

“I hear footsteps!” whispered DK. “Outside.”

The snake slid under the beam of light. Its eyes glowed green. Its body shone like brown glass. It kept coming toward us.

I pulled DK back toward the door, but the snake was coming toward the door too. There were voices outside, in the hall. But the door was locked. And even if they got it open, the snake would attack.

Somehow I had to keep the snake away from the door. But how? Could I hold it back? Rafe had held a snake and he didn't get killed. Maybe I'd be safe if I did it right.

If I did it right.

I looked at DK. He's bigger, but he was shaking and crying.

It had to be me.

There was shouting outside. The door handle moved.

It had to be now.

I stepped close to

