

My name is Drake. I'm 14 years old and I live in the year 4179. My hobbies are space-jumping, laser-hopping and time-leaping. My parents are Jason and Crystal. But none of that is important after what happens next.

It happened the day after Space Day. That's the day when all humans moved to space. We celebrate it as another step for humanity. I stayed up late watching Space Cowboys of the Not-So-Wild West. So as you can expect, I was really tired the next day. I was late to my first galaxy class, spaceport studies. I walked in as soon as class started.

"Late again Mr. Drake, are we?" Said my strange spaceport studies teacher, Dr. Dodgewood. He's strange because he's got six fingers on each hand.

"No, just straightening my storage locker," I said. I was sort of scared of him, even though he was really nice. But today he was acting way too nice. I sat at my desk in the back right. Dr. Dodgewood had a really cool room. It had posters of famous starboarders, they were the first people to set foot on Planet X31. He had star trainer replicas. Those are sort of like drills that scientists created to pull energy from stars without killing them. He had so many things. Books on different kinds of space cars, like, galactic cruisers, radioactive punchers, and universe racers. There is no way I could name everything in Dr. Dodgewood's room.

"Mr. Drake? Can you tell me the answer to problem number four?" Said Dr. Dodgewood, shaking me from my thoughts.

"Oh! Umm the answer to problem number four is... umm-" That's when there was a voice on the intercom.

"Mr. Drake come to room 409." That's strange, I thought. We don't have more than 400 rooms. I was mulling this over when Dr. Dodgewood said, "Go on, I will excuse you for today." Again too nice.

I left the classroom, and crept down the eerily quiet corridor. I went to the very top of the building and stood in front of room 400.

"Thanks for coming." I spun around and saw the principal, Mr. Yenzo. He was striding down the hall like he owns the place, well, in a way he really does. He opened the door, and inside was another hallway. He lead the way down the hallway and I followed, wondering what is in each of the rooms. Mr. Yenzo opened up the second-to last door on the left. We walked in, and the first thing I noticed was the smell.

It smelled like spices, bubbly mixtures, and the aroma of sea slugs. Scientists proved that they actually did come from outer space. We first found them on Planet Phoenix, but then we started finding them on other planets as well.

I almost laughed because it felt like I was dreaming of all of the wonderful things in this room. If you haven't guessed, I like science, no, I love science. Science has been my favorite subject since my fourth log of school. My head feels like it's going to explode with questions that I need answers for, but Mr. Yenzo ends those thoughts with just one sentence.

"We've got reason to believe that there is otherworldly life forms circling our Prisma Sphere."

I gasped. The Prisma Sphere is our only wall of protection from the outside universe. I was processing what this meant for me, and for the whole colony.

"What are you going to do?" I asked while barely moving my lips. My mind was whirring, I was thinking of all of the ways that the life forms could end our colony.

"Don't you mean, what you are going to do?" My eyes widened. I didn't know what was more sickening. The fact that Mr. Yenzo was asking a child for help, or the fact that he had a smile creeping up his face. I thought we were in a crisis here.

"We are recruiting 4 children to help us against the life forms, and you are one of them! I have contacted your parents and they have agreed to let you join us. Tomorrow, you will have to stay a bit longer to meet the other children to make a battle plan."

"All children are dismissed for the time buses. I repeat, all children are dismissed for the-  
The intercom suddenly stopped.

"Have a great day!" Mr. Yenzo called to me as I walked down the hall.

What was wrong with the intercom? I thought. What did Mr. Yenzo mean by us?

That night, I was laying in my sleeping vessel, wide awake. I had so many questions. I couldn't stop thinking about what those aliens could do to the colony. It made my skin crawl.

The room fell silent, but I did not sleep.

The next day, I met Mr. Yenzo in the main hall, and he led me to the same room as the day before. In the room, there were three other children. Two of them had crew cuts, and looked like they were about to start a fist-fight. The other one was a girl with long black hair in a ponytail. She had combat boots, fingerless gloves, and a camo jacket.

"Mr. Yenzo?" I asked. "Why do those people look like they want to beat me up?"

“Don’t worry,” Mr. Yenzo laughed. “I am sure you will all warm up in no time.”

I walked over to the camo-girl and she turned away from me. I stepped over her foot, and walked over to the two other guys. I smiled awkwardly.

“What are you lookin’ at?” The taller one grumbled. “You stay outta my way or you’ll regret it.”

“Knock it off Dirk.” The shorter one elbowed Dirk in the chest. Dirk barely flinched. I stepped back and almost tripped on a chair.

Great first impression, Drake, I thought. I sat down next to Camo Girl and took out my sketch tablet. I always bring it to my Galaxy Classes. If I have free time, I like to sketch different ships and things. Mr. Yenzo shook me from my thoughts.

“Now, let’s get to know one another. We can go around the room, say our name, and one thing about ourselves. I’ll start. My name is Mr. Patrick Yenzo, and I used to be a techno-talker professor when I was in my mid-thirties.”

Camo Girl went next. She stood up awkwardly, and started talking really softly.

“My name is Clarissa. My dad is a drill sergeant at the Institution of Weaponry and Fighting.”

Dirk stood up and glared at me. “The name’s Dirk, and I can shoot a target with a charge blaster from a mile away.” Dirk’s friend stood up next to him and started speaking.

“My name is Jackson. I am a fifth year winner of the Colony Whiz Contest.”

I cleared my throat and stood up. “My name is Drake, and I, uh, like making things, and, uh, science.” My face turned bright red when I noticed everyone staring at me. I quickly sat back down. I cleared my throat and turned away self-consciously.

“Okay!” Said Mr. Yenzo, a little too enthusiastically. “Who’s ready to save the planet?”

“Mr. Yenzo?” Clarissa asked. “What exactly is-”

Right at that moment, the power went out, down the hall, somebody screamed, and Jackson started to freak out.

“What’s going on?!” I asked, over the commotion. Mr. Yenzo blanched, took a few steps backwards slowly, paused, and turned and raced out the door. The door clicked behind him.

We all turned to Jackson still freaking out. He was staring at a few beakers over a Bunsen Burner.

“We have to get out of here!” He yelled. He frantically looked around for something.

“Why?” Dirk said nonchalantly.

“If these Bunsen Burners aren’t on at all times, a bio-hazardous gas will fill the air and kill us. It will eventually get into the entire school and kill everyone!”

“That sure is a reason to get out.” Clarissa said. “What are we waiting for? C’mon!” We raced to the door, and as soon as I laid my hands on the handle, a voice came on the intercom.

“Attention all children. The school is now in complete lockdown mode. The doors and windows will be sealed, but there is nothing to worry about.”

“That sounds like Mr. Yenzo.” I said.

“We need to get out of here!” Jackson screamed. Dirk rattled the door handle. It didn’t budge. He tried breaking it down, but to no avail.

“Hold on.” He said. “Move back!” He pulled a sleek, shiny, black blaster out of his pack. He loaded the blaster, using three black pellets.

The blaster shot, the three pellets lodged themselves into the door, and then, silence.

“What!?” Jackson hollered.

“Wait for it.” Dirk whispered. Simultaneously, the pellets exploded leaving the door in a burnt crisp.

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Ms. Trekton’s math class sat huddled in the corner of the room. There was a scuffling down the hall, and a few kids started to cry. A hand pressed against the glass and someone screamed. A face popped out from behind the glass.

“Hey!” One girl said. “That’s Clarissa!”

Dirk, Jackson and I, came into view after Clarissa. We tried opening the door, but it stayed firmly where it was. I glanced down the hall, and I saw a... you won’t believe what I saw.

“Uh, guys. You might want to see this.” I said, frantically. Dirk followed my gaze. His eyes widened as he saw what I was talking about. The back door was open, and at the base of it, there was a small layer of ice creeping its way in.

I rushed to the door and was immediately blasted with freezing cold air. I looked outside, and everything was frozen. It was as if time had stopped.

People were frozen in horror, petrified. They all seemed to be looking behind them, behind the school. We all turned around in unison. My jaw dropped.

I saw a gaping hole in the Prisma Sphere. Everything was being sucked off of the planet and into open space. The puncture loomed over us, taunting us.

“RUN!” I screamed, at the top of my lungs. We all turned around dazed, as if waking up from a dream. I stumbled, but caught my footing and started running again.

Clarissa screamed, and started sliding backwards. Jackson caught her hand and pulled her back towards us.

“Follow me!” Dirk shouted. He ran ahead, guiding us through the city. He ended up at a building, at the front of the building was a sign that said, Colony Control Center. He ducked inside, followed by the rest of us.

Inside, everything was quiet, except for the humming of the computers.

“That’s it,” Jackson said. “We are all going to die, and it’s all your fault!” Jackson pointed at me. He pulled something out of his back pocket.

Another blaster. He pointed it straight at me.

“Hold on!” Clarissa said.

“No!” Jackson yelled.

“Stop!” I screamed, terrified.

“Ever since you got here, things have been going wrong. Horribly wrong. Mr. Yenzo, the power outage at school, the puncture in the Prisma Sphere, and we just almost lost Clarissa!” Jackson’s face was bright red. He was breathing very heavily, and the blaster was shaking.

“Jackson,” Dirk, said soothingly. “Calm down, okay?” Jackson let out a deep breath, and set the blaster on a nearby table. Dirk grabbed it and put it in his pack.

I turned and walked as fast as I could into a different room. Do they really not trust me? I felt sad that these people, my only friends, don’t trust me.

“Woah!” I heard someone say from across the room. Clarissa was fiddling with a small little cube. It had a touch screen. A bright green glow was coming from one of the sides. She touched another side and it turned red. She continued touching the sides, and it glowed ever brighter. A screen lit up from behind me and saw a live video feed of the puncture.

“Oh my gosh!” Jackson yelled.

“What is it, what is it?” Dirk said impatiently.

“I think I can close up the puncture from here.”

“No way!” I said.

“Well, I’ll need someone to go out there and find a big enough chunk of mass to lodge into the hole, and someone else to shut off all the power in the colony.”

“I’ll shut off the power,” Clarissa said. “I know exactly where the charger box is. “My dad trained me right behind the building with it.” I looked over at Dirk. He looked over at me, glaring.

“I guess it’s me and you Drake,” Dirk said. Jackson came over and handed me a small device, that looked like it fit into an ear.

“These are listening devices I can use to communicate with you guys while you’re out there.” He gestured out the window towards the city. “Okay. Let’s do this.” I got outside with Dirk and we started heading towards the mobile vehicle center. We figured we could probably get a vehicle in the puncture, but I thought it might be hard when Clarissa shut down the power. We got inside and Dirk and I got to work. We found a decent sized universe racer with a purple flame on the sides. I removed the wheels, so that it would not weigh as much when gravity pulled it through the hole. Dirk got inside the car, to check and make sure it could still run. As we were working, I noticed a black goo coming out of the air vents on the wall.

“Dirk,” I said. “You need to see this.” He made his way around the back of the car. He stopped cold when he saw the goo. He slowly crept forward, carefully, not making a sound.

“That’s not supposed to be here,” He said, with wide eyes. “That’s sealing goo. It can hold anything together. Even people. It can glue two of anything together, no matter what you do.”

He looked at me and I knew that he was thinking the same thing I was: We better get out of here. I raced towards the exit and as my hands slammed against the door, goo started oozing in from behind the door. I backed away quickly bumping into the vehicle. My mind was racing. As the ooze trickled in, Dirk and I looked around for possible exits. My eyes finally found one. A ceiling vent with no goo oozing out.

I bolted for the car, and I heard a crackle on my ear piece. There was a buzz and then a voice.

“This is Jackson, how are you guys doing?”

“Well,” I said. “ We’re about to be swamped with sealing goo, and our only way out is on the ceiling.”

“Well get going! You can climb onto the space car to try and reach it.” I climbed onto the car, and tried to reach the vent.

I couldn’t reach it.

Dirk climbed up next to me. He tried reaching it, and he got the same result. He couldn’t reach it.

I took a glance behind me. The goo was bubbling and churning. It was scorching hot. I turned around and looked at Dirk.

“I’ll boost you up!”

“ Can you even do that?”

“I can try!” I clasped my hands and stuck them out as a foothold. He was able to reach the vent and climb inside. He reached out a hand for me, and I grabbed it.

He pulled me up just as the room flooded with boiling hot, bubbling sealing goo.

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Clarissa ducked inside to the the power and light warehouse. As soon as she walked in she was blasted with intense light. It was so intense, that it burned her eyes even when she closed them tightly. She backed away until the bright light subsided. She made her way around the back of the building to find a heavy, metal door.

As she pulled it open, she realized that there was no bright light coming out from this side.

She stepped inside and immediately noticed three things. the first thing she noticed was the water covering the entire floor. The second thing was all the wires, cables, and cords hanging from the ceiling. This was an impressive feat, because the entire warehouse was about 150 feet long, and 40 feet wide. The third and final thing that she noticed was the electricity sparking from all of the wires.

Clarissa started walking toward a raised platform with a metal cube resting on it. That must be the power box. She thought. She heard a faint grinding and stopped.

The water was rising really fast. She took a few more steps, but the water was already to her waist. She looked up and remembered all of the cables, sparking. She would get electrocuted if she touched one. She tried sprinting but found it was no use.

She would have to swim.

She swam. She swam as fast as she could. She didn't stop. She only stopped to look back once. She really should not have.

There was only a few more feet before the water would meet the cords. She was so close though. She swam with her last bit of energy, and swam through the wall of water.

She gasped, gulping up air as fast as she could and pulled the lever on the cube.

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I got outside with Dirk. We headed over to the Colony Control Center. Jackson was waiting for us.

“You get the car?”

“What do you think?” I said.

“No,” he said back. We got closer and his eyes grew wide.

“What happened?” He asked.

“Bubbling hot sealing goo,” Dirk said. “That’s what happened.”

“Guys!” Clarissa yelled running out from behind the building. She was dripping wet and looked exhausted.

“What happened?” Dirk asked her.

“I had to swim for my life” She said blandly. “Look!” We spun around to see a miracle.

The puncture was closing up.

We were all so stunned, that we didn’t move. I finally gasped in surprise. We all cheered so loud I thought my ear drums would burst. The world around us started unfreezing. The buildings unfroze, as well as the people.

“Did we fix it?” I asked.

“I don’t know,” Jackson said.

“Well I guess we go home now,” Clarissa said.



"I'm gonna miss you guys," Dirk said.

"Yeah," I said. "Me too."

"Well goodbye, then," Jackson mumbled.

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The next day, I was back at school. Everyone was kind of dazed after that. But I still hang out with Dirk, Clarissa and Jackson. We still talk, and hang out after each class.

One day after class I stopped Clarissa in the hallway.

"Hi," I said.

"Hey," She said.

I smiled.

She smiled.

"Let's go," She said.

"Where?"

"To the place it all started."