Chapter 1

Entering Elemental Land

Sophie stood in remote Greenland, impatiently waiting for Joey to arrive. Where was he? She peered through the mist to the shadowy land in front of her, where the elements lived. She and Joey had a mission to complete, but there was no way she was going to step into this dangerous world without him. She didn't want to run into a hydrogen or neon by herself!

Queen Gold had requested help from the

world leaders to stop the unrest that was happening in Elemental Land. The twins had been chosen for the task. They were only young, but they had unique qualities that made them an excellent choice for these missions. They were experts in sword fighting, and Sophie had huge empathy and a rare ability to observe and bring about resolution. But she couldn't do this mission on her own. She needed Joey's knowledge of science and the elements, which was exceptional. They were a dream team together, but without Joey she was doomed to failure.

Sophie's chestnut hair blew in the breeze, and her hazel eyes were serious as she checked her bag of supplies and adjusted the sword on her back. She heard a noise and turned to

see Joey running towards her, flashing her a cheeky grin, his brown eyes twinkling with excitement. All her resentment melted away as he came closer.

'Sorry to be late! I got carried away with some sword practice. Are you ready for another fun adventure in Elemental Land?' asked Joey, panting slightly. Like Sophie, he had a duffle bag and sword.

'Fun?' said Sophie. 'Last time, we were captured and almost thrown into the Toxic Lake.'

Joey screwed up his nose and ran a hand through his messy hair. 'Far out, I'd forgotten about that.' He grinned again. 'But I'm sure

our mission this time won't be so tricky.'

'Well, let's see what Queen Gold would like us to do,' said Sophie.

Joey grinned at his sister, and, in unison, they took one step through the mist, into Elemental Land. They were now in a completely different dimension that looked much like regular Earth but was far more dangerous. The air was thinner and tasted of tin; the colours of everything were denser and the smells stronger. The twins strode into the Mystical Swamp, with the jagged peaks of the Metallic Mountains in the far-off distance. Queen Gold was the ruler of this world, and they would have to get safely through the Mystical Swamp to get to her Golden Palace.

They had only gone a short distance when there were sudden explosions near them, a

tremendous flash of light and sound. Joey and Sophie glanced at each other and frowned.

'Not again!' said Joey. 'Why is it every time we come here, there are explosions?'

They both drew their swords and stood back-to-back, giving each other protection. They edged closer to where the explosions were coming from.

'Oh, you have got to be joking!' said Joey, when they were close enough to see what was going on. He put away his sword.

'I can't say I'm surprised, though,' said Sophie, rolling her eyes and sheathing her sword also.

'At least it's not the sulfers,' said Joey. 'But it's just rotten luck to run into hydrogens again!'