

AUTHOR OF THE BESTSELLING SERIES DRAGONS IN OUR MIDST

BRYAN DAVIS



THE BONES OF MAKAIOS  
PART ONE

REFINING  
FIRES

ORACLES OF FIRE

BOOK FOUR

# PRAISE FOR *THE BONES OF MAKAIIDOS*

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It is fitting for the last book in the Oracles of Fire series to be the best. *The Bones of Makaidos* captured me from the very beginning. Bryan Davis's ability to vividly depict scenes is at its best in the final installment of his bestselling fantasy series. You will not be able to put the book down!

**GRANT MILLER**

Beloved characters, both new and old, grace the pages of this tale and beckon you to enter their world one last time as they fight against the growing darkness around them. The tapestry masterfully woven is finally complete. But is it really the end?

**ANNE K. RILEY**

After reading the rest of the Oracles of Fire and Dragons in our Midst books, I find *The Bones of Makaidos* to be a smashing ending. It's so nice to find not one, but two book series that are so enthralling, adventure-packed, inspiring, and God honoring.

**REBECCA VATH**

I laughed; I cried; I shared with each character's joy and suffering. I could not put this book down, even to go to bed. *The Bones of Makaidos* pulled me in from cover to cover. Bryan Davis has saved the best for last! This book is definitely one you don't want to miss.

**SARAH PRATT**

This book is absolutely amazing. It's thrilling to join in with all of these characters' adventures once again! I can't keep my hands away from the book. It's sad to know that this will be the last one, but it's great anyway! A must-read for sure!

**DANIELLE DIEZ**

Bryan Davis has done it again! I knew Mr. Davis was an excellent author, but I was amazed to find myself double-taking and rereading pages as my jaw dropped. You will be up late into the night reading *The Bones of Makaidos* telling yourself, “just one more chapter” over and over again. Possibly Mr. Davis’s best yet!

**JACOB EGGERT**

*The Bones of Makaidos* is, in my opinion, the best book that Mr. Davis has written yet! The events in this book left me bewildered, and they completely change your outlook on this entire series. It’s a work of art!

**ANNA BJELLA**

*The Bones of Makaidos* is a tale of love, courage, sacrifice, and redemption; a wonderful end to an awesome series. All I can say is: What a ride!

**T. McCARVILLE**

In *The Bones of Makaidos*, action will spike your adrenaline; suspense will urge you to read on; sacrifice and salvation will bring you to tears, and the characters will encourage you to trust in God more than ever before.

**REGAN HICKMAN**

I’ve cried more in this book than the other seven put together—some were tears of sadness, but most have been tears of joy. Each time you read it, it’ll be just as powerful as the first time, if not more. All loose ends will be tied, and when you read the last page, you’ll be left with a sense of peace that’s hard to describe.

**CONNIE WOLTERS**

If you don’t think the Oracles of Fire series can get any better, then think again. This book outdoes the rest! Prophecies are fulfilled, and any questions from the last seven books are answered. *The Bones of Makaidos* is my favorite of Mr. Davis’s books, and I know it will be yours too.

**TAYLOR WARD**

*The Bones of Makaidos* is a fitting end to the best series of books I have ever read! In the ultimate battle of good versus evil, I felt joy at surprise reunions

and sadness over the loss of loved ones. In the end I was left with a happiness that can only come from experiencing God at work in this world of ours.

**RACHEL TETTON**

“I want you to win my heart. I want you to fight for me, sweat for me, bleed for me. . . .” *The Bones of Makaidos* captures the hearts of readers, brings them into the lives of all the characters, and shows that God is always there, and if you have faith, he will reward you.

**KENDRA WILLIAMSON**

In *The Lord of the Rings: The Two Towers*, King Theoden said, “If this is to be our end, then I would have them make such an end, as to be worthy of remembrance.” Mr. Davis has accomplished this and then some.

**HAYLEY COX**

*The Bones of Makaidos* is an epic adventure that brings the wonderful elements of the series together into an ultimate climax. Well done, Mr. Davis!

**KENNY DONOVAN**

*The Bones of Makaidos* is my favorite book. There’s adventure, excitement, and romance all mingled together. At times I feel like all the characters are real, like I’m going right along with them in their adventures. Most of all, these books have strengthened my faith. Thank you, Mr. Davis!

**JENN MORGAN**

Throughout the first seven books, Billy, Bonnie, Walter, Ashley, Sapphira, and Elam have grown closer to each other and stronger in their faith in Elohim. Now, together with the rest of the Oracles of Fire, they face their final battle, the fiercest challenge, preceding the ultimate reward.

**BRYCE McLEMORE**

In this rousing conclusion, Bryan Davis has penned a tale of betrayal and endurance, of faith, hope, and love. Of humor. Of other worlds and of a majestic people in whom the lights of chivalry and honor have not gone out. Indeed, *The Bones of Makaidos* is a masterpiece of Christian literature.

**HOLLI HERDEG**

# DRAGONS IN OUR MIDST STORY WORLD READING ORDER

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## **Dragons in our Midst**

*Raising Dragons*

*The Candlestone*

*Circles of Seven*

*Tears of a Dragon*

## **Oracles of Fire**

*Eye of the Oracle*

*Enoch's Ghost*

*Last of the Nephilim*

*Refining Fires: The Bones of Makaidos, Part 1*

*From the Ashes: The Bones of Makaidos, Part 2*

## **Children of the Bard**

*Song of the Ovulum*

*From the Mouth of Elijah*

*The Seventh Door*

*Omega Dragon*

## **Dragons of Camelot**

*The Sacred Scales*

*The Memory Stone*

# OTHER BOOKS BY BRYAN DAVIS

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## **The Reapers Trilogy**

*Reapers*

*Beyond the Gateway*

*Reaper Reborn*

## **Time Echoes Trilogy**

*Time Echoes*

*Interfinitly*

*Fatal Convergence*

## **Dragons of Starlight**

*Starlighter*

*Warrior*

*Diviner*

*Liberator*

## **Tales of Starlight**

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*Third Starlighter*

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BRYAN DAVIS

THE BONES OF MAKAI DOS  
PART ONE

# REFINING FIRES

ORACLES OF FIRE

BOOK FOUR



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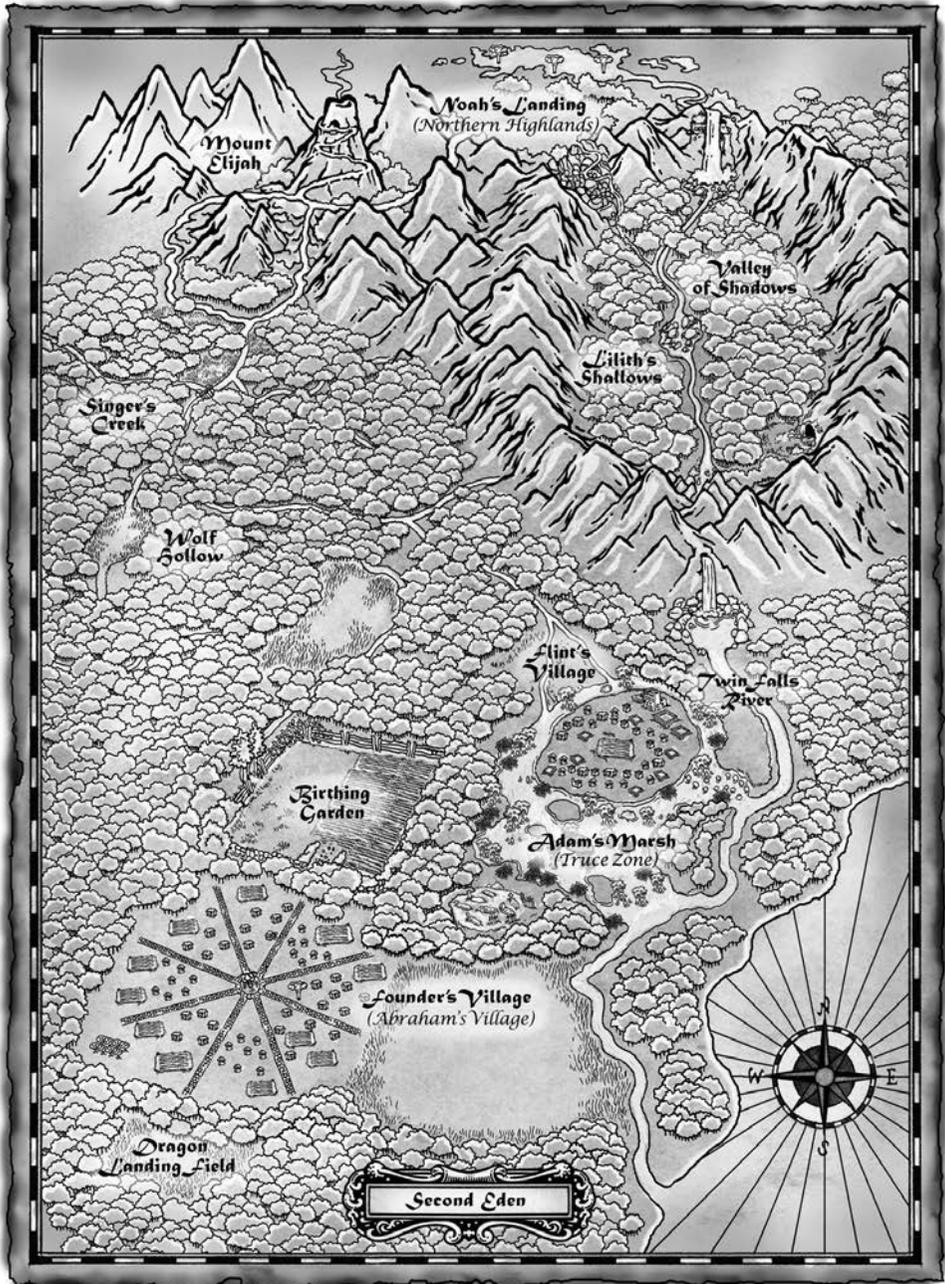
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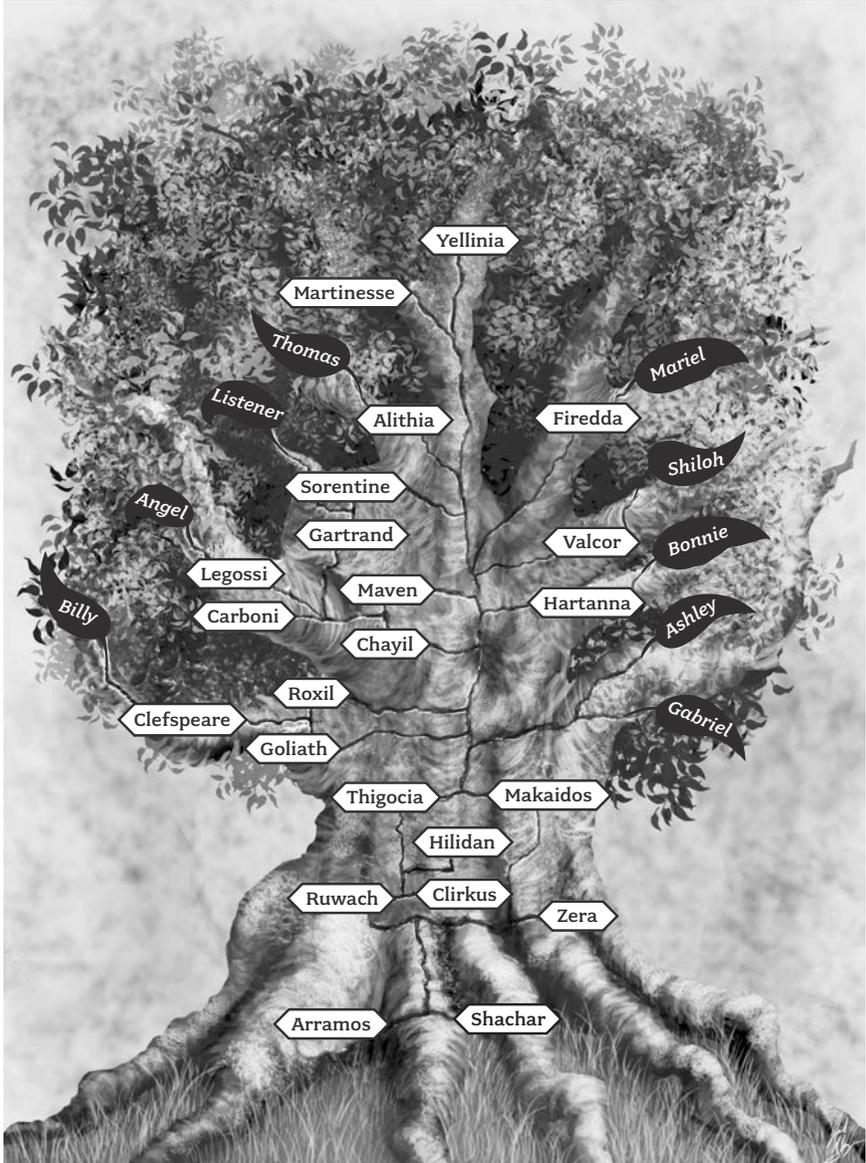
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# DRAGON LINEAGE

*Human offspring are represented on leaves.*



# CAST OF CHARACTERS

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**Abbadon**—a powerful angel of the Abyss who takes the form of a dragon

**Abigail**—the human name of dragon Roxil; previously called Jasmine as a human

**Abraham**—the human name of dragon Arramos; reborn in Second Eden as the Prophet (not to be confused with the physical dragon form of Arramos later possessed by the devil)

**Acacia**—an Oracle of Fire; twin to Mara (Sapphira Adi)

**Adam Lark**—a teenage friend of the Bannisters

**Albatross**—a dragon of Second Eden

**Alithia**—a dragon; as a human goes by the name Kaylee

**Angel**—formerly the wife of Dragon; widowed mother of Candle and Listener

**Arramos**—a dragon; mate of Shachar; father of Makaidos; grandfather of Thigocia; died in the flood but his body is possessed by the devil while his soul was reborn as Abraham, a human in Second Eden

**Ashley Stalworth**—daughter of Timothy and Hannah (Makaidos and Thigocia)

**Billy Bannister**—son of Jared (Clefspeare) and Marilyn

**Bonnie Silver**—daughter of Irene (Hartanna); previously known as Bonnie Conner

**Candle**—son of Dragon and Angel

**Carboni**—a dragon; as a human goes by the name Elise

- Carl Foley**—a friend of the Bannisters; husband of Catherine; father of Walter and Shelly
- Carly Masters**—a friend of Bonnie's
- Catherine Foley**—a friend of the Bannisters; wife of Carl; father of Walter and Shelly
- Charles Hamilton**—a former teacher of Billy, Bonnie, and Walter
- Chazaq**—a giant; Mardon's commander
- Clefspeare**—a dragon; son of Goliath and Roxil; as a human goes by the name Jared
- Cliffside**—a guard of the birthing garden in Second Eden
- Dallas**—the human name of dragon Firedda; mother of Mariel
- Dikaio**—a talking horse
- Dorian**—the human name of dragon Yellinia
- Dr. Whittier**—a man who kidnapped Adam's father; also known as Sir Devin, a dragon slayer
- Dragon**—the husband of Angel; father of Candle and Listener
- Elam**—son of Shem; grandson of Noah
- Elise**—the human name of dragon Carboni
- Ember**—a mare in Second Eden
- Emerald**—a widow in Second Eden
- Enoch**—a prophet
- Firedda**—a dragon; as a human goes by the name Dallas
- Flint**—Abraham's rebel apprentice
- Frank**—a villager
- Gabriel**—son of Timothy and Hannah (Makaidos and Thigocia)
- Gartrand**—a dragon; mate of Sorentine
- Goliath**—a dragon; son of Makaidos and Thigocia; mate of Roxil
- Grackle**—a dragon of Second Eden
- Hartanna**—a dragon; daughter of Makaidos and Thigocia; as a human goes by the name Irene
- Hunter**—a false name for Mardon
- Jackson**—a soldier
- Jared Bannister**—the human name of dragon Clefspeare; husband of Marilyn; father of Billy
- Jordan**—the human name of dragon Martinesse

- Karen**—adopted sister of Ashley; died in battle
- Kaylee Saunders**—the human name of dragon Alithia; mother of Thomas
- King Arthur**—king of Camelot
- King Nimrod**—an ancient king; father of Mardon
- Larry**—Ashley’s supercomputer
- Legossi**—a dragon; as a human goes by the name Rebekah
- Listener**—daughter of Dragon and Angel in Second Eden; birth daughter of Tamara; adopted by Mantika after Dragon’s and Angel’s deaths
- Makaidos**—king of the dragons; son of Arramos and Shachar; mate of Thigocia; as a human goes by the name Timothy
- Mantika**—a lowlander; wife of Greevelow; mother of Windor and adoptive mother of Listener and Candle
- Mara**—an Oracle of Fire; twin to Acacia; later known as Sapphira Adi
- Mardon**—an ancient scientist; son of King Nimrod and Semiramis; master of the Nephilim; disguises himself using the name Hunter
- Mariel**—daughter of Dallas
- Marilyn Bannister**—wife of Jared; mother of Billy
- Martinesse**—a dragon; as a human goes by the name Jordan
- Merlin**—King Arthur’s wisest counselor
- Michael**—an archangel
- Monique Bannister**—adopted daughter of Jared and Marilyn
- Morgan**—a witch; sister of Naamah
- Naamah**—a witch; sister of Morgan
- Nabal**—a cruel giant
- Noah**—a patriarch who built an ark to save humans and animals from the great flood
- Nolan**—a bounty hunter
- Olsen**—a soldier
- Paili**—an underborn; wife of Patrick; sometimes known as Ruth
- Palin**—Sir Devin’s scribe and squire
- Patrick**—the human name of dragon Valcor; husband of Paili
- Pearl**—wife of Steadfast; a medical worker in Second Eden
- Raphah**—a former slave with Elam

- Rebecca**—adopted daughter of Jared and Marilyn
- Rebekah**—the human name of dragon Legossi; mother of Angel
- Roxil**—a dragon; daughter of Makaidos and Thigocia; mate of Goliath; mother of Clefspeare; as a human goes by the name Abigail
- Ruth**—an underborn; wife of Patrick; sometimes known as Paili
- Sapphira Adi**—an Oracle of Fire; twin to Acacia; previously known as Mara
- Semiramis**—mother of Mardon (Hunter)
- Shelly Foley**—daughter of Carl and Catherine; sister of Walter
- Shiloh**—daughter of Patrick (Valcor) and Ruth (Paili)
- Sir Devin**—a knight; a slayer of dragons; also known as Dr. Whittier
- Sir Edmund**—guardian to Bonnie and Irene
- Sir Winston Barlow**—a knight of Camelot
- Sorentine**—a dragon; mate of Gartrand; as a human goes by the name Tamara
- Stacey**—adopted daughter of Jared and Marilyn
- Steadfast**—husband of Pearl; a medical worker in Second Eden
- Stout**—a villager
- Tamara**—the human name of dragon Sorentine; mother of Listener before she was sent to Second Eden
- The Maid**—a fiery teenage girl who lives in the Valley of Souls
- Thigocia**—a dragon; mate of Makaidos; granddaughter of Arramos and Shachar; as a human goes by the name Hannah
- Thomas**—son of Kaylee
- Timothy**—the human name of dragon Makaidos, husband of Hannah; father of Gabriel and Ashley; also called Captain Autarkeia
- Valcor**—a dragon; son of Makaidos and Thigocia; brother of Hartanna; as a human goes by the names Patrick
- Valiant**—a village leader in Second Eden
- Vlad**—a bounty hunter
- Walter Foley**—a friend of Billy's; son of Carl and Catherine; in the line of King Arthur
- Windor**—son of Greevelow and Mantika
- Yellinia**—a dragon; as a human goes by the name Dorian
- Yereq**—a giant; one of the Nephilim

# AN ORACLE'S CALL

*A tender heart that burns with fire,  
A contradicting blend;  
With words of heat, I scald the soul,  
And with my words I mend.*

*An Oracle of Fire born  
To sacrifice and bleed,  
For hungry souls, I spend my life  
To meet their every need.*

*Yet, Oracles of Fire burn;  
They pierce, they scald, they sear  
Corrupted souls in dark abodes  
Who cower there in fear.*

*The light has come! Begone, you shades,  
Who hide in blackest mire!  
I free the captives, loose their chains,  
And give them holy fire.*

*While some will carry vibrant light,  
The fearful drop the torch;  
Courageous souls absorb the fire,  
While others fear the scorch.*

*Yet, flames from God must pierce your breast  
To purge the dross of sin  
And make your silver wholly pure  
And light the flame within.*

*A bridge awaits, a risky path,  
The cross of Christ displayed  
A broken body, blood, and tears;  
A tomb for us inlaid.*

*I call you now to cross the bridge,  
To take the scarlet key.  
To gain the burning, tender heart,  
And walk the path with me.*



# TRANSFORMATION

Mardon stood at the edge of the precipice and peered into the chasm. The sheer rock faces on each side plunged until they seemed to meet in the apparently infinite depths. Stepping back, he turned to a lady draped in a red cloak, Semiramis, her hood lifted over her auburn locks. “Mother, how do you propose that we descend?”

Lowering her hood, Semiramis gazed into the bright sky. “Arramos said he would show us the way during Second Eden’s eclipse cycle. Since that eve is upon us, he will fly here soon. He is quite anxious to send us into that world.”

A crystalline egg orbited Mardon’s head, flashing crimson light from within. As it stopped in front of his eyes, its familiar voice, Sir Devin’s voice, penetrated his mind. *Will you trust the instructions of a dragon?* Its eyes, no more than two reddish ovals, blinked. *Arramos is the most devious of the accursed race.*

Mardon stared at the light, concentrating his thoughts on its center. *If you want to gain a new body, I suggest that you withhold your misgivings.*

*I put our plan into motion to roust the girl and her dragon friends, so my promise to give you a chance to kill her will soon be fulfilled.*

Devin replied, *And my desire to capture her is the reason I put up with you. Although I have bigger draconic prizes in mind, I will mount that demon witch's head on a pedestal so I can see it from anywhere in my leisure room.*

Mardon cringed but said nothing. It was no use talking sensibly to the mad dragon slayer. Their crusades lay at opposite ends. Devin wanted nothing more than to kill all who possessed dragon blood, whether they were full-blooded or merely human offspring of former dragons. He had no spiritual ideals, only a lust for killing.

Shaking his head, Mardon let his gaze follow a narrow footbridge to the other side of the chasm. He sought after so much more than slaying reptiles. Doing away with dragons and their kin was merely a stepping-stone toward the ultimate in spiritual ascensions, the unification of humanity with the heavenly host. Such a feat would demonstrate to all realms that the son of King Nimrod had finally taken his place at the side of the Majesty on High.

As he scanned the skies alongside his mother, Mardon avoided further eye contact with Devin. The cruel slayer might be able to read unguarded thoughts, and if he caught any hint that their purposes differed so greatly, he might cause problems.

Soon, a dragon flew into sight, reddish against the blue sky and carrying something in one of his clawed feet. Seconds later, in a flurry of wings and wind, Arramos set down a bucket and landed several paces from the chasm's precipice. After drawing in his wings, he stared at Mardon with pulsing red eyes. "It is time for your transformation," he growled.

Mardon tried to steel himself, but tremors weakened his legs. "Transformation?"

Laying a hand on the back of his head, Semiramis crooned. "A disguise, my dear. Some of the Second Eden inhabitants know you too well." She turned toward Arramos and nodded at the bucket. "What is this, my lord?"

“Water from the river of the Prism Oracle,” Arramos said. “It will help us complete the transformation.”

“I see.” Semiramis eyed the water. “That oracle has powers beyond what I knew.”

Arramos’s voice lowered to a rumble. “There is much you do not know.”

“Well, if it’s just a disguise . . .” Mardon squared his shoulders. “I’m ready.”

Arramos snorted twin jets of fire, coating Mardon from his head to his chest.

“Ahhhrgh!” Mardon dropped to his knees. Pain ripped across his face. He reached for his mother and tried to scream, but his desperate gasp brought a stream of blazing heat into his mouth and throat, scorching the tender skin inside.

Semiramis grabbed the bucket and poured half of the water over his head. Then, adding gentle splashes with the remainder, she took care to soak every inch of melting flesh. When the bucket ran dry, she slung it to the side and glared at Arramos, her lips pressed tight.

Mardon fanned his face, barely missing Devin’s egg as it floated near his cheek, apparently unhurt. “It still burns!” His voice sounded gravelly, like that of a dying old man. “It feels like my skin is melting!”

“Ah, yes,” Arramos said with a chuckle. “Fire tends to do that. It will likely torture you for days or weeks to come.”

Semiramis shook her fist, her voice spiced with rage. “So this is his disguise? What do you have in mind for me? Mummification?”

“Don’t tempt me.” His eyes flaming, the dragon’s head swayed as he studied her from head to toe. “It is crucial that your beauty remains intact.”

Her fingers loosened, but she maintained her violent glare. “My beauty, as you judge it, will be my undoing. The genius dragon girl and the Foley boy will surely recognize me.”

“Indeed. Exactly what I hope for. You will appeal to their sense of mercy, and your loving care for this wretched burn victim will be proof of your repentance.”

“So my disguise is . . .”

“Righteousness.” Arramos tipped his head back and laughed. “The same disguise so many humans use to fool their fellows in every walk of life.”

Semiramis lowered herself to her knees. With quick, angry motions, she helped Mardon strip away his smoldering shirt. “Loving my son will not be an act. My goal all along has been to put him on a throne of glory.”

“All in good time. Surely ascension to such a throne will include healing. That should be another incentive to ply your trade well.”

Clenching her teeth, she wedged her words between short, shallow breaths. “Incentive? After torturing my son, you speak of incentives? Why should I do anything you say?”

“I hold the ultimate dagger over your head, your life and your son’s life. I can see to it that you survive in Second Eden in spite of your current state of deadness, but my power will not avail you if you try to enter Heaven. Surely you have wondered how your dead souls would survive. And have you not also wondered how you will be able to defeat the host of Heaven with an army of mortals from the Earth? Compared to them, your army would be a swarm of gnats.”

Semiramis turned to Mardon. Her expression gave her away. She had wondered. In fact, those questions had haunted both of them for centuries.

Looking at Arramos again, she murmured, “Go on.”

“The Oracles are the key. They have eaten fruit from the Tree of Life, so their makeup has been altered. Unable to die a natural death, they are now like the angels. Since Mardon knows an Oracle’s genetic code and her weaknesses, he should be able to learn the secret and pass along her power to the two of you and your armies, thus enabling all of you to become like the sons and daughters of God.”

“I see.” Semiramis eyed Mardon again. “Can you do this thing? It could be our only chance. If need be, I can temporarily incapacitate an Oracle with a sleeping powder.”

Mardon pondered the idea. Since the Oracles originated as plant creatures, they possessed photosynthetic code. Through their eyes, they always had the ability to capture light that could be used for manufacturing energy. He could use tainted light on one of them and confuse her photosynthetic cells, causing them to expend energy rather than produce it, thereby deteriorating her body. In theory, her life-sustaining system would have to respond by battling the photosynthetic cells. She would literally be at war with her own body. Then, by getting samples of cells before degeneration began and after her body battled back, he could figure out how the life-sustaining code worked, reverse engineer it, and replicate it for others.

His throat still on fire, he pushed through the pain. "I have an idea. It would weaken an Oracle at first, but we could use her cellular structure later for our benefit. To begin the process, I must have close contact, at least for a short time."

"One of the Oracles resides in Second Eden," Arramos said to Semiramis. "You will have to gain her trust. Your skill as a deceiver will be put to the test."

Semiramis crossed her arms, her tone softening. "How will I deal with the dragons from Earth? I cannot fool their danger-sensing abilities."

"You are no danger to them. Only Makaidos, king of the dragons, has power great enough to sense danger toward others. Still, you must continue to guard your thoughts well, for the mind reader will try to see past your façade."

"Ashley?" Semiramis shook her head. "She will not be a problem. I have learned how to block her mental penetration. Her inability to see past my defenses will make her suspicious, but there will be no proof she can use against me."

"Very good." Arramos spread out his wings. "Let us fly now to Second Eden."

"Fly?" Semiramis asked. "How so?"

"The portal the Nephilim used remains open, though it is only a one-way passage to those who lack my power. It has been very useful for

transporting new allies and one very old . . . shall we say . . . crystalline weapon for our eventual confrontation. I have been given permission to move parts of two circles of Hades to Second Eden, the great abyss that once imprisoned the Watchers as well as the village of the sixth circle where Morgan held Shiloh prisoner. That village now resides in Second Eden as a buffer between here and there. I can take you as far as Morgan's prison, and, from that point, you are on your own." Arramos lowered his head to the ground, creating a staircase. "The eclipse is upon us. Let us make haste."

"Very well." Semiramis took Mardon's hand and helped him climb the spiny steps.

As soon as they settled between two tall spines, Devin's crystal flashed in front of Mardon's eyes. "I warned you about dragons," the slayer said. "And this one has betrayed you. Will you trust me now?"

Still racked with pain, Mardon nodded at the egg and spoke to it with his mind. *Let us make our plans in secret. Perhaps we both can achieve our goals and thwart those of the dragon. Trust me. My mother is not pleased with this plan, and she has already told me how she will bring you back to life in a way that will surprise everyone, perhaps even Arramos.*