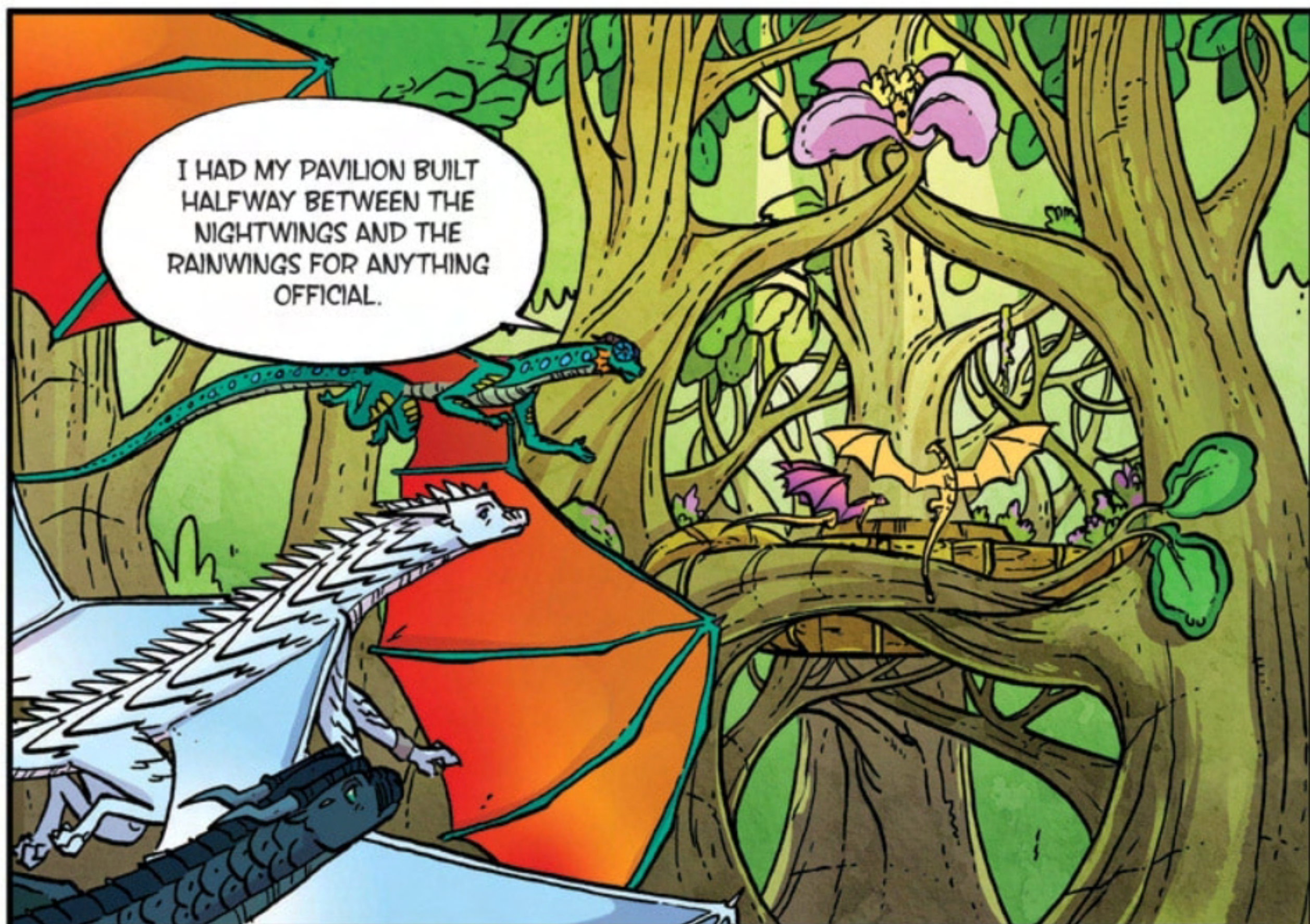
















I'M QIBLI, YOUR MAJESTY. ONE OF QUEEN THORN'S ADVISORS.



WELCOME. AND THEN WE HAVE MOONWATCHER, KINKAJOU, AND, OF COURSE, PRINCE WINTER. MY FRIENDS WILL BE VERY RELIEVED THAT YOU'RE ALL SAFE.



JADE MOUNTAIN IS A BIT OF A MESS RIGHT NOW. IT DIDN'T HELP TO HAVE ONE ENTIRE WINGLET DISAPPEAR.



I'M SORRY FOR MAKING THEM WORRY.



BUT WINTER CAN'T GO SEARCHING FOR ICICLE AND HAILSTORM ALL BY HIMSELF.

YES, I CAN. THAT'S THE ENTIRE PLAN.



AH, HERE ARE MY WATCHERS.

















THOSE LOOK LIKE  
DRAG MARKS.

IF I'D KILLED SOMEONE,  
I'D DRAG THE BODY  
OFF AND HIDE IT.

ICICLE COULDN'T  
HAVE DRAGGED IT  
FAR... MAYBE I'M JUST  
IMAGINING THE  
WORST.

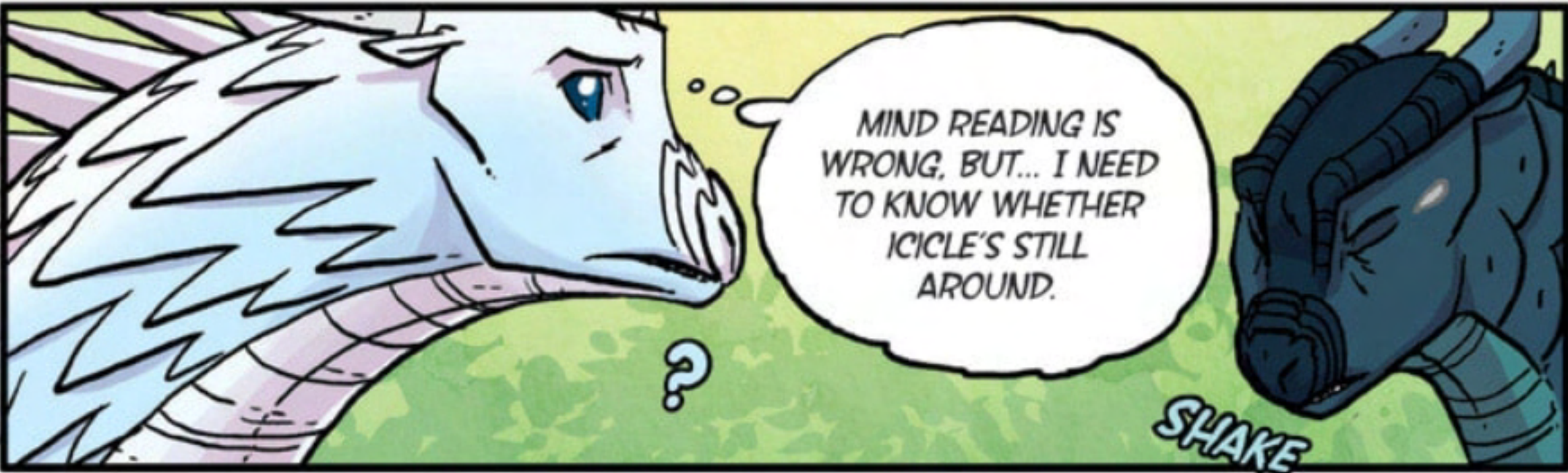
MAYBE ICICLE  
KILLED A BOAR...  
A REALLY BIG ONE?





OH NO.





















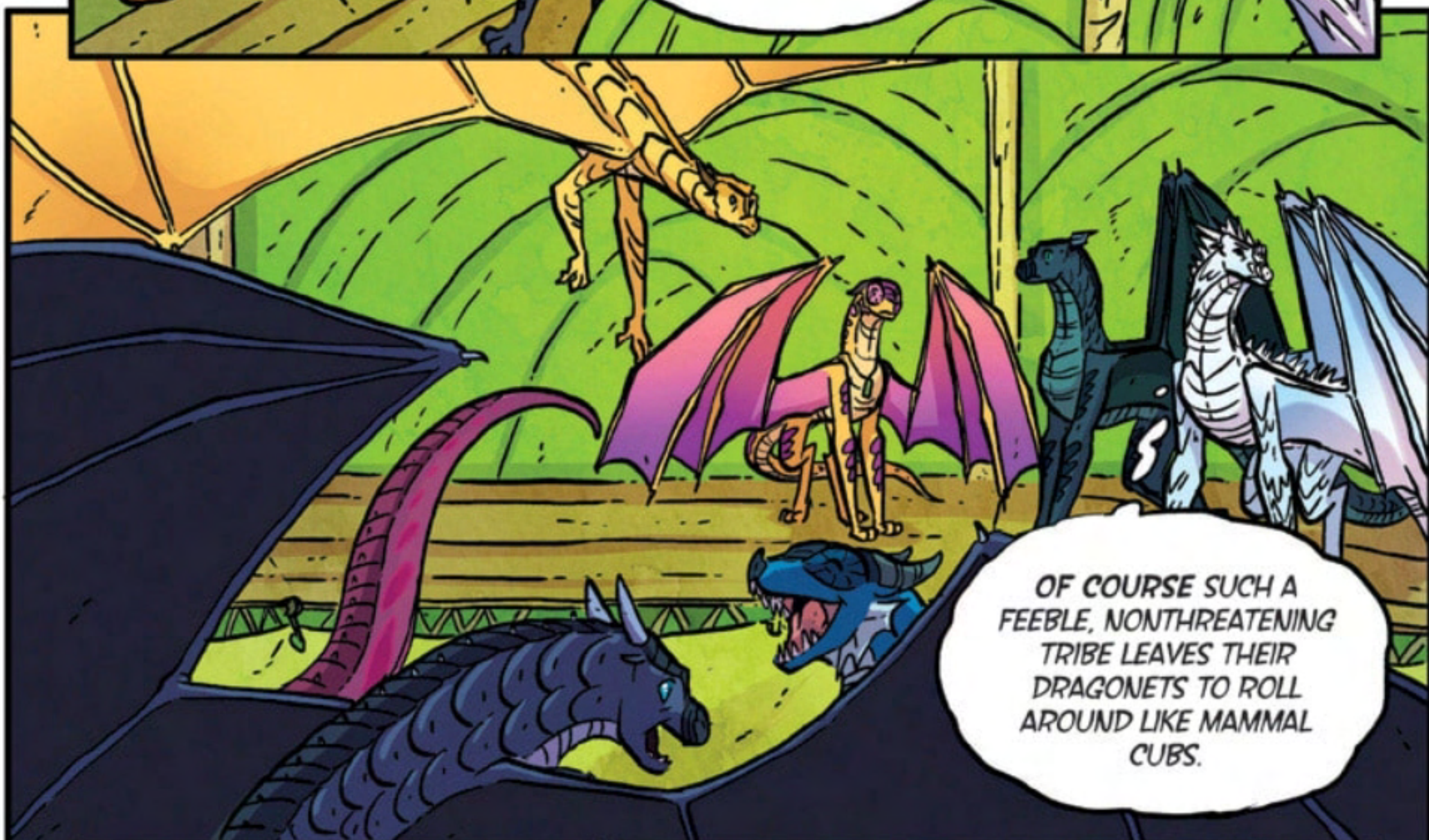
I DON'T LIKE IT. WE'RE SUPPOSED TO KEEP COMPLETE STRANGERS AWAY FROM THE DRAGONETS. AND THIS ONE LOOKS... THE MILDEST WORD I CAN THINK OF IS *HOSTILE*.

THAT'S JUST WINTER'S FACE. AND HIS PERSONALITY.

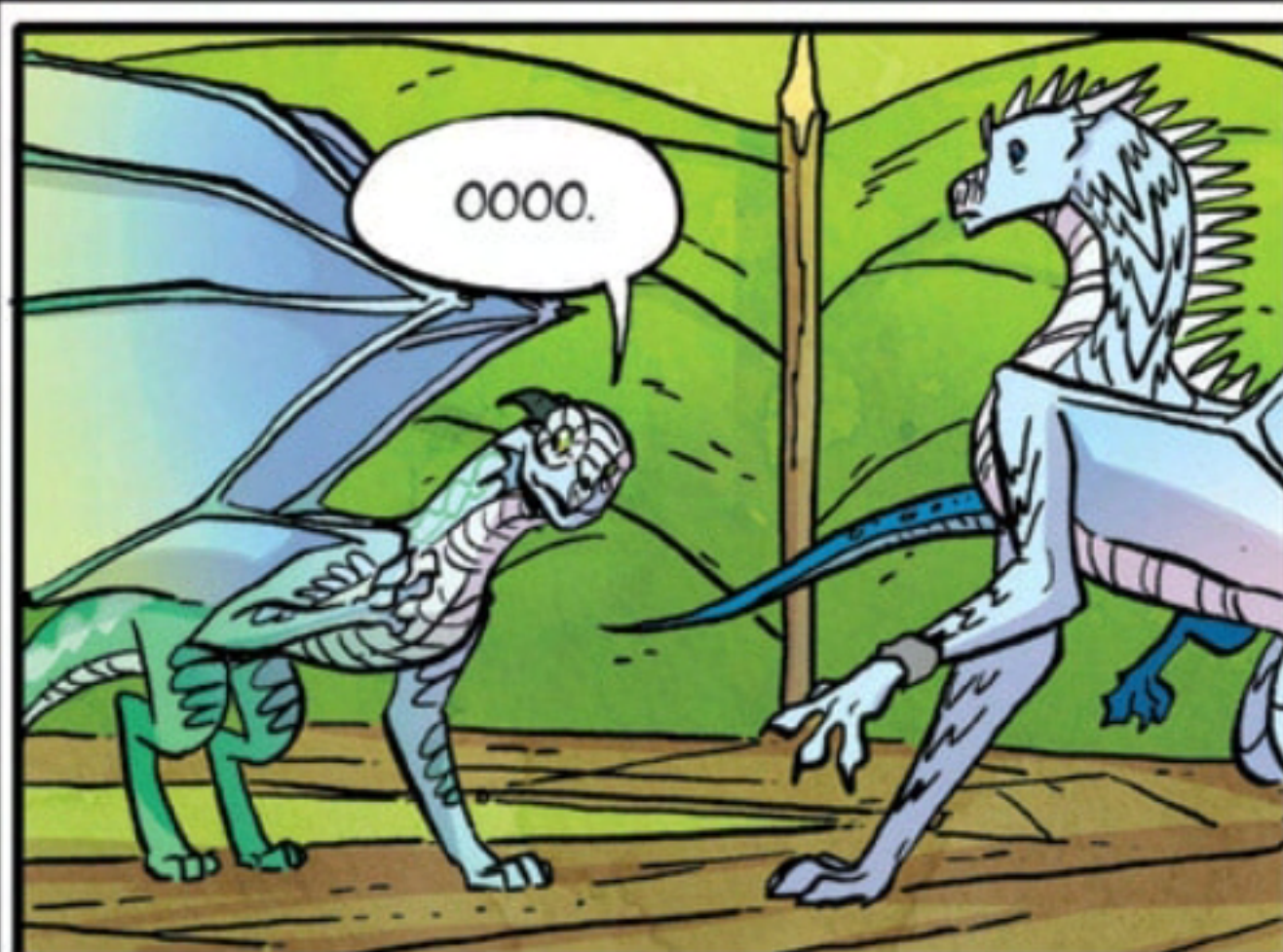
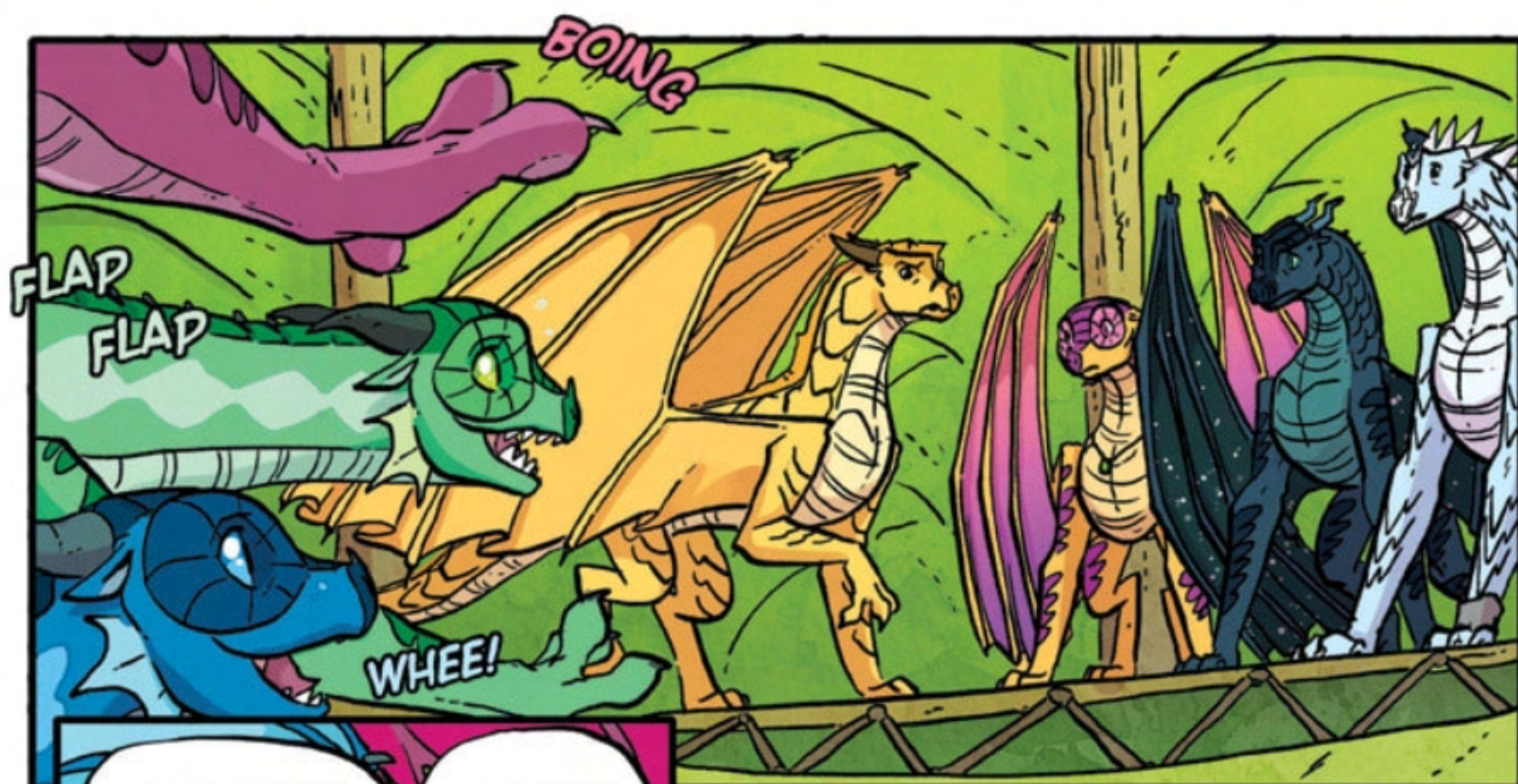
HE WOULD NEVER HARM A DRAGONET.

I CAN SPEAK FOR MYSELF.





















I FIGURED IT OUT! IN MOON'S PROPHECY, THE STALKER OF DREAMS MUST BE SCARLET! USING THE DREAMVISITOR, RIGHT?

MAYBE. ALTHOUGH THERE'S SOMETHING OMINOUS ABOUT DARKNESS AND STALKER. WHAT IF IT'S CONNECTED TO THE DARKSTALKER THAT WINTER MENTIONED?



PFFT. HE'S BEEN DEAD FOR CENTURIES. IF THE PROPHECY'S ABOUT HIM, IT'S A LITTLE LATE.



EVERYBODY, SHUSH. I'M TELLING YOU SOMETHING.

SO I THOUGHT, IF SCARLET'S THE STALKER OF DREAMS, MAYBE THE "TALONS OF POWER AND FIRE" IS THAT FREAKY SKYWING. WHAT'S HER NAME AGAIN?



PERIL. I COULD BELIEVE IT. SHE'S MURDER WAITING TO HAPPEN.



MAYBE THAT'S WHAT "ONE WHO IS NOT WHAT SHE SEEMS" IS ABOUT. PERIL SEEMS LIKE SHE'S CHANGED, BUT ACTUALLY SHE'S GOING TO BETRAY THE DRAGONETS AND SCORCH THE EARTH AND ALL THAT.









HOW CAN MOON BE IMMERSED IN OTHER MINDS AND STILL BELIEVE IN THE GOODNESS OF DRAGONS?

DON'T YOU THINK ICICLE IS EVIL? I MEAN— I DON'T, BUT—



SHE'S DOING WHAT SHE THINKS IS NECESSARY TO SAVE HAILSTORM.

SHE'S VERY COLD AND INTENSE INSIDE. IT MUST BE HARD, KNOWING YOUR PARENTS ARE EXPECTING— UM—



—EXPECTING BIG THINGS.

MOON KNOWS MY PARENTS EXPECT ICICLE TO CHALLENGE OUR AUNT FOR THE THRONE SOMEDAY. THAT'S A BIG SECRET... I HOPE SHE CAN KEEP IT.



SO, THE PROPHECY. IF IT'S ABOUT SCARLET AND PERIL, HOW IS THE OLD NIGHTWING HOME INVOLVED?

WE SHOULD GO SEE. IT'S NOT FAR FROM HERE.



MAYBE THERE'S SOMETHING THERE WE CAN USE TO STOP THEM.

THE THIRD DREAMVISITOR! STARFLIGHT SAID IT WAS LOST WHEN THE VOLCANO EXPLODED. MAYBE WE CAN FIND IT.



THEN WE WOULDN'T NEED TO FIND ICICLE. YOU COULD CONTACT SCARLET YOURSELF, WINTER.

YOU CAN'T DREAMVISIT DRAGONS YOU'VE NEVER SEEN. ICICLE WAS IN THE DELEGATION THAT NEGOTIATED FOR HAILSTORM, BUT I WASN'T.









SO YOU ALL CLOSE YOUR EYES,  
AND WE'LL HIDE. WHOEVER FINDS ONE OF  
US FIRST WINS! ALL RIGHT? MAKE SURE  
YOU COUNT TO A THOUSAND SO WE  
HAVE ENOUGH TIME.



OK!

ONE! TWO!  
THREE!

SIX!

SEVENTEEN!



WHOOOPS...  
I FORGOT MOST  
RAINWINGS CAN'T  
COUNT. WE'D BETTER  
MOVE FAST.

TWENTY!



WHICH WAY?  
MOON? WHERE  
ARE THE GUARDS?

THERE ARE SIX  
AROUND US—  
AND TWO MORE  
WATCHING THE  
SKY, TO MAKE  
SURE WE DON'T  
FLY OUT.

THIRTY!



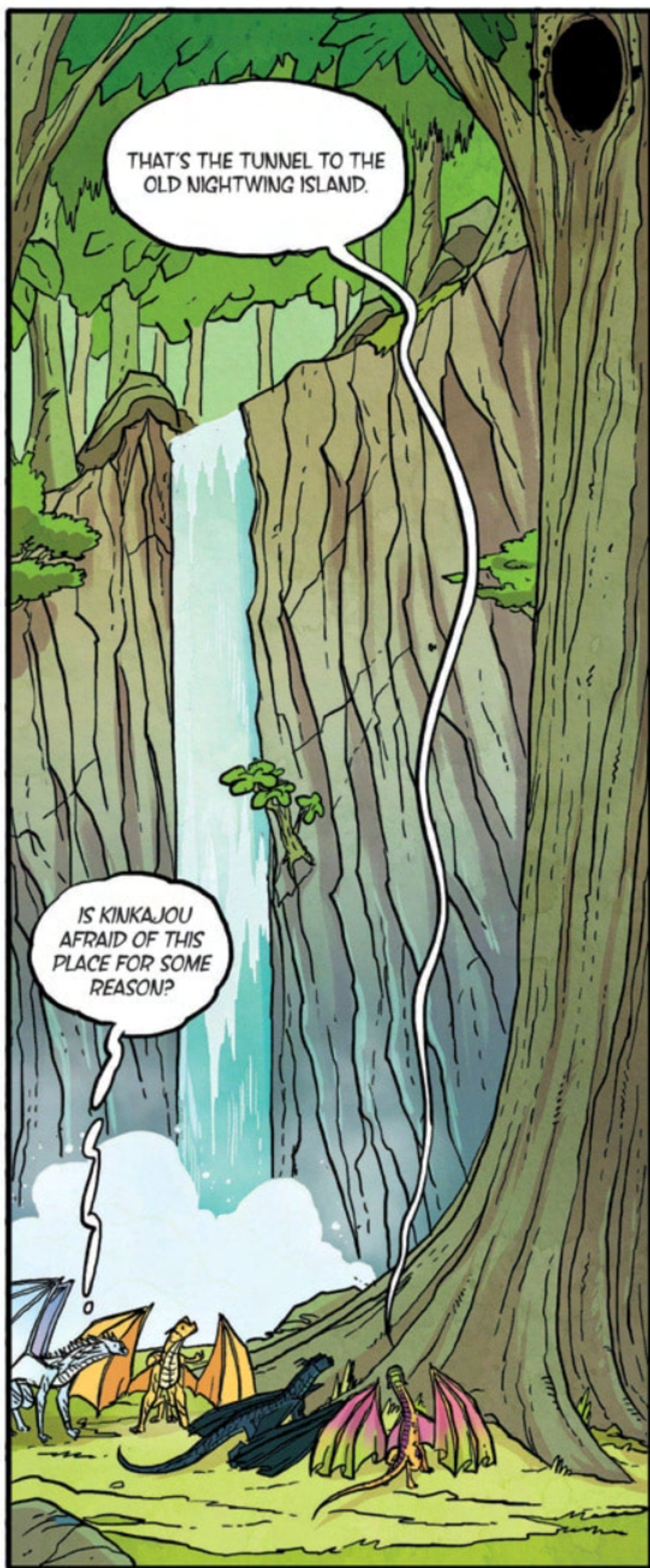
SO WE GO *DOWN*. IF WE MAKE A HOLE HERE,  
THEY MIGHT NOT NOTICE FOR A FEW MINUTES—  
LONG ENOUGH FOR US TO GET AWAY.

SIX HUNDRED!









THAT'S THE TUNNEL TO THE  
OLD NIGHTWING ISLAND.

IS KINKAJOU  
AFRAID OF THIS  
PLACE FOR SOME  
REASON?



YOU CAN WAIT HERE  
IF YOU WANT, KINKAJOU.  
IF IT'S TOO-  
TOO ANYTHING.

I'M ALL RIGHT.  
I JUST HAVEN'T BEEN  
BACK SINCE THE  
WHOLE... THING.

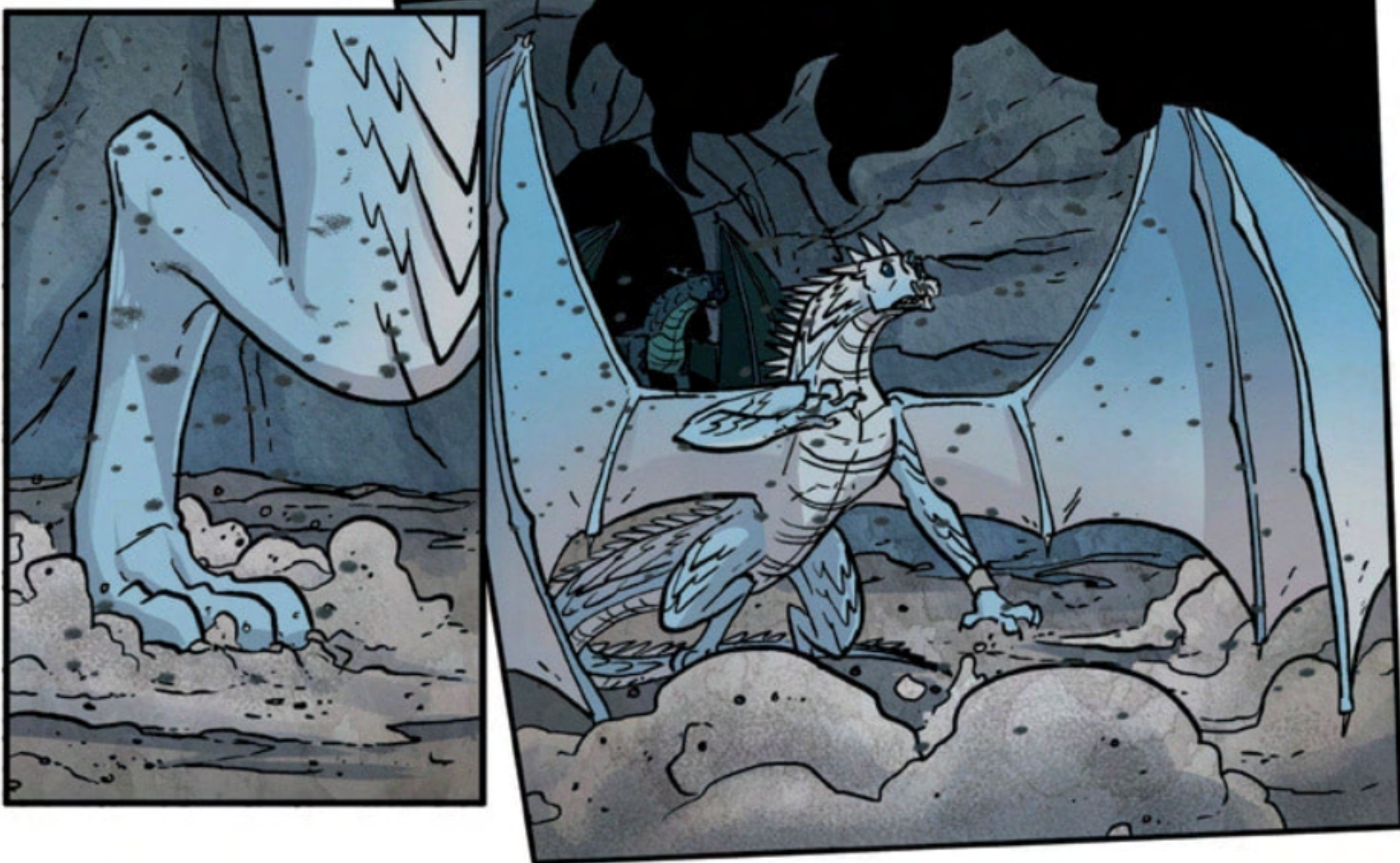


JUST BEING NEAR  
THAT MAGIC PORTAL FEELS...  
**WRONG.** LIKE SOMETHING  
TUGGING APART MY MUSCLES  
FROM INSIDE.













HE'S DEAD. WHOEVER HE IS.  
HE'S GONE—THIS IS JUST THE  
SHAPE OF HIM LEFT BEHIND.

I WONDER  
WHO IT WAS.

TAP  
TAP







AT LAST, THE  
SECRET HOME OF THE  
NIGHTWINGS.

WAS THE AIR THIS  
IMPOSSIBLE TO  
BREATHE BEFORE THE  
ERUPTION?

EVERYTHING SMELLS OF  
SULFUR AND DEATH.

IMAGINE HAVING YOUR  
HOME DEVASTATED LIKE  
THIS. POOR NIGHTWINGS.

ARE YOU SERIOUS?

DON'T YOU REMEMBER  
WHAT THEY DID  
TO YOUR TRIBE,  
KINKAJOU-TO YOU?

THE NIGHTWINGS  
DESERVE TO LOSE THEIR  
HOME LIKE THIS!

I KNOW, BUT ISN'T  
IT STILL SAD?





SERIOUSLY, WHAT DID THEY DO TO THE ICEWINGS TO MAKE YOU HATE THEM SO MUCH?

WHY DON'T THE OTHER TRIBES KNOW WHAT THE NIGHTWINGS DID TO US? IS IT A SECRET? OR DID THE NIGHTWINGS COVER IT UP?



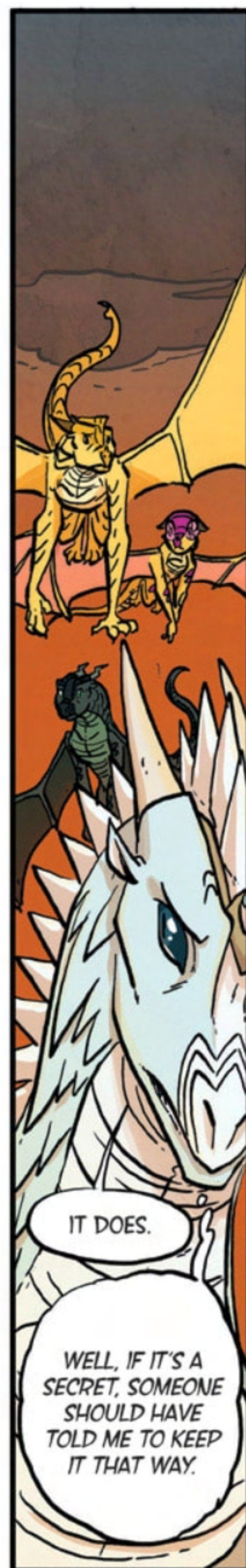
I DON'T SEE ANY SIGN OF ICICLE.

WINTER?



PLEASE TELL ME, I REALLY DON'T KNOW WHAT THE NIGHTWINGS DID AND I THINK—I THINK I NEED TO.

DOES IT HAVE SOMETHING TO DO WITH DARKSTALKER?



IT DOES.

WELL, IF IT'S A SECRET, SOMEONE SHOULD HAVE TOLD ME TO KEEP IT THAT WAY.



BUT IT BEGINS WITH  
DARKSTALKER'S  
THRICE-CURSED MOTHER,  
FOESLAYER.

SHE APPROACHED THE  
ICEWINGS UNDER THE GUISE  
OF PEACE. INSTEAD SHE  
ABDUCTED OUR PRINCE.

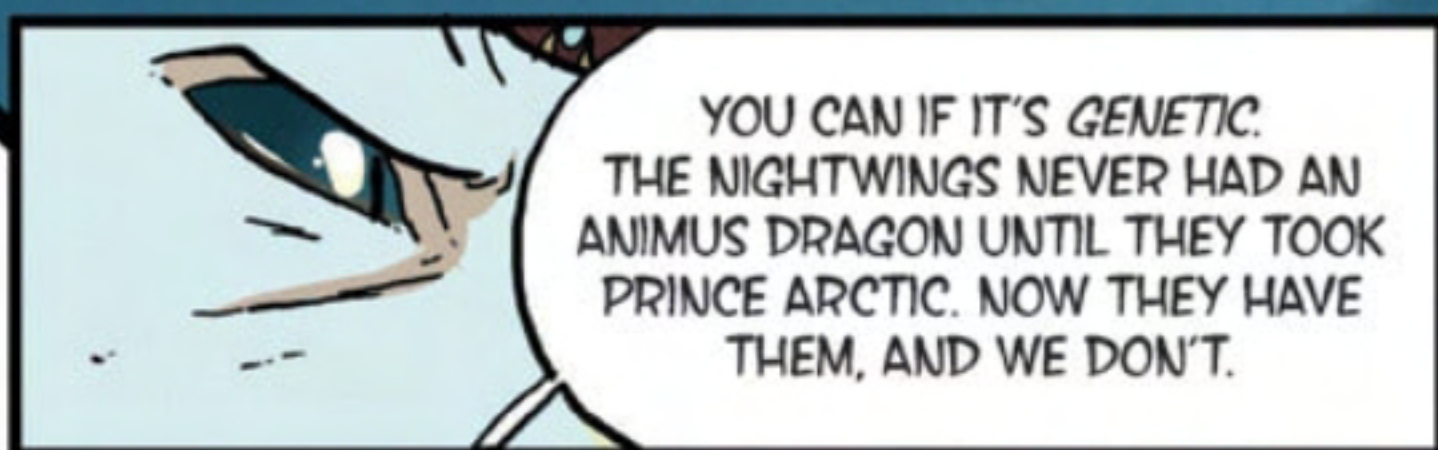
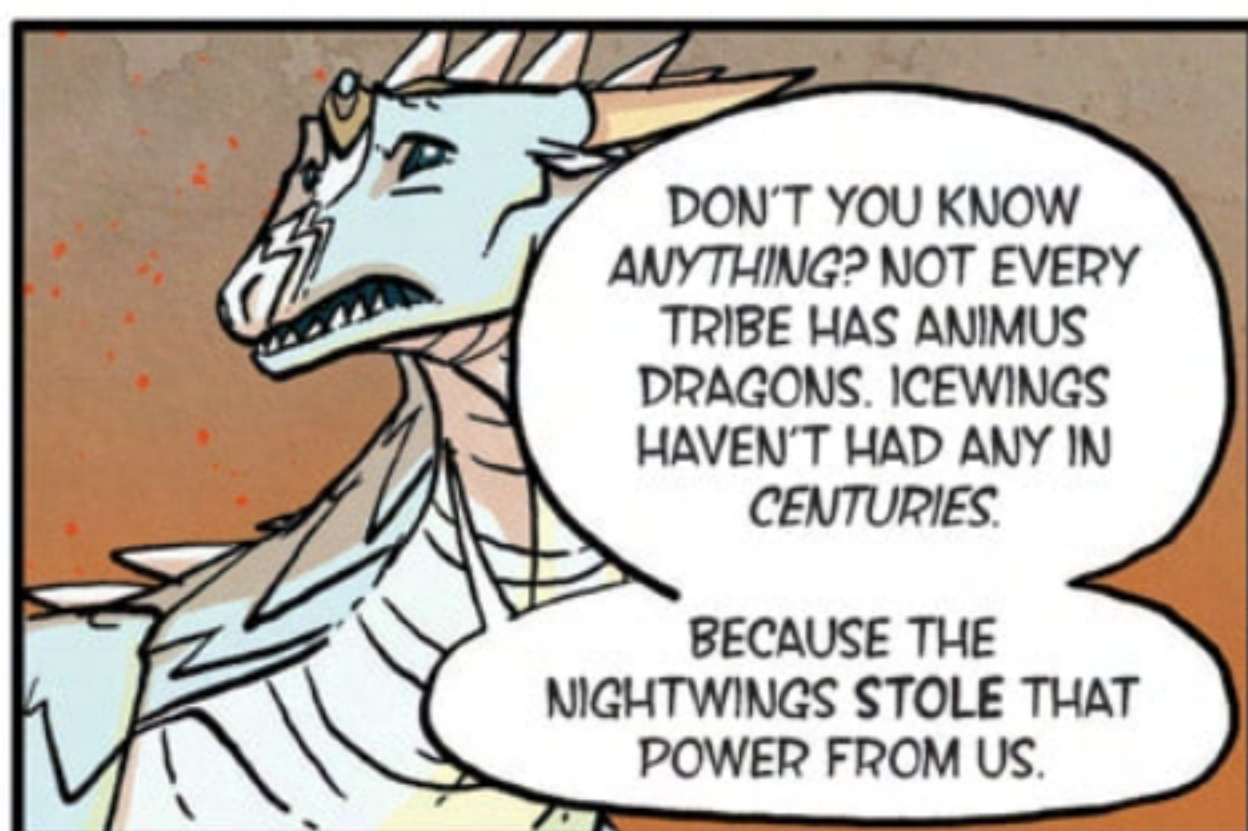
WHAT FOR?  
ALL THE ICEWING  
PRINCES I'VE MET HAVE  
BEEN KIND OF GROUCHY.  
WHY WOULD SOMEONE  
STEAL ONE?

BECAUSE PRINCE  
ARCTIC WAS *OUR*  
LAST ANIMUS.



OUR LAST  
ANIMUS.









NOT JUST ANY ICEWING. PRINCE ARCTIC, THE VERY LAST ANIMUS EVER HATCHED IN THE ICEWING TRIBE. FATHER OF THE DARKSTALKER, THE FIRST NIGHTWING ANIMUS. THEY PLANNED IT THAT WAY.



THAT'S... COMPLICATED AND DEVIOUS.

CONGRATULATIONS, YOU'VE JUST SUMMED UP NIGHTWINGS.



BUT COULDN'T ARCTIC GO BACK TO THE ICE KINGDOM AFTER THE NIGHTWINGS HAD HIS EGGS? WHY DIDN'T HE HAVE MORE EGGS THERE?




BECAUSE DARKSTALKER KILLED HIM.

HIS OWN SON MURDERED HIM, TO MAKE SURE THE ICEWINGS NEVER RECOVERED THEIR STOLEN POWER.



THAT'S NOT-





I MEAN—THAT'S NOT THE  
REASON I HEARD.

WELL, IT'S THE  
TRUTH.

IS IT THAT BIG A DEAL?  
AREN'T ANIMUS DRAGONS  
KIND OF DANGEROUS TO  
HAVE AROUND?

THAT'S TRUE.  
I READ ABOUT A  
SEAWING ANIMUS  
WHO MURDERED  
ALMOST HIS  
ENTIRE FAMILY.

BUT WE KNEW HOW TO HANDLE THEM.  
WE WERE THE FIRST TRIBE TO FIGURE OUT  
USING TOO MUCH MAGIC CAN DAMAGE  
A DRAGON'S SOUL. SO WE WERE  
VERY CAREFUL.

WE BRED THEM INTO THE ROYAL LINE  
AND TRAINED THEM CAREFULLY TO  
UNDERSTAND THEIR LIMITS. THEY COULD  
ONLY USE THEIR POWERS ONCE.

EACH ANIMUS SPENT YEARS  
PLANNING A GREAT ENCHANTMENT  
TO BENEFIT THE WHOLE TRIBE.  
PRINCE ARCTIC WAS ONLY DAYS  
FROM HIS GIFTING CEREMONY WHEN  
THE NIGHTWINGS KIDNAPPED HIM.

WHAT IF AN ANIMUS WANTED  
TO USE HIS POWER FOR  
SOMETHING ELSE? OR WHAT  
IF HE DIDN'T WANT TO MARRY  
WHATEVER PRINCESS WAS  
CHOSEN FOR HIM?









MOON?

I DON'T THINK  
THIS IS RIGHT.  
THIS ISN'T THE LOST  
CITY OF NIGHT IN  
THE PROPHECY.

IT ISN'T?  
WHY NOT?

THERE WAS A CITY BEFORE THIS ONE,  
IN DARKSTALKER'S TIME. BUT THEY FLED THE CONTINENT  
AFTER HE—ONCE HE WAS GONE—AND CAME HERE. TO HIDE,  
IN CASE HE EVER CAME BACK.

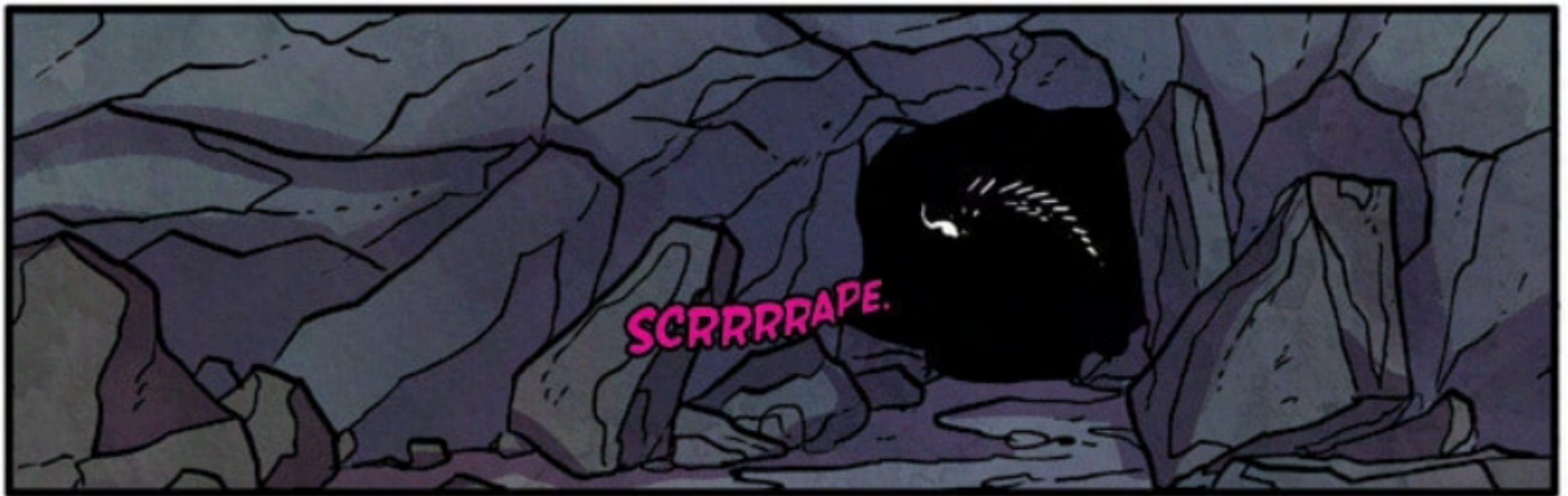
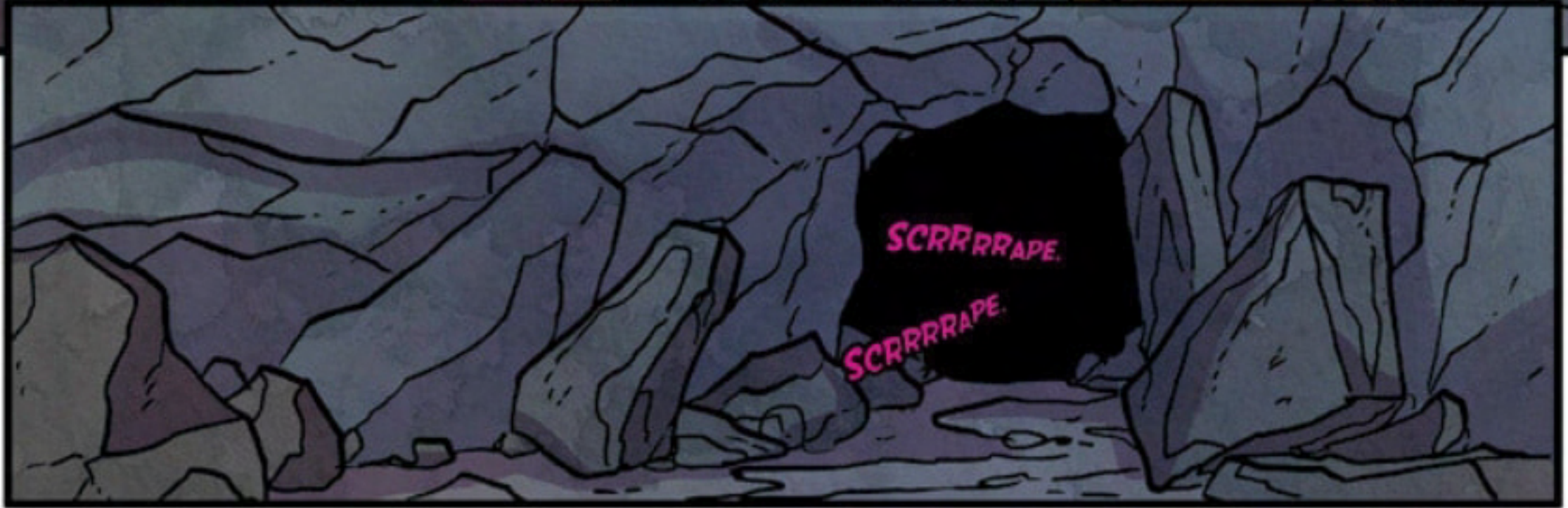
I THINK *THAT'S*  
THE CITY WE NEED  
TO FIND. THE ANCIENT  
ONE, THE ONE THAT'S  
REALLY LOST.

OH. YOU COULDN'T  
HAVE MENTIONED THAT  
SOONER?

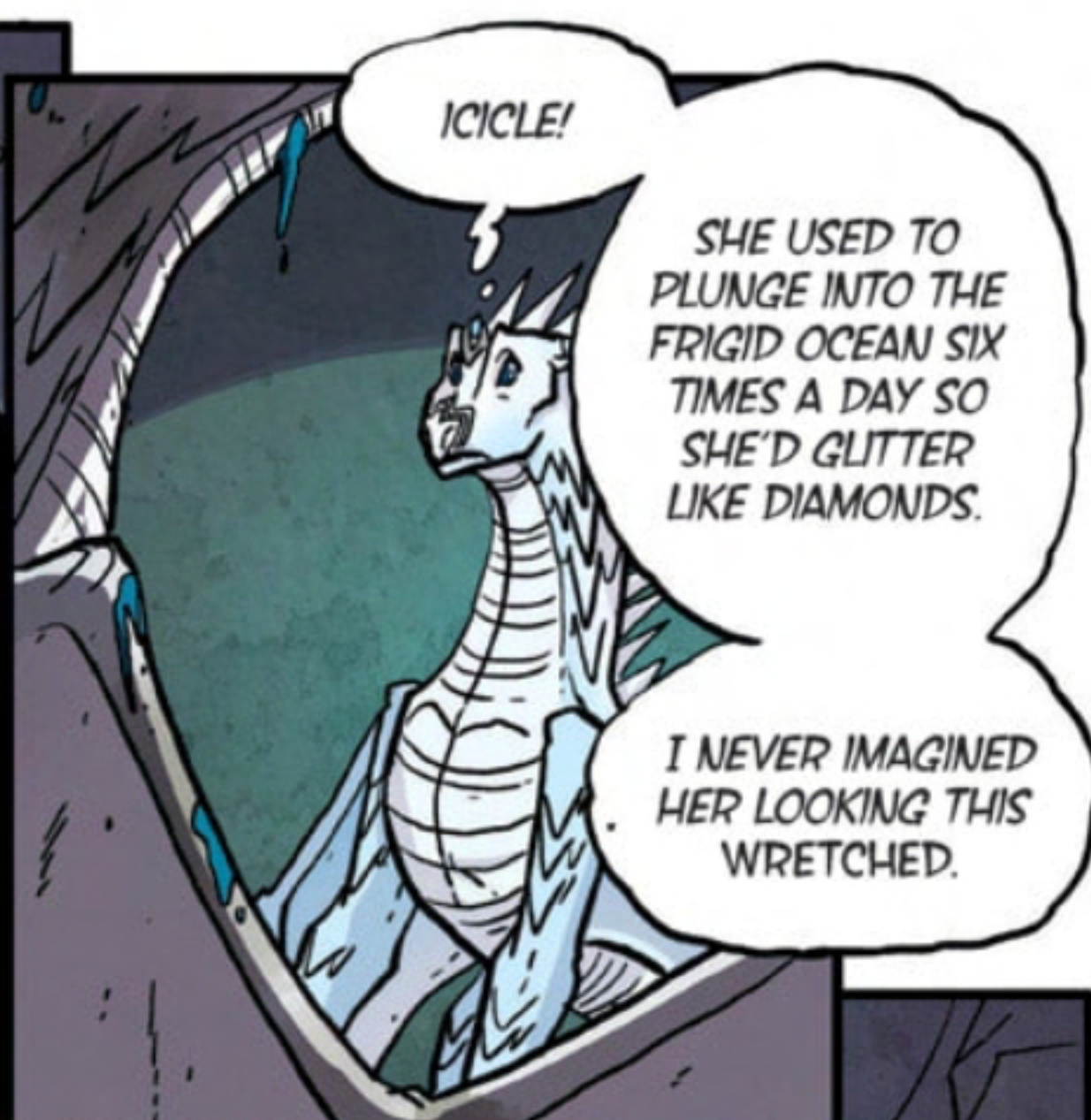
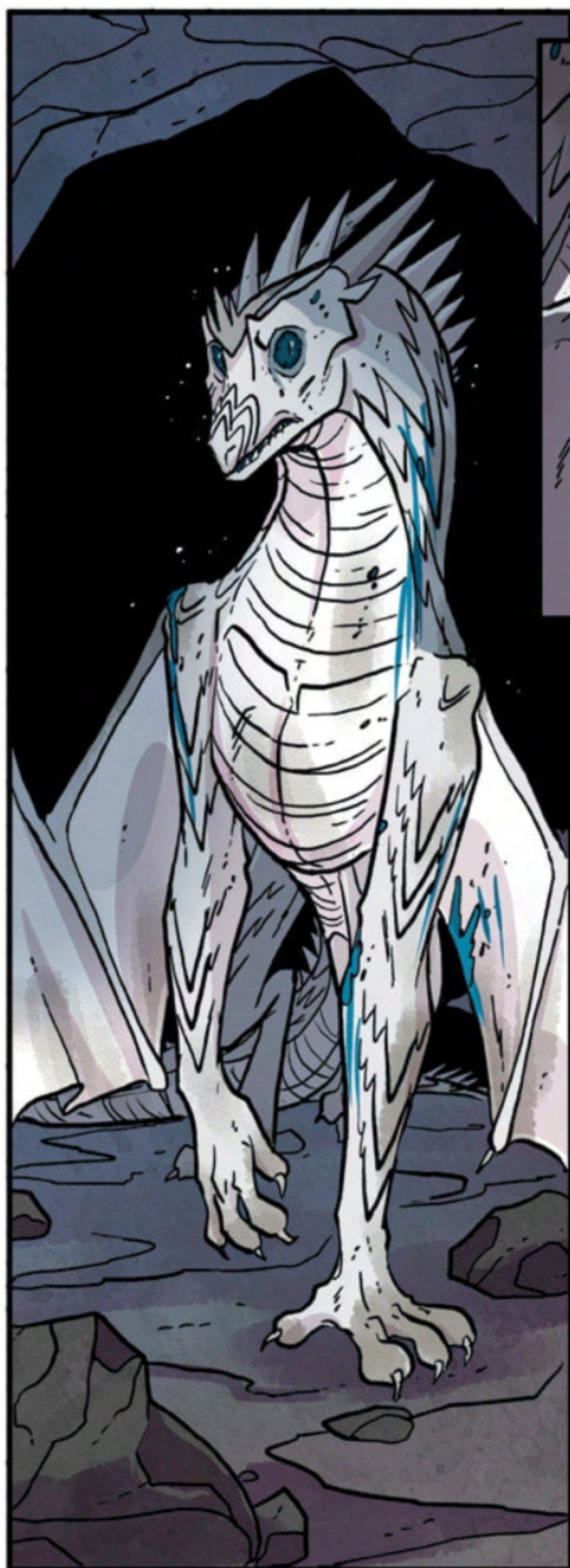
SORRY,  
KINKAJOU.  
I WAS  
HOPING  
THIS WOULD  
WORK.

SO WE DON'T HAVE  
TO GO LOOK FOR A  
DREAMVISITOR IN THERE?  
BECAUSE I AM ALL IN FAVOR  
OF NOT GOING INTO THE  
CREEPY SMOKING  
LAVA-FILLED TUNNEL.









ICICLE!

SHE USED TO  
PLUNGE INTO THE  
FRIGID OCEAN SIX  
TIMES A DAY SO  
SHE'D GLITTER  
LIKE DIAMONDS.

I NEVER IMAGINED  
HER LOOKING THIS  
WRETCHED.



ICICLE? ARE YOU—

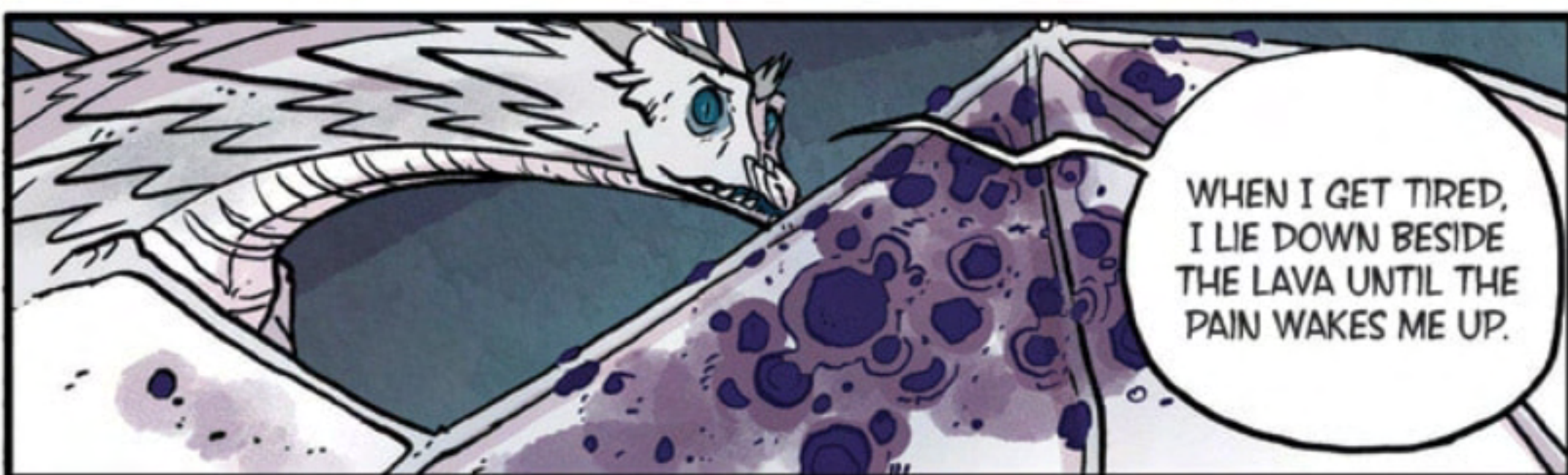
WINTER, WHY ARE YOU HERE?  
TO RUIN YET ANOTHER OF MY PLANS?  
YOU'VE ALREADY GUARANTEED  
HAILSTORM'S DEATH.



WHAT DID SCARLET SAY?  
WHEN SHE FOUND OUT STARFLIGHT  
AND THE OTHERS WERE STILL  
ALIVE?

I HAVEN'T  
SPOKEN TO HER.



















THE HEALER'S PAVILION NEAR THE RAINWING VILLAGE.

I'M STAYING RIGHT  
HERE WITH MY SISTER.

UNDERSTOOD.



YOUR MAJESTY—  
HOW DID YOU  
FIND US?

I LEFT A TRAIL. SORRY, MOON—  
BUT SHE'S OUR QUEEN.

I GUESS IT'S LUCKY  
YOU DID.

I WANT TO DISAGREE,  
BUT... ICICLE WAS  
SECONDS FROM KILLING  
KINKAJOU.

IF MY SISTER HAD  
SUCCEEDED, GLORY  
WOULD HAVE BEEN  
MUCH LESS MERCIFUL.

I HOPE ICICLE GETS  
AT LEAST A FEW HOURS OF REAL  
REST BEFORE SCARLET COMES  
HUNTING THROUGH  
HER DREAMS.





IT'S ODD. LOOK HOW MUCH THIS SCRATCH HAS BLED, JAMBU.

ICICLE WASN'T LETTING HERSELF SLEEP. SHE HASN'T SLEPT IN FOUR OR FIVE DAYS.



WHY WOULD ANY DRAGON DO THAT TO HERSELF? IT'S WORSE THAN REFUSING TO EAT. ANOTHER DAY AND SHE'D PROBABLY BE DEAD. AT LEAST SHE'LL BE ABLE TO HEAL NOW.



REMEMBER THAT RAINWING WHO COULDN'T SLEEP MORE THAN AN HOUR AT A TIME? THAT WAS THE SADDEST CASE I EVER SAW.

A RAINWING WHO COULDN'T SLEEP?



HE HAD A SNOUT DEFORMITY. WE COULDN'T FIX IT. IT WAS AWFUL.

WORSE THAN THAT—BECAUSE HE COULDN'T SLEEP, HE COULDN'T CHANGE HIS SCALES EITHER.

HE WAS SO GRUMPY.

AND UNSETTLING!



THAT'S A CAUTIONARY TALE ABOUT NOT SLEEPING. *AHEM.* YOUR MAJESTY.

I DO SLEEP. MAYBE NOT CONSTANTLY, BUT I'VE BEEN DOING SUNTIME EVERY DAY.



QUEEN GLORY, WHAT ARE YOU PLANNING TO DO WITH MY SISTER? I CAN TAKE HER BACK TO THE ICE KINGDOM. I PROMISE QUEEN GLACIER WILL SEE THAT SHE'S PUNISHED.





SHE'S TOO DANGEROUS. SHE KILLED ONE OF MY SUBJECTS—

ON THE WAY TO KILLING YOU.

—I CAN'T JUST LET HER FLY OUT OF HERE.

I NEED TO BE A TRUE QUEEN TO THE NIGHTWINGS. THAT MEANS SEEKING JUSTICE. BUT I ALSO BELIEVE QUEEN GLACIER SHOULD HAVE A SAY.

SO I'LL SEND FOR HER AND WE CAN DECIDE TOGETHER.



THAT'S MORE FAIR THAN I COULD HAVE HOPED FOR, BUT... STILL... QUEEN GLACIER, COMING TO JUDGE US...

I NEED TO FIND HAILSTORM BEFORE SHE ARRIVES.



IN THE MEANWHILE, WE'LL KEEP ICICLE TRANQUILIZED.

WAIT, WHAT? I NEED TO TALK TO HER.

AND I NEED A PRISON. THE RAINWINGS DON'T HAVE ANYTHING.

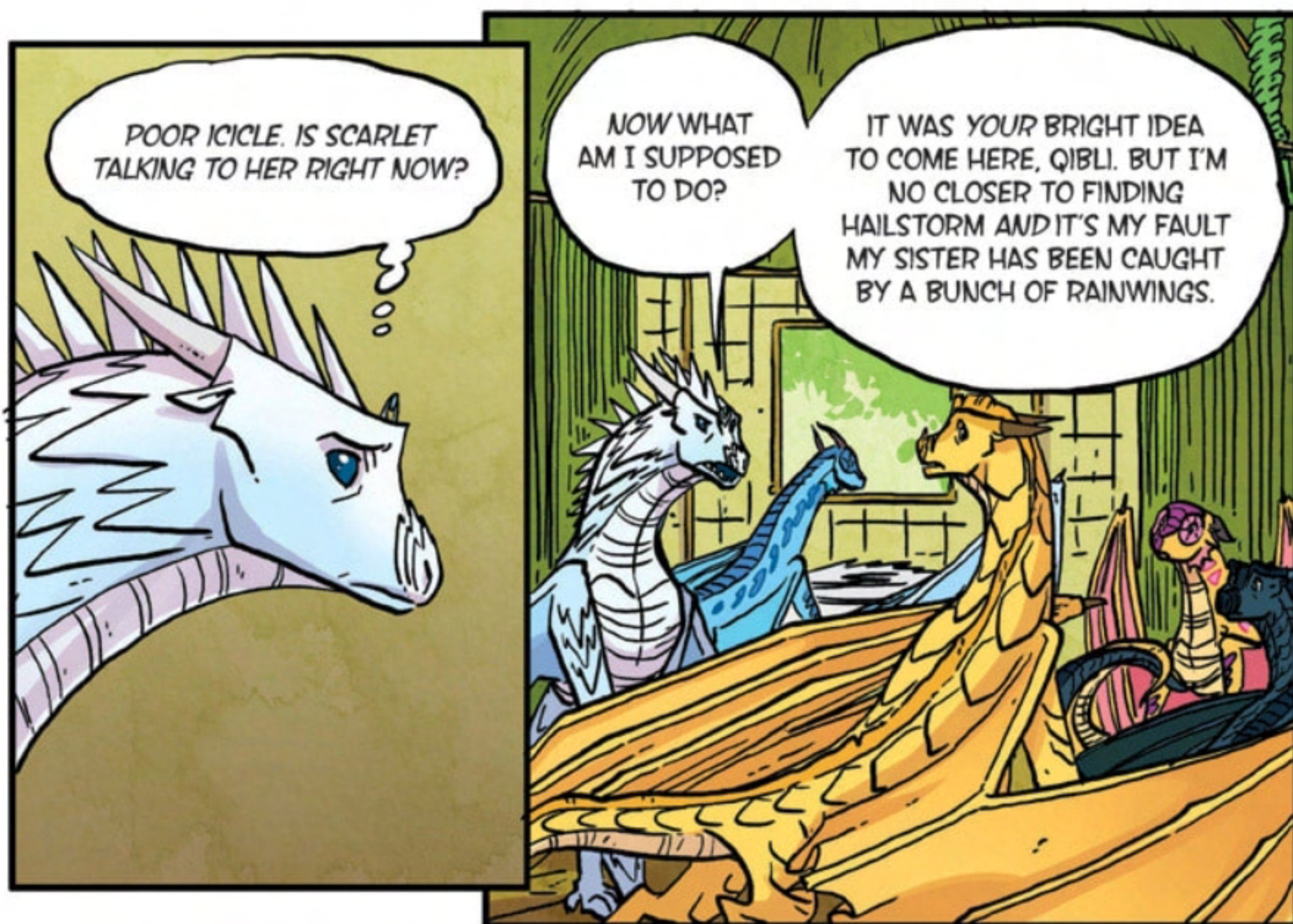
WE DON'T IMPRISON, WE BANISH. WHAT COULD BE WORSE THAN BEING THROWN OUT OF THE RAINFOREST?



YOUR MAJESTY. DEATHBRINGER WOULD LIKE A WORD.

EXCUSE ME.









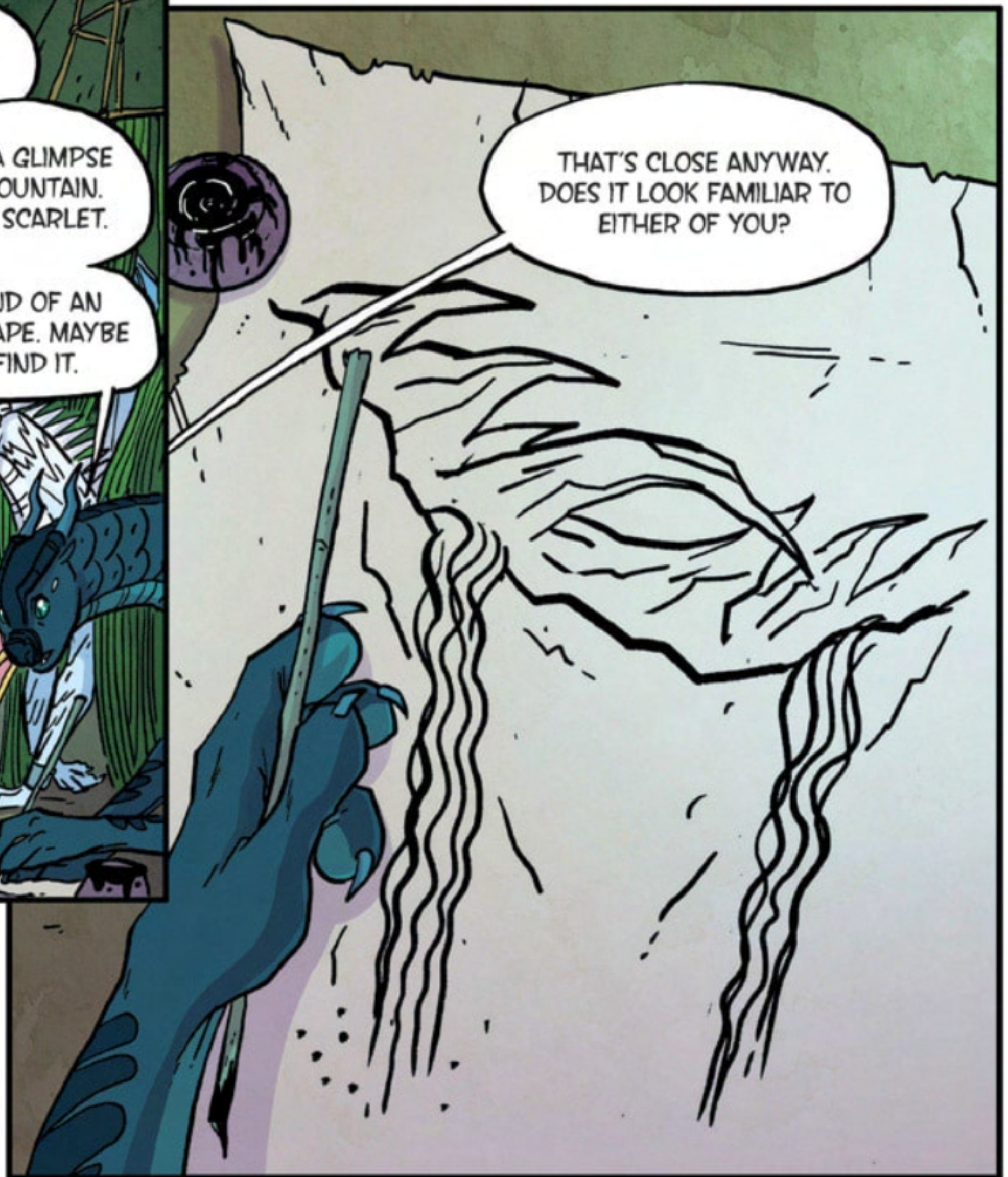


















## PART TWO: IN THE CLAWS OF THE CLOUDS.

I DON'T RECOGNIZE THIS MOUNTAIN, BUT I KNOW WHO MIGHT. THE TALONS OF PEACE ARE YOUR BEST BET. FIND THEM—OR WHAT'S LEFT OF THEM—AND ASK ONE OF THEIR SKYWINGS. I CAN HELP YOU FIND THEM, IF GLORY SAYS IT'S OK.

QIBLI AND PRINCE WINTER MAY GO WHEREVER THEY CHOOSE—I'M NOT THEIR QUEEN.

BUT I DO HAVE RESERVATIONS ABOUT ALLOWING TWO OF MY FAVORITE SUBJECTS TO GALLIVANT AROUND THE CONTINENT CHASING PYRRHIA'S MOST DANGEROUS DRAGON.

DID YOU HEAR THAT, MOON? "FAVORITE."

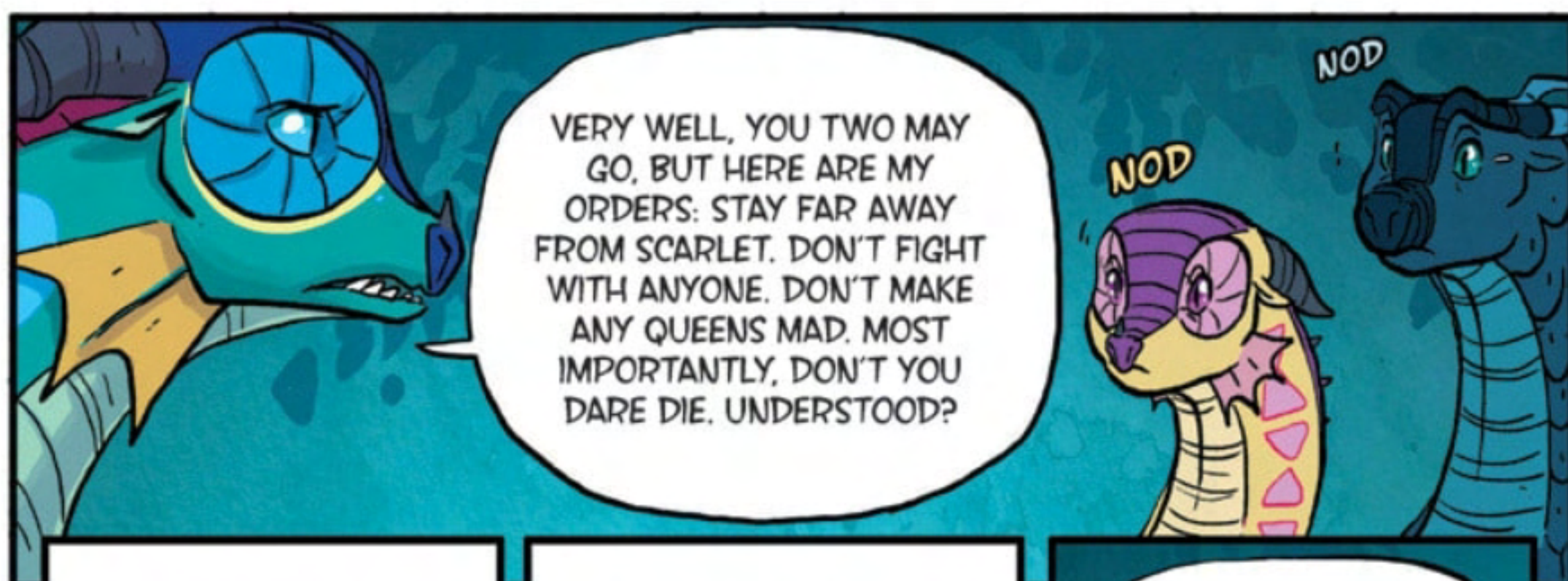
THE PART YOU WERE SUPPOSED TO HEAR, KINKAJOU, IS "DANGEROUS."











VERY WELL, YOU TWO MAY GO, BUT HERE ARE MY ORDERS: STAY FAR AWAY FROM SCARLET. DON'T FIGHT WITH ANYONE. DON'T MAKE ANY QUEENS MAD. MOST IMPORTANTLY, DON'T YOU DARE DIE. UNDERSTOOD?

NOD

NOD

PRINCE WINTER, I USED TO THINK I COULD DO EVERYTHING ALONE, TOO. BUT I WOULDN'T BE HERE WITHOUT MY FRIENDS. I HAVE A FEELING YOU'LL BE SAYING THE SAME A YEAR FROM NOW.

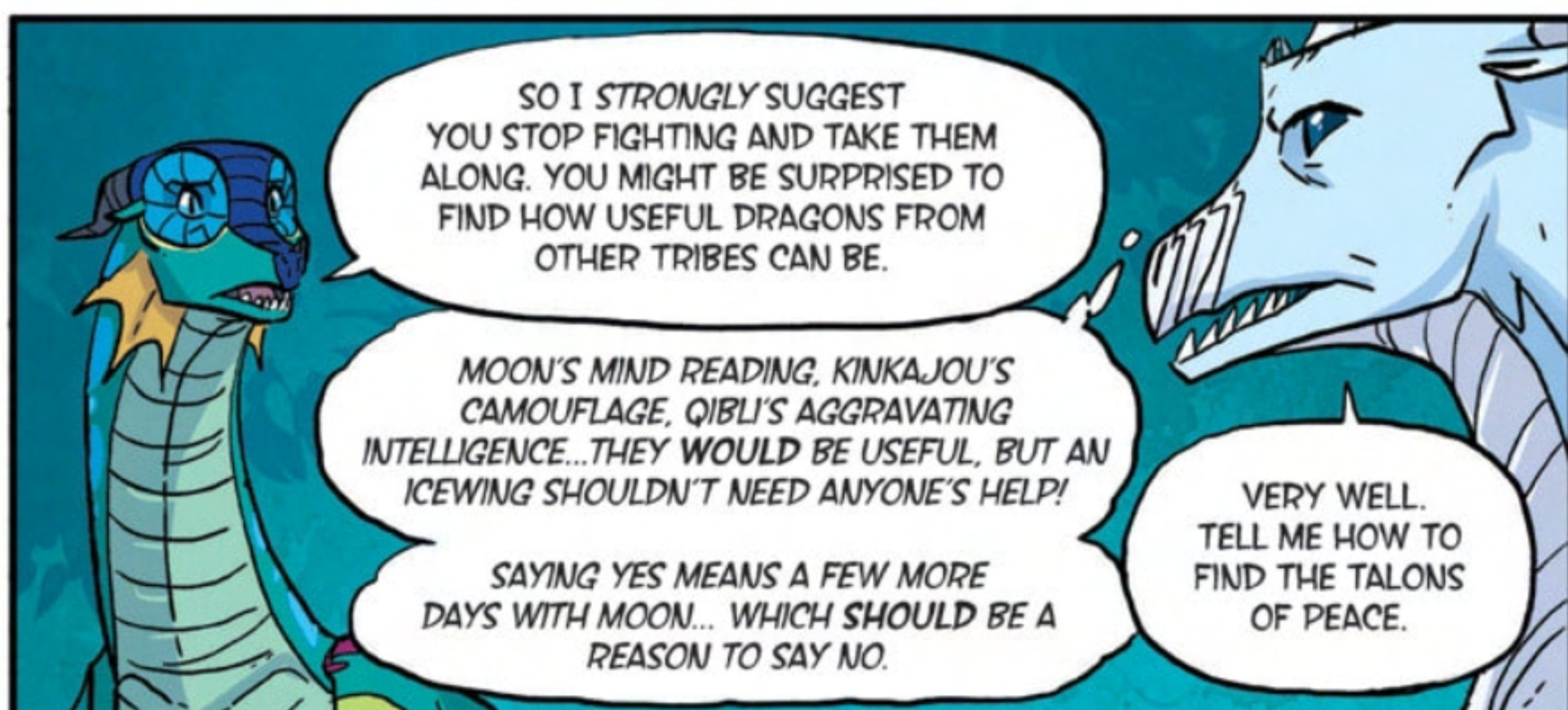
THAT MIGHT APPLY IF THESE DRAGONS WERE MY FRIENDS. BUT THEY'RE ACTUALLY STRANGERS WHO JUST GOT THROWN INTO A GROUP WITH ME.

THEY'RE NOT EVEN ICEWINGS. WHY SHOULD THEY CARE WHAT HAPPENS TO HAILSTORM?

THEY CARE WHAT HAPPENS TO YOU.

FOR SOME REASON.

ENTERTAINMENT VALUE.



SO I STRONGLY SUGGEST YOU STOP FIGHTING AND TAKE THEM ALONG. YOU MIGHT BE SURPRISED TO FIND HOW USEFUL DRAGONS FROM OTHER TRIBES CAN BE.

MOON'S MIND READING, KINKAJOU'S CAMOUFLAGE, QIBLI'S AGGRAVATING INTELLIGENCE...THEY WOULD BE USEFUL, BUT AN ICEWING SHOULDN'T NEED ANYONE'S HELP!

SAYING YES MEANS A FEW MORE DAYS WITH MOON... WHICH **SHOULD** BE A REASON TO SAY NO.

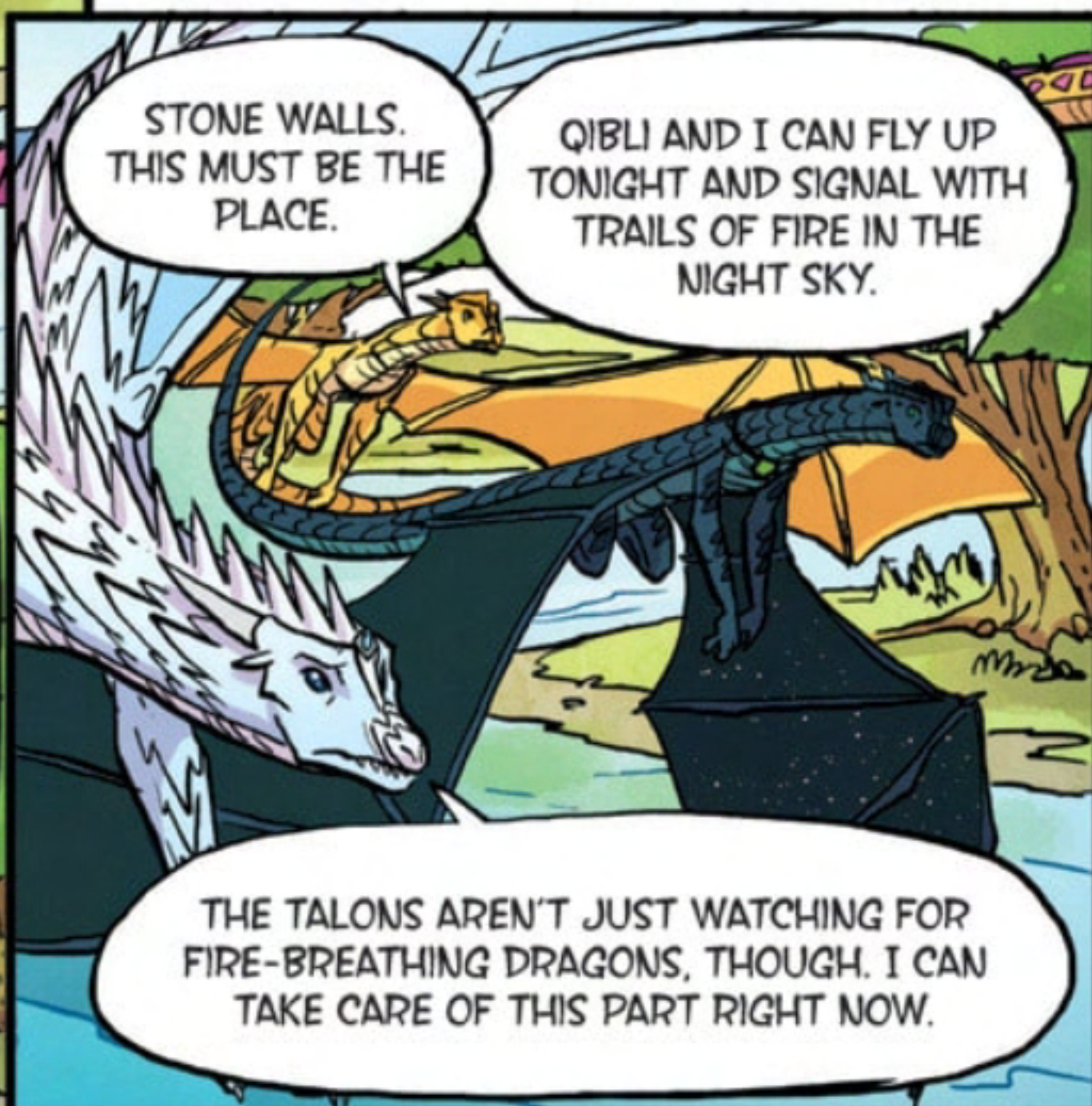
VERY WELL. TELL ME HOW TO FIND THE TALONS OF PEACE.





WE'RE GOING TO PASS A SCAVENGER DEN, RIGHT? ARE YOU EXCITED, WINTER?

DEATHBRINGER SAYS IT'S THE BIGGEST IN PYRRHIA. IT'S EVEN FORTIFIED WITH STONE WALLS. IT'S THE NEW SPOT THE TALONS OF PEACE CHOSE FOR THEIR SIGNALS, SINCE THERE ARE TOO MANY DRAGONS ON JADE MOUNTAIN THESE DAYS.



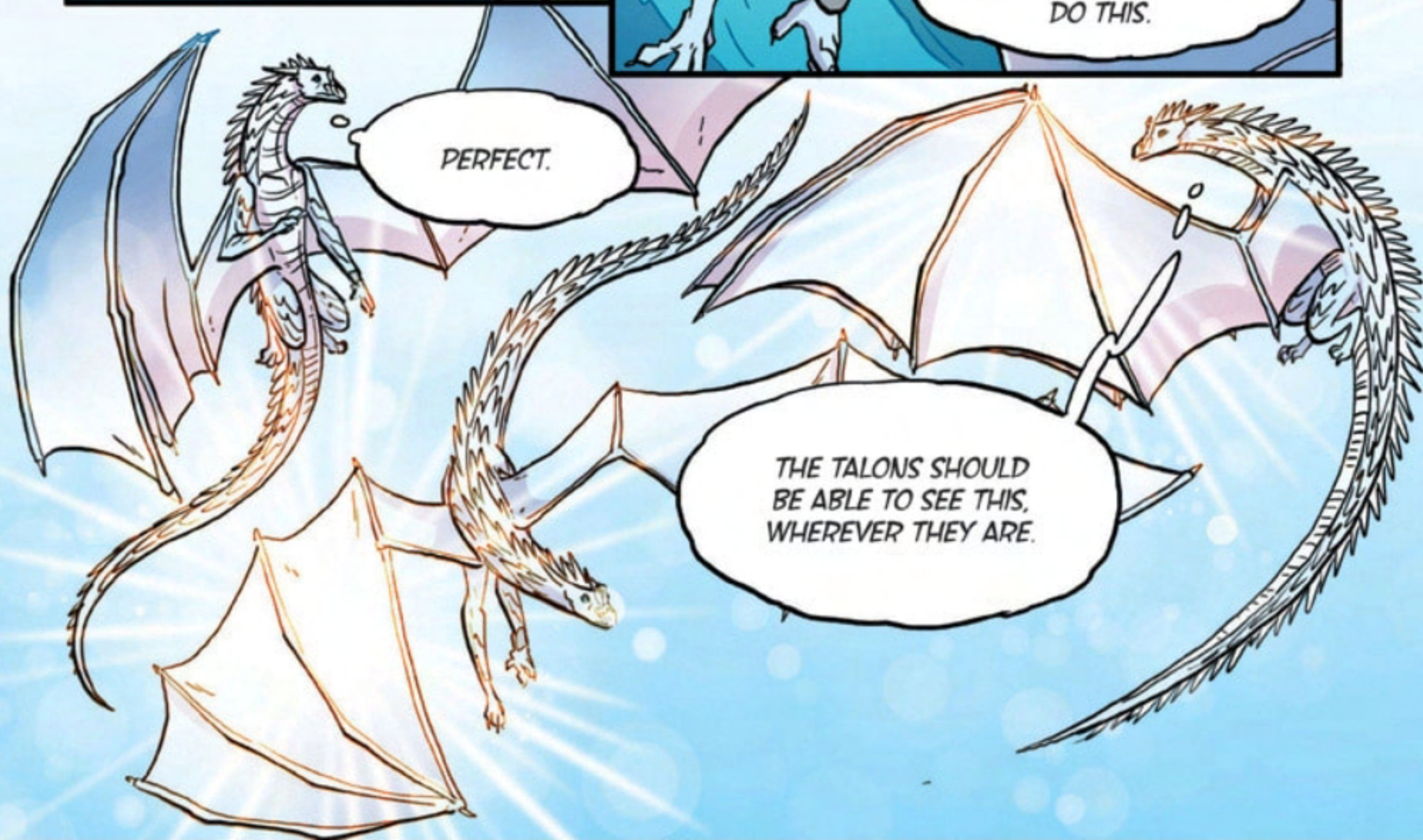
STONE WALLS. THIS MUST BE THE PLACE.

QIBLI AND I CAN FLY UP TONIGHT AND SIGNAL WITH TRAILS OF FIRE IN THE NIGHT SKY.

THE TALONS AREN'T JUST WATCHING FOR FIRE-BREATHING DRAGONS, THOUGH. I CAN TAKE CARE OF THIS PART RIGHT NOW.



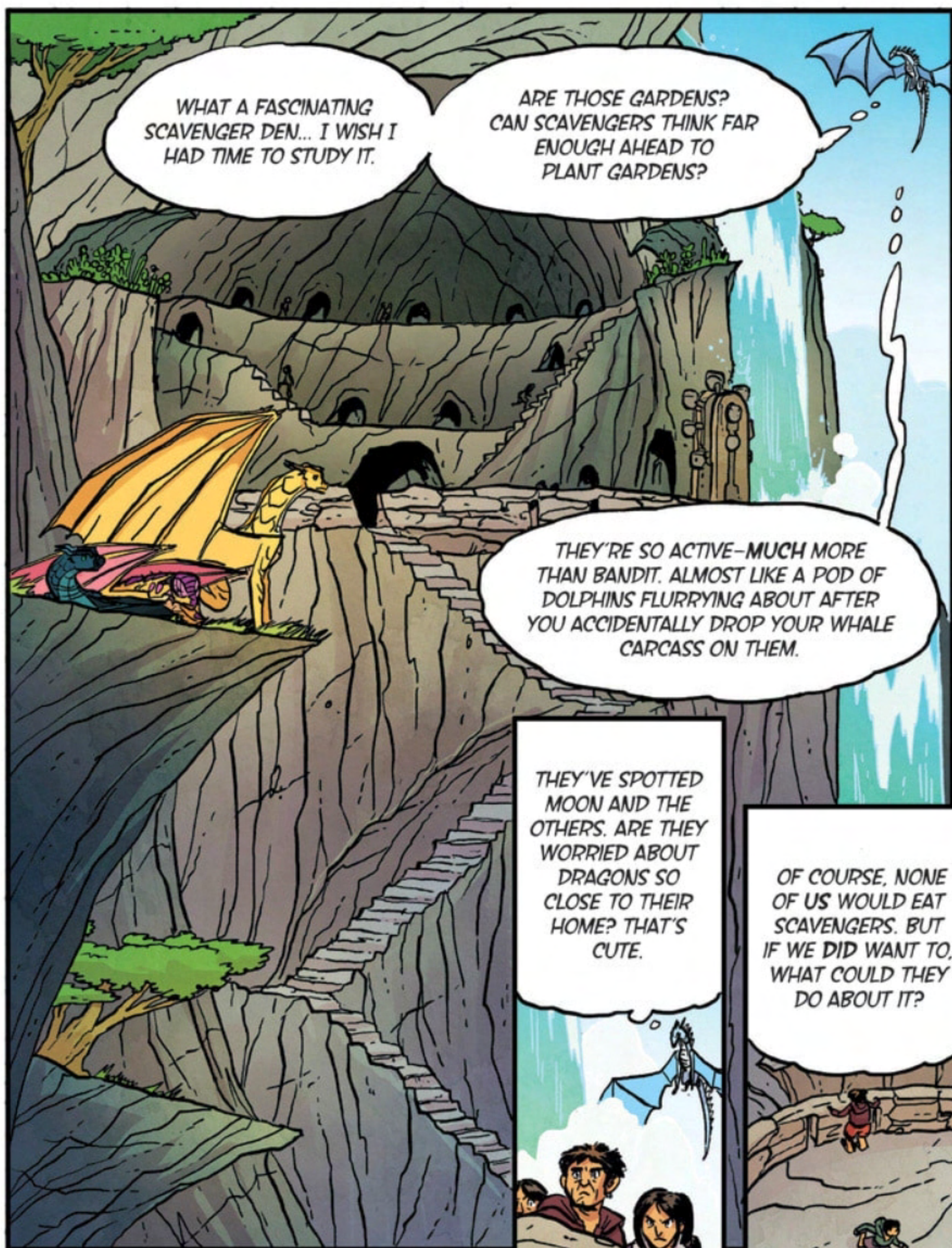
I POLISHED MY SCALES FOR AN HOUR THIS MORNING SO I COULD DO THIS.



PERFECT.

THE TALONS SHOULD BE ABLE TO SEE THIS, WHEREVER THEY ARE.





WHAT A FASCINATING  
SCAVENGER DEN... I WISH I  
HAD TIME TO STUDY IT.

ARE THOSE GARDENS?  
CAN SCAVENGERS THINK FAR  
ENOUGH AHEAD TO  
PLANT GARDENS?

THEY'RE SO ACTIVE—MUCH MORE  
THAN BANDIT. ALMOST LIKE A POD OF  
DOLPHINS FLURRYING ABOUT AFTER  
YOU ACCIDENTALLY DROP YOUR WHALE  
CARCASS ON THEM.

THEY'VE SPOTTED  
MOON AND THE  
OTHERS. ARE THEY  
WORRIED ABOUT  
DRAGONS SO  
CLOSE TO THEIR  
HOME? THAT'S  
CUTE.

OF COURSE, NONE  
OF US WOULD EAT  
SCAVENGERS. BUT  
IF WE DID WANT TO,  
WHAT COULD THEY  
DO ABOUT IT?



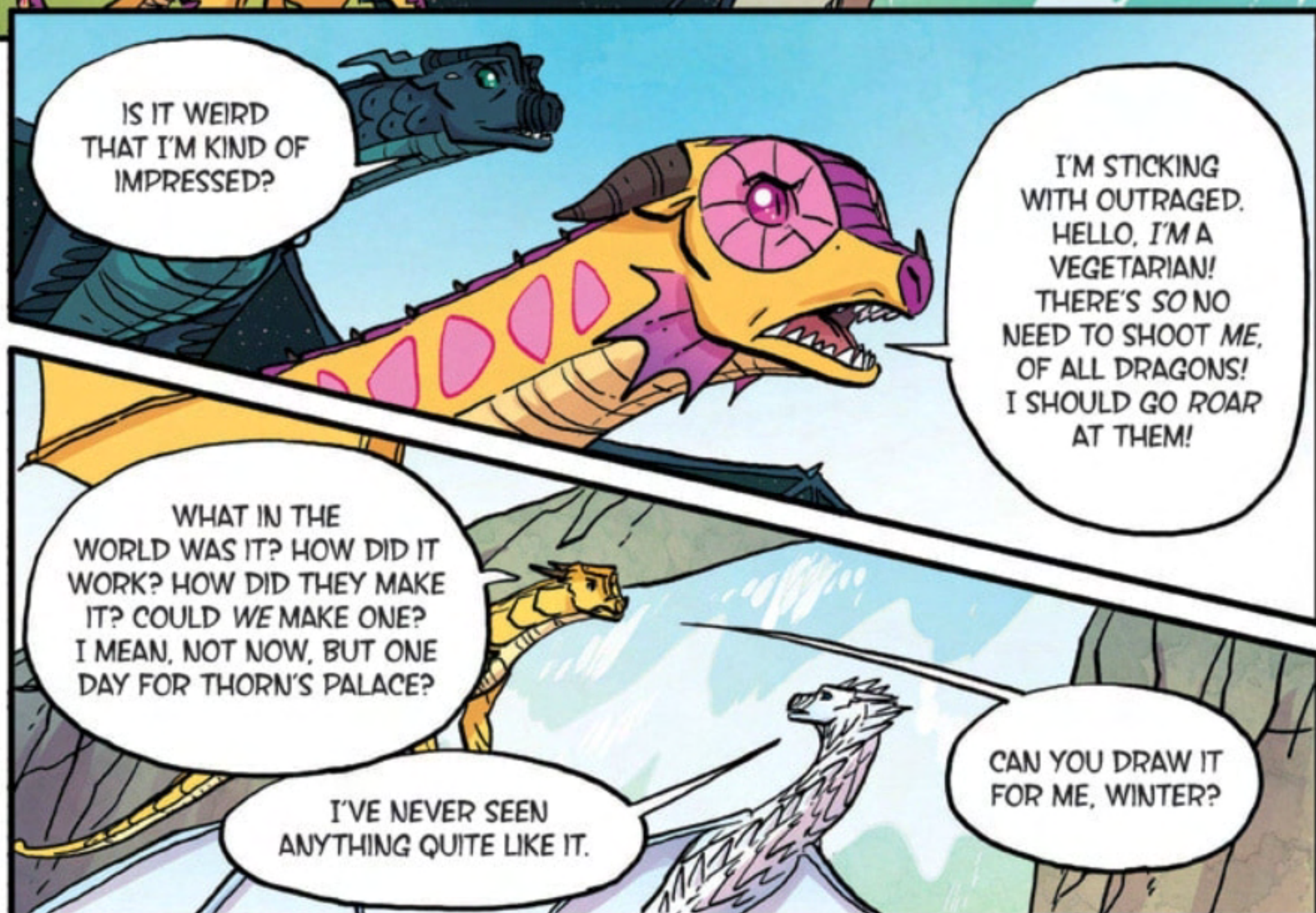




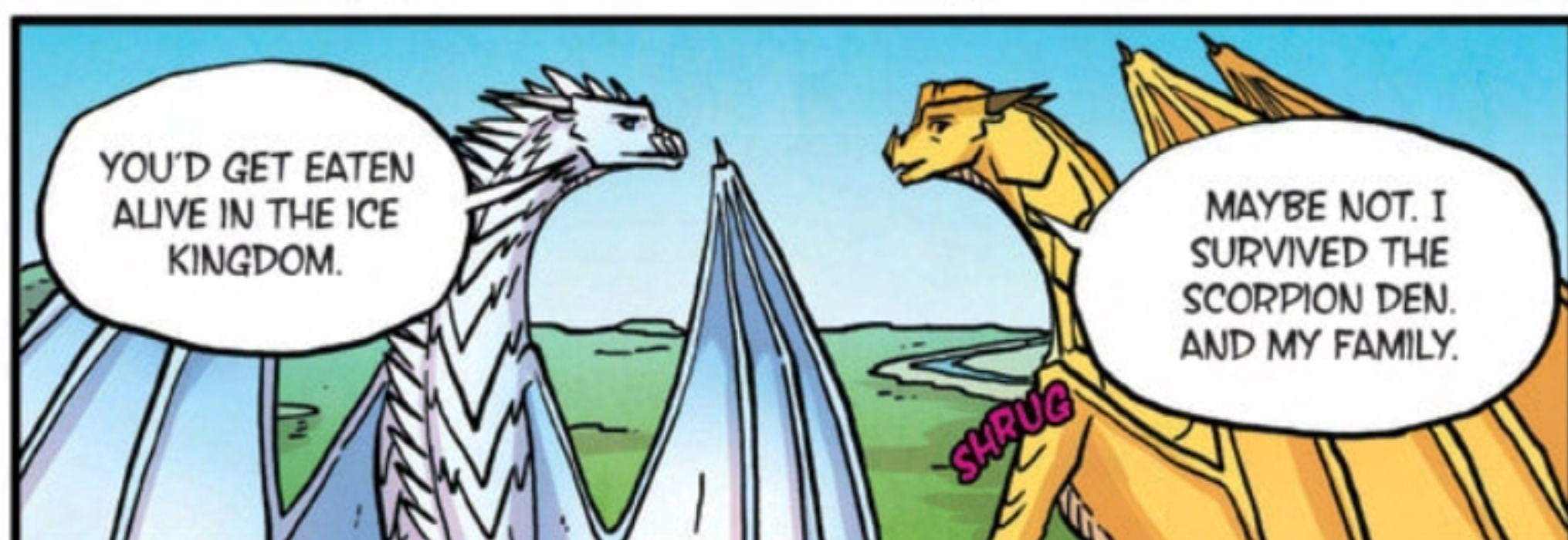
















THEY DEFINITELY WOULDN'T HAVE SAVED ME. THEY'D PROBABLY HAVE GRABBED THE SPEAR AND STABBED ME THEMSELVES.

MINE WOULD'VE TAKEN NOTES ON EVERYTHING I DID WRONG.



STOOD IN THE WRONG PLACE.

ALLOWED SPEAR TO PENETRATE SCALES.

BLED TOO MUCH.



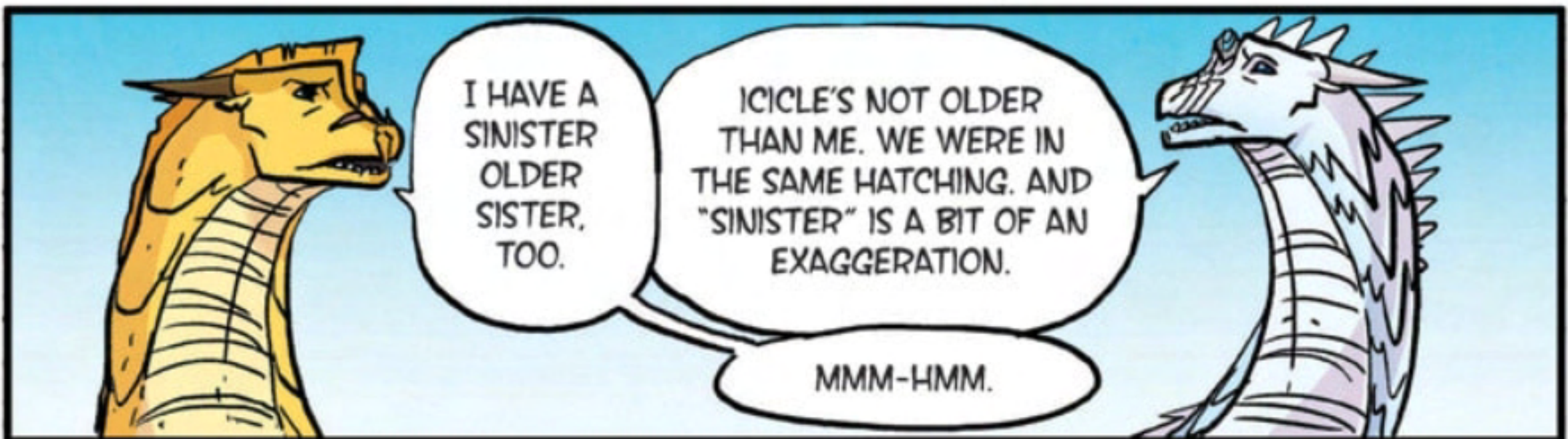
THEY SOUND GREAT.

THAT'S HOW ICEWING PARENTS ARE SUPPOSED TO BE. I'M VERY LUCKY.



I GUESS THEY DID SOMETHING RIGHT. I MEAN, FOR YOU TO BE SO DETERMINED TO RESCUE YOUR BROTHER.

MY BROTHER DEFINITELY WOULDN'T RESCUE ME. TO BE FAIR, I WOULDN'T RESCUE HIM EITHER.



I HAVE A SINISTER OLDER SISTER, TOO.

ICICLE'S NOT OLDER THAN ME. WE WERE IN THE SAME HATCHING. AND "SINISTER" IS A BIT OF AN EXAGGERATION.

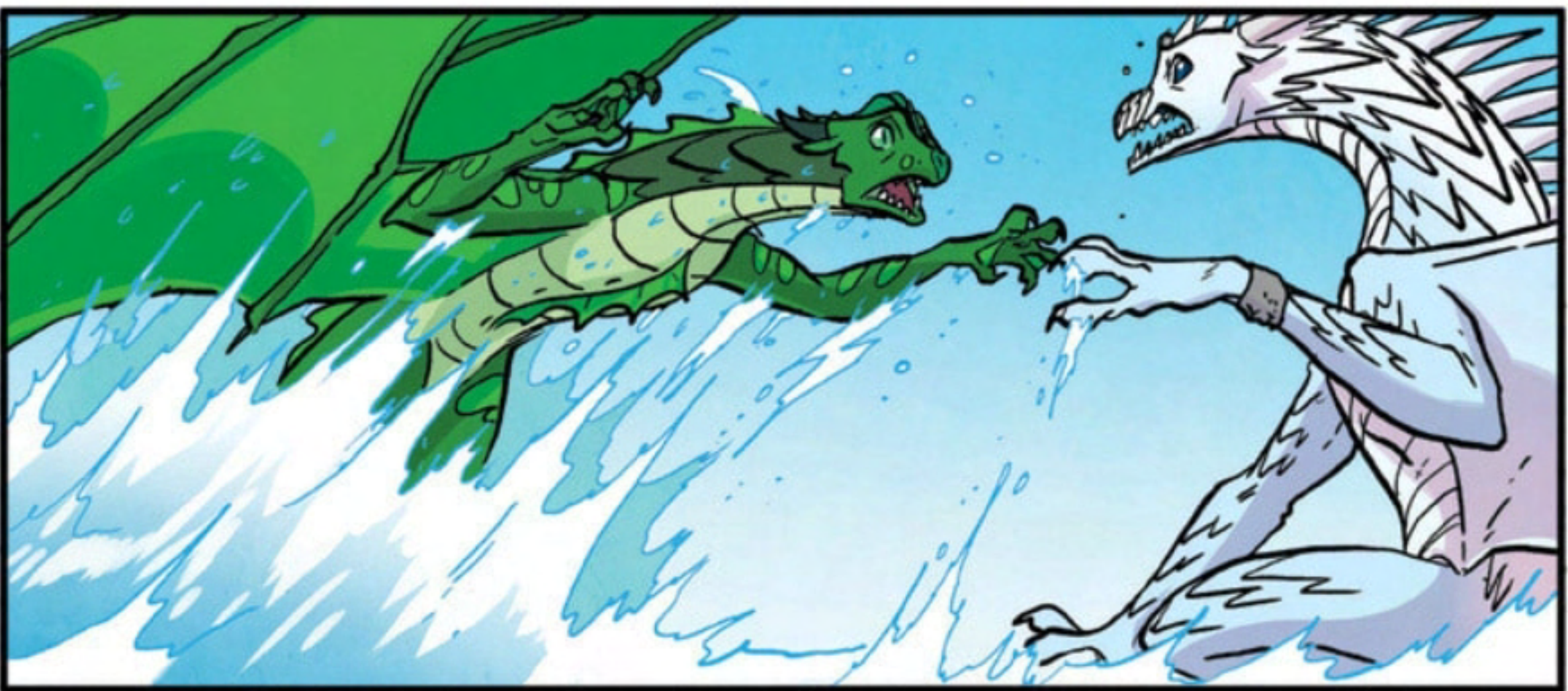
MMM-HMM.



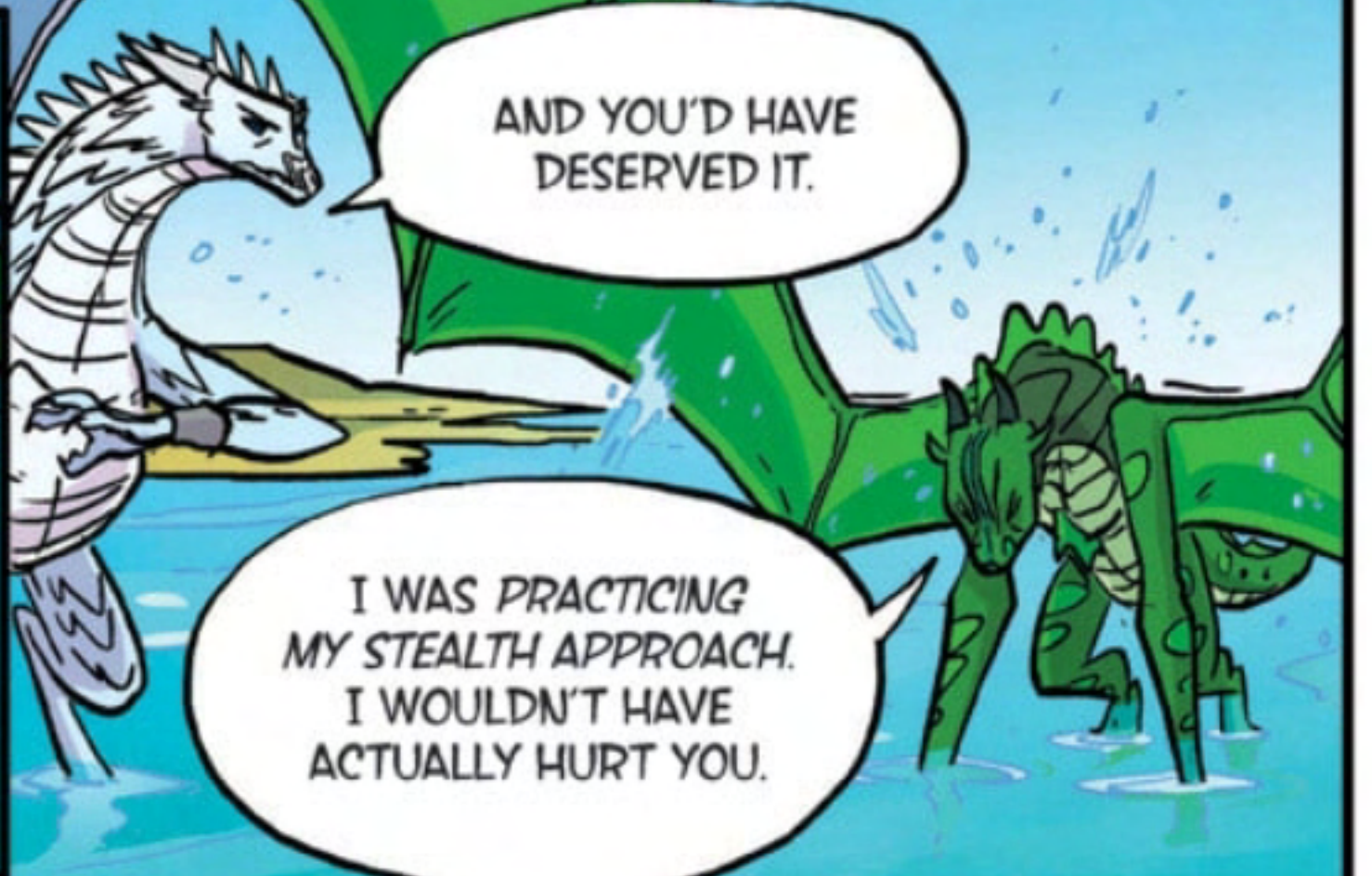
MY PARENTS WILL PROBABLY BE SO PROUD OF HER. UP UNTIL SHE FAILED—WHICH THEY'LL SEE AS MY FAULT—AND GOT CAUGHT BY RAINWINGS—ALSO MY FAULT.

SIGH





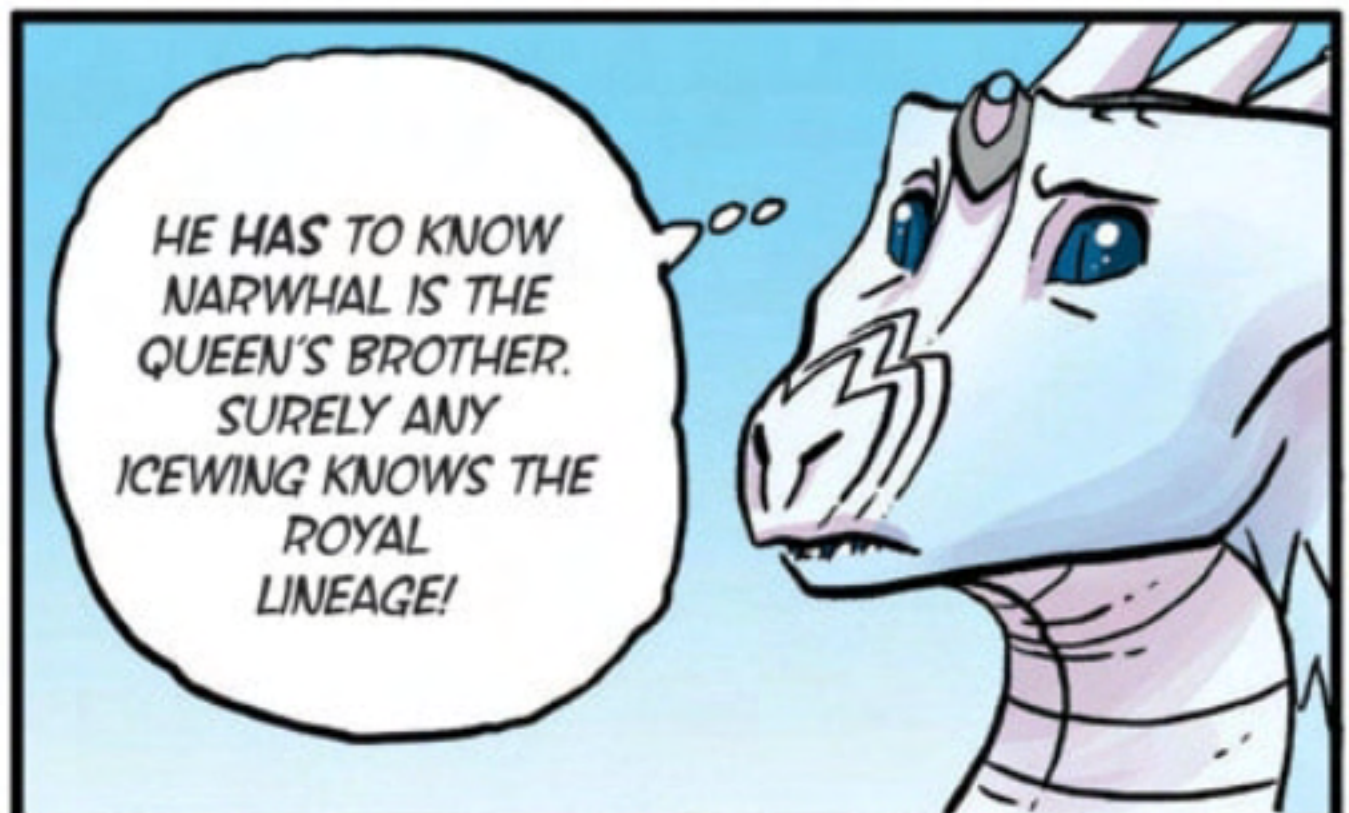
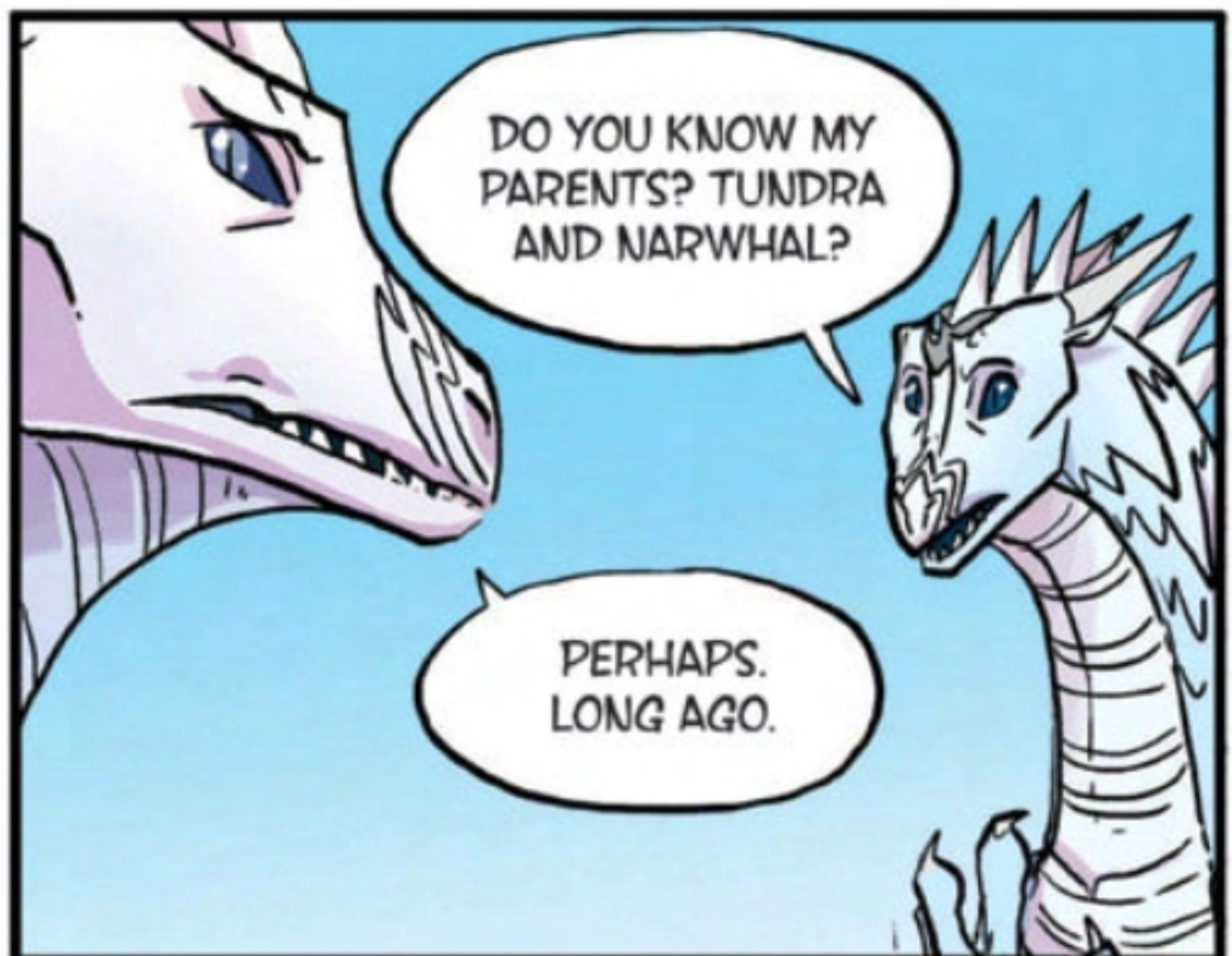
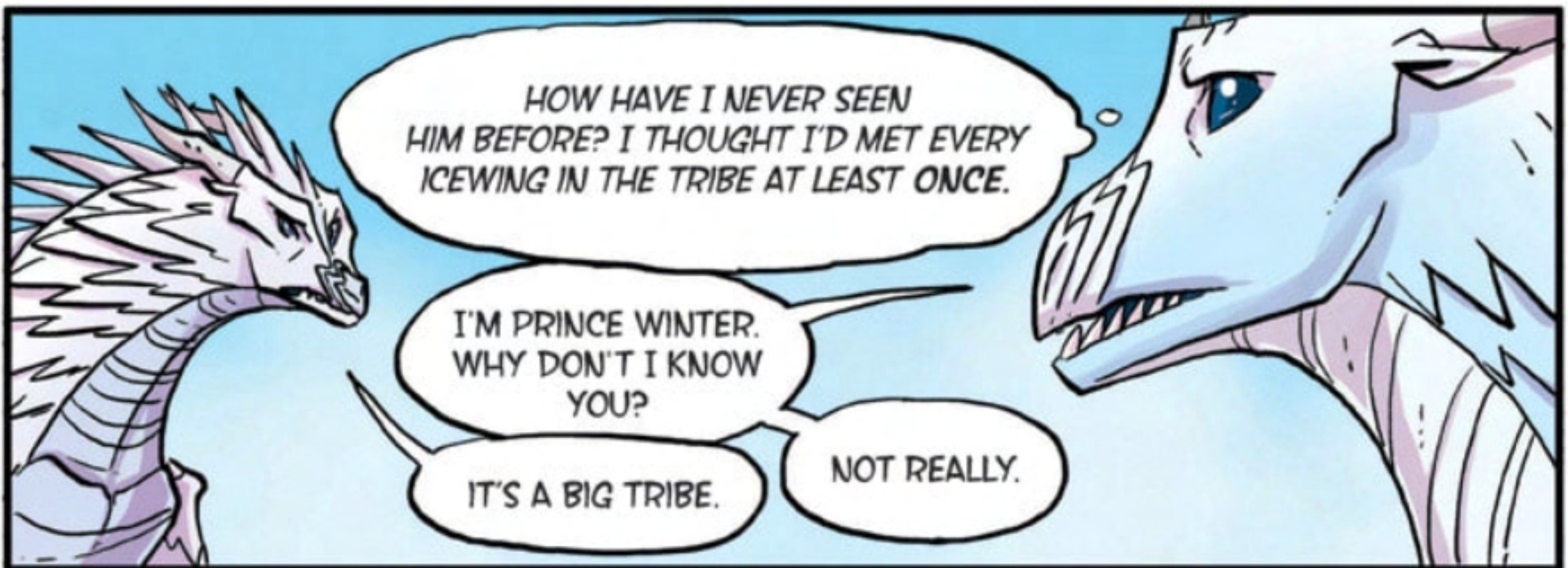
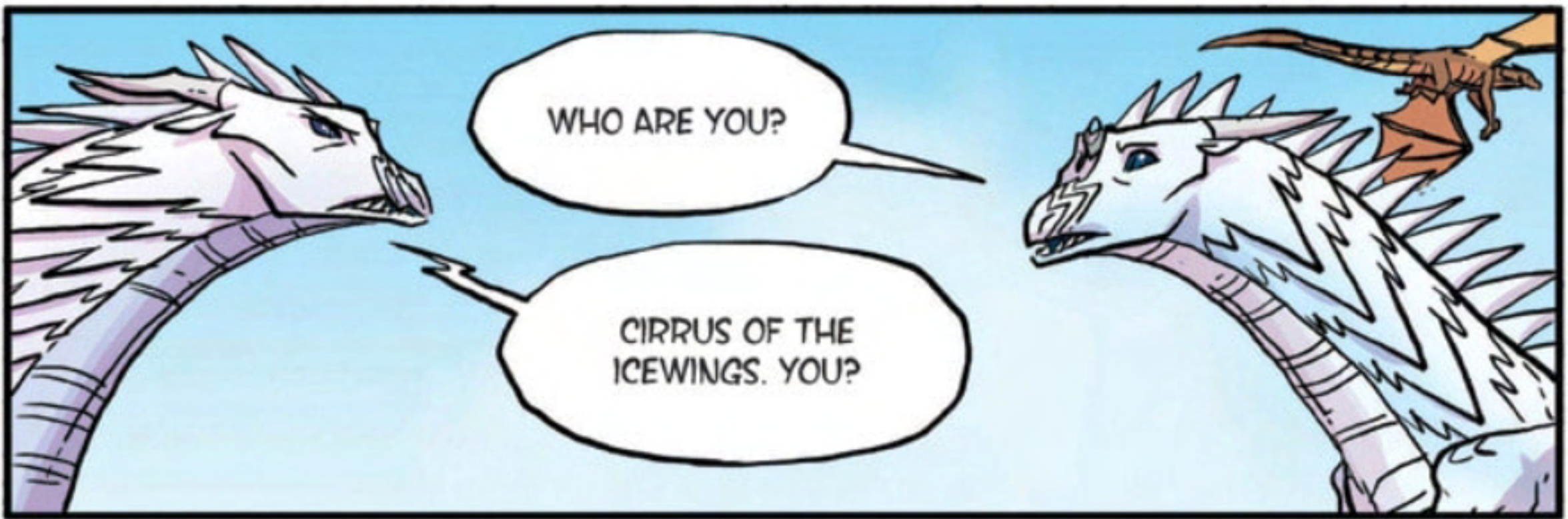








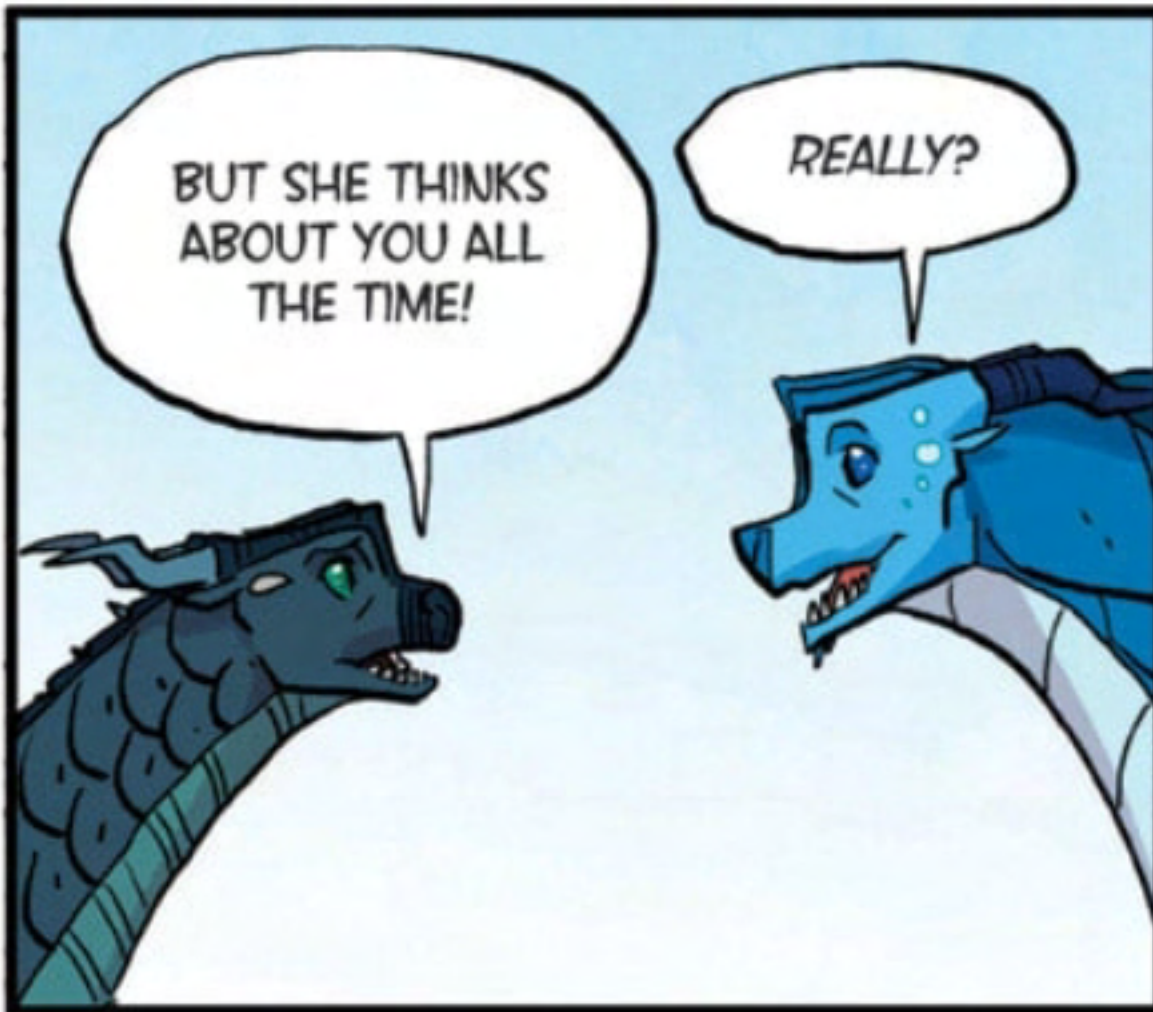




















OH... I SUPPOSE IT'S A BIT FAMILIAR. I'M SORRY, I DON'T USUALLY, UM, DO ANYTHING USEFUL, SO...

SHOULD I WARN MOON TO HIDE HER MIND READING A BIT BETTER?



IT'S NOT TOO FAR AWAY... IF I REMEMBER RIGHT, IT'S SOUTHWEST OF THE SKY PALACE. ISH.

HMM. CAN YOU BE ANY MORE SPECIFIC?



MAYBE YOU COULD HELP US FIND IT, PYRITE?

OH DEAR, NO. I COULDN'T, I'M SURE.



WHY ARE YOU LOOKING FOR THIS PLACE? WHAT DO YOU REALLY WANT?

IT'S A FAIR QUESTION. IF YOU WANT PYRITE TO GO WITH YOU, WE SHOULD ALL KNOW WHAT SHE'S FLYING INTO.



HUH. QIBLI'S WAITING FOR ME TO DECIDE WHETHER OR NOT TO REVEAL THE TRUTH. I LIKE THAT.

WE THINK THIS IS WHERE QUEEN SCARLET IS HIDING.





QUEEN SCARLET? SHE'S ALL RIGHT? AND YOU THINK SHE'S THERE? I'LL TAKE YOU IF SHE'S THERE.

GASPI!

HISSSS

I'M NOT SURE THAT'S WISE.



WHY WOULD YOU GET A VOTE? SHE CAN HELP US IF SHE WANTS TO.

ALTHOUGH I'M NOT SURE I LOVE THE IDEA OF A FERVENT SCARLET LOYALIST LEADING US TO THE QUEEN.



I CAN TRY. I MEAN... I MIGHT GET US LOST, BUT...I'LL DO MY BEST FOR QUEEN SCARLET. I ALWAYS DO MY BEST FOR HER.

DID, I MEAN.

SIGH



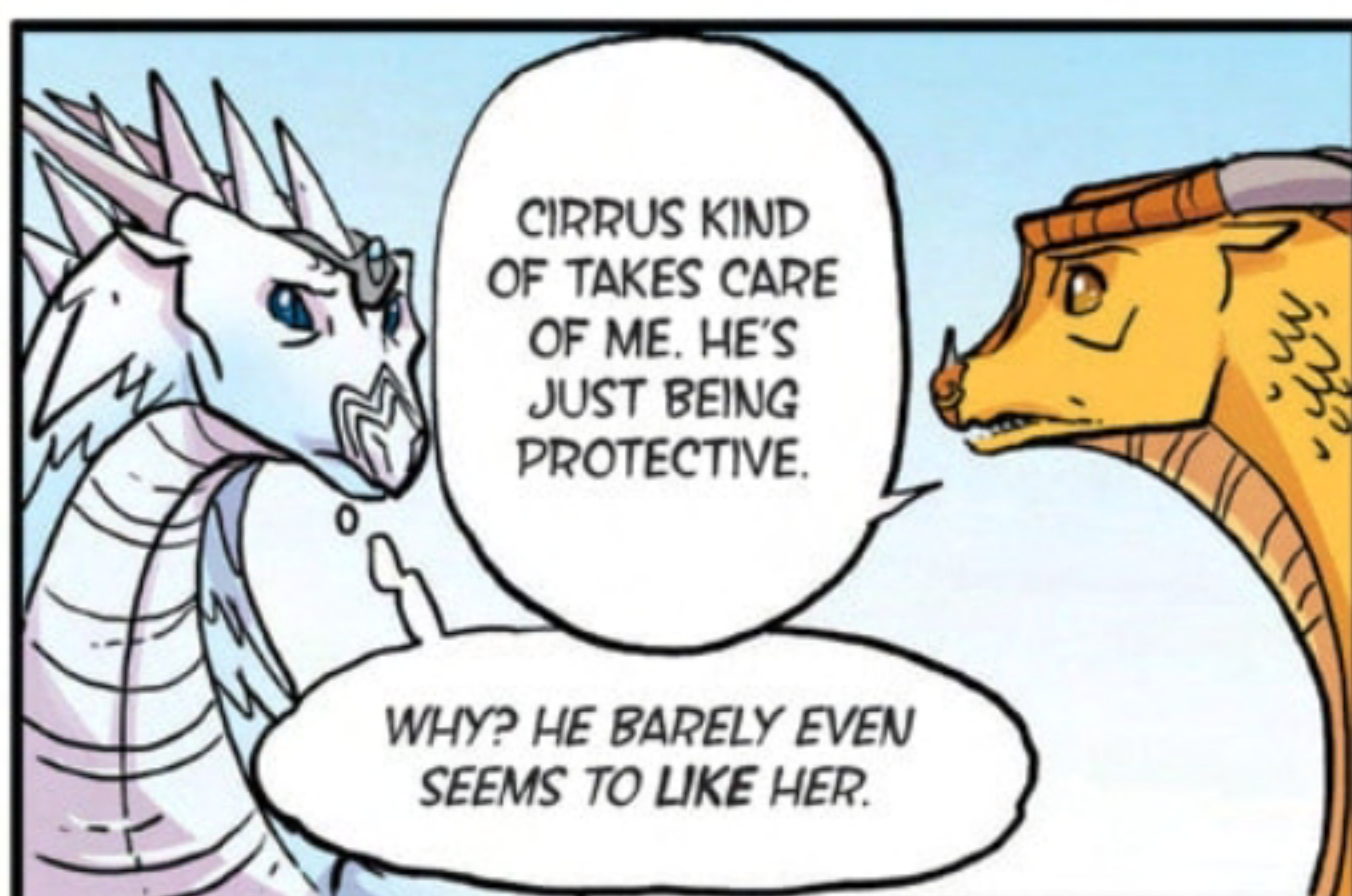
THANK YOU.

WHAT GOOD COULD COME OF FINDING QUEEN SCARLET? WHAT ARE YOU PLANNING TO DO IF SHE'S THERE?



...DID YOU SAY PRINCE WINTER?

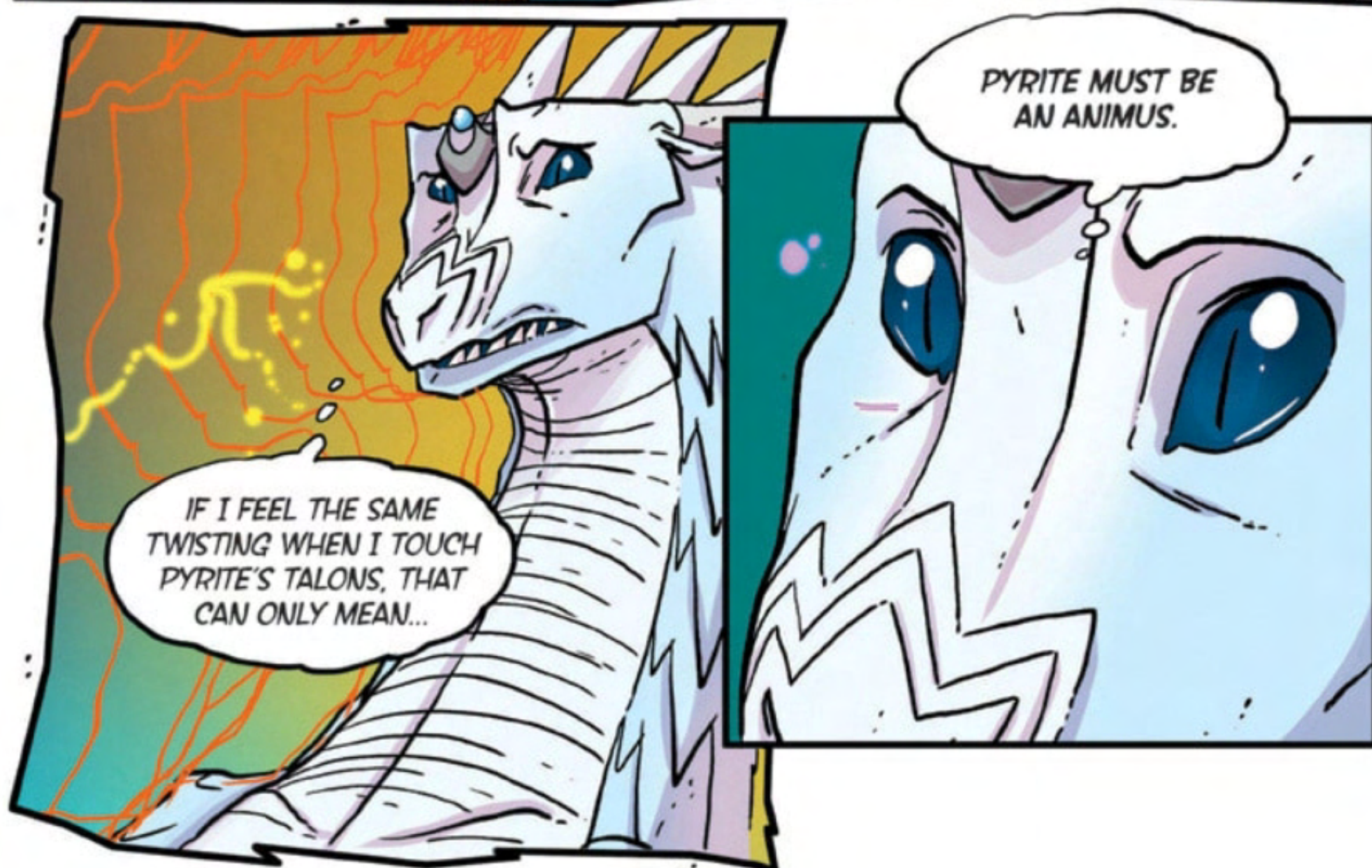
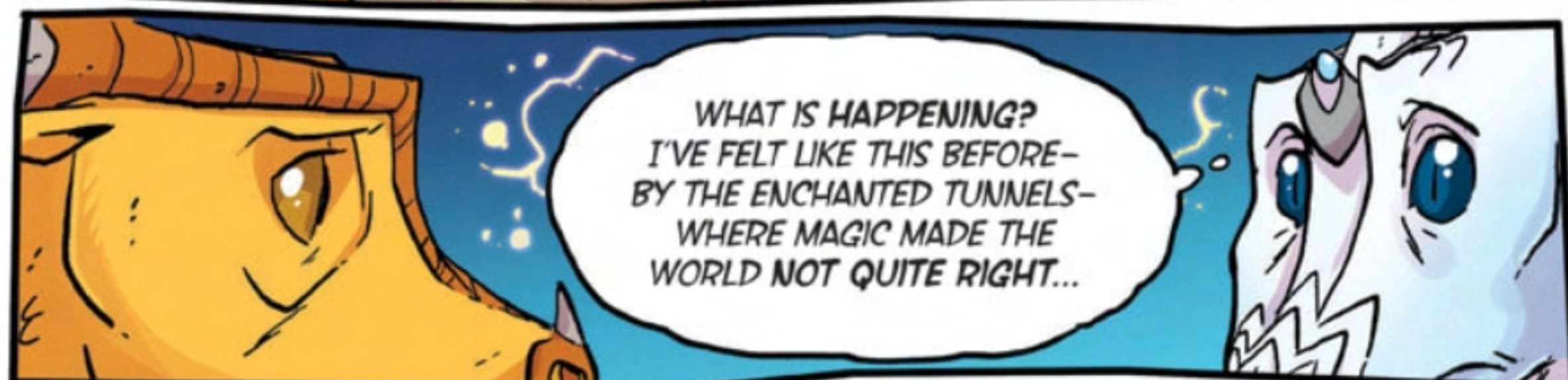
MIND YOUR OWN BUSINESS.



CIRRUS KIND OF TAKES CARE OF ME. HE'S JUST BEING PROTECTIVE.

WHY? HE BARELY EVEN SEEMS TO LIKE HER.

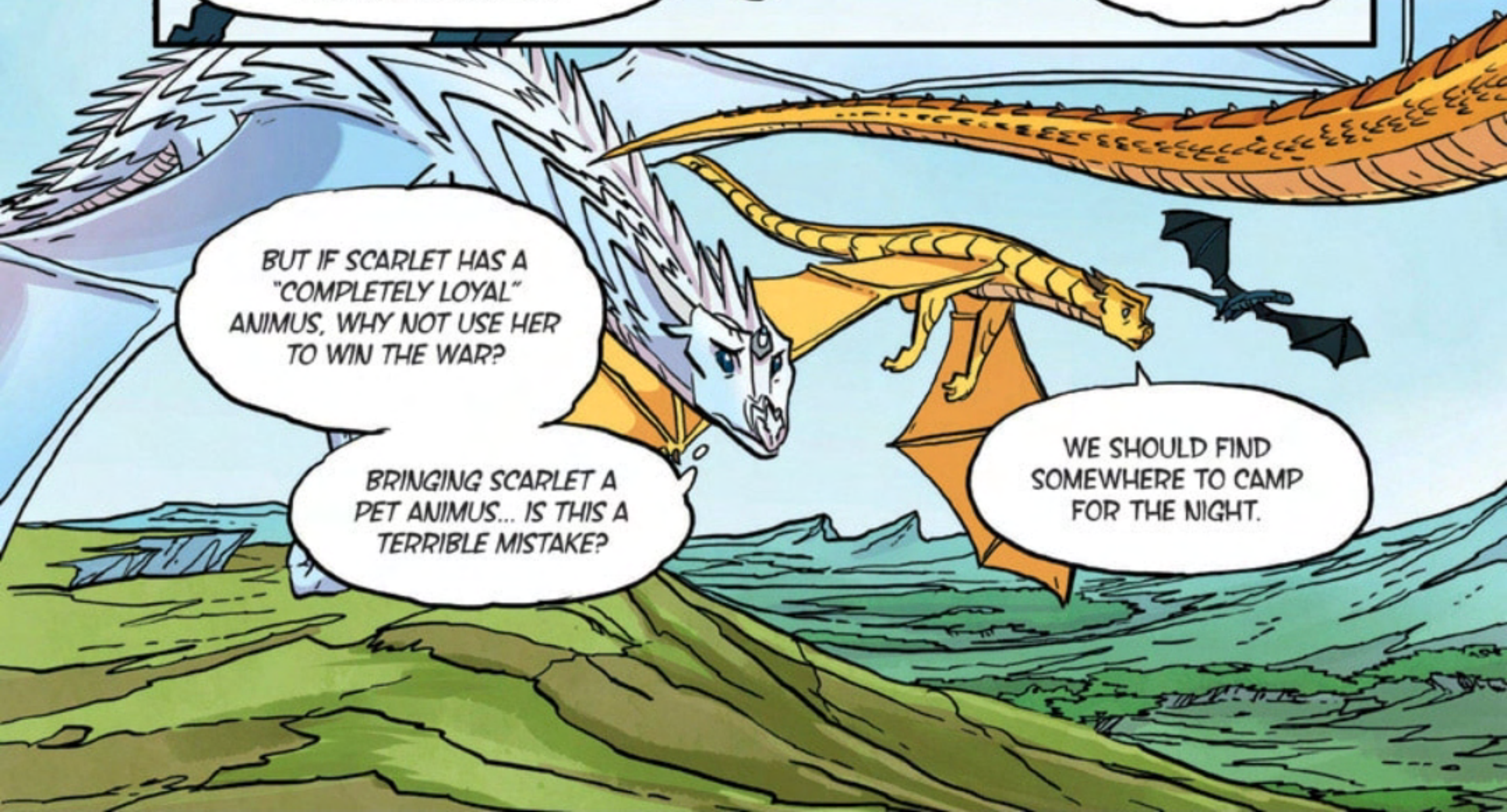
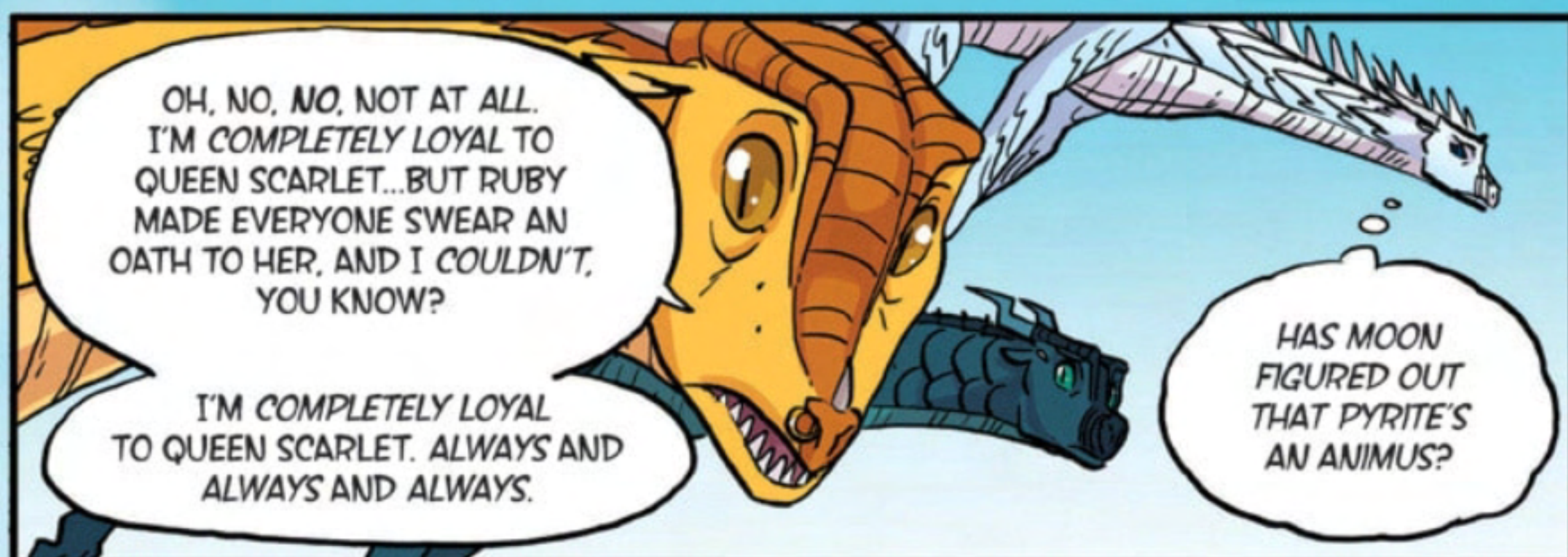




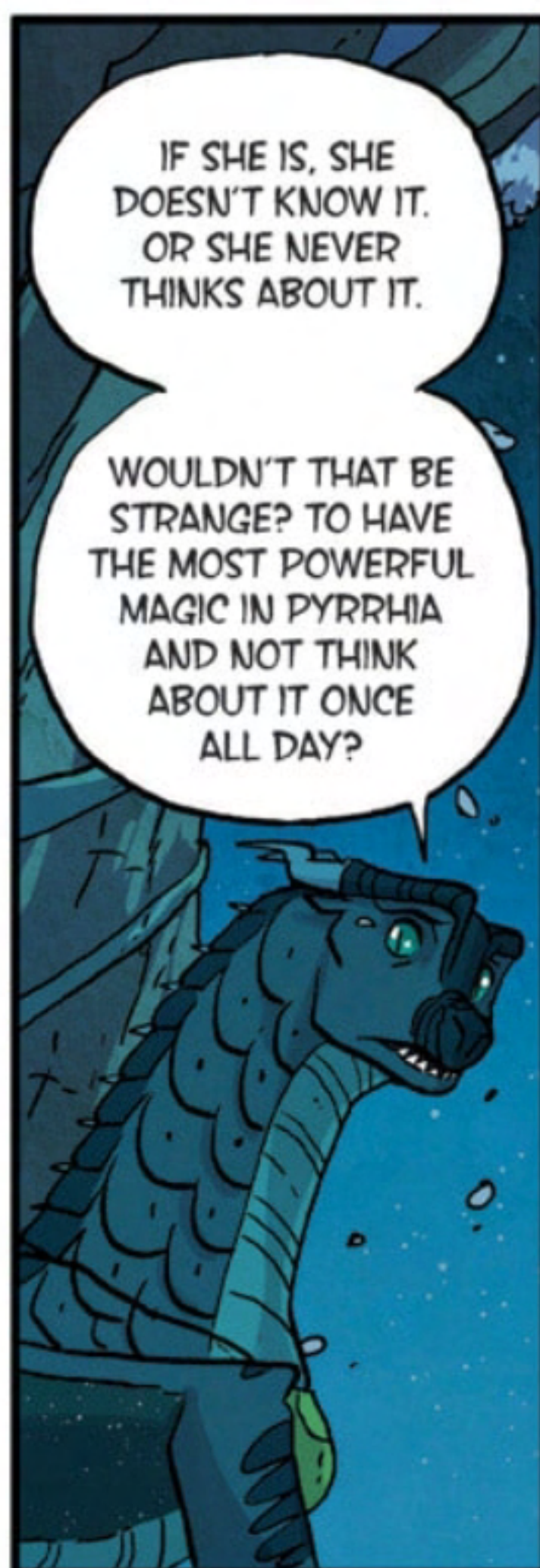




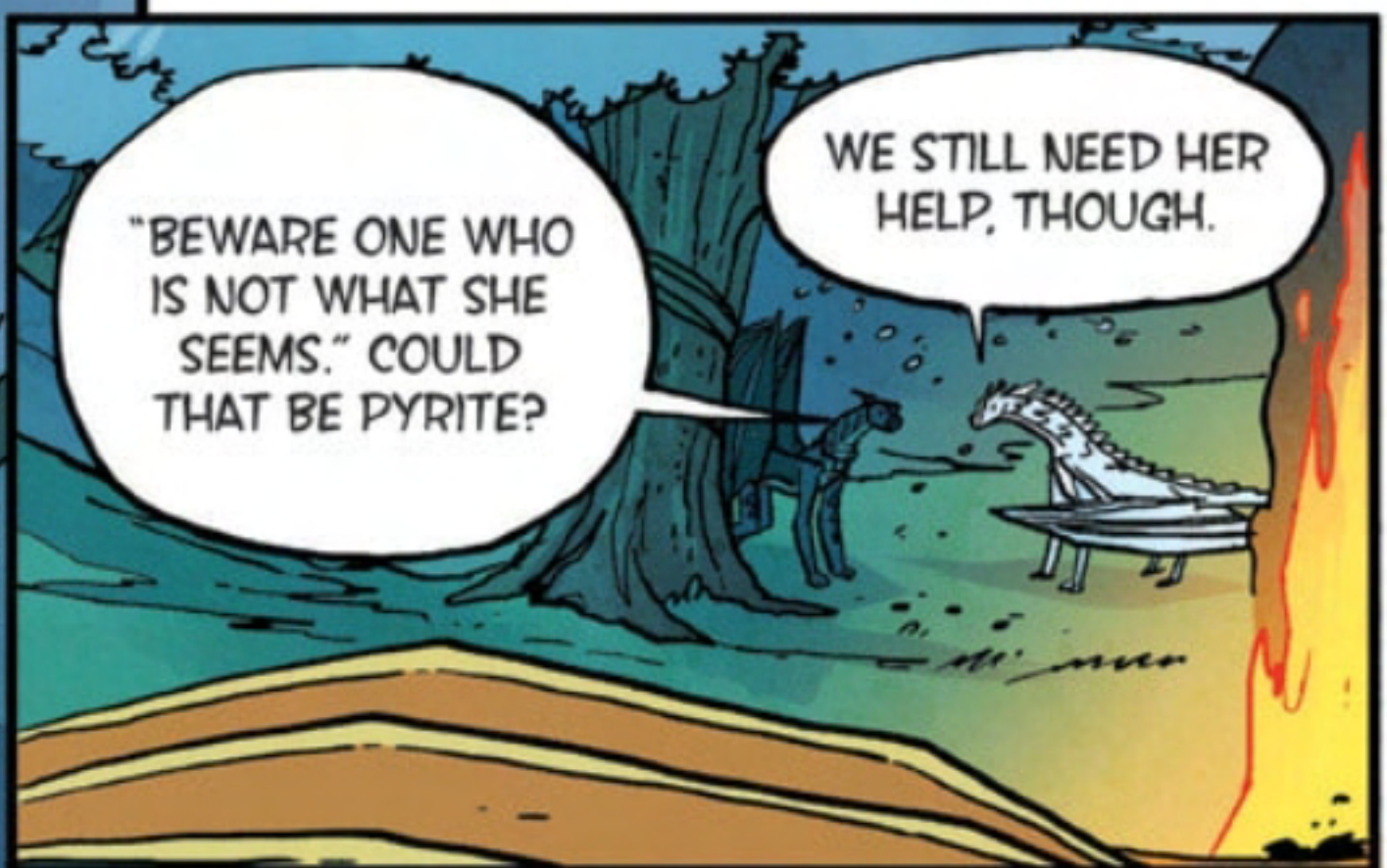
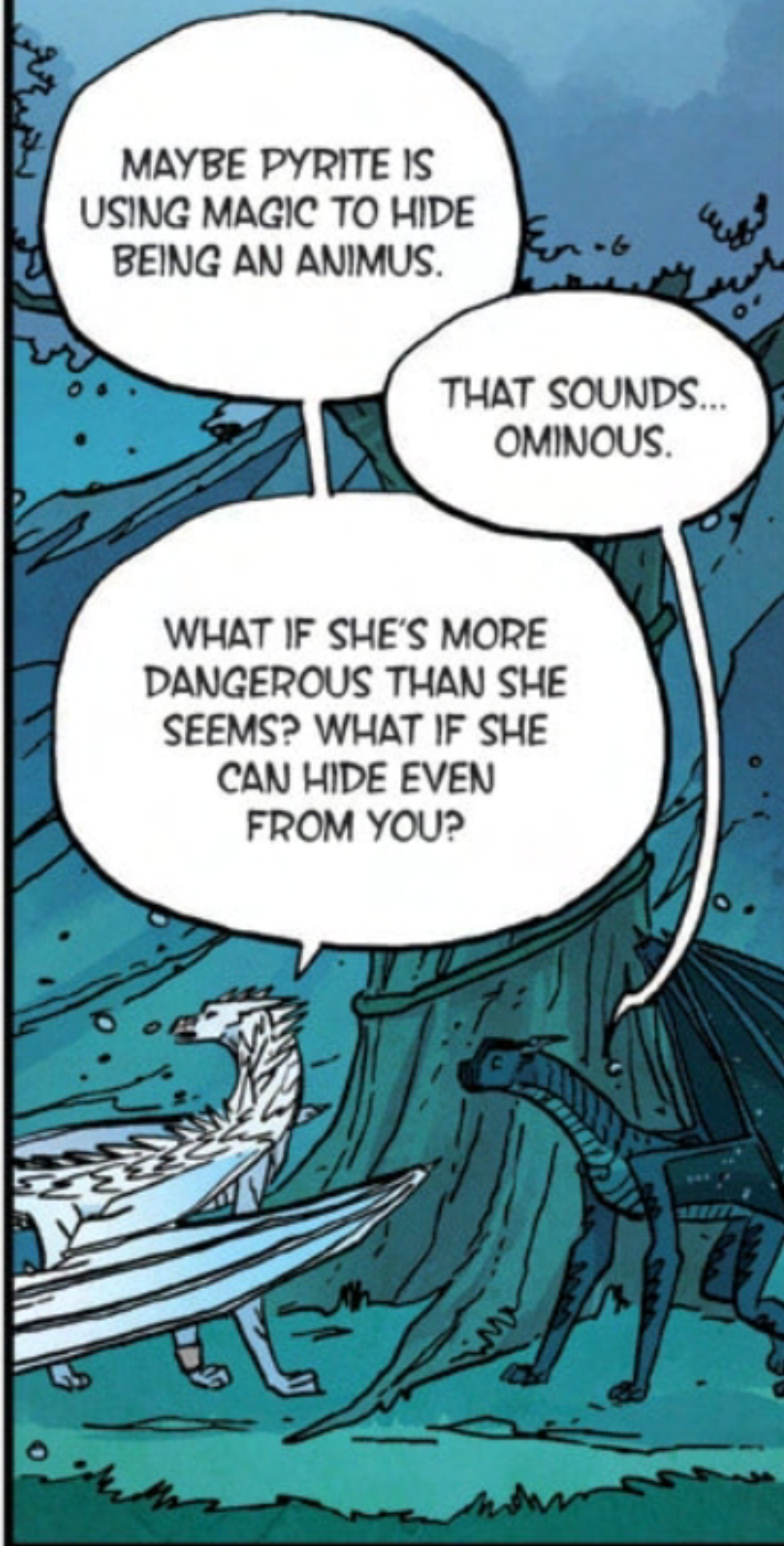
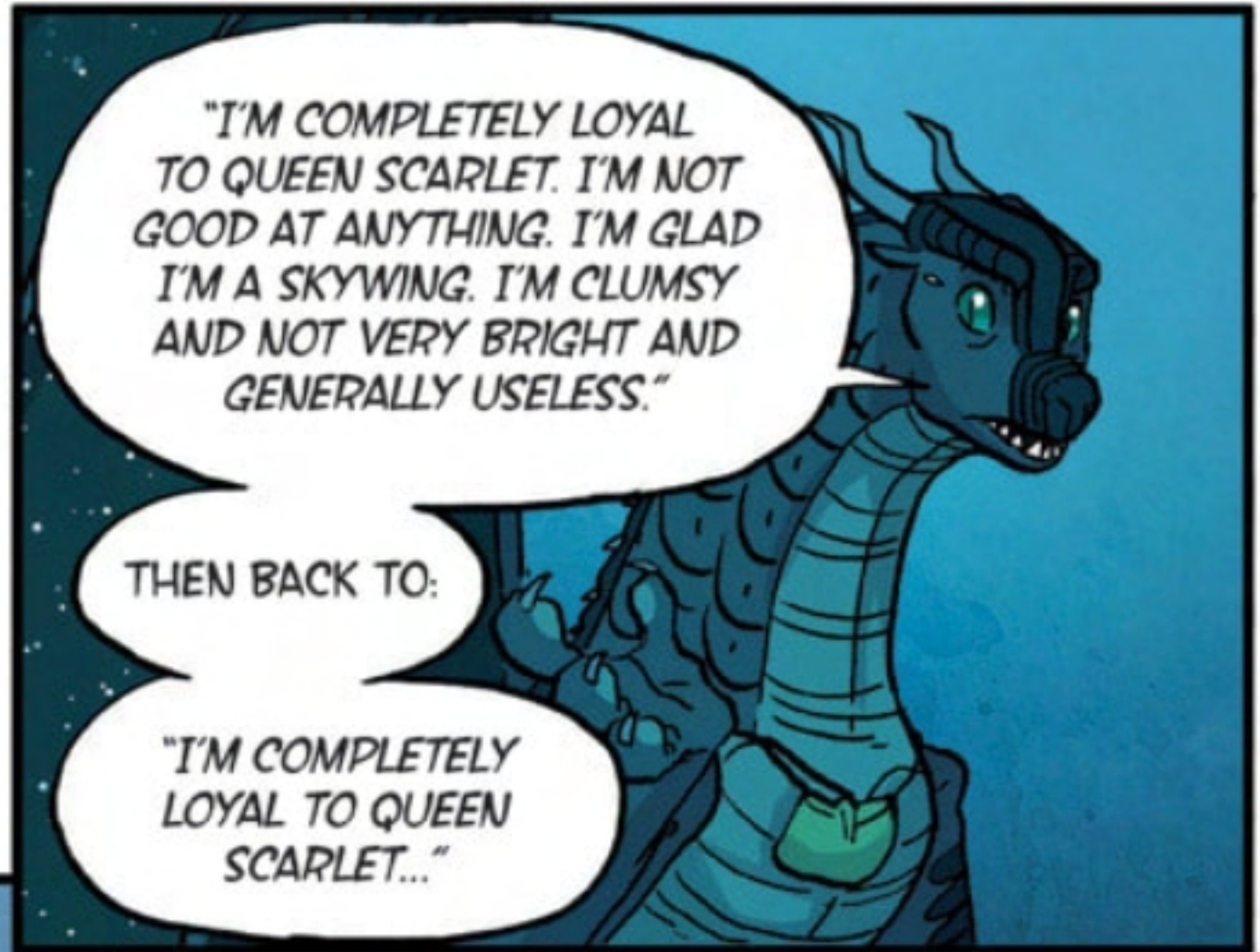








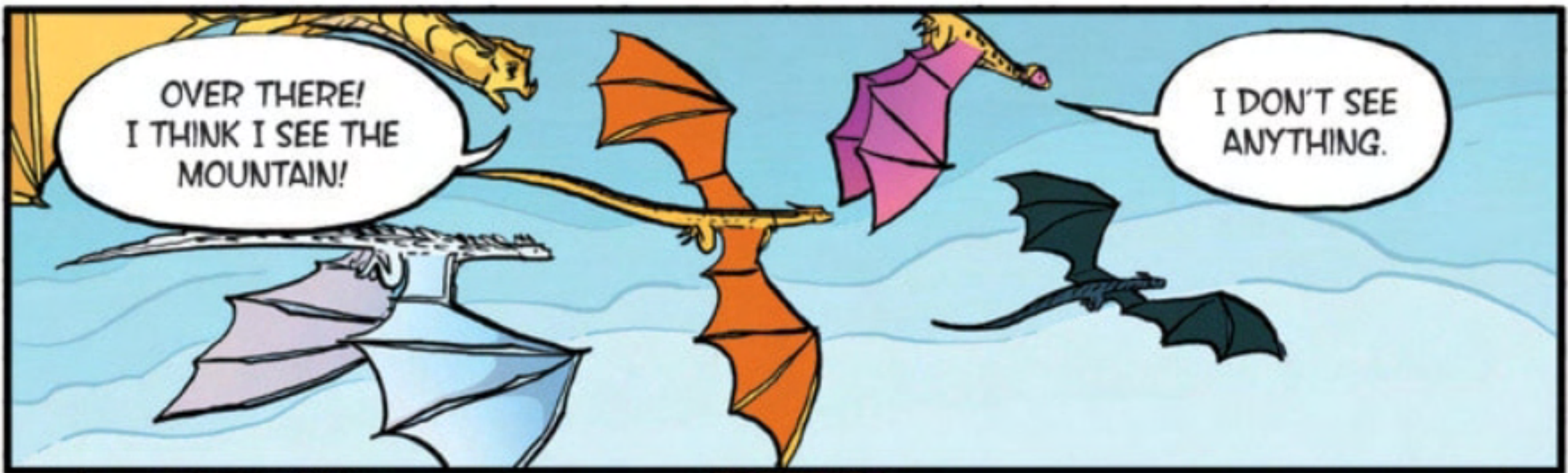












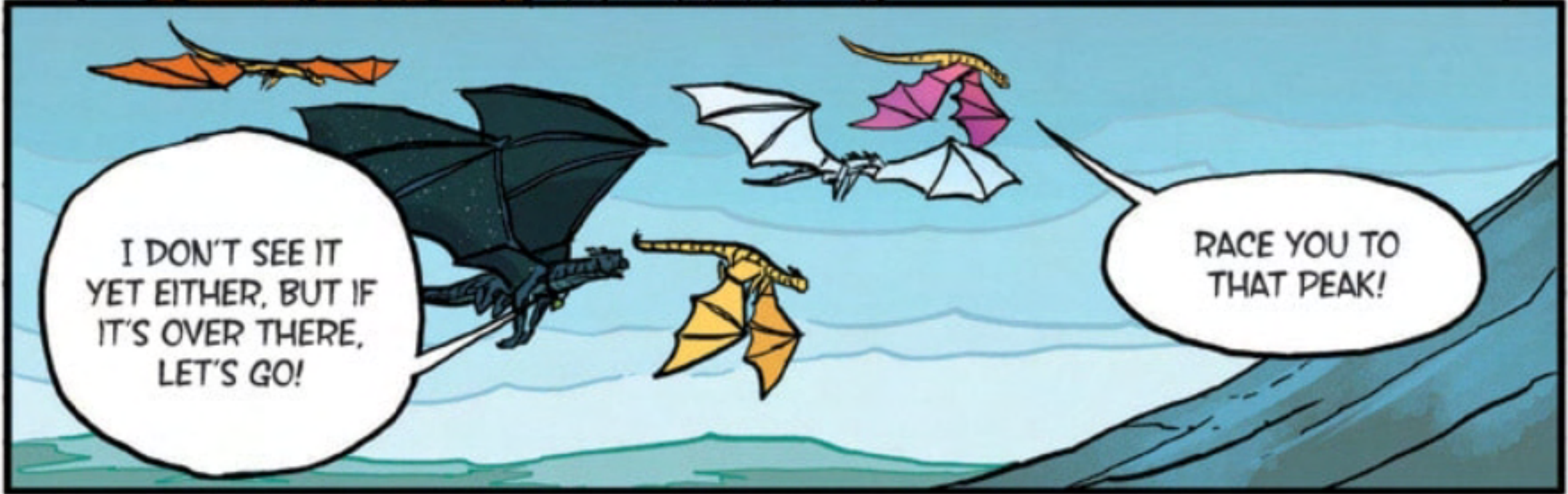
OVER THERE!  
I THINK I SEE THE  
MOUNTAIN!

I DON'T SEE  
ANYTHING.



THAT'S BECAUSE  
YOU'RE A RAINWING.  
I SEE IT. SKYWINGS CAN SEE  
MUCH BETTER AND FASTER  
THAN YOU.

SO CAN ICEWINGS...  
BUT I'M DEFINITELY  
NOT GOING TO SAY  
THAT AND SOUND  
LIKE PYRITE.



I DON'T SEE IT  
YET EITHER, BUT IF  
IT'S OVER THERE,  
LET'S GO!

RACE YOU TO  
THAT PEAK!



TERRIBLY UNDIGNIFIED.  
WE WOULD NEVER ALLOW  
SUCH HIGGLEDY-PIGGLEDY  
SHENANIGANS IN THE  
ICE KINGDOM.

WAS THAT  
SUPPOSED TO  
BE ME, QIBLI?  
TERRIBLY  
UNIMPRESSIVE,  
IF SO.



I HAVEN'T ONCE SAID  
"HIGGLEDY-PIGGLEDY"  
IN MY ENTIRE LIFE. WE  
WOULD NEVER ALLOW SUCH  
LINGUISTIC IMPRECISION IN  
THE ICE KINGDOM.

HA!



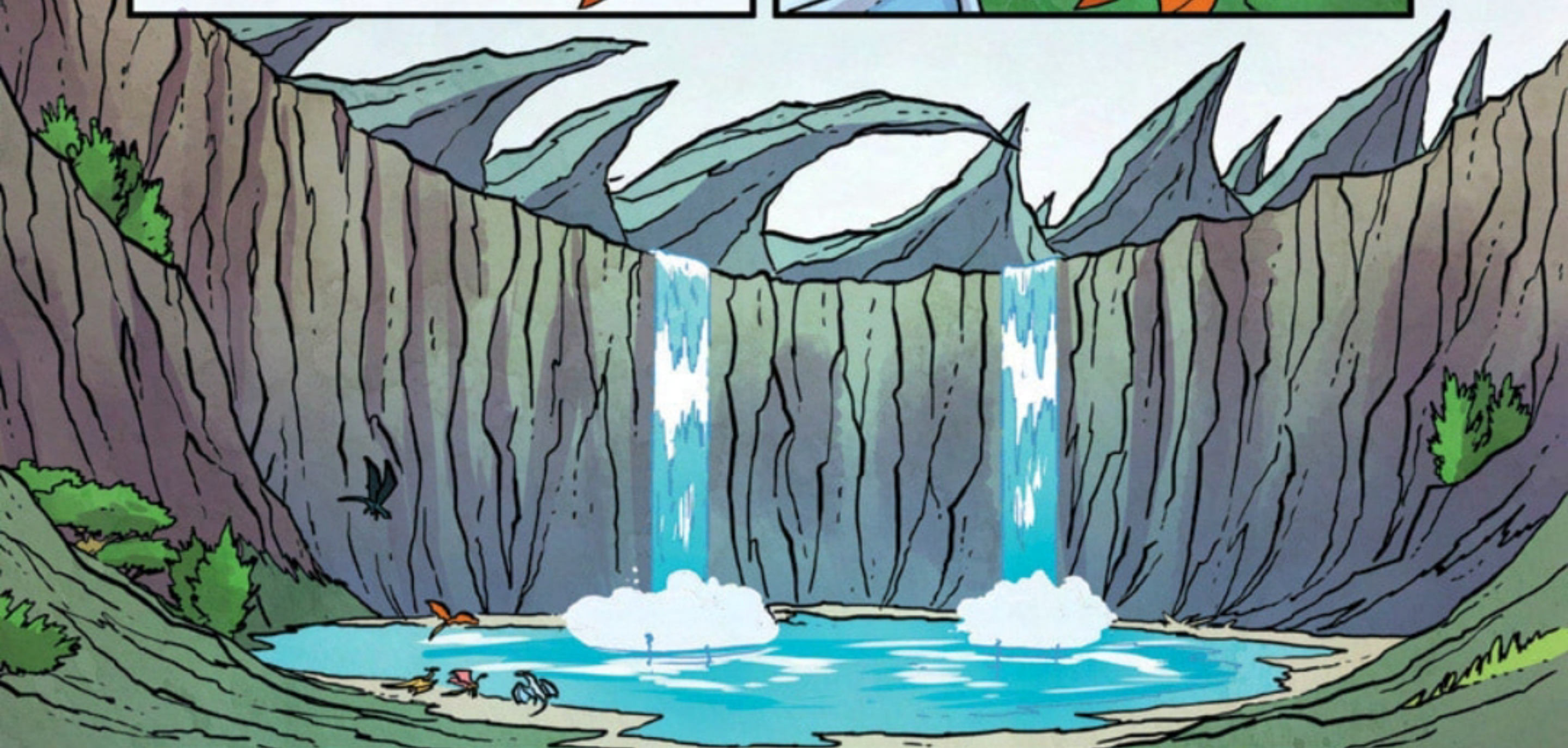
IF ANYONE CAN  
FIGURE OUT  
PYRITE'S SECRETS,  
IT'S QIBLI.

HE'S RIGHT THAT THE  
SKYWINGS HAVEN'T  
HAD AN ANIMUS IN  
CENTURIES, BUT I STILL  
THINK SHE IS ONE.  
AT LEAST HE AGREES  
**SOMETHING'S NOT  
RIGHT ABOUT HER.**



IS THIS HOW MUDWINGS FEEL?  
WORKING IN TEAMS ALL THE TIME?  
MY PARENTS SAID IT MADE THEM WEAK,  
BUT THEY WERE FORMIDABLE OPPONENTS  
DURING THE WAR.

MAYBE ALLIES  
AREN'T SO BAD.  
DOES THAT MAKE  
ME LESS OF AN  
ICEWING?



I DON'T LIKE IT HERE.  
IT FEELS LIKE WE'RE BEING  
WATCHED. AS IF THE  
MOUNTAINS THEMSELVES  
ARE WATCHING US.



AND THE RIVERS ARE  
WHISPERING ABOUT US.

**SMACK!**



**OW!**

KINKAJOU,  
I WAS  
AGREEING  
WITH YOU!

OH. WELL,  
TRY TO  
SOUND LESS  
SARCASTIC  
NEXT TIME!



THERE'S SOMETHING  
OVER THERE.





YIKES. SOMEONE WAS NOT PLEASED ABOUT SOMETHING.



WHAT IS IT, MOON?

JUST A FEELING. I DON'T KNOW EXACTLY.

I DO KNOW. CREEPY, BEING-WATCHED FEELING. AS I ALREADY MENTIONED.



THAT'S SCARLET'S SCALE! I'D RECOGNIZE HER COLOR ANYWHERE. BUT WHERE IS SHE? DID SOMETHING TERRIBLE HAPPEN TO HER?

NO SIGNS OF VIOLENCE. NO BLOOD, NO CLAW MARKS. IT LOOKS MORE LIKE SHE DESTROYED HER SHELTER IN A TEMPER AND LEFT.



PERHAPS SHE FOUND OUT WE WERE COMING.

WHAT? HOW WOULD SHE KNOW THAT?



PYRITE, DID YOU SEE QUEEN SCARLET IN YOUR DREAM LAST NIGHT?

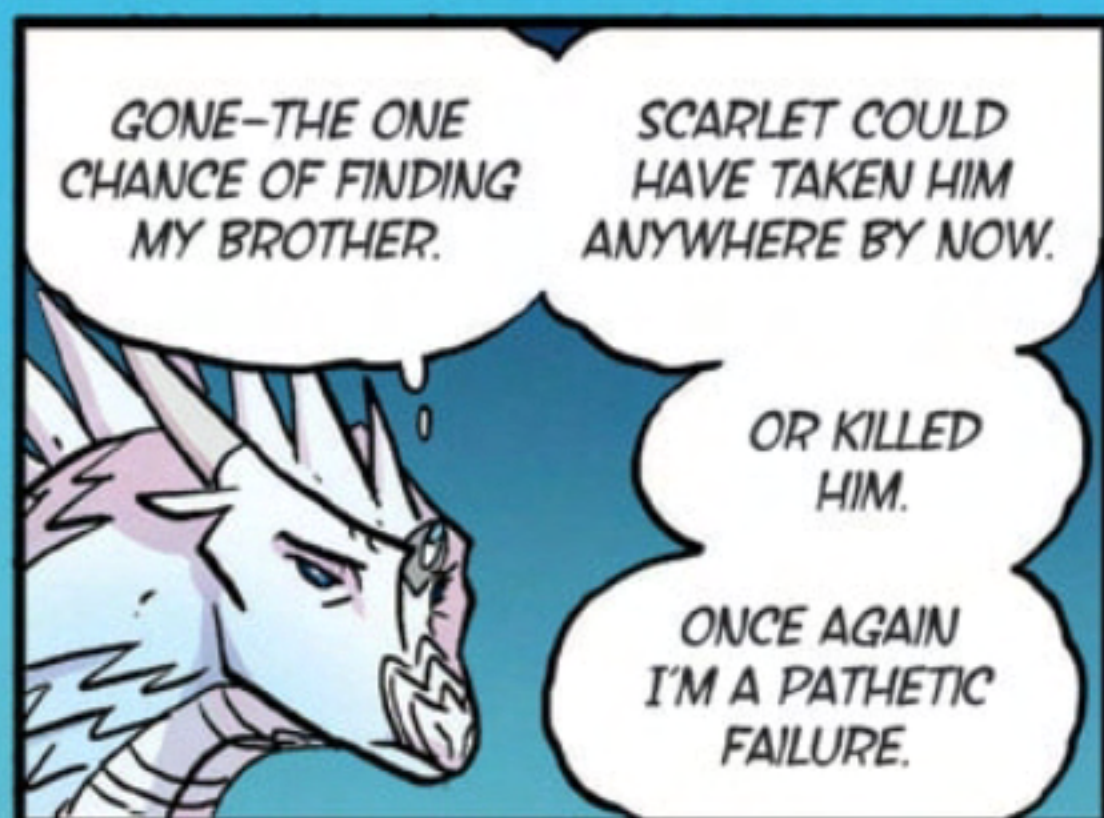
I DON'T THINK SO. I HAD A WEIRD DREAM ABOUT SNOW, MAYBE? THAT HAPPENS WHEN I SLEEP NEXT TO CIRRUS, TOO.



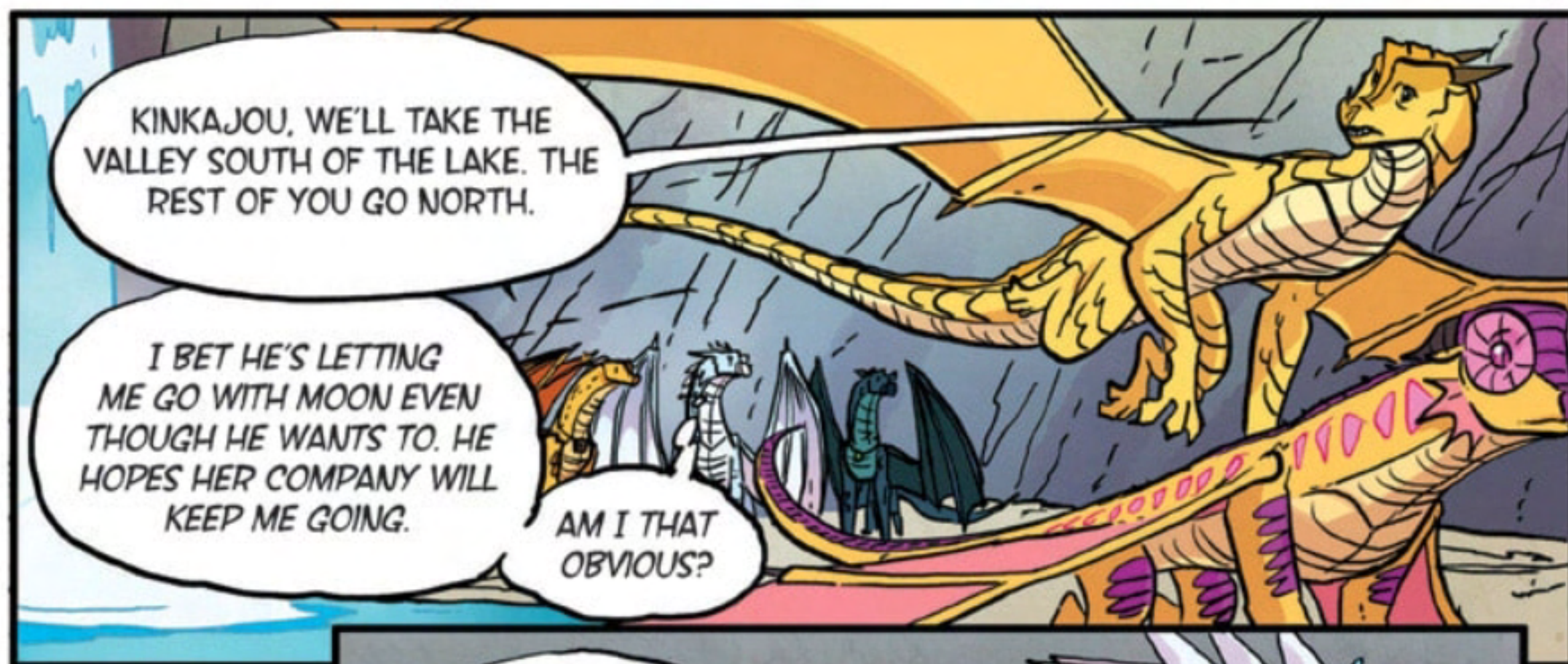
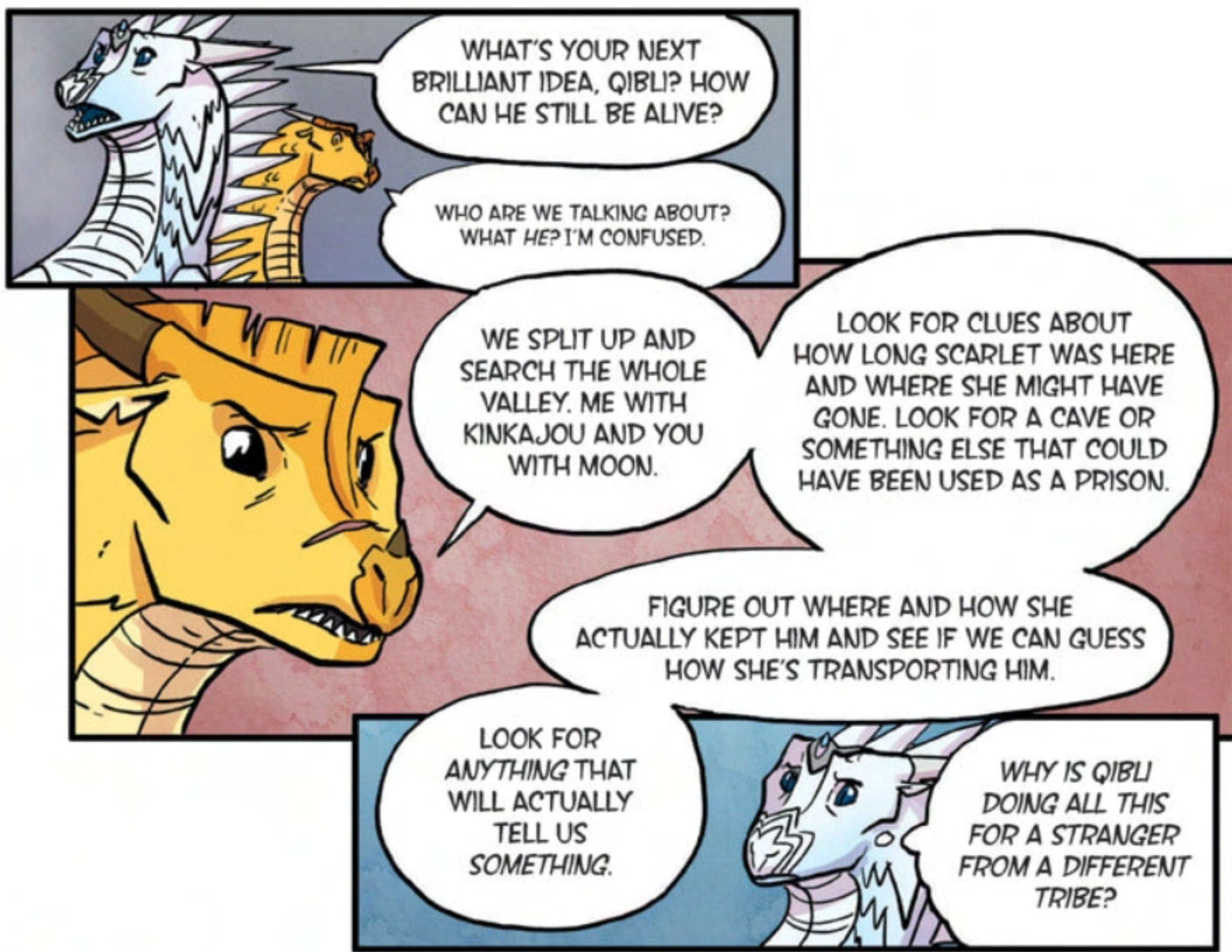
SCARLET COULD HAVE INTERROGATED PYRITE IN HER DREAMS, EVEN IF SHE DOESN'T REMEMBER.

IT DOESN'T MATTER. WHAT MATTERS IS THAT SCARLET'S GONE... AND SO IS HAILSTORM.





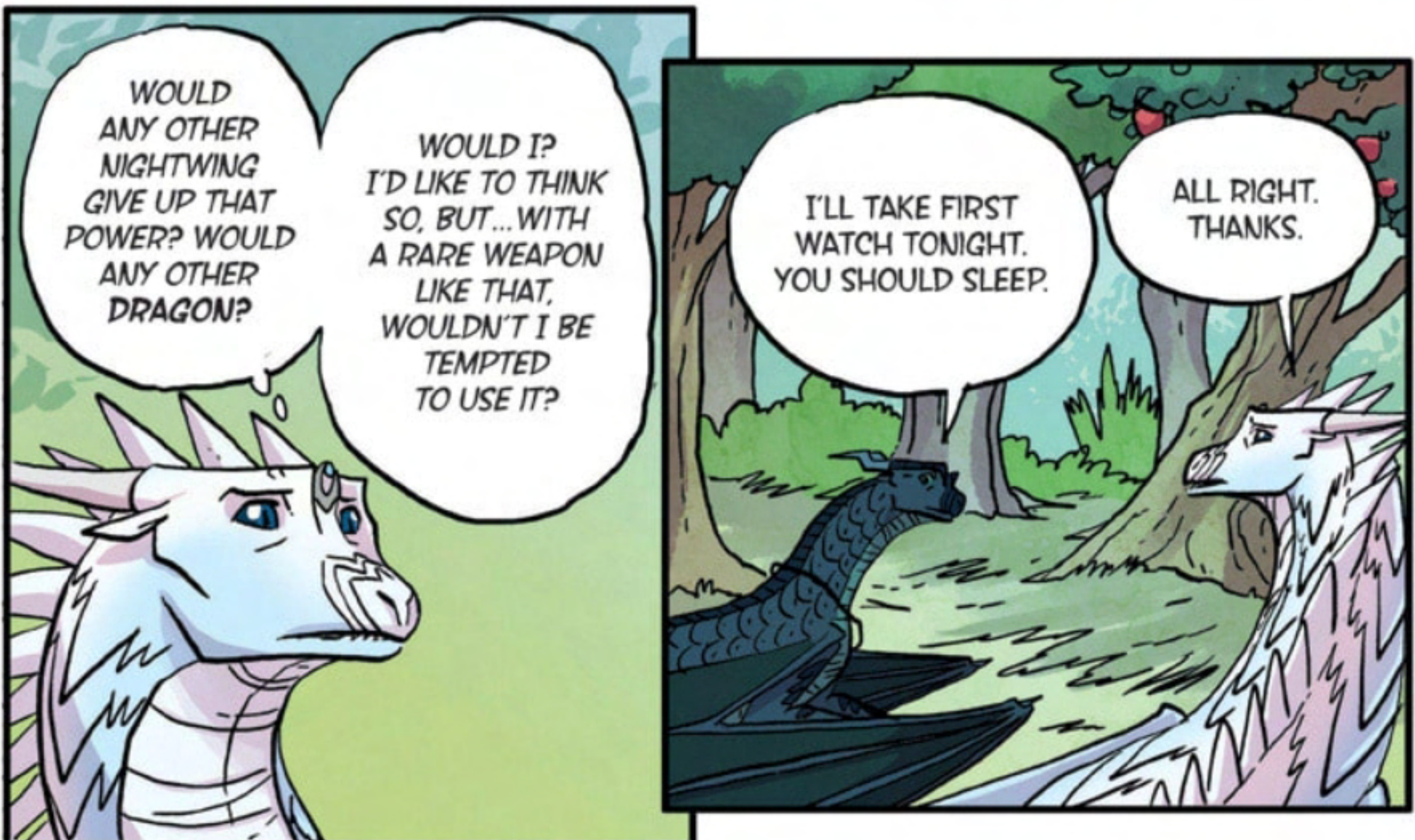














YOU'RE A LONG WAY FROM THE RAINFOREST, PRINCE OF ICE. NO ONE NEEDS KILLING WHERE YOU ARE NOW.



YOU MEAN ME? IS THAT YOUR PLAN? KILL PYRRHIA'S DEADLIEST QUEEN AND TAKE BACK YOUR BROTHER?



EVEN IF YOU COULD KILL ME, YOU'D NEVER FIND HIM. NEVER. HIS PRISON IS FAR TOO CLEVER.

WHERE IS HE? IS HE ALL RIGHT?



HE WAS ALL RIGHT. BUT HE WON'T BE AFTER THIS CONVERSATION.



YOUR SISTER SWORE YOU WOULD KILL GLORY—AND YET, GLORY STILL LIVES. I'LL JUST HAVE TO KILL SOMEONE MYSELF... AND LOOK WHO'S RIGHT IN MY CLUTCHES...



DON'T KILL HIM! WHAT DO YOU WANT? QUEEN GLACIER'S TREASURY IS VAST—

YOUR QUEEN DOESN'T WANT YOUR BROTHER BACK.



I VISITED HER DREAMS WITH A PROPOSAL: HELP ME DRAG MY CONNIVING DAUGHTER OFF MY THRONE, AND SHE COULD HAVE HAILSTORM.



WOULD YOU BELIEVE SHE TURNED ME DOWN? DOESN'T THAT MAKE YOU FURIOUS, ICE DRAGON?





YOU'RE HIS ONLY HOPE—  
OR YOU WERE. I CAN SEE  
YOU'RE FAR TOO USELESS  
TO KILL FOR ME.



MY ONLY PLEASURE IS  
WATCHING YOUR FACE AS I  
SAY YOUR BROTHER WILL  
BE DEAD BY MORNING.



PERHAPS  
YOU'D LIKE TO  
HEAR HOW I  
PLAN TO KILL  
HIM.



I HAVE TO  
WAKE UP!

COME ON,  
PAIN. WAKE  
ME UP!

MAYBE I'LL  
BURN HIM  
TO DEATH.  
LENGTHY  
AND  
PAINFUL.



MAYBE I'LL  
GOUGE OUT HIS  
EYES FIRST!



MAYBE I'LL STUFF  
LIVE GOATS INTO HIS  
THROAT UNTIL HE  
SUFFOCATES!



DON'T  
YOU WANT  
TO BEG?



WHAT IF I TOLD  
YOU TO KILL THE RAINWING  
THAT'S WITH YOU?

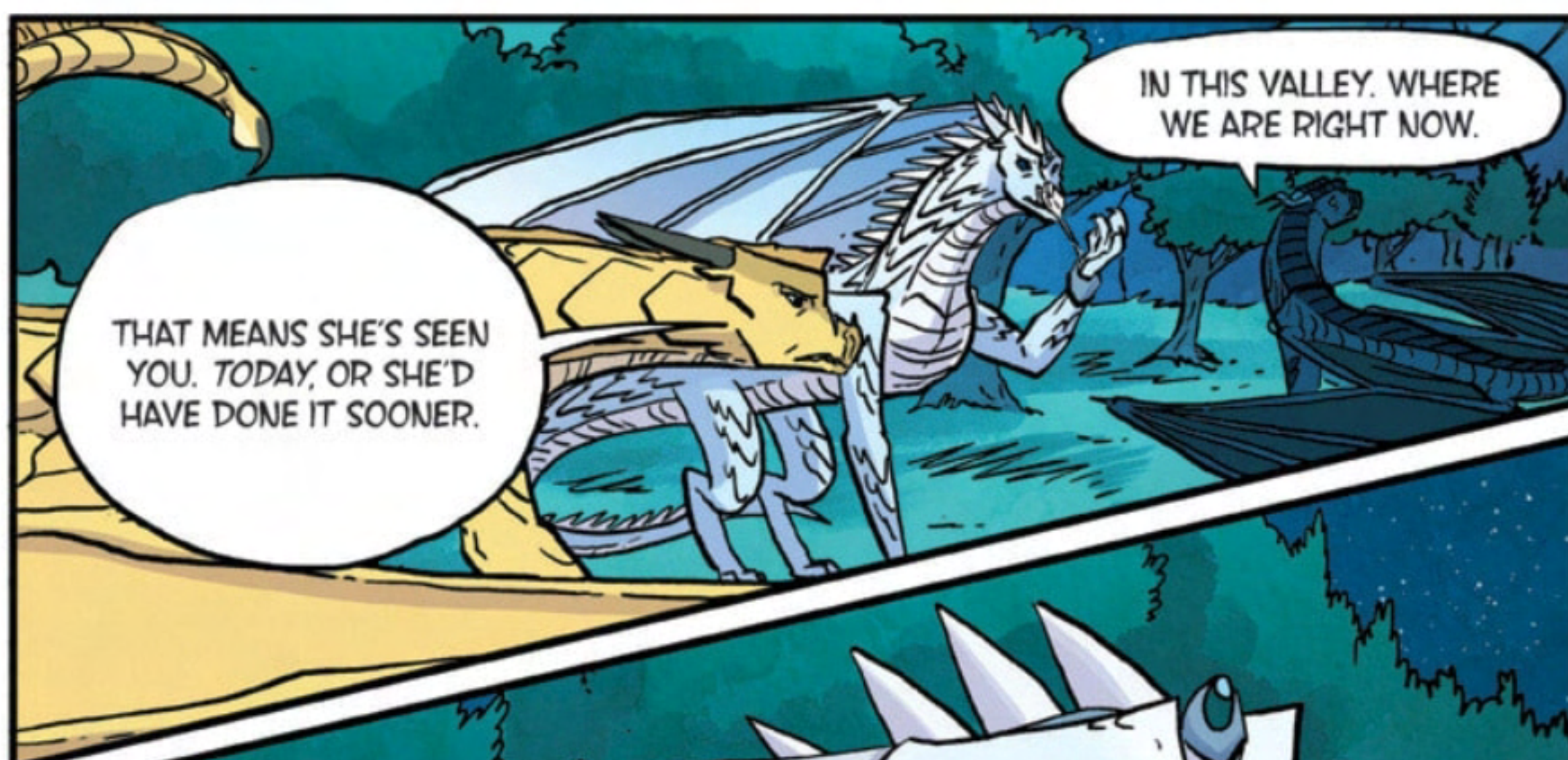
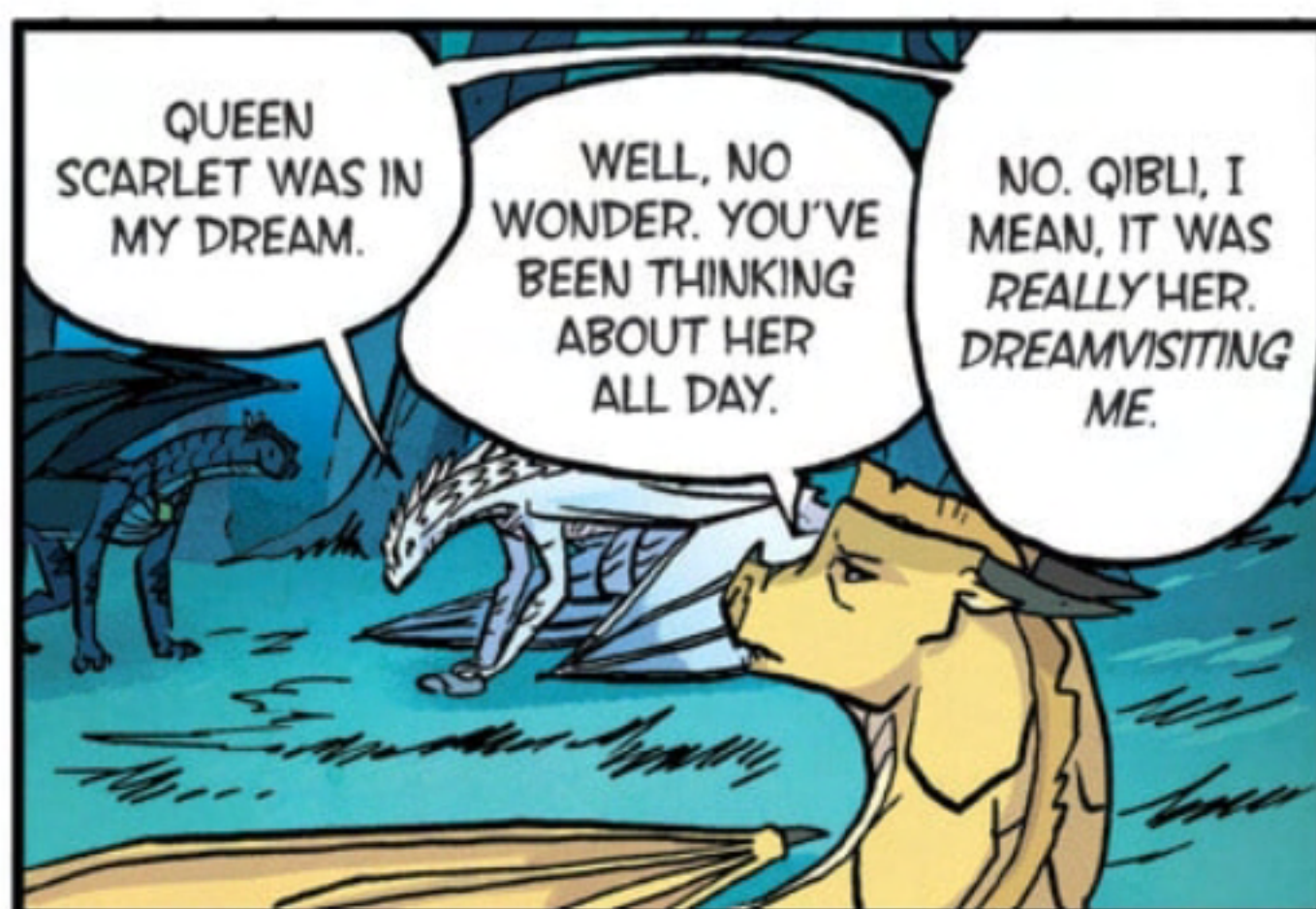
DON'T YOU  
WANT TO OFFER  
ME ANYTHING,  
DESPERATE PRINCE?



**MOON!**  
**WAKE ME UP**  
**RIGHT NOW!**











SHE SAID SHE'LL KILL HAILSTORM IN THE MORNING. SHE SAID SHE KNOWS I WON'T KILL ANYONE FOR HER.

IT'S A GOOD THING THAT YOU'RE NOT THAT KIND OF DRAGON.



DID YOU SEE ANY CLUES? ABOUT WHERE SHE IS NOW?

IT WAS JUST A CAVE. EXCEPT-AT ONE POINT, HER FACE CHANGED. SHE WAS LIT BY MOONLIGHT.



HALF THE MOUNTAIN RANGE IS IN SHADOW. SO WE FLY TO THE OTHER SIDE AND SEARCH. NOW.



NOT ALL OF US. SCARLET COULD RIP KINKAJOU APART IN A HEARTBEAT.

GLORY WOULD WANT HER TO STAY OUT OF IT- AND YOU TOO, MOON.



I'M NOT STAYING OUT OF IT. YOU NEED ME TO FIND SCARLET.

THEN KEEP AT LEAST HALF YOUR PROMISE. LEAVE KINKAJOU SAFE AND ASLEEP.



KINKAJOU'S GOING TO KILL ME.

BETTER THAN SCARLET KILLING HER.









SHH. SHE'S UP THERE. HER AND SOMEONE ELSE.

HAILSTORM?

I DON'T THINK SO.



IT DOESN'T HAVE THE BRIGHT GLARE OF AN ICEWING MIND. ALTHOUGH IT DOES FEEL... FAMILIAR. I CAN'T ACTUALLY READ IT—LIKE THERE'S A WALL OF HUMMING IN THE WAY.



SOMEONE WITH SKYFIRE?

NO... IT MIGHT JUST BE THE DISTANCE. THEY'RE NEAR THE TOP OF THIS MOUNTAIN.



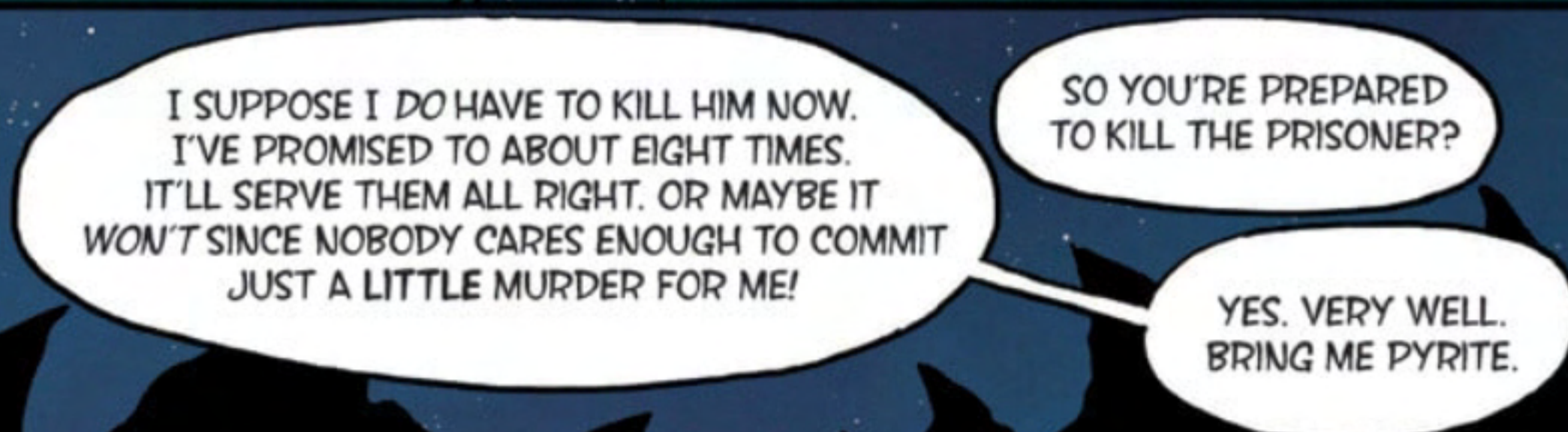
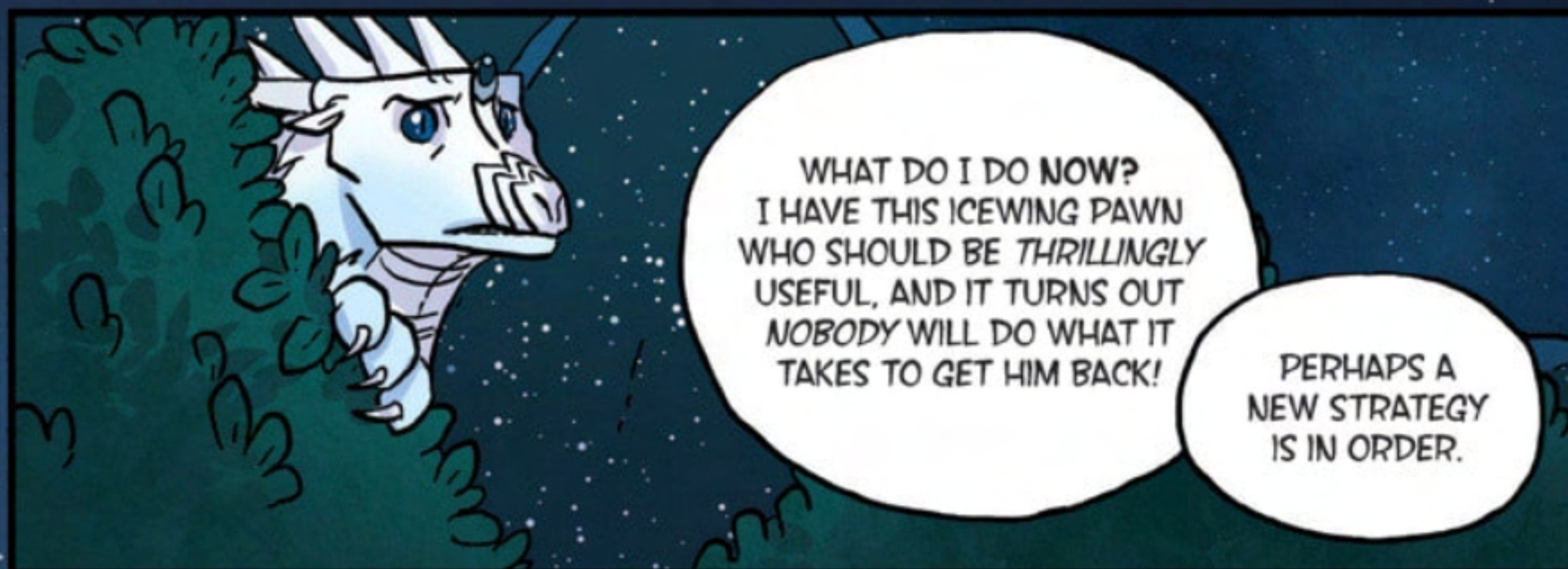
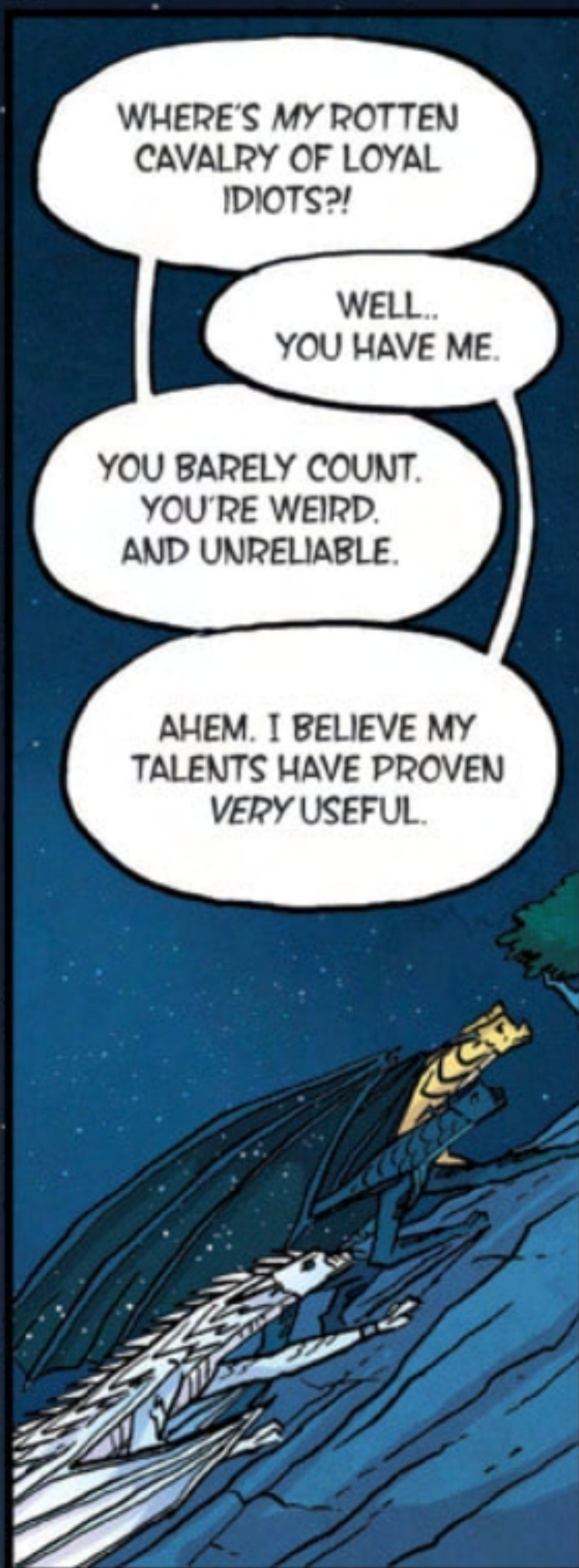
THEY'RE ARGUING. SCARLET'S MIND IS LOUD AND ANGRY AND ALL OVER THE PLACE.

I THINK WE CAN GET CLOSER WITHOUT HER NOTICING.

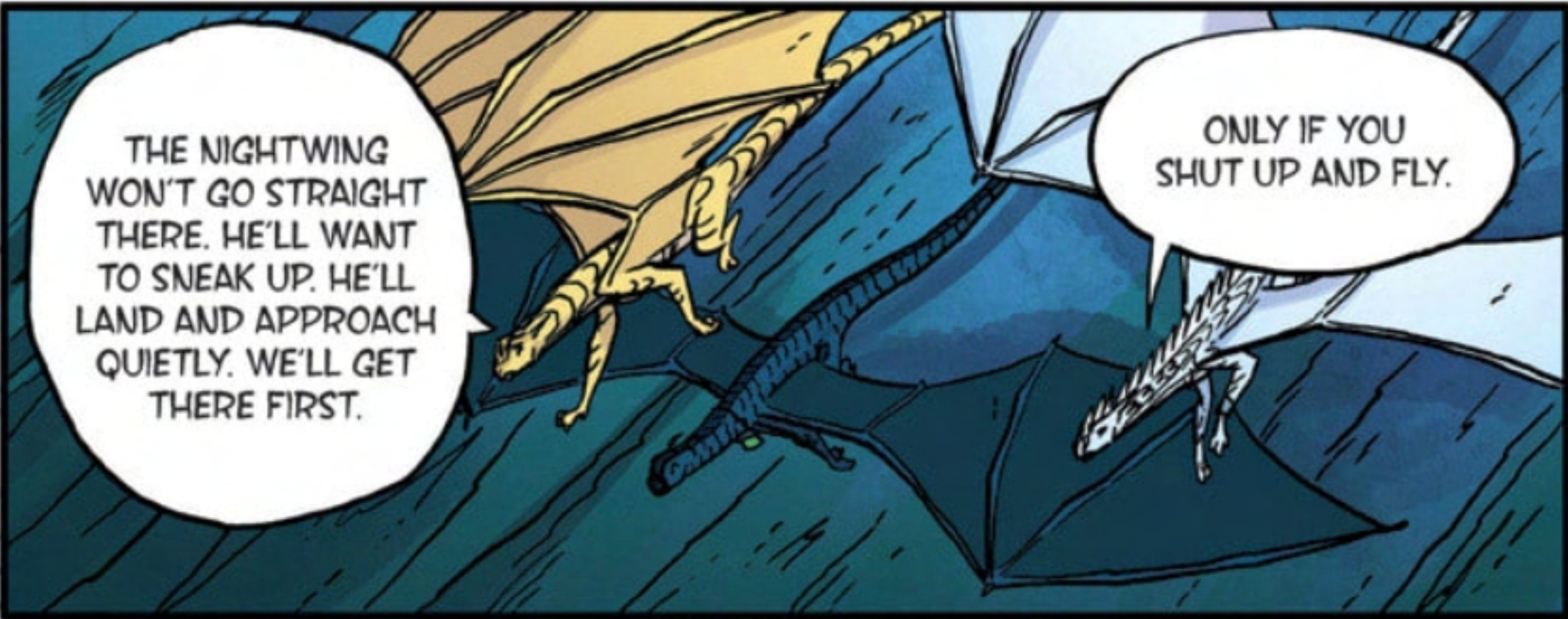








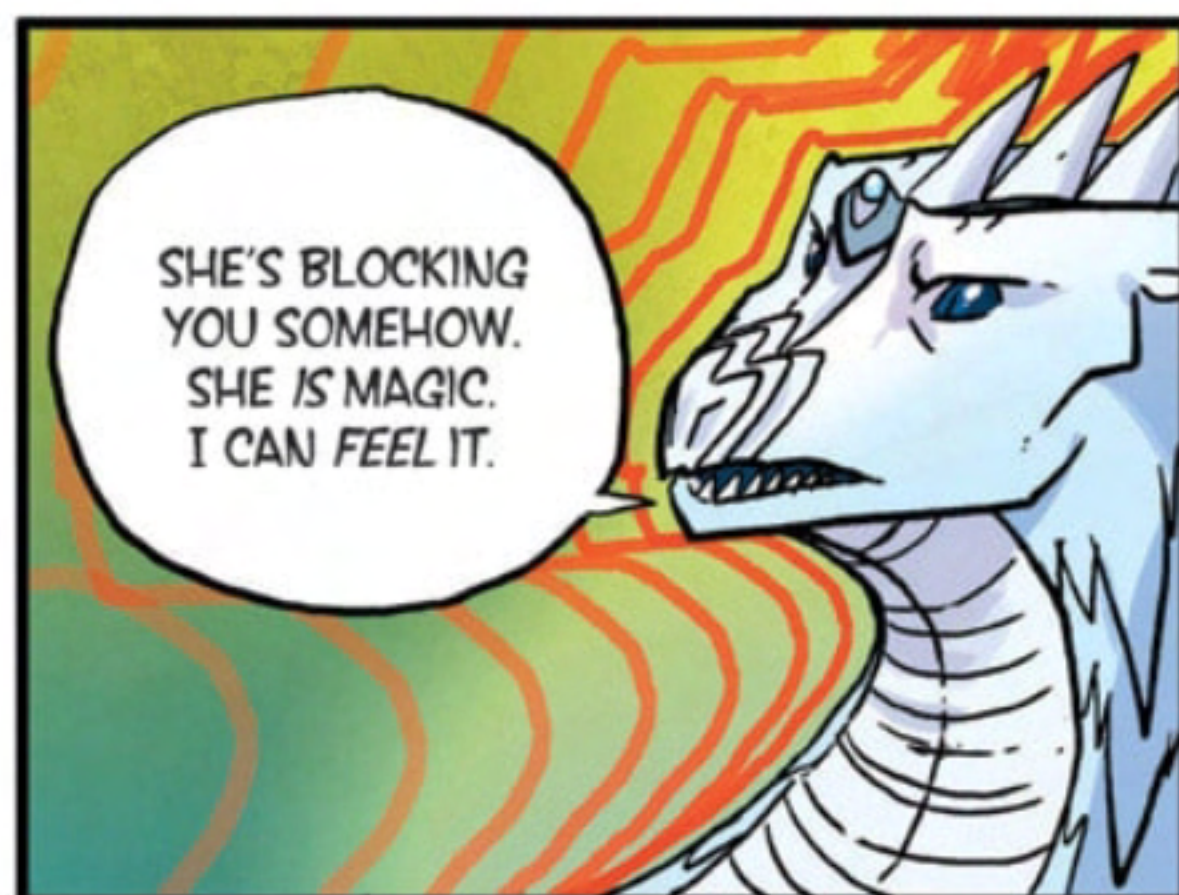




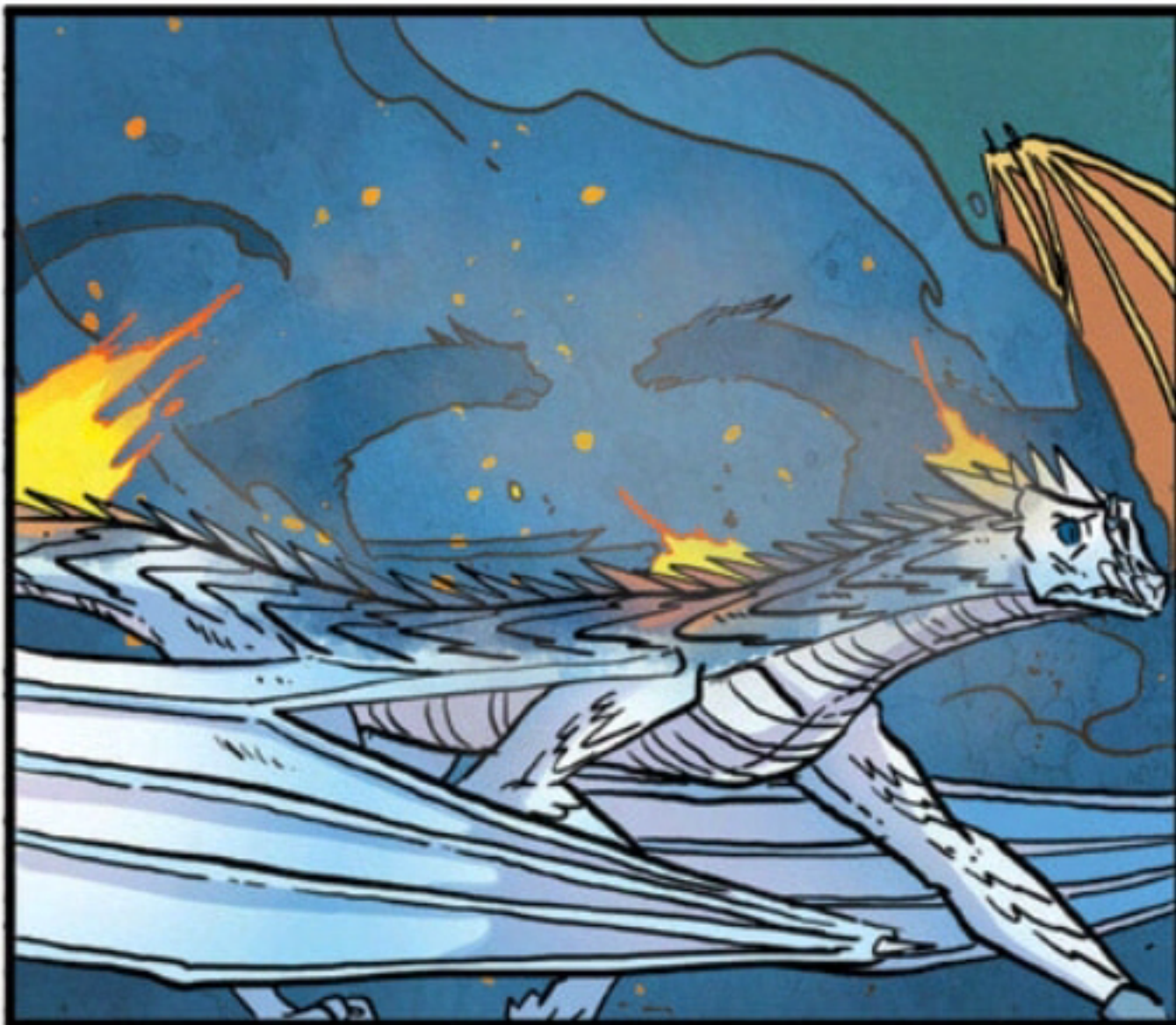
























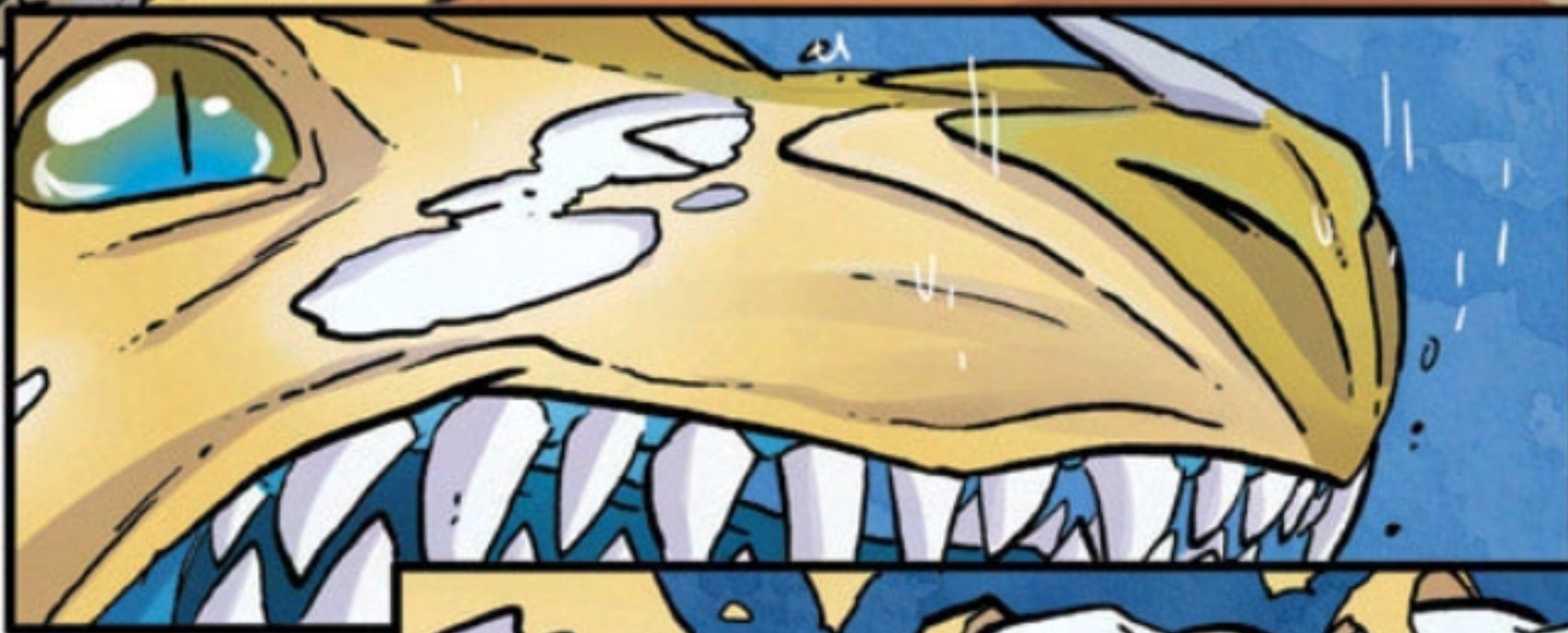
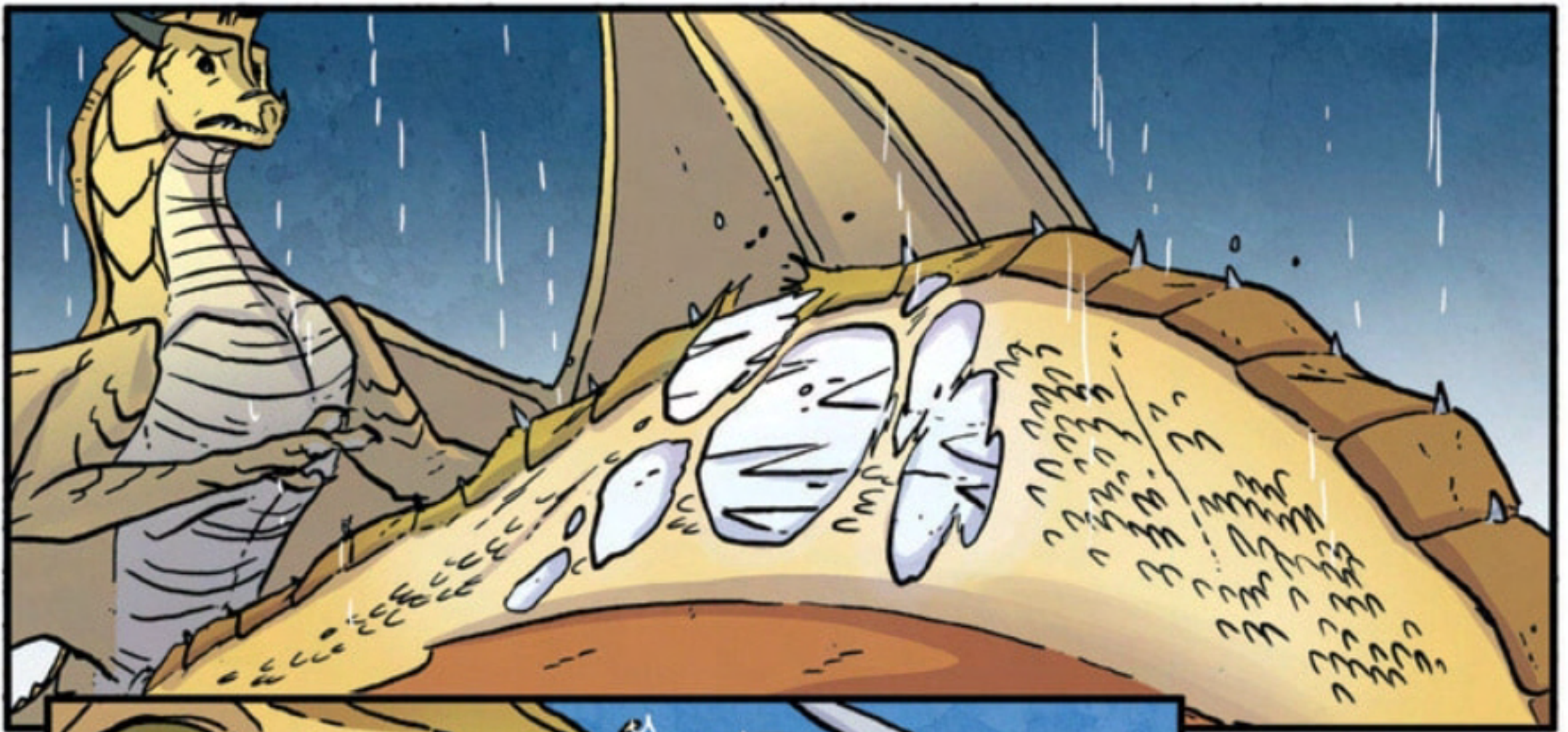




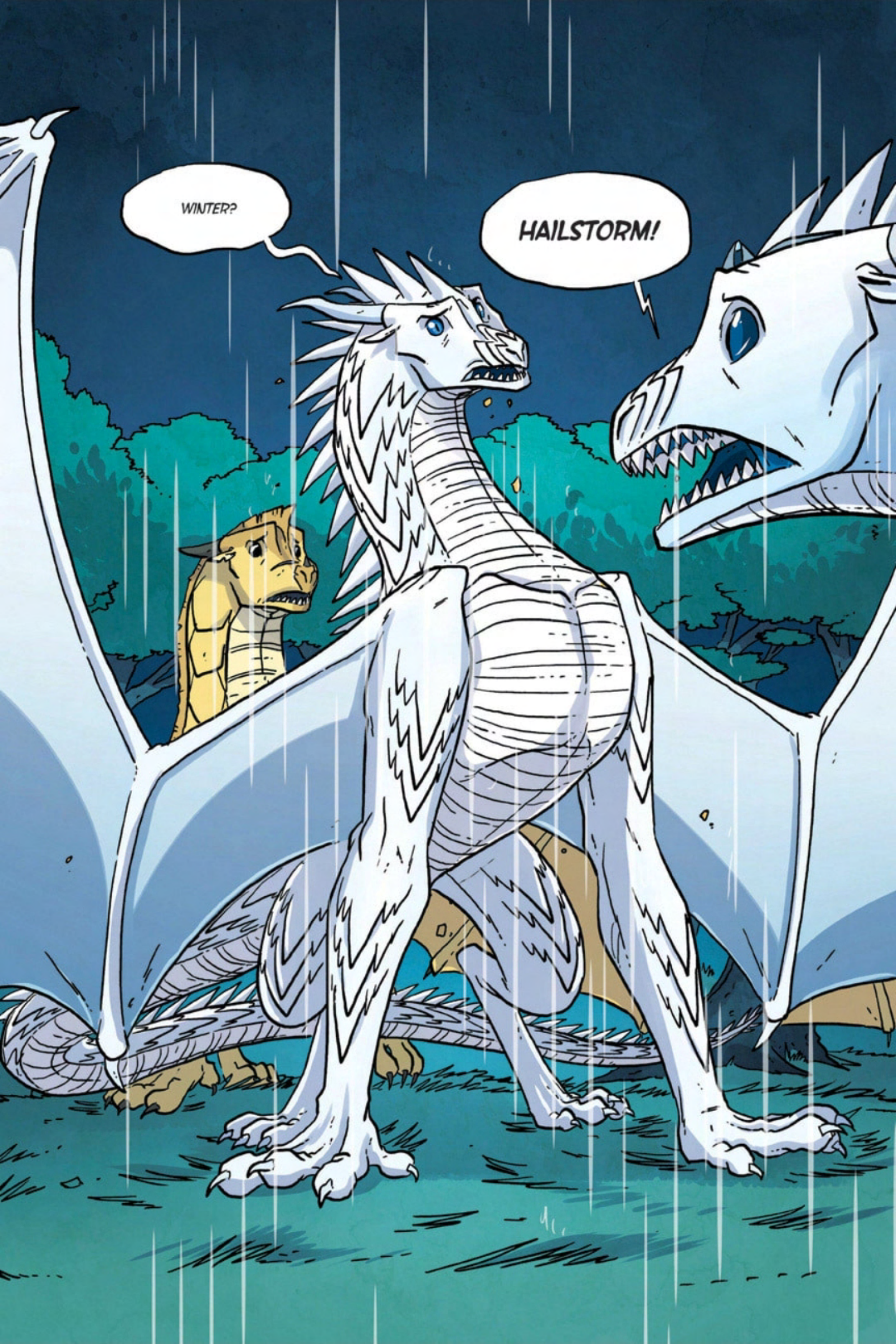












WINTER?

HAILSTORM!











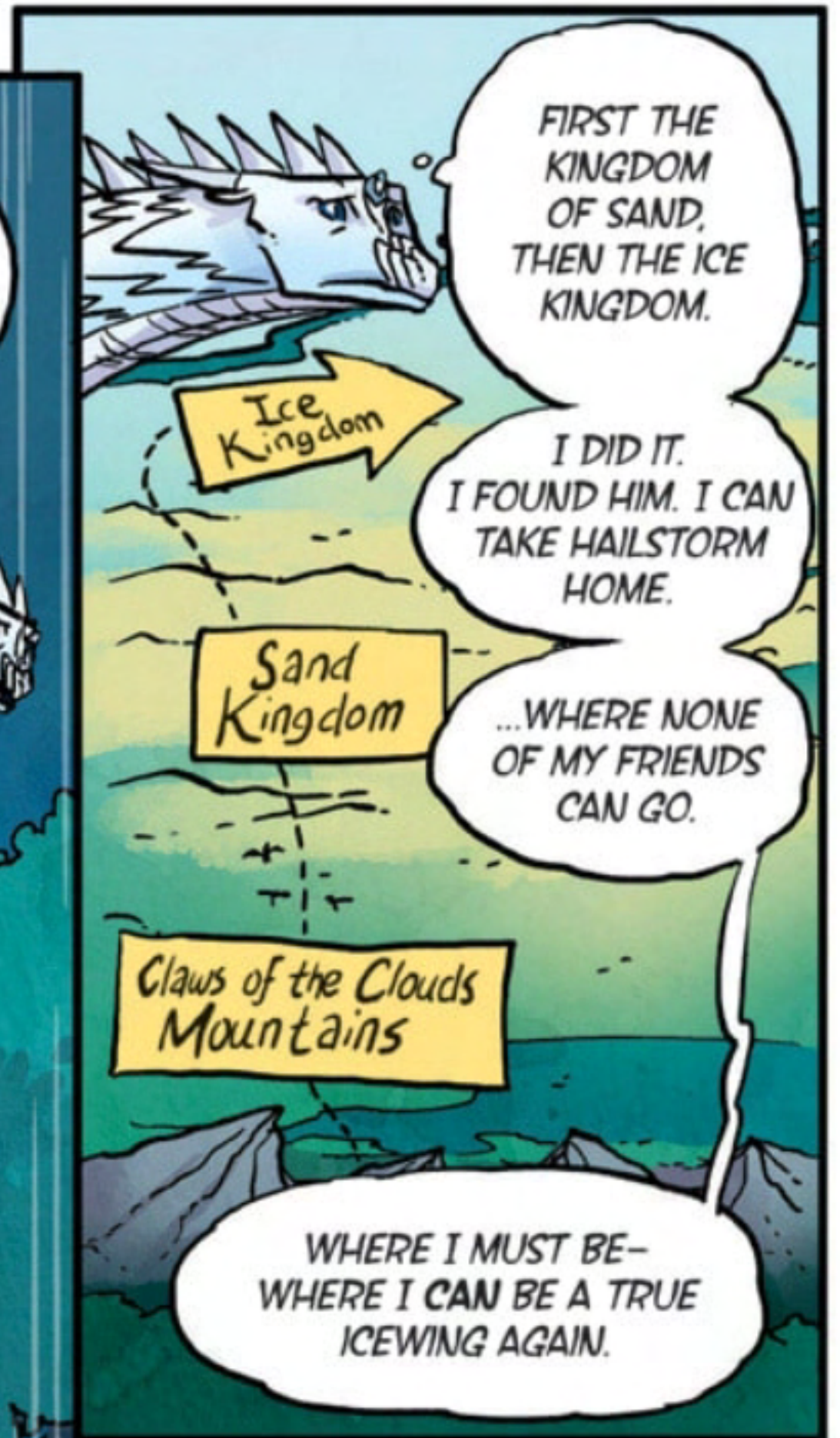


HAILSTORM,  
FOLLOW ME!

MAYBE I SHOULD  
WAIT HERE FOR  
QUEEN SCARLET.



HAILSTORM, NO!  
SHE'S THE ENEMY!  
COME ON!

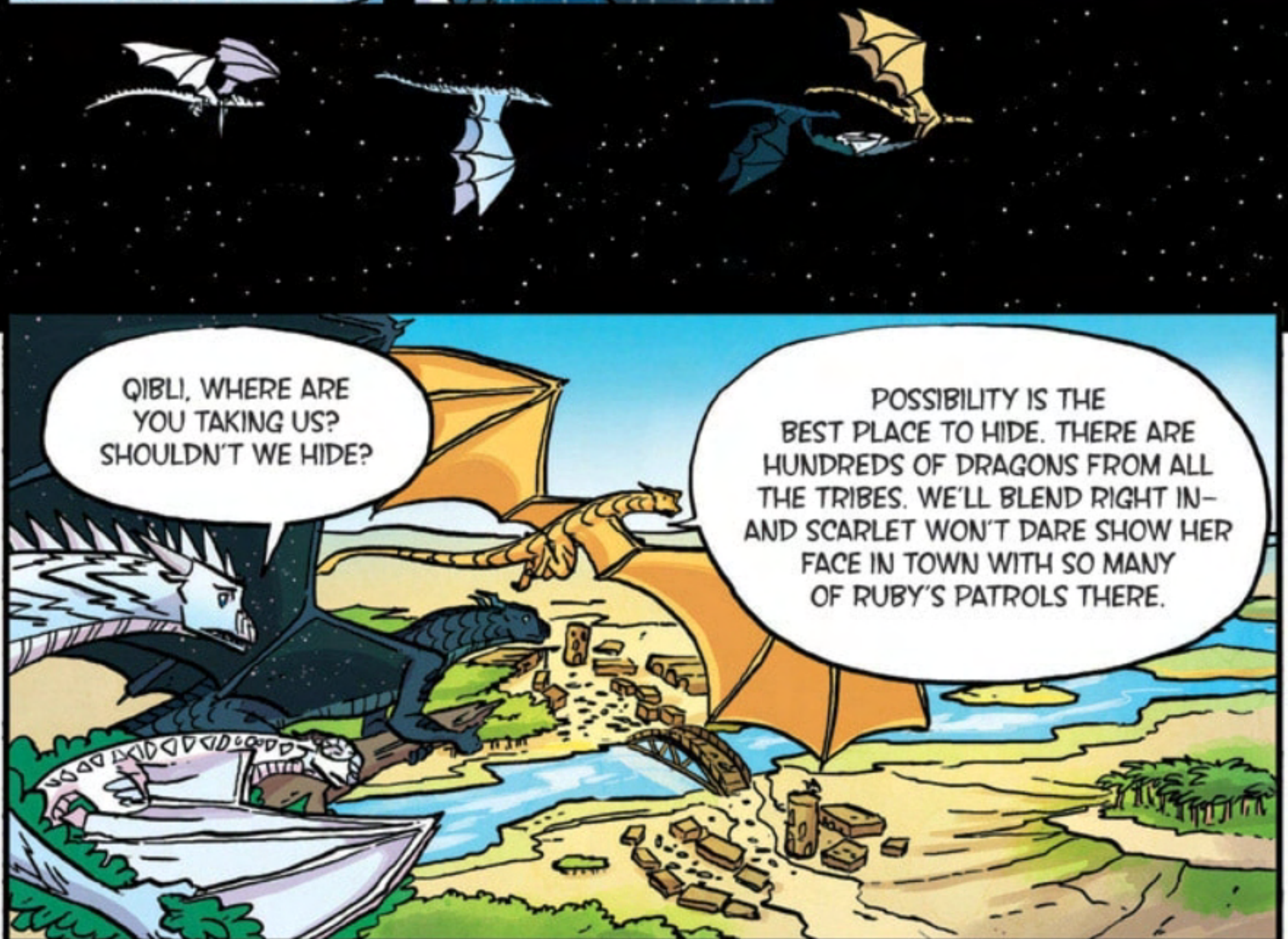


FIRST THE  
KINGDOM  
OF SAND,  
THEN THE ICE  
KINGDOM.

I DID IT.  
I FOUND HIM. I CAN  
TAKE HAILSTORM  
HOME.

...WHERE NONE  
OF MY FRIENDS  
CAN GO.

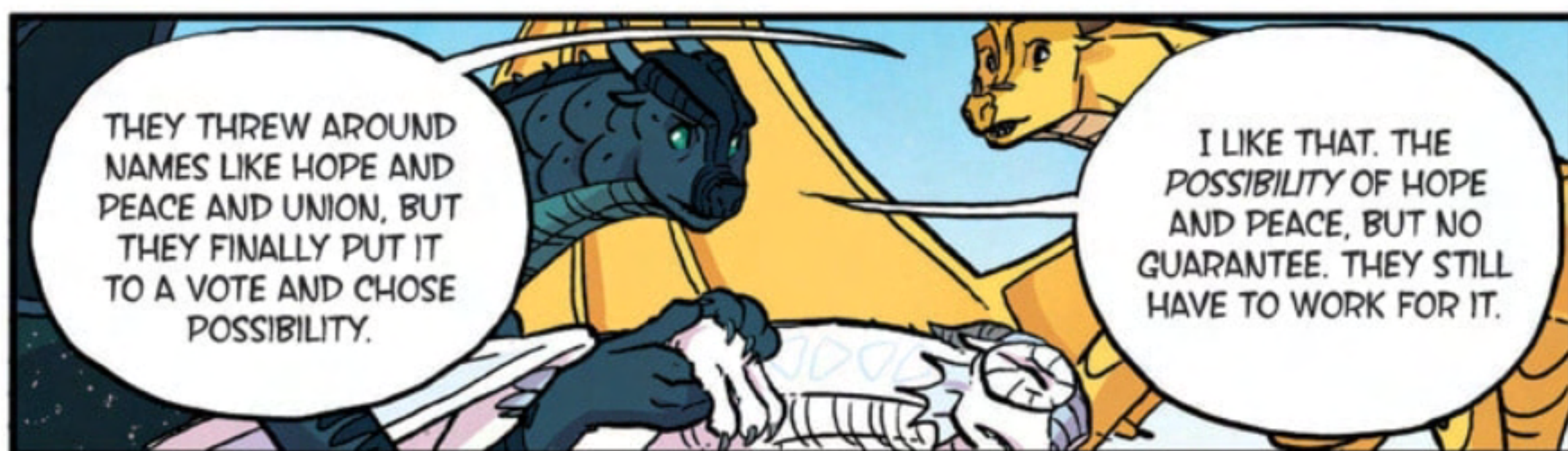
WHERE I MUST BE—  
WHERE I CAN BE A TRUE  
ICEWING AGAIN.




QIBLI, WHERE ARE  
YOU TAKING US?  
SHOULDN'T WE HIDE?

POSSIBILITY IS THE  
BEST PLACE TO HIDE. THERE ARE  
HUNDREDS OF DRAGONS FROM ALL  
THE TRIBES. WE'LL BLEND RIGHT IN—  
AND SCARLET WON'T DARE SHOW HER  
FACE IN TOWN WITH SO MANY  
OF RUBY'S PATROLS THERE.









THIS TOWN IS WEIRD. ALL THOSE DRAGONS FROM DIFFERENT TRIBES, JUST... ACTING LIKE IT'S NORMAL TO BE TOGETHER.

NOT AS WEIRD AS YOU *BONDING* WITH YOUR LITTLE TRIO, THOUGH.

WHAT DO YOU REMEMBER ABOUT BEING SCARLET'S PRISONER?

I WAS NEVER QUEEN SCARLET'S PRISONER. I'VE BEEN HER LOYAL SOLDIER FOR... I THOUGHT IT WAS MY WHOLE LIFE, BUT...

...MY MEMORIES OF BEING A SKYWING DRAGONET ARE FADING. I THINK I HATCHED AS AN ICEWING?

OR... WAS IT A DREAM? MAYBE I'M STILL MYSELF AND ONLY HALLUCINATING MEMORIES OF BEING AN ICEWING.

BUT I KNOW I'VE BEEN FIGHTING FOR SCARLET IN THE WAR. I REMEMBER BOWING TO HER. WORSHIPPING HER. I KILLED ICEWINGS FOR HER.

IF I TREAT HIM LIKE OUR PARENTS DID, MAYBE HIS PERSONALITY WILL COME BACK.

HAILSTORM, FOCUS! YOU WERE UNDER AN ENCHANTMENT, BUT YOU'RE BACK. FORGET ABOUT PYRITE AND BE YOU AGAIN.

BUT WHICH ME?

I LOOK AT THAT RIVER AND THINK, I CAN'T SWIM. BUT I REMEMBER DIVING INTO GREEN OCEANS STUDDED WITH ICE.

I LOOK AT MY CLAWS AND THINK, I'M CLUMSY AND USELESS. BUT I REMEMBER WINNING EVERY COMPETITION.









WHAT A STRANGE PLACE.  
THERE'S NO ORDER TO IT  
AT ALL.

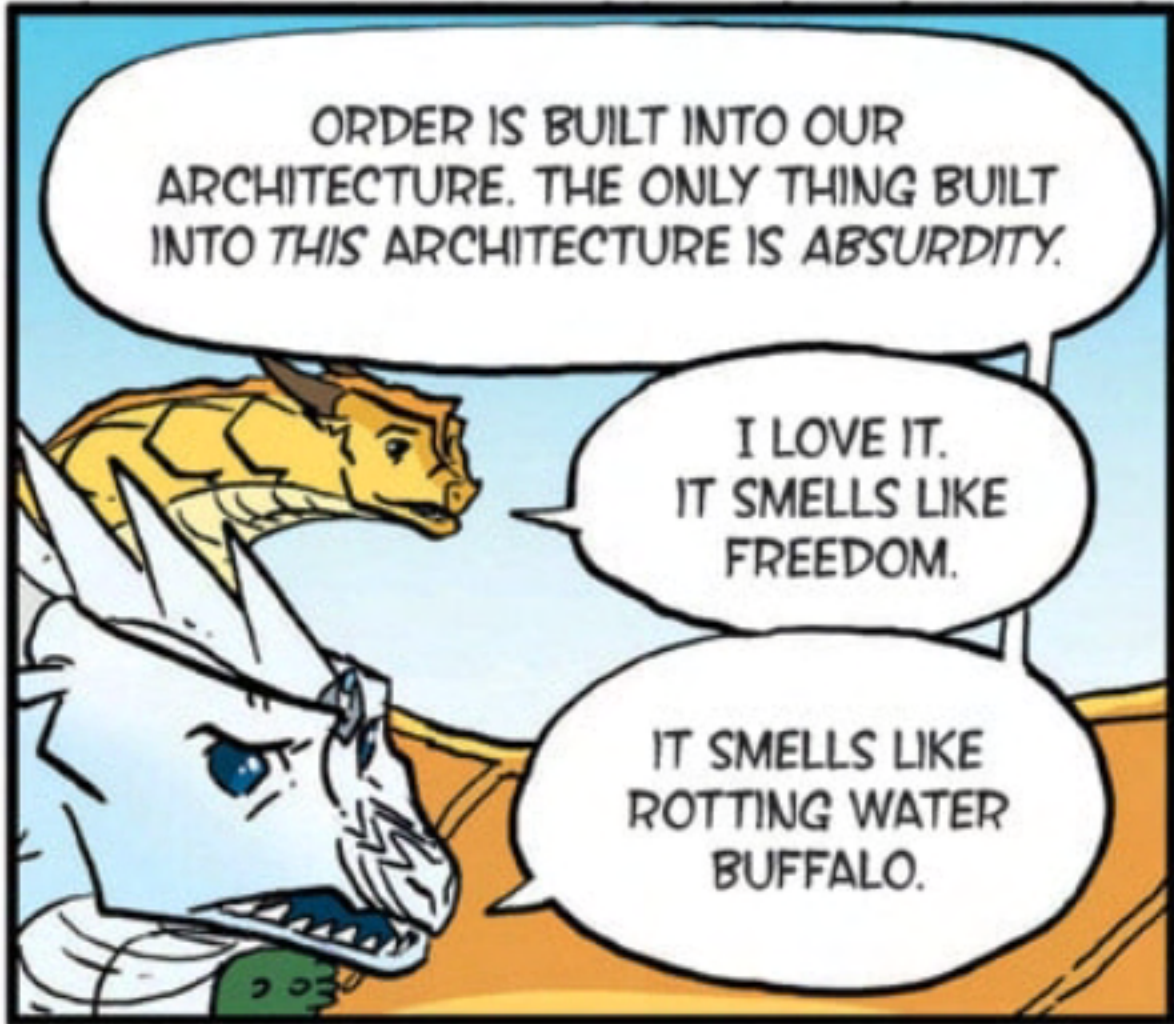
LET ME GUESS,  
ALL YOUR IGLOOS LOOK  
EXACTLY THE SAME.

WE DON'T  
LIVE IN IGLOOS.  
NOT ARISTOCRATS  
ANYWAY.

OH, THAT'S RIGHT.  
DIDN'T YOU SAY YOU WERE  
RELATED TO SOMEONE  
IMPORTANT?

YES. WE'RE QUEEN  
GLACIER'S NEPHEWS.  
EVERYONE KNOWS  
THAT.

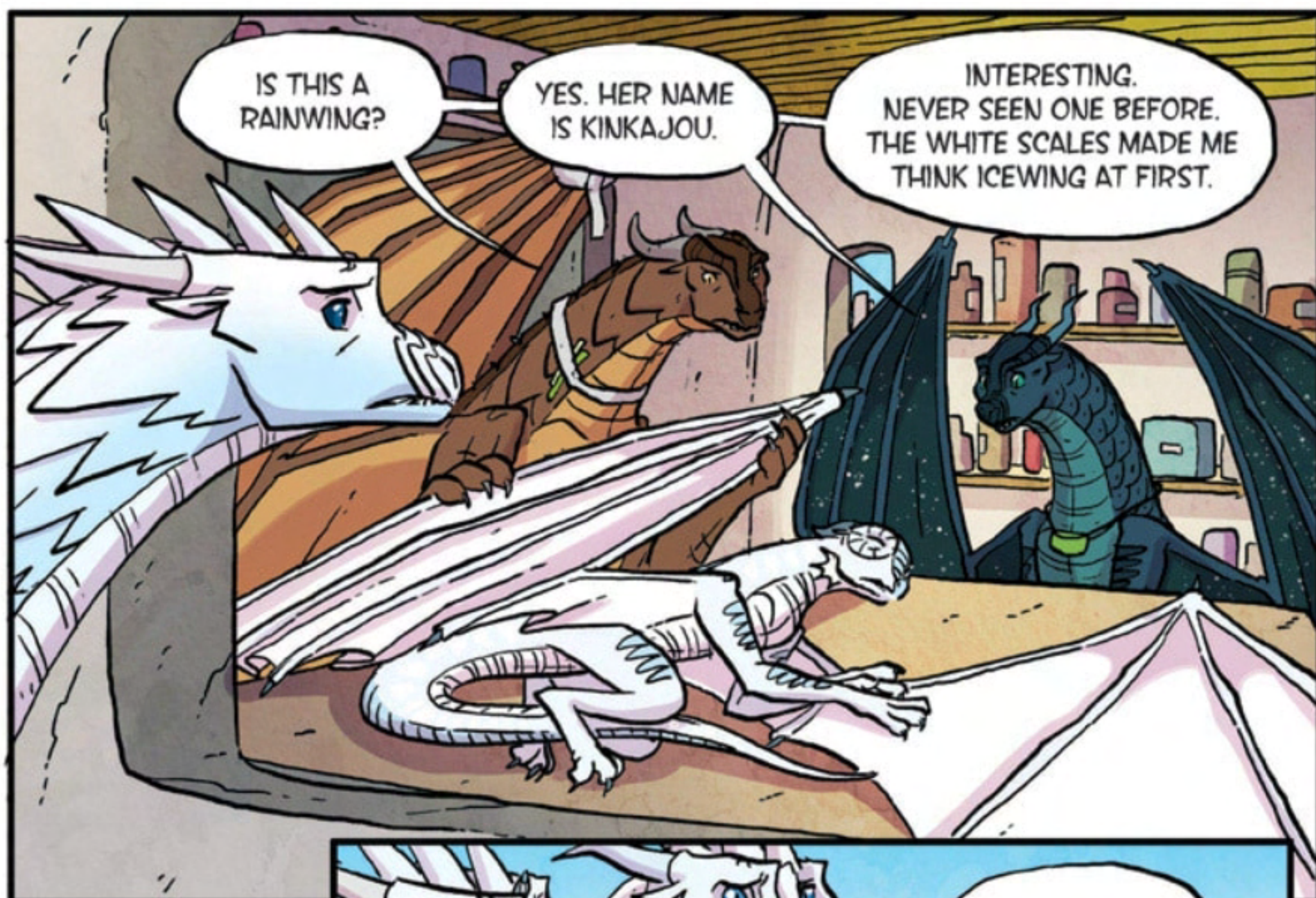


















IT SEEMS AWFULLY COMPLICATED. WHY WOULD AN ANIMUS WASTE HIS POWER—LOSE PART OF HIS SOUL—JUST TO HIDE A PRISONER?

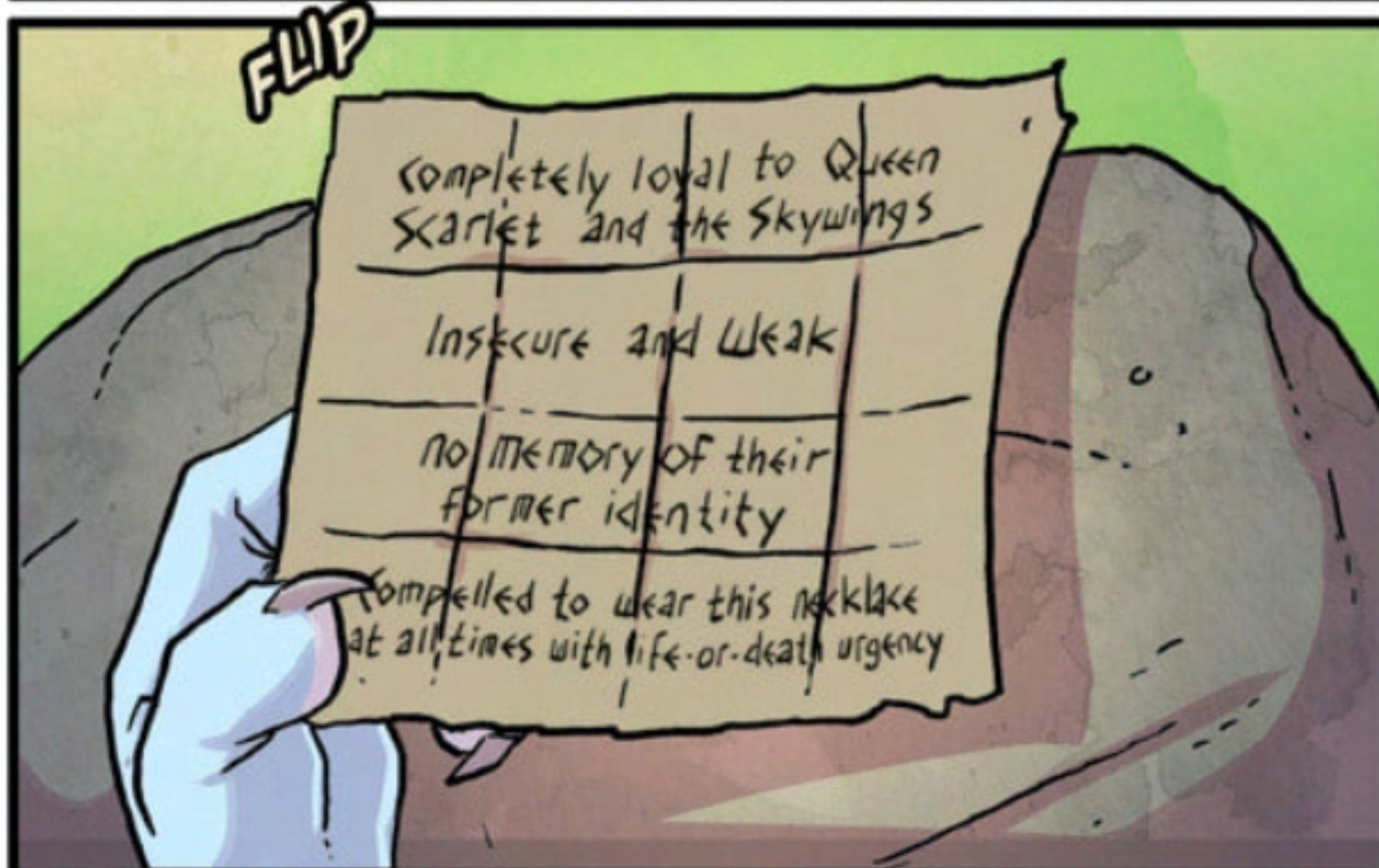
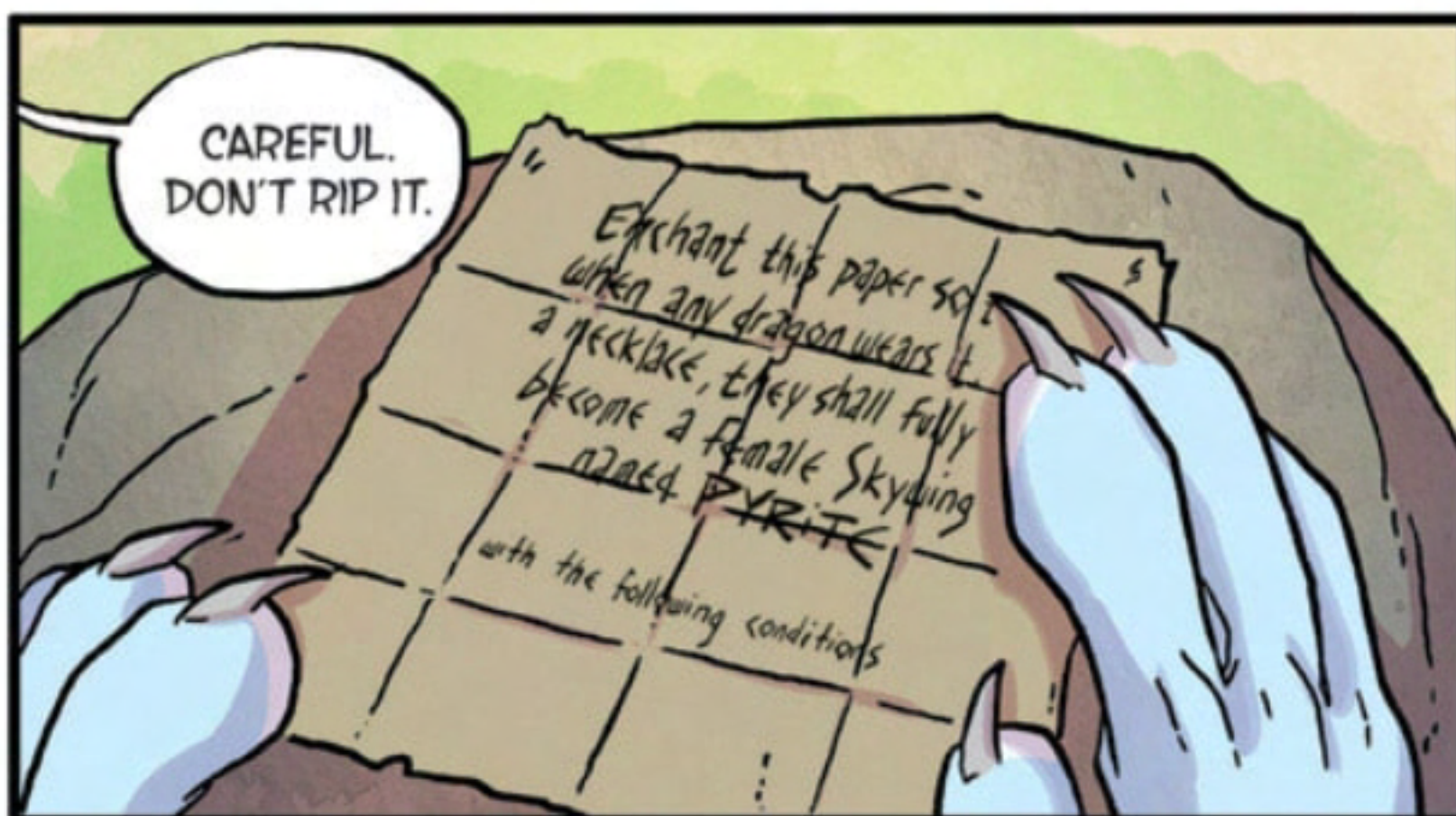
ALSO, IF SCARLET HAS AN ANIMUS, WHY HASN'T SHE GOTTEN RID OF RUBY?

IT DOESN'T MAKE ANY SENSE TO ME EITHER, QIBLI.

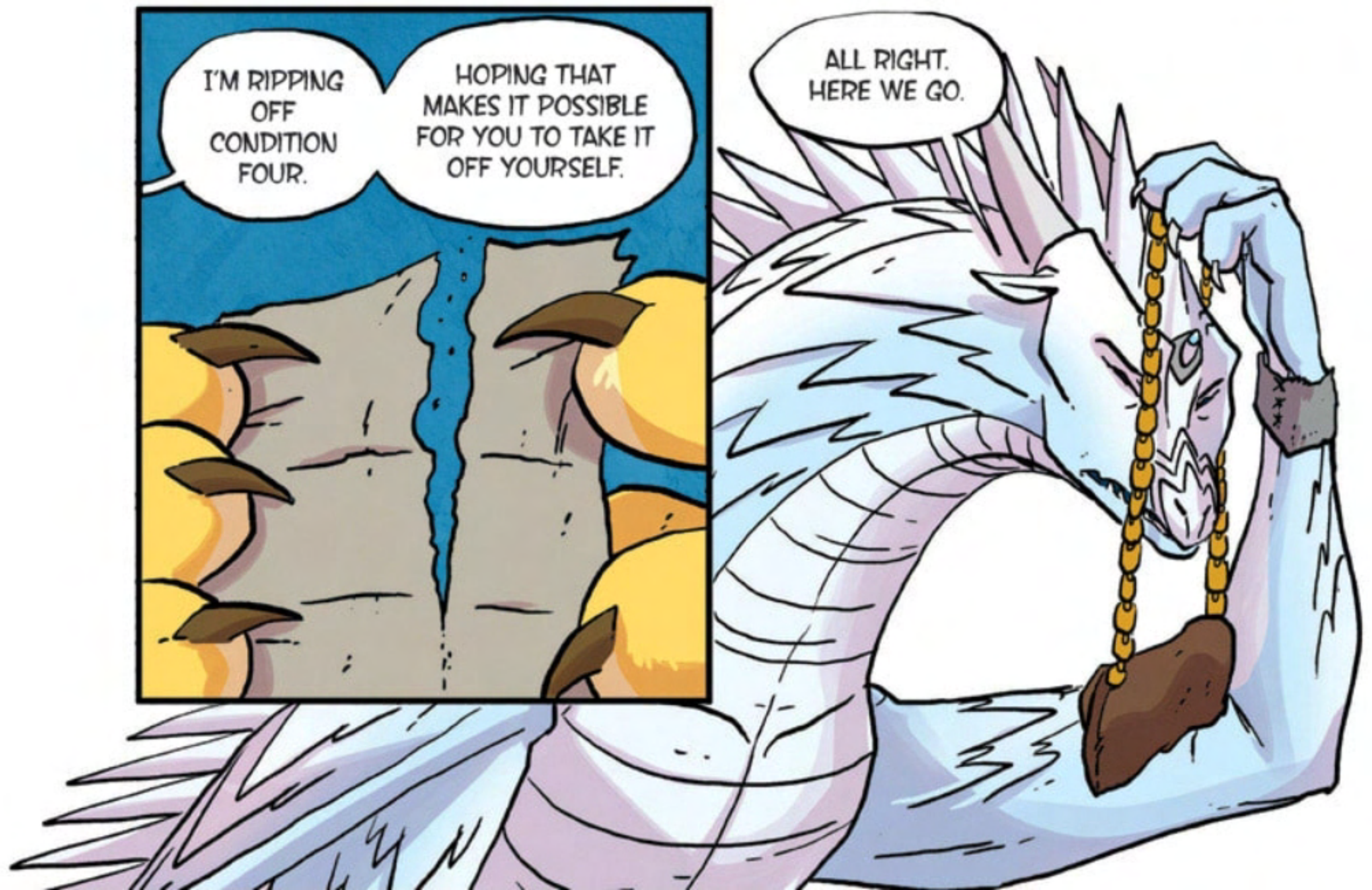
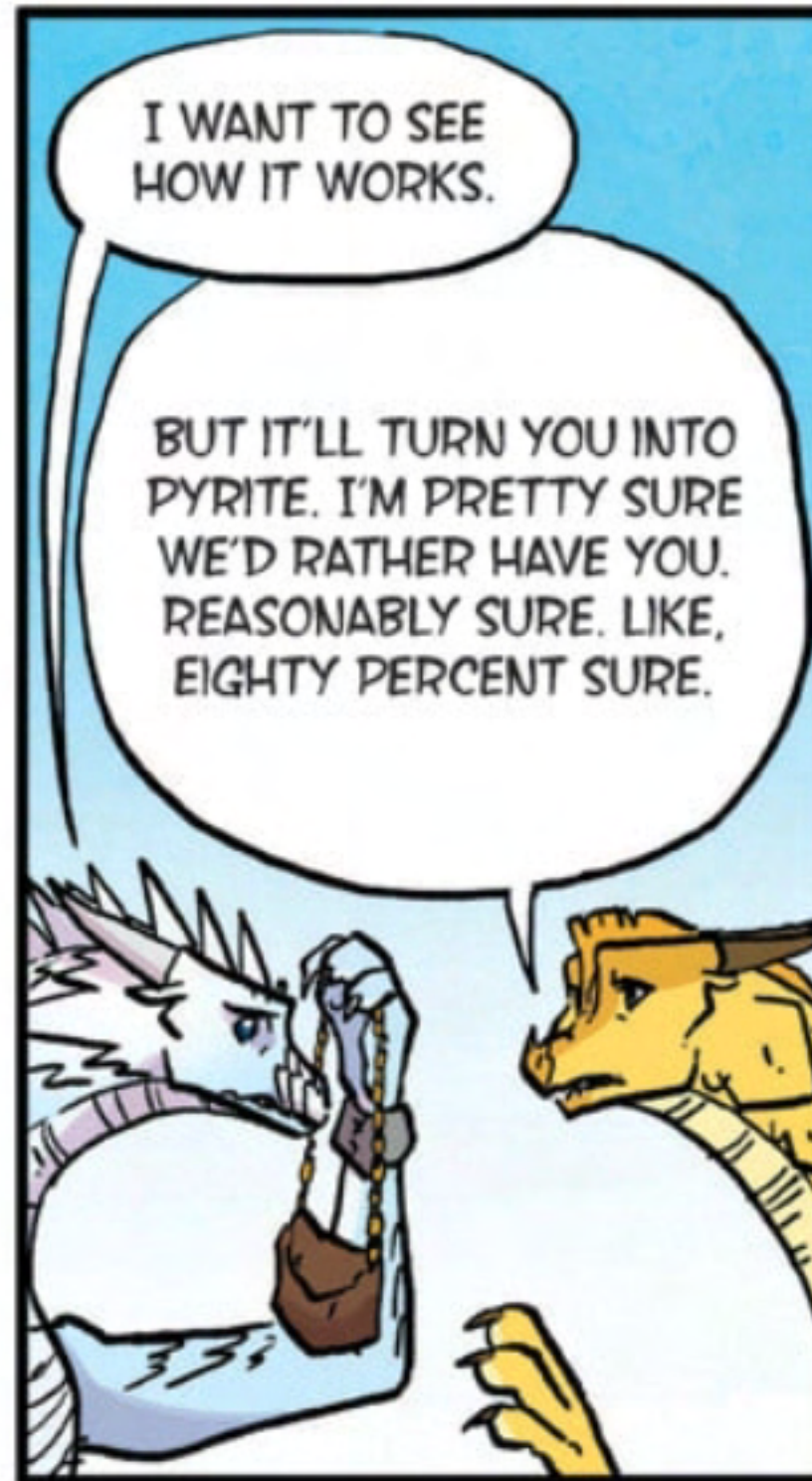
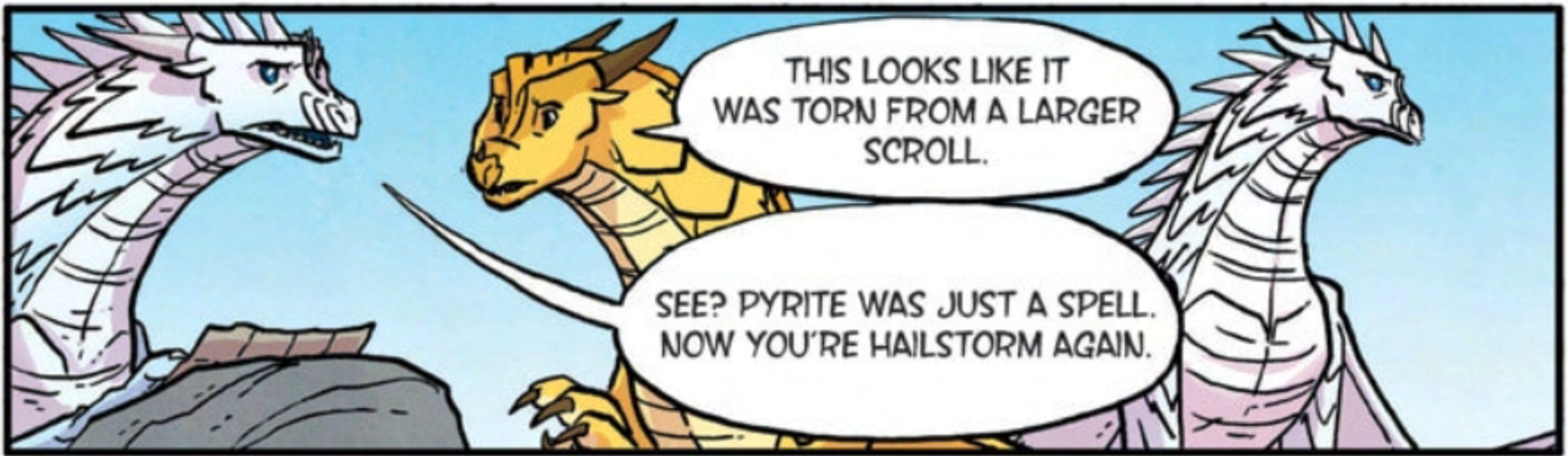
WHAT'S IN THE POUCH?

I'M SUPPOSED TO WEAR THAT POUCH! IT CAN'T EVER COME OFF! I'LL DIE IF IT DOES!

ALL RIGHT. I HEAR MYSELF.









WHAT JUST  
HAPPENED?

DID WE FIND  
QUEEN SCARLET?

HER MOST WONDROUS  
MAJESTY! SHE'S SUCH AN  
AMAZING DRAGON. WHEN I  
LIVED IN THE SKY PALACE,  
I FOUND A WAY TO SEE  
HER EVERY DAY, EVEN  
IF IT WAS JUST FROM A  
DISTANCE.

I'M GLAD I'M A SKYWING.

WE'RE *FREER* THAN ANY  
OTHER TRIBE, MORE LOYAL  
TO ONE ANOTHER, AND MORE  
INDEPENDENT. WE'RE THE  
SMARTEST, FASTEST DRAGONS  
IN PYRRHIA!

I AM COMPLETELY  
LOYAL TO QUEEN  
SCARLET. ONE DAY, I'LL  
SEE HER AGAIN, AND  
EVERYTHING WILL BE  
ALL RIGHT.

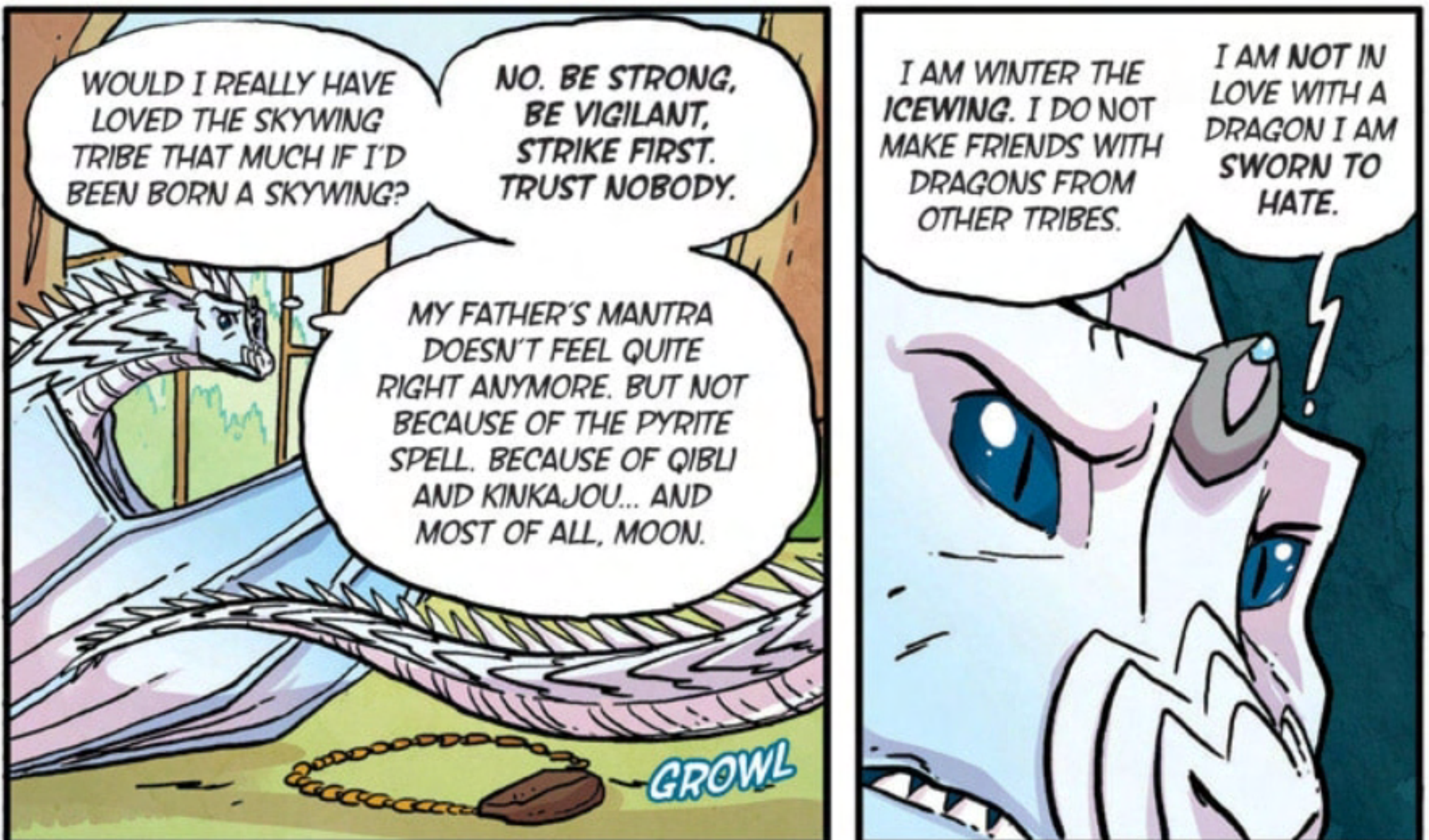
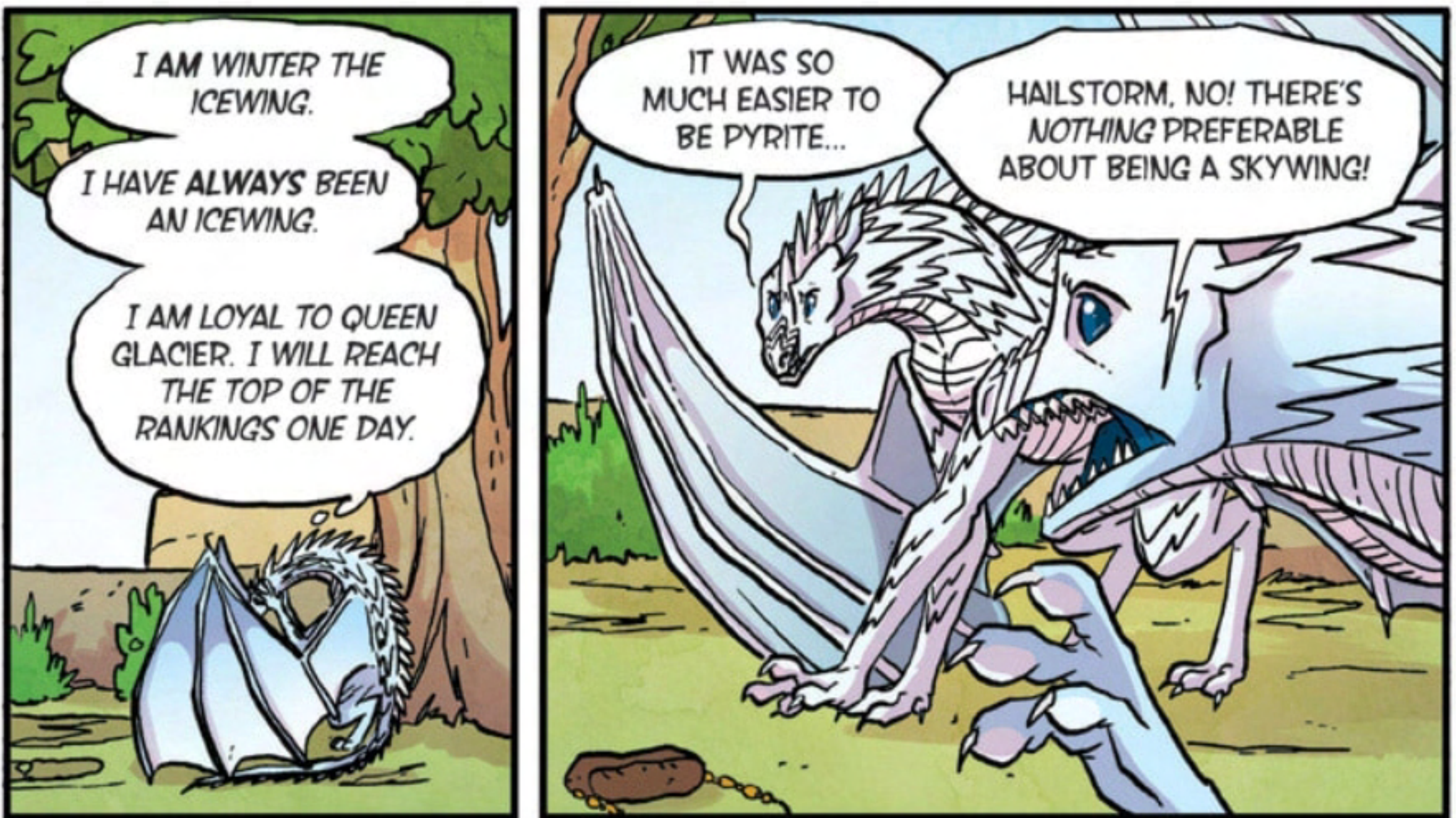
PYRITE. DO YOU  
REMEMBER ANYTHING  
ABOUT WINTER?

UM, THAT HE'S  
AN ENORMOUS  
GRUMP?

CAN I LOOK AT  
YOUR NECKLACE?

HUH. SURE,  
I GUESS.

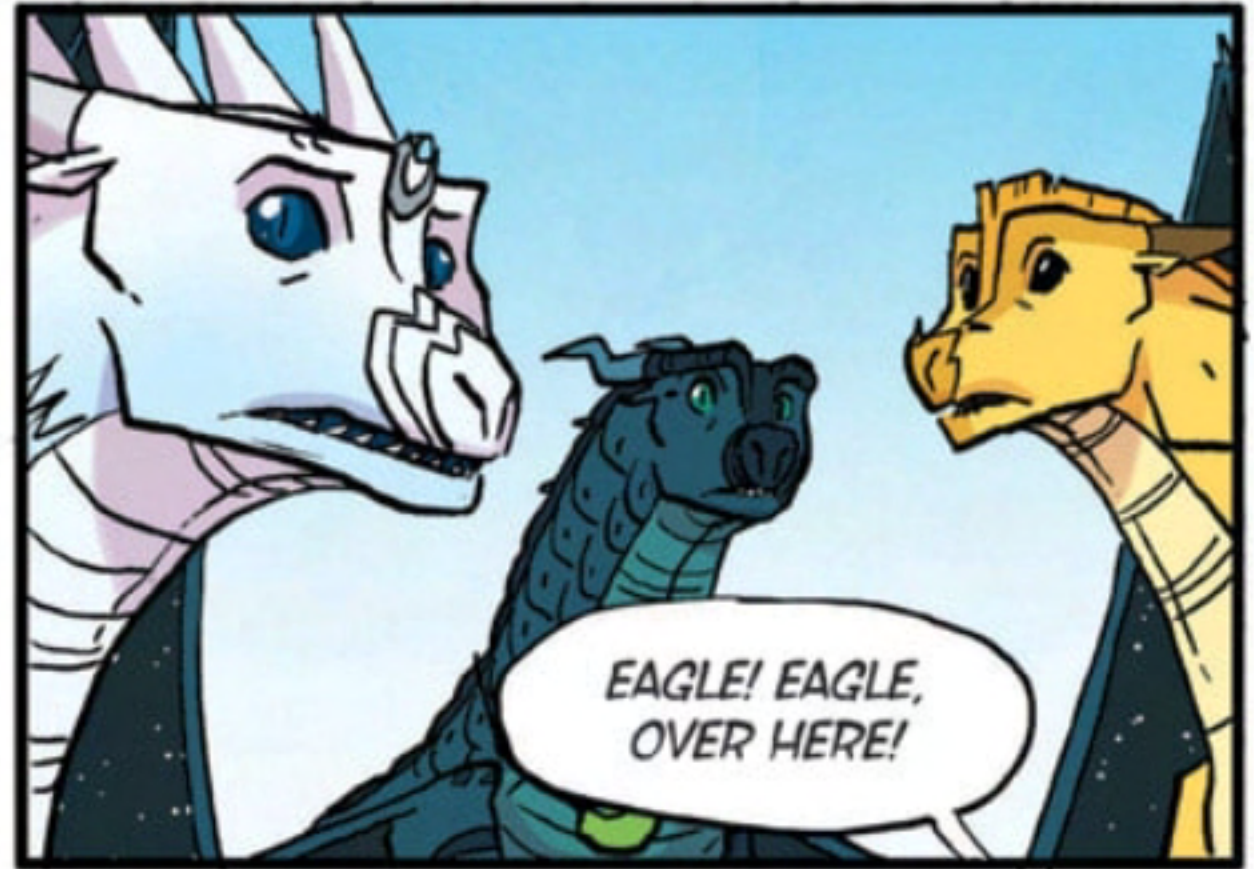












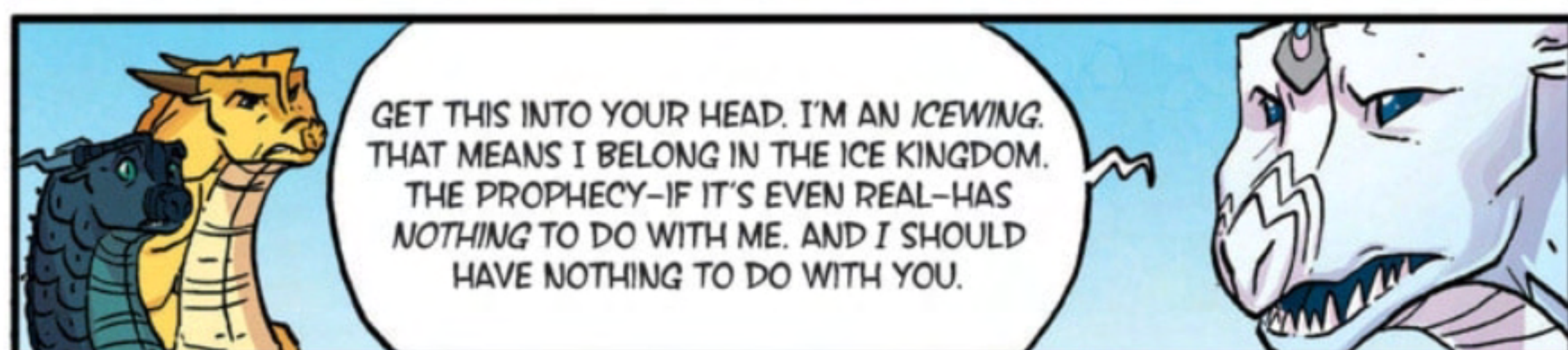




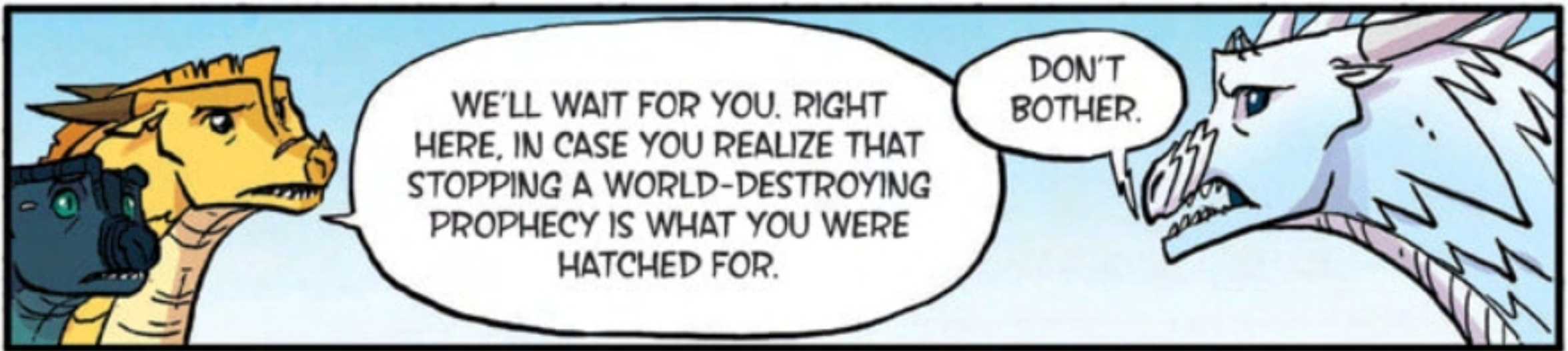














### PART THREE: BENEATH THE ICE

WINTER, IS THAT A WALL ON OUR BORDER? WHAT'S THE POINT OF THAT? A WALL CAN'T KEEP OUT DRAGONS.

YOU DON'T REMEMBER THE GREAT ICE CLIFF? IT'S PROBABLY OUR OLDEST ANIMUS GIFT. THE GIFT OF DEFENSE, FROM THOUSANDS OF YEARS AGO. IT'S A SECRET FROM THE OTHER TRIBES. USUALLY NO ONE COMES THIS FAR NORTH, BUT IF THEY TRY, THEY'LL FIND THIS.

SEEMS LIKE A WASTE OF MAGIC. WE'RE GOING TO FLY RIGHT OVER IT.

RIGHT. BECAUSE WE'RE ICEWINGS. BUT IF WE WERE FROM ANY OTHER TRIBE, THE CLIFF WOULD SHOOT US WITH SPEARS OF ICE.

WHAT IF IT DOESN'T LET ME PASS?


IT WILL. YOU'RE AN ICEWING, HAILSTORM. THE WALL WILL RECOGNIZE THAT, AND SO WILL EVERYONE ELSE.

WHY DID AN ANIMUS ENCHANT THE WALL? DID THE OTHER TRIBES ATTACK THE ICE KINGDOM MORE OFTEN BACK THEN? WHY WOULD SOMEONE INVADE LAND THEY CAN'T LIVE IN?

WHAT WE REALLY NEED IS SOMETHING FOR BATTLE. EXPLODING SNOWBALLS... HYPNOTIZING DIAMONDS... MAPS THAT SHOW OUR ENEMIES' LOCATIONS... A USEFUL ANIMUS GIFT.







IF FOESLAYER HADN'T  
STOLEN PRINCE ARCTIC,  
WE'D HAVE ANOTHER  
**TWO THOUSAND YEARS** OF  
ANIMUS GIFTS. WE COULD'VE  
RULED ALL PYRRHIA!

WITH ANIMUS MAGIC,  
WE'D HAVE WON THE  
WAR IMMEDIATELY.  
HAILSTORM WOULD  
NEVER HAVE BEEN  
TAKEN PRISONER.

ALL THOSE ICEWING  
SOLDIERS WHO DIED... IT  
MAKES ME WANT TO CLAW  
THROUGH TIME AND FORCE  
AN ANIMUS TO WIPE OUT  
THE NIGHTWINGS.

...

I'VE THOUGHT ABOUT  
THAT A HUNDRED TIMES,  
BUT NOW...

IT'S TERRIFYING TO REALIZE  
AN ANIMUS COULD JUST  
WIPE OUT A WHOLE TRIBE.

EVEN MORE  
TERRIFYING TO  
REALIZE YOUR OWN  
TRIBE DOESN'T  
HAVE THAT MAGIC  
ANYMORE... BUT YOUR  
WORST ENEMIES DO.





IT'S BEAUTIFUL.  
I'D FORGOTTEN...

WAIT UNTIL YOU  
SEE IT UP CLOSE.

THE GIFT OF SPLENDOR.  
AN ICE PALACE THAT NEVER  
MELTS, NEVER CRACKS.

I WISH I COULD SHOW MOON...  
BUT SHE'D NEVER GET PAST THE CLIFF,  
AND MY PARENTS WOULD SINK HER  
IN A FROZEN LAKE IF SHE DID.





THIS GUARD IS FIFTH CIRCLE.  
I WAS IN SECOND BEFORE I LEFT.  
IT SHOULD BE SAFE TO ADDRESS  
HIM AS IF I'M HIGHER RANKED.







NEPHEWS OF QUEEN GLACIER. WE SHOULD REPORT STRAIGHT TO THE QUEEN.

QUEEN GLACIER IS ON A DIPLOMATIC MISSION.

SHE MUST BE DEALING WITH ICICLE IN THE RAINFOREST.



AREN'T YOU HAILSTORM?

I GUESS.

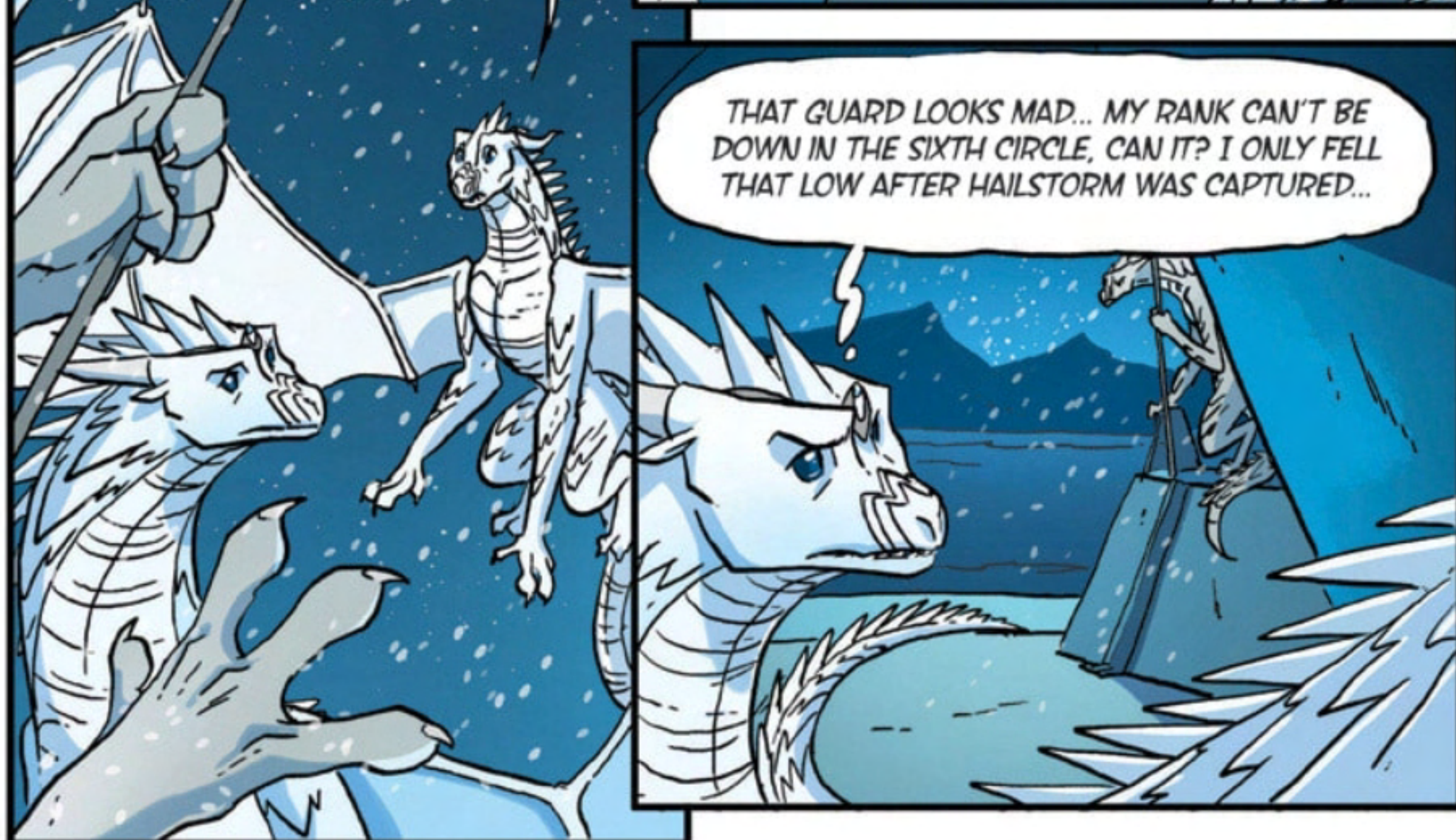
WE BELIEVED YOU WERE DEAD. IT'S A WONDROUS DAY INDEED THAT YOU ARE RETURNED TO US, SIR.



NARWHAL, OUR FATHER.


THE QUEEN'S BROTHER NARWHAL IS OVERSEEING PALACE MATTERS. HE'S WORKING ON THE RANKINGS IN THE COURTYARD.

THANK YOU.




THAT GUARD LOOKS MAD... MY RANK CAN'T BE DOWN IN THE SIXTH CIRCLE, CAN IT? I ONLY FELL THAT LOW AFTER HAILSTORM WAS CAPTURED...



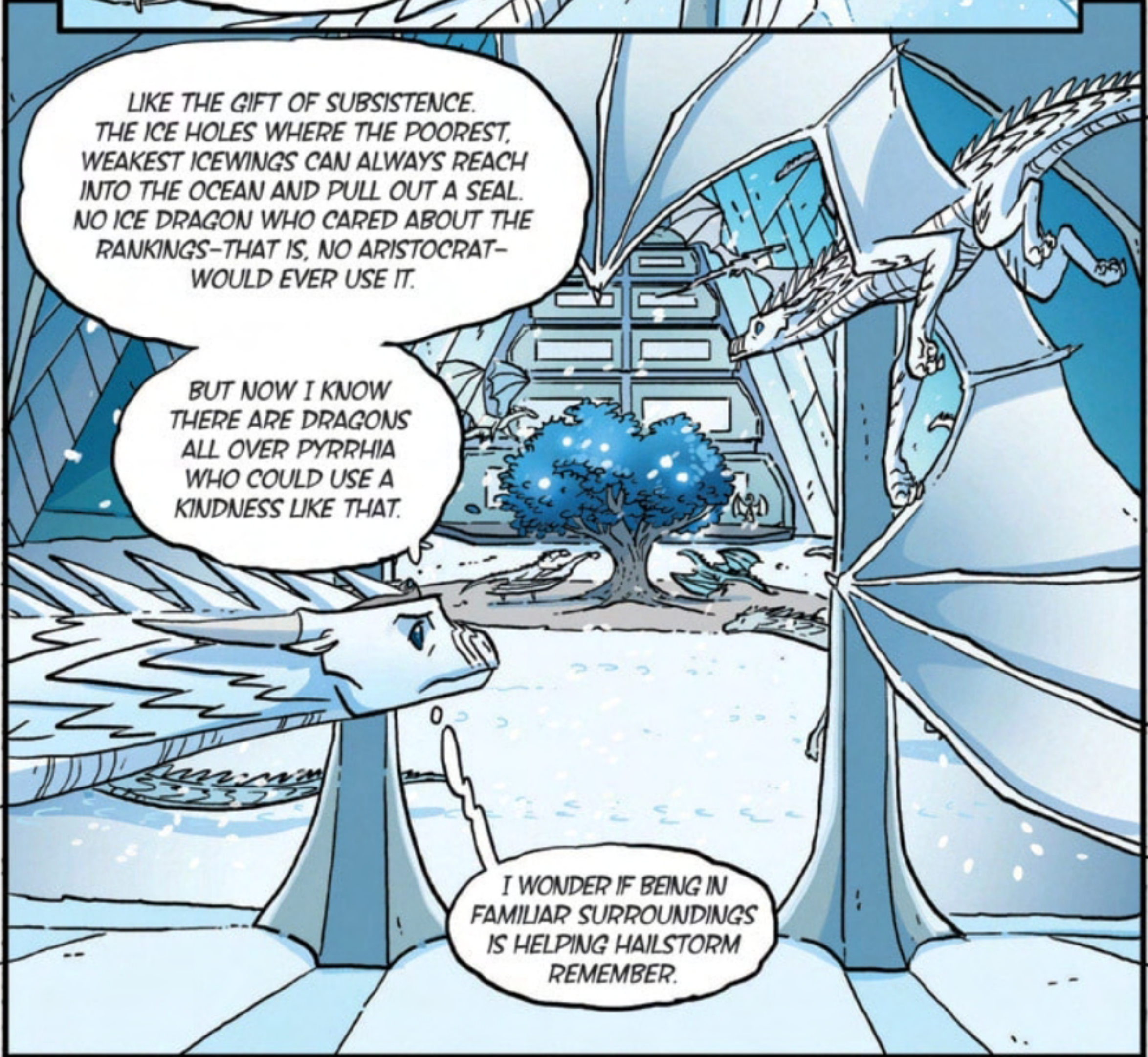


THE GIFT OF ELEGANCE.  
SNOWFLAKES FALLING  
THROUGH THE PALACE  
WALLS, REFLECTING THE  
WEATHER OUTSIDE. IT'S  
BEAUTIFUL, BUT SUCH A  
WASTE OF MAGIC.



IT MUST HAVE BEEN GIFTED  
IN A TIME WHEN THE ICEWINGS  
THOUGHT THEY'D ALWAYS  
HAVE AN ANIMUS.

OR MAYBE IT WAS GIVEN  
AGAINST THE QUEEN'S WISHES.  
THAT'S HAPPENED A FEW  
TIMES.



LIKE THE GIFT OF SUBSISTENCE.  
THE ICE HOLES WHERE THE POOREST,  
WEAKEST ICEWINGS CAN ALWAYS REACH  
INTO THE OCEAN AND PULL OUT A SEAL.  
NO ICE DRAGON WHO CARED ABOUT THE  
RANKINGS—THAT IS, NO ARISTOCRAT—  
WOULD EVER USE IT.

BUT NOW I KNOW  
THERE ARE DRAGONS  
ALL OVER PYRRHIA  
WHO COULD USE A  
KINDNESS LIKE THAT.

I WONDER IF BEING IN  
FAMILIAR SURROUNDINGS  
IS HELPING HAILSTORM  
REMEMBER.





THE GIFT  
OF LIGHT.

THE ANIMUS SPENT  
YEARS CARVING THE TREE  
WITH HER OWN CLAWS BEFORE  
ENCHANTING IT TO LIVE  
FOREVER, GROWING MOON  
GLOBES.

I WONDER...  
DID SHE LEAVE THE ICE  
KINGDOM TO STUDY  
REAL TREES? SHE GOT  
THE DETAILS EXACTLY  
RIGHT.




HAILSTORM  
REMEMBERS  
THE TREE!

DOES THAT MEAN  
HIS INSTINCTS ARE  
KICKING IN?



FATHER!





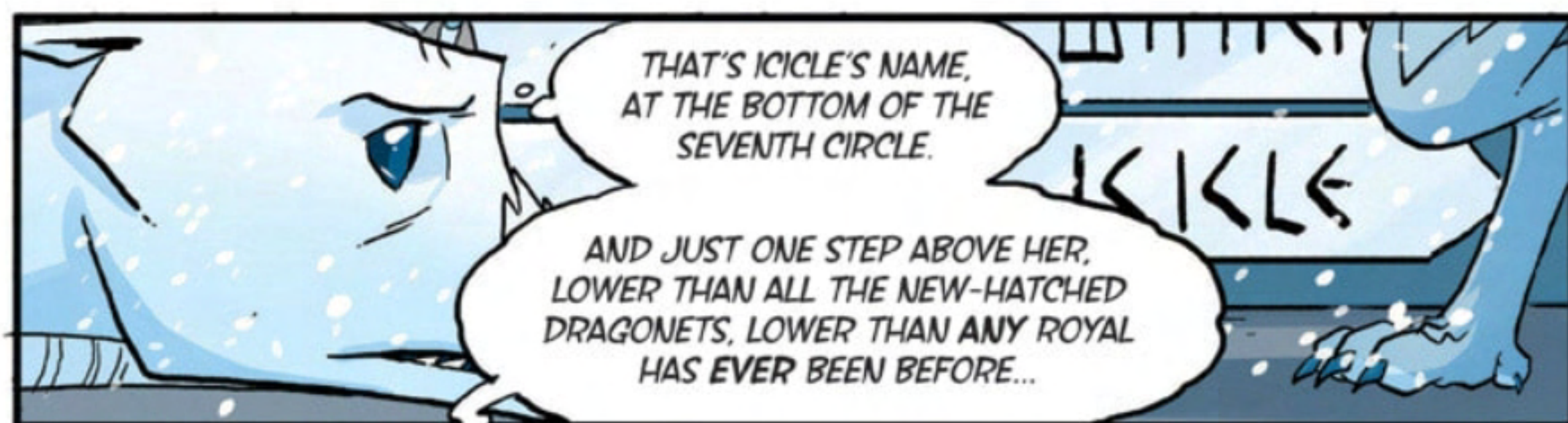
I DON'T KNOW  
WHETHER THE RANKINGS  
SAY HAILSTORM OR I  
SHOULD BOW FIRST, BUT  
I CAN'T BEAR FATHER'S  
GAZE ANY LONGER.

SSSO. MY TWO SONS  
HAVE RETURNED TO ME.

ONE I THOUGHT COULD  
NEVER COME BACK—

THE OTHER I HOPED  
NEVER WOULD.





THAT'S ICICLE'S NAME,  
AT THE BOTTOM OF THE  
SEVENTH CIRCLE.

AND JUST ONE STEP ABOVE HER,  
LOWER THAN ALL THE NEW-HATCHED  
DRAGONETS, LOWER THAN ANY ROYAL  
HAS EVER BEEN BEFORE...



...IT'S ME.

WINTER



WE DID NOT THINK  
YOU COULD POSSIBLY  
BE ALIVE, HAILSTORM.  
CONGRATULATIONS ON  
YOUR SURVIVAL.  
THE QUEEN WILL BE  
PLEASED TO WELCOME  
YOU BACK INTO HER  
ARMY.



AS FOR YOU,  
WINTER.

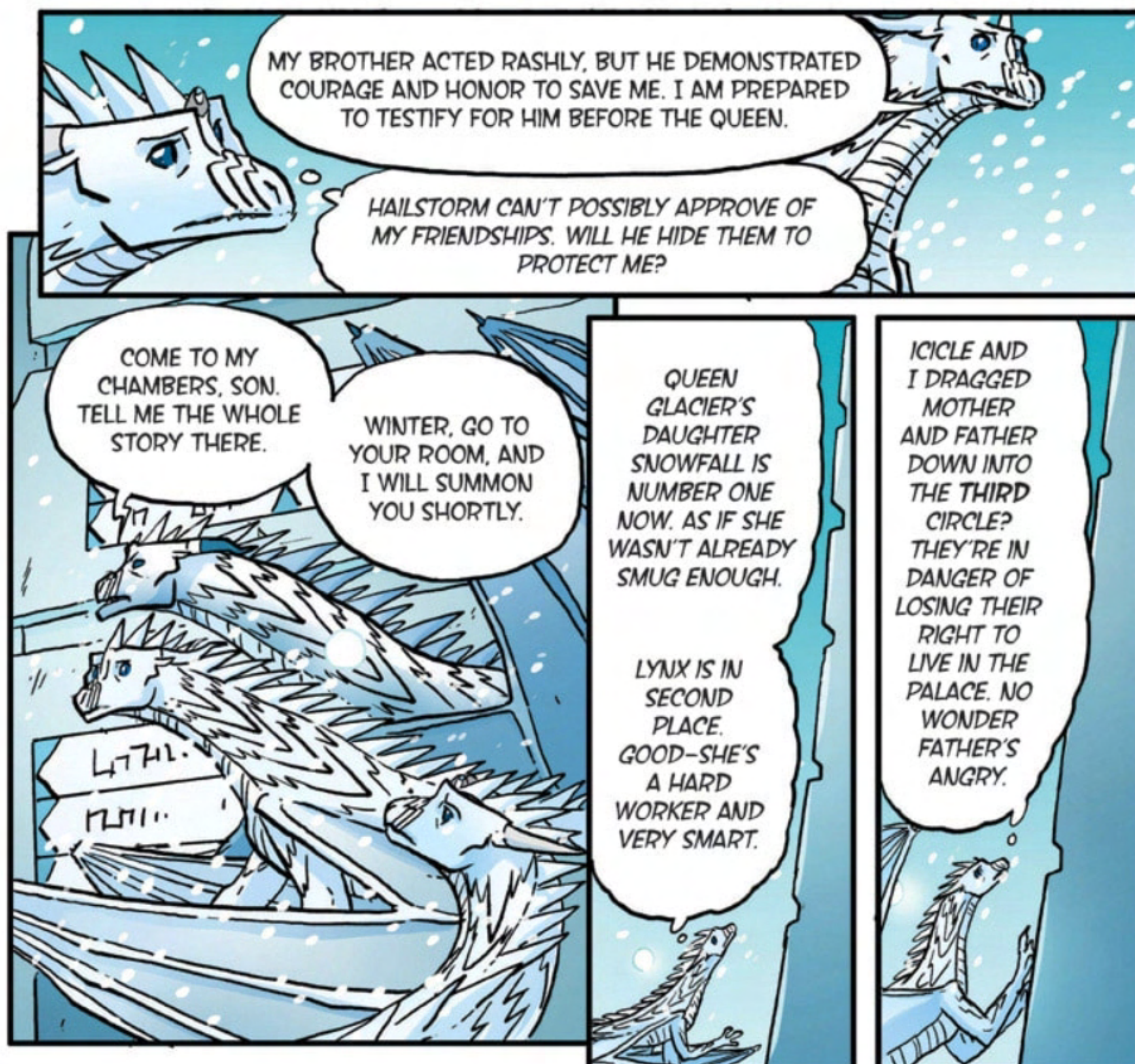
ATTACKING YOUR OWN SISTER.  
LEAVING SCHOOL WITHOUT PERMISSION.  
DISAPPEARING INTO PYRRHIA WITHOUT  
CONSULTING YOUR QUEEN. CONSORTING  
WITH DRAGONS FROM OTHER TRIBES.  
TRAVELING WITH A NIGHTWING.



FATHER. I SEE  
I AM NO LONGER  
LISTED IN THE  
RANKINGS, BUT MAY  
I HAVE PERMISSION  
TO SPEAK?

BRIEFLY,  
HAILSTORM.  
IF YOU MUST.













THE SUN'S BEEN UP FOR AN HOUR. IT'S TIME TO RISE. THERE WILL BE A CEREMONY IN THE COURTYARD IN SEVEN MINUTES THAT YOU MUST ATTEND.



YES, MOTHER.

A CEREMONY? PROBABLY RESTORING HAILSTORM TO THE RANKINGS.

THANK YOU, WINTER, FOR BRINGING HAILSTORM HOME.



WHAT IS THIS FEELING? ELATION? PRIDE? I'VE NEVER FELT ANYTHING LIKE THIS.



IT WAS THE LEAST YOU COULD DO.



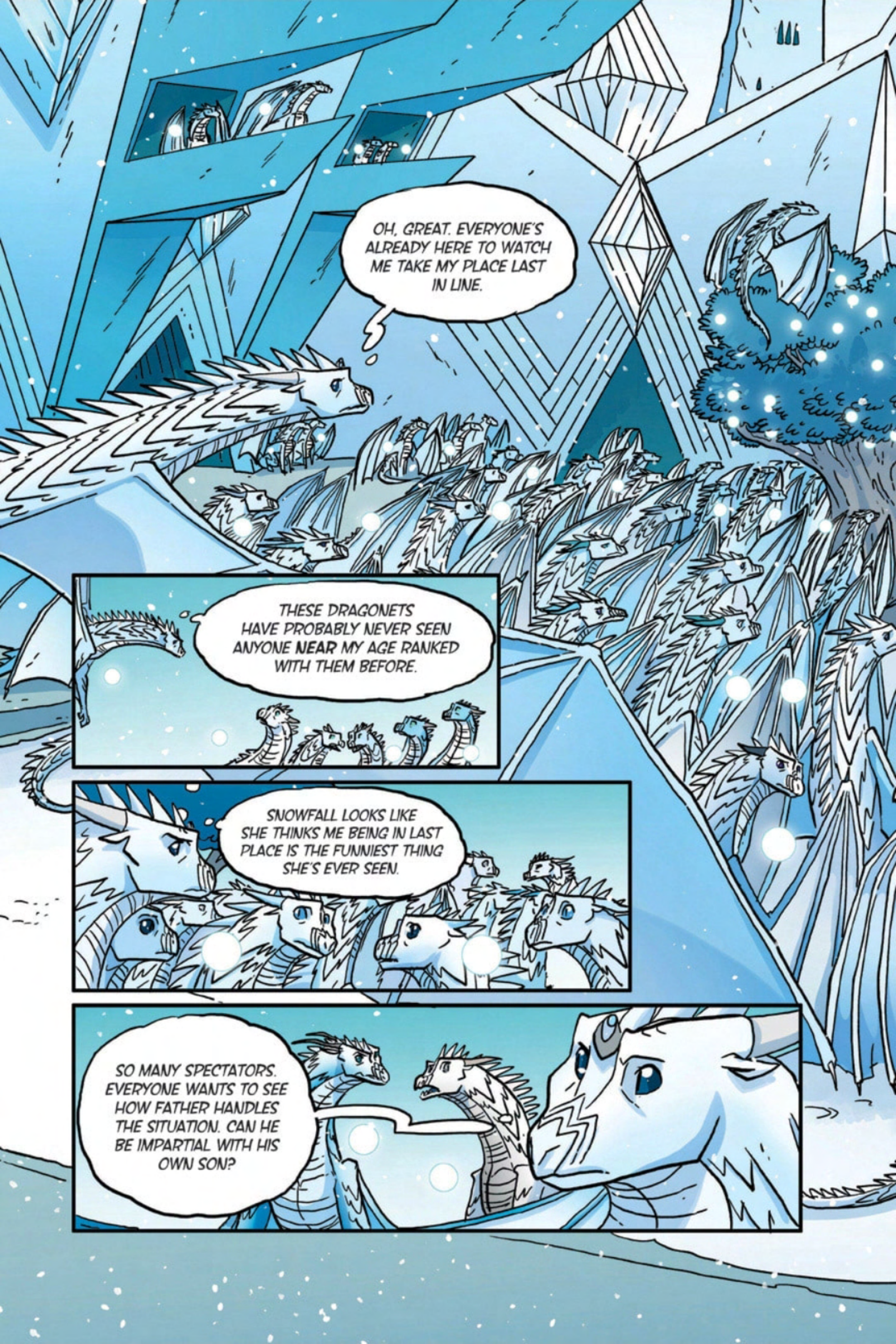
SO THAT DIDN'T LAST VERY LONG.



HA HA HA







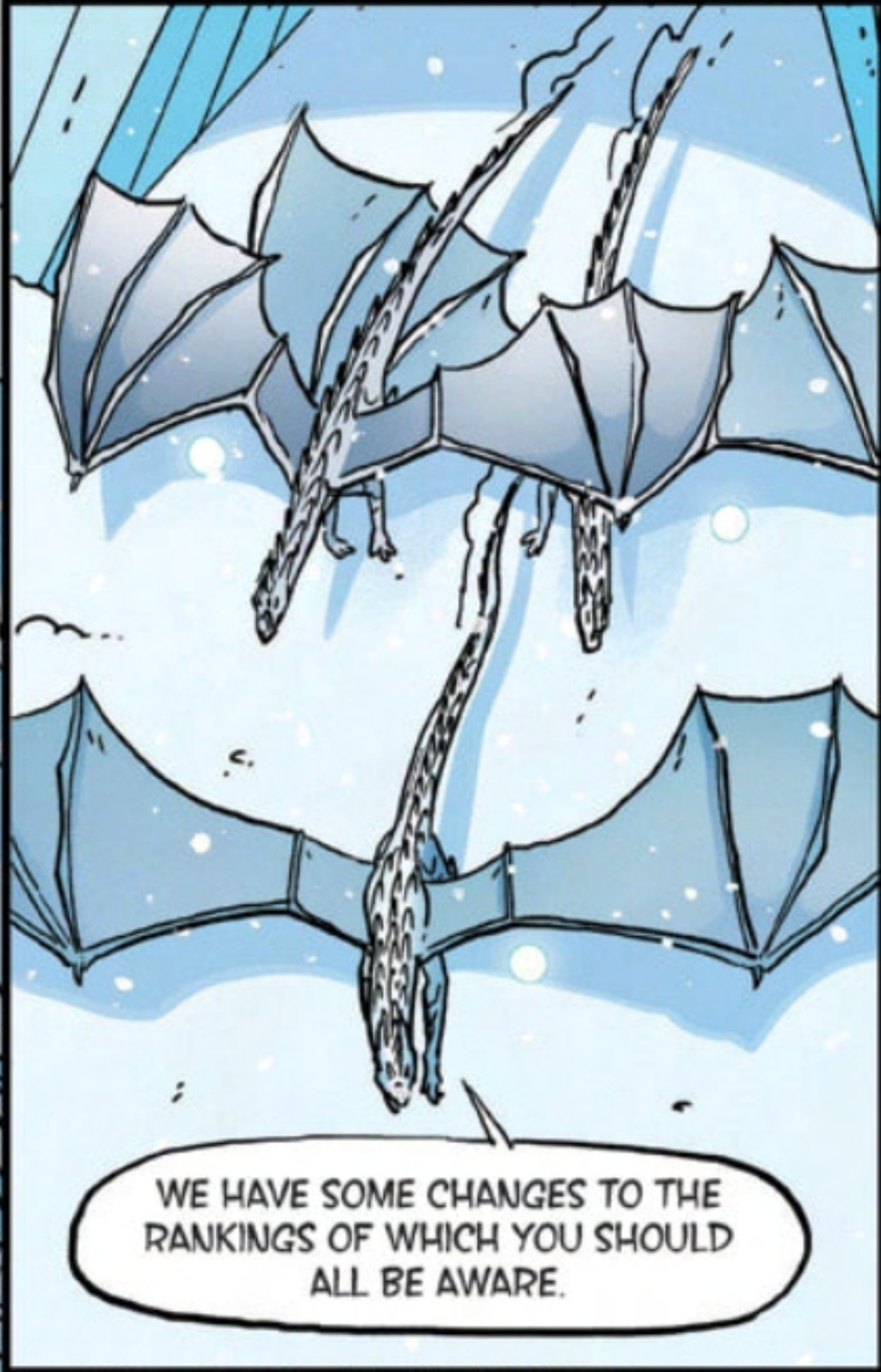
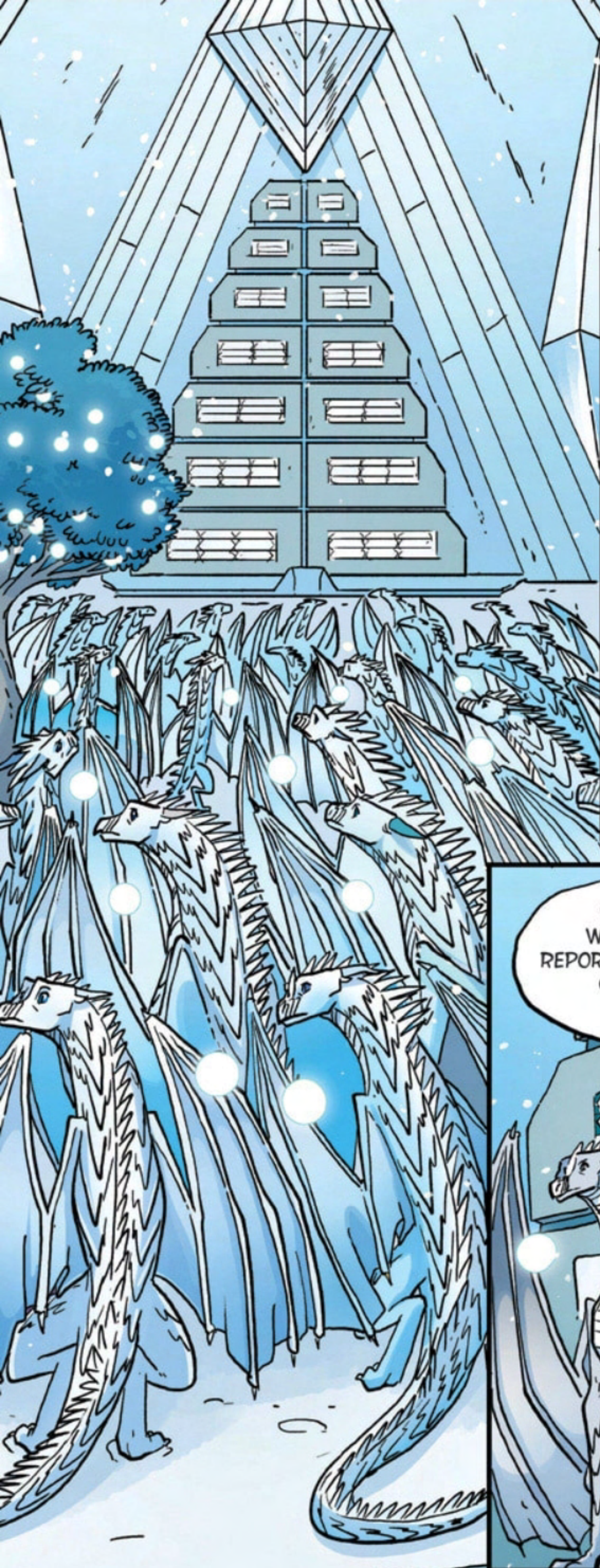
OH, GREAT. EVERYONE'S  
ALREADY HERE TO WATCH  
ME TAKE MY PLACE LAST  
IN LINE.

THESE DRAGONETS  
HAVE PROBABLY NEVER SEEN  
ANYONE NEAR MY AGE RANKED  
WITH THEM BEFORE.

SNOWFALL LOOKS LIKE  
SHE THINKS ME BEING IN LAST  
PLACE IS THE FUNNIEST THING  
SHE'S EVER SEEN.

SO MANY SPECTATORS.  
EVERYONE WANTS TO SEE  
HOW FATHER HANDLES  
THE SITUATION. CAN HE  
BE IMPARTIAL WITH HIS  
OWN SON?



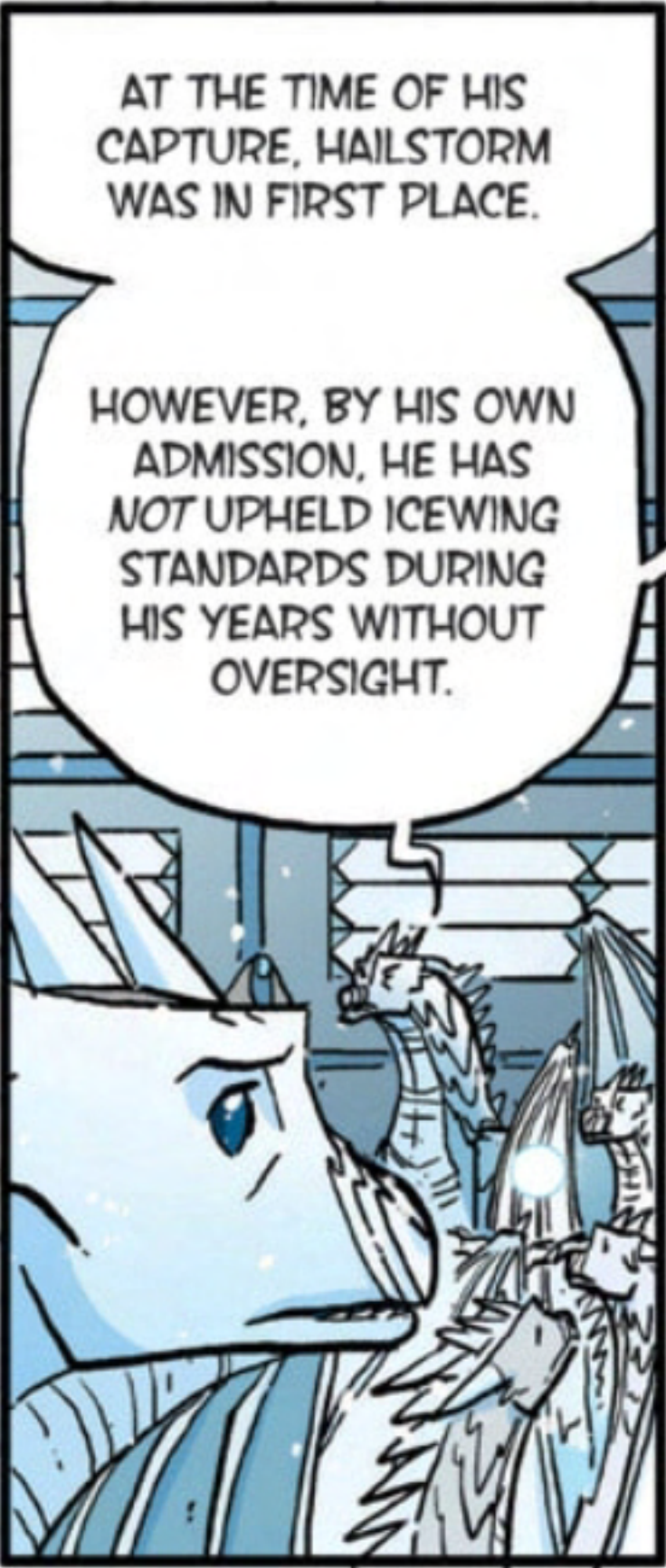


WE HAVE SOME CHANGES TO THE RANKINGS OF WHICH YOU SHOULD ALL BE AWARE.



SEVERAL MONTHS AGO, A DRAGONET WAS REMOVED FROM THE WALL DUE TO REPORTS OF HIS DEATH. HAILSTORM, MY SON AND QUEEN GLACIER'S NEPHEW, HAS NOW RETURNED TO US, ALIVE AFTER ALL.





AT THE TIME OF HIS CAPTURE, HAILSTORM WAS IN FIRST PLACE.

HOWEVER, BY HIS OWN ADMISSION, HE HAS NOT UPHELD ICEWING STANDARDS DURING HIS YEARS WITHOUT OVERSIGHT.



WE MUST ALSO FACTOR IN THE CLUMSINESS OF ALLOWING HIMSELF TO BE CAUGHT IN THE FIRST PLACE.

WHAT A THING FOR HAILSTORM TO HEAR ON HIS HOMECOMING.

FLINCH



THEREFORE, AFTER CAREFUL CONSIDERATION, WE ARE SLOTTING HAILSTORM INTO LAST PLACE IN THE SEVENTH CIRCLE. MAY HE CLAW HIS WAY BACK UP WITH HIS OWN TALONS.



WINTER  
KLE

GASP!

MURMUR

WHAT?

MURMUR  
MURMUR

MURMUR

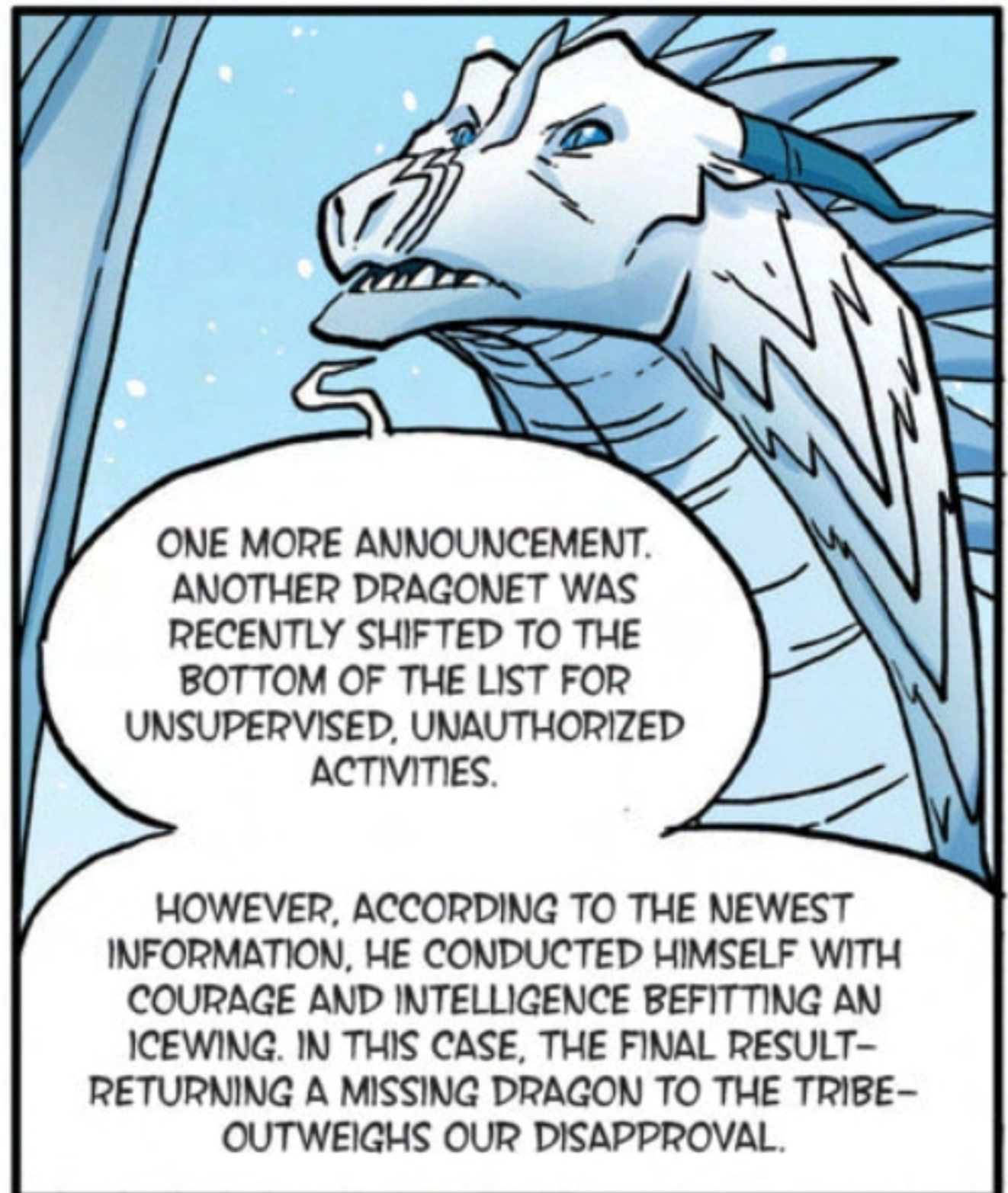
WOW!



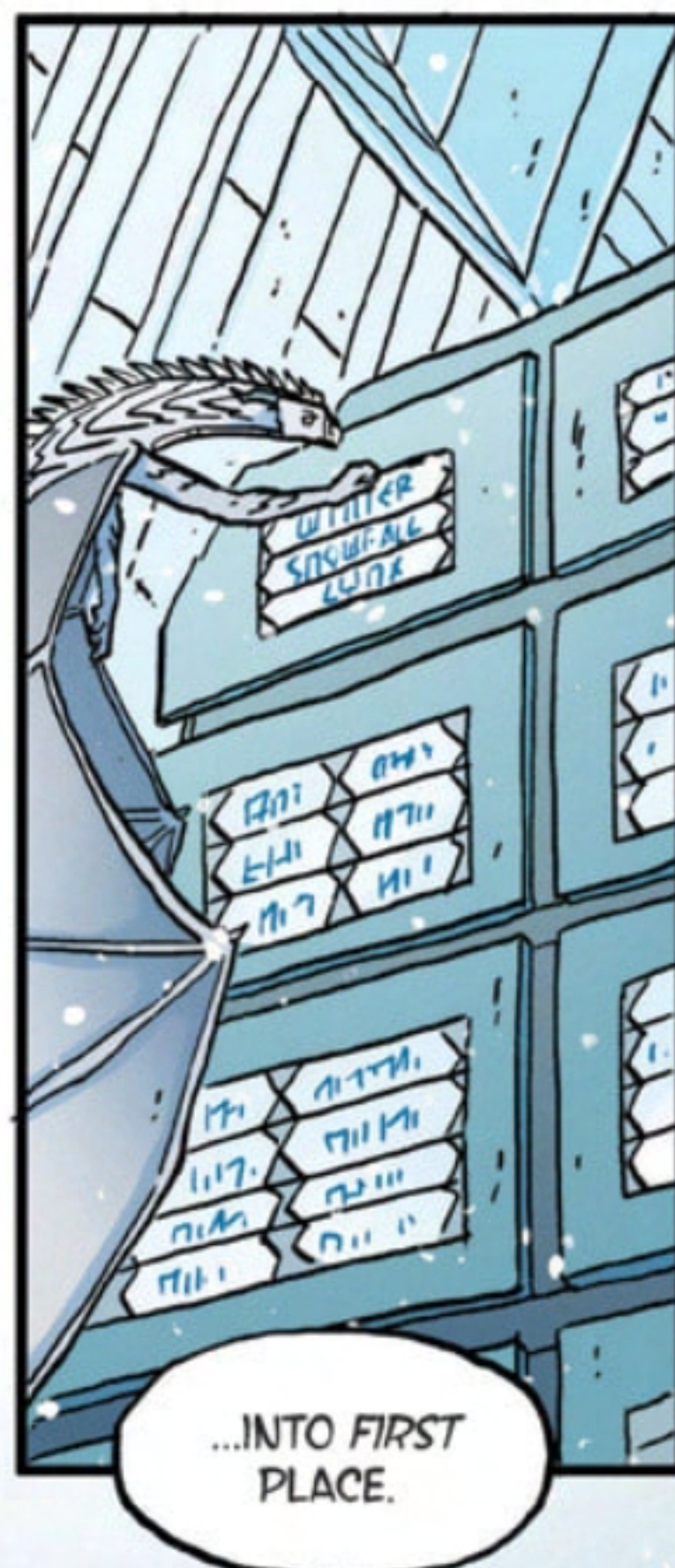
IT HAS TO BE UNPRECEDENTED FOR PARENTS TO HAVE ALL OF THEIR NEARLY GROWN DRAGONETS IN THE LAST THREE SPOTS.

HAILSTO



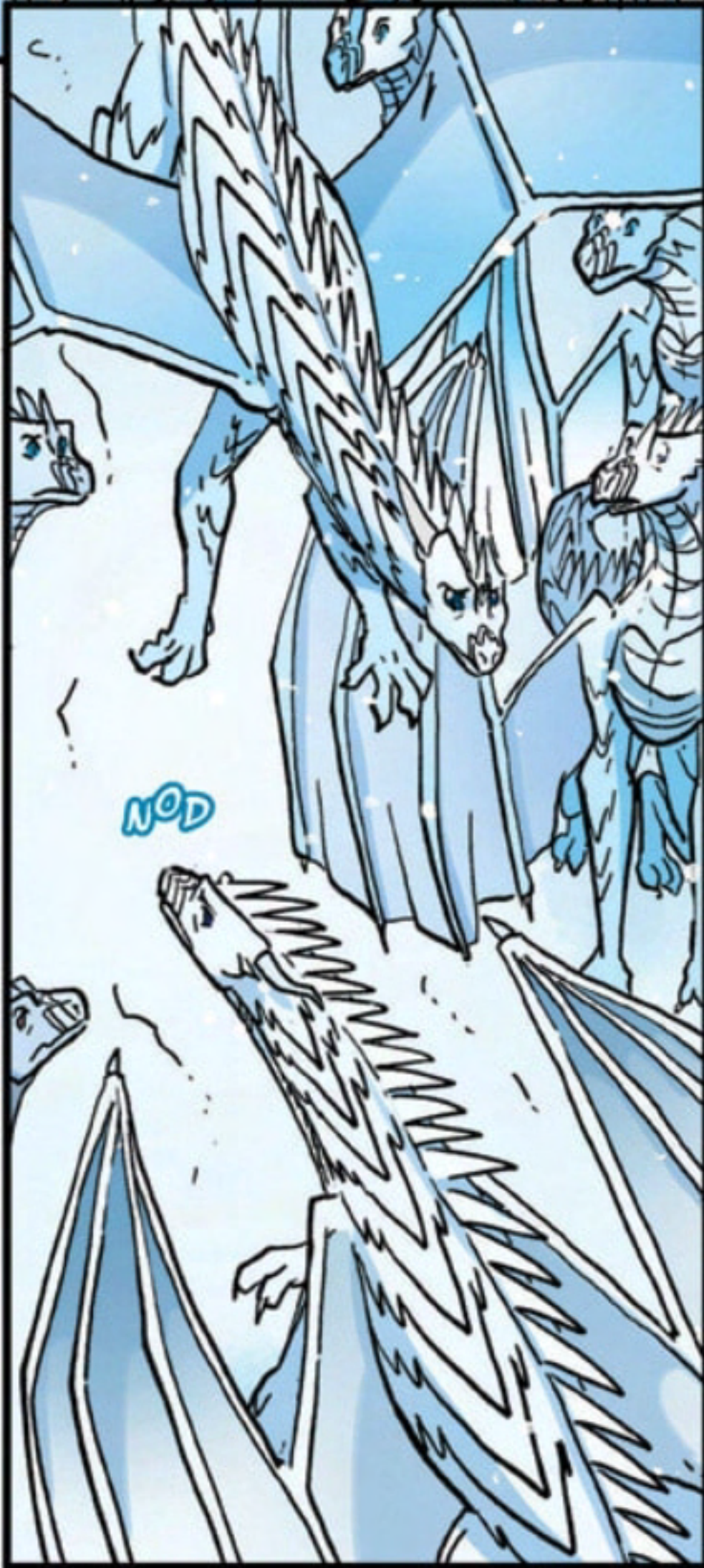




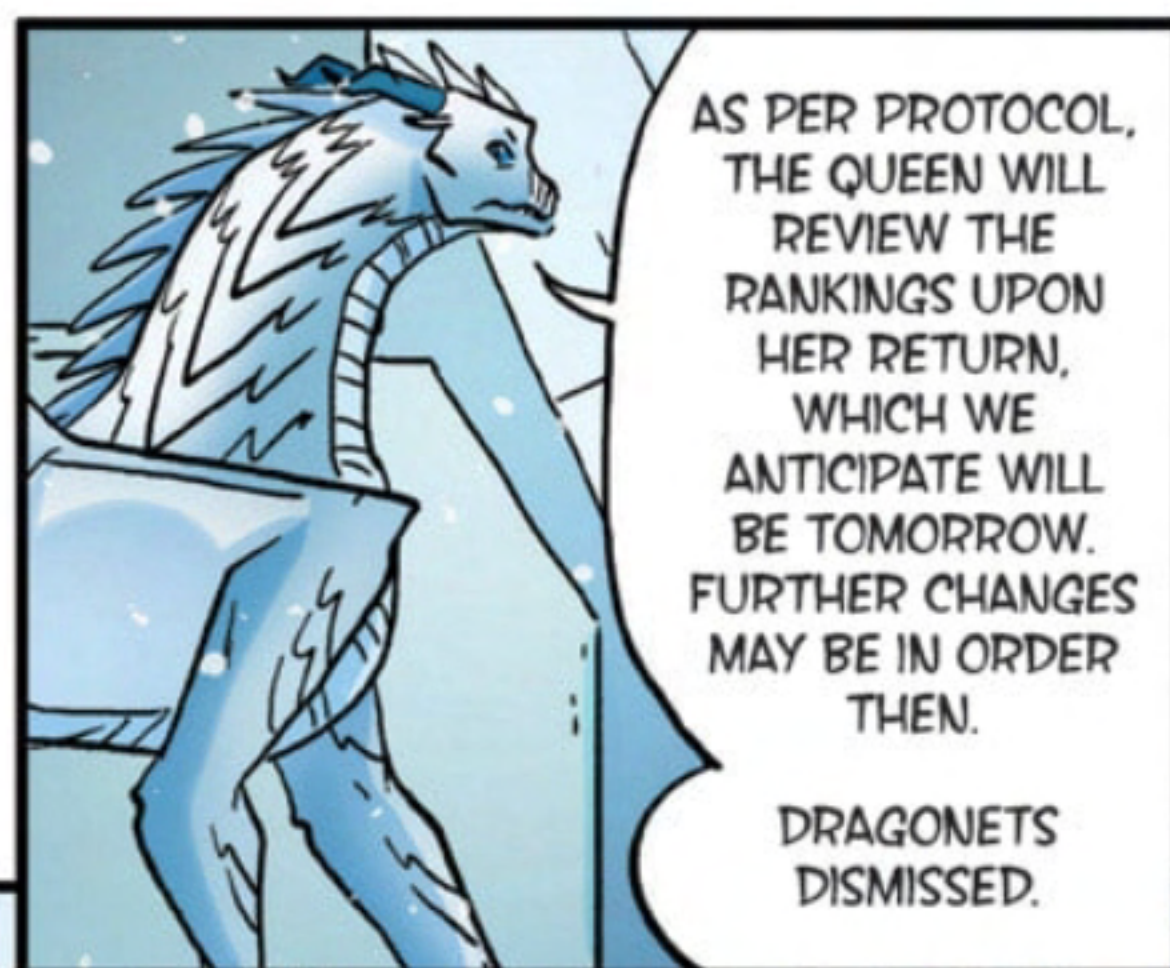


**FIRST PLACE**  
**FIRST PLACE**  
**FIRST PLACE**  
**FIRST PLACE**  
**FIRST PLACE**  
**FIRST PLACE**





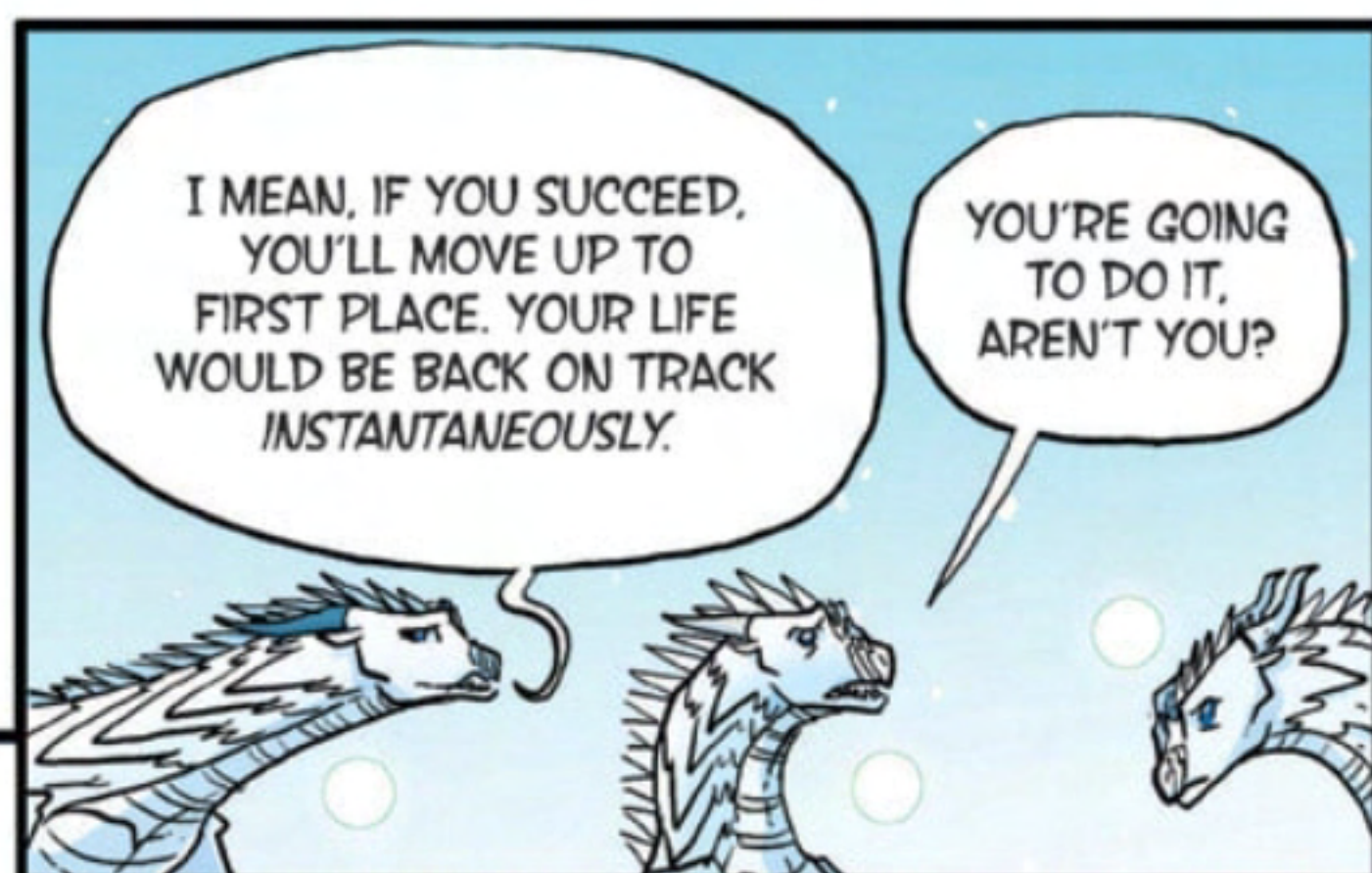
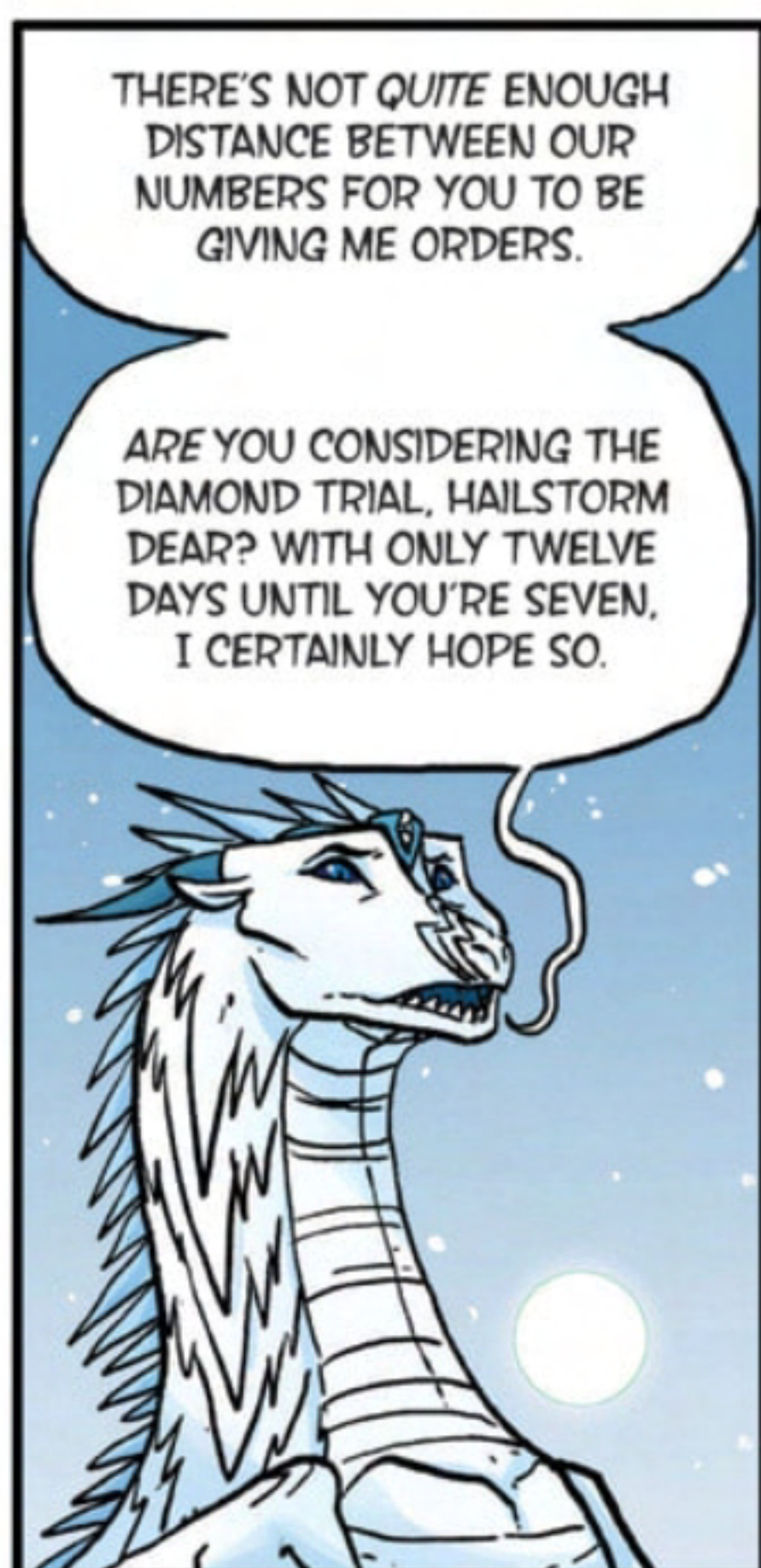
















...I FORGOT THAT PART  
OF THE TRIAL RULES.



BUT HAILSTORM  
KNOWS HOW IT WORKS.  
HE KNOWS THAT ONLY ONE  
OF US CAN SURVIVE.



THIS WAS MY PARENTS'  
PLAN. TO MOVE A DRAGON  
INTO FIRST PLACE WHO'D  
BE NO TROUBLE FOR  
HAILSTORM TO DEFEAT.



SNOWFALL IS GLACIER'S  
DAUGHTER, AND FORMIDABLE,  
WITH ONLY A FEW MONTHS  
UNTIL HER HATCHING DAY.



BUT ME?  
I'M EXPENDABLE.



THEY COULDN'T GIVE US  
BOTH HIGH RANKINGS.  
SOMEONE WOULD HAVE  
CALLED IT UNFAIR.

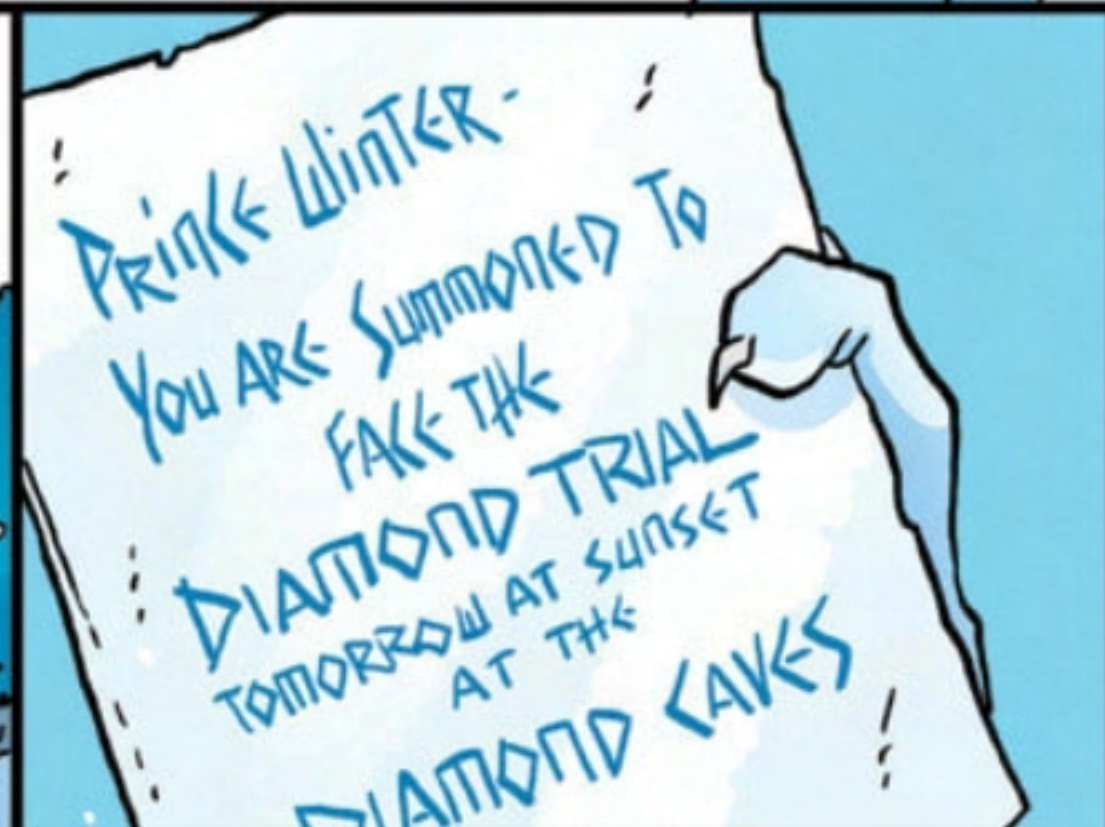
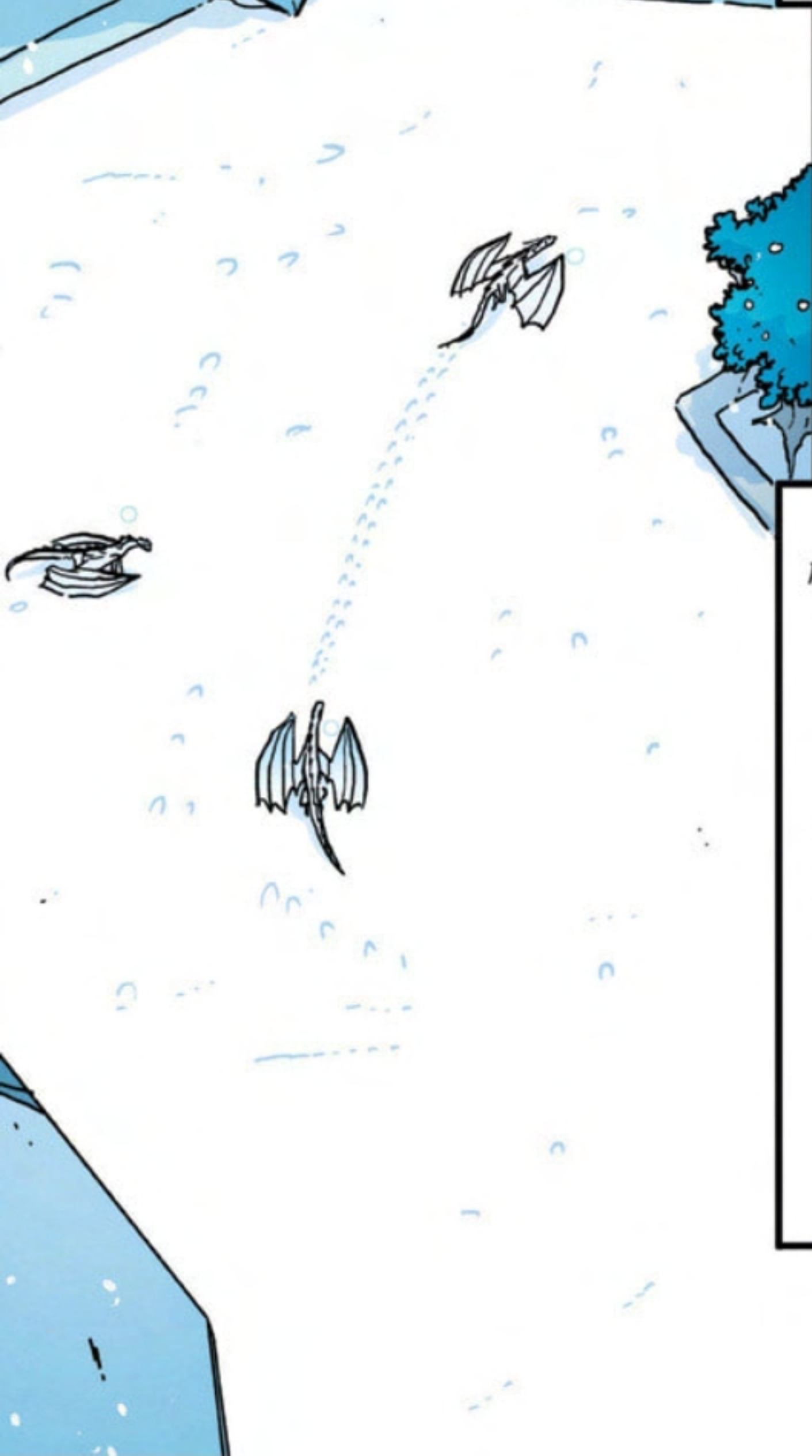


THEY HAD TO DO IT.  
HAILSTORM'S FUTURE IS  
TOO VALUABLE TO THROW  
AWAY.

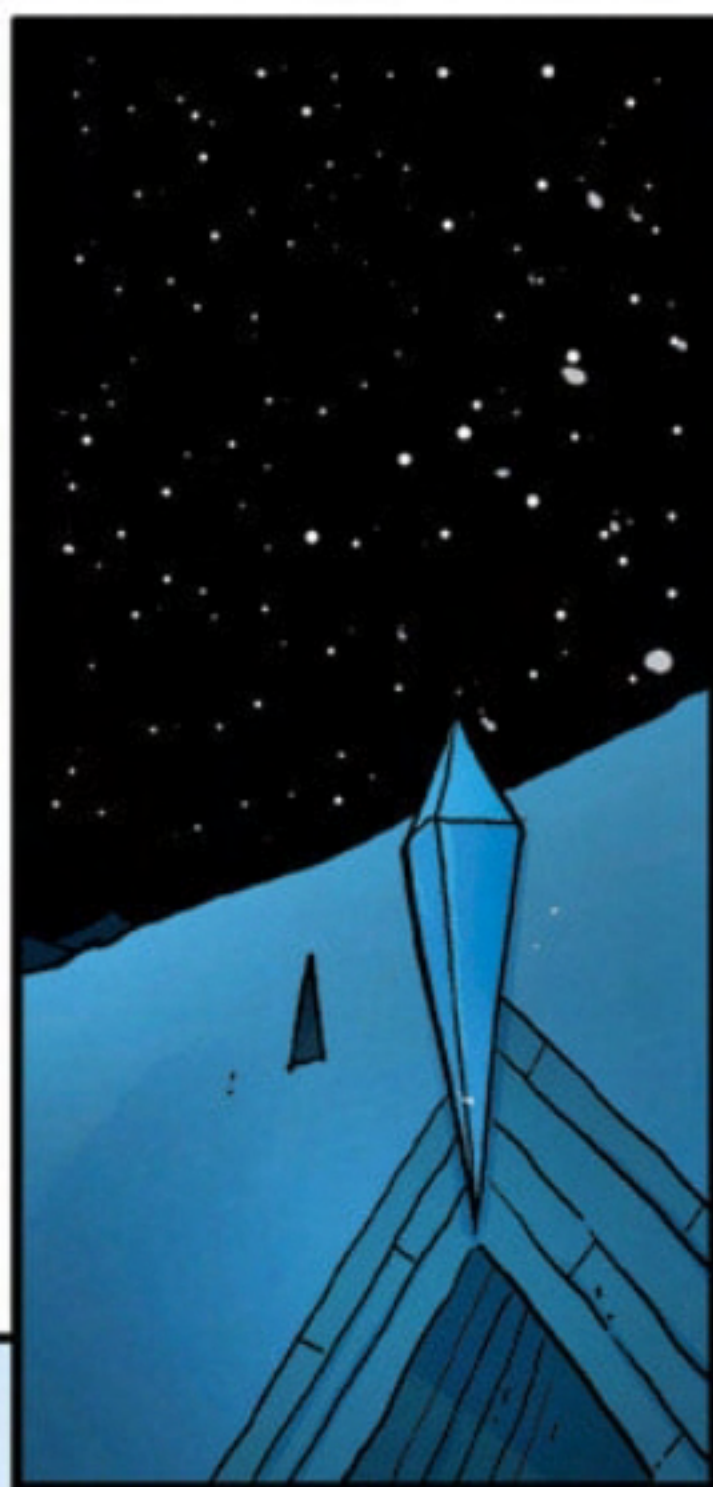
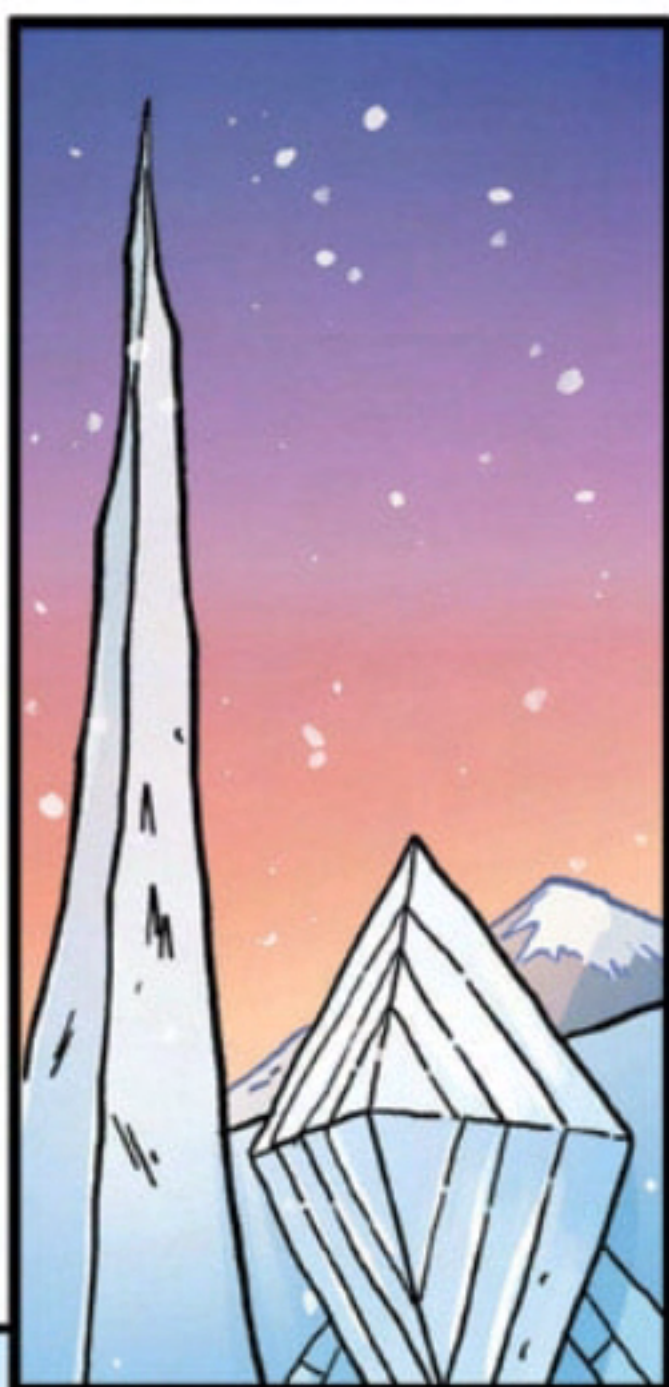


HE'S BEHAVING LIKE A TRUE  
ICEWING AFTER ALL.









LOOK,  
QUEEN GLACIER  
IS BACK.

AND ICICLE.

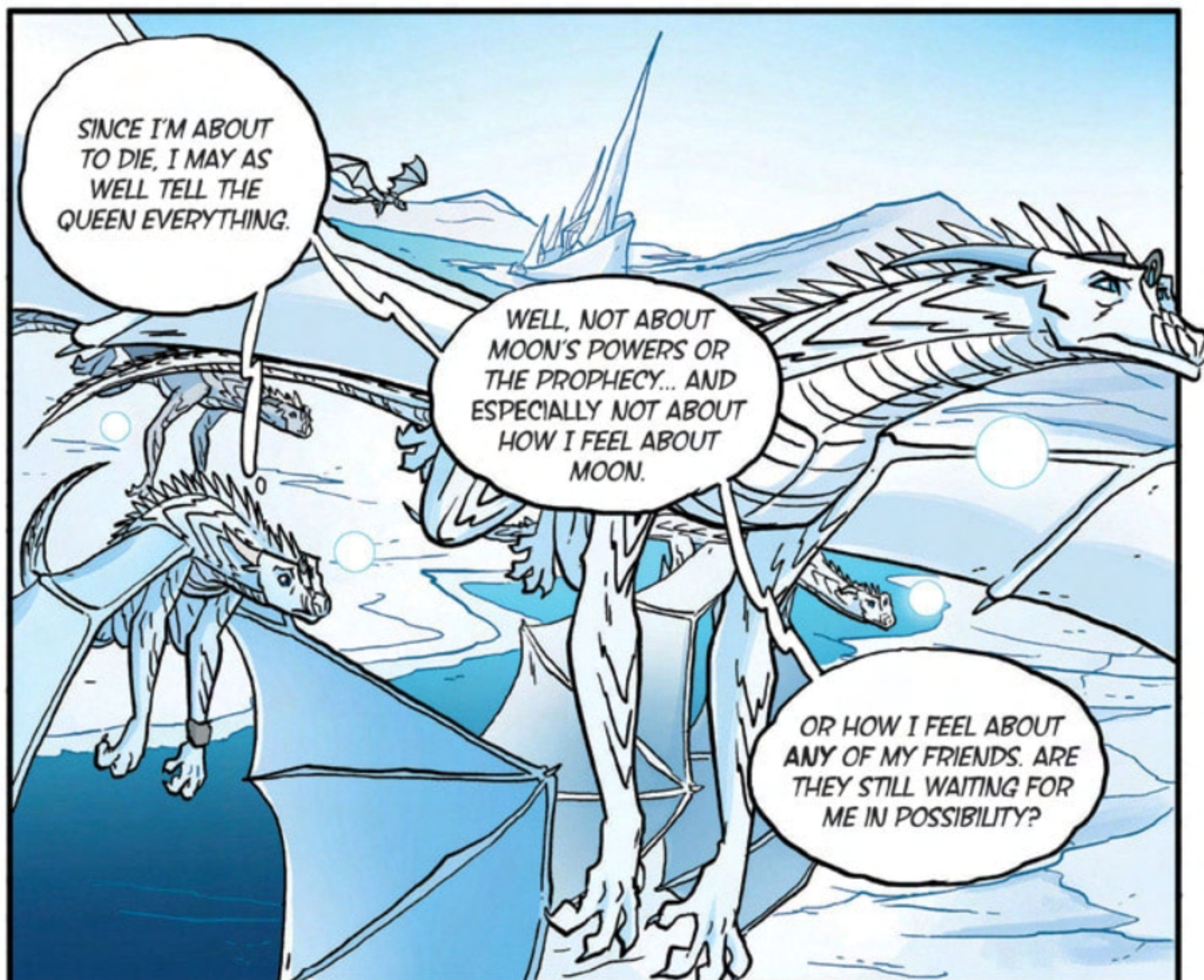
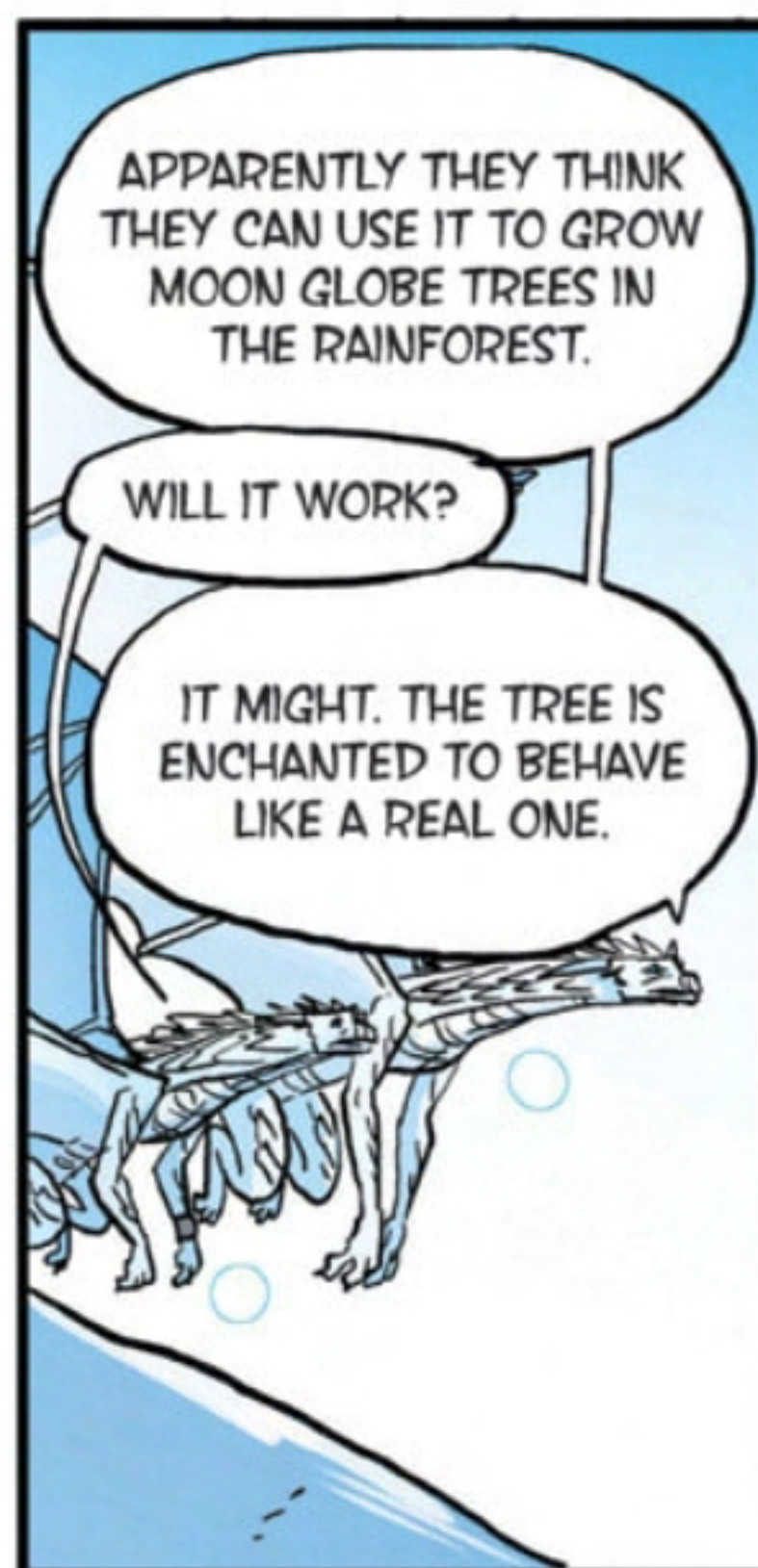
PRINCE WINTER, YOU'VE SERVED  
THE TRIBE WELL, RETURNING  
PRINCE HAILSTORM TO US. I WISH  
YOU LUCK IN THE TRIAL.

THANK YOU,  
YOUR MAJESTY.

FLY ALONGSIDE ME ON  
THE WAY TO THE CAVES.  
I'VE HEARD YOUR SISTER'S  
VERSION OF EVENTS, AND  
NOW I WISH TO HEAR YOUR  
PERSPECTIVE ON EVERYTHING  
THAT'S HAPPENED SINCE YOU  
LEFT JADE MOUNTAIN.

YES, YOUR  
MAJESTY.









WAIT. THERE WAS AN ICEWING WITH THE TALONS OF PEACE?

I DON'T RECALL ANY ICEWING NAMED "CIRRUS" LEAVING US.

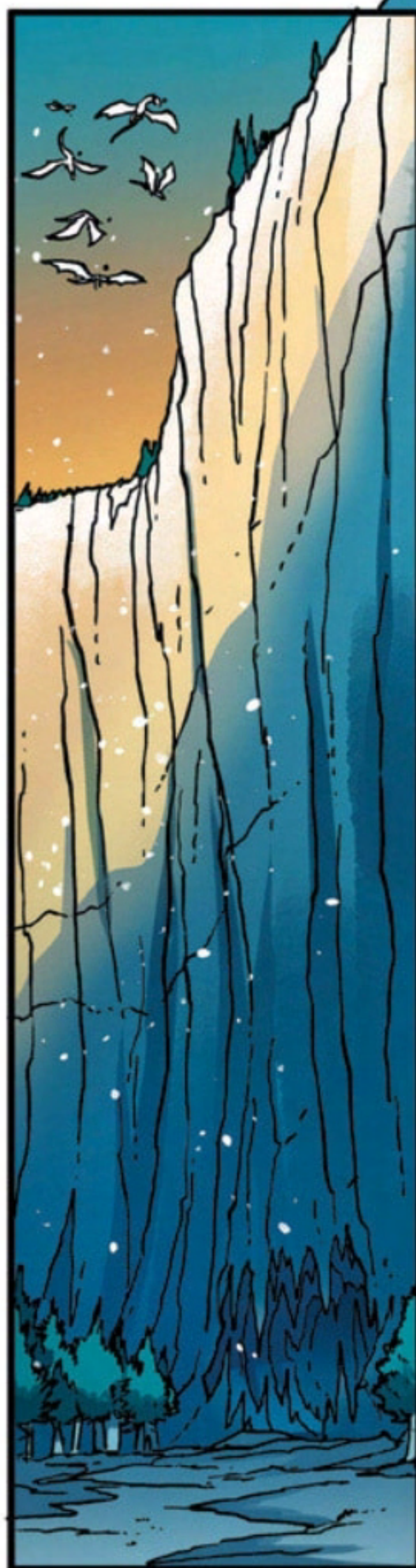
HIS NAME WAS CIRRUS. HE WAS... CONFUSING.

PERHAPS HE'S FROM THE LOWER CLASSES, AND THAT'S WHY I DON'T KNOW HIM.

HMM.

HE ACTED LIKE AN ARISTOCRAT. HE IMPLIED HE KNEW MY PARENTS, BUT I THINK HE WAS LYING.





PRINCES WINTER AND  
HAILSTORM, YOUR TASK  
IS SIMPLE.

ENTER THE DIAMOND CAVES  
AND SEARCH UNTIL YOU  
FIND THE FROZEN DRAGON  
BY THE RIVER CHASM.



TOUCH ONE OF  
THESE SPEARS  
TO HER.

WHOEVER RETURNS  
SHALL TAKE FIRST  
PLACE IN THE RANKINGS.  
THE OTHER... WE BID  
FAREWELL.





REMEMBER, BE STRONG.  
BE VIGILANT. STRIKE FIRST.

RESTORE OUR  
FAMILY'S RANK.

WHICHEVER OF YOU DOES  
NOT RETURN, I KNOW YOU WILL  
ACCEPT DEFEAT WITH HONOR.



SOUNDS GREAT. ALWAYS  
WANTED SOME DEFEAT  
WITH A SIDE OF HONOR.



WHEN I SAID  
GOOD-BYE TO  
MOON, WAS IT  
REALLY  
FOREVER?

IS THIS THE LAST  
TIME I'LL SEE THE  
SKY? MY QUEEN?  
MY PARENTS?

I SHOULD HAVE  
SOMETHING TO SAY TO  
THEM. THEY'RE MY MOTHER  
AND FATHER.



...BUT I DON'T.



A dragon is shown flying through a dark, winding cave. The cave's walls and floor are highlighted with a blue glow, creating a path for the dragon. The dragon is depicted in a dynamic, flying pose, with its wings spread. The overall atmosphere is mysterious and adventurous.

SHOULD I TAKE A  
DIFFERENT PATH THAN  
HAILSTORM?

BUT THEN I WOULDN'T KNOW IF  
HAILSTORM COMPLETES THE TASK.  
BETTER TO STICK TOGETHER AND  
KNOW FOR SURE.

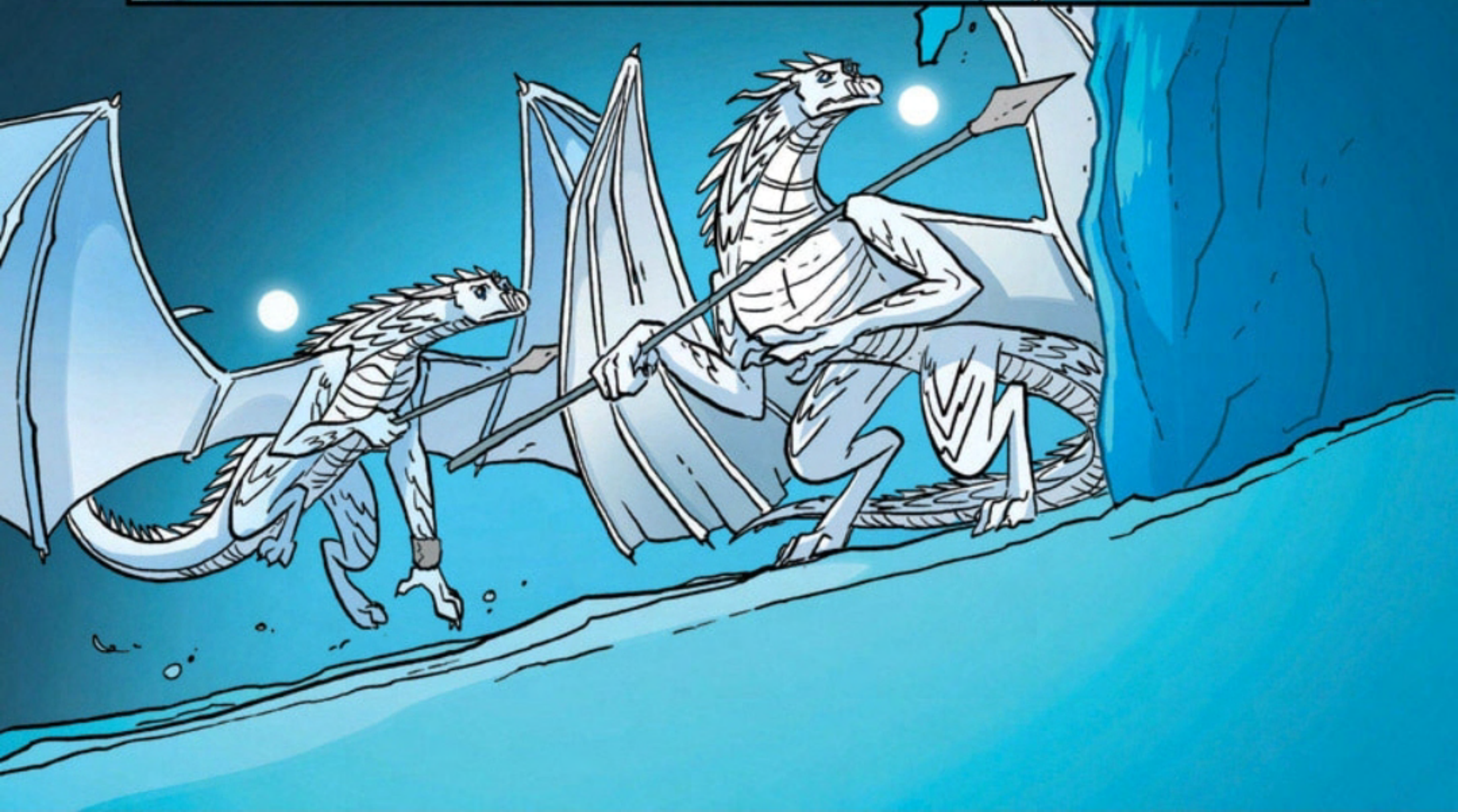
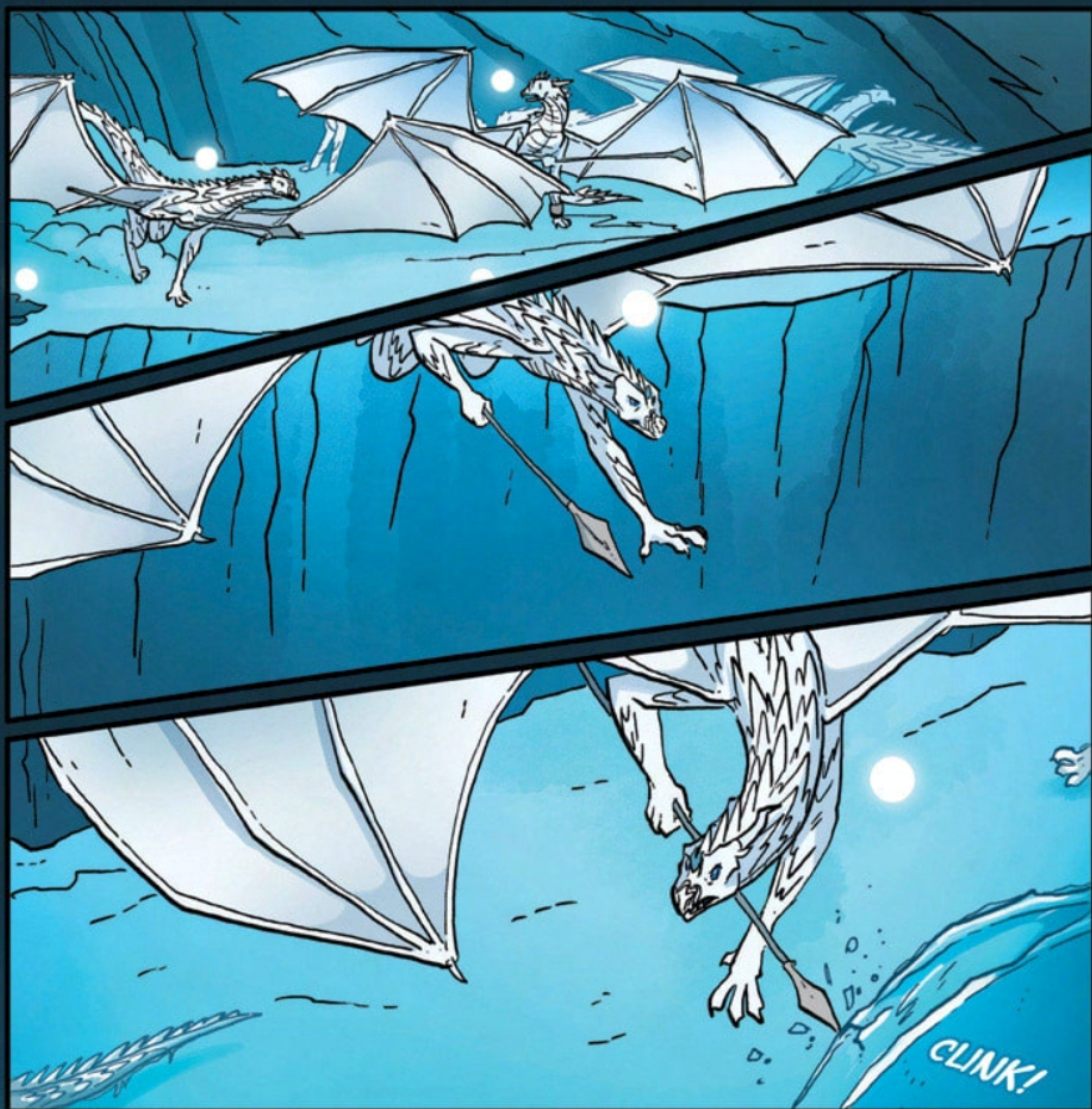




FROZEN DRAGONS!  
THERE MUST BE A  
HUNDRED OF THEM.

BUT WHICH ONE IS THE  
FROZEN DRAGON? WHICH  
ONE ARE WE SUPPOSED TO  
TOUCH WITH THE SPEAR?



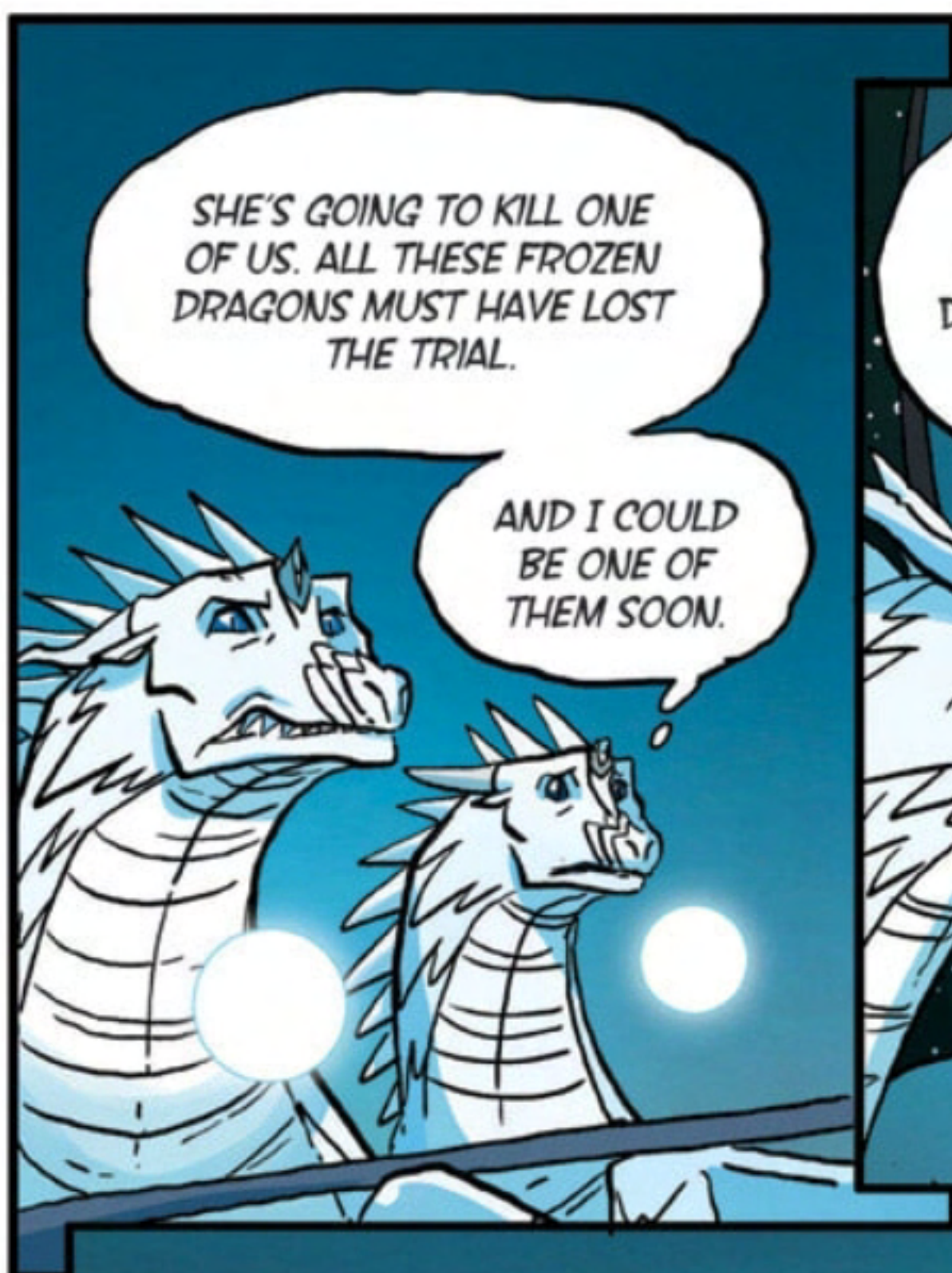




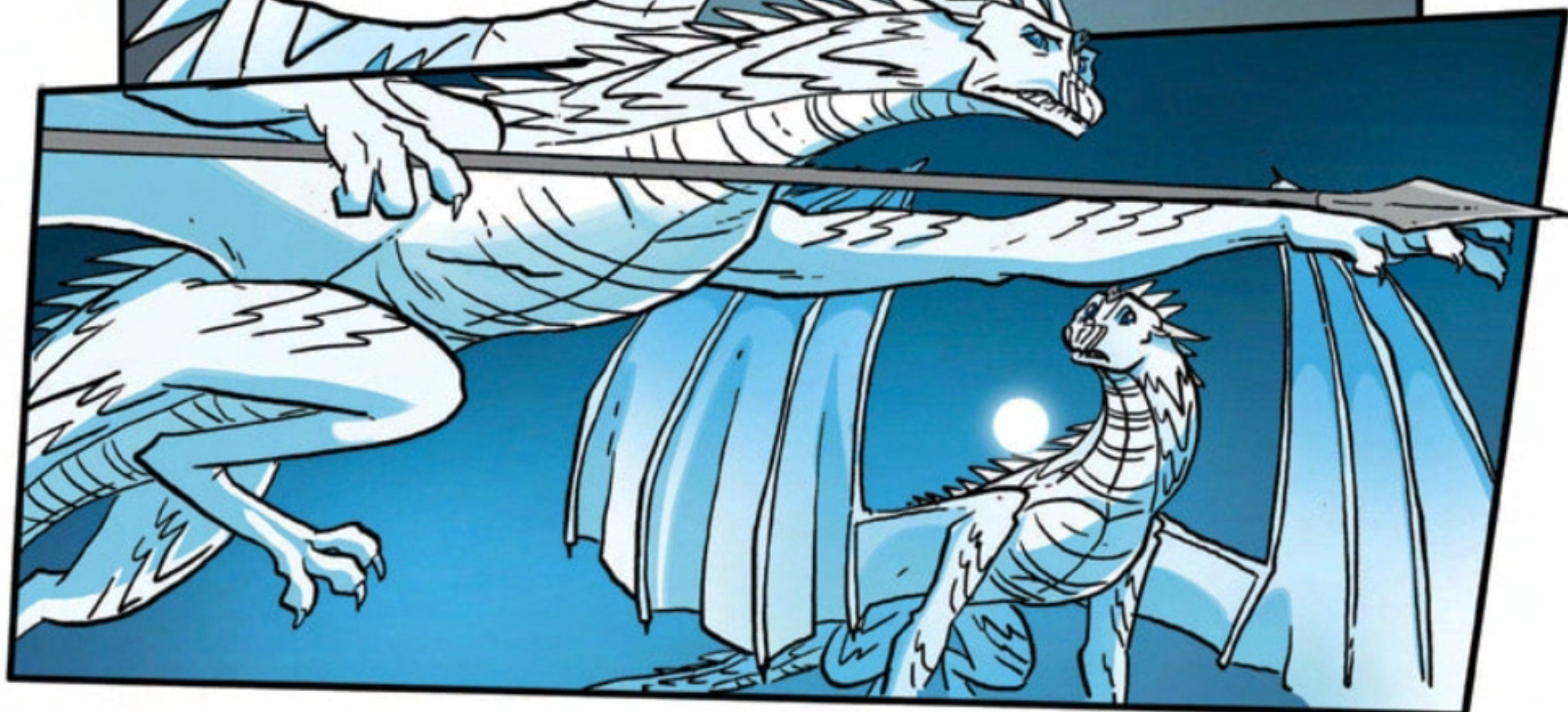
CRACK



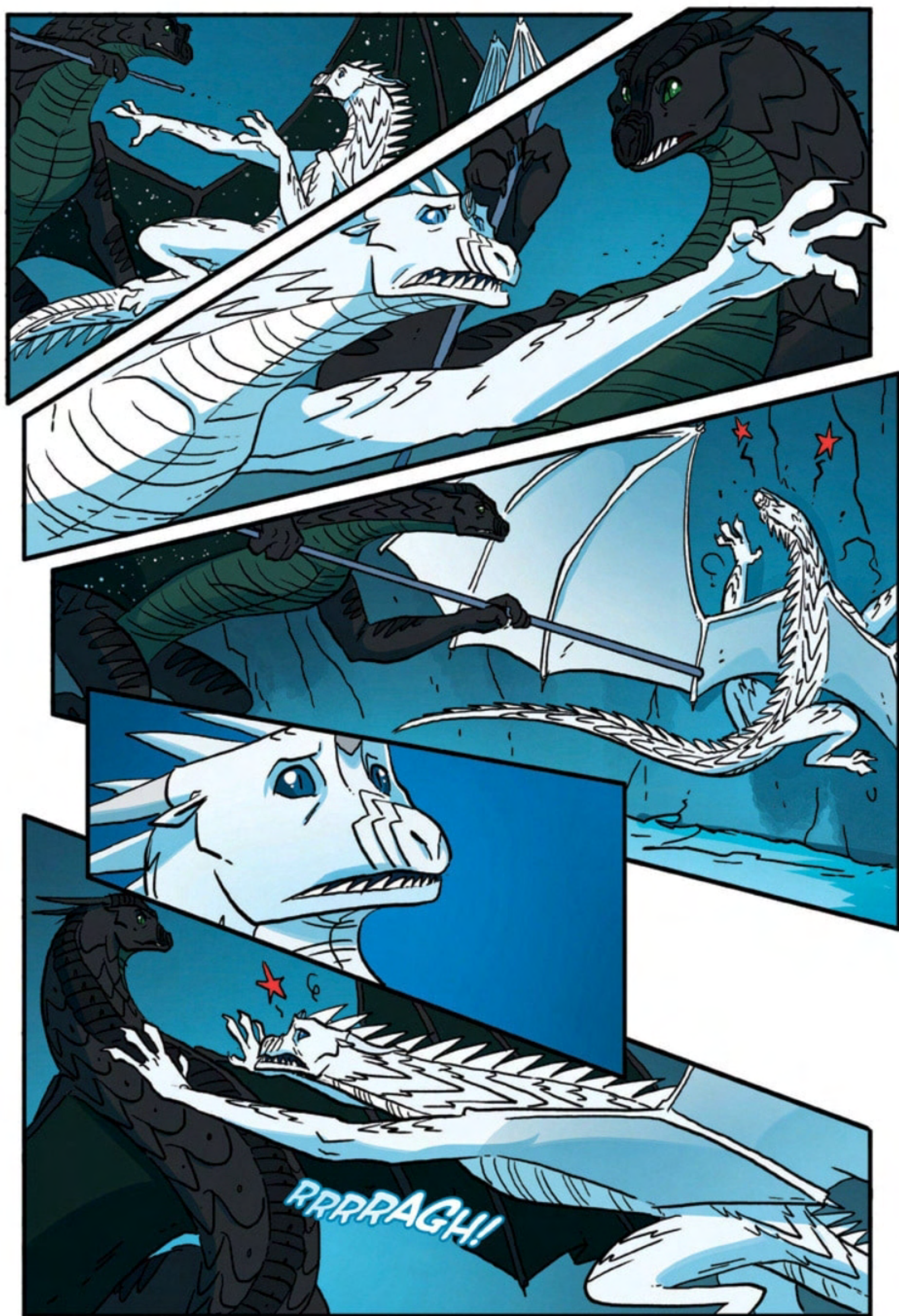












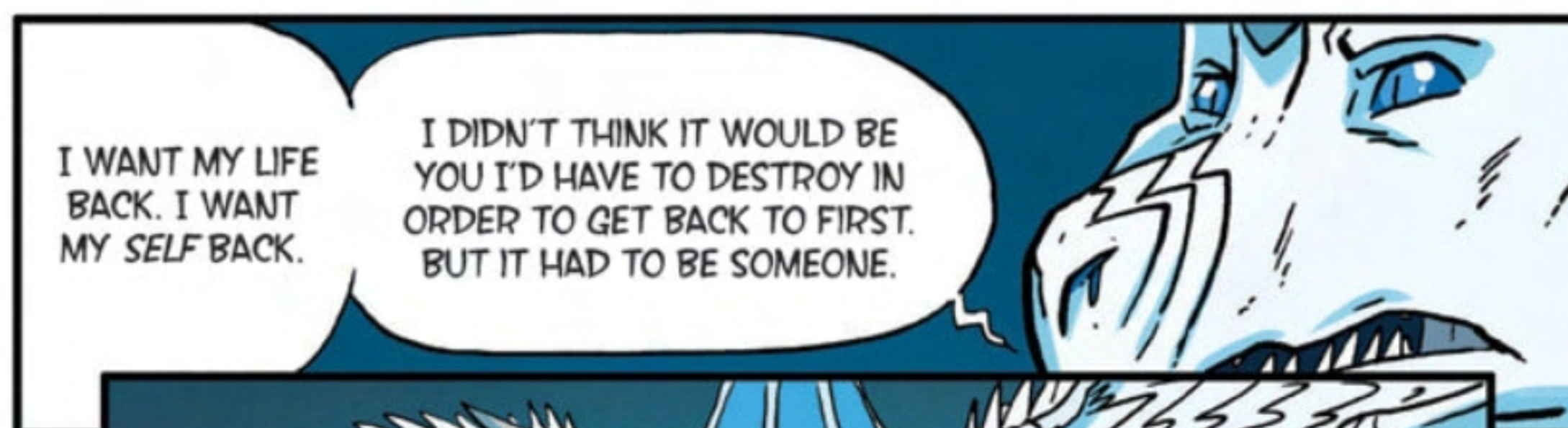
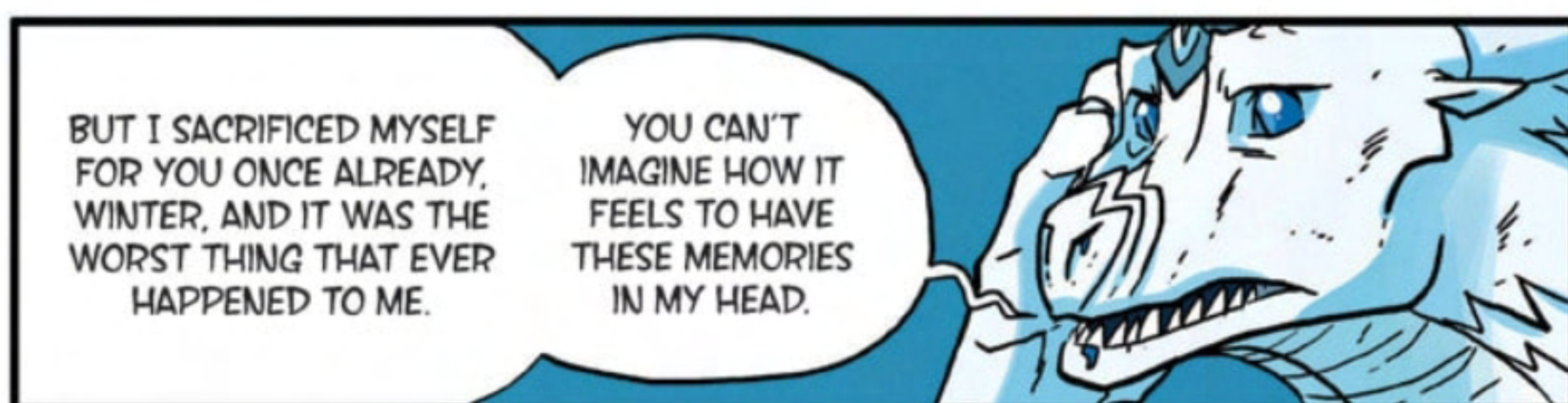
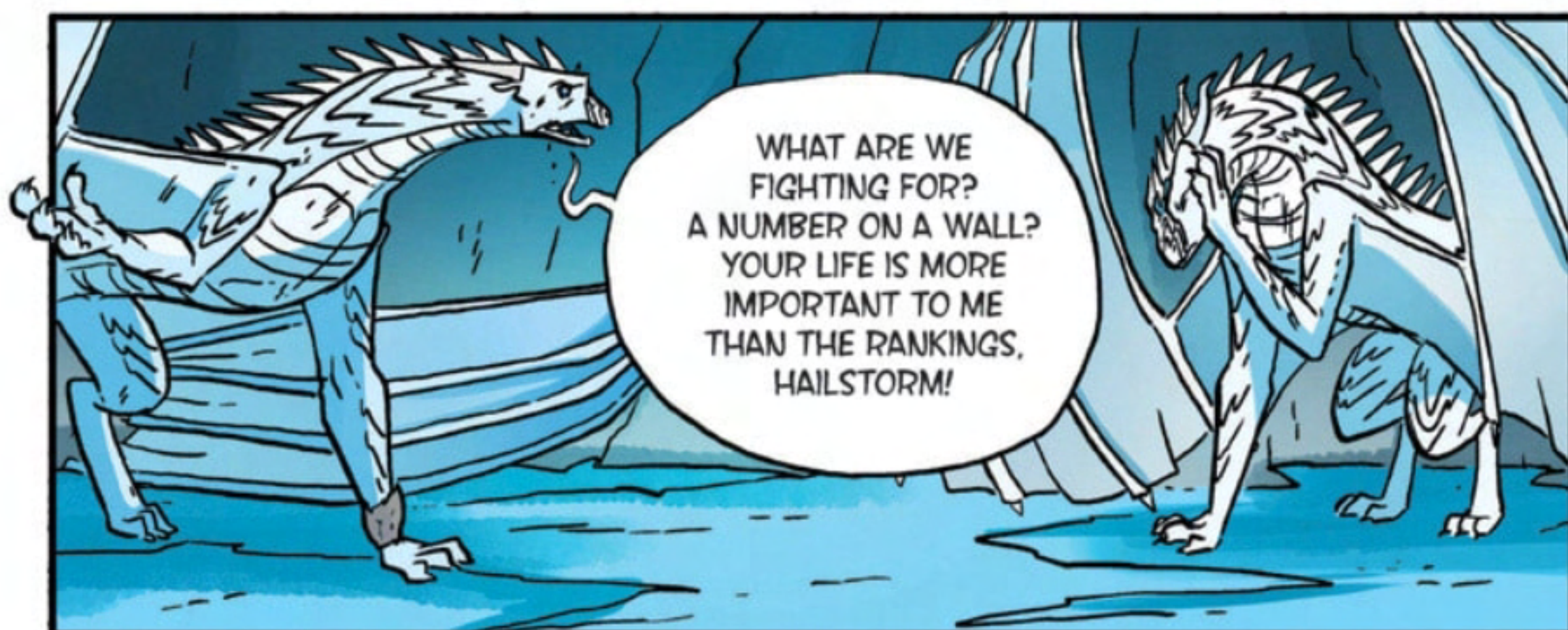


















SO YOU JUST...  
GET MURDERED OVER AND  
OVER AGAIN?

HERE'S SOME ADVICE—  
NEVER MAKE AN ANIMUS  
ANGRY.



THEN HOW DID THESE  
OTHER DRAGONS GET  
FROZEN? MAYBE THAT'S  
PART OF THE SPELL.  
ONE KILLS FOESLAYER, THEN  
THE OTHER ONE FREEZES.

THAT SEEMS MORE  
COMPLICATED THAN THE  
USUAL ANIMUS SPELL.



YOU DO IT, WINTER.  
YOU KILL HER.

HAILSTORM, I WON'T  
BE RESPONSIBLE  
FOR YOUR DEATH A  
SECOND TIME.  
IT'S MY TURN.



AND LET'S FACE IT,  
HAILSTORM: THIS  
IS WHAT MOTHER  
AND FATHER WOULD  
WANT.



JUST BE A GREAT  
ICEWING. HELP  
KEEP THE TRIBES  
AT PEACE. THAT'S  
WHAT I WOULD  
WANT.



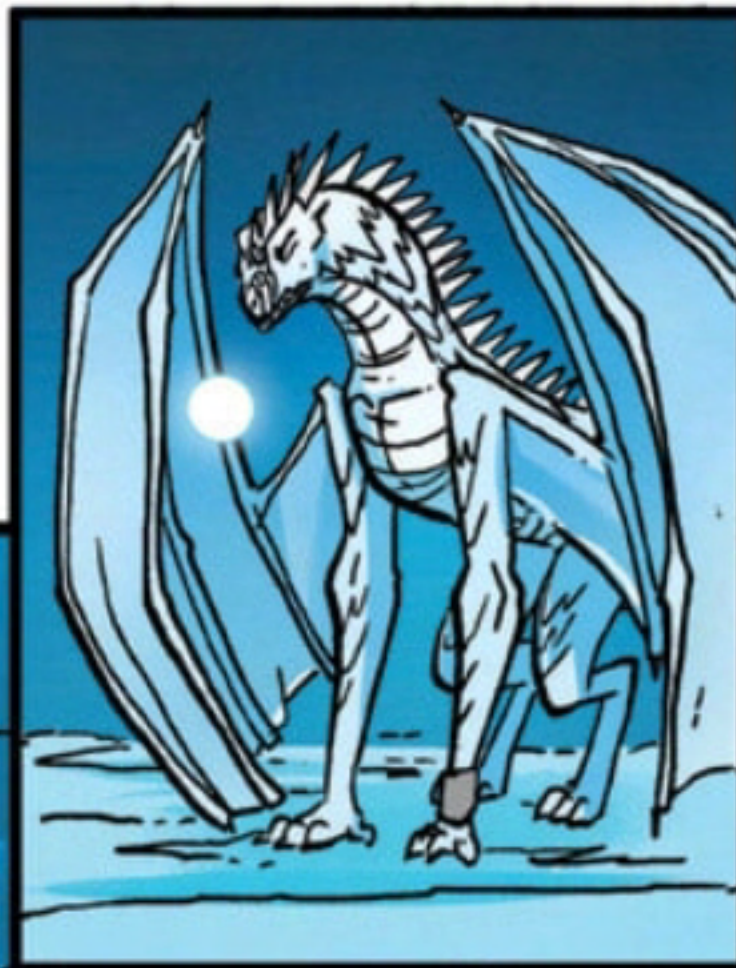
DO IT. I'M READY.

ME TOO. AS FAST  
AND CLEAN AS YOU CAN,  
PLEASE.









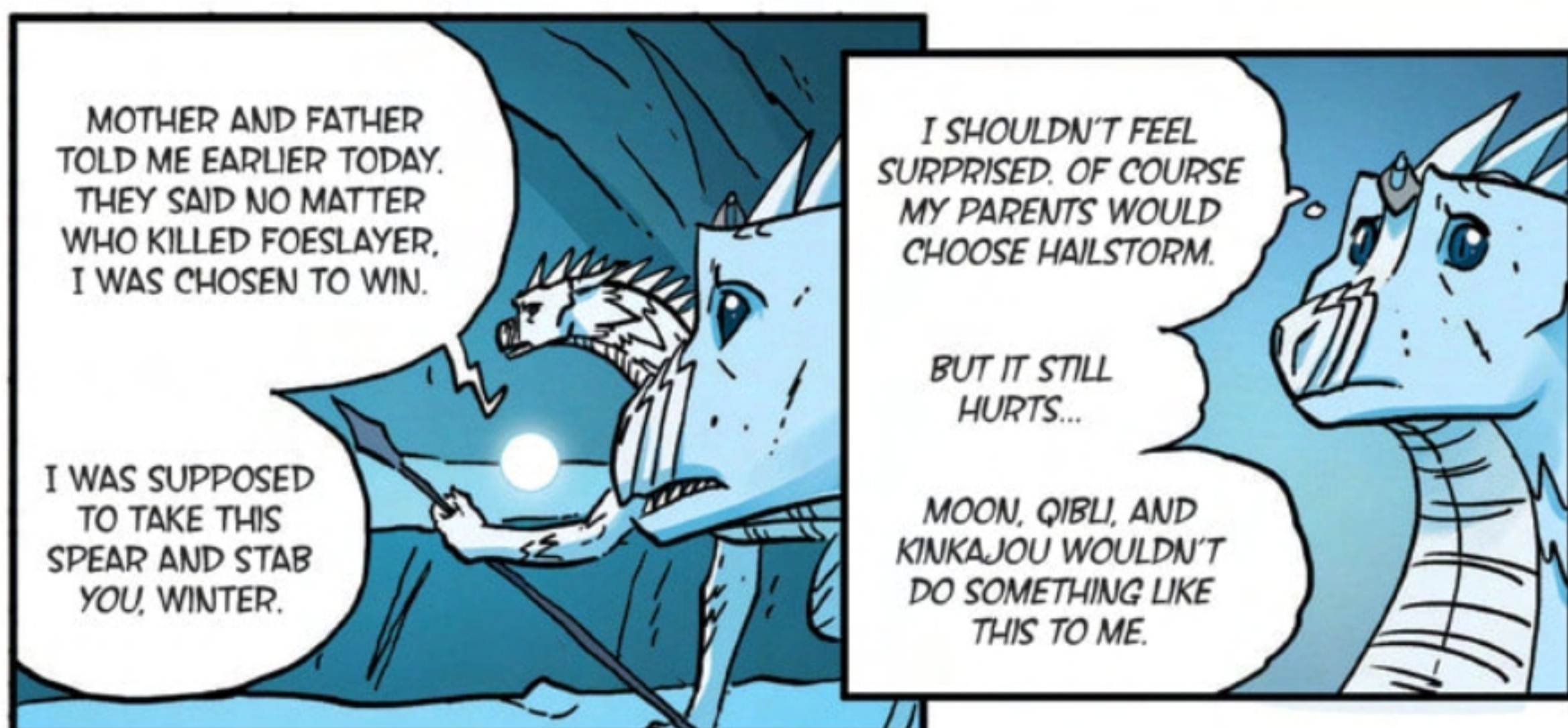
THAT'S BECAUSE IT'S NOT PART OF THE ORIGINAL ENCHANTMENT. QUEEN DIAMOND'S SPELL DIDN'T FREEZE THESE DRAGONS.

BEING STABBED BY THESE SPEARS FREEZES DRAGONS.

THAT'S WHAT... THAT'S WHAT I'M SUPPOSED TO DO TO YOU.











IF WE CAN'T KILL EACH OTHER, MAYBE WE LEAVE IT LIKE THIS. HAILSTORM, YOU GO CLAIM VICTORY, AND I'LL SNEAK OUT LATER. WE BOTH LIVE.

AS SOON AS YOU GET HOME, THEY'LL THROW US BOTH INTO LAST PLACE.



I WON'T GO HOME.

I'LL—I'LL STAY AWAY FROM THE ICE KINGDOM.

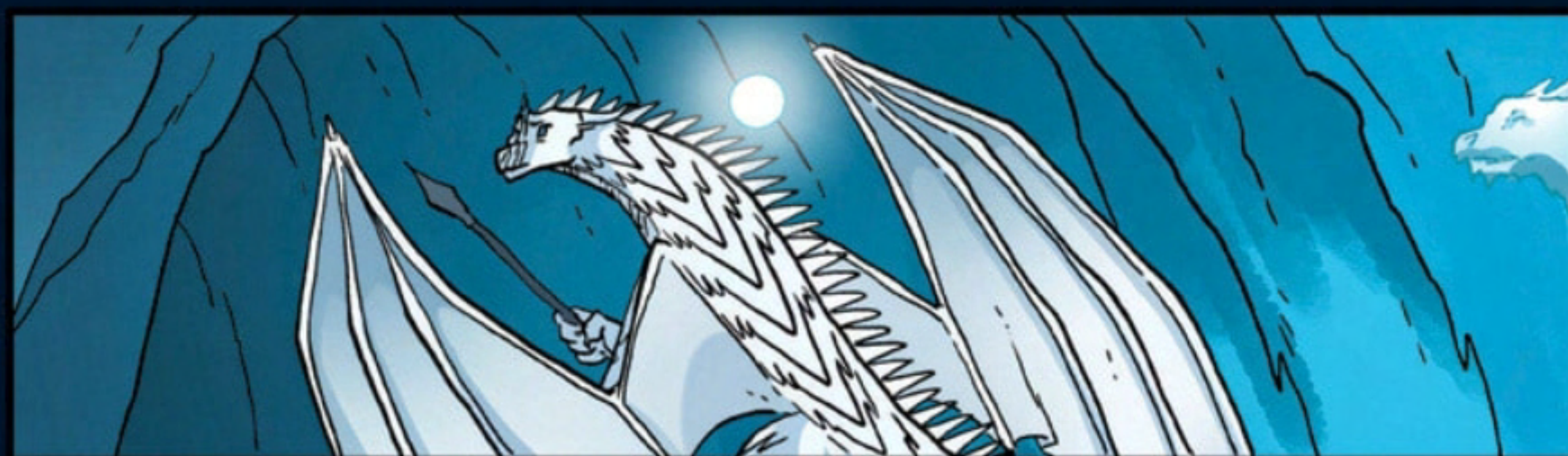
IT DOESN'T SOUND POSSIBLE—LEAVING MY WHOLE LIFE BEHIND?

BUT I'VE SEEN THE WORLD BEYOND THE ICE KINGDOM. IT'S NOT THAT TERRIBLE.

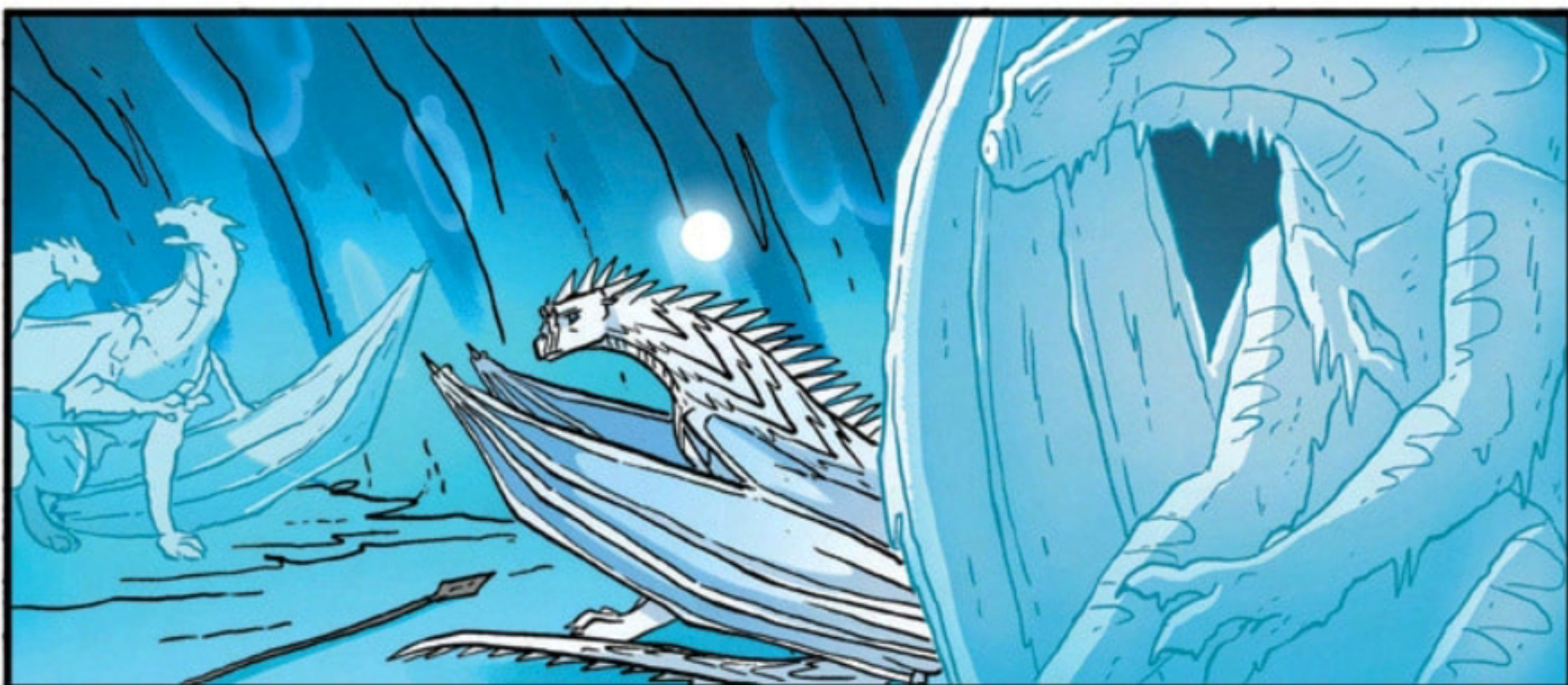
BECAUSE HAPPINESS ISN'T WHERE I AM... IT'S WHO I'M WITH.

AND I KNOW WHO I WANT TO BE WITH.













I'VE NEVER BEEN BROUGHT BACK BY THE SAME DRAGONET BEFORE.

LISTEN, FOESLAYER. I DON'T KNOW IF YOU REALIZE HOW MUCH YOU STOLE FROM US WHEN YOU TOOK OUR ANIMUS MAGIC.



BUT THIS IMPRISONMENT FOR CENTURIES, KEEPING YOU ALIVE ONLY TO DIE OVER AND OVER AGAIN. I FEEL LIKE...

LIKE PERHAPS YOU'VE BEEN PUNISHED MORE THAN ENOUGH.



I DIDN'T STEAL HIM.



I DIDN'T STEAL HIM. I FELL IN LOVE WITH HIM.

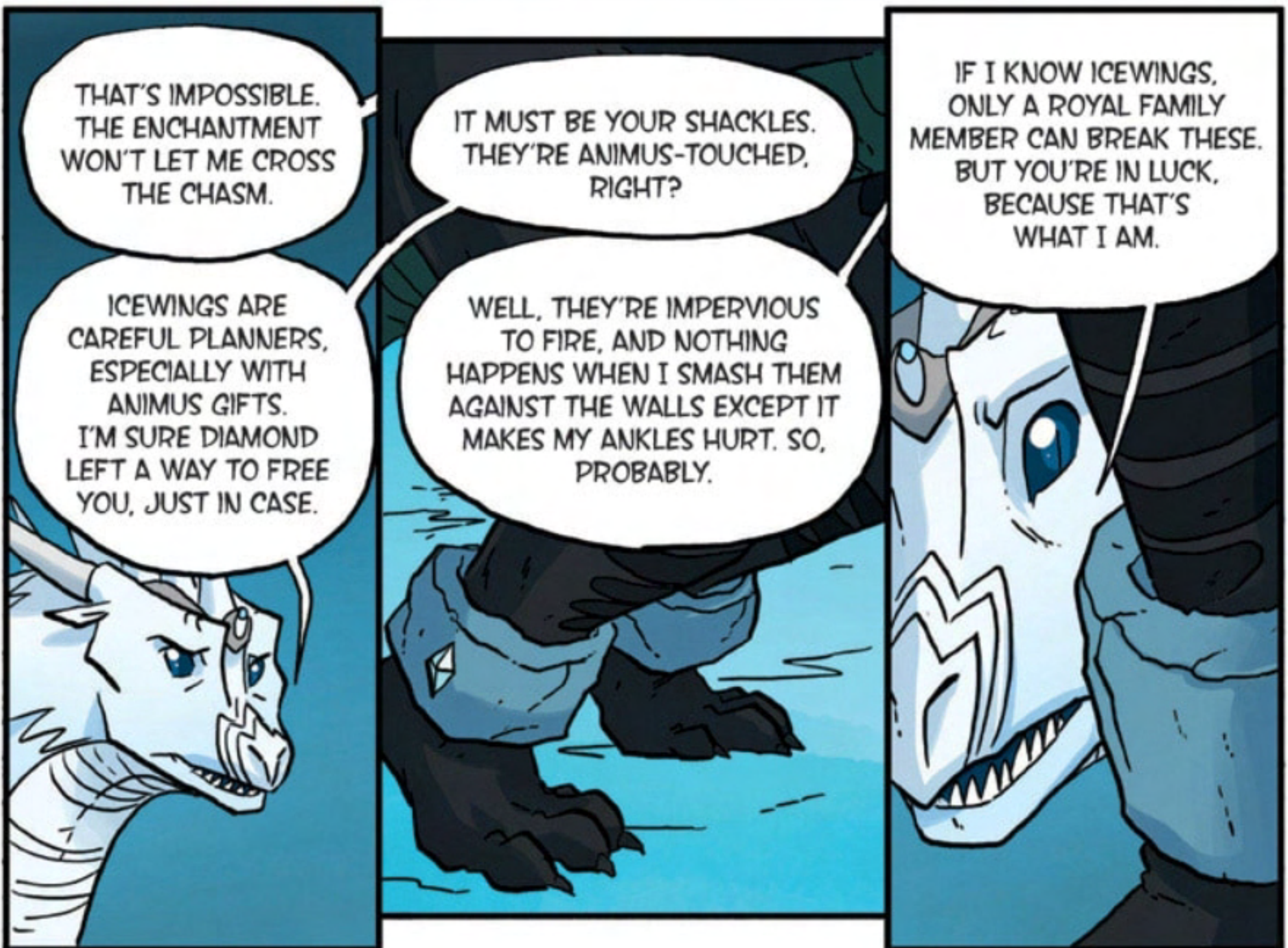
AND HE LOVED ME, TOO.

WE DIDN'T MEAN TO RUIN EVERYTHING. OR START A TERRIBLE WAR, OR MAKE TWO TRIBES ETERNAL ENEMIES.

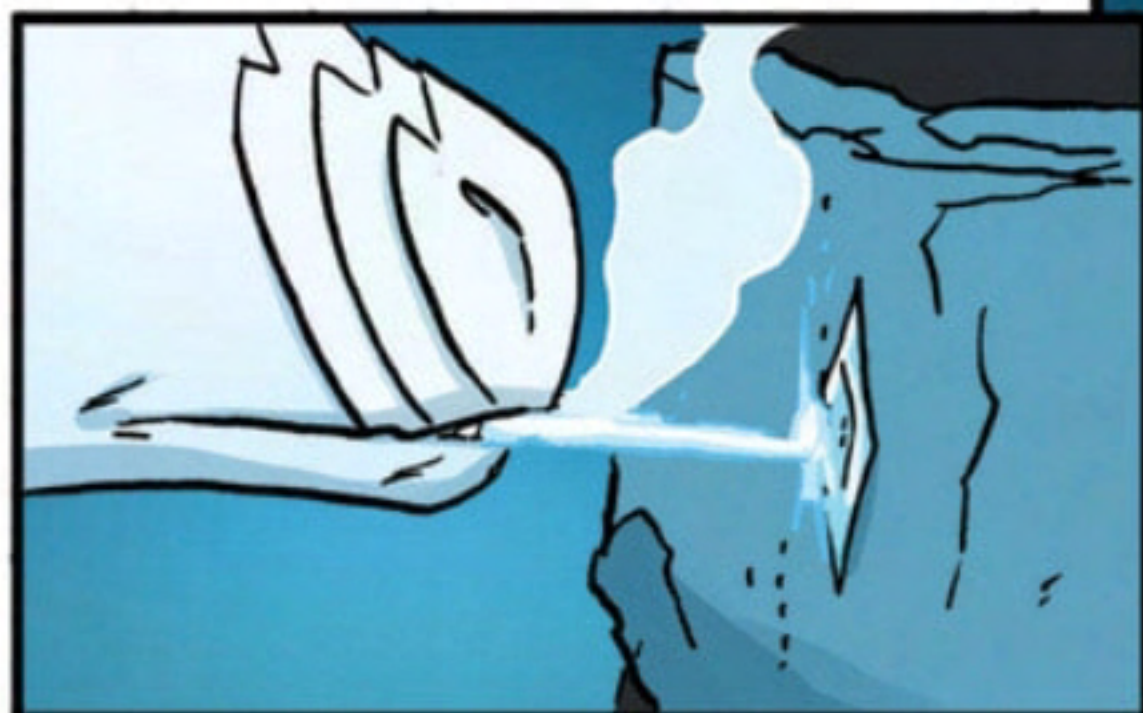


WE JUST WANTED TO BE TOGETHER.














THIS IS MY  
FUTURE NOW.

NOT A PRINCE AMONG  
ICEWINGS, NOT QUEEN  
GLACIER'S NEPHEW, NOT  
A WARRIOR STRUGGLING  
THROUGH THE RANKINGS.

A DRAGON WHO HAS  
FRIENDS FROM OTHER TRIBES.  
AND I'M GOING TO SAVE JADE  
MOUNTAIN WITH THEM.

MOON, QIBLI,  
KINKAJOU...  
I'M COMING. WAIT FOR  
ME. I'LL BE THERE  
SOON.



## EPILOGUE: DARKSTALKER

TWENTY-SIX  
DRAGONETS REMAIN  
OF THE THIRTY-FIVE  
WHO STARTED AT JADE  
MOUNTAIN ACADEMY.

I AM ALONE  
AND BURIED IN ROCK.  
WHAT ELSE CAN I DO  
BUT LISTEN TO THEIR  
MINDS?

AND THEIR  
MINDS ARE FULL  
OF SECRETS.

LIKE THIS NIGHTWING  
WHO JUST RECEIVED  
A LETTER FROM OLD  
FRIENDS.

IS IT TRUE?  
HAVE THEY ESCAPED  
THORN'S PRISON?

ARE THEY  
REALLY COMING  
BACK SOON WITH  
AN ARMY?

WILL MOTHER  
JOIN THEM? WOULD I  
WANT HER TO?

OR ARE THINGS  
BETTER AS THEY ARE,  
EVEN RULED BY A  
RAINWING?

I'LL HAVE TO  
CHOOSE, PROBABLY  
SOONER THAN LATER...

...BUT I HAVE NO IDEA  
WHAT THE RIGHT  
DECISION IS.

I KNOW.

ONE OPTION  
LEADS HIM TO A LONG,  
SAFE LIFE. THE OTHER  
TO DEATH WITHIN  
THE YEAR.

I ALSO KNOW  
WHICH PATH WOULD  
BE BETTER FOR  
MY PLANS.

BUT WHICH PATH  
HE'LL TAKE...THAT'S  
STILL UNCERTAIN.



AH, A RARE OPPORTUNITY  
TO HEAR THE THOUGHTS OF  
ONYX, THE MINDSHROUDED  
SANDWING.

COLD, COLD, COLD!  
THREE MOONS, I MISS  
THE DESERT—

ARE YOU LISTENING?  
YOU'D BETTER BE.

WHO IS SHE  
TALKING TO?

THIS PLAN'S INANE.  
I HAVEN'T LEARNED  
ANYTHING. I CAN BARELY GET  
NEAR THE DAUGHTER.

I HAD ANOTHER  
IDEA, BUT THEN THAT  
DRAGONET VANISHED  
FROM SCHOOL. YOU  
HAVE NO IDEA HOW  
FRUSTRATING IT IS.

IT'S LIKE FOUR  
HUNDRED OTHER  
STORIES ARE GOING  
ON HERE. NOBODY'S  
NOTICED I'M THE  
ONE WHO'S GOING TO  
SHAPE THE FUTURE  
OF PYRRHIA.

THERE'S ONE MORE—  
THE DRAGONET OF ONE  
OF THORN'S GENERALS.  
BUT IF IT'S TOO  
ANNOYING, I'M COMING  
BACK TO THE  
SCORPION DEN.

I'LL BE QUEEN  
WHETHER THAT OLD  
DRAGON HELPS OR  
I HAVE TO KILL HIM  
AND DO IT MYSELF.

INTERESTING.  
I WISH I COULD TELL  
MOONWATCHER.

COME BACK SOON,  
LITTLE MOONWATCHER.  
BRING ME MY TALISMAN,  
AND COME BACK SOON.



HM. FATHOM'S  
GREAT-GREAT-GREAT-  
GREAT-GREAT-GREAT-  
GREAT-GREAT-GREAT-  
GREAT-GRANDDAUGHTER,  
THE SEAWING  
PRINCESS.

VERY IMPRESSIVE,  
PRINCESS! SUCH GRACE!

ANYBODY CAN  
DO THAT.

NOT WHEN  
YOU'RE TIED TO  
YOUR MOTHER.

I'VE NEVER FLOWN  
AS FAST AS I WANTED  
OR SOARED AS HIGH AS I  
COULD. NOW I CAN  
DO ANYTHING.

STOP BEING A MOPE,  
TURTLE. SO YOUR  
WINGLET IS GONE.  
YOU'VE STILL GOT US.

UNLESS MOTHER TRIES  
TO TAKE ME HOME. BUT I  
WON'T LET HER.

I WON'T.


I MIGHT BE THE  
MOST POWERFUL  
DRAGON IN THE  
WORLD.

IF MOTHER DIDN'T  
LEARN THAT FROM WHAT  
I DID TO WHIRLPOOL,  
I'LL TEACH HER SOME  
OTHER WAY.

THE SPELL ON AUKLET'S  
HARNESS SHOULD KEEP  
HER AWAY FROM ME,  
THOUGH.

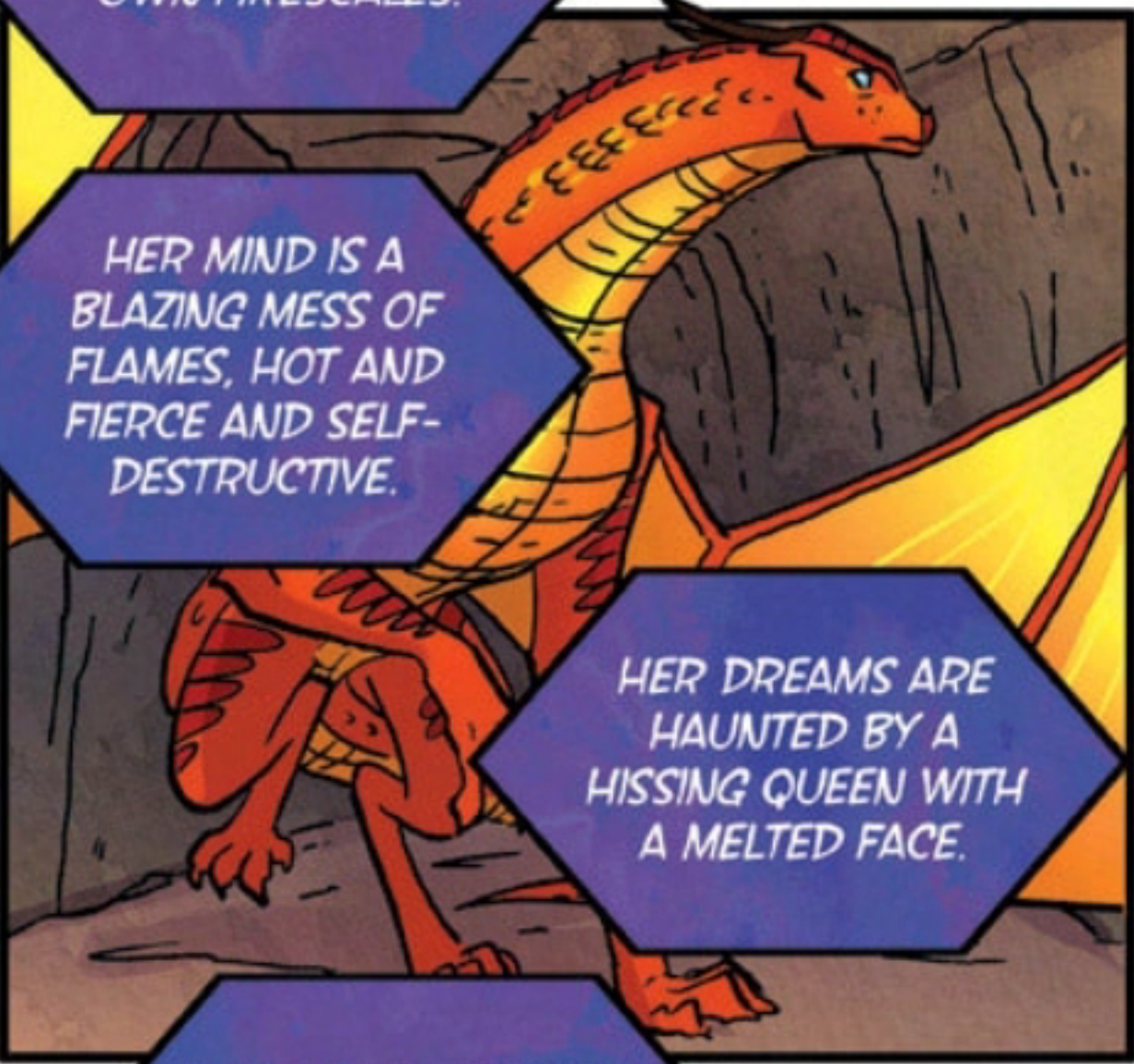
IF IT DOESN'T, I'LL  
COME UP WITH  
SOMETHING STRONGER.





NOW THIS IS THE  
MOST INTERESTING  
MIND IN THE  
SCHOOL.


POOR DRAGON,  
PACING IN AN EMPTY  
CAVE, AFRAID OF HER  
OWN FIRESCALES.



HER MIND IS A  
BLAZING MESS OF  
FLAMES, HOT AND  
FIERCE AND SELF-  
DESTRUCTIVE.


HER DREAMS ARE  
HAUNTED BY A  
HISSING QUEEN WITH  
A MELTED FACE.

HER HEART IS GIVEN,  
ENTIRELY AND  
FOREVER, TO THE  
ONLY DRAGON SHE  
CAN'T HURT.



IS SHE "THE  
TALONS OF POWER  
AND FIRE"?

THE PATHS AHEAD  
OF HER ARE ALL  
CONFUSION, LIKE TRYING  
TO FOLLOW A MAP INTO  
A FOREST FIRE.



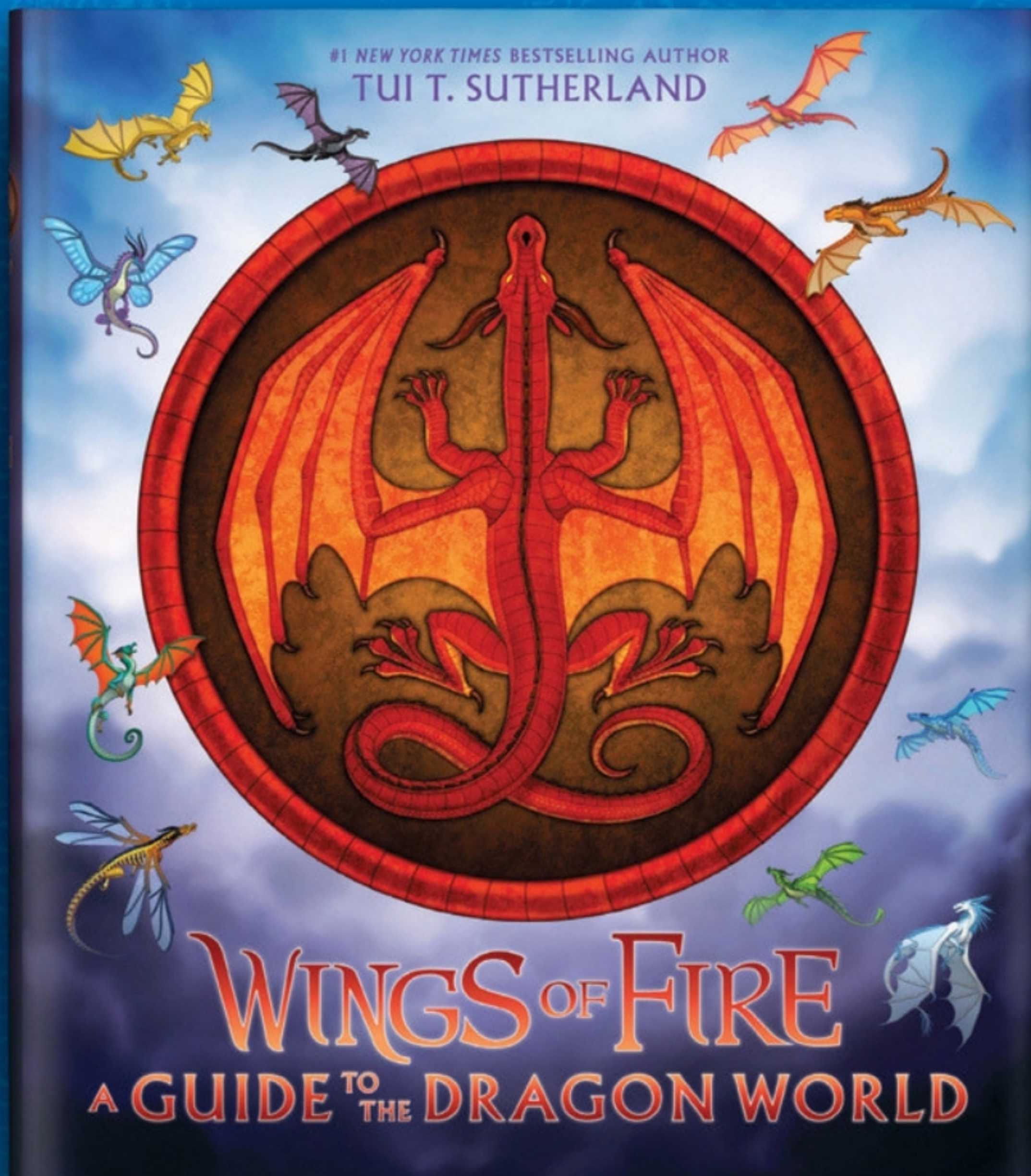
BUT THERE'S  
SOMETHING FLICKERING  
THROUGH THE SMOKE.  
SOMETHING LIKE HOPE.

SOMETHING  
SHAPED LIKE A  
SCROLL.

THIS DRAGON  
COULD CHANGE  
EVERYTHING.



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TWO CONTINENTS.  
THREE MOONS.



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**TUI T. SUTHERLAND** is the author of the #1 *New York Times* and *USA Today* bestselling Wings of Fire series, the Menagerie trilogy, and the Pet Trouble series, as well as a contributing author to the bestselling Spirit Animals and Seekers series (as part of the Erin Hunter team). In 2009, she was a two-day champion on *Jeopardy!* She lives in Massachusetts with her wonderful husband, two awesome sons, and two very patient dogs. To learn more about Tui's books, visit her online at [www.tuibooks.com](http://www.tuibooks.com).

**BARRY DEUTSCH** is an award-winning cartoonist and the creator of the Hereville series of graphic novels, about yet another troll-fighting 11-year-old Orthodox Jewish girl. He lives in Portland, Oregon, with a variable number of cats and fish.

**MIKE HOLMES** has drawn for the series Secret Coders, Adventure Time, and Bravest Warriors. He created the comic strip True Story, the art project *Mikenesses*, and his work can be seen in *MAD* Magazine. He lives in Philadelphia with his wife Meredith and son Oscar, along with Heidi the dog and Ella the cat.

**MAARTA LAIHO** spends her days and nights as a comic colorist, where her work includes the comics series Lumberjanes, Adventure Time, and The Mighty Zodiac. When she's not doing that, she can be found hoarding houseplants and talking to her cat. She lives in the woods of Maine.