



Rumblestar: Chapter 15



A griffin



Q1: Why didn't Utterly cry out for Casper as the griffin flew her away?

A griffin hurtled through the trees, ducking and weaving to avoid the branches, and in its scaled talons it held a screaming girl with wild blonde hair. Utterly locked eyes with Casper for a split second, and Casper saw her terror and felt a punch of guilt. It was *his* fault that Utterly had stormed off and been captured. But Utterly didn't cry out for him; instead she kicked and bit and struggled to wriggle free. He realised that she was determined not to give him away, because she knew – even if she had been too angry to admit it earlier – that they *had* to find the familiar face, and it would never happen if they were both carried off by the Midnights.



Q2: What effect did the shatterblast have on Casper?

He found his thoughts reaching back to Slumbergrot's words about shatterblast: *its bite is worse than fire*. Then he gasped. Did the griffins *breathe out* shatterblast? And was that what was whirling through the forest and sucking the strength from Casper now?

He scrambled backward but a talon clamped down on his shoulder and ground him still. Casper twisted and turned, bit and tore, but he was weaker now and the Midnight's hold was steel-strong and Casper knew he had little chance of escaping. The griffin continued to let the shatterblast pour from its beak and Casper felt his limbs grow even more drowsy. Then, gripping Casper in its talons, the griffin surged upward, its formidable body snapping every branch it struck. Casper tried to break free with what strength he had left, and even Arlo did his best to help, but the griffin was answering the call of its flock now and smashing its way deeper into the forest – towards Everdark and Morg.

