Chapter 3

The peace of sleep. It was something he cherished immensely and…

“Henry!”

Noise. It’s okay though because it was sure to go awa...

“Henry!” this time it was followed by loud banging on the door. Still, it wasn’t a noise worth responding to...

“Excuse me. Thank you. HENRY, GET UP RIGHT NOW!”

Henry jumped out of the bed, tripping over the blankets as he did. Scared, he immediately sat up to look around. What was happening? He was awake, but it was dark. Was it still night? Probably since...

“Henry, come on, hurry up!”

The door. Someone was at the door. Angry, the boy charged to the door, pressing the button on the side as hard as he could as if that would demonstrate how angry he was.

“WHAT!?” He demanded to know.

“Don’t ‘what’ me!” Henry hadn’t recognized the voice before, but now that he had, he immediately regretted everything that happened within the last five seconds.

“Henry, what are you doing? Put on a shirt, we’re late!”

It took Henry a moment to realize what was happening. Out in the hall stood two figures. The one closest to him, was a female. She had light brown skin with eyes that were pitch black. Her hair came down to her shoulders onto her black t-shirt. Down her body, the black theme continued: black, nicely fitting pants with black boots. On her waist was a black Display. Even the frames on her glasses were a cold black color. Behind and above her, Henry saw a more concerned than angry face. Though his skin was much lighter and his eyes much bluer, the teenager was wearing the exact same outfit as his female counter part, minus the glasses.

“Henry.” The girl said snapping her fingers. “Wig to Henry, lets go! Class is starting!”

“What! Right! Class!”

Henry ran to grab a shirt from his closet. How could be have been so dumb as to sleep in, and on the fifth day of the week at that. Zordo was going to be teaching today’s class and...

“Wait a minute.” Henry had finally gotten his shirt on, but something had just came to his mind.

“Ryan! Port! What’s wrong you guys? You woke me up for no reason. Zordo’s supposed to be teaching today and he’s out, remember?”

Port rolled her eyes and entered the room. “What is the point of me fixing your Display if you’re not gonna use it?”

Ryan, anxious to get going, decided to push the conversation faster.

“There was an Announcement that said Magatha would be substituting.”

Henry’s eyes got wide. Quickly, he ran for his boots.

“Why does this keep happening to me? You’d think I’d be used to all this by now.”

“Come on, lets go!” Port hurried.

“I’m moving as fast as I can!”

“Yelling doesn’t help.” Ryan said almost hopping.

Finally, Henry’s boots came on. The three ran out the door and down the hallway.

“WAIT!” Henry shouted. He ran back to his room. Pressing the button on the side, door opened.

“Where is it? Where is it?”

“Henry, what are you doing?”

“My necklace! I can’t find it!”

“Are you kidding me? Seriously? Henry, we’ve got like five seconds to get to class.”

“You know we can’t show up without you.” Ryan added.

“I know! Just help me find it!”

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It wasn’t a loud noise, but in the quietness of the classroom the sound of buttons being pressed against pads was all that could be heard. Suddenly, the sound of footsteps could be heard. The students all turned as Ryan, Port and Henry walked in really quickly. As they did, Ryan took notice of everyone in the room. There was a girl dressed in black with blonde hair staring at them as they walked in. In fact, everyone was staring at them. As Ryan made his way over to his seat, he looked at the large device behind the girl. It was a Display, or atleast it did the same thing Displays did only it was much bigger.

Port couldn’t believe this. She held her head down as she hurried faster than the boys to their designated area. Once she sat down, she quickly pulled out her Display to begin copying what was on the large one in the front of the classroom.

Henry walked to his seat faster than Ryan did, but not as quickly as Port. Of their team’s area, the seat in the middle was his. As he sat down, he quickly took notice of the person up front. A blonde wearing all black, but it wasn’t Captain Magatha. It was Cindy. For whatever reason, she was standing up there watching over the class. That was a relief. Henry spoke low to his teammates.

“Good thing we came when we did. Miss Mags would’ve chewed us out if she’d seen us.”

“Yes, that would be upsetting, wouldn’t it?” A female voice came from a student behind them. Henry smile instantly faded. He realized something… Cindy was the voice he should’ve been hearing. But if she was up front, then that meant…”

He turned around to see Magatha sitting in the desk, her head resting on her hand.

“Hello, Henry.”

Henry slowly lifted his hand.

“Hello, Captain Magatha.”

Ryan and Port both put their heads down. The embarrassment was almost too much.

“You know I can only imagine how I’m supposed to react to this.” As she spoke, Magatha slowly got up from her seat. “Coming in tardy, distracting other students, and... Henry, you’re doing something else that you’ve failed to realize.”

Magatha had made her way to just in front of the trio’s desks.

“Obviously there should be some sort of punishment here, but I’m in a forgiving mood. I tell you what. I’ll quiz each of you… and if your team answers correctly, there shall be no punishment. Ryan.”

Ryan’s head straightened immediately.

“Name me the Firsts and tell me which one united the four against the Discretes.”

Oh great, Henry thought, history questions. Ryan was going to get his question right. He ALWAYS got them right. But what’s worse is she gave him an easy one.

“The Firsts were Verde, Amar, Aluz, and Naral, with Verde being the one to unite them.”

“Correct. Portia, what is controversial about Ryan’s answer?”

She skipped Henry. That wasn’t good. She was probably saving the hardest question for him. He didn’t even know the answer to the question she just asked Port.

“Th… the Firsts may have been brought to... together by Verde, but some argue that...that Aluz’s death is what truly united them.”

“Correct. Now Henry…”

Henry swallowed. Magatha bent down to put her face on his level. Her grin was so sinister, Henry didn’t want to look at it. He knew she was going to ask something no one knew just to spite him.

“What... is today’s lesson about?”

Today’s… lesson? It wasn’t exactly the question he thought but... but he still didn’t know! How could he know?! The entire team had come into the classroom late! It had to be something about what he did wrong. Tardiness! That was it! Always show up on time! Never be late! No. She had asked the others about the Firsts. History! It was going to be about history! But they had already had their history lesson this week. Today was supposed to be something about combat. Henry didn’t know. But he had to say something. He opened his mouth to speak...

…then suddenly, he felt a hand come on top of it. He turned to see Ryan’s hand covering his mouth. Ryan gave him a serious look, then his gaze shifted to Port and nodded. Port nodded back, and opened her mouth to speak.

“Today’s l…lesson is on knowing your opponent and p…predicting their actions.”

Magatha’s grin grew slightly bigger.

“Very good.” She said. The mischief in her tone had suddenly vanished and she walked back to the front Display.

“Thank you Cynthia, you can have your seat back.”

Ryan let go of Henry’s mouth. After a quick gasp for air, Henry immediately asked the question that was trying to burst from his brain.

“How did you know what the lesson was?”

Port pointed toward the Display at the front. It read…

**Today’s Lesson: Knowing Your Opponent and Predicting Their Actions**

**Ryan**

1. **Observe Classroom**
2. **Look at front Display**

**Henry**

1. **Rush to Seat**
2. **Talk to Someone**
3. **Fail to Notice Teacher**
4. **Never Look at Front Display Unless Directed**

**Portia**

1. **Rush to Seat**
2. **Get Ready to Take Notes**
3. **Look at Front Display**

The classroom began to fill with a small laugh. Everyone had been in on the joke. This time, all three friends put their heads down in shame.

Chapter 3 End

Chapter 4

“Ryan, I just want you to know, that was all your fault.” Henry playfully punched Ryan in the shoulder.

“Oh hah, very funny. If it weren’t for your incredible ‘not checking Display’ abilities.” Portia poked Henry’d forhead forcing it to go back some.

“I thought it was funny.” Ryan said simply.

“Yeah, 5 hours of everyone snickering at us is hilarious. It gets old after a while guys!” Henry shouted into the air.

“No it doesn’t!” Someone shouted back. Henry was sure that was Zayle, or atleast someone from the Clowns team.

The three were walking out of the classroom and into the hallway with the other students. They did what they were doing after every class, walk down the hall toward the main corridor to separate from there.

“Well, atleast we didn’t get punished.” Portia sighed.

“I figured she wouldn’t punish us.” Ryan said nonchalantly. “The teachers keep pounding in teamwork, teamwork, teamwork. As soon as she said ‘team’ I knew we were going to have to do it together. Still, I disagree with her logic. I mean, she asked for the team to answer. Doesn’t that mean the entire team needs to answer? Its not an ‘or’ answer, it’s an all or nothing.

“Than perhaps you would like your punishment anyway.”

Everyone jumped upon hearing Magatha’s voice from behind.

“Where’d you come from?” Ryan asked.

“The same place you did. Henry, I need to see you in the meeting room immediately.”

“What? Me? Why?”

“Do you really want me to say that here? Because I only do this discretion thing because...”

“No no, that’s okay. I’ll head over.”

“I would’ve just contacted you via a Display Annoucement, but… you know...”

Henry didn’t say anything, but his peering eyes and sucked in cheeks spoke for him.

“Captain Magatha.” Ryan answer. Despite his six foot height, the woman was about the same height as the sixteen year old. “Did General Zordo say when he’d be back?”

Magatha tilted her head.

“You know how these things go, Ryan. Two week trip there and back making four weeks total. I presume you’d like your instructons for your training.”

“Yeah, I’d kind of like to get started on that.”

“He simply wants you to continue with that activity you do, the one with the basket.”

Ryan sighed. “Oh well, nothing new.”

Magatha walked ahead of the group leaving them. The three came to the main corridor. Because of how it was set up, it seemed that they were coming from a side entrance. The twisting set of stairs lead to five different floors.

“Okay,” Henry shrugged. “I guess I’m off to meet Mags for my death sentence.”

“You don’t know it’s a death sentence.” Ryan said. “Try thinking positive.”

“Yeah, because when you come late to a class and then embarrass yourself, it’s certain that you’re gonna get an automatic promotion.”

“Yeah… you’re doomed.”

“It’s fifth day, guys, we playing Synchronize later?” Portia asked.

“I don’t really care, as long as you guys are up for it.” Ryan shrugged.

“Do you ever care what we do?” Henry smiled, knowing the answer to his question.

“Not really.” Ryan smiled back. “I’m gonna be there anyway. The fifth floor is where...”

“Yeah yeah, its where you do that weird game. Where’re we gonna find you Port?”

“I got a new file about the mechanics of Magni-Boots. Been waiting all week to read it, so I’m just gonna be in my room working on that.”

“Okay.” Henry waved. “See you on the fifth. And don’t forget to vote for me!”

“Only if you vote for me!” Ryan waved back.

Chapter 4 End