

# A THOUSAND MAGIC GATES

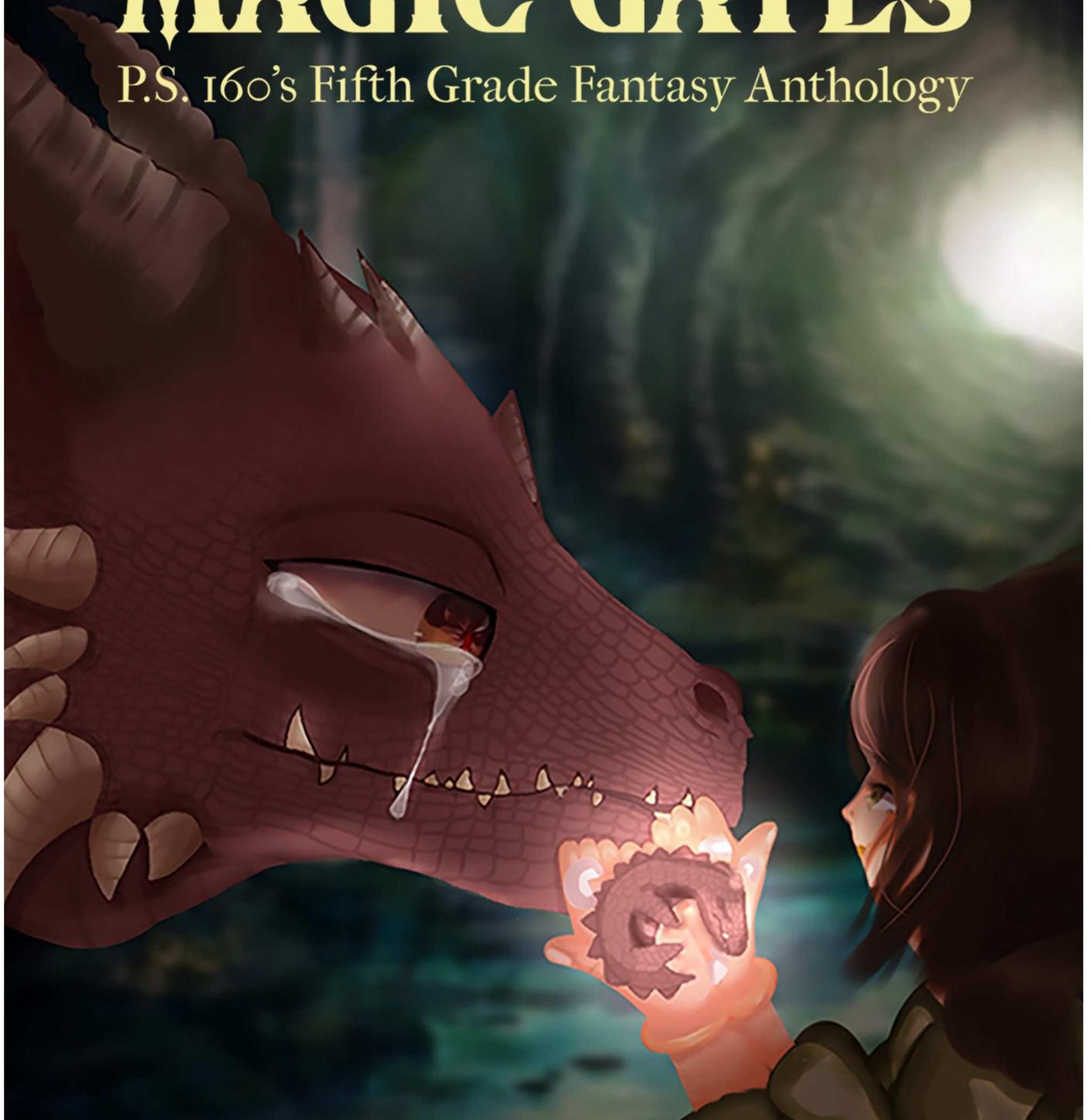
P.S. 160's Fifth Grade Fantasy Anthology





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by

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The book is dedicated to Ms. Russo, our families, and the rest of our P.S. 160 school community. You have helped us in countless ways to imagine possibilities and to develop the everyday magic of a growth mindset.

This book is also dedicated to my friend Carlos Hernandez, the traveling word-wizard, rattomancer, and eater of impossible sandwiches. Thank you for opening the doors to a thousand worlds (all at the same time.)

# Contents

## INTRODUCTION

## CHAPTER ONE

*In the Mushroom Kingdom by Joey Zhu*

## CHAPTER TWO

*The Extraordinary Ordinary Girl by Nicole Lin*

## CHAPTER THREE

*Escape by Yuyao Zou*

## CHAPTER FOUR

*Carl and the Missing Dragon by Brandon Gao*

## CHAPTER FIVE

*Fifth Graders Save the Day by Alfred Chen*

## CHAPTER SIX

*What's Your Power? by Siqi Liu*

## CHAPTER SEVEN

*Danganronpa by Allison Sosa Hernandez*

## CHAPTER EIGHT

*The Game by Evangeline Fu*

## CHAPTER NINE

*Jack and the Quest Against the Dragon*

*by Zofia Wiater*

## CHAPTER TEN

*Willow's Adventure Through Minecraft by Phoebe Jiang*

## CHAPTER ELEVEN

*Eliana and Travel Space by Estrella Quilli Vasquez*

## CHAPTER TWELVE

*Finding Balance by Angee Chan*

## CHAPTER THIRTEEN

*The Children of the Elements:*

*Preface by Joanna Li*

## CHAPTER FOURTEEN

*Super Heroes Verses the Giant Robot Clone by Zaikai Huang*

## CHAPTER FIFTEEN

*A Starry Gem by Noe Alexander Guzman*

## CHAPTER SIXTEEN

*The Butterfly Door by Grace Liu*

## **Introduction**

The fantasy unit was one of the last of the fifth grade curriculum from Teachers College. We wrote these stories during the COVID-19 pandemic. But they don't reflect really any particular fears or anxieties about that time. Instead, most of the the students wrote about a life uninterrupted by rapid testing, glitchy Zoom meetings, or citywide quarantines. Instead, they escaped to adventure.

They wrote about children their own age, but granted amazing powers. Children who learned powerful secrets. Children who struck out on their own to do the impossible. Children with wings. Children trapped in video games. Children with monstrous teachers. They wrote about dragons of fire, dragons of ice, and dragons that just wanted a little company. They wrote about children trapped on the moon and a thousand things more.

Each story the students told was a gate to someplace they'd rather be, if only for the fifty minutes of the writing period. With these students as my guide, they are all places I would love to visit too.

## CHAPTER ONE

### *In the Mushroom Kingdom by Joey Zhu*

In the Mushroom Kingdom at sleeping hours, two elves are telling stories. Grandmother Iris and her Grandson Elex are telling stories.

“Did I ever tell you the time your mother Amy decided to sneak out at night?” Grandmother Iris said calmly to Amy’s son, Elex.

As Grandmother Iris talked, her wrinkled mouth moved slowly, She slowly pronounced each syllable of every word. As she talked, her voice was almost echoing through the sparkling hallway next to the bedroom.

Elex grasped his favorite blue and green dinosaur blanket in excitement as his tired face soon grew into a excited and happy smile. Elex had always loved Grandmother Iris’s stories. It didn’t matter whether they were extreme or just flat out crazy.

“No!” Elex said surprised. His mother has never done anything incorrectly or done anything wrong her whole life! (well at least that’s what Elex believed).

Grandmother Iris took a deep breath and started talking in her deep, dreamy storytime voice.

“Once upon a time, in the Mushroom Kingdom lived many graceful elves. The floating islands of the kingdom reached up to the skies higher than 1000 skyscrapers stacked on top of each other.”

“What are skyscrapers?” asked Elex with a curious look as his pointy elf ears shot up and as his brown hair flowed on his blue pillow when he looked Grandmother Iris in the eye.

“It’s a very tall building that humans have in cities,” said Grandmother Iris. She waited for one second then began talking again. “In a mushroom town lived a happy mother and her child Amy. Amy was a very naughty elf back then. She was not doing her best at elf academy, and she tended to break rules.

“Amy was the most daring child and she had beautiful, long, strawberry blond hair that sparkled in the sun, just like her mother’s. She had rosy pink cheeks that made her seem cold when she wasn’t. In fact, Amy loved the cold!

“But one day when Amy was walking back home, she looked far past the clouds and

saw lots of colorful gems glistening there. When the sunshine hit them, they reflected to the next crystal, then the next, and then the next, and it kept on going.

“Amy was mesmerized by this place. She quickly scurried home as fast as her short, little elf legs could carry her. When she got back home she asked her mother Iris what it was.

“Mother?”

“Yes, Amy?”

“I was walking home when I saw a place past the clouds with colorful shining gems. What is that place?”

“It’s the Forbidden Forests.”

“Can I go there?”

“No Amy! It’s dangerous there; you shouldn’t go there.”

“Why? Is it dangerous? Are there monsters there?” asked Amy, looking confused.

“I can’t tell you that. Now stop wasting time and go do your homework,” her mother said.

Amy was not happy with this reply, although she did do her homework. But that night, she decided to do something that still makes her mother mad to think about it to this day.

It was 3:00 A.M. Amy could hardly get out of bed but she was determined to go to that magical place.

Inspired by the movie “Wolfwalkers” that she watched in school, she packed a backpack full of her favorite snacks, Fairy crisps. Its packaging was shining bright. She quickly put it in her favorite mushroom fairy box. Then she reached high up to the Jar of Wishes in the floating cabinets with pictures of princesses drawn on them. Then she took the Jar of Wishes and said clearly to its core, “I wish to go to the Forbidden Forests!” and there she had done it.

She heard a strange sound outside. She snuck out of the house in the middle of the night and found herself lost in the middle of a dangerous forest. Crunch! Crunch! Crunch! She walked on the crisp leaves on the ground. There was barely any light in the eerie place. The only source of light was the flying fire beetles that shined light, like plump lanterns. Suddenly, Amy heard a sound. It sounded like a beetle buzzing. Amy was not sure what it was but she ran toward it as fast as she could.

After much time, she saw a HUGE black portal with glowing purple vines. There were many colors of glowing mushrooms on the portal growing with different shades of purple and pink moss. The portal looked ancient and had many cracks on them, revealing

dried up purple molten light leaking out of the cracks.

Amy went closer to take a better look, but then she got sucked into the portal way faster than she had ever seen in any movie and found herself in a world full of mystery and wonders.

#

There were big shining boxes all around Amy and it seemed like the weather was perfect, as if there were a huge bubble surrounding this place keeping it warm but not too warm at the same time. She saw many magical creatures that were cleaning the streets. They didn't look like anything she's seen before. They looked like they were only constructed of metal and didn't look like they had flesh or meat. But before she could ponder more, a giant bird like thing floated across the sky!

She watched the floating, flying thing until it was out of sight. Then she turned her attention to the ground. It looked so clean and shiny, as if it was enchanted by a great sorcerer.

#

While Amy was having the time of her life, her mother Iris was panicking and wondering where she went. But then she saw The Jar Of Wishes out of where it was supposed to be, and she checked the history of the wishes and saw with her very own eyes: "Amy Smith, 3:00 I wish to go to the Forbidden Forest!"

Then and there Iris knew where she had went. Scared and anxious for her safety, she quickly said, "Bring me to Amy Smith, my child.." Since you couldn't bring people back from a different dimension, she would have to travel to her.

When Iris arrived there, she wasn't happy. She snatched Amy by the hand and immediately began marching toward an old abandoned library that looked as if it was created more than 100,000 years ago. It was clear Iris wanted to get out as soon as possible.

When they arrived, she swung the door open and found a red book with no cover. She touched it and it grew big and looked like the portal Amy saw before in the Forest. She dragged herself in along with her daughter.

"And after that," said Grandmother Iris, as she sat on the edge of Elex's bed, "Amy's mother Iris gave her a five hour lecture and Amy never disobeyed her ever again in fear she

would get a ten hour lecture the next time she decided to disobey. She grew up and became a perfectionist and started her own family, and that's the end.”

Grandmother Iris looked up at Elex and he was fast asleep.

The End

## CHAPTER TWO

### *The Extraordinary Ordinary Girl by Nicole Lin*

I woke up to the sound of the an alarm ringing. Today is the day, I told myself. Don't screw this up.

As I pulled on a plain sky blue shirt and blue denim shorts, I looked just like an ordinary kid. An ordinary, plump kid with disheveled black hair and hazel eyes.

An ordinary kid who lost her parents on the Other Side.

I shook that thought off. Today was my special day. Maybe I would get to find my parents. Maybe they'll be able to support me, unlike before.

"Let's just get this over with," I told myself.

I walked out the door. I saw Heather standing there on the cracked ground, perfect as ever. She was the complete opposite of me: strawberry blond hair, blue eyes, thinly built. Sometimes I wished I was her with her perfect family, her perfect mother and father, her perfect looks, her perfect outspoken personality, her rebellious but adorable (and perfect) baby brother who once banged Heather's head on the breakfast table, making her black out for a few minutes.

"Hey, you! Yvonne! Excited to walk the rope?" she asked. "I'm ready whenever you

are. I can fly from here.” Heather pointed to a medium sized stone sitting a few feet away from the Great Gap. “And I can tie the rope to this rock, then I can—“

“Alright, alright. I get it. You can do a lot,” I said, laughing.

All the kids living in this dusty town called Juru and the other town named Fuyuaki on the other side of the Gap have some sort of special ability that makes their lives better and more comfortable. But I never got any letter in the mail saying I had some sort of gift.

Heather tied a long rope from the the rock’s spot, then she flew over to the other side of the Gap and fastened the rope there on a sturdy rock.

“Well, this is it. I might die, I might not,” I said, half to myself and half to Heather. I crossed my fingers and hoped that I wouldn’t die. After all, I was only ten. And if my parents were still out there, I would probably never see their faces again.

“Remember, I’ll be watching you as you walk the rope! Break a leg!” Heather waved after me.

When I stepped onto the tightrope, it felt like the entire world was watching me. If I messed this up, even if lived to survive it, it would be known as the “Failed Yvonne Crossing,” and I would be humiliated forever.

"Concentrate," I told myself, "Don't screw it up."

I tried to remember what my parents looked like. My mind flashed back to the time when I was five, when my mom and dad were still there with me. I could remember Mom’s neatly combed brunette hair and her warm, dark brown eyes, framed by her bronze glasses. Dad had black hair, with hazel eyes.

They had gone off to Fuyuaki, to work as helpers at a local farm in Rika County. They’d heard that there was a shortage of water in the county and that their farms had shut down, because there just wasn’t enough water to water the crops. They left to go help. I hadn’t gotten a letter from them since.

My mind returned back to the tightrope. I was about three quarters across now, almost across to the Other Side. I couldn’t screw it up now, could I?

I was wrong.

I was walking across the rope, didn’t see where I was going, and almost fell to my death in the Ditch of Blood, the mile-deep ditch between Fuyuaki and Juru. Luckily, Heather saw me falling, struggled to pick my heavy weight up (that’s why she couldn’t just carry me from Juru to Fuyuaki), and put me back on the rope. Muttering a grateful thank-you, I continued on the tightrope.

#

Only a few minutes had passed before I reached the end of my journey. Waving goodbye to Heather, I hurried on, only stopping because I heard a pitiful whine.

There, in the middle of nowhere, sat a great, white, iridescent unicorn in all his glory. He seemed to be injured. Unicorns usually didn't want to make themselves visible and exposed to the outside world with humans unless they really had to. There was a shiny pink spot on the unicorn's leg. I recognized it as an injury. I gathered up some of the herbal medicine I packed beforehand in case any emergencies would appear. I mashed them up into a sticky paste and spread them onto the unicorn's wound. The unicorn stared at me for a second, looking like he was thanking me. Then he fell asleep.

That night, I decided to camp next to the unicorn, so that it wouldn't get hurt again. I tossed and turned, wondering what Heather was doing. She was probably sleeping, with her little brother curled up next to her. She didn't have anything to worry about. Her schoolwork was fine, her brother didn't act out much, her parents loved her. In fact, everybody in the whole town loved her sunshiny personality. Nobody liked me. Nobody even noticed me. Maybe my power was invisibility. But then again, the teachers would've noticed and pulled me aside ages ago. My last thought before I fell asleep was that maybe I was invisible the entire time, because, it seemed like nobody ever knew I was there except Heather.

#

When I woke up the next day, the unicorn had gone, but it had left me a note with something that, in the note, apparently is called a "Finder." I turned the device over and over again. It felt as if made of nylon, but it was also very sharp. At the end was a bright red feather. I tucked the finder into my denim pocket. I began to read the unicorn's note:

*Dear person,*

*Thank you for helping me. Here is a Finder to help you find your way. Just tap the red feather at the end, then say the location of where you want to go. There are only 3 chances to use this finder, then it will vanish. Use it wisely.*

I put the note into the pocket where I placed the Finder. Looking around, I realized I

wasn't across the Great Gap anymore, but in the forest. In the distance I heard someone wailing. Remembering the unicorn's gift and the note, I pulled out the Finder, petted the scarlet feathers gently, and said, "Bring me to the person who is crying in the distance."

It happened in a blink of an eye. I felt myself disappearing, and could even see my body fading as my eyes zoomed all the way to the moaning person. All of a sudden I was at the person's side.

I discovered that it wasn't a person at all, but a fairy. A very upset fairy, that is. Her hair was a dirty blond, her eyes red from crying. She was wearing a dress of the whitest white. I took a deep breath, hoping not to make the fairy cry again, I asked, "Why are you crying?"

To my surprise, the fairy stopped crying, and said, "I-I can't find m-my m-mom or d-dad, I t-t-think I- I think I'm l-lost."

"Aw," I said, "there's no need to cry. Here." I took out the Finder again and stroked the feather. This time, I took the lost fairy's hand. "Take me to this fairy's parents."

After being hugged and sobbed over by her parents, the little fairy thanked me. Waving bye to the small fairy family, I trotted out of their red mushroom house and back into the green wilderness again. This time, there was no need to mindlessly walk around like a drone. This time, I could just use the Finder to teleport to my parents' farm. This time, I could find my parents — and never say bye.

I could see myself flying across the forest, and into suburban Fuyuaki. I flew a bit more to the West. Now I was spotting more trees and more grass. Landing softly in front of an old barn, I walked around. Bits of hay stuck out from rusted wheelbarrows. The windows of the barn were cracked and broken, the stable full of disgusting smells. It looked like humans had not been here for more than a decade. Maybe I was right at the beginning. Maybe I was useless. Maybe I should've just stayed behind, stayed put.

Something creaked behind me. I turned around, hoping it was the farmer, or my parents, or someone. But no one was there. The floors were creaky, I told myself. It was just an illusion.

I strode out of the barn and into a building which I assumed was the place my mom and dad called home. Or calls.

I was right. As I trudged the way up the stairs, I searched the rooms to see if anyone was there. First room, empty. Second room, empty. Third room (which was a bathroom), absolutely filthy. Fourth room—

I stopped at apartment F2A4. Opening the room cautiously, secretly hoping that a

couple, namely my parents, would be there waiting for me, waiting to hug me, waiting to drown me in love.

They weren't there. In fact, the room looked like a tornado hit it — clothes strewn everywhere. DVD players reduced to bits of uselessness, the bed covered with dust and papers, the wooden wardrobe empty. A warzone except there weren't soldiers littering the ground, only unwashed, dirty clothes. I knew they weren't going to be there. Of course they wouldn't. Who would want some child like me? Some child who was supposed to have great powers, but who doesn't?

Maybe I should just give up. I sat on the bed, not caring or noticing how dirty it looked. Maybe I couldn't do anything. And besides, I was going to spend my entire life in prison anyway — who in the world breaks into an old farm and butt into a deserted, unhygienic apartment building without getting arrested by the —

BOOM.

Someone busted open the door, startling me out of my thoughts. Someone who looked very important, but also very playful, wearing a flowery, long, indigo dress with a forget-me-not flower crown placed carefully on her short brown hair. And still. She was very familiar.

“Juli!” I yelled, and went to hug her.

“Long time no see, hey?” The brown-haired girl returned the hug back. “Why are you here breaking into this old building?”

“I wanted to look for my parents. They... they disappeared.”

“Oh.” Juli scratched her head, clearly thinking hard. “Sorry to break it to you, but I think they passed. I kept in touch with them. Something about diseases with farm animals. They probably got the animal flu. Your mom and dad didn't have healthcare, so they couldn't pay the enormously large fees. They didn't get a vaccine, either, because they were scared that the doctor would judge their clothes and not give them a shot.” Juli swallowed.

“Ever since the water shortage started, they were working extra hours, trying to get extra money to buy more water. They... they're gone.”

“Oh.”

“But hey, on the bright side, you can come live with me! My house isn't that large, but we can make it work until you've got a house of your own!” Juli beamed, and took out a Hershey's candy bar from I-don't-know-where in her clothes.

“Yeah! That'll be great!” I exclaimed.

“I didn’t know Hershey’s chocolate was this great,” Juli said as she chewed the candy bar. Okay— back on topic. You need to tell me what happened first. Where were you? How did you even cross the Great Gap?”

“I, uh... it’s a long story. So a friend of mine had helped me,” I started. Then the whole tale began to pour out.

By the end of my account, Juli was wide-eyed, with sweet, sticky chocolate all over her face. She looked like she had dipped her face into a chocolate birthday cake, only the frosting wasn’t sticky enough.

Then I remembered something. My magic gift. I didn’t have one at all. I couldn’t stay with Juli. Who knows what would happen if I stayed with her?

“Juli, I can’t stay. I can’t repay you, and I would be a humiliation to your neighborhood and to you, because I don’t have any sort of magic in me at all!” I cried out.

“It’s fine,” she said. “Besides...” She leaned down to whisper in my ear. “I don’t have any gift either. My neighbors don’t really mind. Just keep to yourself.”

I couldn’t believe it. Was my luck really turning around, or was Juli just fooling around?

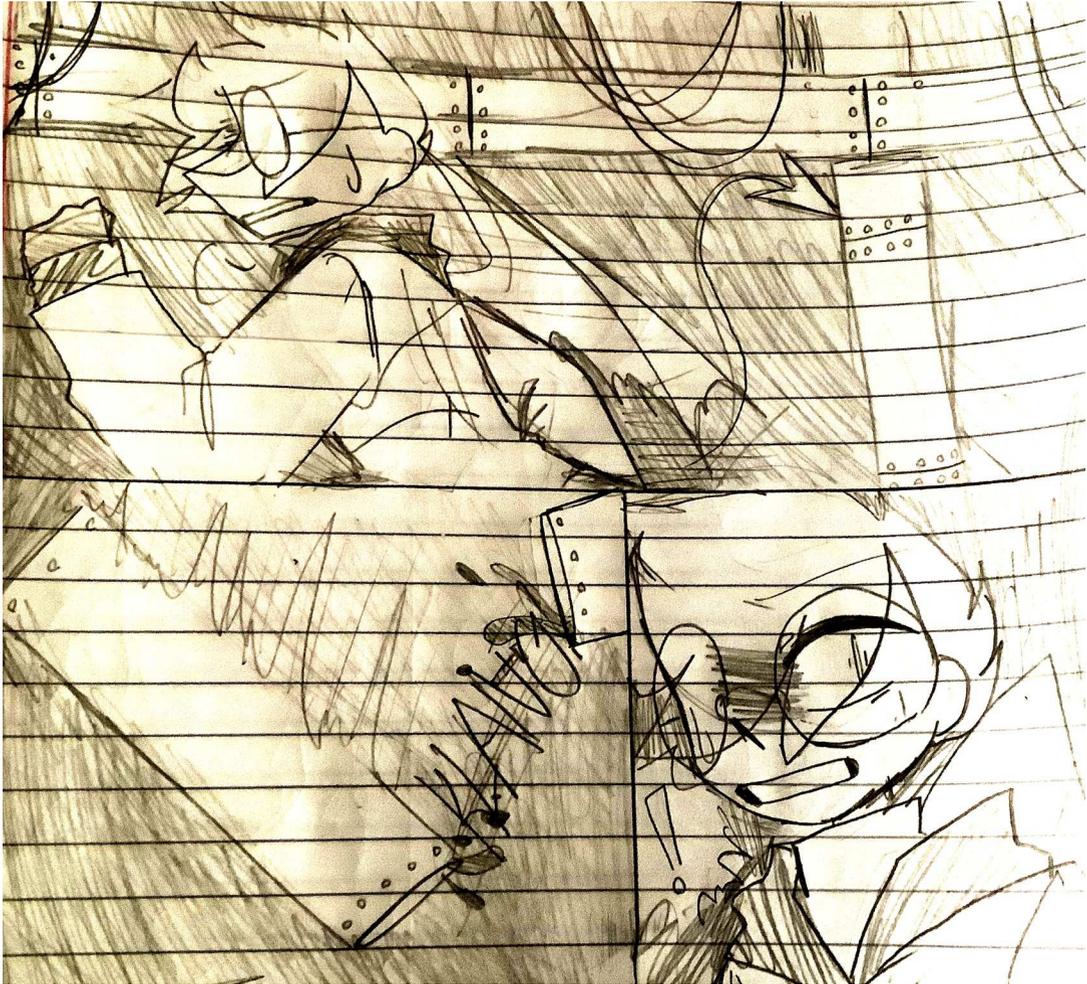
“I’m telling you, what I’m saying is true. Just come with me,” she said with a smile.

Then we climbed down the stairs together. We skipped all the way to Juli’s house. There we collapsed on the fake blue leather sofa in exhaustion and happiness. We caught each other up on our lives, laughed, and told inside jokes. For the first time in years, I felt liked.

The End

## CHAPTER THREE

### *Escape by Yuyao Zou*



“Sir, it has tried to escape its containment several times. There’s really nothing we can do without having to completely restrict its movement,” a voice said worriedly.

“I know. But it has never succeeded, has it?” said, another voice. This time, the tone was much more confident and deep.

“...No, sir.”

“Exactly. There is no need for us to take extreme measures.”

Two figures arrived at the dimly lit room, one of them slightly quivering with fear. In front of them was a tube-like structure, filled with a strange liquid, with some creature floating around inside. It's features practically screamed "unnatural."

It shifted its body around to face the duo, glaring at them. Clearly, it had negative opinions towards anybody, but itself.

“T.S.0014 seems to be doing just fine,” one of the figures noted. “Except for that attitude.”

Said creature's mood darkened. Kicking forcefully at the glass trapping it in, it snarled out incomprehensible words that didn't sound like English at all.

Suddenly there was a loud CRACK, causing all three of them to flinch. A sizzling noise followed and then the alarm sounded.

The creature immediately realized what had happened, and flitted around. It spotted a medium sized hole in the glass. Hastily, it escaped, shoving past the two men and down the dark corridor, ignoring the loud ringing in its ears.

It had all happened so fast.

Adrenaline rushed through its veins.

As it neared the exit, it looked back to see the horde of people chasing after it gradually getting closer and closer.

Panic.

But before the creature hit the exit, one of the men he saw earlier jumped in front of the double doors, effectively blocking the way out. The creature skidded to a stop and sharply turned a corner into a cramped hallway.

It had never gotten this far before. The sounds of footsteps grew fainter until they stopped completely.

Now that the creature's life wasn't at risk as much as earlier, it could take a closer look at its appearance.

Blond hair, circular glasses, piercing blue eyes, a ripped green T-shirt, white shorts, and- obviously no shoes. It-or rather, he- had already learned the basics of escaping: don't wear shoes. Those make noise.

A pipe that ran along the wall suddenly burst and broke off, crashed onto the floor,

and broke into more pieces. It could've hit the creature if it was timed perfectly, and the situation would've been ten times worse.

Up ahead, the creature could see another exit. It panted heavily as it raced towards the exit, eventually breaking out and into the bright sunlight that practically burned its figure since it hadn't been out in all seven years it had been alive. (Yes, it was seven years old.)

But that didn't matter anymore. It had escaped. A smile slowly formed on its mouth. As it ran further and further away from the lab, it gradually becoming smaller until it was out of sight. The creature would've cried in joy if it wasn't so focused on getting somewhere to hide.

Arriving at what seemed to be an orphanage, the creature pushed through the front doors and collapsed onto the floor. Out of the corner of his eye, it saw a woman worriedly approaching. It felt itself being lifted up.

"Oh, dear," she mumbled, shifting its position so that he was being cradled.

The creature couldn't exactly hear the conversation that happened after, since it was half asleep. Only bits and pieces were heard.

"Do you recognize..."

"...this child..."

"I've never..."

"A child with wings..."

"A tail..."

When it was fully awake, however, the woman it saw earlier asked it a few questions, most falling into the category of identity.

"What's your name, dear?" she questioned.

It immediately searched its memory for a name it could use.

"U-uh... F-Francis," it replied, mentally sighing in relief.

"Your age?"

"Seven."

"Do you have any parents?"

"...No."

An awkward silence.

"Just take him in, Marcy," a female voice called from the kitchen. "Just because he looks different doesn't make him an unacceptable child. Besides, Dako has wings too."

"Oh, alright," Marcy said, standing up. "C'mon, Francis, let's go meet the others!"

"Okay!" replied Frances.

And he followed her through the doors to find a new family, or at least others like him, so he would not feel so alone.

The End

## CHAPTER FOUR

### *Carl and the Missing Dragon by Brandon Gao*

Carl was determined to find his purple, smooth dragon egg. Carl was celebrating his friend's birthday when he got some shocking news from Professor Prive. Professor Prive said, "The dragon egg literally disappeared in front of me when I was studying it!"

Carl couldn't believe his most trusted professor lost his dragon egg. After this message, he lied to his friend and said, "My mom is calling me to go home!" He lied because he couldn't tell anyone about the magical world.

After getting out of the birthday party, Carl rushed to see Professor Prive and shouted, "WHERE WAS MY DRAGON EGG LAST SEEN?"

The professor said, "I think it was last seen in the Fire Kingdom."

After searching the whole Fire Kingdom, he got a few burns, but it didn't matter. All he cared about was the egg. No matter how hard it was to find the dragon egg, he would still

try. After searching and double checking, he went to look in the Water Kingdom.

When he was in the Water Kingdom, he met many people, like the Frog Prince Dervin and the cursed mermaid Andromeda. It was hard getting past the Aquatic Demon Bridge. He fought with the mythical creature there and somehow managed to get across the bridge but he was hurt really badly. After searching around the Water Kingdom, he began to lose hope and wanted to give up.

“Maybe finding the egg was just impossible,” he thought. He didn’t want to do this any more. All of a sudden, memories of his father giving him the dragon egg started to appear in his mind. In the second scene, he saw Professor Prive sneaking into his parents room and killing them. In the last scene, he saw that the egg was in space. He decided to try one more time.

When he landed in space, he didn’t find the egg. He saw a portal and decided to take a risk. When he went in, he flew around in circles and teleported to the dragon egg. And there it was, the missing dragon egg! He felt so happy that he wanted to fly around like a dragon.

When he returned, he saw that Professor Prive was gone. He was even happier. After this long quest, Carl’s life would never be the same again. He learned to never trust a stranger easily.

The End

## CHAPTER FIVE

### *5th Graders Save the Day by Alfred Chen*

Once upon a time, an evil witch and an evil wizard gave birth to a wizard who would grow up to be a powerful evil sorcerer.

The three best friends (John, Emily, and Jack) were chatting and having fun at lunch when they noticed something: a sorcerer was running around with an orb outside the school window, they chased him down. The sorcerer summoned his horse and zoomed away. The kids didn't give up and kept chasing after the sorcerer.

They pursued him, with low expectations, but the horse left a trail and the kids followed it to the point that they almost gave up.

Then three knights appeared and asked, "Do you kids need assistance?"

"Yes, can you please give us a ride following the horse trail?" the kids said slowly to the knights.

"Of course we can," the knights replied, "but we can't go too far from the castle."

"Thank you for the ride, kind sirs," the kids said while hopping off the horses.

"It was our pleasure." The knights zoomed away.

"Now what should we do? The rest is all the snow," Jack wondered.

"Well, there are still trails the horse left." said Emily. "We will just follow the trails the horse left."

#

"HAHA! Now I'm so far from the kids, they will never find me!" screamed the sorcerer with an evil laugh.

But while he was focused on himself and the orb, he forgot about the horse. The horse fainted because of how tired and cold it was.

"Aw man, now I have to walk! At least the kids are far away from me."

#

“This day is so cold! It will be impossible to catch up,” Emily complained.

“Wait, is that something over there?” Jack said when he noticed the horse. They ran to the horse and saw it had fainted.

“That must be the sorcerer horse.” John said. “It looks exactly like it.”

They had an extra big cape and gave it to the horse. The horse woke up and was confused.

"What happened?" said the horse.

“You fainted,” the kids said.

“Oh, the sorcerer is so cruel! He never fed me,” said the horse.

Emily handed the horse a slice of bread and said, "Here you go, a piece of bread."

“There is the sorcerer!” the kids exclaimed.

“Oh no, what have I done! I'm so going to jail,” the sorcerer said in his head.

As he was looking back, the horse tripped him. The sorcerer fell. Soon the police came and the world was rescued from the evil sorcerer.

The End

## CHAPTER SIX

### *What's Your Power? by Siqu Liu*

It was another normal Monday on a windy day when Jessie, Ollie, and Pat were going to school together. Then they saw someone crying in a corner near the school. They stood there and looked at each other for a bit.

Jessie walked closer to the person crying. “Uh, hello sir. Oops! I mean ma’am, sorry. Are you okay?”

“Yes, er... well not really, well yes, but no,” the person answered.

She looked up at them and explained about how someone stole her wand that helped her with lots of magic and that now she couldn’t go back to her home since her wand was stolen.

“Would you guys possibly help me?”

“Er...” Pat said, looking at Jessie and Ollie since they were gonna be late for their class. “Yeah sure, but how could we even help?”

The woman explained about how she could give them some parts of her wand’s powers left to help her find it. “Oh yeah, and let me introduce myself, I’m Rose,” she said. “I promise this will be worth your time.”

They agreed to her request of helping her. Then she imbued them with the leftover magic.

“What powers did we even get?” Ollie asked when he gets his.

“You guys have to figure it out. It’s always a surprise,” Rose said. “You guys will figure it out by the time you find the magic thief. I’m sure you guys will know how to control it. Anyways, I’ll give you a hint of where the thief went. He has a palace near Nature’s Garden Pet Park.”

“There might not be a palace there, but it might just be hiding. Come on guys! Follow me!” Jessie said in excitement. She grabbed Ollie and Pat, then they were off for adventure.

#

They ran to Nature’s Garden Pet Park.

“I still don’t understand why do you just trust random people, Pat,” Ollie said in a worried voice. “Like, what if her powers didn’t work and we all die, and then like we get

captured by the thief, and then we have to work for him? Then what if he controls us and makes us turn on Rose when she trusted us with her powers?" He said quickly, trying to find more to say.

"Come on, Ollie. You worry too much. I'm sure we'll be fine," Pat said, cutting off Ollie's sentence.

As they walked around the pet park, looking everywhere, they couldn't find a sign of the palace.

"Ugh, I bet she was just lying about some palace and wanting to waste our time and—" Jessie stops, "Hey, guys, I think I know what my power is now!" she said, almost yelling.

"You're kidding, Jessie," Ollie said. "She never even gave us powers. And I know it, because I'm smarter than you guys, like how you guys always get B's and C's while I get A's and B+'s, and that I have more talent than all of you guys, and how you guys needed me to study with you guys, and how in art I helped you guys with the painting part in art class and—"

"Shush about school," said Pat. "This isn't "Flex Your Grades At School Park."

"Guys, I can see a magical wall, with a portal," Jessie said. She grabbed their arms and started running towards a wall and then, CRASH, they ran through it like breaking a glass window. Suddenly, they were in front of the palace. It was golden and huge, way bigger than a mansion, like a hundred times bigger.

"Whoa, this place sure is cool!" Ollie said happily to Jessie as they walked.

Yup, but very hidden though. Good thing that Rose gave me the best power!" Jessie responded happily.

"You sure are lucky!" Ollie answered.

Before them was a massive gate into the castle. Pat, right away, started running full speed to the gate and tried to open it. He pulled, but it wouldn't budge.

"God, what are we going to do now? This dumb door won't even open!" Pat yelled out, his face all red. He panted from trying to open the door.

"Super strength would be helpful right now," Jessie joked.

"Uhm, well let me try," Ollie said, walking towards the huge door and pulling it. He made a little progress, but it was gonna take all day to open. "Here Pat, help me open the door, and same to you Jessie," Ollie tells them.

They held the handle, and as they worked together, the door finally opened. They dashed inside to see a huge dragon sleeping in the middle of the room, it was probably bigger than a house. It had soft orange wings and sharp horns.

“Shhh!” Pat hissed at them.

He walked closer to the other side of the huge room, quietly. As he got there, he all of a sudden could see a picture in his mind of the dragon waking up, flying up to the roof, and crashing the whole palace down.

“No way,” he said to himself.

He turned around and saw the dragon slowly move, as if it was waking up. The dragon looked up and looked at Jessie and Ollie. Then all of a sudden, it looked like his vision was gonna come true. So he ran up to the dragon, grabbed the tail of it, and climbed on the dragon.

The dragon swung around, almost crushing Pat into a wall.

“Ugh! You little-” Pat said. “Guys! Help me get this dragon!” he yelled out in a worried voice.

Then he could see another picture in his mind clearly. It was a picture of the dragon about to fully wake up and fly away. He looked at Jessie and Ollie, just trying their best to climb on the dragon with him.

“I think I finally know my power!” he whispered to himself. “I can see the future! Well, at least a couple minutes into the future.”

He looked at Jessie and Ollie, still struggling, trying to get up.

“Pat! Are you deaf?” Ollie yelled out loudly. “We told you to get that rope on the side and help us up!” he yelled out. “Stop daydreaming!”

Ollie was holding on to the horns of the dragon, holding Jessie on the other hand. “PAT, STOP DAYDREAMING! WE ARE ABOUT TO GET BEAT UP BY A DRAGON AND YOU ARE JUST SITTING THERE BEING COMPLETELY USELESS!”

“Ollie! Chill out, maybe he’s thinking about how he can help us! You don’t have to shout at him,” Jessie said to Ollie calmly.

Pat finally heard them and nodded. Then he could see another picture in his mind, of the dragon flying away, carrying Jessie and Ollie with it while he was grabbing the rope.

He shouted down to Jessie and Ollie, “You guys, first get down! I’ll get you guys up soon, just trust me!” Pat yelled out as he jumped off and ran to get the rope.

As Jessie and Ollie jumped off the dragon, it flew away, breaking the roof of the huge palace.

“Pat! How did you know that it was gonna fly away? It could’ve carried us away!” Jessie yelled out.

“I now know my power. It’s seeing a little of the future,” he said.

“Whatever, hopefully I get mine soon,” Ollie said as he walked up to the door. Before he even got close, he took a look at a little shadow at the door and started screaming as he ran away from the door.

“AHHHHHHH! What in the world is that thing? That’s it! I can’t do it! I can never do anything!” He yelled as he ran. It was like that he was about to die!

Pat and Jessie just looked at Ollie running and yelling. As they got to the door, they saw a little shadow on the floor, but there was nobody. But they didn’t even care, they just pulled the door open and saw someone sitting there.

“It took you guys long enough,” the guy said, he looked up at them. It had to be the magic thief.

He had short black hair in a black coat, covering most of his body and face. “Just give us the wand already. We are already late for school,” Pat yelled.

“School is already over, dummy,” Jessie giggled.

“Shush, Jessie,” Pat responded, giving her a look.

But before the man could even say a word, Ollie came running into the room. He dashed at the man at full speed, and snatched the wand out of his hand.

“Hey! Give. That. Back!” The man yelled out, chasing Ollie.

Pat and Jessie just stared at each other and ran to also catch the thief while Ollie was being chased. Then all of a sudden, Ollie disappeared.

“What the…” The thief said in confusion looking at Pat and Jessie.

Pat and Jessie looked at each other for a second.

“I know where Ollie is! His power was teleportation and he’ll be outside waiting for us,” Pat whispered to Jesse. They nodded at each other and ran out.

“Took you guys long enough,” Ollie said to them as they ran out. “Well, come on guys, let’s go back! I’ve got the wand,” he said, holding up the wand.

“Don’t mess around with it. You’re gonna set the whole Earth on fire,” Pat said to him when he held up the wand, pretending to cast a spell.

“Ha! Abracad-”

“No more spells, Ollie! He’s coming for us! Run!” Jessie yelled out as the magic thief ran out of the palace, about to catch them.

“Hey, Pat! Do you think some spells from The Book Of Spells will work? Like uhm, Lum-”

“Shush, Ollie! We are gonna die!” Pat yelled out. “I said NO MORE SPELLS!!”

“Come on, guys! We don’t got all day. Let’s go back to Rose to give her wand back!”

Jessie answered quickly, trying to distract them from fighting each other.

They ran to the wall, with the magic thief chasing right behind them. They jumped through the magic portal, back to the normal world. They walked back to Rose. By the time they got there, school was already over. The kids were going home and parents were everywhere.

“Oh, you came back! Thanks for helping me,” Rose said happily, as she took the wand.

“Oh yeah, no problem! Haha, and we totally didn’t try to cast any spells ya know,” Ollie responded. Jessie gave him a look to shut him up about the spells.

“Thank you guys so much! And I mean it! And I’ll give you a prize for helping me!” Rose said kindly. “I’ll let you guys into a world of witches and wizards for as long as you’d like! And you guys could even keep the powers!”

“Woah! Really? But…” Pat stopped.

“Pat! Listen up,” someone yelled from behind them. It was Alex, Pat’s younger sister. “If you accept her request Pat, I’ll tell mom and dad that you left them for some powers and a whole new world full of wizards and witches and-”

“Listen up, Alex,” Ollie said to Alex, cutting her off. “We don’t care. We could just leave you here. Still, Pat’s mom and dad won’t even care if he just left, since your family is going on vacation in two days anyways, so it wouldn’t be that bad.”

“Guys, stop fighting. Pat, Ollie, and you Jessie, hold my hand and you’ll be in a whole new world,” Rose said quickly. They grabbed her hand and, zoom! They were transported into a new world, full of wizards and witches and even more adventure.

The End

## CHAPTER SEVEN

### *Danganronpa by Allison Sosa Hernandez*

It was a nice evening with quietness but it was too quiet for Monokuma. So he decided to ruin the nice evening. He had a brilliant idea. He'd buy a school and put traps into it with the intention of hurting kids, but it had to look normal enough so no one suspected anything.

Monomi was so against all of it, but she did not say anything. Later on, Monokuma decided that since he bought a school, he might as well get students, so that's what he did. He sent some letters to some kids, and shortly enough, they accepted it. The next day, they all came, but someone was waiting for them and that someone was Monomi.

Monomi told them, "This is a trap! Run while you still have time too!"

But they all laughed and said she was crazy. They proceeded to go inside and not listen to her. When they came inside they were greeted by Monokuma, the principal.

"Hello and welcome to my school. I am your headmaster," he said.

They said hello and Monokuma said, "Let me show you around the school." And that's what he did.

It looked normal to them but it was a lot more deadly than they thought. He showed them their classroom and told them that while their teachers are still not here, you can all get to know each other.

They were quiet at first, but then one of the students said, "Hi I'm Junko Enoshima and this is Nagito Komaeda."

They all ended up introducing themselves.(Hajime Hinata Byakuya Togami,Tokofukawa ,Kokichi Oma,Shuichi Saihara,Kiyotaka Ishimaru, and Mondo Owada).

Days went by and it was normal for the students, but Shuichi and Hajime noticed that principal Monokuma was acting very fishy, so they decided to spy on him. It all looked normal until Shuichi noticed that Monokuma would leave his room earlier than usual. So they asked their teacher where Monokuma would go.

Chisa Yukizome said, "He's the principal he can leave if he wants to."

They were going to give up until Nagito and Kokichi showed up and said "We want to help."

Hajima said, "The more the merrier."

They were putting up cameras all round, when suddenly out of nowhere, Kokichi ran to the guys and said, "Guys, there was a shark in the gym!"

They looked at each other with shocked faces.

Nagito said, "Wait. WHAT!"

Kokichi shook his head. Hajima in pure shock said, "We need to see the cameras right now!"

But bad luck, the cameras were offline so they did not know who did it. They had a suspicion that it had to do with Monokuma, but they did not have any proof.

Then they realized what Monomi said to them was true. It was a trap! So they all ran, but then the doors closed heavily. They were locked in so they could not leave.

Hajima said, "Someone must have known that we were going to leave!"

Then out of nowhere, Monokuma pops out and said, "You will never escape!" He laughed hysterically.

The room kept moving in a circle and then it stopped and was very dark. They felt around the room in the dark.

"Ahhh!" screamed Kokichi.

"What?" said Nagito.

Kokichi said, "Sorry! It was just Mondo and Kiyotaka.

Shuichi found a light switch and turned it on.

Why are you in fear? What happened to you?" Shuichi said. "What happened?"

Toko Fukawa said, "Monokuma came in and made the room go in a circle and then it stopped, and then we were in this dark room."

They all said "That happened to you too?"

The announcements turned on.

"Good evening everyone," Monokuma said.

Kokichi said, "What do you want from us?!"

Monokuma said, "To turn on you, obviously!"

"WHAT? WHY?" everyone shouted.

Monokuma said "Because it's fun."

Then Hajime said, "Do you know who killed that person in the gym?"

Monokuma said he didn't.

Junko said "You have to know! You're the principal."

Monokuma said, "I'll guess. If I get it right, I get to turn you all into frogs." "The

announcements turned off.

Kokichi said “If Monokuma gets it right, then he takes everyone’s lives yeah? But if Monokuma actually doesn't know who the culprit is, this game can't function anymore.”

They all said, “Let's make sure that he doesn't kill us.”

Mondo said, “But who died?”

Kokichi said, “It was Gundham Tanaka from class 5B1.”

Hajime said, “Really? I never knew that.”

Shuichi said, “But wait. Where is Miss Yukizome? She's not here.”

They all said, “Now that you're saying that? Where is she?”

They went looking around and found Monomi in a prison cell in the basement.

They asked her, “Why are you in here?”

She said, “Monokuma found out that I told you to leave and he put me in this prison.”

“Toko Fukawa said, “OH MY GOD, that's so mean of him to do!

Byakuya Togami said, “Okay yeah, but where is Miss Yukizome?”

Just before she said anything, Monokuma appeared and said “She's dead! Good luck trying to find her body, Hehehe! Oh and I know who murdered Gundham it was... [Kazuichi Soda!](#)”

Kiyotaka said “No, it can't be him. He was my friend! He would NEVER turn on anyone.”

Monokuma said, “Wellllll, he did try to betray you when he gave you that soda. He put a serum into it, but you survived.”

Kiyotaka said, “Wait, what? I knew it tasted different!”

Monokuma said, “Well you're still alive, so that's a good thing.”

Mondo said, “Hold on a second. You got it right, but we thought you did not know who it was.”

Monokuma said, “Well, I did not know who did it, but my friends told me. *You* should have known who it was.”

They all said “No, we didn’t have any clue who it was?”

Monokuma said, “[It's Junko, Kokichi, AND Nagito Komaeda!](#)”

The room went silent.

Hajime and Shuichi both said, “We trusted you. You lied to us! No wonder the cameras were off. When we told you to check if the cameras were on you said yes and you lied!”

Kokichi shrugged and said, “What can I say? Sometimes you have to lie, hee-hee!”

Junk, Kokichi, and Jagito laughed and the others were in such shock that they did not notice Monokuma coming closer with a book.

”WATCH OUT!” Monomi shouted.

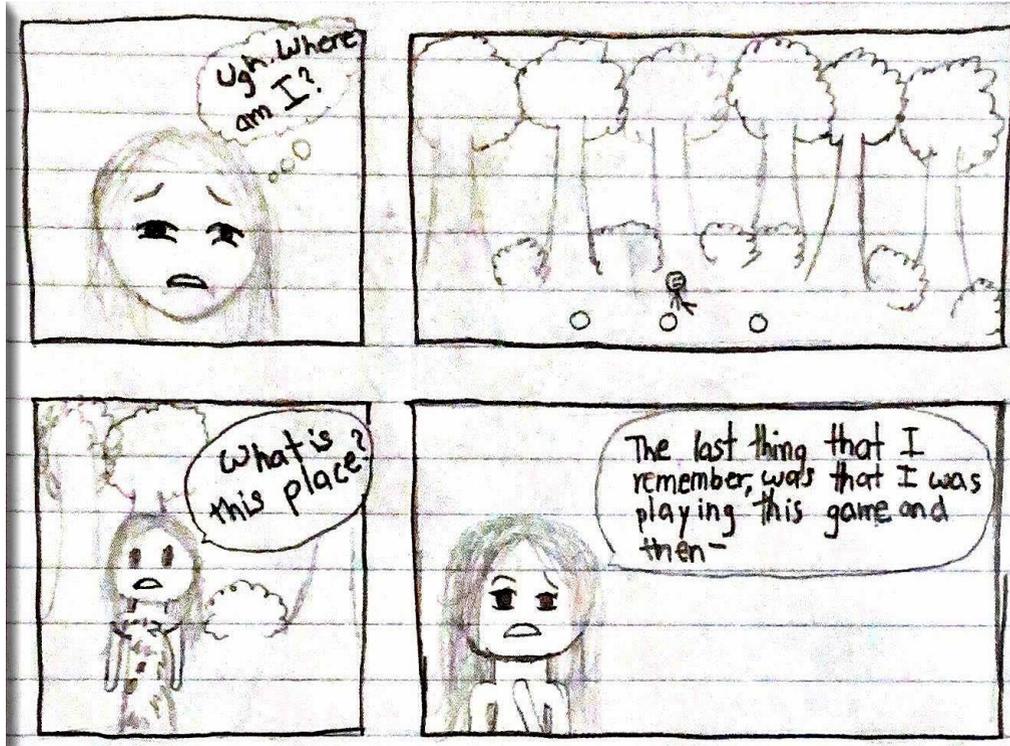
They all jumped and saw Monokuma, so they ran as fast as they could through the dark room. Just as they were running, the room began to spin in a circle. Then, when they were back to the school, they tried to tell the other classes but nobody wanted to listen.

The other students just said, “You guys are just weirdos.” That's all the other students said and they were making fun of the survivors of Monokuma school. Nobody would believe them and they thought the magic was fake.

The End

# CHAPTER EIGHT

## *The Game by Evangeline Fu*



"W-where am I?"

I was in some kind of forest or something. I examined myself to see if any part of my body was hurt. I was wearing some kind of dress, but in rags. I kinda liked it, so I left it like that.

I got up.

"Woah!" I said, as I stumbled and fell.

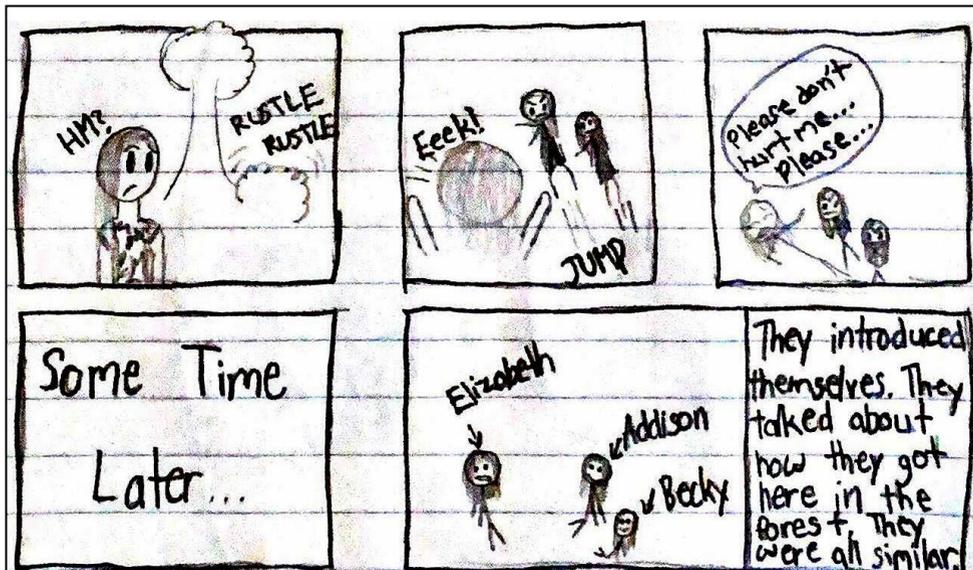
I was still a little bit dizzy. I closed my eyes, hoping to get rid of it. After a few minutes, I started to walk around, trying to familiarize myself. It did seem like it was a forest. There were huge trees all around me. Most of them were covering the light. There were also bushes. The more I looked around myself, the more it reminded me of a place that I knew. Like the videogame I was playing. Wait! If this is like the game, that means...

"I'm inside!" I shouted. "But that's impossible! How can you be in a game with real

life people in it?"

I sighed. I guess that explained the ragged dress and all. If I remembered correctly, I was playing this game called "Hunters Survival." Basically, you get lost in this forest and then you become some sort of hunter and you have to complete the challenges or obstacles to finish the game. You will also have to answer questions. When I mean hunter, I mean that it's the type of person that gets comfortable with the wild, sort of like their home really.

The last part that I can remember is that I got dizzy and everything went black. That was all that I could remember.



I stopped. I heard something. It was coming from the bush. I quietly walked to it. All of a sudden, two people jumped out, and tackled me.

"Please don't hurt me!" I shouted.

The two people let go of me. Both of them were girls.

"Thank you," I said, sighing with relief. "Anyway, what are your names?" I asked them.

One of the girls' faces turned from a frown to a slight smile.

"I'm Addison," she said. "And the parson next to me is Becky."

"Hi!"

"Hello. Nice to meet you guys. I'm Elizabeth, but you can call me Liz for short."

We talked to each other for a few other minutes. "Hey," I said, "are you guys sisters?"

They looked a little taken aback by that question.

"No, we're not sisters," said Becky cautiously. "We just met a few minutes ago before we met you."

"Hmmm," I thought. If they weren't sisters and they just met, then that means that they played this game and ended up here just like me!

"Of course!" I exclaimed, snapping my fingers.

"What do you mean?" questioned Addison.

"No, I mean that you guys are just like me. You guys must have played this game called 'Hunters Survival,' and then everything went black, and then you ended up here!"

"Yes!" shouted Becky and Addison at the same time.

"How did you know?" cried Addison.

"It's because that also happened to me too."

"This is really weird," said Becky.

"And I think that the only way to get out is to finish this game," said Addison.

"Yeah..." Becky and I said, quietly.

"This is the only way to get out of this game," I said. "Are you guys with me or what?"

Addison and Becky looked at each other, then looked at me. They nodded.

"Alright! Then let's do this!" I shouted, pumping my fist into the air.

"Yeah!" said Becky and Addison, pumping their fists into the air too.

"How do we start the game though?" I asked.

Addison and Becky shrugged. We thought about it for a few minutes.

"I think it has like a button somewhere, you know, to start the game and all," said Addison, thoughtfully.

We started searching right away.

"Um, guys?" I said a little while later.

"What's up Liz?" Becky asked, still searching. "You found the button?"

"No, it's not that," I said nervously.

"Then what is it?" Becky asked.

"This thought just came to my head. What happens if we fail, or die, in the game?"

Becky and Addison stopped searching, stood up, and then turned to me, their faces blank.

"I actually didn't think about that," said Addison, quietly.

"I'm sure that it's going to be fine," Becky assured them. "Besides, it's a game. And I'm pretty sure that if we do die, then we'll probably just have to restart."

"I hope you're right," said Addison.

"L-let's keep searching," I said.

We found the button a few minutes later. It was kind of camouflaged in the bushes.

"Should we press it?" I asked.

Addison nodded. When I pressed it, I got teleported into another place, still in a forest, but Addison and Becky weren't with me. I started the game right away. It was just like I remembered. You have to get past the obstacles and answer some questions to win the game.

I figured that I'd meet up with Becky and Addison later on in the game because I would usually meet up with some other people when I played the game.

I looked up. I saw some words forming in the air.

"Preparing game... " I read. I guess this is how the game starts."

Yup. I was right. Soon enough, I was dodging logs, answering a gazillion questions, and running for my life to not be eaten by a bear chasing me. I sometimes failed, even though I had played this countless times. I think when you're in the game you forget some stuff, and that makes the game harder. Curse that game maker!

Anyway, after dying many times, I found Addison and Becky later on in the game and we continued together.

There were also weird questions that popped up when I was answering the questions, like, "Who created this game?" Bruh, what kind of question even is that! That isn't even hunter-related. Also, I don't pay attention to those.

I did choose one that seemed like it was the person that created it: *The Wildness Games*. I do sometimes see that person's name on some games, but all of them were all about the wild.

It was correct. There were more questions like that, but I'm not going to name them.

Me, Addison, and Becky eventually managed to finish the game, but were still confused how to get out of the game.

"What do we do know?" asked Becky.

"I actually don't know," Addison admitted.

"How about we find a button?" I suggested. "Like the way we wanted to start the game."

Becky nodded.

We started searching right away. We each had a part of the game board to search for the button faster. I was in charge of checking the bushes, Addison was in charge of checking the trees, and Becky was in charge of checking the grass.

Eventually, we found it. It was hidden behind the bark on one of the trees. That took forever! Becky and I were sure that there was no button in the bushes in our parts, so we checked the trees and that's when we saw it.

Before we pressed the button, we found a console that we could write our player names on so we can send friend requests and talk to each other.

"Um, how many days do you think have passed since we were trapped inside this game?" asked Addison.

I shrugged.

"Best not to think too much about that," said Becky, assuringly.

We said our last farewells and pressed the button. I appeared back in my room. I quickly went to send my friend requests to Addison and Becky. They accepted after a few seconds. I was suddenly curious about the description of the game. I took it out of the console and read it. On the very bottom it said: WARNING. Never play this game for over a month or you will REGRET IT.

I shivered. Even the warning was creepy!

I went to the game website to review and noticed something. The last time I was playing this game, it had a lot of likes to it. Now, there were a lot of dislikes. I didn't really worry about it too much. I never played that horrible game ever again, and I hope the same of Addison and Becky.

The End

## CHAPTER NINE

### *Jack and the Quest Against the Dragon*

*by Zofia Wiater*

The scariest thing happened to me was when I was helping my mom on our farm land. I was planting some corn when suddenly a dragon swooped down. It snatched my mom and flew away to his secret cave.

Okay, let's start at the beginning. I was there hanging out with my friend Lucia on her farm. We were there looking for different critters that crawled there. Our favorite activity was to find different insects. It felt nice to have a ticklish feeling on your arm from a caterpillar. It was starting to get late so I went home to help my mother cook dinner.

Dinner was delicious. After eating dinner, I started to get ready for bed. I didn't know what crazy thing would happen the next day.

I woke up to the sounds of birds chirping in the morning sun. My mom was outside and said "Hey, Jack, come help me plant some corn. It is almost Thanksgiving."

I loved helping my mom with planting crops because occasionally I would occasionally find colorful caterpillars so of course I said YES! I changed into my clothes and went outside. I felt the nice morning breeze and the trees swooshing.

"Come, my Jack, grab some seeds and start planting," my mom said. But just as I turned around, I heard a sudden scream from my mom. OH NO! She was taken by the fiercest dragon that roamed the land around our town.

I live in a rural town called Norside in Canada. Our town was famous for many dragon attacks. The dragons were known for burning houses and kidnapping women and men to eat. I was so terrified, but I chased after them! I didn't know if I would ever see my mom again. Especially when I saw the bones.

I noticed the bones along the path it flew. The dragon must have gone this way often to leave a trail of bones. I figured out that if I followed the trail of bones I will reach the dragon's cave and have a chance at rescuing my mother.

#

I went to Lucia's house and pounded on the door. "LUCIA, OPEN THE DOOR, PLEASE!"

It took ten minutes but she finally came and opened the door.

"What do you want?" she moaned. I then explained to her what happened and that my mom was kidnapped by a dragon and we have to find its cave to save my mom.

"But no one was able to find its cave before," Lucia said.

"So, then we will be the first ones," I replied.

"Okay, if you insist, Jack," Lucia said.

We both got ready to go on a quest. I told her that the dragon left a trail of bones and we can follow it hopefully leading us to the cave.

We started following the trail of bones that led us through the forest, across the river, and finally, to a mountain.

"How are we going to get up a mountain without proper equipment?" Lucia pointed out.

"Uhh... Well I didn't really prepare for this to happen," I muttered.

Lucia was mad. "YOU said that you were ready for anything that comes in our way!" she exclaimed.

We thought long and hard to find a way up the mountain. Then Lucia's eyes got wide and pointed. I looked. Then at the same time we said "STAIRS!" Hidden behind some rocks with bones on them, was one part of the mountain that had a stairs-shaped trail.

After two hours of climbing, we found the cave. We slowly crept in, trying not to wake the dragon. In the deep end of the cave, we found my mother.

"Mom, you're safe!" I sighed with big relief.

"Oh, I thought I would never see you again, Jack," my mom sobbed with joy.

"Mom, we are going home, but first, Lucia will untie you," I said without fear.

"Oh thank you, Lucia, for helping me get out of here," my mom said.

Once Lucia untied my mom we started to head down the mountain but we didn't know someone was following us. When we started walking through the forest we felt very warm on our backs. "Hmm, how is it so warm when it is fall," I thought to myself. We all turned around and saw THE DRAGON!

"He followed us all along the way back!" Lucia screamed.

We ran for our lives. The dragon roared and charged after us. We took many different paths to escape the dragon, but he still managed to find us. My mom found a cave big enough to fit all three of us. We quickly scurried into the cave.

There was a long silence. I was thinking, “How did he always manage to find us without following a trail? Does he have some super senses?” Then it came to my mind that we have to smell like something dragons didn’t like, ANIMALS.

“Lucia, Mom, I think I found the solution to get away,” I said surely. “We have the smell like animals because dragons hate the smell of animals,” I stated without fear.

My mom told me, “But we haven’t seen any animals.”

“But we do have our farm animals,” I quickly said back.

We started going towards the end of the forest, but in a blink of an eye the dragon started following us even faster than before. We ran even faster. We quickly went to the nearest animals, the chickens. All of us hugged the chickens, one in each hand. They started to peck us so that we would go away, but we continued, not thinking of the pain. Shortly after, the dragon came closer and closer and closer until he started to smell the animals. He hated the smell, but unexpectedly started crying.

“Why are you crying?” I asked.

“I don’t have any friends so I took people from the town so that I wouldn’t be lonely anymore in my cave.” the dragon said, sobbing.

“Well... we can be your friends if you like.” Lucia said bravely.

“REALLY? Wow! You are the best friends ever! Now I won’t be lonely anymore thanks to you guys,” the dragon exclaimed joyfully.

“No problem,” we all three said together. And the four of us lived a happy life and had a friendship that lasted forever.

The End

## CHAPTER TEN

### *Willow's Adventure Through Minecraft by Phoebe Jiang*

It was a sunny day. I was sitting comfortably on my bed in my room, peacefully listening to the birds out the window. My grandmother was cooking next door which meant that I could smell the food. The smell of fresh baked cupcakes made me crave them right now. I was playing Minecraft on my brother's Nintendo switch. All of a sudden, I felt my body shrinking and the switch turning into a giant. A whisper washed through my head, but I couldn't make out what it was saying. Then, I was sucked into the switch and into the endless world of Minecraft.

The world loaded in as I got back to my regular size. A flickering figure appeared in front of me. I realized that it was a man. He wasn't normal though, no, definitely not. The guy had wings; dark reddish wings. His face had bruises and he looked old. His black beard was very messy, like his hair.

"W-who are you?!" I asked.

"That's not important right now," he responded.

"Then why am I here and how do I get out?" I said. I gulped.

"In order to get out of this world, you must protect a village that is on the edge of a raid. Find a friend to help. You have exactly five days. Don't fail me."

And just like that, he vanished. I had a lot more questions like "Where is this village?" and "Why only five days?".

I obviously knew how to play Minecraft so I started to run toward a forest and started punching wood with my bare hands. A full set of stone tools was the first thing one should make after getting cobblestone. I made a crafting table and crafted a wooden pickax. Then, I dug down and got some cobblestone.

The sun was still out, but the shadows of the trees made it dark and ominous. I went to my crafting table after getting enough cobblestone and made a full set of stone tools.

Finally, I was prepared. The man said to find a friend to help me on my journey. I set out North to find a ravine because I wanted more materials like iron, coal, and diamonds. I walked on the grass and saw a bunch of flowers. The forest I left was behind me. Then, I realized how slow it would be if I walked, so I started to run. I felt pretty good about this

until my stomach grumbled.

“Oh no,” I thought. I’m going to have to kill some animals for food. I loved animals and it would hurt me to see them die, especially if I was the one to kill them. This wasn’t normal Minecraft—I’m a human with a human body and face. That means I can feel pain and possibly death.

It feels like hours and hours after I entered the world but it was only the evening. I ran until I saw a hole that was as big as a football field. It stretched into the forest to my right and ended almost at a lake. At this point, I couldn’t run anymore. I would’ve passed out but then, I froze. I stared down at the sight of flaming hot fire being shot from someone’s hand.

“Ugh...I hate you, skeletons!” the person complained. A fireball emerged from their hand and killed some of the skeletons.

It took me a second to realize that the person was a girl. She had ginger hair and a shirt tied around her waist. Her hair was in a low ponytail and she wore a blue t-shirt with black jeans. I didn’t know what to do or say. How could there be magic in Minecraft?! Minecraft is literally a blocky survival and adventure game. Definitely not one with magic!

“Ahhhhhhh!” the girl cried. She was in trouble and I wanted to help. I turned to the skeletons.

“Hey, you dumb skeletons! Over here!” I yelled.

They looked up. I ran down a convenient dirt staircase and ran toward the lake. The skeletons tried to shoot me, but missed every shot. I quickly looked down and saw flowing water. Knowing Minecraft, if I fell down and landed in the water, I wouldn’t die. It was the only way to get down and kill the skeletons.

Hoping I wouldn’t die, I jumped down into the water. SPLASH! I swam up the river and ran to the skeletons. I pulled out my sword and dodged the arrows. I slashed the skeletons with the sword and killed them.

“I...,” I stood there...shocked. I actually killed the skeletons! The girl moaned. I quickly ran to help.

“There,” I helped her up.

“Wh-who are you?” She asked.

“My name is...” I hesitated. “My name is Willow. I’m guessing you also got sucked into Minecraft too?”

We walked to a huge rock and sat down.

“Yeah. Anyway, my name is Faith.”

I looked around and asked, “What are you doing here?”

“I was mining and suddenly came across this ravine.” She looked up. “Then...I think you know.”

We sat in silence as I tried to heal Faith’s leg. “Did you get a quest as well? Like..from a man with dar-“

“Yes” Faith replied.

After I was done with Faith’s leg, I looked up. “Are you able to walk now? It’s almost night time!”

We didn’t have shelter to protect against the mobs of monsters.

“It’s okay,” she said. “I made a temporary cave before the skeletons attacked. We can stay there.”

I sighed in relief and said, “That’s nice to hear.”

We got up and I followed Faith into a strip mine. She took a right and stepped on a pressure plate. An iron door opened and led to a medium sized room.

“Here, I’ll make another bed for you,” she said.

Faith placed down a crafting table. The room was pretty empty. There was a block of wood next to the bed and a flower pot on top. Faith placed another bed on the opposite side of the room.

“Sleep,” she said. I got into my bed and closed my eyes.

Three seconds passed and we got up.

“That was the first night,” I said. “Which means that we have four more days.”

I was really hungry now.

“Whelp, we better get moving,” Faith went to the crafting table and started crafting something.

“Do you mind sharing some food, if you have some?” I asked.

“Here,” Faith handed me a compass. “That shows the way to the village,” she said. “And here’s some food.” She tossed me two cooked steaks.

“Thanks!” I started munching on the steak.

“You’re welcome.” She smiled. After I was done, we left the ravine for the surface.

The compass was pointing West. We traveled for hours. Days passed. Finally, the compass pointed North-West. Minutes later, I saw a house in the distance.

“Oh my god!” I jumped up and down.

“We made it!”

I was about to run towards the village until Faith said stop. She pointed up to a big hill. There was a pillager outpost.

“It’s so close,” I realized. I heard a faint sound of an iron golem. “It’s getting attacked,” I blurted out.

“What?” Faith asked with confusion.

“The iron golem is being attacked!” I said.

“Well then, let’s go!”

Faith ran toward the sound. I followed. When we got there, the iron golem had arrows sticking out. Pillagers were shooting arrows at the golem. Cracks were forming on the iron golem as the pillagers shot more arrows at it. Faith ran to kill the pillagers. Next thing you know crossbows from the pillagers lay on the ground. She ran to the outpost (probably stealing the loot).

“Find the pillagers! A raid has started!” Faith yelled.

I went to the nearby cave and slayed two pillagers. After two rounds, I was already tired. I was just as weak as I was in real life. I had a scratch on the side of my leg. I barely dodged an arrow as Faith ran to my side.

“Don’t you have magic powers?” I asked desperately.

“Yeah!” she said.

Faith screamed so loud I thought I was going to go deaf. She held an arrow that hit her shoulder.

“Do you think tha-“

Faith disappeared and probably went on a rampage because it went from ten pillagers left to two pillagers left. I just stood there exhausted and helpless. I ran for a bit and killed two pillagers. Then, I felt my legs crumbling. My mind went blank and I passed out.

I woke up in my own bedroom, no longer in Minecraft.

A familiar voice says “Well done. You have completed my challenge.”

“But..Faith did it!”

I was confused. I sat up and stared at my blanket that laid on my legs.

“What happened to Faith?” I asked.

No reply. How long had I been out anyway? I realized how dark it was outside. Moonlight shined in from the window.

The End

## CHAPTER ELEVEN

### *Eliana and Travel Space by Estrella Quilli Vasquez*

I am at my table about to eat my cereal sparkle. But the weirdest thing just happened! Everything got blurry and I blacked out. All of a sudden I was in SPACE!

So let's start from the beginning. There I was walking to the magic shop to buy a new cereal flavor that came out. I went inside and it smelled so good inside. It smelled like sweet carrot cake and candy inside the magic shop. I bought the cereal for twenty dollars which is expensive for a cereal box but I thought, "It must be really good."

But all of a sudden, the worker said, "Never wish something before eating."

I didn't think much of it. I went back home and got a bowl and some milk. As I poured the cereal I thought how I really wanted to become an astronaut and go to space. I ate a spoon full of cereal. I blacked out.

I woke up in space! I explored a little and I didn't see any weird living creatures in Jupiter. But I was WRONG!! I felt heavy breathing behind me. As I turned around slowly I could hear the breathing fade away. I turned around and saw nothing. I was confused! So I decided to keep looking. But all of a sudden I saw something weird in the corner of my eye. I didn't move and just looked at the direction of where I saw that weird looking thing. When I got a good look at the creature. My jaw dropped, I started shaking uncontrollably. I saw an ALIEN!.

Now, you must be saying, "Didn't you wanna become an astronaut and find aliens!?"

Well that is right but what is in front of me is not any kind of normal alien. There was some type of saliva all over it and it had many arms, like literally eight! But it had hands coming out its back too! It started walking towards me. I didn't know if I should run or stay calm. I decided to stay calm and make constant eye contact with it. Once it was two feet away from me it held one of its arms in front of me. I figured out it might want some sort of high five or something. So I held up my arm. It flinched and stepped back.

I wasn't so scared anymore. I waved and it looked like it tried to wave back. But then I heard a big howl. And when it stopped, the creature walked towards the sound quickly. And then I was all alone.

While I was there standing, I decided I could come up with a cool alien name so I did.

I decided its name will be Chimera! While I was there standing, I felt footsteps. I thought it might be the vibration of a rock. But I was wrong. It was Chimera! It walked towards me slowly and then howled at me really loud. Like seriously really loud! I thought my ear drums were about to explode. And then it stopped and waved. I thought it tried to say hello so I just waved. I was a little scared. And I think Chimera could have sensed my fear since it stepped back. But then out the corner of my eye I saw something. I turned around as quickly as I could and saw a head poking out. I saw blond hair. It seemed strange to me since no one on earth ever caught an alien with long beautiful hair. I ran towards it. And I was even more shocked than when I saw Chimera.

It was a LITTLE GIRL. I Immediately asked her how she got here. And what she told me sounded familiar like it had happened to me too.

And then she said, “Well it happened when I ate sparkle cereal.” I asked her how long she has been here and she said. ”W-well I'm not really sure, but i think i have been here for one to two years.”

I was surprised. I told her, “I'm Eliana and I guess we can both say the same thing.” But then Chimera ran and got in front of me and howled really loud.

The little girl then quickly said “Chimera it is ok, she is a friend!” We both named Chimera the same name.

I figured out Chimera thought I was gonna hurt the little girl. After that I started crying. The little girl seemed confused as to why I was crying. I told her I wished to go back home!

The little girl then said, “WAIT! PLEASE DON'T LEAVE! I NEED YOU TO-”

But before she could finish her sentence I fainted. I woke up at my table. I was surprised. I felt heart broken.

“NO NO NO WHAT HAPPENED!” I screamed. “I NEED TO GO BACK.”

I ran to the magic shop. But when I got there, the old man was closing the shop. And I said out loud, “Wait! I need one more cereal box please!”

The old man looked at me and smiled. He closed the shop and walked away. I ran after him.

“Please, I need to go back to space and see the little girl!”

I think I surprised him because he stopped and said, “Young girl, I think you broke your head or something. There is no such thing as sparkle cereal.”

I looked at him straight in the eye and gave him the stare. He immediately said “Ok

fine just stop staring at me just go back home and wish the same thing, but eat a spoon full of the cereal at the same time.”

I ran back and then stopped and shouted “Aren’t you coming?” He sighed and followed me.

When we were back at my house he said he wanted to come with me and see what was happening. So we both wished to be in space and soon we blacked out. When I opened my eyes I wasn’t in Jupiter. It seemed like I was on Mars! So I wished to be back home and then wished to be on Jupiter. I blacked out again and was on Jupiter.

I saw the little girl crying. I ran to her and hugged her. She looked at me and then blinked. Then she said, “Eliana, YOU’RE BACK! YAY I THOUGHT YOU LEFT ME!!”

I smiled and said we will go back home but she said, “I can’t. I wanna stay here.”

I looked at her, surprised. But then I noticed I hadn’t seen the old man since we wished ourselves into space. I started shouting but nothing. All of a sudden, I heard a scream. And it sounded like the old man’s voice. I started running towards the scream, but the little girl stopped me.

“Don’t go, the aliens captured him. It is an illusion.”

I looked at her and said, “What? But...how? We gotta help him.”

She started walking so I decided to follow her. When she stopped walking I looked up and saw rocks just standing there in the air.

The little girl turned around and said, “Oh yeah, my name is Averill and you might forget me when we go to Mars.”

I was a little confused, but I didn’t think much of it. She soon started jumping on the rocks and then another. Until she disappeared.

Then I heard her voice saying, “ELIANA, C’MON WE GOTTA KEEP WALKING GET THROUGH THE PATH”.

So I jumped on a rock and then another. When I got to the other side, it looked so much different than Jupiter. We continued walking and then I heard the same scream. I just ignored it, because I was a little scared.

Averllie said, “Were here! Now we just need to go back in time.”

I looked at her like she was crazy, but her face was serious. So then Avellie held my hand and kind of dragged me in an invisible portal which I thought was fake, but I was surely wrong. Everything turned black and I fainted. When I woke up I could see Averllie looking at me.

I sat up and said, “What just happened?” Averllie shushed me. I thought she was in a

bad mood, so I just said, “Averllie what’s wro-” and she covered my mouth quickly but gently with her hand.

At this moment I was mad at her, but then I saw the reason she was rude. I saw myself on the table screaming, “NO, NO, NO, WHAT HAPPENED? I NEED TO GET BACK.”

At this point I was really surprised, but then I saw when we fainted into space but the old man never closed his days. Instead, he blinked and his eyes turned white. I was in shock and disbelief. Then he disappeared.

Averllie said, “Hmm, this unusual. I’ve never been through this experience before. I don’t know.”

I told her that we should go a little forward in time, but Averllie said that was impossible. So I immediately snapped the old man out of his dream or whatever was happening and he looked at me.

“Why did you do that?” he said. “Someone was talking to me.”

I decided to go back in time with Aaverllie. Now I could see us spying on the old man. When I saw myself about to snap the old man out of his dream, I grabbed myself and shut my own mouth. I could see myself terrified and in shock, but I really didn’t care about that, I was looking at my face and holding back my laughter. I looked hilarious but I had to focus. Once we were all calm, we spied on the old man and he said, “Sir, yes sir.”

At that moment, I couldn’t hold my laughter anymore and burst out laughing so hard a tear came out my eye. But now the old man snapped out of his dream and looked at me. So now we had to go back in time AGAIN!!.

Now we had to wait more. I could see Averllie was frustrated with me by the look on her face. When we got to the part where I was about to burst out laughing, I had to hold back my laughter myself and shush my other me. But then I felt weird and I woke up in bed. It turned out to be a dream! I was speechless.

At this point I was upset. I stood up and went to the store. On the way there, something caught my attention. A little girl with nice long blond hair, beautiful green eyes, and a pretty pink dress was swinging in the swings. I was shocked but happy. She looked at me and I could see she was in shock too.

She came up to me and said “Eliana, is that you?”

I was actually speechless. And she said, “This keeps happening. We keep going back in time. I know we’re assigned to do something but I don’t know what.”

My brain exploded in disbelief. And this time everything added up as to why

everything seemed familiar. I thought about Chimera and then Averllie and how she didn't want to go back to Earth and how the old man wanted to go to space.

After lots of thinking, I knew what we had to do. I needed to go in space and bring Averllie back, but if I didn't bring her back in time the old man will come and want to go to space too, which would be two times harder, because I had to bring them both back. But I also had to make sure the old man didn't get stuck in the dream he was in before and actually get to space this time. And then help Chimera escape the evil alien. And I had to do all that before times restarted again. At this point it was a lot of work for me. But I would complete my mission and put an end to it. I now knew what I had to do after four years of this. My mission has only just started.

The End

## CHAPTER TWELVE

### *Finding Balance by Angee Chan*

I stood in the village square. I had a metal in one hand and my other hand was out.

“Ms. Amaris Bloodstone, this is a letter just for you, here!” exclaimed Mr. Bluebell.

He was just an eighty-five- year-old grandpa, who somehow was the mayor of the town of Black Hollow .

I extended my brownish hand to take the letter. I had never seen it before. I opened it and couldn't believe what I read.

“This is the letter to go to Fern's academy of black magic and potions !” I screamed.

“I've always dreamed of going here! T-thank you ! “

Now you're probably are thinking, "What's going on? I'm confused ? Well You better sit down. Because I'm going to tell the story of how I got my life flipped upside down and on the same day got into my dream school . ( You, reader, probably don't know this, but Fern's academy is the rarest academy you can get accepted in.)

It all started when I was walking down the block to my house. I had just come back from school. I had my magic exam paper, I had gotten an A+ on. I knew mom and dad were going to be proud. I came to our shabby apartment. Sure, it might have a leak or a few noisy neighbors, and maybe a lot of loud children running around the apartment halls. But it was home and it was the only thing we could afford, since both of my parents worked dead end jobs and were being paid with peanuts. That's not a joke. My pops always has a 5:00 shadow across his face twenty-four-seven .

Anyway back to the story.

I walked into the living room and saw my two cousins, Salena and Brooklyn, sitting on our old worn couch. They also happened to be my close best friends. They were twins. They both had the same black hair, just like me. And they were both fourteen-years-old just like me .

"Hey, Amaris. How was school?" Brooklyn shouted while munching on a bag of corn chips and watching TV. Brooklyn was one of the most popular girls in the town , since she can become friends with anyone.

"Your parents said that they ran off to work, so they left early . But they also left some leftover fries and burgers , from yesterday. You know, from Wendell's, " said Selena calmly. Selena was always reading her favorite chapter book, *Brain and Sally Broke the world*.

"Thanks for telling me. I'll go eat the leftovers. Can I join you Brooklyn? I don't have any homework today." I said while walking to our house's kitchen.

Later, when I got the fries and burgers, I sat down on the couch with my cousins and started to relax, but then I heard my neighbor Mr.Alex holler, "DRAGON! EVERYONE, RUN FOR YOUR LIVES!"

Selena got up and grabbed Brooklyn and I by the hand, and we ran out of the house . We all saw the village blaze up. Fire was everywhere! It was like a big fiery monster that was consuming everything . And then we saw it . We also saw a large maybe five thousand pound, red-scaled, and golden eyed dragon burning down Mrs. King's House .

"What do we do ?!" Brooklyn shouted.

"What do you think? We're right now in a burning village, Brooklyn!" Exclaimed Selena.

Then me and my cousins started to argue about, which made the problem worse because the dragon heard us arguing and came to try and burn us.

“Uh, guys, is it me or is the dragon look like it’s going to burn us alive?” I said.

We turned around just in time to make eye contact with the dragon. The dragon was now opening its jaws. Brooklyn, Selena, and I saw a small flame forming in its mouth.

And then we ran through the burning village, passed my school that was now burnt to the ground, and past the Market with cinders that flew around us the color of gold . And as we were running around with the dragon right at our heels, we made plans.

“How about we kill the dragon ?” Brooklyn said while running.

“No, Brooklyn! That’s an awful plan. Where are we going to get weapons?” shouted Selena, jumping to avoid a fireball the dragon spat at them.

“I have to agree with Selena,” I said. “Like we don’t have weapons . Also we might die.”

“Maybe we can befriend the dragon," suggested Selena .

After that we ran a few lanes to the right and found an alleyway that we hid in.

“Really, Selena? We can’t do that. We don’t have meat. Also the dragon might eat us!” I spat.

“Okay then, Amaris, how about give us your plan!” Brooklyn snapped.

“Maybe we should wait it out until the fire dragon gets tired?” I muttered. “Or maybe an ice dragon will come. They’re like yin and yang. This needs balance.”

Meanwhile the dragon continued causing chaos.

“Amaris, that isn’t even a plan! And an ice dragon isn’t going to come,” exclaimed Selena and Brooklyn.

Suddenly, we all heard a loud roar . I thought to myself “ Whelp, we’re dead! I had a good fourteen-year life.

But would you believe it? Another dragon had come and now the two dragons were fighting each other. And this new dragon, it was an ice dragon ! It had iridescent, sky blue scales and golden eyes.

So Brooklyn, Selena, and I just sat and let them fight. And soon another problem of the dragon was solved, because both of the dragons flew away. So we just went to put out the remaining fires. We went to find our parents, and I think you, dear reader, already know the rest .

The End

## CHAPTER THIRTEEN

### *The Children of the Elements:*

#### *Preface*

*by Joanna Li*

The city was dark and quiet. But not everyone was getting ready for bed or was already asleep. Somewhere in an alleyway, two adults are doing something. They're putting four children into boxes. What will happen to them?

#### **Chapter 1: I Trade Places With Flora (Luna)**

"Why did our parents leave us?" Flora was going at it again. Flora and Aqua looked at each other then looked at me and Aurora expectantly.

"Why do the younger ones always expect us to have an answer just because we're the older ones?" I thought, directing the comment at Aurora.

"Flora, Aqua, I told you before. I DON'T KNOW," I said, turning the flowers that Flora had grown with her powers to look like the sentence. "Tell me why our parents left us" to dust with my moonlight powers.

So, each of us has a power that's related to our name. For example, take my name, Luna, which means moon. So I have the power of the moon. I can make time move faster or make moonlight shine brighter. If I wanted to I could turn things into dust by "leaving it in the dark" as I call it. All of us - Aurora, me, Aqua, and Flora - could turn things into dust - in our way of course.

"Guys, let's leave the city," I said. "I can see the end of the city. Oh, and before you ask, it ends in a forest."

"What are you waiting for then?! LET'S GO!" Flora yelled. She was always like this when going into her home territory as her power was the ability to grow plants everywhere and anywhere.

"Flora, chill! You're gonna make plants explode the whole city!" Aqua yelled, accidentally stepping in the bundle of shrubs Flora had grown in her excitement.

“Come on guys, let’s take flight! Next stop: forest time!” Flora said calmly like a pilot. Energy still swirled around her like a cloud as she extended her wings and flew into the sky.

Laughing, Aqua, Aurora, and I flew up to join her. As I flew, I admired the sights below. I wasn’t worried about people seeing us since we figured out how to bend the Mist around us - a power we figured out how to use only one week ago. I used that power now to make us look like a flock of birds traveling.

After we reached the forest, there was a moment of silence. Then Flora said the obvious. “That is some forest. What kind of forest has trees with weird leaves and trunks made of...of whatever that is!”

“Silver-blue leaves and a silver trunk,” I murmured, mesmerized.

“Since when were you the tree expert?” Aurora thought, breaking my trance. Usually, it’s Flora that knows this kind of stuff.

“I don’t know,” I replied. Something tells me that normal people with parents can’t see this. Then again, normal people don’t have children with powers. Flora and Aqua gave me a questioning look while I and Aurora were telepathically chatting.

“Okay, how about we split up? Aurora and I will go straight through the middle of the forest and Aqua, you and Flora can take the left side. We’ll meet up at the end of the forest,” I suggested. “Are y’all good with the plan?”

After nods from everyone, we set off into the forest.

## **Chapter 2: I Get Almost Squashed By King Kong (Aqua)**

“How did Luna know what the trees were made of?” I asked, completely baffled. “Normally, it’s you who knows that kind of stuff.”

“I dunno. Maybe it’s because the forest has some connection with her?” Flora mused. “Do you have any ideas?”

“Well, did it ever occur to you that the trees here are the color of the moon? When she looked at the forest, her eyes changed. The pupils changed shape to look like the moon. They became silver like the moon,” I pointed out.

“True enough,” Flora remarked. “And the necklace she got from our biological parents started glowing like the moon.”

“Do you think there are any monsters we might have to fight?” I asked, changing the subject. “Cuz if there are, we could use our wands, right?”

“Um, I don’t know,” Flora replied. “Try asking Luna or Aurora through our minds.”

“Wait, can we even telepathically chat so far away from each other?”

“I don’t know. I’m trying to talk to Luna,” I said mentally, turning on telepathic talking. “Uh, Luna? Can you hear me? I asked. Can we use our wands if we have to battle monsters?”

“Sure,” Luna replied. “Just make sure not to use too much energy in case you drain yourself.”

“Yeah, we can use our wands,” I said. “Just be careful to not drain your energy on high-level spells.”

Flora grinned and whipped out her wand, The Sword of Earth, as I chose my favorite, the Blue Pearl.

I glanced at the pearl to notice that it was glowing dangerously bright. “Uh, Flora, my pearl thinks that there’s a monster ahead.”

Flora stopped and pulled her relics out of her backpack as I tried to decide which relic to equip. “What type of element do you think it is?”

I looked at my pearl again and noticed the normal blue shade on my pearl was now a little green. “I’m guessing it is the plant element.”

“Ok, so the fire relic will do the trick,” Flora said equipping her’s.

As we continued, the grass monster, a Forest Neek, appeared. We defeated it and moved on.

Having to fight monsters was kinda normal for us, the Dragonsword orphans. We used to think it was something everyone did. Eventually, we realized that we must have been special, that we were given these powers for a reason. The problem being we didn’t know what reason. We also each had a streak of color in our hair. Aurora’s was yellow like the sun, Luna’s silver like the moon, mine blue like the sea, and Flora’s was green like grass. Our streaks changed color with our emotions.

Just then, a crocodile the size of a house ran right in front of us, blocking our way. It looked down on us and raised its foot until it was hovering right over us and now coming in for a landing.

“Uh oh,” FLora said. “Uh, Aqua, can I use my wand on King-Kong? Because King-Kong looks ready to stomp us flat and turn us into human pancakes.”

### Chapter 3: The Crew of Alive Crystals (Aurora)

“The trees told me what they were made of,” Luna said. Luna explained how she had known what the trees were made of since it was strange how a child of the moon had known this.

Yeah, you read that right, a child of the moon, also known as darkness. We were each a child of an element. I was the child of the sun and light. Luna, my twin, was the child of the moon and darkness. Aqua was the child of the water and the sea. Flora, Aqua’s twin, was the child of the forests and plants. We each specialized in our elements.

Luna watched the trees as though they were trying to talk to her, which they (the trees) probably were. Suddenly she abruptly stopped and touched a wall of trees as though to open a passage through them. In reply, the tree suddenly revealed a passage between them that lead up into the sky. I made a small flame in my hand, lighting up the passageway. I tossed it up the spiral stairway. I heard a dull thunk which told me that it had burned out.

“Well, should we go up or not?” I asked Luna who was rooting around for a large branch. She quickly found one and tossed it to me.

“Light that branch on fire when I’m ready,” Luna said, reaching up and gathering threads of moonlight and quickly weaving it into a backpack for a whole lot more branches for torches.

I eyed the branches and said, “Can’t I just used a glowing hand of fire to light the way instead of you wasting our time for branches?”

Luna snorted and said, “Nuh-uh. It takes too much energy. You’re just gonna drain yourself and you fainting on the way up there isn’t gonna help any.”

I hated to admit it, but Luna had a point. This was an unknown place so I’d best not faint. We knew there had to be monsters since we had just blasted straight through a ton of them.

I stayed silent, which told Luna that I agreed with her, so she let the matter drop.

“Okay, let’s go into the stairway now. You coming?”

I frowned, suddenly realizing that I didn’t know where the stairway ended. “Wait, Luna, do you even know where it ends?”

My twin’s answer was surprising enough: “Yeah, it ends at the end of the forest. It’s gonna be dark in there, too.

“Okay then,” I said. As I walked into the doorway leading to the stairway, I realized that I had forgotten my torch.

Luna's definition of "dark" wasn't like mine. My definition of "dark" was light enough to still see a little. Luna's meaning of dark was pitch black, black enough to not see anything. Luna came in with her branch-pack and tossed me one which I lit on fire.

"Relics and wands," Luna said. "I'm using my Lunar Wand. You?"

"I'll use my sunburst wand," I said, watching the heat radiate from my wand. The Sunburst Wand was made from the sun's pure energy.

Walking up the stairway was easy, but breaking through the door to a cavern was not. The door was plant proof and waterproof. Finally, we had no choice but to burn down the door. So whoever made the door spent all that time for nothing.

What a rude welcome we got after all that. We were greeted by - you guessed it - monsters. Not just one monster either were was twelve of them. And they were all crystals. The crystal monsters did the typical thing all monsters do: they charged straight at us.

#### **Chapter 4: We Destroy King Kong (Flora)**

I yelped and about a thousand types of plants shot up through the ground and shielded us. I could only guess King Kong had been blasted 30 miles away.

"Aqua, hurry up and equip the plant relic! King Kong's element is water so its weakness is grass," I whispered.

Aqua equipped the plant relic and we chased after King Kong. It was easy enough to catch him: King Kong left a path of destruction behind him.

"You will never best me!" King Kong growled. All he needed was smoke pouring out his ears and his eyes on fire and he'd be a great cartoon character. "I won't let you reach the Element Clan!"

At the words "Element Clan," vines twisted out of the ground and tied King Kong to the floor. King Kong didn't seem to notice until the vines bound him head to toe.

"What is the Element Clan?" I asked. "And you better tell the truth. Otherwise, those vines will find your mouth."

"It's a clan," King Kong said, trying to get himself free. "A clan where all the children of elements must go to train their powers. There. Now let me go!"

"Aqua, what do you think?" I asked. "Should we let King Kong go?"

"Nah, don't wanna," Aqua decided. "Besides, he's just gonna stomp us flat after we set him free. So adios, King Kong!"

"Okay then," I said, watching the vines bind King Kong's mouth. "I'ma just do this."

I tapped King Kong on the nose and he dissolved into dust.

“Let’s go and meet Aurora and Luna at the end of the forest.”

## **Chapter 5: The Dragon Eggs (Luna)**

Zap! Aurora had just destroyed six of the crystal monsters with Sunburst. She cast the spell Wildfire. I took care of the remaining six with Lunar, casting Prism Blast.

Aurora tucked Sunburst away and said, “That was pretty easy. I mean, two shots destroyed them all? That’s kinda weird, even for us.”

“Yeah,” I admitted. “Maybe because there’s something strong at the end. Must be something worthwhile.”

“True enough,” Aurora remarked. “Come on, let’s go through that door. Pretty sure it ends at the forest.”

Then she charged through the door. I followed close behind. We burst into a clearing at the same time Aqua and Flora did. At the relief of seeing everyone unscathed, we traded stories. Then the clutch of eggs appeared. It was between us, and each egg in it was glowing. There were four. I’m not gonna deny the fact that we each dove for the one we wanted. Surprisingly, no one was hurt. Everyone got the one they wanted.

“When do you think the eggs will hatch?” Aqua asked.

As if to respond, all the eggs hatched at once with a cracking noise. Dragons hopped out of each one.

“I’ll name you Bianca,” I said, watching my sliver dragon hop about. “Bianca Dragonsword, that’s your name.”

Aurora was watching the colors on her dragon - red, orange, and yellow - when she gave her dragon its name. “You’ll be Solana Dragonsword.”

“Coral Dragonsword, that’s who you are,” Aqua laughed. Her dragon was splashing around in a puddle.

Flora chose her name for her dragon when she saw her dragon sniffing some lavender flowers. “Lavender Dragonsword,”

After we had finished playing with our dragons, put our things away, and tucked our dragons around our necks, we started looking for the Element Clan.

## **Chapter 6: The Element Clan (Aurora)**

After a while, we found a cave and entered it. There was a table in the middle of the cave with drawings on it.

“Why is it that all of them are filled with color except for those four?” Aqua asked. “Let’s touch them!”

“I’ll touch the sun, Luna can touch the moon, Aqua will touch the sea, and Flora, you touch the forest. They’re our elements,” I said.

A gentle breeze touched our faces as soon as we touched our elements and everything around us faded and suddenly we were in a palace, a big one.

The guards to the palace immediately asked us, “Who are you? You must have some sort of power to be here.”

“We’re the Dragonsword orphans,” Luna answered.

“The dragons around our neck are our pets,” Aqua said. “This is Coral, and Flora’s dragon is called Lavender. Luna calls her dragon Bianca and Aurora named her dragon Solana.”

“My power is the sun,” I said, sending a ball of fire through the air. “Luna’s power is the moon, Flora the grass, and Aqua’s water.”

The guards let us in and finally Luna got up the courage to ask the question all of us were wondering. “Is this the Element Clan?”

"Yes, the guards said."

We grinned at each other and joined the Element Clan to fight against the Forces of Evil.

The End (or is it?)

## CHAPTER FOURTEEN

### *Super Heroes Verses the Giant Robot Clone by Zaikai Huang*

One morning, I was sleeping like normal when I felt like someone was staring at me. When I woke up, I saw three men in front of me sleeping! I was so scared. Then they woke up.

“Oh, you finally woke up. Where is your money!” demanded the men.

I shivered and said, “In the-the box o-o-ov-ver there.”

Once they found the money, they wanted to bring me with them, so they grabbed me and put me in the box too.

I wanted to get out of the box but I couldn't. I thought of where they might take me. I stood up and shouted, “YOU GUYS WON'T BRING ME WITH YOU!”

From the inside, I destroyed the box and tried to fight them off, but I didn't stand a chance. They were in a group of three and I was by myself. Suddenly, I felt like I had super powers! I fired laser beams at them and they ran as quick as possible out of my house. I tried other abilities like teleporting, flying, super vision, freeze breath, and I realized I could use any ability I wanted. But it was uncontrollable! I knew I had to hide my identity.

I tried to teleport and found myself in some new place. There was a sign: “Superhero Basement.” I wondered if that meant I was a superhero and there were more superheroes. I searched around the place. It was pretty dirty and I saw a book. The word “Future” was written on it. I opened the book and the first page has a picture of me!

I was shocked. Afterward, the next page was a flash man. When I turned to the last page it included an ability. I tried to read the book but couldn't. I then closed the book and teleported back home. I kept thinking about it until I went to sleep.

The next school day, I woke up and was on my way to the school. I saw my friend Zack running super quick to the school. I followed him and I revealed to him that I had superpower abilities too. We smiled at each other.

But then I thought, “Why does this seem familiar? THE BOOK!” I continued thinking and Zack interrupted me.

“There should be five of us. That's how it works,” he said.

I hear a voice reply. “You can recruit other superheroes. Here are three abilities you

could give out: Spider-man powers, Frosty powers, and Iron Man powers.”

I told this to Zack and we searched for the people we needed.

We posted a recruitment paper and six people joined: Justin, John, Jacob, Pete, Peter, and Jay. I gave them three challenges and whoever did the best could join. The first was training was shooting and Pete won the first one. The second challenge was to hit the dummy and Jacob just knocked it off and the others didn't pass. The last one was spying where you have to see the letter on the paper from very far away. I held it and Pete got it but he thought it was all too much work to be a super hero, so he left.

I said, “Everyone leave except John, Peter, and Jacob.”

They seemed excited and I introduced each of them and gave them their powers. Jacob got Iron man. He became very strong. Peter got frosty. Since he's good at shooting, he can shoot out things to freeze people. Lastly, John got Spider-Man because it was the last one. I showed them the basement, which took me a whole day to clean up.

We chatted like normal everyday. But one afternoon, robots started teleporting into our basement! A bunch of weird robot monsters come at us!

I shouted, “EVERYONE GET READY!”

We kept defeating and destroying the robot monsters that came toward us, but there were just too many for us to handle.

I thought of a plan and said, “Come to me!”

When everyone crowded around me, I teleported everyone out. We saw a big, huge robot that was spawning more and more robots. It was controlling them.

I shouted to everyone, “LOOK THERE!”

We all used our abilities there and we tried to destroy the huge giant robot, but was too strong. I tried to use my laser beam ability, but I couldn't control my ability! Then I accidentally shot out laser beams at my teammate and teleported everywhere! I then duplicated the robots, which I didn't want to do, and knocked over John.

I was so out of control! Suddenly, I lost my flight ability and I fell down into the robots. Then all the robots gathered on me and I couldn't move. The robots began to explode all around me.

An evil clone of came out of the giant robot.

He said, “This was all planned. I gave you the abilities just because I wanted to destroy YOU! Your ancestors destroyed my PLANET and everything, so I'm here to get revenge.”

He defeated all of my friends and grabbed them with his giant robot hand. “I want all

of your friends to see you DIE in front of them.”

I said, "We didn't do anything to you. Why do you have to bother me?" But he ignored me and exploded the robots.

He laughed so loud. He thought I was dead. While he was laughing, I absorbed all of the explosion damage with a new super power I didn't know I even had! Now I could control every one of my abilities and was ten times stronger.

I stood up and he saw me.

He said, "THERE IS NO WAY!"

I smiled and went straight at him. I broke his left arm then right. My evil clone teleported into the robot and said, "Don't come any closer or else your friends will die!"

But I teleported into the robot and knocked him out in a second. I said one last word to him: "Good. Bye."

I saved my friends and everything was back to normal. My friends asked me how I did that and I simply said, "A Book. At the The last page of the book it told me about an ability and I gave it a try. It hadn't worked before, but I tried it again today and it succeeded."

I felt happy and achieved an exciting, amazing accomplishment.

The End

## CHAPTER FIFTEEN

### *A Starry Gem by Noe Alexander Guzman*

#### **Chapter 1: A Stray Gem**

It all began when I found that small, black gem on the streets. It seemed like it was causing so much chaos, and it almost got me killed! Let's start from the beginning.

I was walking to a deli named "Greg's Deli! Food, Food, And Some More Food!" to get some food for my friends. I loved going there because it always smelt like fresh bread.

I was a block away from the deli when I stepped on some sort of black gem. Once I picked it up to take a closer look, almost every window near me shattered! I could almost picture all the glass falling on the streets.

**BANG!**

Everyone around me suddenly ran away from me. My ears were ringing so much when I heard all the footsteps. I was about to scream, but I was too shocked to even let out a whisper.

"That girl has the cursed gem!" one yelled, running towards the nearby deli that I was going to. Having no idea what was going on, and scratching my head, I started to walk towards the deli. But when I was an inch away from the doorway, one of the cashiers stopped me.

"Layla! What on Earth are you doing with that black gem?" he asked, in some sort of panic. He was sweating so much that I thought all his sweat could fill up a bathtub.

"I just found it on the sidewalk over there!" I said. The cashier and I were good friends, but he still told me that I couldn't buy anything if I took the gem into the store.

I was really curious to see what the gem was all about, and why everyone ran away from me, so I decided to run home. I just stayed a little bit just to make use of the nice smell of fresh bread.

It took me 20 minutes to get home, and when I did, everyone in the house stared at me with confusion and anger. My dad had crossed eyebrows, and he had a devilish frown on his face. At first I thought it was because I got no food, but it was for a completely different reason.

“How on Earth did you get that gem?!” my dad asked, with a confused look on his face. “Put that gem down right now, Layla!” he said with a raised voice.

“Why should I?” I asked, angry because my dad raised his voice. “It’s not like it has a curse or something!” I was very confused why my dad was mad.

“You’re actually mistaken,” Adrian said, playing video games on our very comfortable couch. “Rumors say that thing is cursed with chaos. Even Mayor DeBlossom knows about it! I still hate the fact that she won the Mayoral election.”

I only have two friends, and their names are Jake and Adrian. My parents let them come over all the time, and I love it when they are here.

Mayor DeBlossom was the worst mayor that New Snork had ever had! She didn’t even win the election fairly. She bought votes to win, and now she had control over New Snork. DeBlossom set unfair laws, hated animals and didn’t let anyone living in the city move. She was also unfair to people who weren’t citizens.

“You see, that gem belonged to a loving family. Nothing bad happened, until one of the younger kids decided to drop it in some sort of black slime. That’s how the gem got black. Once it touched the slime, the boy suddenly fainted. The gem was cursed.” Adrian continued. “I don’t know how it got on the streets, but you should throw it out the window or something.”

## **Chapter 2: No Returns**

“Okay, then.” I said. But when I got to an open window, it suddenly closed. When I tried to open any other window, none of them would budge. I was extremely sweaty. I told Adrian to open a window, but he couldn’t do it either.

Adrian, Jake, and I tried everything to get rid of this mysterious black gem, but nothing would work. Throwing it outside, garbage cans and even locking the gem in a safe wouldn’t work. The gem would somehow end up in one of the rooms or it would just teleport into one of our hands.

“I can’t do it! It’s impossible!” I yelled.

Everyone in the house was running around, trying to look for new ways to get rid of the gem, and the closest we got to doing it was when we almost burned it to ashes in our microwave. But when we checked up on it one hour later, there was just a big fire and a little bit of ash on the gem. All the crackling hurt my ears.

“Call 912! Call 912!” I screamed, but no one could hear me over the crackling coming

from the fire in the microwave. The sparks were stinging me from every direction, and I could barely see through all the smoke. It took us one hour to get out of the house, and another three hours for the firefighters to come and extinguish the fire. It was 5:42 PM when we went back inside, and the mysterious gem was still there, with no sign of damage at all.

Suddenly, the gem floated towards me. It clamped onto my arm as if it was a bracelet. I couldn't seem to get it off, and it was causing destruction everywhere!

Windows shattered. There were hot gems everywhere. The crackling sounds made by the gems were unbearable to everyone's ears.

The gem was causing dark magic in the city of New Snork.

Windows were shattering, cars were uncontrollably crashing, and shopping carts were rolling down the streets.

**BANG! BOOM!**

Soon enough, the mayor heard about the mysterious gem that I had. And soon enough, my friends and I were in the city hall. And here my friends and I are in the town hall. I had to skip the first day of school to get to the there. I wasn't ever good at school anyways.

The mayor was a disgraceful woman. Her shaggy hair and ugly earrings made her look like a witch.

"A witness informed me that you have a black gem, Layla Franham. Do you know what you're wearing on your arm right now?" the mayor said. She had a very low voice and she had braces on.

"No! I didn't even know how this thing is bad!" I claimed. I raised an eyebrow, and I rolled my eyes. Why was I even called here? I scratched my chin. But nothing was going to prepare me for what the mayor said next.

"If you don't find a way to get rid of that gem in five days, you will be thrown into Mount Suvious!" the mayor said.

"Oh no! Mount Suvious is the most active volcano in New Snork," I thought. I knew I had to get rid of this gem, and fast!

### **Chapter 3: Think, Think, Think!**

I got home two hours later. I was traumatized. I quickly unpacked my bag and got out a notepad and a pencil. I was brainstorming ideas to get rid of the gem.

First things first, I had to get it off my arm. After two hours I was able to get it off by greasing it, the only problem was that I couldn't get it to come off my skin, so I decided to leave it hanging on my shoulder like clothes on a power line, drying in the sun.

Unfortunately, I couldn't think of a way to get rid of the gem and settled on looking in the woods for someone with dark magic to help me. Don't call me crazy just yet, because I couldn't think of anything else.

On the last day that I had to get rid of the gem, my dad took me to a forest. It took a promise for doing all my chores for a month and not getting an allowance during that time just to convince him to bring me there, so I hoped it would be worth it. This was my last day to find a place to get rid of this gem, so I had to find one and fast.

#### **Chapter 4: The Adventure of A Lifetime**

I found an old woman in the woods one hour later. Her face was very wrinkled and she had very long nails.

"What's that you got there on your shoulder?" she asked, with a little voice crack.

"I found this in the city. I was wondering how I could get rid of it. For some reason, people think it's cursed or something." I responded.

"I think I know a way for you to get rid of that," the woman said. "I think you should throw it into Mt. Suvious. Mt. Suvious takes magic away from gems, you will be able to take it off with no trouble. But be warned, it is not an easy journey."

#### **Chapter 5: Gem Be Gone**

For all I knew, that woman was right.

Believe me, it was so hard to get up Mt. Suvious. There were spiders everywhere, and I barely dodged a lot of bear traps near the peak of the mountain, but it was worth it.

When I made it up to the peak of the volcano, I was sweating so much that I thought the lava wasn't hotter than I was. I took off the gem without any problems, just as the woman said. I didn't think twice before throwing it in. This time, it burned to ashes, unlike the time I put it in the microwave. I was just glad that this mess was all over.

I got home at midnight. Everyone was asleep. My friends were sleeping over that night, so I was glad to be home. I just hoped I wouldn't get into such a big mess again.

When I woke up, I immediately put on the news on our TV, like I always do. But when I heard what happened, I couldn't believe my ears!

"The mayor of New Snork is being replaced," the news reporter said. "The reason for this is for threatening to kill a young girl named Layla by throwing her into an active volcano. More news at 7:00 p.m. on the New Snork News channel."

I jumped so high that I could touch the ceiling! I ran to tell Jake and Adrian, and they

were also surprised!

“Really? This is awesome!” Adrian said, with a giant grin.

“You’re joking!” Jake said. They both wanted to know more, so I explained everything to them.

I couldn't believe such small things could cause big problems!

The End

## CHAPTER SIXTEEN

### *The Butterfly Door by Grace Liu*

There is a glow in the dark on the other side of the basement door. I saw it as I was tiptoeing to the kitchen to grab some food. The door looked different from the other doors in my house. It looked old fashioned and had a design which somewhat looked like a bird. There was also a keyhole the size and shape of an apple.

“Strange,” I thought.

The door smells like a forest. The glow caught my eyes from the basement. I had access to every room in the house except for the basement. I had always wondered what reason there could be. I ran my fingers over the sign on the door. “DO NOT ENTER,” the sign said. It had been there for YEARS.

I was sixteen and lived in this house my entire life with my father. I walked to the big keys

in my room that my dead mother gave me. She'd passed away, or so I was told. The cause of her death was unknown.

The key had a shiny butterfly on the end of the key, with a sprinkle of what looked like glitter sprinkled on top of it. It was placed inside my pencil case where only she and I knew where it was. She'd given me the key two years ago, but I didn't know what keyhole it was for.

The keys came with a note that read, "You are old enough. I trust you. Be careful."

I grabbed the keys and walked deeper, ready to investigate the peculiar door to the basement.

"Adrian! Breakfast is ready!" I jumped up. That was my mother's voice!

"Huh?"

I looked around and saw that I was in my bed for some reason. I thought I was getting ready to open the door? I suppose I passed out? For what?

As I was walking down the stairs I saw my father give me a stare that seems like I stole his car or something. He was always like that, for some reason. He always held a grudge against me. He was getting to leave for work, and I was getting ready to continue investigating the basement again.

I jabbed the key in the keyhole and it fit. I turned it to the right and it opened. I walked down the stairs and saw jars full of dead butterflies on shelves lining the walls. They were everywhere.

"Butterflies were my mother's favorite," I thought to myself.

Then one pink, glowing butterfly in the jar brought my attention behind me. There was an especially strange butterfly in the jar. I wondered why it did not rot and die because of how long it was there without food and water. It seemed like it was speaking to me, so I opened it and it popped out.

"Well, hello there!" the butterfly said in relief.

"What!" I jumped while backing up.

"Okay, Adri, you see that button over there behind the chest? Press it right now," the butterfly rushed to say.

"Uh, okay, wait, what? How'd you know that nickname my mother always called me?"

"Oh, what a coincidence!" said the butterfly. "No more questions! Press the button!"

The butterfly pushed Adrian to the button with all its strength. Adrian pressed the button. Glitter splattered everywhere! An awkward fail, at least I thought it was. What is the

point of the button, even! I scratched my head. Suddenly, I smelled the fragrance of roses. Then a tall armored man marched into the room. I felt like I was in the story of Jack and the Beanstalk and he was the giant! Time felt like it stopped until someone tapped his shoulder. I didn't want to be here, but then I saw my mother sitting on a gold throne with full gold jewelry from bottom to top. She had a staff that had a bright glow on top.

“Mom!” I said relieved. Very, very, VERY relieved! Until..

“GUARDS! send him to the dungeon!” she said and glared at me like I was a thief that stole her magic!

The guards held me by my ears, and dragged me into the dungeon. It was painful. My ears felt like they were going to fall off! Literally!

This is a nightmare! I can't keep doing this. Why did I even decide to be so nosy, look into the basement, and trust a butterfly!

#

After I was thrown into the dungeon, I questioned my life choices. Then I saw a woman behind me. She looked like my mother! She wore a dirty rag and had no shoes. We were both doomed and held captive by this queen of some sort that also looked like my mother!

“H-Hello?” My voice shook. The women waved back. Soon, I realized that she was cursed to be mute.

I was a clueless boy most of the time and struggled to find the solution to breaking out of this place. Both she and the queen looked like my mother, but one of them was for sure the impostor. My palms began to sweat and my face became red. I began to rest my eyes, tired of this mess.

Half asleep, I heard, thump, thump, thump. Someone or something tapped me on the head. It was the pink butterfly!

“Hey, I know you don't want to be here, but your father works as a scientist of magic! He created a clone of your mother, and trapped her into this dimension. He knew that she was half-human, half-fairy. I am her spirit pet, meant to guild her on her magic journey. She has no magic at all right now, and you need to help me get it back and defeat your father! I cannot do it alone.”

The butterfly pleaded for me to help and I agreed.

“I wish I could just break the door of the dungeon,” I said. Just as I said that, a flash of lightning struck the dungeon cage open. We were free! I wondered how the lighting heard my wish. I didn't have time to think about it though. All I knew was that it may come in handy if my wishes came true. I felt dumber though. I think each time I wish for something

and it came true, I lose a little but of my intelligence.

“I wish for the woman’s curse to be broken!”

Just like that, the woman began to speak..

“Finally, I can speak, but I have no magic. I am your mother! That woman is an impostor!” she cried.

We ran to the throne room and found the impostor. We glared at her with hate in our eyes. She grasped the staff and glared back at us.

“Didn’t finish you yet, eh? You brought our boy to help you escape. Foolish of you and your little butterfly. I knew you couldn't do it yourselves. Why? Oh, wait I took your powers! That's how! Hahahahahaha! Was going to kidnap your son too, but figured he might come in handy with his powers.”

My father made the woman say this. He was controlling the clone.

“Quick, think, Adrian!” I thought to myself. How could I get the powers back and return it to my mother? I wished to defeat him, but it didn’t work! We needed a different kind of magic! Finally, an idea bubble lit up.

“Actually, I wonder if you actually want my power. I hardly know how to use my abilities, and we really want to get out of here so, just spare us!”

I fainted surrendered.

“Hmmm, you were worse than I thought you were," said my father through the impostor mother. "You don’t seem to think, do you? Well, if you insist! Just grab the staff and place both your hands on it and chant for the magic to flow into the staff.”

My father said that I was very brainless.

I grabbed the staff and reverse chanted what he wanted me to chant to get the magic OUT of the staff. I turned the magic into fairy dust. I handed my mother the dust and she sprinkled it on herself. She felt her magic generating back and felt powerful!

Then one last thing before everything went back to normal. I wished for us to be teleported to where my father was, and we threw him into the dungeon. We lived happily ever after, after that.

The End.

Thank you all for reading  
I hope to see you soon  
Find yourself a dragon friend  
And meet me on the moon

“Children do live in fantasy and reality; they move back and forth very easily in a way we no longer remember how to do. It is through fantasy that children achieve catharsis. It is the best means they have for taming wild things.”

— **Maurice Sendak**

THE END





