

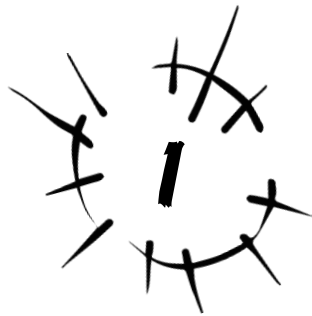
DRAGON LEAGUE

CAVE of LEGENDS

SCOTT CHARLES

Illustrations by Florian Garbay

 **YELLOW
MORNING
PRESS**



THE AIR SHOOK! THE CLOUDS RUMBLED!

Two of the fiercest dragons in Qigong City were locked in aerial combat.

They were battle dragons, of course, and their practice battle was Twilight Arena's main attraction this evening.

Among the hundreds of spectators was a young dragon with short wings and dusky gray scales. His name was Fennec Swordtail. While other dragons chatted or even yawned, Fennec's silver eyes danced across the arena. He could not look away! A clash between

battle dragons was a rare treat for him and almost unheard of in his hometown of Redvale.

But this is Qigong City, Fennec thought. This is why I left my village to join Battle School!

A purple streak sliced through the air.

"The speedy dragon is Saar, of the Purple Lightning Clan," whispered Xara, one of Fennec's new classmates. "Saar was a hero in the Third Boundary War. But some say Kanak is even tougher!"

The purple streak swung a thundering claw. Veins of crooked lightning raced toward the green dragon, Kanak.

The crowd let out gasps. Lightning engulfed the arena!

Fennec's heart trembled. Such a massive attack would have melted every stone in his row—and him, too—if not for Twilight Arena's protective enchantments.



But what about Kanak?

The green dragon hung limply. Sparks rose from his drooping wings. But just when Fennec assumed the worst, a mysterious gem on Kanak's tail began to glisten.

"Looks like this battle is heating up!" said the announcer's booming voice. "Kanak has triggered his totem!"

The crowd cheered as glowing light spread across Kanak's body. Sparks from Saar's lightning turned to dust while Kanak's scales gleamed with energy. He looked like a brand-new dragon, and he roared triumphantly.

"Wow," Fennec breathed. He had never seen such quick healing power.

Fennec's new classmates were just as amazed. Snotty Yaro inclined his horned head, Devi's sleepy eyes widened, and the twins, Tyros and Tyrac, got so distracted they bit

down on each other's claws instead of their churros.

"Ow!" the twins said together.

Even Xara had to fumble for words.

"And that, folks, is the power of totems!" roared the announcer. "Totems are containers of magic. But not every dragon can earn one! Each summer, the most promising junior dragons from across the Five Provinces flock to Qigong City. They seek to change their fate and bond with an elemental spirit. That bond is called a totem—the first step to magical mastery!"

"A totem!" said Fennec.

"There are all kinds of totems," the announcer explained. "Each grants a unique power. Kanak wields the leaf totem. In times of crisis, his thick scales bloom with energy. But speedy Saar is no pushover. She wields the

might of a summer storm—and she's not finished yet!"

Fresh rumbles shook the arena. Fennec's eyes went as wide as dragon eggs. Who would prove victorious? The streak of purple lightning or the green wall that blotted the sky?

"I can't believe we get to watch this!" Xara said excitedly.

Fennec grinned. He had never agreed so much with a sentence!