

## **Rift Crasher 2**

By Davidfish and Slaykout

Continuing the journey of Lunar through Rifts

### **Summary**

With Galactical Laboratories fixed up and Mr. Grizz's business taken down, the planet has once again been liberated to enjoy the natural wonders that Earth provides. Lunar and Solar learn through Max about a story of a group of people that traveled deep underground and started a new civilization to escape the steam and smoke clouds blocking the sun and the pollution caused by Mr. Grizz. In an attempt to rescue the people underground, Lunar and Solar create a rift to the underground civilization. A simple rescue mission turns out to be more complex with the situation underneath and the true values of the people who live there. Lunar, Solar and our group of heroes will have to work together to solve the mysteries, take down their foes, and free the civilisation.

### **Book Information**

Rift Crasher 2 will once again take place in the future Earth where Lunar and Solar were created. I definitely used stuff from other people, movies and games so shoutout to all those guys. I think that the new characters here have some creative roles so enjoy everyone you will meet in this adventure, along with some old ones returning. Another shoutout to the friend names I got to use and another shoutout to Sammi for continuing to be my co author to think of lore ideas.

## Chapter I (Lunar's POV): Solar's Principle

The creation of our new energy for the world was such a huge success that Solar and I had the honors of naming what we had created.

"I know this was created by the 2 of us, but I strongly think we should name it 'Solar's Principle'" she said.

"Bro... or Sis... I did help a lot too with it. The energy being created needs both the sun and moon in order to produce," I said.

"Yeah but think about it. Solar power is stronger than Lunar power anyways. It only makes sense," she said.

There was no way she was using this argument against me again. For weeks we have been debating about which of us was built to have the stronger power, but Max won't say anything about it, just that powering the world requires both of us.

"Ok even then you're basically naming it like a huge scientific discovery was made. Well I guess we did kinda do that," I said.

"Tell you what. How about this? First one to create something new in the next 2 hours at the lab with our power and impress the other gets the naming rights?" she asked.

"Game on," I said.

We went to our respective lab rooms and started doing stuff. What the heck was I going to make? Was my Super Merge not impressive enough? I decided to create something that can neutralize Solar's power and use it to buff my own. This shouldn't take too long I thought. I kept wondering this whole time how my friends were doing back in their respective earth time period. I had to go back and visit sometime, or have them come over here again. The future has a bunch of cool new stuff, yet there were no hovering cars still. I had a sample of Solar's power that I used to manipulate the chemical bonds and make it work against itself. This paired with my own power would cause it to grow.

"Computer, how successful was I?"

"Calculating. Energy levels risen by 23%,"

"Just 23%!? There has to be a mistake,"

"Recalculating. Correction, it has risen by 12%,"

Wow, so much for that. I mean there is a reason Solar Eclipses need glasses while Lunar Eclipses don't. Perhaps I wasn't built to be stronger. The time ended and I still had something pretty cool to show. I headed over to her lab to see what was up. She seemed pretty excited.

"Ok Lunar, watch this," she said.

Solar placed a frame on a table and powered it up with her energy. A mini model of the sun appeared in front of my eyes, except I was detecting the same levels of energy that a normal sun would be producing.

"Did you just recreate a smaller sun?" I asked.

"I sure did! The whole lab room is currently reinforced with protective walling so that no radiation leaks. We are safe of course. Max built us to withstand this level of radiation," she said.

I had to admit. This was pretty damn cool.

“This is actually so awesome. I uh, just made this. It can neutralize any form of energy or chemical, but the part where I use it to buff my own didn’t quite work out as well,” I said chuckling.

“Aw this is still pretty cool. Let’s test it out,” she said.

Solar took my device and used it against the sun she made. It instantly went off and turned into a stale spherical rock.

“Huh, I’m not detecting any radiation in the room anymore,” I said.

“See Lunar, you still got it in you,” she said.

“Thanks. But I think I’ll still let you have the naming rights. I don’t think I could see it being called ‘Lunar’s Principle’ anyways,” I said.

“Aw thanks a lot. It feels good having caring family members,” she said.

That was sweet. This place did truly feel like home anyways. It never did feel like it back in the Earth I lived most of my life in. How did I not realize that I didn’t have any parents anyways. Who was paying the rent and electricity bills?! That didn’t matter anymore. I found the people that I’m heavily related to. It was almost as if I was put up for adoption and found my real parents.

“Hey, why don’t we check out what’s going on in the lab today? I heard there were some new exhibits being shown,” said Solar.

“Alright let’s go,” I said.

Max’s lab has been turned into more of a science center in the past 2 months of operation. Background work was still being done by his team but now families and kids can come to watch these projects and have fun. We went downstairs from the staff restricted zone and saw a cool volcano demonstration being held. The lava was real, but everyone was still kept safe with the new technology this world has.

“Yo what’s good guys,” it was Orion.

“Doing pretty good. I just beat my brother at a friendly competition,” said Solar.

“Yes, friendly. She just built something better than me,” I said laughing.

“The lab today is pretty damn popular. I’ve been doing tons of security checks all day,” he said.

“That sounds fun. Are you liking this place?” I asked.

“It’s way better than working for Mr. Grizz that’s for sure,” he said.

We laughed it off and let him go back to his work.

“How about I add in an extra demonstration for the public,” said Solar.

She went up to the volcano and powered it up to simulate a real life super volcano explosion. It looked dangerous at first but she kept her cool and made sure none of the lava went over the barriers. Everyone was amazed. If only I could do something like that. The fun soon ended and the volcano went back to normal.

“Man that felt great! We should do something fun today, Lunar. I’ve been so bored just working on stuff,” said Solar.

“Yeah for sure. We can find a cool place to eat if you want. Maybe some pho if you want,” I said.

“That sounds epic. Let’s go!” she said.

If there was something I always appreciated about Solar, it was her energy and badass levels. But I guessed that living in a post apocalyptic style Earth with hunters going after you will

cause that to happen. We were about to go when I received a message from Max. He wanted to show something to Solar and I.

“Hold up Solar. We are needed,” I showed her the message.

## **Chapter II (Lunar’s POV): Life in the Underground**

It was pretty strange for Max to be calling us to do our chores and lab duties right now. Usually it would happen sometime later in the night. I mean we don’t technically need sleep anyways. Either way, we quickly made our way upstairs to his lab room. If he was in there then there was something of utmost urgency to be shown.

“If Max is here to tell us about the explosion that occurred in my lab last week, I’m pinning the blame on the excess concentration of electricity we are getting,” said Solar.

“Don’t worry, I doubt he cares. It’s probably about something else,” I said.

“Sometimes I wonder how he made us so powerful. There has to be a secret,” she said.

I always wondered that too. For just two AIs to power the whole world with no effort and no environmental consequences. It seems too good to be true. We finally made it to Max’s personal lab to see what he needed us for.

“Ah there you two are. Right on time,” he said.

“We went as soon as you called. So what’s up?” I asked.

“Well my latest projects have been going smoothly. Nothing to worry about there. Oh and those chores of yours, they can be put on hold for now,” he said.

“So basically that means, we are free to go?” asked Solar.

“Not quite. There isn’t actually any work to do here or projects to be done. I just thought it was time I show you something, and perhaps get some help with it,” said Max. He brought us over to his table and projected a blurred figure with a hologram.

“Woah, who is this?” I asked.

“To be completely honest. I’m not entirely sure. Back when the steam came and covered the skies. A portion of humanity decided that they didn’t want to live on the surface anymore. So one individual took the initiative and led a large group of people underground with drills. They did eventually make it down to a level where they could live and rebuild, but Mr. Grizz wasn’t happy with this of course, since he wanted to be in charge of all of humanity with his power supply. Once the group of people were down underground, he filled up their hole tightly and made sure they could never return to the surface,”

“That sounds tragic,” said Solar.

“Indeed, I wanted to warn the public about what he had done, but there was no point. Everyone needed to respect him to keep their electricity,” he continued.

“I feel bad for all those people,” I said.

“It has been about 15 years or so since that event took place. I thought that they were dead meat considering the harsh conditions. Recently I tried making something to see if I could detect signs of life down there, and to my surprise, it was a success,” he showed us something on a screen.

“My device is detecting tons of signs of life. Each one of those green points indicates a human life. The surrounding colors also represent that buildings were created. The civilisation that was thought to have gone extinct is still alive,” exclaimed Max.

“That’s so cool,” I replied.

“It is truly phenomenal. Now I don’t want to tell the public about it just yet because I’m not sure if it is fully true or not. But that’s where you guys come in. I want you guys to rift in there, see if there are really people or not living in there, and then attempt to free them from the underground,” he said.

“I’m down to do it. We didn’t have much plans anyways,” I said.

“But Lunar! What about our dinner,” said Solar.

“Oh what. Chances are the town underground will have some pho places,” I said.

“Alright alright fine I’ll do it. Might as well,” said Solar.

“Perfect, the two of you will do just fine,” said Max.

“Wait, are you not coming with us Max?” I asked.

“What about me? No no no. After our last two adventures, I decided that I wanna relax in the lab here. Much more peaceful. I’m sure you guys will be ok,” he said.

“Alright Max. So how are we going to get there?” I asked.

“I tracked the coordinates of a safe place to rift there. I just need to open the rift for you guys,” he said.

He handed some supplies that we could probably use during the trip. The whole thing sounded pretty cool. Freeing an underground civilization; I can cross that off my bucket list soon now. Max got the portal frame set up and activated it with a rift.

“Oh and just another warning. Be careful down there, I don’t know exactly what they created down there,” said Max.

“Don’t worry, we’ll be just fine. We got loads of power on our side don’t we now?” said Solar.

“But we won’t have contact with the sun and moon anymore,” I said.

“We got plenty stored in our systems. I ran a check, don’t worry Lunar,” said Solar.

“Oh phew, then I think I’m ready to save the day once again,” I exclaimed.

“Glad to hear it. Good luck!” said Max.

Solar and I took another look at each other before going through the rift. I was detecting tons of uncertainty on the other side. Solar seems to be eager to go in. Nothing was going to stop her from getting us to dinner again. We took a huge leap and hopped through. Hopefully the landing is softer than other times.

### **Chapter III (Lunar’s POV): Alterna**

As I predicted, the landing was not smooth at all. We both landed on a rough patch of grass. The whole area was extremely dark as well. I turned on my night vision and took a good look around. We were inside some cave system that formed down here.

“Solar! Are you ok?” I asked.

She got up and turned on her own night vision.

“Yeah I’m up I’m up. So this is what the underground is like,” she said.

“I think if we just follow this cave, we can get out,” I said.

“Alright let’s go for it,” said Solar.

We began our climb upwards to the surface. At least the surface of this civilization.

“Fun fact it’s not the first time I’ve been stuck in a cave trying to get out,” I said.

“Really? When was the last time?” asked Solar.

“Probably sometime last year. When I was still human my Super Merge was stolen by a former bully of mine. Aidan, Alex and I were trying to get out of a cave when we had to kill of this spider creation that Finley created,”

“That guy sounds like trouble,”

“Nah don’t worry. We are cool now. He helped us take down some stronger foes in the past before we met you,”

“Sounds like fun,”

“Yeah I guess it was. So Solar, I never got to officially ask, but what was it like living on your own before we came,”

“Well, it was as treacherous as it could be. I was secretly on a wanted list from Mr. Grizz. If either one of us was destroyed, his corporation would remain in power forever, and so would that steam in the sky. I had to live in secret and was constantly trying to figure out how to stop him. I was able to put a USB in Max’s pocket before he chased after your corrupted self into the rift. I just had to hope that you would get it one day,”

“Wow, you’re incredible,”

“It’s nothing really. I’m glad that you came and that our world is restored. Mostly restored at least,” she said.

After climbing for what seemed like hours, I saw a large opening not too far. We zoomed towards it and took a look. There was life somehow. Trees, grass and dirt everywhere. It was like we were still on the surface. I looked up and just saw a huge rock ceiling that was carved out. The people down here were able to create a huge space for them to live in.

“What is this place?” asked Solar.

“No clue, but it looks like they did pretty well with renovations,” I said.

“Wait, I’m picking up something,”

“What do you mean?” I asked.

“It’s something,” she said.

Solar whipped out a weapon and blasted a nearby bush. There was someone there.

“Oh hey, I guess you found me haha,” they said.

“Do you live here?” I asked.

“Yeah I sure do. If you can call this place home,” they continued.

“I am so surprised there is actually human life down here. Max was right,” said Solar.

“Who are you guys?” the person asked.

“We are from the surface. Actually, we came to help free you guys. We stopped the pollution that was going on so it’s perfectly safe to come back up now,” I said.

“Really? There’s no way. I’ve been trying to get out of here for months now,”

“Well, if you know this place, do you think you can lead us to wherever most of humanity lives down here?” asked Solar.

“Yeah for sure! I can take you guys there right now,”

“Sounds good, but who are you?” I asked.

“Me? Name’s Clara. Now let’s move on,” she said.  
She cleared a path from the bushes and got a head start.

“Huh I kinda thought she would tell us what she does down here,” I said.  
Solar and I quickly followed. This place had more nature than I previously thought. I wouldn’t be able to guess how the people here were able to make it work. Eventually, we met up with Clara. There was a pretty large city in the near distance surrounded by walls. We watched from afar on top of a hill not too far away.

“There it is. Alterna,” she said.

“Is this where you live?” I asked.

“Yeah you could say that. The mayor made sure our city was strong enough to withstand the dangers out here,” she continued.

“Huh really. Well then how come you were all the way over there by the car we entered?” asked Solar.

“Oh! I just have really good hearing and wanted to see what happened. I think I was the only person to have heard a strange noise coming from over there,” she said, “But anyways, come on! I need to show you guys the city,”  
We followed her down the hill and made our way to the front gates. I was expecting them to open them for us, but nothing happened.

“So aren’t they going to let us in?” I asked.

I looked around but Clara suddenly seemed to have disappeared into thin air.

“Uh, where did she go?” asked Solar.

Before I could come up with a guess, the front gates opened. Except they seem to have mistaken us as intruders or something. There was a full police force waiting for us on the other side.

“Freeze!” one of the officers shouted.

I sent a message internally to Solar and told her to run back with me. Somehow, there were already extra forces covering our backs. They had cars and helicopters down here in Alterna somehow.

“Lunar! What are we gonna do?! There are too many of them. We can’t just kill innocent people,” she asked.

“Only one thing I can think of,” I said.

I walked a little bit forward and raised my hands.

“We surrender! But can we talk to someone here? I’m sure we can resolve something,” I said.

There was silence for a bit. A truck appeared at the back and a mysterious person walked towards me, wearing a full fancy suit, tie, and earpiece. He showed me a piece of ID.

“Agent Liam. Top Lawyer here at Alterna. State your business,” he said.

That name sure was familiar. The last time I met someone with that name, it was my evil self. I tried to say what made the most sense at the time.

“Uh, well there was someone that brought us here over the other side of this hill. See we come from the surface world,” I said.

He processed what I said for a bit.

“Our policy states that we need to bring you guys in for a court trial. I will be seeing you on the other side of the stand. Have your lawyers ready,” said Liam.

He walked back to the truck and was driven away. The rest of the police signaled for us to enter the city as well. We did as we were told, so that we didn't cause any more trouble. I do wonder where the heck Clara went. It's almost as if she just ditched us.

"Lunar! We don't have any Lawyers do we?" asked Solar.

"Well not exactly, but I think I can call in for some backup. I think they are free right now," I said.

We were placed inside a small waiting room. An officer came up to us.

"The case is going to begin in an hour past those doors. Walk through when the time comes," they said.

He left right after.

"I've never been part of a court trial. Why don't we just bust out of here? We got more than enough power to escape and take down these guys," she said.

"I think we'll have better chances of freeing the civilisation if we just stick to what they want us to do. None of these guys seem to be actually against us. We did just show up unannounced anyways," I said.

We sat and waited for the trial to begin. I prayed that my message got through to my friends.

## Chapter IV (Lunar's POV): Objection

There was a response from the other side, but I was told it would be a while before they could all come. We had to do our best to stall. The trial was about to begin soon. The same officer from before came back and escorted us through the doors to the court. It was a very big and fancy one. I'm almost surprised they had time to build all of this stuff despite being pressured to survive in the underground. There was even a small crowd of citizens here to watch the trial. We sat down at our assigned side. Liam was at the other opposing side. Soon enough, a judge came up at the front.

"Hello everyone. We are here to tackle a case involving 2 strangers that have mysteriously appeared here at our sanctuary, Alterna. Can we please get the opening statements from the defendants first,"

She must've been referring to us. I stood up and got ready to say what I got. I had a feeling it was going to be a crazy trial.

**Lunar:** Your honor. My sister and I just came down from the surface world with some cool portal technology. We are here to rescue the people here and bring them back up, as the pollution from above has finally been dealt with.

**Solar:** Yeah we don't mean any harm to Alterna at all! We just want to help you guys out!

Judge: I see. Now can we have the opening statement from the Respondent. Representing the side of the people of Alterna, I introduce you all to Lawyer Liam.

**Liam:** Thank you thank you. With that out of the way. It came to the attention of Alterna that 2 strangers were detected outside the safety of our home. With no known information about who they are exactly and why they are here, the people have called up on me to file a case and take action through the legal system. We decided we cannot risk further damages to our city after our last prosecutor.



**Judge:** Thank you for the statements. We have our jury ready to listen to the facts of the case. First, can the defendants make a statement on where they stand.

**Lunar:** Yes your honor. We claim that we are not guilty.

**Judge:** Very well. The first round of debates may now begin.

**Liam:** Your honor, I have gathered a multitude of evidence from our people. We have a series of videos and pictures of the defendants walking up mysteriously to our city. Our technology has also detected abnormal levels of energy radiating from these two. If I may show the chart. It clearly shows what these two are capable of, and the dangers that come within.

**Judge:** Can the defendants respond to these claims?

**Lunar:** Yes. As a matter of fact I can. We are not actually humans. We are AI built from a scientist from Galactical Laboratories above. In fact, our main purpose was to be an alternate solution to energy so that the pollution problem would be no more.

*There was silence in the court for a while. It was like no one knew about the problems above and why they came down here in the first place.*

**Liam:** See! Not even human, and they claim to be safe and friendly. Remember about those AI movies everyone? How they take over our world?

*There was much more talking in the court now. I had a feeling we were slowly losing this trial.*

**Judge:** Order in the court please. If the facts are true. I need to see some counter evidence to prove you are truly not guilty. I'm sorry, what are your names?

**Lunar:** Oh uh, I'm Lunar, and this is Solar.

**Judge:** Well Mr. Lunar. I'm afraid that if we are to keep the trial going, and to prove your innocence, we are going to need to see some witnesses on your behalf. Where are your lawyers?

*I was sweating for a bit because up to now there was still no response; however, a miracle happened. My friends were ready to rift.*

**Lunar:** Your honor. They are coming right about now. Allow me to introduce them to everyone!

*I placed down a rift and activated it so my friends could come in. There was a bright flash with their entrance.*

**Aidan:** What's up, party people!

**Lunar:** Aidan! We are in a court trial right now.

**Mack:** I don't know if this is for me. I never took law school before.

**Sammi:** Don't worry we got this. Anything to save Lunar and Solar.

**Judge:** Lunar? Who are these people?

**Lunar:** Your honor, I want to introduce you to Lawyer Aidan, Lawyer Sammi, and Lawyer Mack.

**Liam:** What? Your honor, they can't just bring in 3 lawyers out of nowhere like that! There has to be a rule against this.

**Judge:** Actually, there is nothing in our law that prevents this. Besides, this sure makes things a whole lot more interesting. Now that both sides have a lawyer in place. It's time for the closing statement to determine the final decision.

**Liam:** But, but but wait.

**Lunar:** You heard her. It's time to break it down for you.

**Solar:** Are we all ready everyone?

**Mack:** As ready as I'll ever be.

**Sammi:** Alright let's do this. Here's the case, you claim my clients are a vicious race. Your honor, you'll find that they aren't so terrible and just a group of lovable idiots.

**Liam:** Hold it! Don't give me that lecture. Your argument here is invalid. The defendants are vile and no doubt insane. The evidence I have gathered here from the people says it all.

**Solar:** No, that's dead wrong. We did some real good in this world. I have some of my own recordings to prove it.

*Solar opened up a huge holographic screen and showed the two of us producing energy, and taking down Mr. Grizz.*

**Lunar:** It's all about kindness and justice for us.

**Aidan:** Yeah, so sure we may have caused tons of property damage, but it was all for the greater good.

**Liam:** It's the end for you all it seems. Your team's flimsy schemes and stand up comedy show is over. What we have here on this chart proves it all.

**Sammi:** Objection! This separation and non negotiation isn't anymore peaceful then the threats you are labeling us as.

**Solar:** Yeah! You should be giving us a chance instead of trying to take us down and imprison us. We didn't even hurt anyone when we came here.

**Lunar:** Our only crimes were saving the world a whole bunch of times, and here is my recording to prove it.

*I opened up a huge screen for more recordings of what we were able to take down.*

**Sammi:** Yeah we took down a greedy business owner, a corrupted AI, a virus and an eldritch creature from hell. We saved millions of lives, both in the real world and in an AI world. The world here would not exist if it wasn't for us.

**Liam:** Don't get cocky, you guys haven't won yet. I haven't even broken a sweat. You'll all be banned just as planned. Let me get all the witnesses to the stand.

**Witness 1:** You scared the living crap out of my cat when you guys came here! She always does that when there's danger.

**Solar:** Ok but all cats do that naturally. A bear could have showed up and your cat would have reacted the same. We didn't even enter the city.

**Witness 2:** I bet they came here just to rob us blind! I can sense what they are up to just with my nose.

**Aidan:** Shut up, no one asked for your opinion. L + Ratio + You look like a minion.

**Witness 3:** I'm sorry, but you guys just scare me. I don't know how to explain it. I have to side with Alterna here.

**Solar:** It's ok. We may seem scary, but that's just because of the power we have. We fight for the greater good.

**Mack:** Ugh, can you guys stop persisting. It's hard enough already existing.

**Sammi:** Alright you heard their plea. We are all innocent, so if you please, let us all go free!

**Liam:** Objection! It's time to stop with this sinning. There is no reason to trust you guys. We consider all people from outside the city to be threats, and threats must all be deleted. See, I've been winning from the very beginning.

**Lunar:** No. This isn't true. We aren't doing anyone any harm. Just let us go. We are only here to save everyone.

**Liam:** If that's true, then how come the media portrays you AI as harmful takeovers of humanity.

**Sammi:** Objection! Halt with your elation. This citation over here shows everything you need to know. Fair use states that all new visitors to Alterna must be given a chance and not treated like criminals right away.

**Lunar:** Yeah you just barged in and brought us in without any chance to fully explain ourselves. Doesn't seem fair to me.

**Sammi:** Our bravery and kindness shows through all the stories we have shown. The only bad guy here is you. Criminal activity from us is therefore null.

**Lunar and Solar:** There's no escape now. We are innocent.

*I looked over at the judge, and saw that she seemed amused at the trial. I think it was a victory for us. Liam noticed as well.*

**Liam:** Wait, you can't possibly agree. These guys don't even have a degree!

**Aidan:** Time's up clown. It's time for the judge to decide.

**Judge:** Thank you all for your statements. Based on all the evidence that was presented, I hereby declare the defendants not guilty!

I almost couldn't believe it. We actually won the trial. My first time in court too. Everyone on my side celebrated.

"But, this can't be. I showed off so much evidence. This can't be right. I will take it up with the mayor if I have to. My streak cannot be broken," said Liam.

"Oh really. I'm sure the mayor would love to have a word with you," said the Judge. She took off her robe and revealed to be someone else.

"General Mayhem??! What are you doing here?!" asked Liam.

"This case sure was interesting. That's why I asked to supervise it myself. As for your streak. Sorry to have broken it, but they did show some good counter evidence," she said. Liam left the room in disbelief. I almost felt bad for him. The mayor walked from the stand and came up to us after the jury and people left the room.

## Chapter V (Solar's POV): Retrieving the Sparks

"You guys really are from above? Mr. Grizz didn't kill off everyone?" the mayor asked.

"Oh what about us? We are most definitely from the surface world. In fact, we took down Mr. Grizz and his crew, and now we AI are fueling the world," I said.

"That's remarkable. And your human friends, did they come from up there too?" she continued.

"Oh no, they come from 300 years into the past. I actually lived most of my life in that world rather than this one," said Lunar.

"I see, I see. Well I guess since you guys aren't actual threats, allow me to provide an introduction to the city we created," she said.

She signaled for us to follow her out of the courtroom. There were roads and tall buildings made here surprisingly.

“So you guys really did make this whole city here in just 15 years?” asked Sammi.

“Yeah we sure did. The people we brought down here were pretty good builders,” she said, “Oh, I didn’t fully introduce myself yet. As you overheard just now, I’m General Mayhem, the mayor of Alterna,”

“Very nice to meet you,” said Lunar.

“It is a pleasure to see that the people above still remember us, I almost forgot what it was like to see the real sky,” she said.

“So how do you guys get your water, food, and supplies?” I asked.

“Oh, all in a day’s work for our farmers. There is actually a huge spring down here. Plus, we had enough fuel to last us until we could make a renewable source of electricity down here,” said the General.

The General brought us into another larger scale building. Noone was allowed to enter I guessed, based on the security here. Deeper inside was a rocket ship being guarded.

“This is what we would have tried to use to escape, but atlas, there is no way to general enough fuel for a rocket to blast out,” she said.

“I think we could help with that. We have energy ourselves that’s pretty powerful,” I said.

“One second Solar, we don’t have nearly enough for something like a rocket ship, especially since we are limited with no sun or moon access,” said Lunar.

“Oh rats,” I said.

“Actually, there is something you guys could still do. A few weeks ago, there was a huge bright light that seemed through the cracks in our sky. And from there, tons of small bright balls with energy came raining down, outside of our city. I guess that if it is collected, we can harness the energy and use it for the rocket here,” said the General.

“Well, we did come here to rescue you all. What do the rest of you guys think?” asked Lunar.

“Uh yeah I’m down for some adventure,” said Aidan.

“I will be participating in this one as well. It is fascinating to be underneath the surface of the Earth,” said Sammi.

“Only here because I was with Sammi at the time, but it sounds cool,” said Mack. Of course I was gonna be here too. I was burning to have some action happen.

“That sounds great guys. We called the energy sources out there Sparks. I will warn you all though. There are Spark Hunters out there, 2 of them I think. These guys have been nothing but trouble, destroying every Spark they can find and using the energy for their own good. Just be careful when you leave Alterna, they are quite fierce,” said the General.

“Don’t worry General Mayhem, we’ll be careful around these Spark Hunters,” I said.

“Sounds good to me. Good luck out there!” she said.

The General went back into the city and left us at the front gates again.

“Hm that’s strange, where is Finley? He said he would be here as well. I was expecting 4 lawyers to help us now I won’t lie,” said Lunar.

“I think I detected some rift energy from outside the city. There is a chance he rifted to another place by accident,” I said.

“Uh oh. Who knows what’s out here. We have to find him eventually too,” said Aidan.

“Finley is a tough guy. He’ll be fine for a good while. We should go get those Sparks,” said Lunar.

“I think I’m detecting something in that bush with my radar,” said Sammi. I went in for a closer look. It was indeed one of those Sparks the General was talking about. It was a bright yellow and blue ish orb of energy. For some reason it seemed familiar. I analyzed it quickly and found out something huge. It was actually energy that came from Lunar and I. It must’ve seemed through the cracks when we energized the world and merged with some of the nature down here.

“Hey Lunar, this seems like it came from us right?” I asked. He took a closer scan as well.

“Holy you’re right. These Sparks were created by us,” he said.

“Man what’s going on I’m so lost,” said Aidan.

“When we powered up the world, tons of this energy must’ve found its way through the ground and ended up in Alterna. We basically caused this to happen,” said Lunar.

“If that’s the case, we should store it all somewhere safely. We can’t get any more energy ourselves,” I said.

“I got something that can hold it,” said Mack. She brought out a big container that could contain the energy from the Sparks.

“Wow, it looks so cute sitting in there,” said Sammi.

“Reminds me of someone else,” said Mack.

Oh brother. I got a sample of the Spark and started tracking every nearby Spark in the area. We were about to go onto a nearby trail when I noticed something from another bush. It seemed very familiar. I zapped it with a fireball; someone we’ve seen before was there.

“Oh, hey guys! Glad to see they didn’t kill you,” said Clara.

## **Chapter VI (Lunar’s POV): The Darkness spreads**

“Clara? Where on Earth were you when we got arrested?” I asked.

“Uh, I’m just not a fan of getting arrested that’s all. I’m sorry I didn’t have time to warn you guys but I had to get out of there before we were completely surrounded,” she said.

“Oh whatever, we got out of the mess anyways,” I said.

“Who’s this?” asked Sammi.

“This is the first person we met down here, Clara. Although she did leave us for near death at one point,” said Solar.

“I swear I didn’t do it on purpose! I’m not not like those guys. I’m way cooler,” she said.

Sammi went up to her.

“I like your vibes,” said Sammi.

“Aw thanks,” said Clara.

“I have no clue what’s going on but as long as she’s not a threat I’m chill,” said Aidan.

“Hm? Oh yeah I agree too,” said Mack.

Everyone seemed to trust her so I decided too as well. What’s the worst that could happen?

“I heard you guys are looking for the Sparks. As a matter of fact, that was exactly what I was doing before you guys all came. I need to power the rocket,” said Clara.

“Yeah we were told to by General Mayhem so that we could get out of here,” said Solar.

“Oh? You guys met the General?” asked Clara.

“We sure did; she seems pretty chill I guess,” said Sammi.

“I see. Well since we seem to be doing the same thing, how about I join you guys. Could always have the extra help right?” she said.

Everyone sort of looked at me after that. I guess I was in charge of this party. There was no complete reason to trust her, but at the same time no reason to doubt her. I figured we could use the help anyways since this world was new to all of this.

“Alright, you can help guide us through this world,” I said.

“Oh my god yes, that would be epic,” she said.

“Yes but try to keep the running off on your own to a minimum please,” said Solar.

“Sure thing, sure thing,” she said.

We all followed her on the carved path that was made outside of Alterna. Who knew what dangers were awaiting us.

“So how has life been here in this world?” asked Aidan.

“I gotta say, it is pretty cool. We get to hold scientific demonstrations every day and set up the lab for visitors. Never thought Max would let his lab become a public attraction,” I said.

“Where is Max anyways? Did he not come with you and Solar?” asked Sammi.

“Nah, the old man wanted to rest after our previous encounter,” said Solar.

“I swear you guys have to fill me in on what you guys did last time, it sounds so cool,” said Mack.

“Yes for sure, I will tell you once this whole thing is dealt with,” said Sammi.

“I heard you guys stopped Mr. Grizz and his whole corporation. What happened to that?” asked Clara.

“Oh well, he turned into a huge mutant with his serum and we blasted him with our energy, until he was eaten by one of his own mutant creatures,” I said.

“Oh my, sounds horrid,” said Clara.

We kept on walkin for what seemed like hours. Luckily we had stuff to sleep through the nights. It was hard to tell the time down here in the underground. Clara told us to stop walking suddenly.

“Do you guys see that?” she asked.

We looked in front of her and saw a Spark just laying in the middle of a rocky platform.

“I’m gonna show you guys a cool trick,” she said.

She slowly walked towards the Spark, almost as if it was alive. Once she got close to it, the most amazing thing happened; the Spark suddenly started slowly hovering towards her. I couldn’t believe it. Were the energy Sparks from Solar and I gaining some sentience down here? Before the Spark reached Clara’s hand, something big broke out from underneath the

rock. It was some weird black tentacle made of ooze or something. I was a little terrified. Clara backed up and the Spark was taken by the tentacle down below.

“What the hell just happened?!” asked Sammi.

“That was a Darkmess tentacle. You guys heard of the Spark Hunters right? I found out that they made something called Darkmess energy and spread it all across the underground to try to capture all the Sparks for themselves. It seems that this puddle of Darkmess had a tentacle with it,” said Clara.

“That’s horrifying. So what can we do now?” asked Mack.

“Only one way to get rid of it. We have to jump in,” said Clara. She pointed towards the puddle that was underneath the rocks.

“Are you sure? That looks lethal to do so,” said Aidan.

“I’ve had to do it countless times already to rescue some Sparks,” she said.

“I can send in a drone just to make sure,” said Solar.

She released a drone she had and flew it inside the puddle. Surprisingly, after a while, the drone was still alive and active.

“So that proves my point. I’ll go in first if you guys still aren’t sure. Just hop in when you’re all ready,” said Clara.

She took a leap and hopped in. The Darkmess puddle seemed to be huge inside.

“What do you guys say? Should we go in?” I asked.

“I think I trust her. I have no idea why but I do,” said Sammi.

“I’ll do whatever Sammi does,” said Mack.

“Yeah I’ll do it. It does sound fun,” said Aidan.

“Alright then, let’s do this,” I said.

We all stood at the edge of the puddle and jumped in as well. I was not expecting what came next. Jumping inside the puddle was like entering a rift. We were falling through this tunnel surrounding by the Darkmess energy. I could see something near the bottom. It was a rough landing, but we all made it down safely. I looked around and we were in this new magical world almost. There was a sky and grass and nature surrounding us. Clara was right in front of us.

“Yay you guys finally made it here,” she said.

“Clara, what the heck is going on?” I asked.

“Well funny enough, the Darkmess puddles lead to a made up world based on its surroundings. That’s why the environment here looks similar to the one we were just in. I learned that it makes it easier for the Spark Hunters to utilize the Sparks powers, because in this world, their energy is multiplied by 1000,” she explained.

“So where is the Spark here?” I asked.

She pointed up a hill. We climbed it and saw a small hill down below covered in Darkmess. Even more terrifying, there was an eye of some kind on it.

“What is that?” asked Sammi.

“Darkmess Eye. They keep the puddle alive. If we take it out, we can get the Spark and destroy this puddle,” she said.

Before we could do anything, the eye noticed us and started firing some kind of laser at us.

We all hid for cover. I tried firing a blast with my Super Merge, but it didn’t do anything to it.

“Uh Clara, why are our weapons useless here?” I asked.

“I learned that the hard way too. Weapons from the normal world here don’t work, but if you have a Spark, it can temporarily power it up for a few moments,” she said.

I remembered about the Spark we collected before we met Clara for the second time.

“Solar! Throw that Spark over!” I exclaimed.

She tossed over the Spark to me. I used a bit of its power to get my Super Merge working again. Once that was done, I fired a real blast right towards the Darkmess Eye. To no surprise, it instantly died. I didn’t know what happened next, but after a bright flash, all of us were back where we started, sitting on top of the rocky platform. This time, the Darkmess Puddle was gone.

“Well, we did get our Spark. Thanks for helping me take out the puddle. Those eyes are way harder to kill with just a bow and arrow,” said Clara.

“Anytime,” I said.

“Well, I hope that shows what I know. I also know that there are a few more puddles out there and a bunch more Sparks to get. Let’s keep going,” she said.

It was some wacky thing the Spark Hunters created. I wonder how it was possible. I’ve never seen anything like it before. Regardless, we took one down and still had a few more to go. We followed Clara, knowing that we could trust her more.

## **Chapter VII (Lunar’s POV): Breaking Through the Bedrock**

I was still in shock over what technology this world was capable of producing. It makes my creations back in the lab look just a little less incredible than what they really were. There was still a chance I didn’t fully trust Clara and who she was, but after saving that Spark, I think I can relax a little more. The Darkmess that the Sparks Hunter created was also pretty fascinating even if it was being used for evil. Who knew you could create a whole type of world in there.

“Who built that rocket anyways? It must be hard to get spare parts down here,” asked Solar.

“Oh that? That was me. Took a few years but I had some experience with it before I came down here,” said Clara.

“That’s so cool,” said Sammi.

“With you guys here, saving the Sparks should be a piece of cake. I heard they actually originated from you and Lunar,” said Clara.

“Yeah we scanned one and it turned out it was some of our energy we created infused with some minerals and other debris,” I said.

“Yeah. Not so long ago a huge flash from above happened. Then boom! These things came flying down everywhere. Most people use them to power their own devices, but I plan on getting out of here,” said Clara.

“How come no one else wants to escape?” asked Aidan.

“They don’t have an open mind. I know that the surface is safe now because of you guys. But them? They still think it’s a wasteland,” said Clara.

“Don’t worry, we’ll tell everyone once that rocket is powered up,” said Solar.

“Thanks guys,” she said with a smile.



We kept on walking until finally, the forest disappeared. There were no more trees and just a huge patch of rock and grass ahead of us. Surprisingly, there was still a decent amount of light.

“Yeah we stopped planting trees until here. I guess this is just whatever our drills were able to carve out back in the day,” said Clara.

“It’s still pretty huge,” said Sammi.

It almost looked like we were on the surface, except we weren’t. Eventually, we reached an area that looked abandoned. There was an old well with a huge Darkmess puddle filling it up. I also noticed there were holes in dried up rivers and ponds.

“What happened here?” I asked.

“The Darkmess puddles. They have the power to completely disrupt the environment from what I noticed. The rivers and ponds here are all blocked because of it,” said Clara.

“We should do something about it then right?” asked Solar.

Before anyone could respond, we heard loud fighting and rustling noises coming from a little bit ahead of us. We all backed up to see what was happening. The rustling was so loud it was creating clouds of smoke. Once it cleared up, I was shocked to see Finley standing on the field. He looked like he was trying to beat someone up. To my surprise, another figure also appeared from the smoke. He looked pretty buff as well, almost like Finley. They had all sorts of tools on them from what I could scan.

“Guys! That’s Finley!” I said.

“No shot you’re right,” said Sammi.

Finley and the other person exchanged fists, it was a stalemate. He looked over at us and noticed. I also saw that the other person was also looking at us, just at Clara mainly. Finley used this moment to knock him back while he was distracted. I thought he was good, until the other person got back up and knocked him to the ground as well. He threw Finley into the Darkmess puddle and jumped in as well.

“Uh, what was that all about?!” asked Aidan.

“Finley must’ve rifted somewhere here. But who was that other guy?” I wondered.

“Spark Hunter. Name’s Bedrock. I’ve seen him around this area collecting Sparks with his brute force,” said Clara.

“Well we can’t just leave Finley in the puddle. We have to go after him. I’ll go in,” I said.

“Hold up, I’m coming too. You’re still too new in this world,” said Clara.

“I’ll go too. Looks like you guys could use the extra force,” said Mack.

“Ayo let’s go. Alright we’ll go in, you guys keep watch of the puddle,” I said.

Sammi, Solar and Aidan watched over us while we jumped in. The puddle left us in a world that looked like a desert. It was dry and had rock everywhere. I saw Finley in the distance trying to fight off Bedrock.

“Finley! Get over here!” I yelled.

He noticed and came to us.

“About time you guys showed up. I’ve been trying to take this guy down for a while now,” he said.

“Our friend Clara here said it was a Spark Hunter,” I said.

“Yeah fill me in on the details and introductions later. I need my revenge,” he said.

“Wait! Let us help you. We can take this guy down easily,” said Clara, “Bedrock must’ve used some Spark power himself because it’s almost impossible to hurt him when I tried. You guys go and distract him from me, I got a plan,”

We did as we said. The 3 of us went in and tried taking him down ourselves. Clara was right. My Super Merge didn’t seem to do anything against him. Mack and Finley tried going in directly but it also wasn’t really doing anything. He was able to defend himself from both of them.

“Man you really are one tough cookie,” said Finley.

“He’ll die eventually I think,” said Mack.

After a while, we eventually gave up on that plan. Luckily, Clara came back as we were running out of ideas.

“Alright, how do we stop him?! I used all my tricks against him,” said Mack.

“This Darkmess world is powering him up. So we just need to weaken him a bit and destroy the Darkmess eye in this puddle,” said Clara.

Before we could do anything, Bedrock tried to charge at us again; we were able to get out of the way just in time.

“That’s our key,” said Clara.

She ran across the field and caused a distraction. Bedrock noticed and went straight for her. I wanted to close my eyes, but a huge explosion happened. I looked up and saw that Clara was ok, and that Bedrock was completely knocked out on the ground.

“What did you do to him?!” asked Finley.

“Oh I was prepping a bunch of TNT earlier. That’s why I asked for the distraction.

He’s out cold right now so let’s get rid of the eye,” said Clara.

We searched around the area a bit before finally finding it. With one zap of my weapon, the eye was gone and we went back to the overworld. The Darkmess puddle was also gone, and the rivers and ponds and the well had their water restored.

“Mack you’re okay!” exclaimed Sammi.

“As always,” she replied.

“Ayo Finley, good to see you again,” said Aidan.

“Yeah it’s cool I guess. That Bedrock dude really put me to the test. Never thought I’d meet someone stronger than me aside from maybe Mack,” he said.

I was glad everyone was safe. Clara wasn’t exactly with us though. I saw her standing next to Bedrock, who was still on the ground. After a while, he cleared up his face and ran away.

“He won’t bother us for a while. Thanks for helping me take care of him,” said Clara.

“Yeah no problem. Who are you anyways?” asked Finley.

“Only the coolest human being you’ll ever meet,” she said.

“Uh I think you meant that for me,” said Solar.

“Wait, I have no clue who you are either,” said Finley.

“Oh yeah I forgot. This is my sister. I just found out maybe 3 months ago now,” I said.

“Oh that is pretty cool. I used to bully this guy in school. Guy was a real nerd,” he said to Solar.

“I can definitely see the nerd part,” said Solar.

I rolled my eyes. The good news was that we freed a few more Sparks from that Darkmess puddle. I had a feeling we were almost done saving them all.

## Chapter VIII (Lunar's POV): The Golden One

"I'm tracking a big group of Sparks in the area across some sort of sea here. They must be the last ones remaining," said Solar.

"How did the sea even come from down here?" I asked.

"This place isn't fully secure. Some of the water on the surface made its way down here and created seas of its own," said Clara.

It was hard to tell but it was a new day. We previously slept the night after chasing away Bedrock. Aidan couldn't stop talking about his favorite artists. Solar hated them all. If the Sparks were able to give Bedrock so much power that even Mack and Finley couldn't take him down working together, we had to hurry. Eventually we reached the sea edge that Solar was talking about.

"There is an island just right there. Unfortunately, I don't think my systems want to get wet today," said Solar.

"I'm with you on that one," said Sammi.

"Is there any miracle here by chance Clara?" I asked.

"I know that I'm not the only one that lives outside of Alterna. I've seen a captain here before in this area. If we can find him, maybe he'll give us a ride," she said.

We split up into groups to look for a supposed captain in the area. I took Aidan along with me. I didn't want him bothering the others with his music talk.

"I never got to fully ask, how is your life in this world?" he asked.

"It's great. I think it has come to my attention that I'm no longer the most powerful being, but that's not a bad thing," I said.

"Everyone back at home misses you. You should come visit some time," he said.

"I will definitely put that on my to-do list," I said.

The ocean shore was larger than I thought. I didn't realize how much carving the people did to escape the pollution. These guys must've had tons of free time on their hands. After some searching, we did find a ship of some kind on the shore. It looked pretty beat up and out of service though. I called everyone over so that we could take a look at it together.

"This thing sure is a ship, although not sure it can be used in its current condition. It's like if it had a giant cannonball battle with another," said Solar.

"We can fix it up but where is the captain?!" asked Aidan.

"Not sure. They might've abandoned it after being attacked by something," I said.

Right after I said that, I detected a rustling noise from yet another bush behind us. Something fast jumped out right for us. I closed my eyes as I didn't have time to defend myself. After a while, it was evident that we were all still ok. Solar used an energy barrier to protect everyone. It was a Darkmess tentacle; there was one near the shoreline the entire time.

"Not another one!" exclaimed Clara.

"I think we can take it down from out here," I said.

I fired a blast at it and got it to expose the Darkmess eyes. Sammi took the opportunity to fire some of her own to destroy it for good. The puddle and tentacle started to vaporize slowly. It cleared up a small area, leaving someone in the middle. It looked like the owner of a ship.

Could this be the captain Clara was talking about? We slowly walked up to the weakened and tired captain on the ground. They also started to get up.

“Ugh, what on Earth happened? Where am I?” they said.

“I think we just saved you,” I said.

“Well, you guys did in fact kill the puddle that swallowed me whole. It almost got my ship too,” he said.

“Who are you?” asked Clara.

“I am known to everyone as Captain Augie. Or just Augie, whichever you prefer,” he said.

“Well nice to meet you Captain Augie. How did you end up here?” asked Solar.

“I was simply trying to save the Golden One. Someone with such power but with no ability to use it. I took her on my ship as an attempt to save her from the Spark Hunters. Yet I was taken down and crashed when a Darkmess tentacle grabbed a hold of me. And now she is gone, maybe forever,” he said.

“Woah woah back up. Who is the ‘Golden One’?” I asked.

“Yes, well in simple terms. Another fellow human being just like us, except she was magical. Was radiating spark power to me. I could sense it. It’s like one merged with her almost. Because of that, the Spark Hunters were after her as well,” he continued.

“Is it really possible that our energy could have merged with another person?” I asked Solar.

“Well, the energy has traces of us, and you carry a device that merges things together all the time. Chances are, the sparks have the ability to sometimes merge with other things as well,” she said.

“In that case, we have even more reason to save the Sparks, and the Golden One too I suppose,” I said.

“Really? Can you guys help me out?” said the Captain.

“Why wouldn’t we? We are the heroes after all. Plus, we may need to use your ship,” said Sammi.

“I’d love to give you guys a ride after saving me. One small problem, my ship is out of commission from the attack of the Spark Hunter. Oh boy she was spooky,” he said.

“I think we can fix it up for you,” I said.

I went over to the ship and used my super merge to combine it with some resources we had on the shore. In no time, Augie’s ship was restored with some upgrades added.

“Nothing a self defense system won’t do for us,” I said.

“Wow. She looks amazing! I love your work. Wait, what are yalls names?” he asked.

“I’ll introduce everyone to you on the ship, now let’s go!” I said.

We all got on board and let Augie take over the controls for us. I was pretty proud of myself for what I was able to do. The whole full was fully functional and running smoothly. I could see the island ahead. Solar was right, I was also detecting a large presence of Sparks here. I could also see that there was a large building on it. Almost like a mansion. Who would be living here? There was also a huge Darkmess puddle inside from what I could see.

“Ay everyone! We are almost there. Just sit tight,” said Augie.

We were all chilling on the main deck when we were attacked suddenly. Inside the house, someone was launching Darkmess blobs at us. The ship started to gain weight and sink.

“Lunar! What do we do!” yelled Aidan.

“Deflect the fire for a second, I can get us out of here,” I said.

I went to grab a small rift portal I still had and a sample USB from the AI minecraft world. If my thinking was correct, I could use the power from the USB to rift us out of here, without needing the rift power from the lab. My theory ended up being right. After inserting the USB, the portal opened, but it was pretty weak.

“Everyone! Get in here!” I shouted to everyone.

We all hopped in the portal and hoped for the best. I didn’t exactly know what would happen if someone joined without an existing player model for the game.

## **Chapter IX (Lunar’s POV): One Captain to Another**

I opened my eyes again and saw that I was in my minecraft form again. Everyone was in fact, even Clara and Captain Augie had a player model based on what they had in real life. We were on another shore line similar to what we saw in real life. I guessed that the portal took in our nearby surroundings and found us a place that looked similar.

“Lunar! What is this place!” exclaimed Clara.

“Yes I am feeling very weird,” said Augie.

“Well I don’t know if you ever heard of the game Minecraft, but I was able to rift us here to save us from the Darkmess blasts,” I said.

“What do we do now?” asked Solar.

I tried implementing some hacks to get us creative mode or anything to help, but I realized that since we entered through a rift, I have no ability to manually control the game.

“Guys, I can’t do anything with commands. We are literally on our own this time,” I said.

“Uh oh,” said Mack.

“Don’t worry, we have a bunch of friends in this world, and I know just who to call,” said Sammi.

I knew exactly who she was referring to as well. She sent out a message. Soon enough, another ship arrived at our island; a pirate ship.

“Looks like you guys could use a hand,” it was Captain Via.

“This captain refuses help from another, but maybe just this once,” said Augie.

We all climbed on board.

“Thanks for getting us out of there. Long story but we are trying to save these things called Spark in the real world and we had to rift here to escape some danger,” said Sammi.

“Yikes. Glad I could come. I’ll sail us back to real land soon enough. We are super far out from the main city people are building back at home,” said Via.

“However long it takes is ok, we just need to think of a way to get back there,” I said.

“How about using more power files?” asked Solar.

“We could try but we need to have a portal frame of some kind to rift out. Without one, we can’t just log out like normal,” I said.

Clara seemed to have an idea.

“I’m not an expert of this game but there must be portal frames here right?” she asked.

She was right, the game had 2 types of portals that worked. I could try to reprogram the function of it with powerfiles to bring us back to our original location.

“Where would the closest portal be from our current location?” I asked.

“I’m tracking a nether portal frame at the coordinates x, z of (-239, 12321),” said Solar.

It took me a while to recognize the coords; they were the coordinates of Chloe’s kingdom.

“Oh my god, we’ve been there before, remember everyone?” I said.

“Right we were imprisoned there,” said Sammi.

“I know how to get there then, hold on everyone,” said Via.

She took the wheel and violently steered us into another direction. Still better than my driving probably.

“Argh, my steering is better than yours I say,” said Augie.

“You wanna bet on that?” she asked.

“If I can think of something, sure,” he said.

“Ugh, I hope land is coming soon, I hate boats,” said Mack.

“Don’t worry guys, I’ll get us there in a flash,” said Via.

Things looked promising, we were moving at a pretty fast pace. I thought we were in the clear until I saw 3 ocean monuments next to each other right in front of us.

“Uh oh, I forgot this existed here,” said Via.

“Uh, what is this?” asked Aidan.

“There’s a patch of guardian monuments I found one day; thought it was too dangerous to raid and turned back. Haven’t seen it ever since,” she said.

“So how dangerous are these guardians?” asked Clara.

Right after she said that, a group of 5 guardians swam up to us and broke a piece of the boat. There were also drowned zombies throwing tridents on deck.

“Does that answer your question?” said Via.

Via jumped into the waters and started chasing the guardians away from the ship.

“Why isn’t Kailani picking up my messages!?” asked Sammi.

“Oh her! We were gonna go on a sea journey but she’s on vacation,” said Via.

Well that was pretty convenient. It was starting to turn to night and phantoms were spawning now as well.

“We can’t let her do this alone. I’m jumping in too!” said Mack.

She jumped into the water and lended a hand.

“Yeah I’ll be joining too. I could let off some steam,” said Finley.

He jumped in as well, leaving us to deal with matters on deck. Augie didn’t seem to know about the game, or how to play.

“Are you doing ok Augie?” I asked.

“I have no clue how to play this game or what stuff does in this world,” he said.

I thought of an idea.

“Captain Augie, you know how to drive ships. Maybe you can steer us out of danger,” I said.

“Gosh, that might actually work,” he said.

We went on deck. I asked Via if Augie could steer the ship.

“Via! Can Augie get us out of here, I think he can do it pretty safely,” I said.

“Ugh, oh whatever sure! Get us out of here, the 3 of us will hold on with a boat,” she said.

Augie and I went up to the wheel and started steering us. He seemed to struggle a bit at first but quickly got the hang of things. I threw 2 boats down for Via, Mack, and Finley. They hopped in and hung on to the main ship with rope.

“Alright Captain Augie, step on it!” I yelled.

“You got it,” he said.

He pedaled to the metal and we zoomed off. I got scared a few times when guardians came close, but he steered with extreme precision and dodged every single one. He also made sure to avoid any phantoms or lightning coming down to us. It impressed me, he was a better captain than I thought.

“Wow you’re amazing!” said Clara.

“Yeah, teach me one day,” said Solar and Aidan.

“Haha, sure thing one day kiddos,” he said.

He did some more crazy maneuvers and got us past the 3 ocean temples with ease. Eventually daytime came back and we made it to land. Everyone got off the ship and congratulated Augie.

“I won’t lie, that was some darn good steering,” said Via.

“I do say so myself, so what do you have to offer on the table,” he said.

“Oh! I’ll have to get back to you on that haha,” she said.

“Alright, we are close to the kingdom, let’s move,” I said.

We ran all the way over. We were almost there. Soon enough, we were at the kingdom. I was not expecting what we saw when we got there. The Darkmess from the Spark Hunters was covering the entire kingdom.

## **Chapter X (Lunar’s POV): Darkmess in the Kingdom**

Everyone was in shock as to how this could have happened. It wasn’t even turned into Minecraft form, it looked like it really did just come from the real world.

“Clara, did you know the Darkmess could do this?” I asked.

“I had no clue how it could’ve ended up here,” she said.

We were trying to think of what could have happened when someone from behind came up. It was Chloe.

“Yo it’s you guys again!” she said.

“Ay what’s up Chloe,” said Sammi.

“Uh it’s going horrible! Have you seen my kingdom!?! Just a day ago I left to visit some friends and I came back to this mess! Most of my people are stuck in this gooey stuff and now I can’t get them back,” she said.

“Yeah, it’s called Darkmess. Once you’re in there, there’s no way out aside from destroying the Darkmess eyes from inside,” said Clara.

“And without the energy from the Sparks, they can’t destroy them,” I realized.

“You guys wouldn’t be interested in helping me, no?” she asked.

“For sure we will help you out Chloe. We were here to ask for your nether portal as well,” I said.

“Ah I see. Well if you guys take care of this Darkmess, I’ll let you guys use my nether portal once again. I suppose this will also make up for the time Via completely destroyed my dungeon walls,” said Chloe.

“Hey I was just on a rescue mission alright,” said Via.

“Alright Chloe we got this,” said Sammi.

“Message me once you guys fix everything, I’m going back to my friend’s village,” she said.

She left us to deal with the mess.

“So how do we actually deal with the Darkmess?” asked Aidan.

“Same way we always have. We jump in and delete the Darkmess eyes,” said Clara.

“Works for me,” said Mack.

We walked right up to the first puddle; it was blocking the way into the kingdom, right at the gates.

“Here goes nothing,” I said.

We all jumped in, I had no idea how it was gonna work in this AI world. When I opened my eyes again, we were still in a mysterious world created by the puddle, but the environment around me was made up of Minecraft terrain.

“Like I suspected, the Darkmess puddle world adapts to the environment it is in, and in this case it took the attributes of the Minecraft world,” said Clara.

“Looks like a plains biome,” said Finley.

“There! It’s the Darkmess eye!” said Solar.

She ran after it and we followed behind. Solar tried to take it down but it didn’t instantly get taken down like the others. I took a closer look and saw that it was protected with a layer of obsidian. It was also summoning mobs out of nowhere created by Darkmess.

“Looks like it took advantage of the game. Hold on guys, this’ll be a little harder,” said Clara.

I pulled out a diamond pick and tried breaking it down block by block, but it was moving around too much for me to focus. Augie and Via came up behind me with some pirate cannon and stunned it to the ground.

“Woah where did you guys get that from,” I asked.

“We teamed up and built a cannon that represents both of us, true sailors of the sea,” said Via.

“Freaking awesome,” said Sammi.

With the Darkmess eye knocked out, I was able to remove the obsidian and Solar took the final shot and killed off the eye. We were back to the Kingdom once again, with the puddle gone and the gate opened.

“Alright, let’s go inside,” I said.

The kingdom certainly was in a more depressing mood then the last time I visited. No shops or people were outside. Everyone was either hiding inside their houses or trapped inside the Darkmess puddles. It was like a horror movie.

“This is the place you told me about that was cheerful?” said Solar.



"It was the last time I was here. We were celebrating my new AI self," I said.

"I can't lie, this place really fell off," said Aidan.

"I'm sure Chloe would love to hear your feedback Aidan," I said.

We were making our way slowly to the main castle, removing any Darkmess puddles we could along the way. It was tough, but we were able to get rid of the ones covering the houses of the innocent, freeing any citizens that were trapped inside. Clara was going insane too; she was demolishing the puddles and eyes with her blade.

"Wow, you're a badass," said Sammi.

"Teach me those knife skills please," said Mack.

"Sure, I can one day!" she said.

Once we freed the main part of the village from the Darkmess, we made our way to the castle. There was a large Darkmess puddle on the main staircase blocking the doors.

"I think we have to enter this one as well, my blade won't be able to destroy it from the outside," said Clara.

"Don't worry guys, I got this," I said.

"I'm coming too Lunar!" said Aidan.

"I wanna keep using the cannon, let me come too," said Augie.

"Oh yeah, I'll go too little bro," said Solar.

"Yeah, everyone else, you guys can get rid of the smaller Darkmess puddles while we deal with this one," I said.

We sprinted into action and hopped in. The world this time seemed more majestic, we were in a castle setting.

"Wow, this looks different," I said.

"Let's go kick some ass again!" said Solar.

She charged ahead towards the Darkmess eyes again without hesitation.

"She sure is energetic isn't she," said Augie.

"Yeah but, I love her for it. She's the coolest sister ever," I said.

The 3 of us went to join her to take down the Darkmess eyes; there were 3 of them this time. I admit I was a little jealous of Solar's ability, but she sure was cool. My super merge was cool as well. Eventually, we took down our eyes, and cleared up the way to the throne room. The others joined us at the staircase.

"One last push guys," I said.

"Let's gooo," said Aidan.

"Oh Lunar, while we were fighting those Darkmess eyes, I think I found out how the Darkmess entered this world," said Solar.

"Really? What did you find," I said.

"I think when you opened a rift to this world, a fragment of a Darkmess puddle entered as well, and spread all across the kingdom," said Solar.

"Huh, that would make some sense," I said.

Since we didn't enter the world with headsets, other things from Earth could have technically entered. I was going to have to apologize to Chloe after this one. Either way, we made our way to the throne room to take out the last Darkmess puddle. I could tell it was the largest one too, I could see it from outside the kingdom. With one last push, we opened the castle

doors and saw the Darkmess puddle, it was covering the hidden nether portal in the throne room.

“This thing is freaking huge,” said Clara.

She was right. This was the largest Darkmess puddle we’ve seen to date. There were multiple tentacles on this one, and the eyes were on the outside.

“Guys, back up!” said Clara.

We took a jump back and saw the Darkmess puddle sweep its tentacle across the ground.

“It almost grabbed us,” said Sammi.

“We can take it on just, at a distance maybe,” said Clara.

We split up and tried to corner the Darkmess. It was hard dodging the tentacles, but we were slowly chipping away at the eyes. Aidan was caught by one and I had to quickly shoot it down to let him go.

“Thanks Lunar!” he said.

“No problem at all,” I said.

I could tell that we weren’t going to be able to defend ourselves considering the strength of the Darkmess. I was in the middle of thinking of an idea when the castle doors opened again, Chloe was standing there.

“I figured I’d come lend a hand,” she said.

She threw me a piece of a powerfile she had leftover. It was exactly what we needed. I used it to power up my Super Merge to make it functional in this world. Chloe crafted some iron golems and I merged them with a part of the Darkmess puddle. It created a much larger and stronger golem that was able to withstand the effects of the Darkmess. Everyone got out of the way and let the Darkmess golem do the work for us. Within minutes, the golem was able to completely destroy the puddle and free the kingdom from the wrath of the Darkmess for good.

“Let’s freaking go everyone,” said Clara.

“Job well done indeed,” said Augie.

I unmerged the golem and destroyed the very last piece of the Darkmess in this world.

“Thanks for cleaning up the kingdom guys, it looks better than ever,” said Chloe.

“It was nothing, we were all happy to help,” I said.

“The nether portal you guys want is right behind that wall,” she continued.

Chloe opened the secret door and revealed the nether portal to us.

“Perfect, this is exactly what we need to get out of here,” I said.

I used the remaining piece of the powerfile to activate it and entered some data to create a rift back to the real world. Soon enough, the rift opened and we were ready to leave.

“Via, thanks for saving us from that island,” I said.

“No problem! Augie, you better teach me how to steer like that one day,” said Via.

“Of course I will. Always happy to teach,” he said.

“Take care up there,” said Chloe.

“We will, don’t worry, it was nice meeting you,” said Clara.

Everyone hopped into the nether portal and we all rifted up to Earth once again. We were still on the boat, but the attacks from the island stopped. We had no time to waste, the last few sparks were here.

## Chapter XI (Lunar's POV): Clock Strikes Midnite

Augie's boat finally made it to the safety of the island. It was empty for the most part, the only thing I could see here was a large building.

"Alright guys. We made it," said Augie.

"Thanks again for taking us here," said Clara.

"Oh it was nothing. I had tons of fun doing so. Plus I'm gonna come with you guys, I still need to save the Golden One," he said.

"Then let's all do it together," I said.

We got off and made our way to the building, it looked almost like a library. Solar's Spark tracker saw a huge volume of them here. These must be the remaining ones that fell from the sky. The door to the building was locked at first, but was easily busted in. My theory here was also correct. There were tons of shelves filled with books. This must've been an old library from the surface world.

"Stay on alert, you never know who might be here," said Clara.

"Noted," said Solar.

We slowly walked through the hallway to find where the Sparks were being held. I thought it would be a normal walk until we got jumpscared by someone who just walked through a wall. They seemed to have a good laugh over it before walking back and hiding from us.

"Ghosts! I knew they were real!" yelled Augie.

"Not a ghost. That's the second Spark Hunter. Name's Midnite, and she's using the power of the Sparks to gain ghost-like abilities," said Clara.

"How do you know all this? From Bedrock to this person?" asked Mack.

"Well saving the Sparks comes at a cost. Unfortunately it means messing around with these guys," she said.

We continued our walk through the library, making sure to avoid any more jumpscare from Midnite. There seemed to be old paintings showcasing Augie.

"Augie? Are these paintings of you?" I asked.

"Why yes they are of me. This used to be my personal library before it was taken over by that Spark Hunter," he said.

"Do you know where she could be hiding then?" asked Mack.

"Hm, if I had to guess, my main office room would be taken over. I can lead the way there," he said.

We followed him up a bunch of staircases. His library was also full of Darkmess puddles as well. We told him we would help him clear them out after we got the Sparks to safety. I thought I was seeing things when we were going in circles, seeing the same thing over and over again. It must be that Spark Hunter's doing. Augie opened a secret door that led us directly to his office room. We were about to climb up the last remaining stairs when Midnite appeared once again. She had a ball of yarn in her hand which she teased us, dropped it, and then went inside Augie's Office.

“Great horn spoon! It’s the Golden One’s yarn! She’s never without it. We have to hurry, double time!” he said.

Everyone walked through and we were right where his office was. Midnite was also there, sitting on top of a large pile of books in the messy office. Everyone stood their ground, awaiting any dangers that she might throw at us. I looked and saw Clara slowly walking up to the front. We were all a little confused. Midnite got off her pile of books and also slowly walked towards Clara, trying to examine whatever she had on her. Clara just smirked and did a ‘no’ head shake to her. I had no idea what was going on. Midnite got really upset after she did that.

“Clara, you did show yourself here, even if it took an eternity,” said Midnite.

“Let the girl go Midnite and ride with us. It’s the smart play and you know it,” said Clara.

“Are these guys your new friends? Maybe I should warn them. I mean we were friends once. Maybe we still are?” Midnite said.

Everyone including me raised an eyebrow. How was that possible?

“Friends? Friends how?” asked Augie.

“Enough talk,” said Clara.

“Aw, but you guys just got here, and the real fun is getting started,” said Midnite, “See I couldn’t even get the girl to you guys even if I wanted. Real friends don’t just ghost you. Real friends stick around,”

With that, Midnite jumped inside the huge Darkmess puddle behind Augie’s desk and disappeared.

“Great barrier reef! She vanished inside the Darkmess puddle!” said Augie.

“We best chase after her, it’s our best bet at saving the Sparks,” said Solar.

Everyone went and jumped in. I waited a bit to tell Clara something.

“Once this is over, explain yourself to us,” I said.

She nodded and we both jumped in to take out Midnite. I woke up to another fantasy style world inside this Darkmess puddle. There were shelves of books even taller than the ones in the library. There was no sky either, it was just space and cosmos. There was a balcony in front of us and someone appeared. It seemed to be a normal looking girl, but they were radiating with some sort of energy. Augie noticed and got all nervous for a second. The girl just looked a bit confused.

“Ashley! I’m coming, sit tight!” he yelled.

Augie took off and climbed the stairs to get to the girl, but Midnite flew down and trapped him in some Spark powered cage.

“No no no. You’ll be a good addition to my prison,” said Midnite.

She let the cage travel upwards and hand itself on a ledge. We had to take out Midnite first before the Darkmess eyes here. Ashley got upset and jumped down to join us.

“We need to save him!” she said.

“We’ll get him out of there,” I reassured her.

“IT got personal. I’m joining this fight,” said Ashley.

She pulled out a plushie which had a small mini gun attachment in the mouth of it. It looked like it had some real firepower too.

“Talk about cute weaponry,” said Mack.

“Look out!” said Clara.

We saw a blast of some sort coming from Midnite and jumped out from the way.

“I’ll think of an idea to take her down, just distract her for me please,” said Clara.

We did as she said and split up to cover more ground. Midnite was stronger than I thought. She took absolutely nothing from our weapons. Everything just went straight through her, and her blasts were destroying most of the cover we had available. Ashley used her plushie gun and somehow hit her directly.

“How are you doing that?!” I asked.

“I don’t know, it just kinda worked somehow,” she said.

A bright light shined suddenly from our backlines. Clara made a huge light and shined it towards Midnite. She instantly covered her eyes and crashed down to the ground. We took this opportunity to fire everything we had at her. We knocked her back and she crashed into the Darkmess eye, sending us all back to the office room. The Darkmess puddle was gone, and Augie was freed from his cage. He ran over to Ashley and gave her a hug.

“I’m so glad you’re safe,” he said.

“Thanks for coming, Augie,” she said.

“This is pretty wholesome and all, but how do you guys know each other?” asked Sammi.

“I was roaming around Alterna when the Sparks came, and somehow I was infused with a few and got their power. But unfortunately, that meant I was a target for some mean people. Augie was near and managed to save me,” said Ashley.

“Aye, a good captain does what’s right. I lost her but thanks to you guys, I was able to get her back,” said Augie.

“Glad we could help reunite you guys,” I said.

“It was our pleasure. Plus, we got all the Sparks from that puddle, I’m storing them in my pouch for the General when we return,” said Solar.

“Perfect, in that case we should get back to Alterna,” I said.

“Wait, where’s Clara?” asked Aidan.

We looked clueless trying to find her, until I looked up to see her and Midnite. She had her imprisoned.

“Looks like I’ll be meeting you all in Alterna then. Later!” said Midnite.

With a flash, the 2 of them teleported out.

“I thought she was weakened enough,” said Solar.

“Looks like we didn’t do enough damage. Quick! We have to get back to Alterna and save Clara!” I said.

“I’ll give you all a direct ride to Alterna through the seas. What about you Ashley?” said Augie.

“Well, I have some Sparks with me. I think I should go with these guys, if you’re ok with that,” said Ashley.

“Yes, it is the right thing to do. I’m proud of you,” he said.

“Thank you, that means a lot,” she said.

“Glad to have you join our team!” said Mack.

“Alright everyone, let’s get these Sparks to the rocket and save Clara,” I said.

We left the library and got back on the ship. Augie made sure to hit the gas this time.

“Do we know what’s going on between Clara and Midnite?” asked Aidan.

“No clue, but we’ll see what’s going on when we get back, I hope,” I said.

## **Chapter XII (Lunar’s POV): The Sea of Darkmess**

I was a little worried for Clara. I had no clue if the Spark Hunters were going to do anything bad to her. All I could do was hope for the best. Meanwhile, everyone was pretty curious as to what Ashley could do.

“So why is your weapon just a plushie with a gun inside?” asked Sammi.

“Well, I knew the Spark Hunters wanted the Sparks, so I made a plushie that looked like one, and put a hidden weapon inside in case they ever tried to grab it. It works pretty well,” she said.

“How come you were all the way out here in the first place?” asked Aidan.

“Meh, I wanted to adventure for the Sparks. They look so cool and fascinating. And somehow I managed to literally fuse with some,” said Ashley.

“Actually, I’m quite curious about that, how did that happen?” I asked.

“I think I was just running around looking, until I collided head on with a Darkmess puddle. I was stuck there until I saw a Spark, and used it to destroy the Darkmess eyes. I woke up back on Earth, and the Spark was like inside me kinda,” she said.

“Huh, very interesting. The Sparks were created from Solar and I when we saved the surface world from Mr. Grizz,” I said.

“Really? You guys produce this stuff?” she asked.

“We sure do. Maybe not Sparks, but the energy they are made of is from us,” said Solar.

“And we can go back up now? I’m sick of living down here. I wanna see the sun again,” said Ashley.

“We’ll get everyone out of here, the General has a plan for that,” said Solar.

“Hey I mean, the moon is cool too right? Well, I suppose the sun is quite cool too,” I said.

“Everyone hold on!” yelled Augie.

We all suddenly held on to something as Captain Augie slowed down the ship. I looked from the ship and saw that we were being blocked off by a huge Darkmess puddle covering a long stretch in the sea.

“I didn’t know the Darkmess could mix into the water,” said Sammi.

“I didn’t know either. Don’t worry, I think I can get us out of here,” said Augie.

He tried driving forward into the Darkmess to get to the other side, but something unexpected happened. The ship got stuck and was being pulled inside the puddle. We all tried to get off but the puddle rose and grabbed the ship whole, like a squid. We were gonna have to take it out from inside. Everyone woke up to see we were still on the ship somehow, but inside the Darkmess world again.

“I’ve never seen anything like it; a whole sea of Darkmess,” said Augie.

He was right, the ship was literally floating on a sea made purely of Darkmess. My energy readings were detecting lethal amounts of it, it was for the best to avoid jumping in at all costs.

“Where are the eyes?” asked Solar.

“I don’t know. The sky is just dark. I don’t even know if I can steer the ship like this,” said Augie.

I was trying to think of an idea when Ashley came up with one.

“This might help,” she said.

She took out her plushie weapon and pushed a different button; this one made the whole thing light up brightly and acted like a personal flashlight for us.

“It’s got Spark energy as well,” she said.

We attached it to the top of Augie’s ship and saw if it would work. It was actually a success, it gave clear sight for us in a 300 meter radius. Even more, the plushie pointed a trail that let to the Darkmess eyes.

“Alright let’s move out!” said Augie.

He stepped on the gas once again and followed the trail. We were zooming pretty quickly, but I noticed out of the corner of my eye some sort of shark-like creature that we passed. I didn’t think of it much until I saw a hungry Darkmess shark chasing the boat, and it was freaking huge.

“Uh guys, we may have a problem,” I said.

We all looked at the shark but Augie didn’t seem to fear it.

“Hpmh, we’ll see about that,” he said.

He activated an extra setting and made the boat travel even faster than it already was.

Everyone relaxed a bit and chilled on the main deck behind the ship. I thought it was all ok until I felt a disturbing chill from behind. I could tell everyone else did too because of our expression. The shark bumped into the ship and made everyone jump up for a bit.

“Alright that’s it. Let’s take this thing down,” I said.

Everyone grabbed their respective weapons and started firing at the fin that we could see. It seemed to be working, until it rose to the surface more, and we saw the full size of this thing. It was like 2 as large as the ship itself. It took a bite from the ship and tried to eat a part of it. We all panicked a bit, but I saw a few Darkmess eyes that were on the shark. I aimed for it and it seemed to have done a lot of damage. Everyone took note and started destroying all the shark’s Darkmess eyes until there were none. I shot out the last one and the shark stopped and disintegrated. Talk about sushi.

“Finally it died,” said Finley.

“Remind me to never swim ever again,” said Mack.

“Aw come on, that was so much fun guys!” said Solar.

“I’d like to argue your claim, sis’,” I said.

“I think we made it to the end,” said Augie.

He was right, the trail ended and pointed at a huge Darkmess eye. Ashley grabbed her weapon and used machine gun mode to take it out once and for all. Another flash happened and the ship was back on the waters of the Earth. The Darkmess puddle that was in the water also disappeared, and I saw sea life coming back after.

“Wow, the Darkmess stuff is more harmful to the environment then I thought,” I said.

“Best we take care of it as fast as we can then,” said Sammi.

“We are approaching Alterna everyone,” said Augie.

The ship prepared to dock on one of the docks in the open. Luckily the rocket that we had to get to wasn't too far from the ship. I went to check on the Sparks Solar was keeping, and we had a bunch. I was sure we could get out of here with them.

“What about Clara? She's still in danger,” said Sammi.

“We'll get to her after we hand in the Sparks.” I said.

“Good luck with that, I'll be staying here at the dock until that rocket is ready to go,” said Augie.

“Thanks for everything Augie!” said Solar.

“Yes, thanks for protecting me from the hunters,” said Ashley.

“Aw guys. It's just a captain's duties. Now go and free this town,” he said.

Everyone got off and started to make our way to the rocket. We were almost out of here.

### **Chapter XIII (Lunar's POV): Sparks of Hope**

The rocket area wasn't too hard to get too. We just had to pass by the city once again. The front gates of the rocket were gone for some reason.

“Hello? General Mayhem? We got the Sparks!” I yelled out.

We waited a while and hoped someone would show up. After some waiting, she did appear from inside the rocket.

“Oh you guys are back already?” she asked.

“Yeah we sure are! We got the Sparks for you,” said Solar.

“Excellent, excellent, this will come in VERY handy,” said the General.

She got down from the rocket and collected the Sparks from Solar.

“So how exactly does the rocket get powered up from the Sparks?” asked Sammi.

“Oh you know, we just add them directly to the fuel tank,” said the General.

“Really? That's it?” asked Mack.

“Well yeah these are just a source of power in the end anyways,” she said.

The General walked away for a second from us.

“Yes well, I'll just do this,” she said.

What happened next flabbergasted me. The General suddenly gulped in all the Sparks herself. A bright flash happened and we all had to cover our eyes. I looked back after and saw that she was exploding with power, she must've eaten at least 500 sparks that we collected. She literally ascended to the next level.

“Holy crap. This is better than what I first thought,” she said.

“What are you doing, General?!” I said.

“You know what, just call me Mayhem from now on. I never liked the General part anyways,” she said.

“You just wasted all the Sparks we got!” said Solar.

“Ha! You guys actually thought I wanted to leave Alterna? WRONG. When we were forced to move underground, it was a tough process. I never felt more miserable in my life. But slowly and surely, we built the city known as Alterna, and finally a new home was



founded. Ever since the Sparks came here, all everyone thought of was dreaming to leave the city I worked my ass off to build. The rocket never worked with any source down here, so I knew I had to get rid of any chance of the Sparks reaching here. And what better way to get rid of them by just consuming the Sparks myself,” said Mayhem.

“How could you do that! The people hate living down here, I can tell just from seeing them,” I said.

“Well, not my problem. I will force them to live in my regime whether they like it or not,” said Mayhem, “Hm, why do I feel like I’m missing some Sparks?”

She looked at Ashley and knew that the last few Sparks were with her.

“You! Hand those over right now,” said Mayhem.

Mayhem ran towards Ashley, but we tried our best to defend her. Mayhem seemed to be fully immune to our attacks with the amount of Spark energy she consumed. I charged up a really long attack and hoped something worked. It did manage to knock her back, but it knocked her back and hit the rocket. It sent the rocket falling down and collapsing into the ground and breaking the floor. It revealed a whole new world under there, we weren’t trying at the deepest part of the Earth yet it seems.

“NO, the rocket!” said Mayhem.

She jumped down into the hole and tried to chase it down. We took this opportunity to rest up.

“I cannot believe what just happened. I had no clue she was evil this whole time,” said Sammi.

“She really did trick us all didn’t she. And we can’t rift out without those Sparks either,” said Solar.

“What can we do now?” asked Aidan.

I was thinking of a solution when the Alterna cops from before came. They were probably instructed by Mayhem to capture us.

“Alright, let’s get rid of these guys first,” I said.

“But Lunar, we can’t hurt them,” said Solar.

She was right, these guys were innocent in the end. We just backed up and held our ground. I thought it was going to be a while, but someone from above our back jumped in front of us to defend us.

“Holy fish paste it’s the Spark Hunter!” said an officer.

“Run for it!” said another.

The entire police force ran from us. I had no clue what happened, but when I looked up, it was Clara who was in front of us.

“Clara, you’re alive!” I said.

“Of course I am, it’ll take more than a Spark Hunter to take me down. I overheard what happened just now,” she said.

“Yeah we were tricked, we had no clue,” said Sammi.

“Guys, I think I should explain something now,” said Clara.

“What’s up?” I asked.

“From the beginning. I’m actually a former Spark Hunter. Mayhem was hiring people to collect Sparks for her for an unknown reason, but the pay was high. I took the offer and

passed the fighting tests. And so, from there she had Bedrock, Midnite, and I as her Spark Hunters,” said Clara.

“You were a Spark Hunter? And they were all working for Mayhem this whole time?!” said Solar.

“Not just a Spark Hunter, I was their leader. I was technically the strongest of them all, and we did grow to be pretty good friends. That’s how I know their names and why Midnite said that to me at the library. One day, I snuck in Mayhem’s office to see what her true intentions were with the Sparks. Of course, I saw that she wanted to keep them all to herself and keep everyone stuck down in Alterna forever, so I immediately called her out and quit being a Spark hunter. Unfortunately for me, I was banned from the city. I tried to turn the other hunters to the light, but they turned on me, letting greed take over. They used the Sparks to amplify their respective powers. With no choice, I had to live outside the city. So I spent the last few weeks of my life just living on the edge and hit the road, saving whatever Sparks I could so that Mayhem couldn’t get her hands on them,” she explained.

“Wow, that sounds awful,” said Mack.

“It was. The reason I didn’t explain it when you guys got arrested is because I figured you guys had no reason to trust me after how I ditched you,” said Clara.

She looked a little sad after that.

“You’re right. We don’t have a reason to trust you. We have a hundred,” I said.

“Like every time you helped us save a Spark,” said Solar.

“Every time you like, totally kicked ass with us on the front lines,” said Mack.

“Yeah, even every time you showed you still cared about the Spark Hunters,” said Aidan.

“You’re part of our family now, and that means you don’t have to worry about keeping secrets anymore,” said Sammi.

“Oh my, thank you all. I love you guys too,” said Clara.

“What are we going to do now?” I asked.

“The Darkmess was created by Mayhem. And chances are she has some in the rocket that fell down. I see our friend Ashley still has some Sparks that we can use against it,” said Clara.

“I sure do,” said Ashley.

“I don’t know. That was a whole lot of Sparks we gave to her, are we really sure we can do this?” asked Aidan.

A familiar voice spoke to us on the side.

“Maybe you guys alone can’t but together we can,” they said.

I looked and saw Midnite and Bedrock.

“We overheard everything, and just wanted to apologize for not listening to you before Clara. We also just want to get out of here and back to the surface as soon as possible,” said Midnite.

Bedrock did a gesture as well.

“Oh, he also means what I said. Not much of a talker this guy,” she continued.

“Good to have you guys join us,” said Clara.

“So... friends?” asked Midnite.

“Haha yeah, friends,” said Clara.

“Aw it’s ok. Glad to have you guys join us too,” I said.

“We have some Sparks that we haven’t given to Mayhem yet. We can use it to our advantage,” said Midnite.

Bedrock punched his fists together, he wanted to take down Mayhem for tricking him and Midnite into doing this.

“I know how you feel, you big goofball. I’m sad that she tricked us, but I also feel determined. Optimistic even! I feel... I feel...,” Clara didn’t know what to say.

“You feel hope,” yet another voice from the side said.

It came from the rocket field entrance, where the Alterna cops came from. I couldn’t believe my eyes. It was Liam. He came and walked over to us.

“You guys might not fully realize it, but if you look into the Sparks of your friend over there, you’ll see what I’m talking about,” he said.

We looked at Ashley and the Spark energy I was detecting. I took a closer look and realized something crucial. The Sparks were actually sentient. They develop their feelings and emotions every time we interact with one another. That’s how Clara got one to slowly hover towards her that one time.

“I never realized that. The Sparks that originated from Solar and I are alive somehow,” I said.

“Best not to keep the Sparks Mayhem has under her control. I’ll be joining this fight too. I can’t forgive her for making me lose that court trial to you guys,” said Liam.

“Means a lot, thanks for coming,” I said.

“But uh, what are you gonna use?” asked Aidan.

“They call me a criminal lawyer, but I build rocket launchers in my spare time,” he said.

Liam pulled out a huge rocket launched and test fired it. It does a lot of damage.

“Good to have you on our side haha,” said Sammi.

“It sure is cool, but remember it’s not this firepower that’ll save the Sparks, it’s our hope, and we have to stick together,” said Liam.

“I’m liking this guy’s vibes. But the firepower is important too in my opinion,” said Finley.

“Then what are we waiting for, we have some mayhem to cause,” said Midnite.

## **Chapter XIV (Lunar’s POV): A Whole Lot of Mayhem**

With all 11 party members ready, we jumped into the hole that the rocket created when it fell down. The walk was dangerous, the rocket didn’t exactly carve out a safe path. It left Darkmess and sharp edges everywhere. I was glad to have everyone safe and happy together, the last thing I wanted was for more lives to be taken.

“What were you doing while we were looking for Sparks Liam?” asked Solar.

“Oh you know the usual, perfecting my lawyer skills. I can’t lie that defeat was humiliating,” he said.

“Yeah but I mean come on, it was 3 against 1,” I said.

“Yeah but also, you guys don’t have any degrees. I studied law for 6 years perfecting my skills,” he said.

“Ok that’s fair,” said Aidan.

Other conversations took place while we were making our way down.

“How come you chose to become a ghost with your Spark powers anyways. I never fully got it,” asked Clara.

“Oh it’s so fun being one. You should try it one day. Being able to walk through walls and spook people is amazing,” said Midnite.

“It seems alright to me,” said Mack.

“Yeah I think the big guy has the better powers. Look at that brute strength,” said Finley.

Bedrock chuckled and gave him a fist bump.

“I think my plushie uses the Sparks the best, I mean how can you beat an innocent looking thing that is really deadly,” said Ashley.

“It was pretty useful in that sea of Darkmess I won’t lie,” said Sammi.

“Wait guys, I think we are here,” I said.

We were in a larger spherical hole that the rocket must’ve created. There was a huge rock ball just floating in the very center.

“I think the rocket is in there,” I said.

“How are we gonna bust it open?” asked Mack.

“Watch and learn folks,” said Liam.

He picked up his rocket launcher and shot a huge blast towards it. It cracked open and revealed the rocket inside. It was covered in Darkmess now for some reason.

“Wait, the rocket?” said Clara, “What’s going on Solar,”

“The coordinates of this rocket match the epicenter of Darkmess spreading across the world. Mayhem must have been using it to her advantage this way,” she said.

“There’s no way that monster took my rocket and used it for this,” said Clara.

“Wait, you built it yourself?” I asked.

“Of course I did. It was the first thing I did when I was hired as Spark Hunter. I was told it would help us collect them,” she said.

“Well, Mayhem sure did trick us like that again,” said Midnite.

“See that beacon inside that window, that’s the entrance to the very core of the Darkmess Dimension itself. Every time we entered a puddle, it brought us to that dimension,” said Solar.

“So if we destroy the Darkmess eye inside it, we destroy all of the Darkmess that was ever created!” I said.

“Bingo,” said Clara.

“We just need a way to get up there,” said Liam.

“Leave that to me,” said Ashley.

She used some of her Spark power to create a bridge purely made of energy towards it. Unfortunately, it stopped half way there.

“Uh oh. It looks like we ran out of energy for this bridge,” said Ashley.

“Leave the rest to me,” said Midnite.

She and Bedrock let out some Sparks they had and let them finish the bridge for us. Soon enough, we had direct access to the Darkmess beacon. I broke the window and waited for everyone to catch up.

“Are we all ready guys?” I asked.

“Lets goo!” said Solar.

One by one, we jumped into the Darkmess Beacon, ready to take on whatever awaited us in the Darkmess dimension. It was instantly dark the second we jumped in. I couldn’t even see in front of me at all. There was a bright flash that happened in the corner of my eye and I ran towards it. It was Ashley and her plushie lighting the way once again. Everyone met up and we made sure no one was lost.

“We made it! But now what,” said Aidan.

We weren’t quite sure on what to do, but there was a loud noise coming in from a direction. Instead of it staying the same, the noise seemed to be coming towards us. Something jumped down and crashed in. We all backed up a bit to protect ourselves. It was Mayhem with the Sparks.

“You guys really chose to follow me. Perfect, now I can get the remaining Sparks from you guys,” she said.

“You won’t get any more Sparks from us,” said Clara.

“Ah Clara, you had such potential. A shame you had to turn on me. I see you brought in my other hunters and Liam as well,” said Mayhem.

“We aren’t your Spark Hunters anymore Mayhem. We are here to take you out,” said Midnite.

“Yeah it’s payback time for what you did to me,” said Liam.

“Liam, I never knew you did something other than law for a living. No matter, I can still easily take you all out,” she said.

It took me a while to realize, but Mayhem was way stronger than any one of us, and a lot larger too. Mayhem backed up and slammed the ground with her fists, splitting the terrain up into 3. We were all separated all of a sudden.

“It’ll be much easier for me to deal with you all like this,” said Mayhem.

I looked up and saw I was with Solar, Clara, and Bedrock.

“Are you guys all ok?” I asked.

“Sure am,” said Solar.

“It’ll take more than that to stop us,” said Clara.

Bedrock nodded as well. Everyone else landed in groups thankful. Each one had someone with Sparks that we could use against Mayhem. We all just decided to attack her from our ends, which could be to our advantage. No matter what we did, nothing was really working, it was harder than our fight with Bedrock. I shot a blast right in her face which seemed to really make her mad. She turned towards me and tried to grab me. She missed but managed to get my Super Merge at the same time.

“Hm? What’s this?” she asked.

“Hey, that’s my property!” I yelled.

“Really, what if I just...,” she fired a blast and saw what it could do.

“It’s pretty dangerous, how about you just hand it back,” I said.

Mayhem ignored me and decided to fire it towards a darkmess puddle and herself. I managed to grab the super merge back during the merging process, but we had another problem on our hands. Mayhem had the power of the darkmess and sparks combined.

“Now this is what it must feel like to be Mayhem,” she said.

She fired huge globs of darkmess towards us which we had to get out of the way for good. Everyone was able to group up again, but now our sparks were not going to do anything against her.

“I don’t wanna be a downer but at this point she may as well be Goku,” said Aidan.

“Anime fan much?” asked Midnite.

“Maybe...” said Aidan.

“We just need to find a weak spot and get those Sparks and the Darkmess out of her. She’s just a normal human being like us,” said Clara.

“Um, actually, Solar and I are AI,” I said.

“Yeah yeah we get it,” said Aidan.

“Watch this everyone,” said Liam.

He readied his rocket launcher again and aimed for a glowing part on Mayhem’s body. There was a loud explosion, and a crack in the suit she was wearing. It must be where the Sparks were being kept on her.

“See, the weak spot,” said Liam.

“Very nice,” said Mack.

“Everyone move out of the way!” yelled Clara.

We all jumped out from where we were hiding to avoid some more Spark blasts from Mayhem, but now we knew where to attack. Everyone took turns shooting at the Spark container Mayhem had on her. I could tell we were getting it close to total destruction. Although suddenly, Mayhem released a wave of some darkmess energy which completely rendered all of our weapons useless.

“Now what are we going to do!?” said Clara.

“Wait a second. Finley and Bedrock, go for it!” I said.

They knew what to do immediately. Both of them took a leap together and punched the container directly. There was so much force being put in that Newton would be proud. After they landed, a huge wave of Sparks came flying out, and our weapons were back in order. It was our time to attack. Mayhem tried to charge at us once more, but the Sparks that were let out were there for us, and gave us a shield. She couldn’t break through it. We took the opportunity and gave her a piece of our medicine. It was rough, but she fell down for good and lost her merge with the Darkmess. I scouted the Darkmess eye and took it down once and for all. The Darkmess has been eliminated from this world once and for all. We were all sent back to the rocket, and just like I predicted, the Darkmess around it was gone. Mayhem was not happy about it.

“My precious Darkmess! You guys really just had to ruin it all,” she said.

“It’s not our fault you wanna be a bad leader. Everyone wants out of this place and you are keeping them here for no reason,” I said.

She looked like she was going to say something else, but the rocket suddenly started powering up and taking off. The Sparks must have gone into the fuel tank after we were all let out.

“Uh everyone, we should get out,” I said.

Everyone started running towards the hole we came from. I was about to leave but saw Mayhem still standing down where she was.

“Yo, are you gonna come with us,” I asked.

“After what happened, I think I will stay here,” she said.

“Oh come on, second chances are a thing you know,” I said.

She looked back up and cheered up a bit. I grabbed her hand and we started running to catch up with the rest of the group. I thought we were going to make it but a piece of debris fell from the sky and lava started pouring out.

“We can’t get over this now!” said Mayhem.

“I have an idea, sit tight,” I said.

I constructed a small bridge by merging some lava chunks and rocks that would hold steady. I crossed it first to make sure it was safe. Mayhem started following me, but the rocket must have taken off and crashed through the debris on its own. It started destroying the bridge. A boulder landed in front of me too, blocking me from Mayhem.

“Are you ok!?” I yelled.

“I will be. Now get out of here,” she said.

I wanted to save her, but I knew I would die if I stayed. I took this opportunity to run out as fast as I could. It was stressful but I did catch up to the others.

“Are you ok Lunar?” asked Clara.

“Yeah I am, I don’t know about Mayhem though,” I said.

I got up and looked behind me. The tunnel the rocket carved was fully filled up with rocks and debris.

## **Chapter VX (Lunar’s POV): Walking in Sunshine**

“I tried to save her, but it was too late,” I said.

“It’s ok Lunar, you did what you could,” said Clara.

“Yeah, but now we can actually get out of here!” said Liam.

“How do we do that exactly?” asked Midnite.

A little while after I said that, the rocket came flying from the ground and started traveling towards the surface. A huge crash happened and light came in from the sky. The rocket broke out and sun rays came in.

“Finally, it’s about time,” said Solar.

She absorbed the rays and charged her power supply back to full. I took out the rift portal we had earlier and made it a little larger. She charged it up fully and directed it towards a public rift we made accessible to the front of Max’s lab.

“Let’s go. It’s time to get out of here finally,” said Sammi.

“I’m so freaking tired,” said Mack.

“We’ll be on our way now, but it was such a pleasure meeting you all, especially you Clara,” said Sammi.

“Aw, I’m sure we’ll see each other in the future,” said Clara.

“See you guys later, thanks for being my lawyer,” I said.

They took off first.

“Yeah I am gonna need a break after this. Must’ve been a few days since I’ve been here,” said Aidan.

“Alright see you later buddy,” I said.

“I think we need to get the rest of the town out of here too,” said Midnite.

“I got an idea,” I said.

I powered a huge megaphone and exclaimed to the city.

“People of Alterna! An exit rift has been created back to the surface. Mr. Grizz’s operations are no more,” I said.

Within seconds, a large crowd of people started leaving their houses and making their way to the rift. I knew it would take a while for everyone to get their stuff out of here but it was gonna happen.

It’s been a few weeks ever since our initial rescue. The city above accepted all the new people we rescued from down below. Max had a new exhibit added to the lab based on the achievements Alterna made, and to ensure nothing was lost even if they were living above now. I visited Max the other day to tell him about what we did down there.

“You guys really stopped a crazy person from trapping their own citizens? Sparks?” asked Max.

“I know it’s all crazy but maybe I can write it into a book and tell you about it,” I said.

“You know what, it’s all ok. The people that lived down there made something to honor their mayor it seems. They asked for permission to have it in the exhibit and I said sure,” said Max.

“Really? Where?” I asked.

“You can rift over these coords. Now go. I need to get some more sleep,” he said.

“Got it, thanks!” I said.

I went over to the rift portal in his office and went over to the coordinates. He was right, there was a statue of General Mayhem there. Even if the people never knew about her evil intentions, she did seem like a cool person underneath. I can’t fully blame her underneath. As for the 3 former Spark Hunters, now known as Spark Researchers, they went to study whatever remaining Sparks were left and to truly understand them. Ashley provided those Sparks, as we were able to remove them from her and get to study them. Liam became the top lawyer up here in no time. Noone could truly beat his skills. Solar came to visit me.

“Sooo, about our Pho Dinner?” she asked.

“Yes yes, we will finally go there,” I said.

“Yay! Dinner is on you,” she said.

“Haha, of course it is,” I said.

Things were looking pretty nice again. It feels good to be walking in sunshine once again. Even if I wasn’t as strong as Solar, she’s still pretty cool herself, and I respected that. I still had room for improvement myself, but this latest journey showed me once again that we are stronger together.