

02

The Ashfang Mountain

Three friends were taken. The keys could wait.



The snow covered tracks, but not fear.

LUFO

Step where I step. The mountain dislikes strangers.

DORAN

Does it like you?



A long-muzzled shadow watched from the ridge and decided not to howl.

LYRA We are being followed.

LUFO No. We are being measured.



The border was older than any map, and the temple older still.

LUFO

Trust should survive the first knot.

MIKA

And the second?



At dawn, five returned. The mountain remembered six shadows.

CHILD You came back for us.
Nobody saw the sixth shadow move.