

## The Prodigy's Quest

- Shola Williams

"Ahem!" Fierin cleared her throat to get Ai's and Ashley's attention. The two girls looked over at Fierin, their attention fully on her as they stood in front of the Queen's castle. "We have to complete the quest Queen Lottie has given us or the entire place will be taken over by darkness," she exclaimed at the two girls, her fire marks on her cheeks glowing red. "Okay, jeez. Calm down. Your fire marks are glowing, meaning you're getting angry," Ashley advised her, her leaf marks on her cheeks glowing green. "Hey, guys. How about we don't argue and we calm down, so our marks don't glow from anger and annoyance?" Ai suggested, her snowflake marks glowing blue from joy. "Okay," Fierin and Ashley said in unison. "Where is the first place we need to go?" Ai asked Fierin. "She said we need to go to the icelands first," Fierin whined. "Why the icelands out of anything?" Ashley complained. "Come on guys! It's not that bad," Ai reassured them, smiling cheerfully. "Okay then. Let's get going," Fierin suggested.

About twenty minutes later, the three girls arrived at the Icelands. Immediately, Fierin was freezing and her marks went dark. "Hey, you okay there Fierin?" Ashley asked, concerned about her friend. "Yeah," she replied weakly. As soon as they stepped onto the ice pathway, Fierin immediately lit on fire, melting the ice under her feet. Her marks glowed a bright red and her wings sprouted. "JESUS CHRIST FIERIN!" Ai exclaimed, backing away with Ashley. "Try calming down and breathing," Ashley suggested as calmly as she could. While Ashley was trying to calm Fierin down, Ai repaired the pathway of ice with her ice powers. After Ashley failed to calm Fierin down, Ai had to step in. "I'm sorry, Fierin," she guiltily whispered. She blasted Fierin with her water powers while Ashley stayed by Ai's side, growing a bed for Fierin. As soon as the water hit Fierin, her wings turned to ash, her fire was extinguished, and her marks stopped glowing. However, Fierin blacked out and before her skin could even touch the ice, Ashley used her wind power to push the stretcher she made for Fierin under Fierin's body. Then Ashley and Ai continued walking in silence, Fierin on the stretcher beside them.

Throughout the walk, Ai had summoned multiple snow horses to pull Fierin on the stretcher all the way until they reached the next area: the Greenlands. When they arrived at the curtains of the Greenlands, Ai knew she should prepare herself, but before she did, they needed to wake up Fierin. "Fierin, wake up," Ai exclaimed, shaking Fierin. After a few minutes of shaking her, Fierin finally woke up. "What happened and why am I on an earth stretcher?" Fierin inquired, sitting up while rubbing her head. "Well," Ashley said and filled her in on everything. "Oh, so you need me now?" Fierin asked, standing up and stretching. "Yes, just in case something happens to Ai in the Greenlands," Ashley explained. "Or in the Firelands," Ai added on, creating a snow cloud for herself. "Okay, let's do this," Fierin said, ready for anything that could happen. Just before the three girls entered the second area, Ai put her blizzard cloud over her head to keep her nice and cold.

As soon as they entered, Ai's snowflakes flickered from dark blue and light blue. However, she felt fine, for now Ai, Ashley, and Fierin thought this area was pretty easy, until they reached halfway. When Ai took her next step, she immediately started sinking in a muddy substance. Fierin didn't notice until she started sinking too, along with Ashley. "Gillymud! I should've known!" Ashley exclaimed, sinking into the gillymud. "What is that!?" Ai asked, freaking out. "It's a sticky, muddy substance that swallows its enemies." Ashley said as calmly as she could. "How are you so calm?" Fierin asked, struggling with Ai. "Keep calm or it'll eat you up faster," Ashley calmly explained to them. Then, the two other girls started to calm down. Soon, they weren't sinking any more, but only their heads poked out of the mud.

"What now?" Fierin asked calmly. "I need Ai to freeze the mud and I'll start an earthquake. Then, we'll run out of here," Ashley explained. Fierin nodded, but Ai was unsure. After a minute of thinking, she also agreed to it. Ai used her powers to freeze the gillymud, making the three more stuck than before. Then, Ashley used her mind powers to start an earthquake. Quickly, the frozen mud shattered and the girls were free. They climbed out of the hole and caught their breath. Then, Ashley yelled "RUN" as the mud started freezing and collapsing. Quickly, the girls started running as fast as they could.

Soon enough, the three of them were in the Firelands, panting. When they collected themselves, they looked around. "The Firelands have been taken over by darkness, making it an underground obsidian plain," Fierin explained. "But, there usually are monsters." Just as Fierin finished, five monsters appeared: a fire scorpion, a wild ice beast, an earth snake, an H2O Crab, and a wind squirrel. Ai summoned a helper ice beast and they all began fighting.

Fierin defeated the wild ice beast, but she was slain by the water crab. Then, Ashley killed the crab, and she was taken down by the snake. Next, Ai's ice beast obliterated the snake, but he was shattered by the scorpion. Finally, it was Ai against the scorpion. Ai put out the scorpion by using water tentacles. The battle ended and Ai was the only survivor. Her friends were gone and she was alone... but that was going to change.

Nineteen years later, Ai sat on her throne and sighed glumly. She looked up and smiled. Ai knew she wasn't actually alone and her friends were there. Sitting there were the ashes of Fierin Flameblower, the leaves of Ashley Everglades, and herself, the queen of the lands, Ai Snowstar.