

TIGER WARRIOR

ATTACK OF THE DRAGON KING



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For Kairen, a warrior in the making

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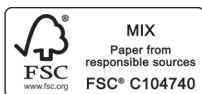
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PROLOGUE

The huge lion beast stretched out its giant claws. Next to it, a nine-tailed fox pounced. The Dragon King put his hands behind his back and smiled as he walked past the paintings. There was probably a picture of him here somewhere. Once he had been the most powerful monster of them all.

He hid his smile as he approached the throne and knelt before the Jade Emperor. "Thank you for letting me out to speak to you, Your Celestial Majesty," he said. "I have been imprisoned under the Mystic Mountain for ten long years. I have had time to think, and I want to beg your forgiveness, and to be your second in command again."

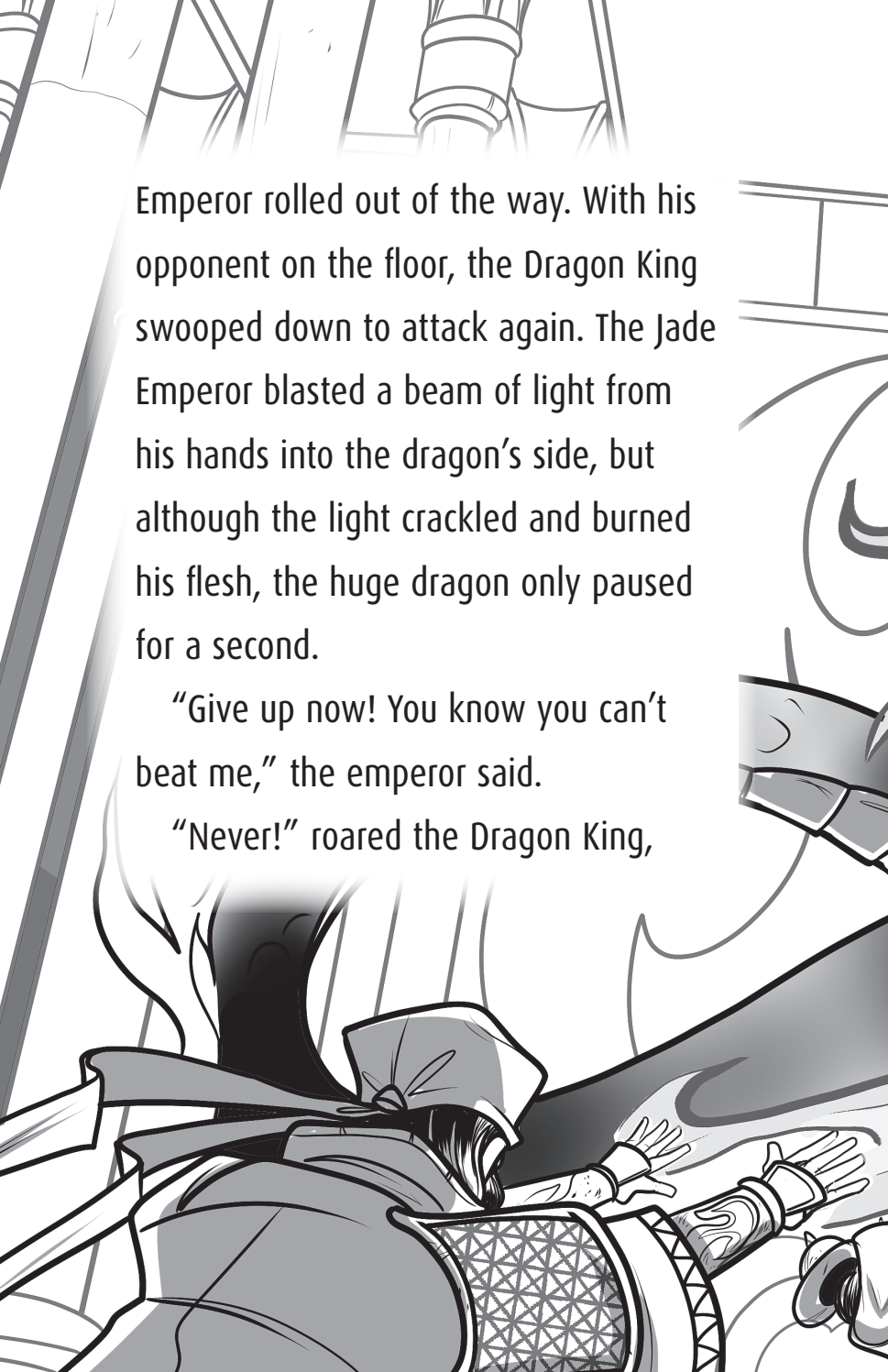
The Jade Emperor smiled. "We were friends once. We can be again."

"That's exactly what I want," said the Dragon King, allowing himself a small smile as he stood up. The Jade Emperor led him down a grand hallway lined with priceless vases and silk tapestries, into

his private chamber. He sat down at the table, which was laid for tea, and then bowed, indicating that the Dragon King could sit. But the Dragon King did not.

Instead he stood tall, clapping his hands together in a thunderous bang. A flash blinded the Jade Emperor and his two guards shielded their eyes. The Dragon King transformed into his gigantic dragon form, roaring as power surged through his now snake-like scaly body, his tail unfurled, his claws extended. After all this time, the Dragon King had his power back!

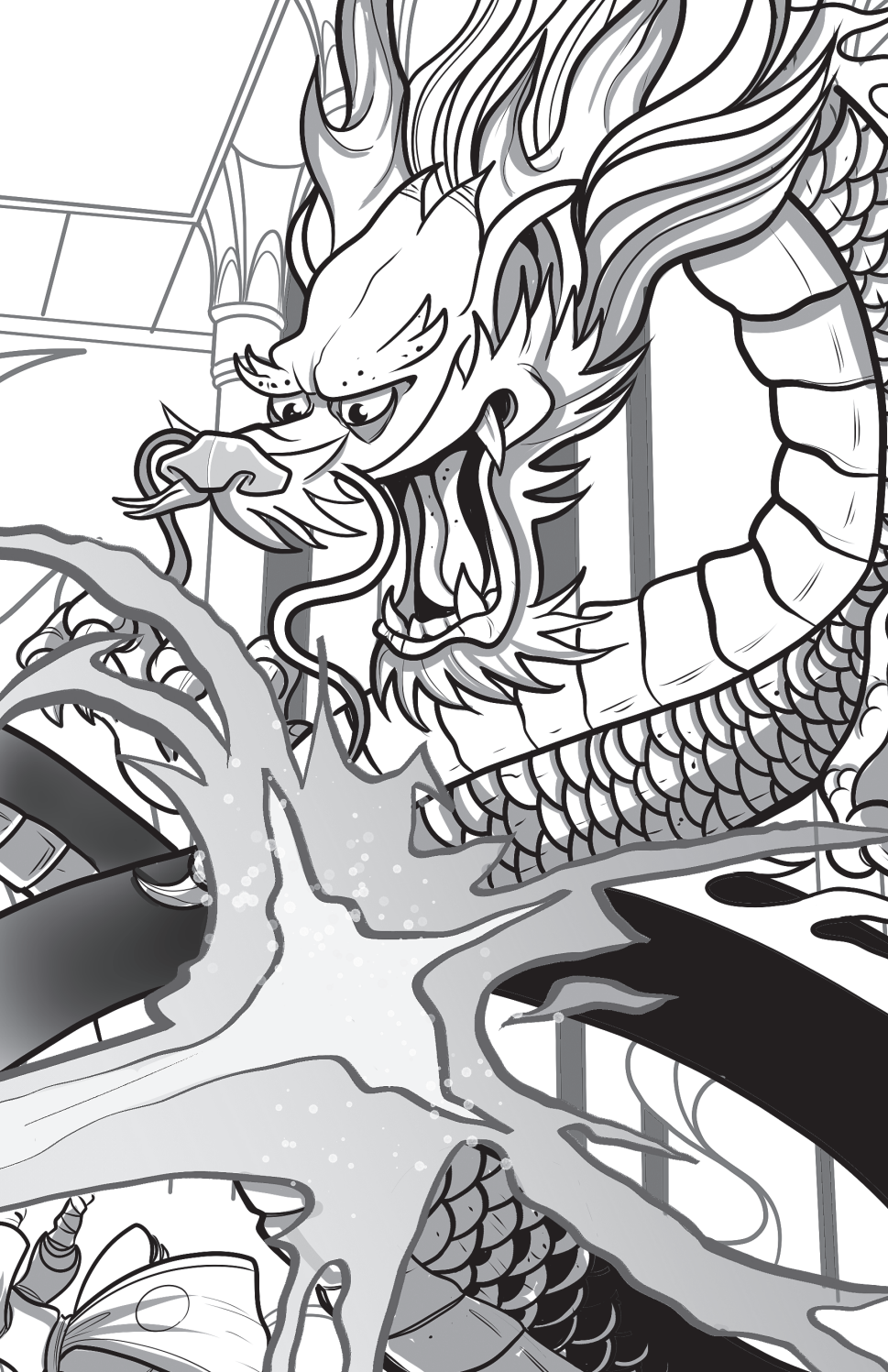
He swung his tail, knocking out both the guards in one swift move. The Jade



Emperor rolled out of the way. With his opponent on the floor, the Dragon King swooped down to attack again. The Jade Emperor blasted a beam of light from his hands into the dragon's side, but although the light crackled and burned his flesh, the huge dragon only paused for a second.

"Give up now! You know you can't beat me," the emperor said.

"Never!" roared the Dragon King,



flinging the Jade Emperor into a corner.

“It’s different this time. I have a power so great that I can finally defeat you!”

The Dragon King waved one eagle-like claw in a circle, and a green staff appeared in the room. He pointed it at the Jade Emperor.

“The Jade Staff!” cried the Jade Emperor. “But how? How did you get it?”

“Many dragons died bringing this to me,” the Dragon King snarled. “But it will be worth it to defeat you!” He pointed the staff at the Jade Emperor again, and in an instant, the emperor was gone.

The Dragon King looked out of the window at a huge snow-topped mountain

and laughed, knowing that the emperor was deep beneath it in a tiny cell. The Jade Emperor was now *his* prisoner. With a wave of his claw he transformed back into his human body, holding the staff aloft.

“The Jade Kingdom is finally mine!” he proclaimed.