The Princess

And The

Abyss Diver

**By**

**Trevy Burgess**

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1. Middle School

Luke and his best friend Ripper stepped out of the tour bus and onto the school grounds of the Albert Einstein Academy for gifted children.

All about them rose the magnificent mountains of Switzerland.

“I can’t believe we are both going to this crazy school,” Ripper said. “You maybe, but I’m just a dumb jock.”

“Nonsense,” Luke said. “You are smart. You’re problem is motivation. Besides, you’re here on a sports scholarship.”

“Maybe so,” Ripper said. “However, without your tutoring I couldn’t have obtained the minimum grades. Why did you sign up as a tutor?”

“My mum insisted I make friends,” Luke said. “I suggested tutoring as a compromise. Although very soon all tutoring will be done by AI agents.”

“I’m glad my career is safe,” Ripper said. “Robot sports never took off. People want to see real people battling and bleeding for their entertainment.”

“My aunt had a live band for her June wedding, even though it was more expensive,” Luke said. “And the rich never use robots, preferring humans to serve them.”

The last of the teens exited the busses and a woman called out, “Attention kids.” She paused until everyone quieted down. “My name is Mrs. Bertrand. Welcome to the Albert Einstein Academy for Gifted Children.

“Please follow me to the auditorium for your orientation ceremony.”

Hundreds of kids followed the woman to a large building. Luke and Ripper chatted as they walked.

“Hey look, they have human gardeners,” a girl next to Luke said.

“I wonder why,” another girl said.

20 minutes later everyone was seated.

A man walked on stage and said, “Greetings everyone. My name is Dr. Everson Thornville and I am your principle.

“Welcome to the Albert Einstein Academy for Gifted Children.

“You are all here because we believe you are the shining future of our tiny planet. Over the next few years you will learn the skills needed to handle the terrifying changes that will befall the planet.”

That caused some murmurs from the students.

“That’s diabolical,” Ripper said.

“In this school, you will not learn to become an office worker,” the principle continued. “Instead you will learn things AI can’t do. Remember, AI is just a tool.”

School starts on Monday. That will give 3 days to get over any jet lag. Also, I encourage you to spend this time getting to know your fellow students and exploring the local town. Also, the hiking trails are amazing, with rivers, waterfalls and canyons to explore…”