Chapter 42

Ryan, Henry and Port stared in awe at what they were witnessing. People everywhere were working at their own desks. It was quiet, yet at the same time it felt like the noise of footsteps and finger taps were as loud as any noise could be.

“Welcome to the Department of Information.” Zordo said.

“Well, this is… interesting.” Henry said. His eyes wandered about. At first, he had been impressed but upon further inspection, the place did not seem very exciting. People walked across the room with urgency, only to show someone something on their display and head right back to their desk.

“There you are, General.” A voice came. Portia recognized the voice and became greatly excited as she saw who was approaching.

Cretere approached the group of people. Her eyes met with Portia’s and when they did, her entire body froze. Portia ran up and hugged the woman without warning.

“Mom!”

“Portia…” Cretere said, flabbergasted. “Honey, what… what are you doing here?”

“I ascended, mom.” Portia said excitedly. “My team is part of the Department of Information, now.”

“Here?” Cretere said, surprised. “What about the Department of Technology? Surely, someone with her brain…”

“…this department needs brains as well.” Zordo said. “Trust me when I say, the Stars are best suited for here.”

“The Stars?” Cretere asked.

Portia’s excitement did not die down.

“It’s what we call our team. This is Henry, he came up with the name. And this is our Captain, Ryan.”

Cretere stared down at her daughter and the team she was with. A mixture of emotions came over her. Momentarily, it stunned her and all she could do was smile. Realizing, though, that she was not herself, Cretere straightened herself up.

“If she’s ascended to soldier, than I trust your responsibilities as the general of education have concluded.”

“Yes.” Zordo said. “Starting today, this department is now my sole responsibility.”

“Good. Official D is waiting for you and your new team in his office.”

“Official D is here?” Ryan asked.

“What have we gotten ourselves into?” Portia panicked.

“Don’t fret, dear.” Cretere said. “True our Official can be pretty intimidating, but you’ll see soon enough that he cares for Green just as much as anyone else.”

Portia smiled at Cretere. It didn’t matter what she was dealing with, words from that woman made everything feel more comfortable to her.

Zordo lead the way as the group headed towards the doors in the back. The teenagers felt themselves getting more nervous as the got closer to the office. Finally, Zordo opened the door.

The office was just as baron as the last time Zordo had came. Sitting at the desk on the other side of the room was Discrete D.

“Diablo.” Henry said.

Discrete D looked up from his Display.

“Well, there’s a name I haven’t heard in some time. Hello once again, Henry.”

Henry felt a sense of pride come over him. Vatti may not have remembered him, but Diablo certain did, and he was the most important guy in the country.

Ryan and Portia remained silent. They had never seen Official D other than from afar. This was the man who was leading their country. He was an ex-Discrete and said to be even more skilled than Zordo.

“Zordo.” D said. “This is the team you’ve assembled for missions.”

“Indeed.”

Discrete D walked up to the group of teenagers and began staring at them. That did not help Ryan and Portia overcome their nervous feelings. Even Henry was beginning to get a little uncomfortable.

“Well, then, allow me to debrief you on your first assignment.”

Diablo pulled out his display and sent files to the four people in front of him. As they pulled out their own displays, he continued speaking.

“The Discretes have been silent for the last few years. Despite what you may think, it isn’t because they can’t locate us. In fact, the Discretes have a good idea of the exact location of where many of our crucial bases are. I am currently working on methods to keep them from advancing.

While that is going on, we need to gather information on the Discretes for the inevitable end of the Silence. This Department is responsible for making best use of that information. It is your responsibility to gather it.”

“A reconnaissance team.” Portia said. Immediately after speaking, she regretted doing so.

“I mean… I… in my research… I read something similar…”

“That is exactly correct.” D said. “You will be the main recon teams for this department and thus all of Green. If you look at your Displays, you’ll see the details of your first mission. The main base of the Discretes is currently under our observation. They don’t care about hiding as they don’t consider us as a real threat. I’ve been observing their use of sync energy throughout the base. There is one particular room that has caught my eye. Your mission is to disable the power to that room and observe the reaction.”

“Observe their reaction?” Henry asked. “If we can disable their power to the whole base, we can sneak in and gather much more information.”

“That won’t be necessary.” D said. “The only thing we need from that building is knowledge about what’s in that room.”

“But…” Henry started, but before he could finish, Ryan put his hand up to signal him to be quiet.

“We understand, sir.”

Henry breathed through his nose in frustration. He had to do what Ryan said, especially with Zordo standing right there.