Relics #2:

The Internship

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Other Books in WarZone

Dawn of War

Mario Chronicles

Warzone

Tales

Shaw

Dr. Geller led Shaw, Leo, Draco and Cordelia through the camp. As they made their way it slowly dawned on Shaw that it wasn’t so much one camp as it was many different camps, that are all more or less lumped together. Each mini-camp seemed to represent a different school. Each going about their own business but each and everyone stopping to spare a glance as the foursome are led through their mist towards the central camp, with a UCSD flag hanging over it. Making it clear where the Dr. Geller made his home.

Leo and Draco kept lock step with Dr. Geller, making small talk with their hero while Cordy stayed just behind them, taking in everything she could as they walked. Shaw followed behind them, a mounting look of dread etched across his face. A feeling of uselessness building inside of him every moment. The thought of his inadequacies overwhelming him. Deep down inside he knew that the only reason he was invited onto this journey was because of Leo cheating for him. He looked around at all the students manning the many different camps and the overwhelming knowledge that each and every single one of them was smarter than he could ever hope to be threatened to paralyze him. He forced himself to keep moving forward. It wasn’t going to take long for them all to figure out he was a fraud.

After what felt like an eternity they finally made it to the main camp. It was only then that it dawned on Shaw that he hadn’t paid attention to anything that Dr. Geller had said the whole time. Did he say anything important? Did Shaw miss anything that he was going to need to know to fit in here? He could feel his pulse starting to race as his panic started to rise. He lifted his hood over his head, trying to shield himself from being seen.

“As you can see, we have a great many young promising archaeologist all working towards the same goal here. A goal that is more important than any of you could ever know. I cannot even start to express to you all how much it means to me that you have elected to help us.” Dr. Geller said, a fakeness to the smile that Shaw knew only too well. Leo and the others didn’t seem to pick up on it.

“So, what are we looking for sir?” Leo asked, trying to sound proud and confident. Shaw knew only too well how important this all was to Leo. This internship was everything that Leo had been working towards for far too long. It could very well be the first step towards the life that Leo saw for himself. But was this what Shaw wanted for himself? He couldn’t say, he really didn’t know.

“I’m glad you ask,” Dr. Geller said with a playful grin. “After all, I can’t very well expect you to find something without first telling you what it is that you are looking for, could I?”

“No.” Draco said. It’s a tone that Shaw has heard from his friend many times before. Usually directed at himself. Draco wasn’t buying into any of this any more that Shaw was. Cordy on the other hand seemed to be hanging onto Dr. Geller’s every word, almost as entranced as her brother.

“Believe it or not, we are as close to the Great Pyramids as we can get while still being allowed to dig. The ancient Egyptians are wildly believed to be one of, if not the greatest civilization to ever live. We have so much to still learn from them. And that is where you all come in. Every second you have here, every moment you use to your advantage is potentially a life changing experience. I implore you, use it. Take advantage of the gift I am giving you here.” He said with a smile. “I wish someone gave me the shot I’m now giving you.” He said with a wink. “Now get to work!” With that he turned to leave.

Cordelia

The sun was beating down on them as Dr. Geller bid them farewell and took off. He made it about two feet before interns from other schools flocked him from all sides with more questions than Cordelia had ever thought to ask any of her teachers in her entire academic career. It gave her the impression that Dr. Geller didn’t do much around here, but that couldn’t be it. Dr. Geller was a world-renowned archeologist, he had to be heavily involved with everything around here.

Shaw and Draco seemed to be getting anxious, but her brother Leo was eating up every word Dr. Geller spoke. He was going to excel here, this was where he belonged. Somewhere where he could show off just how smart he was. How brilliant he could be. It wouldn’t be long before her brother ran this place, it was what he does. People just flock to him and it took everything Cordy had to try and keep up.

She wouldn’t have even been accepted into this internship if not for Draco helping her pass the application. That thought overwhelmed Cordy, she couldn’t bare it if her brother ever found out that she couldn’t make it here on her own. Ever since she could remember she had wanted to fit in with him and Draco, but she could never cut it.

She was just thankful that Draco was such a great guy. He was always looking out for her. Sometimes she liked to tell herself that it was because he had feelings for her. The type of feelings that evolved into something more than the awkward friendship one had with their best friend’s little sister, the type of warm fuzzy feelings that flowed through her every time he crossed her mind, but she knew that was a hopeless fantasy.

“Alright, you lot, follow me. I’ll show you around.” A cute blonde with an accent that she couldn’t make out said as he took the spot left by Dr. Geller. He flashed her a smile and Cordy felt her face flush.

“What’s to see?” Draco said with a sly grin, looking around at the endless camps all around them and the miles and miles of sand beyond that. The cute blonde did not seem impressed.

“You’d rather make your way on your own? Fine by me.” He said, his voice dreamy. Leo stepped forward, shooting Draco his signature look, telling his friend to shut up.

“Let’s not be hastily.” Leo said to the cute blonde. “My friend, Draco here, he was kidding. We’d love for you to show us around.” Leo said extending a hand for the cute blonde. He glanced at Leo’s hand, rolled his eyes and turned to walk away.

“Very well, follow me.” He said with attitude flowing through every word. Leo and Draco exchanged looks.

“We’d love for you to show us around.” Draco said in a mocking tone. Leo hit him in the arm.

“Shut up.” Leo snapped playfully as they started off after the cute blonde. Cordy followed after them with Shaw somewhere behind her.

“You got a little brown right here.” Draco said, tapping the tip of his nose. He laughed at his own joke.

“Fuck off, man.” Leo said with a laugh. “I just want to make a good impression.” Leo said more seriously. Draco patted him on the back.

“I know, I know.” Draco said, shaking his head. “You worry too much my friend.”

“You new?” A voice came from behind her. Cordy turned to look and found herself facing a young Brazilian man in what had to be his best impersonation of an Indiana Jones costume. It took everything she had not to laugh. “You speak English?” his accent was strong, making it hard for her to make out his words.

“What?” she asked momentarily shaken. He grinned at her.

“So, you do speak the English, yes? I’m Gustavo Garcia.” He said, locking eyes with her as he spoke. He had the most beautiful amber eyes she had ever laid eyes on. “No?”

“What? Oh, yes, yes I speak.” She replied flustered. Blood rushing to her cheeks.

“I see, as I stated, I is Gustavo Garcia. Who be you?” He asked once more.

“I be me, I mean” she shook her head and laughed at herself. “I is Cordelia Fox, Cox.” She breaks into laughter. “I am Cordelia Cox. Sorry about that, I don’t know what is wrong with me.” He nodded lightly and took a step back, a bit put off by her.

“Right. Well I’m pleased to have meet with you Ms. Cox.” With that he turned and walked off. Cordy let out a low sigh. *Good going Cordy, way to chase off yet another guy. What’s wrong with me?* She thought to herself bitterly.

She looked around for her brother and friends but found herself alone amongst strangers. She made her way out of the camp, the other interns stealing glances at her. Each one pretending not to but she could feel their eyes on her. It was making the hair on the back of her neck stand on end.

She exited the central camp and started back towards the front. Hoping that somewhere along the way she would see some sign of her brother or Draco.

“Cordy, over here!” The one voice she didn’t want to hear. She turned around to find Shaw standing there waving at her eagerly.

“I see you Shaw, no need to shout!” She snapped at him as she walked towards him. Her brother and Draco were standing a few feet away listening to the cute blonde’s every word.

Leo

Night had set on their first day at camp far too quickly for Leo’s liking. He had hoped to hit the ground running. Fantasies danced through his mind the whole plane ride over of him uncovering something spectacular on his first day. Proving to Dr. Geller and everyone else here how useful he could be. His whole life he has had to put up with people expecting great things from him, and while on the surface that may seem like a good thing. Having people believe in you, but it had been anything but as far as Leo was concerned. Anytime he made a mistake, no matter how small, people would freak out on him. Lecture him till they were blue in the face, but whenever he did something good, something noteworthy, well, they hardly paid any attention to him at all for it. And why should they? He was Leo and was destined for greatness. It was just expected of him. It was a heavy burden for a man his age to bear, he had always thought so.

Needless to say, the day did not go as planned. Not only did Leo not uncover some amazing artifact that proved he was as great as everyone expected him to be, he didn’t even get to look around. Dr. Geller gave them all a big speech on how they were here to look for relics from some long dead civilization and then he took off. Aids of his took over the tour which mostly consisted of being told not to get in anyone’s way. They were not allowed to speak to Dr. Geller unless spoken too and they could only dig in their section.

That was the biggest joke Leo had ever heard. Their section. When the aid led them to their camp, Leo was sure that there was some miscommunication. It was a tiny patch of dirt nestled in-between two other camps. Once they set up their tents the patch of dirt was almost completely covered. How was he to find anything with so little to work with?

It had taken Leo and Draco most of the remaining day to set up their camp. Shaw had tried to help at first but kept getting in the way and making everything worse. It wasn’t long before Draco chased him out of the camp and we finally finished setting up camp, but by then the sun was setting and without real light there was no reason to start digging.

Draco took off to go find Cordy and Shaw who were exploring the larger camp, while Leo sat down at a makeshift table and turned on his portable lantern. Out of his backpack he pulled a copy of Dr. Geller’s best-selling book, “Uncovering the Lost Worlds”. Leo had already read it twice while getting ready for this trip but figured it couldn’t hurt to read it again. It was very well written and had some great advice for first time archaeologists. Leo planned to be up at the crack of dawn and get right to it. Make up for the lost time today.

After finishing the book, yet again, Leo closed it and stretched his arms back, taking a massive yawn as he did so. He wasn’t aware of how tired he had gotten. He got to his feet, picking up and putting his glasses on as he exited the tent, looking around. The camp site was dead. There didn’t seem to be any one up but him.

Loud snoring came out of Shaw’s tent, letting Leo know that his friends made it back safe. The thought crossed his mind that if he wanted to wake up early to get at it, he should turn in, but now that he was up and moving around a second wind seemed to have overtaken him. What better time to look around? No one was up to stop him, and he could see what his competition was up to. It didn’t matter what Dr. Geller’s aids had said, they weren’t all in this together. This was a once in a lifetime chance to prove to the rest of the world what you were worth, and Leo wasn’t about to let that chance pass him by.

Leo didn’t get far before realizing that he had forgotten his phone. For a moment he thought of turning back but he shrugged that off quickly enough and kept on his way. Safety lights lined the edge of the camp, giving Leo just enough light to see where he was headed. As he went, he took in each camp. Each one drastically different from the last. No one seemed to be awake.

The cool night air washed over Leo, relaxing him. Something about being out here in the field just seemed to agree with him. He had yet to even really start and he already felt at home. This was what he was meant to do, be out in the world, at sights of historic significance. This was how he was going to put his mark on the world, by finding something that changed the way we think about history. Find something that might uncover some new aspect of this civilization and put his own stamp in the history books. One day, a long time from now, Leo’s children would sit in class and learn about what their father uncovered this summer.

A thin smile graced his lips as he exited the silent camp. The Great Pyramids were off in the distance, the very sight of them took Leo’s breath away. He had never seen anything so amazing in his life. They truly were a work of art. The desert was silent, the moonlight glistening off of the endless sand before him.

Leo glanced behind him at the camps, he should go back, turn in and rest up, after all tomorrow was going to be a big day for him. With that thought firmly in his mind he marched forward, heading towards the towering pyramids.

The night was surprisingly cold, Leo hugged himself as he walked, leaving the camp and his friends far behind. The Pyramids seemed so far away but Leo kept moving forward, closing the distance far quicker than he ever would have thought. Relief seemed to wash over him as he closed in, maybe he could reach the Pyramids and still get some sleep tonight. Very rarely in life did you get to have your cake and eat it too, but this seemed to be one of those times.

“What the hell are we even doing here?” A voice carried across the desert towards Leo. It was late at night; this whole place should be deserted. It peeked his interest, prompting him to move towards the source of the voice.

“What do you think? You signed on for this!” A second voice snapped back. Leo slowed his pace as he made his way closer to the two male voices.

“Because David swore this would be an easy payday. Yet I ain’t seen shit since we got here. On top of that shit, he got us out here digging dead of night, while he plays professor jackass with dem kids! What the fuck is this shit?” The first voice shouted. Anger pouring out of his every word.

Leo found a row of trucks parked not far from the nearest Pyramid, the voices seemed to be coming from just past them. Taking his time, Leo made his way towards the truck. Not making a sound as he went.

“What would you have him do? Come hold your hand? Cause that won’t happen. Yous supposed to be a professional. Why don’t you nut up and act like it.” The second voice said as Leo made it to the truck. He moved along the side of the nearest truck, an old white pickup, using it as cover as he stole a look at the two men. The upset man was a tall lanky short of man with a buzz cut, he was being dressed down by a short thick man with a full head of hair.

Behind the two of them was a full-blown operation, with cranes and dozens of people all digging for something. It was a far larger scale operation than the intern camp he had just come from.

“I’d have him help out! We out here working our asses off and he gonna cut us in when we find this shit?” The tall lanky man snapped. Rage boiling off of him.

“Do you know, do you have any idea, how much money there is in finding a new lost civilization? We finish this job, we never need to work again. So what yous bitching about?” The short man shot back. The tall man’s rage gave way to laughter. A few of the men working turned to look for a few moments before returning to their work. The short man did not seem to be in on the joke.

“There is no money in finding nothing. Dav, he just guessing. Took a map, nailed it to a wall and threw a damn dart at it. That’s where he sends us. Always has been.” The short man didn’t seem to like where this was going. The tall man’s rage seemed to have found a new home in the short man.

“If you believe that, than why are you here?” The short man demanded.

“Because the checks have always cashed. If I’m getting paid, I don’t much care how bullshit the job is.” He answered shortly.

“Fine, than cash your check and get back to work. Yous trying my patience.” The short man said.

“Love too, but the checks ain’t coming, are they? Davéboy has lost all credibility with the powers that be. That’s why he’s playing headmaster over yonder, while we dig though the night. He’s on his way out in the world stage, first thing to go, our paychecks. Figures we too busy working to notice it. But not me, I notice it.” The tall man screamed at the short man, who stood there and took it.

“So what yous planning on doing? Why yous keep coming if you don’t expect to be paid?” The short man asked. Leo ducked down near the front of the truck, trying to watch the conversation without being seen.

“Because we got a history, me and Davéboy, I figure I owe it to him to tell him to his face.”

“Well, that isn’t likely. He has to keep up appearances at the camp. His students would notice if he snuck away every night. Just stick it out and you’ll be paid, we all will, when we find what we are after. Or leave. This point, I don’t much care.” The short man said in his most authoritative voice. The tall man let out a low laugh.

“You really think you’ll find Atlan. . .”

“Shut up!” the short man yelled, cutting off the tall man mid word. “Don’t say that word. Not here, not now.” The short man tried to regain his composer. “Just, just get the fuck out of my dig site. Yous fired.”

“Fine by me.” The tall man said with a laugh as he turned and started towards the trucks. “You boys have fun wasting your lives.” He shouted back at the men working.

Leo’s heart started racing as he processed all the information he had just heard. Before he could make any sense of it all a new fear entered his mind, the tall man was coming right towards him. He pulled out his keys and the white truck that Leo was hiding behind beeps, blinding white lights turned on.

Leo fell back, scared. The tall man moved closer and closer, Leo got up and ran for it. He didn’t look back as he made his way full speed back to camp. Not even when he heard the truck turn on.

Draco

The sun was well over head and the interns at the camps all around them were already hard at work as Draco looked around once more for Leo. He hadn’t seen him since he got up this morning. He checked his tent only to find it empty.

Draco half expected Leo to be hard at work at their assigned area when he woke up this morning but to not find him at all was disconcerting. It wasn’t like Leo to just take off or skip out on something important. It just wasn’t him. Besides, they were out in the middle of nowhere, the closest sign of civilization around were the Pyramids and they weren’t exactly what you’d call close. Even if Leo wanted to run off, where could he run off to? No, something was wrong here. Draco could feel it in his bones.

He stopped at the edge of the camp site and looked out at the vast desert. He scanned across the endless sand and let out a pained sigh. He pulled out his grandfather’s old pocket watch and checked the time. It was going on noon. He shook his head and put the watch away before turning and heading back towards his camp. *Leo, man, where are you?* He asked himself as he passed by the other camps.

On his left a few kids yelled excitedly as they gathered around something. It seemed that this day was starting off in style and they were just falling farther and farther behind. Leo would never allow this, he had an overwhelming desire to prove himself the best at everything he did.

Draco turned away from the commotion at the nearby camp and headed back towards his own camp. Nothing exciting seemed to be happening at the other camps. He couldn’t help but be thankful for that fact. At least they weren’t falling behind everyone else.

As his camp came into view a reflection of light caught his attention and pulled him out of his thoughts. His eyes scanned for the source of the reflection. It didn’t take long for him to identify it, sitting around Cordelia’s neck rested her brass knuckles neckless that she always wore. She was sitting near her tent, a book opened on her lap. She spotted Draco and smiled before returning to her book. He grinned to himself. There was just something about the way the sun landed across her face that made his heart race. She was so beautiful, unfortunately she was also his best friend’s little sister.

“Bloody hell you wanker! What do you do you think you’re doing?” A voice rang out, drawing Draco’s attention away from Cordy towards Shaw who had a shovel in his hand a hole at his feet as a few British kids from the next camp were moving in on him.

“Uh. . .well, uh. . I was uh.” Shaw tried to get out, nerves overtaking him. He dropped the shovel as he backed up. Cordy looked up from her book at Shaw. She shook her head and went back to her book.

“Spit it out boy! What were you doing?” The lead boy demanded.

“I. . .I” Shaw started to say.

“I. . I. What the hell is wrong with you?” He demanded.

“You deficient?” His friend asked taking a step towards Shaw, whose face all but broke into a look of unabashed terror. Shaw shallowed hard before trying to answer.

“I. . I was working? Looking for whatever it is we are supposed to be looking for. Did. . .did I do bad? Please don’t kill me.” Shaw begged as he fell to the floor, scared out of his mind.

“Working? You booby, you could have damaged something. That isn’t how we do things here! Who taught you?” The first boy demanded.

“They go to Dr. Geller’s school.” His friend answered for him.

“Figures.” He picked up the shovel and stepped closer to Shaw. “Maybe I should reteach you.” He raised the shovel above his head and Draco caught his hand.

“Or maybe you should back the hell up.” Draco barked at him.

“And who the bloody hell are you?” The man with the shovel

demanded.

“I’m his friend,” Draco said as he pulled the shovel from his hand.

“And if you don’t get the fuck out of here this instant, I’mma bash your

head in with this fucking shovel. You hear me?” Draco yelled, rage boiling through every word.

“Let’s go.” His friend said as he grabbed his arm and pulled him away. Draco held the shovel in his hand watching the two brits leave. He waited until they exited the camp before tossing the shovel down.

“Are you ok?” Cordy asked him as she walked over. Completely

ignoring Shaw who slowly sat up, trying to keep himself from crying.

“I’m fine.” Draco said, throwing the shovel down onto the ground.

He turned on Shaw. “What the hell happened?”

“I. . .I don’t know. I was just trying to dig and they came after me.”

Shaw said, tears streaming down his eyes.

“You aren’t supposed to dig like a mad man with a shovel. You

need to be delicate.” Cordy told him.

“I didn’t know. I’ve never done this before.” Shaw said, his voice

shaking. Draco held out his hand helping Shaw up.

“You goofed, but it’s fine. Don’t let those jackasses get to you.”

Draco told Shaw as he helped him to his feet.

“He could have ruined the artifacts. Messed up our chance, Leo’s

chance at proving ourselves. You shouldn’t go so easy on him!” Cordy

said.

“Well I don’t know about that, seeing as all of this is bullshit.”

Leo said from behind them. The three of them turned to face him.

“Where the hell have you been?” Draco demanded.

“What do you mean this is all bullshit?” Cordy asked. Her voice

unsure. Leo looked around to make sure no one was close by.

“You’ll never believe the night I just had.” Leo said.

Shaw

Leo spent the next 20 minutes or so explaining to them what had happened the night before. It was all so horrible. Leo couldn’t sleep so he had gone out to see the pyramids and uncovered a second dig site, but that wasn’t the worst of it. The angry man he saw spotted him as he ran and tried to run him down.

Leo had to dive out of the way as the truck came speeding down on him. He spent most of the night trying to get away from the maniac without leading him back towards the rest of the camp.

“Well that explains why you were gone this morning.” Draco finally said after a long silence.

“I’ve had better nights.” Leo said with a shy grin. Cordy threw herself towards her brother, embracing him in a tight hug.

“I’m glad you’re ok.” She said, relief in her voice. She pulled back from the embrace and hit him hard on the arm. “Don’t ever do something so stupid again!” She yelled.

“Sorry.” He said, his eyes looking down for a moment. Shaw never saw Leo apologize to his little sister but there was something in his voice that sent chills down Shaw’s spine.

“You better be!” She told him smiling.

“So, what now?” Shaw stepped forward, forcing himself to ask the question that had been nagging at the back of his head this whole time. The only reason the four of them came was because Leo was a fan of Dr. Geller. He wanted to follow in his footsteps. None of the rest of them really cared about any of this. They all came for Leo.

“That’s the question isn’t it?” Leo said, more to himself than to the others. His eyes darted upward towards the sky and his eyes glazed over for a moment. He took his glasses off and cleaned them, looking down at the ground as he did so. Never once did he look over at his friends.

“Got an answer?” Draco asked after Leo put his glasses back on. Leo nodded.

“They work at night, I say we go check it out now.” Leo said, giving Draco the look they always shared before they got themselves into trouble.

“Let’s do it.” Draco said returning the smile.

“What about the internship? Won’t we get in trouble?” Cordy asked, a worried look across her face.

Shaw took a deep breath and looked around their empty campsite. The Brits at the camp next store were hard at work huddled around a patch of dirt. On the other side of them was yet another camp with students hard at work. Shaw tried to keep his breathing steady as he pulled up his hoody. There were so many ways this could all go wrong. If they got caught and kicked out of the program what would happen to them? Would they be arrested? Would they have their return flight striped away and be stranded here?

“What does it matter? They led us here under false pretenses. We don’t owe these people a damn thing!” Draco shouted as he glared at the neighbor’s camp. Shaw pulled his hood up tighter, trying to disappear inside it.

“Quiet Draco.” Leo snapped.

“For what?” Draco demanded.

“We don’t want to get in trouble.” Cordelia said.

“What the fuck do we care about trouble for? That asshole is using us.” Draco pointed out.

“You think I’m unaware of that fact Draco?” Leo said through gritted teeth.

“Than?” Draco asked.

“We don’t want to draw attention to ourselves, do we? If we are going to go out there and find what they are after the last thing we would want is for any” Leo looked around. “Any of these people to know about it.”

“Wo. . .won’t that be hard?” Shaw forced himself to ask. The three friends turned to look at him.

“What?” Draco asked in that tone of his.

“Well, I just mean. Everyone here is hard at work.” Shaw forced himself to say.

“Looking for nothing.” Draco said.

“Not nothing, they are just looking in the wrong place.” Leo pointed out. Draco didn’t seem convinced.

“What’s your point Shaw?” Cordy asked, her voice not unkind.

“I. . .I just mean, they’ll notice if we take off in the middle of the day. Every. . .everyone here worked their asses off to get here. Not a one of them won’t question why we would just take off and blow off this opportunity.” Shaw said, the words just pouring out.

“The man has a point.” Draco said begrudgingly. “So, what do you got up your sleeve Leo?” Leo answered simply with a smile. A smile that sends chills down Shaw’s spine and brought an equally devious smile to Draco’s face.

Cordelia

Cordelia’s heart raced as she exited the campsite with her friends. Leo laid out a brilliant plan on how they could get out of the camp. He had it all worked out to a tee and Cordy only understood a tenth of it. If that. Draco didn’t much care for the plan, tossed it out and just started walking towards the edge of camp. The rest of them had to rush after Draco or risk being left behind. Her brother wasn’t too happy having his plan tossed aside.

“I’m just saying Draco, I put a lot of time into that plan!” Leo started up yet again. Draco just shook his head.

“Leo, you’re my best friend and I love you, I do, but why. . .do. . .you. . .care soooo much about what these people think? They were using us!” Draco pointed out to Leo.

“I don’t.” Leo said shrugging it off. “I just care that I spent my whole time getting back to camp *thinking* about how to get us out of there without anyone noticing and you just say fuck it and walk out of the camp.”

“Your point?” Draco asked.

“It’s not, I don’t know, covert?” Leo said.

“We spies now?” Draco asked, each word dripping with sarcasm.

“No, but, it’s not everyday we get to sneak away from an internship to find out about some conspiracy.” Leo said. “We could’a been like the New Mutants when they figured out about Magneto and the Hell Fire Club!”

“Who?” Cordelia asked, completely lost in the conversation. Shaw just held his head low with his hoodie pulled up over his head.

“Did you just make an 80’s X-Men reference?” Draco asked.

“No! I made an 80’s New Mutants reference, which I guess you could say is an X-Force reference but not by any means an X-Men one.” Leo argued.

“The New Mutants were the next class, the first class being, drum roll please,” Draco mimed beating on the drums. “The X-Men, hence, X-Men reference.”

“That’s a reach! I mean no one goes around saying that Generation X were X-Men” Leo said.

“I’m so lost.” Cordelia said.

“You know the Deadpool movie?” Shaw asked her awkwardly. She hated having him around. He was so annoying.

“What about it?” Cordy asked, not even attempting to hide her annoyance.

“It’s where he first showed up.” Shaw said, removing his hood and giving her a sad attempt at a smile. “I think it was like issue…”

“Did I say something making you think I care?” She snapped at him before he could finish his sentence. “If so, I am so sorry” She said as she sped up leaving Shaw behind. She caught him putting his hood back up over his head.

“Issue 98.” Draco told her as she caught up to them, leaving Shaw behind. “And maybe it’s about time they start.” Leo let out a laugh.

“Maybe they should.” Leo conceded. “We’re here.” He said as he stopped in front of what was clearly a half assed attempt to fill in a dig site.

“So now what?” Shaw asked in his usual annoying voice. Cordy never much cared for Shaw ever since they were kids but ever since he got Draco lost in the airport she hadn’t been able to stomach being around him. Shaw had no clue how lucky he was to have friends like Draco and her brother and he never seemed to appreciate his lot in life. He was a loser who held his friends back, but they never once said anything about it. They included him and protected him. It was more than he deserved, and it infuriated her. Why was he accepted in the group when she wasn’t? It wasn’t fair.

“Good question.” Draco responded. He looked over at Shaw as he talked and shook his head. “And take off that damn hood. You’re in the middle of the fucking desert wearing a hoodie. Who the fuck does that?” Shaw removed his hood, his eyes locked on his shoes.

“Sorry.” Shaw said. Draco patted him on the back.

“Don’t be sorry, just don’t be weird.” Draco said.

“Sorry” Shaw repeated.

“So Leo?” Draco asked. Leo stood there for a moment looking over the site, his eyes glazed over. The way they always do when he got lost in thought. Cordy had seen it her whole life and was always amazed at how focused he could get. Her mom always told her that their father was the same way but Cordy couldn’t remember. That always pained her.

“Earth to Leo.” Draco waved his hand in front of Leo’s face. Leo shook his head.

“We get to work.” Leo said.

“Sorry?” Draco asked, clearly hoping he misheard.

“What other option do we have Draco?” Leo asked.

“They filled everything in Leo! You know how long it will take to re-dig everything? Let alone find anything new!” Draco demanded.

“Well standing around bitching about it isn’t going to make it go any faster is it?” Leo shot back.

“I guess not. Let’s get to work.” Draco said, defeated.

The next few hours went by without much headway. The four of them tried to do the work the cranes had undone the night before. Needless to say, they weren’t getting very far with it.

The heat beat down on Cordy as she shifted through the endless sand. Until she couldn’t stand it anymore. Dr. Geller’s men had been at this for who knows how long, and they found nothing. What hope could they possibly have?

Draco takes off his shirt, he got back to work in his muscle shirt. Cordy couldn’t stop watching him. She caught Shaw watching her watching Draco. It was too much for her. She got up and walked off, making her way towards the Pyramid. After all, what’s the point of coming all the way out to Egypt if you don’t at least go see the Pyramids.

As she closed in on it she could make out the sounds of the crowds trying to get in to the Pyramids. The lines to get in to the other Pyramids seemed to go on forever. As luck would have it this Pyramid seemed to be closed for repairs. She shook her head and moved back along the side, trying to keep out of sight. She leaned back against the Pyramid and looked up at the sky, taking deep breaths as she did so.

Nothing seemed to be going right. She was starting to wish that she had never come here. Her brother was risking his whole future just to get back at his hero for letting him down. Draco was moments away from trying to fight everyone at the camp. Everything was about to come crashing down for all of them and in the midst of it all she couldn’t go more than five minutes without being bothered by Shaw.

“You ok?” Shaw asked, as he walked over towards her. Speak of the devil, never more than five minutes without him having to pester her.

“Fine.” She said in her best ‘go away’ voice. He sat down next to her, missing the hint all together.

“I’m really sorry.” Shaw said, looking over at her and lowering his hood. How could he wear a hoodie, a black hoodie no less, in the middle of a desert? She was burning up and all she was wearing was a tank top and shorts.

“For?” She replied as shortly as she could.

“For the airport, for last week, for. . .for” He started to cry as he spoke. She rolled her eyes and looked away. Nothing worse than watching a man cry. He was such a loser. “for our whole lives. For whatever it is that I did that made you hate me so.”

“I don’t hate you.” She said without looking at him.

“You don’t like me.” He said.

“So?” She asked.

“Well, I’m sorry for. . .for being me.” Shaw said. Tears rolling down his face.

“What?” She asked, turning to look at him. Why was he acting like this? Guys weren’t supposed to be so emotional.

“You’ve always hated me. Because of how I am. I. . .I’ve tried time and time again to change, to be someone that you could tolerate, but I can’t. I can’t be anything other than me. I’m me, that’s just me. And for that I am sorry.” Shaw said.

“I said I don’t hate you.” Cordy said. Shaw kept crying. “Can you stop?”

“Stop what?” Shaw asked, wiping the tears off of his face.

“Crying!” Cordy snapped. “Men don’t cry! Stop it!” She screamed at him. He nodded and wiped the tears away.

“What the hell are you two doing!” Leo yelled at them. Cordy looked up as Leo and Draco walked towards them. Draco had his shirt in his hand.

“You guys are going to draw attention to us if you don’t shut up!” Draco said.

“Tell him! I just came here to get some time alone, he’s the one who followed me and just started crying!” Cordy yelled. Once again Draco was blaming her for Shaw being a loser, as if she was responsible.

“I’m telling both of you! Why’d you leave while we were working? Don’t you want to show up these assclowns?” Draco asked. He gave her a look that made her sick to her stomach. It was a look that screamed disappointed. He cheated to get her here and her not helping them was her letting him down. He turned towards Shaw. “And why the hell are you crying? Man the fuck up man!”

“I’m sorry.” Shaw said yet again.

“Stop being sorry!” Draco barked at him.

“All of you stop! The sun is going down soon! If we don’t find something soon this will all be a waste. I didn’t come out here just to fail! Just to let. . .to let someone else accomplish my goals! My dreams! If the lot of you don’t care, that’s fine, but don’t drag me down with you.” Leo said, all in one long angry breath. Cordy had never seen her brother so upset.

Draco pulled out his grandfather’s pocket watch and checked the time. Her brother standing next to him shot him a ferocious glance. Draco looked up at him as he put the pocket watch away.

“Well?” Leo asked him.

“Well?” Draco said sarcastically.

“The time? What time is it? How long until the sun goes down?” Leo said, his voice growing louder and louder with each word. Her brother was having a nervous breakdown right in front of her eyes.

“Oh, you wanted to know the time?” Draco asked, feigning ignorance. Leo was not amused.

“Of course I want the time! Why wouldn’t I want the time? We,” Leo started to panic as he the words left his lips. “are on a schedule here Draco! You know this to be the case. Why, why in the name of the great Ellimist above, would you think, even for a second that I didn’t want to know how much time we have left?” He shot a look at Cordy and Shaw. “Or how much time these two have wasted!”

Shaw leaned in close to Cordy. “We have wasted?” Shaw whispered. Despite herself she chuckled.

“You sure you want the time?” Draco asked. “I didn’t think you were really worried about it, but if you want I can run back to camp ask someone for the time and be back in a jiffy.” He tried to keep from laughing. Cordy had to bite her tongue to keep from laughing herself. Leo had a tendency to get himself worked up over things, Draco always knew how to bring him back down to Earth.

“Can you stop fucking around you ass!” Leo said. Seemed even Draco couldn’t calm Leo down this time.

“We got about an hour till the sun goes down.” Draco said. “Happy?” Leo looked anything but happy.

“Let’s get back to work! We don’t have much time!” Leo said, his eyes bulging. He turned and started back towards the dig site. Draco shook his head and started to follow Leo. Cordy started to get up as she spotted Shaw staring off into the distance.

“What’s wrong with you?” Cordy asked him.

“Is that sand sinking?” Shaw asked pointing out into the distance. Confused Cordy turned to follow his glaze.

“What?” She asked as she turned to look. Sure enough the sand was shifting on it’s own. “Leo! Draco!” she called out to them. The two of them stopped to look back.

“What now?” Leo demanded. Cordy pointed at the shifting sand.

“Is that sand moving?” Draco asked. Leo nodded. “It’s not supposed to do that is it? I mean, it’s not right? I’m not wrong about that. No I don’t think I am.” Cordy found herself blushing. She always thought it was so cute the way he talked. Leo just nodded and started heading towards the shifting sand. “Well, wait for me!” Draco said as he headed after Leo. Cordy and Shaw hurried after the two of them. The closer they get to the shifting sand the quicker it seemed to be moving, shrinking almost.

“Should we be worried?” Shaw asked as they closed in on the shifting sand. Cordy shook her head annoyed. She sped up a bit to get away from Shaw and get closer to Leo and Draco. No sooner did she lock step with them, than the ground underneath them started to give away. Before she could even think of turning back the sand under her feet vanished. The four of them fell through the sand, the whole world going black.

Leo

An unnaturally bright light cut on, blinding Leo. His head throbbed, almost as if something slammed into the back of it. Try as he might, he couldn’t seem to remember how he got here. Or even where here was for that matter.

“Mr. Cox.” A voice called out from the darkness under the light. Leo attempted to see who the voice belonged to, but his eyes wouldn’t seem to adjust. He knew the voice, he just couldn’t seem to place from where.

“Hello?” Leo asked, his voice was shaking as he spoke. A hand came out of nowhere, smacking Leo hard across the face.

“What the hell were you doing out there?” The voice demanded. Leo face burned painfully where he was hit. “Do you have any idea what you have done?” The voice screamed in his face, stepping into the light. Leo couldn’t believe his eyes as Dr. Geller’s face came into focus.

“Doing where?” Leo asked. Dr. Geller’s nostrils flared as he leaned in far too close to Leo for comfort.

“Do you believe this to be a game?” Dr. Geller asked, spit flying out of his mouth with each syllable.

“No?” Leo asked, fear starting to sink in.

“I’ve dedicated my life to the pursuit of this and you just show up and ruin it all!” Dr. Geller screamed into his face.

“What is going on? Where are my friends?” Leo demanded. Dr. Geller’s eyes went wide. He was not amused.

“How did you find the complex?” Dr. Geller asked. Leo’s head was spinning, no matter how hard he tried he couldn’t seem to focus his thoughts.

“We. . .We were.” Leo said, trying to remember.

“Look at you.” Dr. Geller said, standing up, blocking the light as he did so. It created a silhouette around him, making him far more intimidating. “Such a disgrace. I knew when I saw your application I should never have accepted you. If it wasn’t for Draco being such a genius, I never would have allowed someone with such subpar intelligence as you a spot on my team, but he insisted!”

Draco forced Dr. Geller to accept Leo on the internship. Leo felt his stomach drop, he always suspected that Draco was smarter than he was, but this proved it.

“Never in my life have I ever seen someone as thick as you. Your poor father must be turning over in his grave in disappointment. Just think, you singlehanded destroyed your family name.” Dr. Geller told Leo. He leaned in to Leo’s face, close enough for Leo to count his nose hair.

“What must your mother think? To have a son has pathetic as you! At least she has a daughter with some intelligence. Might make up for the monumental failure that is your life.” Dr. Geller said. Each word a dagger in Leo’s heart. He could feel the tears welling in his eyes. He tried to blink them away, but it was no use.

“Are you crying? You pathetic anshfneh ndhhwn!” Dr. Geller jeered. Leo looked up at him dumbfounded. He had no idea what Dr. Geller just said. “hshsnf sjdhh jnnsu msnhd.”

“Wha. . . what are you saying?” Leo asked, the words kept getting stuck in his throat.

“Excuse me?” Dr. Geller asked, his tone mocking.

“I. . .I don’t understand what you’re saying.” Leo said, feeling stupider and stupider as the words came out of his mouth. Dr. Geller’s face broke into a massive smile.

“You don’t even understand simple English?” Dr. Geller asked, enjoying the conversation. “You’re even stupider than I originally believed.”

“I.” Leo started but Dr. Geller cut him off.

“I. . .I.” Dr. Geller mocked. “God, you are so pathetic. There is no way you of all people found the camber that I failed to find.” Dr. Geller’s voice raised with each additional word. Leo felt himself getting smaller and smaller. Dr. Geller smiled, a big devious grin. “Perchance, was it Draco that found it? Him, I would believe it from. Even from your sister or that freak in the hoodie before I’d believe it from you.” Dr. Geller said, pure joy rolling out of him as he spoke.

“Leo?” A voice called out from the darkness somewhere. Dr. Geller seemed to grow and block all light from the room. His eyes turning blood red. Leo had never felt such fear in his life. “Leo!”

“Noooooooooooooo!!!!!” Leo screamed sitting up. He found himself half buried in sand with Cordy, Shaw and Draco standing around him looking worried. The whole world was blurry. He felt around in the sand next to him till he found his glasses, putting them on.

“Are you ok?” Cordy asked as she kneeled next to him. Her face etched with worry. Leo nodded, the realization dawning on him that it was a dream.

“How long was I out?” Leo asked, his head throbbing.

“Not too long.” Draco said, holding out his hand to help Leo up. Leo took it.

“Maybe we should go.” Shaw said, his hood down and his glaze upward towards the darkening sky.

“This again, Shaw, we found something! We can only assume that this is what Dr. Geller and the others are after! We found it! Why the hell would we leave now?” Draco demanded.

Leo looked around at the cavern, it was large and circular. The ceiling was about 20 feet up and had a massive hole in the middle of it. Sand littered the floor and was still pouring in but at a much slower pace.

“Because the sun is going down.” Shaw said. Leo was trying to follow his logic, but his head was throbbing far too much.

“And?” Cordy asked. Her tone dripping with contempt. Shaw seemed to shrink back at her sharpness, sliding his hoodie over his head.

“Well, Leo said that they come out at night to look for. . .well I guess this place. If the sun is going down” Shaw started, his voice shaky.

“Than they will be here soon.” Draco finished for him nodding.

“We can’t just leave. Not when we finally found,” Cordy said, pausing to look around. “Whatever this is.” A loud roaring sound came from overhead. Indistinguishable voices carried down to them.

“Times up.” Shaw said miserably. Leo nodded, his friend was right. If they didn’t move fast they would be surrounded. He barely got away last night, he might not be so lucky again.

“We need to move, now!” Leo said, his head splitting. Adjusting his glasses as he did so.

“Where do we go?” His sister asked, sounding scared as the voices above got closer and closer. “The exit is a bit out of reach.”

“It won’t be long before they see the hole.” Shaw said, swallowing hard. He wasn’t wrong. Leo’s mind started racing, trying to figure out their next course of action.

“There.” Leo said, pointing at a half-caved in doorway. “We go through there.” The others turned to look, meanwhile the voices up above grew louder and louder.

“I’d suggest we go now.” Draco said, pushing Cordy and Shaw towards the door. Leo followed behind them.

“What’s that over there?” A voice shouted out.

“Times up.” Draco said, he helped Cordy through the half caved-in door. Shaw hurried through after her. Leo glanced back at the hole in the ceiling. People were starting to gather around. “Come on Leo! Move your ass!” Draco yelled at him. Leo nodded and hurried through the tiny passageway. It wasn’t an easy fit.

Leo crawled through the shifting sand right behind Shaw. He could hear Draco moving behind him. He was thankful that he made it in, he could only hope that it was before any of Dr. Geller’s people spotted him.

It was hard work moving forward. His arms and legs seemed to sink in the sand, but he kept moving forward.

“How much farther?” Shaw whined. He seemed to be having more trouble getting through the path than the rest of them.

“Can you stop bitching!” Draco snapped back from somewhere in front of them.

“Not much farther!” Cordy yelled from the front. Sure enough it wasn’t long before the path came to an end. Draco and Cordy pulled Shaw through the sand. He landed hard on the ground. “Get off me!” Cordy snapped as she pushed Shaw off of her.

Leo climbed down out of the path and onto the cold hard floor. Behind him Leo could hear Dr. Geller’s mystery men behind them. They seemed to be barking orders at each other getting ready to dig through the path they just crawled through. They were running out of time.

“We need to go.” Leo said.

“Go where?” Draco asked as Shaw tried to dust himself free of all the sand, he was covered in it. The sand was getting all over Cordy. She dusted herself off as she moved back a step.

“Can you stop!” Cordy snapped. Shaw nodded weakly and resigned himself to standing there covered in dirt.

“Sorry.” Shaw said sheepily. Leo shook his head as he tried to gather his thoughts. It was a fair question. What were they looking for? What were they after? In order to know that they really needed to know what Dr. Geller was after and they had no clue.

“We’ll just have to figure that out as we go.” Leo said.

“Always a winning plan.” Cordy said, with just a hint of defeat in her voice. Draco gave her a half hug with a bright smile.

“I don’t know, it always seemed to work for us.” Draco said with a wink. He let go of Cordy and motioned for Leo to lead them down the dark path. “After you.”

Leo nodded, his look grim. He had no idea what they were after or how they were going to find it. The path in front of them was only lit ever so lightly from beams of light coming from the path behind them.

The others followed behind him. Shaw’s shadow blocked what little light they had in front of them. Leo wanted to say something, but he could tell that Shaw was having a hard time, ever since this trip started. The least he could do was cut him some slack.

“Can you stop blocking the light!” Draco yelled at him. Leo couldn’t help but smile. Draco always picked up the slack when Leo decided to step back. It was the mark of a great friend.

“Sorry.” Shaw said, his voice shaking.

“Don’t be sorry, just move!” Draco said. Shaw shuffled out of the way. Not that it made a lot of difference. It took a few minutes for Leo’s eyes to adjust but it wasn’t much help.

The path ahead was narrow and far too short for comfort. Leo had to duck a bit to keep moving forward, he could only imagine how difficult this march was for Draco who towered over the rest of them. Well maybe not tower, he was maybe 6’2 and Leo was only 6 feet. 2 inches might not seem like a lot, but it was a sore subject for Leo. He didn’t like people being better than him, even if it was only height.

“Boss, there are footprints here.” A voice from behind them yelled out. Leo couldn’t make out what was said back but the first voice wasted no time in replying. “It’s fresh. Can’t be older than a few hours.” That was an over estimate, one that Leo wished was correct.

“What do we do?” His sister said, her voice filled with panic. Leo had never been the greatest brother to her, but his heart still went out to her. Just because they didn’t always get along didn’t mean that he didn’t want to protect her. She was after all, his little sister.

“We keep moving.” Leo said, his heart racing. “And we need to pick up the pace.” The four friends picked up the speed, going as fast as one could in a dark hallway with half the walls partially caved in.

A low blue light emanated from somewhere in front of them. It wasn’t sunlight, it seemed artificial somehow.

“Ahh!” Shaw yelled as he tripped over a collapsed wall. Leo and Draco exchanged looks. They kept going, not slowing down to help Shaw. There was no time, they were moments from getting caught and they all knew it. The voices from behind them were growing louder and louder. “Thank you.” Shaw said meekly. Leo turned to look back just in time to see Cordy helping him up. The dim blue light reflecting off of her brass knuckle neckless. She didn’t answer him, just let go of his hand and hurried after Leo and Draco.

“You see that?” Draco asked, coming to a stop. Leo nodded as he stopped next to him. The light was coming from cracks in a wooden door.

“Is that a door?” Shaw asked, sounding winded.

“No, it’s a figment of your imagination.” Cordy said. Leo tried to tune them out as he looked at the door. It was old but seemed to be quite sturdy.

“Oak?” Draco asked confused.

“I don’t know. I’m not a Dendrologist.” Leo replied moving closer to the door.

“A dentistologist?” Shaw asked.

“A Dendrologist!” Leo clarified.

“It’s what you call someone who studies trees.” Cordy told him. Her tone not unkind. The door had no handle or hinges.

“How do we get in?” Draco asked, voicing the same question that Leo was thinking.

“Good question.” Leo said. Thinking hard on the question.

“Well?” Shaw asked looking at him hopefully.

“No clue.” Leo answered.

“I got this!” Draco said, kicking the door as hard as he could. There was a loud crack and Draco fell back hard.

“Did. . .did you hear that crack?” Shaw asked, clearly shaken.

“Draco!” Cordy screamed as she fell to her knees at his side. He was gritting his teeth trying to hold his pain in.

“Shut up Shaw.” Leo said, trying to collect his thoughts. The door was rock solid, Draco was hurt, and Dr. Geller’s men were closing in on them. Getting louder and louder.

“Leo he’s hurt!” Cordy yelled at Leo. He could see that, he didn’t need her to yell it at him. In fact, none of them needed to be yelling. It would lead them right to them.

Shaw put his hood up, the same thing he did every time he was upset. Only this time it was filled with sand, that fell all over his head. He let out a coughing fit as he tried to bat the sand away, causing him to fall backwards into the sand wall next to the door.

Leo shook his head and turned back to Draco. Draco grinned up at him, clearly in pain.

“You alright?” Leo asked.

“Peachy keen.” Draco said, not a truth to his words. A loud hissing sound came from behind them. They turned to look just in time to see the door fall forward. Before Leo even had a moment to think he found himself diving forward and knocking his sister out of the way. He heard the crashing sound of the door smashing into the ground where she was just moments before. Where Draco was laying.

Leo jumped to his feet, spying Shaw kneeling on the ground with his hands over his head. He spun around preparing himself to see his best friend’s mutilated corpse. He was relieved to find Draco panting next to the door. He had rolled out of the way just in time.

“Were you worried?” Draco asked, a sly smile on his lips. Leo let a laugh slip out.

“Maybe a bit.” Leo said. The voices of Dr. Geller’s men started to grow louder and louder.

“Should we go in?” Shaw asked, his voice shaking. Leo looked into the room they just uncovered. The new room was bathed in a dim blue light.

“Could you be more insensitive?” Cordy snapped at Shaw. He lowered his head ashamed.

“Well, don’t let me hold you back.” Draco said trying to put on a brave face.

“You know we won’t do that.” Leo said as he bent down and helped Draco up. He let out a low grunt as he lifted him to his feet. Almost collapsing under the weight.

“Well, you might want to work out some more if you’re going to save me.” Draco said with good humor.

“Maybe I should, you know, if we make it out of here.” Leo said. Cordy took a step into the room and the lights grew brighter. The light was bright blue, but a shade bluer than anything Leo had ever seen in his life. He tried to help Draco take a step but found that he wasn’t strong enough. “Shaw!” He said, his voice strained from the weight. Shaw, who had just entered the new room, stopped to look back at him.

“This is incredible!” Shaw said with a bright smile, lowering his hood.

“Swell!” Leo said, annoyed.

“I think Leo here wants you to help him carry me. Might want to step on it, I don’t think we will be alone much longer.” Draco said, trying to hide his shame. Leo could tell he was embarrassed by his injured leg.

“Oh, right, sorry.” Shaw said as he ran over to help Leo carry the weight.

“You guys need to check this out.” Cordy called back towards them.

“You boys ready?” Draco asked, his forced smile firmly in place. Shaw shook his head as Leo smiled at him.

“Let’s do it.” Leo said. The three of them made their way into the bluer than blue room, catching up with Cordy. The room was large and oval, futuristic computers on all sides of them. The whole room looked like something out of Star Trek, maybe post Voyager days.

“Where are we?” Cordy asked. It was a fair question, one that Leo wished he could answer.

“This is incredible!” Shaw said, his eyes all but popping out of his head. It truly was. Leo scanned the room looking for a way out. The room was vast, it seemed to be some kind of command center. It had computers throughout the room, as well as along the walls. But the only way in and out was the door they just came in through.

“Well, I’m glad you’re enjoying it, cause it might be the last thing you see.” Draco said, clearly seeing the same thing as Leo.

“There has to be a way out of here.” Leo said. “I mean, we must be under the pyramid, right?”

“That’s how I figure it.” Draco agreed.

“Weren’t these things made with all kinds of passageways?” Leo asked, hoping he was right.

“But I’ve never heard of computers being in them.” Shaw said.

“What do we do Leo?” Cordy asked, tears welling up in her eyes. She was terrified. Leo couldn’t blame her.

“This could be the pain making me delirious, but maybe these computer like machines, maybe they can help.” Draco said, the pain seeping into his voice.

“You think they still work?” Shaw asked.

“Well put me down and check.” Draco said. Cordy started towards the computers as Leo and Shaw sat Draco down.

“Careful.” Leo told Shaw as they lowered Draco down.

“Ahh!” Draco yelled.

“I said careful!” Leo screamed at Shaw. He backed away.

“Sorry.” Shaw said, pulling his hood up yet again.

“It’s fine.” Draco said, gritting his teeth. Leo hurried over to the computers. They were all off, and none of them looked even remotely like any he had ever seen. The screens seemed smoother than any he had ever seen before. There was a keyboard, but he didn’t recognize any of the keys. Cordy looked over at him.

“Does any of this make sense?” Cordy asked him. He just shook his head no.

“It’s just computers. Hit something till it comes on.” Draco said from his place on the floor.

“Oh, is that how they work? Thanks for the heads up.” Leo said, while looking at the machine in front of him. He had no idea what he was supposed to hit. He shot a glance at Cordy and Shaw who each looked as lost as he felt.

“Well?” Draco asked as the sounds of Dr. Geller’s men closed in on them. Leo’s heart was racing as he threw caution to the wind and just started tapping the keys. Nothing seemed to work.

“Do we just hit anything?” Cordy asked. She was just as scared as he was and here he was, her big brother and he was powerless to protect her.

“Can’t hurt can it?” Draco said. Easy for him to say, he was laying on the ground. There was no way for him to cause any harm. Leo looked back at the screen in front of him. He touched the screen, nothing. He tapped every key in front of him.

“Uh guys!” Shaw said, his voice more panicky than usual. Leo turned just in time to see the screen in front of Shaw glowing bright green, flashing with growing concern while a blaring alarm went off.

“What did you do?” Leo demands.

“Make it stop! They’ll hear us!” Cordy shrieked.

“Down there!” A voice screamed out from somewhere outside the room. Their time was up.

“Maybe I’m not always right.” Draco said.

“Make it stop!” Cordy yelled yet again. Shaw hit the controls desperately.

“I can’t!” Shaw cried out.

“Well do something!” Cordy demanded. A hissing sound cut through the alarms shouting as the door lifted back into place.

“The door! My man, you did something right!” Draco said. Leo’s mind was racing far too fast for him to even think. The door rising back into place.

“We’re doomed.” Leo said out loud not meaning too.

“How?” Cordy asked, confused.

“They’ll never get through that door!” Shaw said, his voice full of pride.

“There’s no other way out.” Draco said, catching on to what Leo was already thinking.

“Well there is that.” Cordy said, the hope draining out of her voice.

“I’m sorry.” Shaw said. The door came into place and sealed itself shut, killing the alarm as it did so.

“At least you bought us some time.” Leo said, trying to get a hold of himself and control his racing heart.

“We can figure this out.” Draco said as he struggled to get his feet. “Ahh!” he yelled as he struggled to keep from falling, holding onto the wall.

“Careful!” Cordy said, rushing over to Draco and helping him stay on his feet.

“Thanks for the save.” He said, pain seeping into every syllable.

“Anytime.” Cordy said, smiling at him.

“Uh guys.” Shaw said. The three friends turned to look at Shaw as the green light from the machine grew brighter and brighter, emitting a loud buzzing sound.

“What the?” Cordy cried out as the room was washed in a bright green light.

The End