

Kestrel's Journey

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Seventh Grade

Originated from Tui T. Sutherland's Wings of Fire: The Dragonet Prophecy

Kestrel was a dragon. A Skywing, to be exact. She was a member of the Talons of Peace, an organization devoted to making sure the Dragonet Prophecy was carried out, so there could be peace in the dragon country of Pyrrhia. Her job was to protect the dragonets that the prophecy spoke of. Two older dragons helped her: Webs the Seawing and Dune the Sandwing. They sat together in their cave contemplating how they would collect the Dragonets of Destiny so they could care for them. It was decided Kestrel should get the Skywing because she knew their territory well. Webs and Dune would take care of the rest.

The dragons took to the night sky, and the three moons lit the way. Kestrel flew to the nest where all Skywing dragonets are hatched. Carefully, Kestrel snuck in, where she found exactly what she was looking for: a glowing egg! Exactly the one she needed. She would have to take it carefully, since it was the egg of the Skywing queen, Scarlet. Ever so delicately, Kestrel prodded the egg with her talon and set it in a pouch she had brought. She turned around and prepared to go back to the cave, but there was a dragon blocking the exit.

“Hello, Scarlet,” Kestrel snarled.

“Don’t play with me, Kestrel!” roared Scarlet. “Return the egg. My dragonet will be king someday, and your prophecy means nothing. The only solution to the war is fighting.”

“You’re wrong! The Talons of Peace will watch over the dragonets and ensure that they fulfill the prophecy.”

“I hate to do this, but I’d rather be without a son than have him waste his life with your organization,” Scarlet declared as she slammed Kestrel against the wall with her tail. Kestrel winced, trying to ignore the pain in her wings. Ripping the pouch open, Scarlet knocked the egg to the ground.

“Scarlet, don’t do this. He’s your son, and your only heir!”

“Haven’t you heard? I had twins! Peril was hatched two nights ago, and she can take over for me. Everything she touches burns, and she will make the most powerful queen Pyrrhia has ever seen.” With that, Scarlet smashed the egg, destroying the only suitable Skywing to fulfill the prophecy.

“No!” Kestrel wailed. Fire erupted from her mouth and onto Scarlet’s wings, leaving them mangled and scarred. Quickly, Kestrel flew away before the queen recovered, her mind racing for a solution.

She could go home or try to find another dragonet of a different species. There was bound to be an Icewing born tonight, but their terrain was too cold and harsh for a Skywing to survive, even if they were only there for a few minutes. There couldn’t be any duplicates in species, it just wasn’t possible. That left her with a Rainwing.

Kestrel flew as quickly as her wings could take her, which wasn’t very fast, thanks to Queen Scarlet.

After over an hour of flying, Kestrel painfully landed in the Rainwing nest. She was overjoyed to find a single glowing egg tucked in the corner. The Rainwings were asleep, and

defenses were low. Kestrel scooped up the egg. She no longer had a pouch, so she tucked the egg under her wing and carefully flew back to the cave. She was about halfway there when the egg started hatching. Frantically searching for a place to land, Kestrel clutched the egg more tightly. If she wasn't on the ground by the time the dragonet emerged, she would return to the cave empty-handed. She finally found a rocky ledge to rest on while the egg hatched. She had just reached it when the egg began to shimmer purple and green. Cracks appeared all over it, and a small light blue snout stuck out. Soon a small dragonet awkwardly crawled out. As soon as it saw Kestrel it turned orange and red, imitating Skywing patterns.

Kestrel chuckled and put the dragonet on her back. The child clung to her tightly as they flew through the night sky. Even though Rainwings weren't part of the prophecy, Kestrel thought that the young dragon could be one of the Dragonets of Destiny. She named her Glory, after an ancient queen who had kept peace in her kingdom for many years. All the way back to the cave Kestrel sang to Glory:

“The dragonets are coming,
They're coming to save the day.
They're coming to fight
For they know what's right,
The dragonets,
Hooray!”