

Guardian The Quest, Book 2, Magical Beasts

by Geoffrey Saign

EXCERPT

A black belt in kung fu, Jake kicks at the woman's side. She blocks his foot with her forearm. He slides in and chops at her neck.

With little effort she absorbs the hand blow with her arm, grabs his forearm, and jerks him down on top of me. Kneeling on his back, she keeps us immobile.

Her arm is already healing from Biggie's whip, so like the hyena she's a Lesser or Great One too. Originals don't heal like that. That also explains her speed and strength. She and the hyena have to be working for Gorgon.

My vision blurs. I'm suffocating. From ground level I glimpse Biggie shoving the hyena sideways into a tree.

From behind her, the woman pulls out a thick silver band and slaps it onto Jake's left wrist. She leans over him to stare at me, her slender face hard. "If you don't find and deliver Drasine to the smugglers by tomorrow night, the silver band will explode and kill your boyfriend. Go to the Smuggler's Oasis. Kert will tell you what to do."

Stunned, now I know she's working with Gorgon. "Forget you." I punch at her face, but she grabs my wrist. Her eyes harden, and then she looks up.

Somehow the hyena got past Uncle Biggie and it's charging us. The animal must be working with the woman. Her ride out of here.

The woman releases my wrist.

I croak, "You can't do this." I grab at her but her head is rising and my fingers curl around her swinging gold necklace. It breaks off in my hand as she morphs into a huge cheetah.