

The Day We Saved the World

Katie Smotherman

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DEDICATION

This book is dedicated to every single teacher out there: past, present, or future. Thank you for giving so much to our children, and for all of your hard work. The world is truly a much better place because of you.

This is also for all of my students that I have had in my own classroom. You truly were the inspiration! Janea, this one is for you. I thought of you often when I wrote this story because I know you would have loved it.

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Chapter 1 - A Gift

Hi, My name is Alex and I am fourteen years old. You need to prepare yourself for what you are about to hear, because this isn't any ordinary story. I am going to tell you about the day my friends and I saved the world. I know this story is going to be hard to believe, but just hear me out and you can decide what you believe at the end. I do have to warn you though that the information I'm about to share with you is top secret. Normally, I wouldn't put anyone in danger, but I need to share these secrets with you so you understand exactly what our world has been through.

It all started the day of my thirteenth birthday, August 17th. A loud banging noise vibrated through our house a little after 7:00 a.m.. I was upstairs getting ready for my first day of school, when my dad called me downstairs. I quickly pulled my shirt over my head and rounded the stairs.

Standing at our front door was a woman and a man; both were dressed completely in black. I had no clue who they were, but when I looked over at the woman she smiled at me. The strange part about it was I heard her say, "*Hello, Alex,*" but I didn't see her mouth move. I stopped, shocked, and looked over at the short man she had with her. He didn't smile, but nodded his head at me.

My dad asked how he could help them, and my mom walked over to shake their hands. That's when it happened, the short man grabbed my mom and dad's hands and calmly said, "Frank and Mary, your son is going away for the school year to study abroad with some relatives in Amsterdam. This is a once in a lifetime opportunity that you couldn't pass up. He will be staying with Mary's cousins, Robert and Melissa, who are petroleum engineers, and offered to give Alex an amazing year abroad. He will write and send letters, but will not return until next summer. Do you understand?"

"Yes, that sounds great. Thank you," my parents both said at the same time, as the man dropped their hands. I looked over at the woman, "*It's okay Alex, my name is Jane and I will explain everything in the car. Don't be afraid, we are going to help you.*" She smiled sweetly and without thinking I said, "*Okay.*". Her smile dropped off her face and a look of shock replaced it.

I had no idea what was happening, but for some reason I didn't want my parents to be involved. I looked over at my mom and dad and they both had glazed looks across their faces. I looked back over at Jane and asked, "*Will they be okay?*" I had no clue how we were communicating with just our thoughts, and I should have been freaking out a little more, but I just had this understanding that if I didn't cooperate my parents could be in real danger.

“They will be just fine. Come with us,” she said as she and Byron walked out the door. I gave my parents a big hug and kiss. They told me to have so much fun and to write them every week. I smiled and shut the front door behind me.

“Do I need to bring anything with me?” I asked as I followed them to a black sedan that was parked out in front of my house.

“We have everything you will need. Please get in the car and we will explain everything on our way. By the way, I'm Byron.”

I looked between Byron and Jane and did what I was told, and slid in the back seat of the car. A young girl, about my age, was already seat-belted in, with the same glassy look across her face that my parents just had.

Byron then leaned towards me, grabbed my hands, and said, “Alex, do not think about what just happened. You are going to be quiet and listen until we stop, and I say it's okay. Do you understand?”

I just gave the man a weird look and tried to pull my hands away. “Wait, you said I could get answers once we were on our way. Please let go of my hands,” I said with a hint of irritation in my voice. I was trying to oblige with their demands, but I was also running out of patience.

I looked over at the girl, and she was just staring straight ahead. “What did you do to her?” I asked and looked over at Jane as she slid into the drivers seat. Byron looked at me with a confused

look and then shook his head. Jane looked over at Byron and said, “He is different, your powers won't work on him.”

I tried to talk to Jane again just using my thoughts, “*What is going on, why can I talk to you through my thoughts? Why are you talking about powers and what is wrong with this girl?*” I thought as I stared at her.

Byron sat in the passenger seat and put his seatbelt on. Well, at least they could be hurt and they weren't vampires or anything. Wait, maybe Byron is a vampire! “*Is he a vampire?*”

Jane let out a laugh and shook her head. “*No, he's not a vampire and the girl, Ellie, is fine.*” Jane looked over at Byron who had a very confused look on his face. Jane leaned over and whispered to him that I thought he was a vampire. He started to laugh and said he gets that a lot. He gets that a lot? Did they do this a lot?

“Okay, enough. What is going on!” I shouted as they pulled the car onto the street.

“Alex, we are going to a very special place. I don't want you to be alarmed when you get there, so I will tell you the basics. You will learn more once we get you inside our facility. The reason you can talk back to me with your thoughts is because you have a very unique gift. There are many people in our world with different unique gifts. It is our job to teach you how to live with your gift as a normal person in our society. However, If you do not live by our rules, well let's

just say we have consequences. So I urge you to listen well and take in everything you learn,” Jane finished and started to merge onto the freeway.

This was a lot to take in. I was trying to stay with them, but my mind was going one-hundred miles a minute. I looked at Jane through the rearview mirror and asked, “Where is the facility? What special gifts are you talking about?”

“He sure doesn't have super intelligence,” Byron must have thought to himself thought.

“Hey! I have just been taken from my parents, on my birthday and was told I have a special gift. Don't call me stupid,” I huffed and crossed my arms across my chest.

“You heard me?” Byron asked and turned to look at me.

“Well, yeah. I am right behind you,” and he said I didn't have super intelligence....Ha!

He gave me another look of shock, and turned back around.

I really needed some answers here. “So, are you going to tell me what my special gift is, or is that a surprise, too?”

“Alex, this is going to be hard to understand, but there are some humans that are born with a slight genetic mutation so to speak. Although, we like to call them gifts. These genetic mutations, or gifts, are caught at birth and sent to us to analyze. These mutations do not start forming until the subject turns thirteen. On their thirteenth birthday we come to take them to our special facility so

they can learn how to live with this new gift. So you see, you are now thirteen and a new mutation is starting to form inside of you. I will tell you more once we arrive. Feel free to close your eyes, and take a little rest.” Jane finished talking and moved a strand of hair that must have been tickling her face. I watched her and tried to soak this new information in.

“So these mutations, or gifts, or whatever you call them are what exactly?” I questioned with a bit of annoyance in my tone.

“When we get to the facility you will see things you never thought were possible. Some kids like to call them, super powers,” she said as she looked at me through the mirror.

“Super powers?” I gasped and tried to process what she was telling me. “So wait, I have a super power? Is that why I can talk to you without really talking? Telekinesis?”

“Yes, telepathy though not telekinesis. That's moving objects with your mind,” Jane said bluntly and continued driving towards the mountains. She was driving surprisingly fast, and that should have made me a little more nervous, but I was guessing this wasn't her first time doing this.

I sat back and started processing what I had just learned. All of my childhood dreams have just come true, but it was a lot scarier than I had imagined it would be. When you're five all you can dream about is flying around like superman, destroying things like the hulk, or even just driving

the Batmobile. But to really have powers, I'm not really sure I wanted this. I knew from that moment on my life had changed. I looked over at the girl, Ellie, and tried to talk with her through my thoughts.

“Hey, Ellie, are you okay? Can you hear me?” Nothing. She didn't even look over at me. Well, I guess we have different super powers. I leaned my head back and looked out my window. I wondered where we were heading. We were merging off I-70 and heading towards the Rocky Mountains. I was born and raised here in Denver, Colorado and I grew up camping and hiking in these very mountains. I wondered if we were going to a different state, or even a different country. I have never been out of the US, so that made me a little nervous.

I must have dozed off for a bit because a little later the car jerked to stop. I opened my eyes hoping what I had just experienced was a dream, but when I was able to focus, Byron was opening my door, “Welcome to Camp Powers,” he said with a serious look on his face. “You will spend the next year training and working on how to control your powers. The average stay here at Camp Powers is about 360 days. However, some students who show excellence are able to return to their 'normal' life earlier. If we feel like you are not ready, or we deem you dangerous, there will be other options. We can discuss that later. Your job now is to learn how to use and control your

power.”

I stepped out of the car and looked over my shoulders at the large gates closing shut behind me. We were in the mountains, but I had no idea where. I went to ask Byron but he was already helping Ellie out of the car on the other side. He put his hands on her left shoulder and whispered something in her ear. She opened her eyes wide and began looking around. Ellie looked over at me and I smiled as I gave her a small wave. She shrugged her shoulders and smiled back, “*Wow! Where are we? This is beautiful!*” she thought and continued looking around. I didn't get a chance to answer her, because suddenly a giant shiver ran through my body.

I looked over at Jane who was standing by the car, looking straight at me. I tried to focus on what she was thinking, but my body started trembling even more and my head started to pound. She kept her focus on me when two guys, maybe around eighteen, came over and asked me to come with them. It felt like my body was about to burn up. I also had this sense to just take off and fly out of here, but before I had a chance to do anything else, everything went completely black.

Chapter 2 - Code-less

I had a dream that I was flying through the sky, just like a bird, and someone was laughing besides me. I looked over and Ellie was giggling and screaming as she swooped and twirled next to me, but suddenly she started screaming and saying she was losing control. I panicked and tried to reach to her, but I wasn't fast enough. My eyes shot open and I was relieved when I knew it was just a dream. Then, I looked around and realized I was in a hospital room.

I looked toward the door because I could see some shadows, and hear people talking. “We have been waiting for this moment for thirteen years. Have you found out anything about his powers?” a deep voice asked quietly.

“We know he is telepathic, and he also was not affected by Byron's mind control. So that means he either is able to create a forcefield or he can resist other's powers. He may even have mind control abilities himself. Honestly, I am a little baffled. We will have to study him to really get an idea of what his powers are.” The minute I heard that voice I knew it belonged to Jane.

“He is awake, I can hear him.”

Dang. I tried to keep my thoughts to myself but clearly that's impossible, so I just joined in on their little conversation. “Yup, I'm awake and can

hear you guys. Can I please get up?” I yelled and tried to sit up, but had a few bands attached around my arms. Jane and a tall guy, maybe in his mid-thirties, stepped into my room and smiled at me.

“Alex, this is Dr. Henry. He is the Doctor here at the facility and helps out when anyone needs some medical attention,” Jane said and motioned over to the man standing next to her. Dr. Henry stepped over to me and went to shake my hand.

“It is so wonderful to finally meet you. You can call me Jake. I have been waiting for this day since you were born,” he smiled down at me and gently placed my hand back on the hospital bed. “I know you have some questions, so I am going to start at the beginning. As you were told earlier on your way here, some people are born with some genetic mutations, or super powers. Every baby that is born in the world is given a blood test at birth. If the blood test is positive for this genetic mutation it is sent to our headquarters in Washington D.C.. Those test results are then sent to our scientific research center, which is in a top secret location. If this information got into the wrong hands, it could be very dangerous. Anyway, they run a test on the mutation, and it is then categorized into the system. See, each power is given their own number. For example, the ability to fly is coded at SP120 and the power of super human strength is SP290,” Jake turned a paper he was looking at and showed it to me.

For some reason my head was really clear and I understood everything he was saying. I knew exactly which super power was connected with each code. He had no idea what my super power was because I was code-less. This had never happened before, so nobody knew what to expect of me. I then understood that the Dr.'s super power must be high intelligence.

“I understand. I don't have a code so you don't know what my superpower is. Everyone has a code, and so you don't know what to do with me.” I closed my eyes and concentrated on what they were thinking.

“That's very interesting that you already understand. No one understands this quickly, but yes you are very correct. You do not have a code and we have never seen this before. I truly am baffled at your ability, and to tell you the truth I have never been stumped. Ever.” He eyed me before jotting a note down on his yellow pad of paper.

I suddenly had a thought. “Have you ran my DNA with everyone across the world? Does my mutation match up with any other mutation, or is it really that different from everyone else?”

“How in the world does he know about this? What did you tell him in the car?” Jake thought and looked over at Jane with a shocked look on his face.

I quickly answered, before Jane had a chance to answer. “She didn't tell me anything I just

understand, it's like my mind is clear and I see all the answers." They both looked over at me with their mouths slightly open.

"I'm sorry, Alex. I know you can also use telepathy. I am just so amazed right now that I honestly don't know what to say or do," Jake said and scooted two chairs by my bed so Jane could join him. "Tell me about the feeling you had before you passed out back at the gates."

I sighed and laid my head back on my pillow, "I was looking around at the mountains and was wondering where we were at. I looked over at the girl that was with me, Ellie, and was trying to read her thoughts, but then my body started to feel really strange and those two guys came to grab me. My body got really warm and I thought about flying out of there. Then everything went black."

Jake was scribbling words down, but then put his pencil down and looked over at me. "That's very interesting, and do you still have that feeling that you can fly?"

"No, not really," I said and finally started to understand what was happening.

"I absorb other's powers don't I," I said matter-of-factly and looked over at Jake and Jane.

"Seems so, Alex. I would like to do some tests to prove this theory, but I would have to say I agree with you. You can still read our thoughts, and you obviously have my super intelligence power. It does seem however that you lose the ability of a power once it is not close to you," Jake

said and Jane nodded her head to agree with him.

Jane grabbed my hand and said, “Alex, I am so glad you are feeling better. I’m going to go check on Ellie and make sure she is getting settled in and is comfortable,” she gave me a small wave and walked out the door.

Jake was still looking at me and was staring hard at my face.

“No, I can't hear you.” I laughed a little and shook my head.

Dr. Henry also laughed and raised one of his eyebrows at me. “How did you know I was checking?”

“I really can't hear you, I just figured since Jane left that you would see if I was still able to use her power.”

“Yes. Wow, this is truly amazing and something we have never seen. No one has ever been able to absorb someone else’s powers before. Truly amazing,” Jake whispered the last part and started writing more notes in his notepad.

“So, if I am in a room with ten different people with ten different powers, I will absorb all of their powers? Will my body be able to handle that?”

Jake moved his hand to his chin and started to think about my questions. “Honestly, I don't know. Like I said, I am not familiar with your power. I have studied and researched cases all around the world and no one has ever encountered this mutation. Our best way to handle this is to just

keep a close eye on you and to take notes. That way we can get a handle on this, and hopefully you will be able to control your power.” Jake smiled at me and I knew he was trying to reassure me.

“Okay, I think I can handle that. My body feels a lot different but it just feels natural, like I am supposed to be able to handle this.” I smiled back and started to stand from the hospital bed I was laying on.

Jake removed the bands from my arms and asked, “Are you ready to see every kids wish come true?”

I rubbed my arm where the band had just been, “Wait, I have one question. Was superman real?”

Jake barked out a laugh and put his hand over his belly, “Well, the book was based off of the real Clark Kent's life, except he was only able to fly. He didn't have super human strength or fire capability. He would have loved it so he created a character that he could live vicariously through.”

Superman was real? I couldn't believe this. I took a moment to recoup from this new knowledge, but finally answered, “This is very cool. Okay, I'm ready.”

As we walked through the door and down a long hall, I braced myself for what I was about to see. For some reason, maybe it was the super intelligence, I wasn't nervous and I just kind of knew what to expect. Except, nothing could have prepared me for what I was about to see.

Chapter 3 - Speechless

I want you to close your eyes and picture every super hero fantasy you have ever had. I want you to do this because what I'm about to explain are all of those fantasies wrapped up into one large room. I couldn't believe my eyes when Jake led me into the great hall. My senses became hyper aware, and my body felt like it was going into over drive. I had that flying feeling again, but my body also felt like it could burst into flames. I also felt the urge to run, and I knew I would be able to run really fast.

Jake looked over at me and put his hand on my shoulder with a concerned look, "How are you feeling, Alex?"

"I'm okay." I looked around and saw small groups of kids, mostly around my age, talking and what looked like practicing their powers.

In one corner close to us I saw two girls, maybe twins, moving their hands around and were creating what looked like to be snow. That was cool! Across from them I saw two other kids picking up large objects, and lifting them over their heads. I also saw people flying around the large room and figures zooming around so fast that I couldn't catch them with my eyes.

"So, I am going to do a few tests with you and then I'll let you explore on your own," Jake said

and wrote something else down in his notepad, “just let me grab a few students and I will be right back, please don't wander off.”

He walked down some stairs and started talking to the two girls. They looked up at me and started heading my way. He then went to a couple of young guys, and then they all headed up the stairs back to where I was standing.

I looked around the room again and saw Jane talking with Ellie. Before I knew it, Ellie shot up in the air, touched the ceiling, and then flew right back down to Jane. So Ellie's power was the ability to fly. I figured it was since I had that feeling around her, and I had the dream about her and me flying earlier. I smiled to myself and suddenly saw an image in my brain of Ellie and me laughing and flying around in the mountains. I shook my head and looked up to see Jake with four other students staring at me.

Jake cleared his throat and introduced us. “Alex, I would like you to meet Kai, Ryan, Jessica, and Jamie. These four have been here for about seven months and have done extremely well. I brought them up here because I would like to try a few things with you all, if that would be okay?” Jake asked and looked around at all four of them.

“Sounds cool to me! I'm Kai. I will challenge you to a foot race any day,” he winked and shook my hand. He was about my size but lean and I could feel the force radiating off of his body. I knew he could run fast, but I could also feel my

own body buzzing with excitement.

“You're on.” I laughed and looked over at the two girls with bright blonde hair.

“It's great to meet you, Alex. I'm Jessica and this is my twin sister, Jamie.” They smiled at me and did this weird hand shake. Must be a twin thing.

I focused on them and felt an energy so strong that it made me grip the railing next to me.

“They can control and create weather, and they are very powerful when they are together. It's unlike anything we have ever seen,” Jake laughed and patted one of their backs. They really did look alike, I wondered if I would ever be able to tell them apart.

The last boy stepped over to me and stuck out his hand. “I'm Ryan. I am able to see glimpses of the future,” I shook Ryan's hand and suddenly a vision of Ryan and I popped in my head, we were playing cards in what looked like a dorm room.

I looked up at him and asked, “Are we room mates?”

“How does he know that?” Ryan asked as he let go of my hand and looked over at Jake. “Do we have the same power?”

“Well, that's why I brought all of you over here. Alex has a very unique and different power than any of us have ever seen. He's able to absorb powers,” Jake stopped and observed the other student's reactions.

Kai looked over at me with a surprised look,

Jessica and Jamie just smiled and nodded their head, and Ryan laughed and told me that was really cool. I liked Ryan right away. I guess I already knew we would be good friends.

Jake smiled and nodded his head, “It is very cool. Okay, Jessica and Jamie step over here please. I would like you to stand next to the Alex. Girls, could you each please create a snowball?”

Jessica and Jamie started moving their hands around and closed their eyes. All of a sudden the air changed and it cooled down. It looked like fog was starting to form around their hands. Then in a little burst, a snow ball popped out and each girl was holding one.

“No way, that is so crazy,” I said quietly and the girls started giggling.

“Now, Alex, I want you to concentrate on creating a snowball of your own,” Jake said and started observing me quietly. Jessica grabbed my hand and a jolting shock went through our bodies, “Wow! You feel like Jamie, but you also feel a little different.”

I laughed nervously and tried to feel her energy. She let go of my arm and told me to just think of snow in my head, and move my hands around. I stepped back, started rotating my hands, and slowly closed my eyes. I pictured myself in a field with delicate snowflakes falling out of the white sky. I reached down and scooped up some freshly fallen snow, and started forming it into a small ball. My hands became very cold, which was

strange because it didn't hurt. When I heard a gasp I opened my eyes and looked down at my hands. I had a little baby snowball lying in my palms.

"It's small, but he did it!" Jamie squeaked and started jumping up and down.

"We don't have many people with the power to control weather. They have only met their teacher, so don't mind their excitement." Jake laughed and looked over at Kai. "Kai, we'll move over to you now if that's okay?" Jake said and motioned for Kai to step over towards him.

"Are we going to race or something?" Kai asked and started stretching his legs. I could tell by just looking at Kai that he was fast. I really hoped we weren't racing. My bet is that he would smoke me.

Jake started laughing and shook his head. "No, but I do want you to run down the hall and back. I want you to show Alex first and then let him have a try. He is new to all of this, so we need to give him time to adjust."

With that said, Kai gave me a big grin and took off down the hall towards Jake's office. He was just a big blur, and in a second he was back standing right by us.

"Whoa! My gosh you are fast," I said and could hardly even blink my eyes. Jake motioned for me to step forward.

"Okay, Alex. Now I want you to feel Kai's energy and when you are ready, I would like you to run down the hall. Be careful, sometimes stopping

or turning is harder then you'd think.”

Kai laughed behind him and said, “Yeah, I hit a few walls and trees at first.” I started laughing too, and Kai nodded at me and laughed a little more.

“Let's get this going, I want to see you run!” Ryan exclaimed and motioned for me to start. I closed my eyes and started to concentrate on Kai. I felt a surge go through me and before I knew it, I took off like a rocket. It was unbelievable how fast the doors and walls were moving beside me. As I looked forward, the wall in front of me was almost in slow motion. I could see exactly where I was going, and I had no trouble slowing down and turning around. I started heading back towards the group and the look on their faces was priceless. I was back in a flash and stopped right by Kai.

“That is so much fun. Wow!” I said and wasn't out of breath one bit.

“Awesome job, Alex!” the girls said in unison and started to clap. The twins may have came off a little ditzy, but I could tell they were really powerful.

“Yes, that was great. How do you feel now?” Jake asked and got his notebook ready.

“Great! I want to do that again,” I laughed and looked over at Ryan.

“I know man. I have always thought being able to run fast would be fun, but being able to see the future is cool too, well sometimes.”

Jake nodded his head to agree with Ryan.

“Sometimes it's an unfortunate power because the future isn't always peaches and cream. But, We will talk about that later. First, let's see what you two can do. There is one other student here with the ability to see into the future, and her name is Nikki. She has only been here a few weeks, and is still very unsure about her power. Ryan has been helping her, so it will be nice for you to join them at times.” Jake said and told me to go stand next to Ryan.

“Is this a common power?” I asked and looked between Jake and Ryan.

Ryan shook his head no, “Not really, just a few a year are born with the mutation, right Dr. H?”

“Yes, there have only been about six of you in the past five or so years. It's not one of the common ones like flying or running fast.”

“That's crazy, but I think it's a neat power.” I said as Ryan shot me a little wink.

Jake motioned Ryan to come over to us, “Ryan, I want you and Alex to close your eyes. I want both of you to think about what will happen in the next few seconds. Then, when you open your eyes, I want you to say the answer at the same time.” Jake said with a bit of giddiness in his voice.

Ryan walked over and stood in front of me, he smirked at me and closed his eyes. I did the same and started to concentrate on what may happen in the next few seconds. Suddenly, a vision came into

my mind. We opened our eyes at the same time and simultaneously shouted, “We thought about this exact moment. Jinx! Jinx again!”

We burst out laughing, leaving the others staring and wondering what we thought was so funny. Then, all of a sudden Ryan and I turned to Jessica who was leaning down to itch her leg. She tripped over her shoe lace and fell over, taking Jamie downtown with her.

As I was watching the future in my mind, I suddenly heard Jake's voice, “Okay boys, open your eyes.”

Ryan and I both opened our eyes and stood and stared at each other until we both blurted out, “We thought about this exact moment. Jinx! Jinx again!” and started laughing until we both stopped and yelled, “Wait, Jessica be careful you're going to...” But before we could even finish our sentence, Jessica went barreling over taking her sister with her.

“Yeah, sorry. We saw that happen, too.” I said sheepishly and looked over at Ryan who was nervously shaking his head.

Jessica stood up and grabbed Jaime's hand to pull to help her up, “Well, thank for trying to warn me. I'm so clumsy!” she said. Jaime told us we had no idea how clumsy she really was.

That made me nervous to think about a young, clumsy girl who can create weather. Hopefully she is working on that.

Jake interrupted my thought and told the other

students that he really appreciated them helping us out, but said they were now free to continue practicing their powers. He looked over at me and asked how I was feeling.

“Good, I think. That future stuff is unreal but I guess with your power, I understand it and know exactly what they can and can't do.”

Just then a loud voice shouted, “Hey, wonder boy, catch this!”

When I looked down to find where the voice was coming from, I saw a large boy looking straight at me. Dr. Henry started to yell something, and a few other kids started to scream. Before I could do anything about it, a large fireball was heading straight towards my face.

Chapter 4 – Saved By the Time Traveler

Just as I opened my eyes, preparing myself to be burnt to a crisp, something crazy happened. I peeked out one of my eyelids and saw the huge fire ball coming up over the edge of the railing, but it wasn't moving. It was completely still. Just like it would be in a picture. I gasped and grabbed my chest, and when I looked around I saw a kid running across the room, heading straight to the jerk that threw the deathly explosive at my head. The thing that was so unbelievable was the huge fire-throwing boy was completely still, just like the fireball itself and just like everyone else in the room.

“Hey! What's going on?” I yelled to the kid who stopped dead in his tracks and looked up at me.

“You're here with me?” he hollered and looked really confused.

“Yeah. I mean, I guess I am. Unless this is maybe the future?” I said and looked over to Ryan who was still mid-step down the stairs. The kid ran through the room and told me to stay were I was and he would come up to me.

“No, this isn't the future,” he said out of breath when he finally reached me. He held out his hand and motioned for me to shake it. “I'm Trey. I can travel through time and make it stand

still,” he said with a big smile on his face, but then became serious again when he looked back at the fireball.

“Why did he throw that at me?”

“Because he's Zander,” he said plainly, but then had a thoughtful look cross his face when he looked from me to the fireball.

I knew what he was thinking, even though I couldn't hear him. “I bet I can still use the twin's power, hold on.” I walked up to the fireball and closed my eyes picturing the huge burning ball of gas turning into a beautiful snow flurry. When I peeked open, I couldn't believe my eyes. I had done it.

“Nice job, man.” Trey said and slapped me on the back. “This is cool, your power.” He smiled genuinely at me and told me he was going to run back downstairs. “I am going to get in so much trouble for this, but Zander deserves it,” he smirked and ran over to the boy who just tried to burn my face off.

“What are you going to do?”

Trey started wiggling his eyebrows and ran right up to Zander, who was completely still and had a very angry look on his face. I started laughing when Trey pulled Zander's shorts down around his ankles, and all you could see was his Sponge Bob Square Pants boxers. I had to put my hand over my mouth to contain my laughter.

“That'll teach him,” Trey laughed and started to head out of the building. “I'm going to unfreeze

time in a minute, but I'm going to get out of here so he doesn't kill me," he said quickly and headed out the huge front door.

I braced myself, and exactly a minute later everything went right back to normal. The huge fireball was now just a puff of beautiful snow. Everyone was still screaming, until someone shouted, "Cute undies, Zander!" and then everyone shifted their eyes to Zander and started laughing hysterically, once they saw I wasn't in any danger.

"Trey!" Zander yelled at the top of his lungs and pulled up his shorts. He turned bright red and ran out of the building. Jane and Byron were right behind him, I assume to reprimand him.

Jake grabbed my arm and turned me towards him, "What happened? Are you okay?"

"I'm fine, Trey froze time and I helped him turn the fireball into snow," I said without any hesitation.

"That darn Zander. I'm sorry that happened. He is still working on his control, but I just know he has some good in him. That's why we are still trying. I'm glad you are okay. Trey has had to help out in 'Zander situations' before," he air quoted and rubbed his hand over his face.

Everything quickly went back to normal, because apparently a huge fireball being hurled at someone's head is totally common around here. I closed my eyes for a second, because I still couldn't believe this was happening. Ryan, Kai, and the twins ran back up to make sure I was okay.

I told them I was fine, but glad I was able to still use the girls' power.

“I would like you to just roam around the room and introduce yourself to the other students, and just try out some really cool powers,” he said the last part with a grin on his face.

“That sounds like fun.” I walked over to the stairs and started to slowly walk down them when I saw Ellie flying over to me.

“Hey, you're Alex right?” she said in a very sweet high voice.

“I am, and you're Ellie?”

“The one and only,” she laughed and did some cool twists and turns above me. “This is amazing, right? I have always dreamed about being able to fly. Like really, I have had tons of dreams. I had no idea I really would be doing this one day.”

I laughed and watched her show off her new power. “Can I join you?” I asked and she quickly landed right next to me on the stairs.

“You can fly, too?”

I nodded, “I can, and other things. I can absorb powers too, I guess.”

She looked up at me with a huge grin on her face. “No way, that's cool.”

We both took off from the stairs and looped and swooped around in the building. I was laughing so hard until I looked over at Ellie and she was heading straight for the wall. I shouted for her to look out, but right at the last minute she shot

up and started to pretend to run along the wall. I looked at her with amazement. “Wow, you are good at this!” She laughed and started to 'raise the roof' with her arms.

“Hey, want to see if we can go outside and fly around a little?” Ellie asked and I nodded my head yes.

We looked over and spotted Jake talking to a blonde girl by the stairs, so we headed towards him. “Hey Dr. H, can Ellie and I go fly around outside for a little bit?” I asked.

He started to click his pen up and down, thinking about my question. “Sure, I don't see why not. Just make sure you don't fly over our walls. You must stay in our restricted area, understand?”

Ellie and I looked at each other and then back at Jake. “We understand,” we said at the same time and took off again.

Ellie pointed up to the top of the building where there was an open window, “Race you out!” she yelled and took off like a rocket. I was hot on her tail and started to slowly gain on her. She barely beat me out of the window, and in no time we were shooting through the air.

It was gorgeous outside, but suddenly I remembered my flash from early and realized this was that exact moment. I looked over at Ellie, knowing she would be laughing. She giggled and looked over at me, and then we both laughed together.

“I'm never going to walk again!” she

screached and did some crazy loop like a small airplane would do.

I went to say the same thing but right as I opened my mouth a bug flew in it. I spit it out immediately. “The bugs are the worst part.”

“I know, I just had one hit my forehead,” we busted up laughing again, and turned right when we got to the wall. “What do you think is on the other side?” she asked and looked over to me.

“No idea, I don't even know where we are.” I turned around and peeked back at the large steel walls. I knew we had to be in the middle of nowhere, but I wasn't sure where. We also had to be in the United States because we only drove a relatively short distance, “Ready to head back? I want to see more of these superpowers”

“Me too. Except, I'm not as cool as you. I only have one to try out,” she winked and shot up farther in the air and came barreling back down quickly. I laughed and thought how good she was at this already, she's known for what, a few hours she can fly, and she was already doing crazy tricks.

When we made it back to the facility, we flew back in through the window and landed safely right by Jessica and Jamie.

“Hey girls, this is Ellie. She came in today with me,” I said and motioned over to my new friend.

“Hey, Ellie,” they both said at the same time, laughed, and then did their weird handshake thing again. Jessica looked over at Ellie and said, “I'm

Jessica and this is my twin Jamie. How are you doing so far? Looks like you are already kicking butt at flying,” she said as Jamie agreed with her.

Elly blushed a little and twirled a little piece of hair that had come undone after our little outing. “I just can't believe all of this is real, but I'm doing good. I have always thought about flying so I am not too surprised that is what my gift is.”

“Yeah, we were obsessed with the X-Men growing up and Storm was our favorite! We would pretend to be her all the time.” They giggled together and flipped their hair at the same time again.

I decided it was time for me to roam around the rome, and check out other powers. “I think I'm going to go walk around and check things out, but you girls stay and have fun. I'll try to find you later.” All three girls waved and continued talking and laughing with each other. Hopefully they would become good friends.

As I started to look around the room, a hand grabbed me from behind. I jumped and spun around quickly, just as Ryan put his hand over his mouth and started laughing, “Sorry, I didn't mean to scare you,” he said through his chuckles. I rolled my eyes at him, and nudged his left shoulder.

“Yeah right. I don't believe for a second you didn't know what was going to happen. That's probably why you are laughing so hard,” I said and couldn't help but smile with him.

“So, you want a tour?” Ryan asked and nodded his head towards the other side of the room.

“Sure, I mean. Yeah of course. That would be really cool.”

Ryan suddenly had a huge grin on his face. “Get ready, because your mind is about to be blown.” I smiled, too, but then I hoped that didn’t really happen. Ryan and I walked back over to the front of the room so he could show me all the different powers that were here at the camp.

“Some powers are more common than others. Like mine is not as common as say flying or running fast, like Dr. H said earlier. Some, though, are very rare. Like, see that girl over there?” he said and pointed to a girl with long curly red hair, “She has the power to become invisible. I guess Jane has never seen someone with that power come to this camp, and she has been here forever. They have been really excited for her to get here. She's only been at this facility for a few months. She is really shy and isn't taking to this place very well, but she has one totally cool power.”

I looked over at the girl with the wild red hair and watched her for a minute. She must have sensed us looking at her because she slowly looked over at us, and then completely disappeared.

“Whoa,” I said and Ryan chuckled besides me.

“I know. She does that if you look at her. Oh, look over there. See those three kids sitting on

the floor?” he said and pointed to a boy and two girls sitting Indian style with their eyes closed. “They are able to trace someone with their minds. If you want to find anyone, I mean anyone, they will be able find them.” I shook my head and couldn't believe it.

I then had a thought cross my mind and wondered if I could do that too. I closed my eyes and thought about that crazy Zander kid, and suddenly I saw him as if he was in a picture. He was in a small room, getting scolded by Jane and Byron. I opened my eyes quickly and Ryan was staring at me.

“You okay?” he asked and I nodded my head yes. He pointed over to a tall guy standing around a few kids, “See that guy over there? His name is Mr. Hillman, he has incredible strength. He's like the Hulk, only without the temper. He's cool, and will help you with anything you need.”

Mr. Hillman looked over at us and gave us a little wave. “How many teachers are here?” I asked and looked over at Ryan.

“I would say about thirty? There are quite a few adults here, you know, to help with everything. I would say we get a new kid here at least once a week.”

“That's a lot of people with superpowers, and no one has ever gotten caught using them?”

“No, I mean yes. Some have been caught using them. I don't think we hear about it because I'm sure the government takes care of the problem

quickly,” Ryan said and pretended to cut his throat with his finger.

I grabbed my throat and made a promise to myself I would never get caught using my powers out in the real world. I wondered how many people there were that have been taken away by the government. I guess if we are supposed to be a secret, then they really wouldn't want super humans exposing their abilities. Still, I was nervous about that.

Ryan cleared his throat and nudged my right shoulder, interrupting my thoughts. “Look over there, this is my favorite group. Watch them for a minute.”

I turned my head towards the group of three kids and one adult, and they were staring at each other when suddenly their faces completely changed. “What the!?” I yelled and Ryan bumped my shoulder to tell me to be quiet. “Whoa, what just happened?” I said in a much quieter voice.

“That group right there my friend is amazing. They are able to change forms. They can look like anyone they want to. They like to play tricks on the rest us, but if they get caught they get in a lot of trouble. This power, sadly to say, doesn't usually make it that long in the real world, so they are starting to be a lot stricter with training them here.

“What do you mean, they don't usually make it long?” I asked and hoped he wouldn't say the answer I was dreading he would.

“So this may not be exactly the truth, but the

rumor is that when someone is deemed a hazard to our secret, they are taken to Washington D.C. and nobody hears from them again. We think you know,” he took a deep breath, “that they get destroyed.”

“What? They just get rid someone if they use their powers?” I said with a very shocked expression on my face.

“Yeah, I really think so. I mean how else would they keep our secret from everyone else in the world. We all have the chance to obey the rules, and that's just the consequence of not listening,” he said nonchalantly and continued to move on. “Let's keep going, there are so many more groups for you to see! Here's a fun one, see those to guys over there?” he asked and pointed to two boys with dark skin and very dark hair. “They have a really cool power. Watch.”

I wasn't sure what Ryan meant by 'fun' and 'cool' but it definitely wasn't what I was about to see. One of the boys grabbed a large knife and sliced it roughly down the other kids arm. I gasped when I saw blood starting to drip down to the floor. “What the...” I started to say, but Ryan just put up his arm to silence me.

“Just watch.” A few seconds later the large cut started to close up by itself and before I knew it, it wasn't even visible.

“Whoa! They can regenerate? No way!” I screeched and couldn't believe my eyes.

Ryan started laughing and shook his head,

“You are too funny, and yes they can. It's also a rare one, but it's cool to see it in person right?” I nodded my head and we continued on, walking through the huge facility.

“One more really interesting power, and then we can go grab some lunch. I can show you our schedule when we get there.” He smiled and pointed to a couple of blonde girls sitting at a small table, “That is Julie and Ashley, they are also sisters but Julie is one year older. She has been having a harder time with all of this, so they decided to let her stay until Ashley arrived.”

“Do all siblings share the same power?” I asked when I thought about Jamie and Jessica.

“No, I don't think so. You'll have to ask Dr. H about that one. I think it's pretty rare for siblings to both have a power. There is usually just one to receive the genetic mutation, and it always come from a grandparent. Watch, they are about to do it,” he said and pointed back to the girls.

Right when I looked back over, the two girls started to move the objects on the table without touching them. “Telekinesis,” I said quietly and Ryan shook his head yes.

“Yup. Cool, huh?” He smiled, right as a loud bell rang over the speaker system.

“PLEASE STOP WHAT YOU ARE DOING AND HEAD DOWN TO THE DINING HALL. LUNCH IS NOW BEING SERVED,” A loud voice cracked over the intercom system and was instantly gone.

“Ready for some lunch?” Ryan asked right as my stomach growled. We both laughed and I said, “I guess that's a yes.”

As Ryan and I walked outside to head over to the dining hall, two large men in black were standing right by the two front doors. I looked up and one of the guys smiled at me, flashing a very large gold tooth, and said, “Alex.” very quietly.

I caught my breath and quickly nodded at him remembering what Ryan had told me earlier. I don't know why, but I felt the urge to get as far away from him as possible.

Chapter 5 - Zander

“Who were they?” I asked Ryan and peered back over my right shoulder. The big guy with the gold tooth gave me a weird little wave, and headed into the building.

Ryan hushed me and told me he would tell me in a second. Once we got far enough away from the men, Ryan looked over at me and said in a hushed voice, “That's the head of the department in D.C., and the creepy guy with the gold tooth is his body guard. It is usually never a good thing when they come to visit. Weird dude, do not meet up with that guy in a dark alley.” He said shaking his head.

“No, I wouldn't even wish that on that Zander kid.”

“Yeah, sorry about that. Zander isn't all bad, he was really cool when I first arrived here. Lately, I don't know. It's almost as if he has a death wish.”

I thought about that for a second and nodded my head to agree. I gazed up and looked around at my new home, Camp Powers. “This place is amazing, it really is beautiful.” I looked over and saw a pond with a huge dock. It was probably getting a little too cool for the lake, but that looked like it would be so much fun in the summertime.

“It really is. I am guessing we are either in Colorado, Wyoming, or Montana. Guessing the Rockies. The reason I said Colorado first is

because I saw a 'Welcome to Colorado' sign flash in my mind before Bryon did his weird mind thing on me.”

“That's weird because I'm from Colorado. Denver actually, and we never stopped for gas so I was thinking the same thing. Bryon's mind control didn't work on me, so I was with it most of the time. I did fall asleep for a little bit towards the end, but we definitely never stopped. I bet we are in Colorado, or Wyoming at least.” Ryan thought so too.

“Where are you from?” I asked, but before he could answer me, he stopped and his eyes went completely white.

I started to shake him, “Ryan, Ryan! Are you okay?” I wasn't sure what was going on, but a few seconds later he snapped out of it. He opened his eyes quickly and tried to focus on me.

“Sorry, I thought I was getting better at controlling my ability, but sometimes it just sneaks up on me.” Ryan said with a nervous laugh and started to act a little strange.

“What did you see?”

He didn't look at me for a few seconds, and was rubbing his foot back and forth along the cement. Finally, he said, “I'm not sure, I mean seeing the future is really complicated. I see a small clip, like a preview but I sometimes don't see the whole picture.” I must have looked at him weird because he continued on, “For example, I might see you fall from a tall building and it looks

like you are going to die. I get worried, freak out, tell you not to go on any tall buildings, but no matter what I try to do to stop it, it always happens. So when you would eventually fall off that building, because you would, you may fall but then swoop up at the end and fly back up. I just don't see everything that happens.”

“I can understand that, but you forgot something. I can absorb your power, and I really hope I don't see myself fall from a tall building.” Ryan started to protest, but before he could do anything I shut my eyes, or maybe they went completely white, too. When I started to concentrate on what Ryan saw, my mind suddenly went to an image of me and Kai running through a forest, apparently being chased by someone very fast, because we were yelling at each other to hurry up and run faster because he's going to catch us.” I quickly came out of it and opened my eyes to Ryan. “Whoa...”

“I know,” he said quietly and cut me off. “I don't know what to think about that one.”

“We seemed scared, huh?” I said as we continued to head to the dining hall.

“Yes, it seemed like it. But hey, sometimes visions are wrong. Like I said, there could be a lot more to the story. I also can't tell you when any of them take place. Most come true within minutes, some days, and some haven't happened yet. Who knows, you may have been playing a game?”

I looked down and started shuffling my feet

through the rocky sand. “Yeah, maybe. I just have so many questions to ask that I don't even know where to start.”

Ryan reached his arm around me and gave me a slap on my back, “Well that's what I'm here for, and for the record.... I saw this happen about two months ago.” The look on my face must have set him off because he started laughing and didn't stop until we reached the cafeteria.

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“This is where we eat?” I looked around and had never seen a 'cafeteria,' so to speak, like this before. If you have ever been to a buffet style restaurant, then you can picture exactly what our cafeteria looked like. This may even blow any buffet in the world out of the water. “Now come on! This is great, why can't my school's lunch room look like this?” I said with a huge grin on my face.

Ryan laughed and told me I hadn't seen anything yet. “Just wait until you see the 'dessert island' on the other side of the room.

“Nooo...” My mouth must have stayed open longer then it should have because Ryan reached over and pushed it shut. “Sorry, I just haven't ever seen a place like this before,” I mumbled as my eyes started to roam around the cafeteria. This cafeteria was the most amazing place to eat I have ever seen. As I was staring at the most delicious food, I started to really look at all the kids here.

They all were speaking English and I had a thought come in my mind.

“Yes, all of them are American.” Ryan said quickly and pointed to where the plates were stacked.

“How did you?”

He smiled really cheesy and said, “I saw this too, and you are going to ask...”

“Do other countries have people with super powers?” we said at the same time.

I rolled my eyes right as Ryan playfully punched my arm. “Do you have many friends?”

“I have a tons of friends, thank you very much. I just happened to have a lot of visions about you, so I knew we would click right away. You'll get used to me, and I have a feeling I'll have to get used to you too. To answer your question, yes other countries do have people with super powers. They just take care of it all on their own. Some of the poorer countries however, without testing and other resources aren't as lucky. Like I said, you will learn all of this later.”

I nodded my head as we headed over to the ridiculously good smelling and looking food. I immediately started to pile food on my plate. It all looked so good. Creamy mashed potatoes, and pepperoni pizza with mozzarella cheese dripping down as I placed it on my plate. I was just about to grab some friend chicken when my body had that burning sensation like it did earlier. I turned around and walking through the cafeteria doors

were Zander and Byron.

Zander looked over right at me with an expression that would scare your cat right out of their skin.

“Man, that kid hates me.”

“He probably just doesn't like that you have the potential to be more powerful than him. He is very jealous of others who have a better genetic mutation than him. I'm starting to notice that creating fire must make you a cranky person, because everyone I have met has a huge temper problem,” he said, shaking his head while grabbing more food for his plate.

I turned back around and noticed Zander went to sit at a table away from the other students, and that Byron never left his side. I looked away and continued to stare at the delicious food in front of me, and realized just how hungry I was.

As Ryan and I were finishing piling our plates, we heard our names being called and I quickly spotted Kai and the twins, my created name for them, and they were waving and yelling for us to join them. I smiled over to them and noticed Ellie was heading their way as well. “Come on, let's go sit with them,” Ryan said and pointed over to their table.

When we sat down and unloaded our tray, I heard Kai telling the end of very hilarious joke, “So the third guy was walking down the street laughing and carrying on and on, so the pilots turned to the man that was laughing so hard and

asked, 'What's so funny?' and the guy says, 'I farted and my house blew up!'"

Milk shot out of Jessica's nose and everyone started laughing hysterically. She blushed and quickly grabbed her napkin to wipe off the milk, but she couldn't help it and started laughing just as hard.

"We must have missed a good one," I said while watching Jessica wipe her face off.

They were still laughing when, all of a sudden, everyone in the cafeteria gasped and turned in unison to look at the two large guys that entered the cafeteria. The head guy and his very creepy bodyguard stopped and looked around the room. The body guard then pointed over to Zander, and they headed his way.

We heard Zander start yelling, "Don't touch me Byron, I do not want you to control me!" He screamed and was pushing himself away from Byron, who was only trying to calm him down.

"Get away from me you freaks, I am not going anywhere with you!" Zander said and instantly my body started to get extremely hot, and I thought I was going to explode.

"This is not good guys, my body is on fire." I whispered.

Just then the big body guard walked over to grab Zander. Before we knew it, fireballs were being released and hurled through the air.

Jessica and Jamie quickly jumped on the table. They both threw their hands up in the air,

and the room instantly became extremely windy. Plates and food started to fly off of our table. The fireballs burst into tiny water droplets hitting everyone in the face, and we were immediately drenched. Zander continued to yell until he grabbed his head and started to scream.

“What's happening?” I asked as Kai and I were hunched down under the table, but still had a perfect view of Zander and the two men.

“I'm not sure. The body guard, or head guy, must have mind control without touch.”

After what seemed like forever, but was really only a few seconds, Zander became completely quiet and stood up to walk out with the bodyguard. The twins put their arms down, and the wind instantly died down. Everyone was gasping and talking quickly when the two scary guys walked out of the building with Zander following close behind.

Just as they were leaving, the body guard turned around and gave me a quick wink. I turned quickly and looked right at Kai.

“For some reason I think he may have it out for you,” Kai said. I really hoped he wasn't right.

Chapter 6 – Camp Powers

After the cafeteria incident was all cleaned up and everything seemed to be back to 'normal,' Ryan and Kai told me they had been asked by Jane to give me a tour of my new home, Camp Powers.

“This place is amazing,” I said in awe as I walked around my new home, for the next year anyway.

“Yeah, it's cool here. I just hope we will all get to go home and really live somewhat of a normal life,” Ryan said and smiled over at us.

“Do you ever see glimpses of you in the 'real world'? I asked Ryan who started to ponder my question.

“I think so. Like I said earlier, I just see small scenes. I don't know when they are happening.” I shook my head and thought about all the little 'pictures' I saw in my own head.

“So, first we will go and check out your dorm. You are rooming with Ryan, since his last roommate graduated his program and is back home. They have everything here for us, I guess so they don't have to worry about packing when they come and get us on our birthdays,” Kai said and pointed towards a large building.

I followed them as we walked up to the beautiful stone dormitory. Kai pushed in some code by the door, and it instantly popped open.

When we walked in I noticed there was a small sitting area on the left, and a few vending machines filled with snacks and drinks in the corner.

“This campus is really great, but the dormitories could probably use a little remodeling. They are basic, but I guess we don't really spend a whole lot of time here,” Ryan said and motioned towards the elevator.

“Race you guys up!” Kai yelled and took off up the stairs like a rocket.

I laughed and looked over at Ryan who was shaking his head, “He's can't go longer than an hour or so before he has to run.”

I chuckled too and looked back at the stairs, just as the elevator dinged open.

“Well, I thought we were going to race! Room 368!” Ryan yelled quickly as he jumped in and closed the door.

I let out a laugh and took off as fast as I could. I barely felt my feet hit the stairs as I shot up like a bullet and effortlessly flew up the flight of stairs. I heard Ryan tell me 368, so I assumed that was on the third floor. I quickly spotted a sign that said, 'Second Floor,' so I continued up one more flight. When I saw the number three, I slowed for a second to open the door, but then shot through like a horse out of the gates. I saw Kai sitting by the door, so I jetted over to him and stopped right besides him.

“Finally,” he said and shot me a fake yawn.

I started laughing and slapped him on his back, “Whatever, you totally cheated.” We both cracked up, and I joined him on the ground.

A few minutes later Ryan came walking down the hall and rolled his eyes when he saw us sitting against the door, “Wow, we thought you would never show up,” Kai said.

Ryan rolled his eyes and let us both in the room, and told me I would probably get my key at my orientation meeting this afternoon with Jane. When we entered our dorm, it really wasn't anything fancy. There were two bunk beds, with matching gray comforters and white sheets. We both had a desk with a computer and writing supplies. “Wow, I didn't think we would all have our own computers.”

“Believe it or not, but we have to still do homework while we are here,” Kai said with a little sigh. I nodded my head and figured as much. I looked over at a small table, remembered my flash of Ryan and I playing cards, and I let out a little laugh.

Ryan pointed to my dresser and closet and told me there were pants, shorts, shirts, and everything else I would need in them. “There isn't much more to see. Want to go over to the gymnasium?”

“Yeah, lets go there. You'll love it,” Kai said and took off out the door and down the hall. Ryan and I both shook our heads. I told him I would ride down with him in the elevator this time, but he

already knew that.

“Man, I hope Kai is able to control himself when he goes home,” Ryan said with a snort.

We continued on and headed over to the camp gymnasium. I was very curious about what all would be in there. I figured there would be a pool, maybe a room where you could practice your powers, but I wasn't prepared for what I was about to see.

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When we walked through the doors at the gymnasium, it was unlike any 'gym' I had ever seen before. Ryan turned to me and said, “This is a place where we get to use our powers, and just have fun.”

The first thing I noticed was a huge rock wall that wrapped around another large wall and went right up to the tip of the ceiling, which was very, very high, and kids were climbing all over it. One boy made it to the top and instead of repelling back down, he pushed off the wall, did a few flips in the air, and flew back down to the ground.

“I don't know if I'll ever get used to that,” I said quietly to myself as Ryan and Kai let out a small laugh.

Kai pointed down a hall and said, “Over there is a huge indoor area with a really high-tech track. That is where I learned how to stop when I first got my power.”

“And on the other side is the pool, which has

the coolest slide, and there is a huge lap pool, too.” Ryan said and pointed over to the other side of the building.

“This place is awesome.” I smiled and was about to turn around when Jane came walking up to us.

“Hello, gentlemen. I hope the tour is going well?” Jane asked and looked at the three of us.

“It is,” I said as I heard Kai thinking, “*Don't think about anything, don't think about anything.*” I looked over at him and gave him a questioning look. Jane let out a little laugh and looked back over to me.

“Here is your schedule, Alex. I would like you to come down to my office in an hour. Ryan and Kai have classes then, so it will be a great time to make sure you are all ready to go for your first day with your groups tomorrow.” She smiled and turned to head back out of the gymnasium.

I looked down at my new schedule and read some of my classes: math, reading, science, social studies, history, and an 'open' class. “So, basically we are still in regular school?” I asked and Kai started to shake his head.

“Kind of, but our classes are a little different. History is mostly the history on super powers, and same with science. Open class is practicing our powers, like when you came this morning, that's what we were doing.”

I just smiled and thought about how neat it was going to be to be able to learn about our

history here. I would have never imagined that there were really super powers. They have really been doing a good job keeping this a secret from everyone, or a good job making us forget about it.

We finished looking around the rest of the gymnasium, and I was very excited to hear we had an hour of free time at the end of each day to come here and hang out. Kai told me about the library on campus, but said it was boring and just full of books.

Ryan laughed and said, “Of course books, but there is also a computer room, and some areas that are great for studying.” Kai rolled his eyes at Ryan, which made Ryan roll his eyes back.

We were finishing up our tour when we realized it was already time for me to go. Ryan told me that Jane's office was in the large practice hall we were in earlier. I promised to meet up with them later, and Ryan told me he already knew. I shook my head and laughed, knowing I would never EVER be able to plan that guy any kind of surprise party.

Chapter 7 - Generations

“Alex and Ellie, how are you guys liking Camp Powers so far?” Jane asked as she raised her eyebrows towards us.

Ellie and I looked at each other, and then over at Jane. “I still can't believe this is real, but I am really enjoying it here,” Ellie said sweetly and smiled over at me.

Jane turned and looked towards me. Her dark brown hair was still as perfect now as it was when I met her this morning. She cocked her head to the side and asked me, “How about you Alex? How are you feeling?”

I sucked my lower lip in my mouth and thought about her question for a second or two, “Good, a little overwhelmed, but good,” I said.

“*I am really going to miss my family,*” Ellie thought sadly.

I smiled over at her, but didn't feel like I needed to interrupt her thoughts. Jane shot me a knowing look, and continued on.

“Sounds like you both are getting quite acquainted with Camp Powers. You both have been shown around the campus, and have received your schedules. Do you have any other questions?”

“Will we get to visit our families at all while we are here?” Ellie asked quietly and started to rub

her hands together on her lap.

Jane smiled, “I know it can be difficult to be away from your home, but I promise if you work hard and learn to control your power, you will be home in no time.”

Ellie just smiled back, but didn't say anything. I heard her think a few things, but I was trying my best to stay out of her thoughts.

Jane talked for the next hour with Ellie and I about what was expected here at Camp Powers, and gave us a handbook that explained all the rules and regulations that all students had to live by. I was about to fall asleep when she finally let us go to our first class of the day, which just happened to be history.

“Man, I thought we were going to stay in her office all day. I about passed out in there,” I said as I yawned and stretched my arms out.

Ellie giggled and looked over at me, “Oh my gosh! Me too. I even felt my head bob once or twice.”

“So, it looks like we have a lot of classes together. That will be helpful to know someone else,” I said and looked at my map to make sure we were going the right way.

“Yeah, I am excited to learn more about our super powers. That's still weird to say, super powers.”

“I know, I just can't wrap my mind around the fact that there really was a Superman,” I looked over and her and she shot me a huge grin.

“Right? I mean, I could be the next wonder woman!”

“Maybe I'll buy you a cape for Halloween,” I winked. Ellie let out a snort and nudged my shoulder.

We finally made it to our history class just before the bell rang. I looked around at the other students, which was about fifteen or sixteen, and thought about all the different powers that were out there. My body always felt a little different when I was around a lot of other people with powers, but I was getting used to it. I tried to focus on a student to see if I could feel their power, but I was quickly interrupted when our teacher, Mr. Hexton, called my name and asked me to stand up and introduce myself.

I walked to the front of the class and looked at all the other faces, “Hi, I'm Alex. I just arrived today and I am still trying to figure out if I'm dreaming or not.” I noticed one boy in particular, that was staring at me with a very intense look. I focused on him as well and all of a sudden I heard him think, “*Who does this kid think he is. He'll get his for getting Zander kicked out.*”

I must have looked at him with a shocked expression, because he quickly looked away and started thinking about random things. I turned away and thought to myself that there must be a kid in class with telepathy.

Mr. Hexton made me tell a few more things about myself, like where I was from, and how

many siblings I had. When he asked me to tell my power, I didn't really know what to say, "They aren't really sure what my power is exactly, but I do know I can absorb other powers."

Everyone in the room gasped, and looked over to Mr. Hexton. He smiled and patted my back, "That's neat, Alex. We all look forward to learning more about your power."

I took my seat as Ellie walked up to take my place. She told us all that she has three younger siblings, and has enjoyed her time here. It looks like four other people in class have the power to fly as well, so that will be nice for her.

Mr. Hexton had Ellie sit back down, and started in on the class. I was interested in what his power could be, when all of a sudden I quickly had my answer. One minute Mr. Hexton was lecturing in front of the class, and in an instant he disappeared and then reappeared in the back of the class. Ellie and I both let out a, "Whoa," and turned quickly to find him.

He laughed a little when he saw Ellie and I with our mouths hanging open, "Teleporatation, that is my inherited gene," he said with another laugh and pointed over to Ellie, because she had her hand in the air.

"Inherited gene?" she asked quietly, and her cheeks turned pink as she looked around the room.

"Yes, I am so glad you asked because that is our lesson for the day. Inherited genes. Now, I know this will be a repeat for some of you, but it's

always good to review this topic,” he said and disappeared again, only to pop back in the front of the classroom.

I am going to have to try that.

“Genetics.” Right as Mr. Hexton said that word he started to draw a diagram on the white board.

“Who can tell me what a generation is?”

A girl with reddish-brown hair raised her hand instantly and everyone sighed.

“Yes, Amber?”

“The definition of a generation is the aggregate of all people born over a span of roughly twenty years, or about the length of one phase of life.” She smiled and sat up straight with her hands crossed on her desk.

The boy in front of me turned around and rolled his eyes while mouthing, 'super intelligence.'

I smiled and gave him a little nod.

“Our genetic mutations are known to skip a generation, meaning that your gene, or 'gift' as Jane likes to call it, was inherited from a grandparent.” He continued to draw his model and I started thinking about my own grandparents.

I only have one living Grandma and Grandpa. The other two were killed in a car accident before I was born. I really didn't know much about them, only that they didn't leave many personal items. I then thought if we would have had the same power, that would mean there has to be someone else out there like me.

I raised my hand quickly, “Yes, Alex?”

“Does that mean my power has existed before? That maybe my Grandma or Grandpa had the same one?”

“Great question, but no not exactly. The gene is able to mutate from generation to generation. For example, say the gene of teleporation is passed down to a grandchild. My grandmother may have been able to move in a small radius, but I am now able to move across hundreds of miles. Does that make sense?”

I nodded my head yes, and started to concentrate on the Amber girl with super intelligence. Something clicked in my brain like it did earlier with Dr. Henry, and I suddenly saw everything very clear. “Yes, it does. Thanks.” I smiled over at Amber. I liked that power.

“So, maybe your grandparent could only absorb one power, and that was the only power they were able to keep.” He shrugged his shoulders, and continued on about our genes.

I was very curious about my own grandparents. There had to be a way that I could find more information about them.

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As Ellie and I were walking out of our history class, I looked over at her and noticed she had the same strange expression that I had.

“I can't believe I have a grandparent that has a

superpower, and they never told me about it.”

“I know, but if you think about it, how would they know we had the power? We just found out today. They aren't exactly allowed to talk about it. We can't get too mad at them,” I told her in my best reassuring tone.

She smiled over at me and said, “Why are we walking?” She shot up so fast that I barely had time to comprehend what she said.

I let out a loud laugh and took off like a bottle rocket. I quickly caught up to her and we both had huge grins on our faces. That was until a huge bug splattered right on my face. “Ugh, gross. I said as I started to wipe off the goo with my sleeve.

Ellie couldn't help it and started laughing so hard that tears were coming down her face. I told her to watch out or she would be next. Right when I said that, another disgustingly huge insect crashed right into her forehead.

“EEEWW!” she shrieked and I lost it this time, almost sending me back down to the ground.

“This is dangerous!” I yelled as she was wiping bug guts off of her face.

Just then, two more kids were heading our way. They did this weird wave, and kept on going.

“What was that?”

“That's the super cool signal that we flyers have,” she said and broke out into a huge smile.

I rolled my eyes and told her my next class was science.

“Me too, I think it's that one over there,” she

said and pointed to a huge building that had the word 'Science' written out in stones on the top of it.

“Wow, you must have super intelligence, too.” I said jokingly as she tried to smack my arm. I was too fast though and looped down towards the building.

The rest of the day went by very quickly. I learned a lot more in science about our genetic mutation forms and why we all have different powers. It was very interesting, and I found myself wanting to learn more about it. I also started to notice a few things that seemed a little strange.

1. I felt like my body was growing stronger, like I was holding in more powers.
2. If I thought about a power I had previously used, I was able to use it for just a second. Even if the person I absorbed the power from wasn't near me.
3. I needed to talk with Dr. H.

I told Ellie I would see her at dinner, and that I would save her a seat with us again. I was really looking forward to eating at the dinning hall. I just hoped that this time huge fireballs wouldn't be flying across the room.

Dinner was normal, well as normal as it can be at a camp full of teenagers with super powers. I don't know what was scarier... Seeing a kid accidentally cut the tip of his finger off and it

instantly growing back, or not being weirded out seeing a kid cut his finger off and it growing back.

After dinner, Ryan and I headed back to our room. He showed me around and told me the night schedule. I met our dormitory advisor, Mr. Gregory, and he seemed really nice. His power was the SP180 gene, or the power to locate someone no matter where they were. That came in very handy being that he was in charge of many students.

I couldn't help myself when I met him, and I had to try out his power. It was amazing! I thought about my mom and dad and I could see them sitting in our living room, watching the nightly news. That was probably one of my favorite powers so far.

When Ryan and I walked into our room, I finally felt how exhausted I really was. I got ready for bed and told Ryan good night. When I looked over at him, he had a really strange grin on his face.

“What's up with you?” I asked groggily and rolled over to my side.

Ryan didn't say anything for while but then quietly replied, “You'll see.”

I chuckled under my breath and tried to see a glimpse of the future, but my brain must have been too tired because before I knew it, I was in a peaceful slumber.

Chapter 8 – Glow Ball

I was in the middle of a very intense dream, when I felt something move over me. I'm sure I startled Ryan when I popped out of bed so fast that I knocked us both to the ground.

“Whoa! Easy. It's just me!” Ryan said in a hushed voice.

“What are you doing?” I asked and pushed him off of me.

“I don't know if you have seen anything lately...” He paused and looked for a sign that I knew what he was talking about.

“What?” I asked in a groggy voice, but then quickly understood that was my cue to try to see the future. He smiled again at me as I slowly closed my eyes, grumbling under my breath.

A vision of a dark forest with a lot glow sticks popped into my mind, but then quickly faded.

“Please tell me that this is not going to involve glow sticks?”

“Yes!” he said with so much excitement, it was hard not to smile myself.

“Come on! Occasionally we all meet up out in the woods on the outside of the camp to play this fun, crazy game with glow sticks and some crazy bright glow balls!

“And do they know we will be there?” I asked and raised an eyebrow at him.

“Of course. Come on it's a blast.” He walked

over to his dresser and started rummaging through his clothes.

It did sound a little fun, and I did just find out I had super powers today. I looked over at him and finally said, “Okay, you’ve got me interested.”

“Awesome!” He hollered and threw a hoodie at me.

We were out the door in no time, and were heading down our hall when I turned to him and asked, “What happens if we get caught?”

Ryan had a flash of panic cross his face and turned to look at me, “Torture, the worst kind. We have a teacher who can throw lightning bolts, and he zaps us a little so we learn our lesson.”

I must have had a horrified expression on my face because Ryan was holding his hand over his mouth trying not to laugh, “I’m just kidding.”

I gave him a little shove and rolled my eyes, “Jerk. But really, what will happen?”

“Nothing, because I’ll make sure we don’t get caught,” he said with a wink.

I guess being able to see the future is definitely a perk sometimes.

Once Ryan and I made it outside, we ran through the cool mountain air until we came upon a group of kids that were all wearing a glow stick tied around their neck.

Instantly, one of the kids spotted us and let out a moan. “Aw, come on! Who invited future boy?”

Everyone else also let out a little grunt, but

Ryan just smiled and laughed, “Come on guys, I have gotten so much better at controlling my power. I promise I won't cheat this time,” he said as he let out a loud laugh while everyone else rolled their eyes.

The boy who first spoke to us started up again, “Fine Ryan, but no funny business and that goes for the new guy. We hear he's different,” he said and raised his eyebrows over to our direction.

“I got it,” I said and nodded my head once.

“We will behave and still kick your butt,” Ryan said as he barked out a loud laugh.

The other kids started to snicker and rolled their eyes again, but then turned very serious as the kid in charge started spouting out the rules. “So remember, the first team to get their glow ball in the goalie wins. We can get rough, but no intentional fouls,” he said as he held up two round balls. One was glowing a mesmerizing bright blue, and the other was an electric, shocking red.

Another big kid next to the leader looked over at us, and I instantly recognized him from the lunch room earlier. Zander's friend. He shot me a dirty look before throwing some glow stick necklaces at us. “You two can be blue.”

I caught the necklaces and handed one over to Ryan. He had a huge grin plastered on his face, “This game is awesome man. You're going to love it.”

“Yeah well, that kid does not like me, and now we are on opposite teams,” I whispered as I

slipped on my glow stick and tried to figure out more about this game. I suddenly had a vision pop through my head. Ryan and I were running as fast as we could, and I was trying not to use my super speed. I had the bright blue ball in my hand and was running right towards the goal. The large kid that was mad at me about Zander came barreling right at me, but Ryan ran in front and blocked him for me. I looped around another guy and threw the ball in the net.

When I finally came back to reality, Ryan was staring at me. I shrugged my shoulders, but couldn't help the smile that spread across my lips. He winked once at me and nodded right as the whistle blew.

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To say this game was intense would be an understatement. I had never had this much fun, while also fearing for my life.

“Alex, over here!” Ryan yelled and motioned for me to follow him.

Having the glow sticks on was really helpful. We could see our opponents and our teammates weaving in and out of the trees. We started hearing a lot of voices and noticed a bright blue glow heading our way.

“They have the ball! Get ready,” he yelled and I followed him as best as I could.

“We just have to get one goal, and then we win?” I shouted.

“Yeah, whoever gets their glow ball in their own net first, wins,” he screamed and pointed towards a group of people running and grabbing at each other.

I had played a few games in my day. Soccer, football, basketball, but I had never played anything with two balls used. So, I had to ask, “Why two balls?”

“It makes it more interesting, not only do we have to get the blue ball, but we also have to keep the red ball out of their goal. It's intense!” He laughed and we were right on the heels of the other kids.

All of a sudden, a large steal ball crashed into me and sent me sailing through the air. I landed on the ground with a large thud. I looked up and saw the angry kid from before staring down at me, but he took off before I was able to get up. I wondered if his power was being made out of metal.

“Hector really is mad at you,” Ryan said as he ran over and helped me up.

“No kidding, he's big,” I said and rubbed my side a little.

When I finally got myself back up, we saw some red lights flickering off into the distance. Ryan smiled at me and pointed towards the lights.

“Let's go get them!” he shouted and took off.

We ran as fast as we could and noticed the red team was getting close to their goal. Ryan motioned for me to run around the other side, and I instantly knew what his plan was. Maybe it was

our brains being in sync with each other, but I just understood him.

I ran back around the group and ended up on the other side of them. I could see the red glow right in the center of the cluster of students. Ryan finally made it, and a few of them started to shout that Ryan was on their heels, but they never saw me.

I easily caught up to them - I may have used my super speed just a touch - and barreled through, grabbing the red ball. It was hard to hold on to because it was so squishy.

Ryan hollered at me, and I took off back towards him. Some other blue guys were right behind me, so I passed the ball back to them. They took off in the trees with the red team on their tail.

I stopped and waited for Ryan. For some reason I wasn't an ounce out of breath, but Ryan couldn't say the same thing.

"Man, I would kill for your power right now," he said in a breathless voice.

I laughed and slapped his back, "Oh come on, we still have to find our ball!"

Right as he stood back up, we heard some commotion coming our way.

"I think it's ours!" I yelled and started running over to the mob of blue and red.

Right when I was about to get to the boy that was holding the ball, he suddenly disappeared and then reappeared on the other side of the tree.

"Raz, you can't use your powers!" Someone

yelled, and the boy shouted back a quick 'sorry.'

“We try to not use our powers for this game, but it's hard to control sometimes. It's good practice for when we are able to go home,” Ryan said and started to run after Raz again.

I really wanted to try that disappearing power, but I figured this wasn't the time.

I was hot on Raz's tail, and was moving to the side of him and Ryan. Ryan ran to his other side and hit the ball out of his arms, so it came flying right towards me. I caught it easily, and started thanking my dad for making me go to football camp every summer.

Raz yelped and tripped over a small rock, which sent him into a crazy looking summersault. I looked back and saw him getting up quickly and charging our way.

I picked up my pace and I saw our goal coming into view. There was a bright blue glow on either side of the metal bars, and I realized this was the vision I had seen earlier. Since I new Zander's friend, Hector, would be coming at me soon, I looked over to my right and saw him barreling towards me. He was inhumanly big for a thirteen year old.

I knew Ryan would be running towards him, so I turned and headed straight for the goal. Right when I thought my vision was going to fail me, Ryan came through and blocked Hector from creaming me. I threw the bright blue ball into the goal, and heard loud cheers erupt throughout the

forest.

I did not, however, see what happened in my vision after I made the winning goal, and was not expecting a steel wall to come charging into me. My breath was instantly knocked out of my lungs as I face planted the hard ground, again.

I heard a low voice whisper in my ear that this wasn't over, and then he stomped off in the other direction.

“Whoa, Alex! Are you okay?” I looked up expecting to see Ryan, but instead Trey, the time traveler, was looking back at me.

I tried to reply, but all I got was more sand and pebbles in my mouth. I slowly turned my head and heard a small gasp.

“Is it bad?” I asked and spit some dirt out of my mouth.

Ryan was standing next to Trey and just shook his head, and helped me stand up. A few other kids ran over and gave me a high five, and slapped my back. When they saw my face, they just looked at me with wide eyes, and a cringing face.

“My face hurts,” I grumbled and Ryan let out a little laugh.

“Sorry, I'm not trying to laugh, but you'll see why it hurts in a minute.”

Just then Ryan's expression turned more serious, “We have fifteen minutes!” he yelled and everyone stopped and looked over at us.

“I'll catch you guys later, and great goal

Alex,” Trey yelled and ran off back into the woods.

The boy who was in charge earlier yelled out, “Everyone, move it!”

Every kid that was in the woods was out of sight before I could even blink.

“Come on, let's go,” Ryan said as he grabbed my arm.

He was getting really good at his power, I couldn't wait until I had time to practice all of mine. I had no idea what I was really capable of.

Chapter 9 – Getting Stronger

We made it back safely to our room, and thankfully never got caught. When I finally was able to look at my face in the mirror, I understood why everyone made a weird, twisted face when they looked at me.

It looked like I had gotten in a fight with a ferocious kitten, and it clawed my face up to shreds. I had a cut on my forehead, and five scrapes down my right cheek.

Ryan told me to tell the teachers that I had a hard night and came outside to get some fresh air. On my way back inside, I tripped and fell over some rocks. He said that everyone would believe me, and wouldn't question it anymore.

When Ryan and I walked through the doors at the dining hall, I recited my practiced 'story,' and to my surprise it really did work. Kai was the only one who didn't believe a word I had said, “Whatever, man, I know you guys went out and played Glow Ball without me,” he said in huff and it made me feel really guilty.

“Come on, you know why they didn't ask you Kai. If they asked you, then you would have told me. I knew they were trying to keep me out, but I found a way back in. I am doing so much better from now on about controlling my power,” Ryan finished and mouthed 'oh yeah' over to the twins. They rolled their eyes at us and mentioned

something about how silly that game is, while creating a quite spectacular thunderstorm in their water glass.

Ryan also informed Kai that he would be invited to the next one, and would be on the winning team. Kai grinned at us and then devoured another huge pancake on his plate.

When Ryan and I were walking out of the dining hall, he stopped a boy passing us and introduced me to him. “Alex, this is Fredrick. Fredrick, this is the new kid, Alex. Fredrick is one of the guys I showed you yesterday at the practice hall.”

I looked up at Fredrick and instantly remembered him. How can you ever forget watching someone cut their arm, and then it magically healing right in front of your eyes?

“Hey, Alex. How was your first day?” he asked and seemed interested in what I had to say.

“Good. Crazy, but good.” I smiled and looked back to Ryan.

Ryan motioned back to Fredrick and said, “So, Fredrick here is a regenerator.” A lightbulb turned on in my brain and I finally understood where he was going with this.

I could feel Fredrick's energy radiating off of him. “Cool, that seems like an intense power.”

“It is. I mean I guess it can be. What is your power?” he asked and looked straight at me.

“That's a funny story. See I have something different and they don't have a code for it,” I

smiled and started to feel a little embarrassed.

“Alex can absorb powers,” Ryan said matter-of-factly and Fredrick's eyes started to get wider.

“No way! I thought I heard someone talking about that, but I thought they were just making stuff up.”

I laughed and looked over to Ryan again. He nodded his head towards Fredrick and obviously wanted me to try his power, “Hey, do you mind if I try your power out,” I asked and pointed to all the cuts on my face.

Fredrick looked at me for a moment, and then back over to Ryan. I thought maybe I offended him until he said, “Sure, why not.”

I let out a little breath and slowly closed my eyes. I started to feel Fredrick's energy run through my body. I thought about my cuts and bruises healing, and when I heard them gasp, I knew it had worked.

“Cool...” Ryan said quietly and just stared at my face.

“Did it work?” I asked and looked back over at Fredrick.

“Yeah, man. It did. That's sick. You should come and hang out with my friends and me during practice sometime. It would be cool to have another healer around,” he said and gave me another smile before heading into the dining hall.

“That is one crazy power, just be careful with that one. It's probably one of the top powers to get you in trouble,” Ryan said with a very serious look

on his face.

I nodded and told him I needed to see Dr. Henry before we went to the Great Hall to practice. He said he would just meet up with me there, because he forgot something in our room.

“I can't believe you could forget anything,” I said and let out a small laugh.

He rolled his eyes at me and took off back towards our dorm room.

When I went to see Dr. Henry, I made sure to tell him that my body was feeling very different, and it almost seemed like I was holding onto powers longer.

“Let me get this straight, you are now able to fly without Ellie being in your presence? Was there another flyer around you at that moment?” he asked and jotted a few things down on his notepad.

“No, It was just me. It was last night when I got to the dorms. I just thought about it and my feet lifted off of the ground.”

“That's very interesting,” he mumbled and continued to write.

“I think it's because the more I am around a power, the stronger it becomes inside of me.”

Dr. Henry, or Jake as he always reminded me to call him, looked up and shook his head yes at me. “Do you mind if we try a few out?” he asked as he stood up to set his notepad and pencil down.

“Sure.”

“Okay, what's a power that you have never tried, but you have seen another kid use?”

I closed my eyes and thought for a minute about his question, and it came to me quickly, “I have never tried to be invisible.”

Jake's eyes lit up and he quickly stood-up to walk over to me. “I think that would be a great one to try out.”

I nodded my head, and closed my eyes. I focused on that power, and imagined myself become translucent. When I opened my eyes back up, Jake's mouth was in an 'O' shape, and he was staring right at me, “It didn't work?” I asked but that made his eyes go wider.

“No, it definitely worked. I am just amazed by your power. We will both have to get used to it,” he said and started looking around the room.

“How can you still hear me?”

“That's just how this power works,” he smiled and asked if I could come back.

I thought about me being able to be seen again, and I popped right back to where I was.

“Alex, I believe you are now able to use a power, even if it isn't around you.”

“That's what I was thinking, I'm just glad I wasn't going crazy.”

“Nope, not crazy. Why don't you go practice again for a while, and we will meet up again later?” I smiled at Jake and nodded my head. I didn't know what that now meant for me, being able to use all powers. I wondered if my body would be able to handle all of them inside of it, and I knew there was only one way to find out.

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When I looked over the railing into the practice room, I started to concentrate on my body and how I was feeling. I didn't really feel that different, but I had a fun idea that I wanted to try. I wondered if I was able to detect what other's had for a power?

The first person I saw was Trey sitting at a table with another boy, and they were flipping a quarter back and forth to each other. I figured he probably controlled time as well, but when I really started to think about it, I had an image of him communicating with me through our minds.

'He's a telepathic like Jane,' I thought to myself. No way, I think I just figured out I can find out someone's power, without knowing it. Now, I just had to test it.

I kept staring at the boy next to Trey and started saying things in my mind that might get his attention like, *"Hey, you sitting with Trey. Can you hear me?"* and, *"You, down there... Are you telepathic?"* He was either A. Not telepathic, or B. He was tuning me out. I decided to try it one more time, and then if it didn't worked I would move on, *'OH MY GOSH! There's a huge fireball heading towards you!'*

That got his attention really fast and he looked up to where I was standing. *"Hey, over here. Can you hear me?"* I said and waved my hands a little.

He looked at me and then back to Trey. Trey must have told him something about me, because he slowly turned back to me, “*Yeah, I can hear you. What did you say?*”

“*Nothing. Well, I did shout out something about a fireball, but I was just trying to get your attention.*” He nodded his head and motioned me to come down to their table.

When I walked up to their table, the boy sitting with Trey motioned for me to come and sit across from him. “Hey, you're Alex right?”

“I am. You are?” I looked at his face and tried to think if I had seen him before. He looked a little familiar.

“I'm Ben. I'm good friends with Raz and Trey.” The boy said and put his hand out towards me.

My eyebrows shot up. “Raz, from the glow ball game last night. He's cool,” I gave him small smile and shook his hand.

Trey smiled back and asked how I was doing. I told him that I was okay, but that I felt like I had just learned that I was now able to detect what powers people have. That I was able to see that Ben was able to read minds.

“No way! That's amazing. There isn't even a power like that. At least I don't think there is.” Trey said with a shocked look on his face. “I think we should try it out. Right?” he looked back and forth between Ben and me.

Ben nodded his head yes and said of course

we should.

I really wanted to try some other powers I was now able to use, but I figured this was pretty cool, too. “Okay, let's do this. Point someone out that I don't know, and I will try to guess their power.”

Trey and Ben started to look around the room. Ben would point someone out and Trey would shake his head no, and would tell him it was too easy or that I already knew their power. Finally, Trey's eyes lit up when he saw a girl standing in the corner on the other side of the room.

Ben nodded in approval and pointed over to her, “That girl over there. With the dark hair and darker skin.”

I stared at her and concentrated on what she was thinking. Unfortunately, she wasn't thinking of a super power. She was thinking about lunch. I laughed a little under my breath and closed my eyes again. I tried to picture her practicing her super power this time. All of a sudden, I saw her in her room and she walked straight through her wall into another room. I opened my eyes quickly and let out a loud breath. “She is able to walk through walls.”

Ben slapped his leg and let out a loud holler. “No way! Yeah, dude. You're right.”

“Nice,” Trey said and then pointed over to another group of guys. “Do you know what they can do?”

“No, but let me see if I can tell.” I focused on

them for a few seconds and then closed my eyes. I saw all of them in a group together, and in an instant they were jumping in the lake just outside of this building. When they didn't come up for air, I knew that their power was to breath under water.

Trey was looking at me when I opened my eyes, "Did you see it?" He asked and looked back over to Ben.

"They can breath under water," I said with a grin and they both smiled back and nodded their heads.

"You are something else, man." Ben said and stood up. "I need to head over to History, but I'll catch you guys later." He gave us a small wave and headed out the front doors.

I sat and talked with Trey a little while longer while trying my new trick. He told me a little more about the camp, and even shared some stories about Zander and his crew. Apparently, if you can create fire or have super strength, it comes with a rough personality.

I asked what people did in the real world with their super powers, and he explained what he had learned here at the camp. People usually choose professions that match their power like: Intelligence would equal a doctor or scientist, creating fire would be a fire fighter, hearing thoughts would be a detective or interrogator, and breathing under water would be a rescue worker of some sort.

I thought about this, and it started to make

sense. We sat and chatted for a little while longer, but then I thanked him for helping me out, and walked up to the top of the practice room. I knew I had so much more to learn, and I wondered if I would be able to do any other type of power. I didn't know how, but it felt like my body was getting stronger by the minute.

My goal was to practice everyday and to become so good with my power(s), that no one would ever guess that I had any to begin with.

Chapter 10 – Not A Dance

The next month flew by, and I was getting really good at using my powers. I continued to talk to Dr. Henry about my body being able to handle multiple powers and guessing other's powers, but I was practicing and getting good at controlling all of them.

I was also starting to get used to seeing very abnormal things on a daily basis like kids flying around in the air, and the shy girl in my math class disappearing when the teacher would call on her. It was almost strange how normal these powers seemed now.

One day when Ellie and I were walking to the 'practice room,' she stopped at a poster that was hanging on the wall. Apparently, there was a school Halloween Dance.

As Ellie started to read the poster, her face lit up. I knew I shouldn't read her thoughts, but I really wanted to know what she was thinking.

I really want to go to that dance! It looks like so much fun. I wonder if the crew would want to go? And a chance to go into town, awesome!

Great, a dance and Ellie wanted to go. The only good part about it would be if one of us won, and we could go into town for a night out. That would be amazing.

“You want to go?” I asked and pointed

towards the poster.

“Hey, are you reading my thoughts?” she said and playfully shoved my shoulder.

“Sorry. I know I told you I would try to not use that power around you, but I was too interested.”

She shrugged her shoulders and looked over at me, “It would be fun. We could all dress up as a group and maybe we would win the costume contest,” she said as she clapped her hands together.

I shook my head and laughed, “I guess we could see what everyone else thought?”

“Yes, there you go, now you’re getting there.” I rolled my eyes as we walked into the huge practice room. Ellie was getting really amazing at her flying ability, and you would never know in a millions years that she even had a super power. She told me the hardest part was going to be when she needed to be somewhere fast, and she wouldn't be able to fly. I understood that, and definitely agreed with her.

When we walked in, some guys I was having fun getting to know greeted us. They were the ones who could regenerate after they were injured. That came in handy, especially when I started playing with the 'creating fire' power.

I was also getting to know Ryan's friend, Nikki. She was the other one here at the camp that could see the future. She had been having a hard time controlling her future power, but was really

getting the hang of it lately.

Ellie told me she would catch up with me later since she was going on an outing with her other flying friends. I spotted Ryan and walked over to tell him the great news; we may have to go to this Halloween dance.

“Hey, Ryan. What's up?” I asked as I fist bumped him.

“Not much. Nikki and I are just practicing on how to control her power a little bit more,” he said as Nikki looked up and smiled at me.

Just as Nikki was saying hi, Kai zoomed up to us, which made Nikki's hair fly up around her head.

“Hey guys,” Kai said and stopped right in front of us.

“Ugh, Kai! You messed my hair up,” Nikki said while raking her hand through her now messy hair.

“You would think you should have known that was going to happen,” Kai said, which made Ryan and I laugh.

“Whatever,” she said and laughed a little at his joke.

“Hey, Alex. I need to tell you something,” Kai said and started to look a little nervous.

“Uh oh, this can't be good.” Kai laughed a little, but then shook his head, “It's not too bad, but I heard Hector talking with a few guys on how different your power is, and that they shouldn't let someone like you just roam the streets.”

“Hector said that? I thought he was over his rant against me after the incident with Glow Ball,”

“I thought so, too. I just wanted to give you a heads up. Looks like he isn't over it yet,” he said as he slapped my arm.

“Thanks, I appreciate that. Oh, and I have some news to tell you guys,” I said and must have made a weird face because all of their eyebrows shot up.

“Uh oh, now I'm nervous,” Ryan said with a little laugh, but then looked right back at me with a worried expression.

“It's not bad. Not bad like someone teleported you into the girl's bathroom, but bad because it involves dancing.”

Kai let out a little groan, and put his hand over his face.

Ryan and Nikki just smiled, “Ellie wants to go to the dance, it looks like it's going to be fun,” Nikki said as Ryan nodded his head yes.

I rolled my eyes, but then thought I might as well see if they were telling the truth. A quick flash of all of us at a dance, dressed up, and having a great time came into my mind. I looked back up at my friends and said, “It does look kind of fun.”

Kai rolled his eyes, “You guys are really annoying to hang out with, you know that?”

“I would love to be part of your group for the dance, but I already told Trey and a few other people we would go together as the Minions from Despicable Me,” Nikki said quickly and waved

goodbye to us.

“Good one! Dang that's going to be hard to beat,” Kai said, but then looked back at Ryan and smiled, “But I'm not worried, I have you guys. Heck, I bet you already know what we are going to be.”

Ryan started to answer him, but Jessica and Jamie walked up squealing and clapping their hands. “We just heard the great news!” Jessica squealed and Jamie started to jump up and down.

“Now what?” Kai said and looked back and forth between the girls.

“The Halloween dance!” They both yelled at the same time.

Kai rolled his eyes again, and put his hand over his face. “We just decided on going, how have you already heard?”

“Ellie told us, I guess she figured you all would want to go,” Jamie said and Jessica giggled next to her. Jamie looked over at Ryan, “So what are we going as?”

Ryan and I looked at each other and started laughing, “Oh, it's good.”

“Come on! Tell us.” They shrieked together and looked like they wanted to smack us for holding out on them.

I couldn't help but think how funny this was, so I figured making them wait another minute wouldn't hurt. Ryan looked over at me and shot me a quick wink.

“Super Mario Brothers?” Jessica asked.

Jamie looked over at me and asked, “Shrek?” I shook my head no, and put my hand over to mouth.

Then they both looked at each other and shrieked, “Frozen!”

“No. Please say no. Not Frozen. I am not going to be that little snowman!” Kai hollered and put both hands over his face.

Ryan and I started laughing so hard that I had to wipe some moisture from my eyes, “No, don't worry Kai. We aren't going as the Frozen cast.”

“Well, what is it then?” Jamie and Jessica said at the same time.

Ryan was still chuckling when he said, “Okay, I'll give you one hint. It doesn't involve a movie.”

“A ham sandwich?” Kai said with his eyebrow arched.

We all bursted out laughing this time, and no one could speak for a good 30 seconds.

“What's so funny?” Ellie asked as she walked up on all of us holding our stomachs and laughing so hard you couldn't hear us.

I looked over at her and gained some composure, “Kai is trying to guess what we are going as to the dance.”

“Yes! So we are going? I knew it! Now I want to know,” She said and clapped her hands together.

Ryan looked over at Kai and said, “It was your idea, what we are going to be.”

“Really? Hmm, well what I think would be cool is if we all picked a character we liked from a super hero book. I could totally be Flash!”

“I like that,” Jessica said and smiled over at Jamie.

Jamie nodded her head and said, “Me too!”

“Isn't that too obvious though? Everyone is probably going to dress up like a super hero.” Ellie said and looked around at all of us.

“Well, yes but they will think the same thing. We are going to be the only ones dressed up as super heroes,” Ryan said and walked over to stand next to her.

“Well in that case, I really want to be Wonder Woman!” she said and jumped up and down.

“Can we be Storm?” Jessica and Jamie squealed at the exact same time.

“I hate to burst your bubble guys, but we aren't going to be any particular super hero. We just all wear different color jumpsuits with a cape and a mask. We look cool, and we have a blast!” Ryan told everyone and I nodded my head to agree with him.

“That does sound awesome!” Kai said and gave Ryan a high five. “I'm blue,” Kai said quickly.

“You are. I'm green and Alex is going to be red.”

“We can be yellow like Storm, right?” Jessica looked over at Jamie and she had a huge grin plastered across her face.

Ellie gave Jessica a high five, but then looked over at me, “Wait, do we win with our costumes?”

“I don't know, I haven't seen that yet. Have you Ryan?”

Ryan shook his head no, “I haven't, but I don't always see everything that happens. I may see it right before, or I may never see it at all. My power works in strange and mysterious ways.”

I saw one more quick flash of all of us in our superhero costumes, laughing and having a great time at the dance. Little did I know that there was a huge reason we couldn't see if we won the costume contest or not.

**

As I was walking over to Ellie's dorm to grab her and the twins, I noticed something dark was flying above me in the sky. Now, before I came to Camp Powers, I would have probably freaked out a little more and ran for cover. However, now that I have lived here, I wouldn't have even given this object a second glance. But, it was following me and was starting to get closer to me every step I took.

When I felt like the object, or person, was right behind me I turned around quickly and yelled very loud, “HEEEYY!”

Ellie shrieked and almost fell to the ground. She landed safely and grabbed her chest, “Jeez, Alex!”

“Sorry,” I said quickly and covered my mouth

so she couldn't see me laughing.

“Yeah right, then why are you laughing?”

I laughed a little more, but then noticed her super hero costume with hot pink details, “That looks awesome!” I said as she flew up and did a little flip in the air. Her long auburn hair was pulled up into a tight pony tail, and it flipped around her neck. I shot up and joined her.

“I know, right! I love it, I mean I think we should wear these costumes everyday.” She did another flip and her cape flipped up as well. She wrestled with her hair and made sure it was back in place.

“I do think they are tight, but we need to get Jessica and Jamie, or we are going to be late,” I smiled and pointed towards their dormitory.

The girls' dorm was just down the sidewalk from ours. I don't know why, but it seemed like they may have gotten a little nicer facility. Ellie told me theirs was updated recently, and that's probably why it seems so much nicer.

We flew over to the door and the girls were waiting right there for us. They looked good in their black and yellow super hero costumes.

“Hey guys, come down here and walk with us,” Jamie yelled and motioned for us to land.

“Are we meeting Ryan and Kai at the dance?” Jessica asked as she adjusted her black mask over her emerald green eyes.

I nodded my head, “Yeah, they were finishing getting ready so we just decided to meet outside of

the gym. I guess the decorations turned out good. Nice call on going to this Ellie.”

“I knew you'd have fun, and you're welcome.” I rolled my eyes when she lifted her eyebrows at me.

We started heading towards the gym, but the sidewalk was starting to get a little icy. It was already getting cool at nights here in the mountains. Ellie about fell when we hit a big patch of black ice. “Ugh, I am not going to like going back to just walking everywhere,” she grumbled and put her arms out to balance her.

“You forgot you are with some talented girls that can control not only the weather, but the temperature, too,” Jessica said with a huge smile plastered across her face. She held out her hands and faced them towards the sidewalk ahead of us. Soon a soft heat radiated from her palms and started to defrost the sidewalk right in front of us.

“I love your power,” Ellie whispered as she happily walked along the new dry path.

“Yeah, we like yours, too,” Jamie said and they all three giggled. I just rolled my eyes and couldn't wait to have Ryan and Kai with us.

When we finally arrived to the dance, Ryan and Kai were sitting on a rock right outside of the huge gymnasium. I could feel the vibration of the music through the ground and I was excited for tonight.

“Finally. I thought we were the ones who were going to be late,” Kai said and shot over to

me before I could even blink my eyes.

“I think the costume makes you faster,” I said with a laugh and Kai mouthed 'oh yeah' back to me. I started laughing harder and noticed the girls were already walking inside.

I was in awe once we entered our gymnasium because I had never seen a dance like this in real life. There were streamers and glowing disco balls dangling all around the ceiling. I saw a photo booth in the corner and noticed that the girls lit up once they spotted it, too. Great. Not only a dance, but pictures too.

I noticed Nikki and her friends by the food table. She gave us a little wave when she saw me looking over her way. Their Minion outfits were hilarious. Just as I was about to point her out to Ryan, a large hand slapped me hard on the back. “Real original, wonder boy,” I low voice grumbled into my ear. I turned around and knew I would be looking at Hector, Zander's friend.

“And what exactly are you guys?” Kai asked and lifted his eyebrow over at Hector and his two friends, who were not thinking very nice things about us.

“We're the government,” one of the guys said that was with Hector.

They were dressed in complete black, with the matching sunglasses I had seen the guys from Washington D.C. wear. Hector even had a fake gold tooth. Something just didn't seem right, but I couldn't put my finger on it.

Ryan shot me a nervous look, but I just brushed it off and chalked it up to being nervous about how Hector thought I didn't belong out in society.

“You guys are creepy. Let's go dance!” Jessica said and pulled Jamie and Ellie out to the dance floor with her.

I laughed a little under my breath, and Hector and his friends just grunted and headed over to the drinks.

I suddenly had the flash of Kai and I running through the woods again, but this time I noticed we were wearing something different. I tried to focus on what it was, but I was too scared and running as fast as I could. I was screaming for Kai to hurry, but at the last minute he fell and I wasn't able to get to him in time.

I opened my eyes and caught Ryan staring at me, “What is it?” he asked and grabbed onto my shoulder.

“Nothing, I just keep seeing the scene of Kai and I running through the woods. Except, this time I think we were wearing our costumes.” I looked over at Ryan and his face was white. “What is it?”

“Alex, I haven't seen anything. Not one thing all afternoon. I keep trying to see if we win, but I can't. It's just black.”

I shook my head and asked if that was normal.

“No, it's not. I see glimpses all the time,

especially when I really focus on a specific time or event. But now, it's just dark. It's almost like someone is blocking me.”

Kai's eyebrows shot up and he looked between Ryan and I, “Maybe a student here is trying out their power. I bet it's Rob. He's getting really good at his mind control abilities. He probably just doesn't want you and Nikki cheating.”

Ryan nodded and we both relaxed a little bit. He mentioned he wanted to see if Nikki was having the same thing happen to her.

I looked out and saw the girls laughing and dancing around each other. The twins were blowing snow flakes around, which was making Ellie giggle and she was trying to catch them with her tongue.

Ellie caught me staring and started motioning us to come over. I peeked behind my shoulder at Kai and he quickly shook his head no, but Ryan took off and joined the dancing trio right away.

“Traitor,” Kai mumbled which made me snicker a little under my breath.

I looked back over and saw Ryan starting to do the ‘sprinkler’ dance move and Kai and I both busted up laughing, “He is not doing that,” Kai said in between breaths.

Ellie looked back over to me and pretended to cast a fishing line over to me. She started reeling me in and threw back her head laughing. She looked hilarious in her pink and black super hero

costume, which made me hold my hand over my mouth to stop my own laughter.

I started to squirm and make my body wiggle like a fish out of water, and headed straight towards them. Kai called out for me not to give in, but I was actually having a lot of fun.

When I joined my goofy friends, Ryan started to pretend he was starting a lawn mower and then started to 'mow' around the four of us. I rolled my eyes and looked over at him, "Tell me these are not your only dance moves?"

"Paleeze, are you kidding me? I'm just getting started!" he hollered and started to do the 'salt and pepper shaker' dance.

The girls were copying him and before I knew it I was doing the 'running man,' and was having such a great time that I totally forgot about Kai. I looked over to where he was standing, but he was gone.

"Hey, did you guys see where Kai went off to?" I asked, and everyone shook their head no.

Ryan leaned over to me and yelled in my ear, "Maybe he went to get something to drink. I don't think dancing is his thing."

I nodded my head, but I just couldn't shake the awful feelings that was brewing in my stomach. I closed my eyes and decided to use my tracker power. I focused on Kai and in an instant a photograph of him being shoved into a black car popped into my brain. I quickly opened my eyes and made a loud gasping sound. I must have

startled everyone because all eyes were on me.

“What? What is it?” Ryan asked and shook my shoulders a little.

“It's Kai. He's in trouble.”

Ryan just stood there, staring at me. He was probably waiting for me to say something, but I was in shock and didn't know what to do.

“What do you mean, he's in trouble?” Ryan finally said, and turned me so I was facing him.

I blinked my eyes and looked at his face, “I don't know, I just saw this image of him being thrown into the back of a black car.”

“Now? Or in the future?”

Jessica and Jamie started to look around the room, probably to see if they could spot him.

“No, now. I used my tracker power.”

We didn't waste anytime and all took off running. When we almost reached the door handle, an announcement over the intercom stopped us in our tracks. “Okay everyone, it's the moment you have all been waiting for. We are ready to announce the winners of the costume contest. Remember, the winner or winners will be treated to a night out on the town, and includes: A movie, dinner, and an unlimited gift card to the local arcade!”

“We don't have time for this, we need to go now,” I harshly whispered into Ryan's ear.

He looked to the doors and then back at me and moved his head in the same direction. I peeked over and noticed that one of Hector's

'bodyguards' had walked over to us and had positioned himself right in front of the door. It looked like he wouldn't be moving anytime soon.

The girls all looked over at me with a panicked look, but there wasn't much we could do. Maybe the hulk sized boy at the door would move when the winners were called.

I suddenly had a flash of us on stage, looking out at the cheering crowd.

“And the winner is..., The Super Crew!”

Ryan, Ellie, Jessica, and Jamie all looked over at me. I took a deep breath and started to head up to the stage. They quickly followed me, and Jane greeted us and shot us a huge smile. She handed us a trophy and congratulated us on our costumes. Ryan grabbed the trophy and forced a smile towards the screaming students, and we all waved and were motioned to follow Jane to the back of the stage.

“Congrats you guys,” she said as she pointed to the back area right by an Exit Door.

Something didn't feel right. I didn't know what, or how, but I knew we were in danger and I knew it was going to get worse soon. I looked over at Ryan and nodded to the Exit.

He looked at me and whispered, “Go.”

Just as we were about to make a break for it, Hector and his two huge friends came over and pushed something into our arms. The last thing I remember seeing before everything went black, was Jane smiling at us and waving goodbye.

Chapter 11 – The Bad Guys

You know that moment when you are dreaming and you know it's a dream, but you are trying your hardest to wake up? Yeah, that's what I was doing when my head started to finally clear and my body started to wake up. I could hear mumbling and strange noises when I finally started to come to.

I didn't want to open my eyes quite yet, because I was nervous about what I was going to see. I was trying to focus on the voices around me and to see if I could find out exactly what had happened to us. I gave in and peeked a little. When my eyes finally adjusted, I noticed we were in the back of a large utility type van. Hector and his two friends were sitting in the back with us, and a very large guy was driving with two others in the front. They were talking in very hushed voices.

I could barely make out what they were saying, so I really tried to concentrate. The only thing I picked up was a soft mumbling, “I don't know why he wants all of them. Ryan and the twin girls I can see, but Kai and Ellie have such normal powers.”

Did I hear them right? Someone wants us? Who could they be talking about? They only thing

that popped in my head was the government guys, but I hadn't seen them since Zander was taken away over a month ago. I tried to use my future power, but I wasn't able to see anything. I wondered if they had some sort of mind block on us as well. That would explain why Ryan wasn't able to use his power this afternoon.

I tried to use my mind control power, but it seemed to also not be working. I looked over and noticed that Ryan was starting to squirm and his legs started twitching. Our arms and legs were bound so it was impossible to move too much. He was making so much noise that I was afraid the guys up front would hear us.

"Ryan," I whispered as he finally opened his eyes and tried to focus on me. It was very hard to see in the dingy van.

Ryan went to say something but just as he was about to speak, some lights came on in the van. We both squinted our eyes and tried to make out who the guys were in the front.

The rather large man who was driving put the van in park and turned around to look at us. "Glad you could finally join us." He said in a raspy voice and turned back around.

The twins started to move around. When they opened their eyes they instantly tried to use their power to get out of the van, but of course it didn't work.

"I think they injected us in the arm with some kind of serum that makes us not able to use our

powers,” I said as I started to rub my head. It was feeling really fuzzy and strange.

I reached over and nudged Ellie on her thigh, but she was still completely passed out.

Ryan looked over at me with a very concerned look, “I hope she's okay. She's so small, I hope whatever they stuck in our arm doesn't hurt her.”

I moved her again one last time, and she finally started to squirm and move her feet around. We all let out a little breath just as the van door flew open and two guys reached into grab us.

“Come on, he is waiting for you,” one of the large guys grumbled and pulled Ryan and I both out of the car. He was so big that he could easily handle the two of us.

I turned to look at him and asked, “Who is he and where are we?”

“Enough talking, just come with me.”

I tried to look around, but all I could see was a huge building that we were walking towards. We were entering through what seemed like a back door. The girls were right behind us, and I could just barely make out what looked like the sun rising. How long had we been knocked out?

“Take them to room three. He is waiting for them in there,” the large man in charge said in a low voice. We unwillingly followed these creepy body guards, along with Hector and his two friends. Hector didn't say a word, or even look in our direction.

Just then I remembered Jane waiving to us as we blacked out at the dance. What exactly was going on here? I tried to think back and remember what Ryan had told me about the government, and the people they would take who misused their powers.

I looked over and whispered to Ryan, “I think Jane is in on this...” but before I was able to get anymore out, the big guy elbowed me and told me to be quiet.

We continued to walk down a long dimly lit hall, and finally stopped in front of a door with a huge number three on it. I looked over my shoulder and saw the girls with some seriously scared expressions on their faces. I turned back as the door was being opened. It was dark inside, so I wasn't able to make out anything.

The big guy shoved me in and said, “Just you,” and quickly closed the door behind me. I could hear protests and screaming coming from my friends, but they weren't able to do anything. The twins tried to use their powers, but it was pointless. I fell on my knees, and put my hands over my face. All of a sudden a little shiver went through my body, and I was starting to feel a little more normal. I was hoping that serum was wearing off. Just as my eyes were starting to focus, a very bright light switched on. I closed my eyes and rubbed them for a second, reopened them, and then stood back up on my feet.

I saw a chair sitting in the middle of the room,

and that was it. The room was a dark gray color, and it was very sterile with nothing but that little silver chair positioned right in the middle. Where was I? Suddenly, a voice boomed over an intercom, “Alex, have a seat.”

I looked over to a wall that was covered with a huge mirror. I had seen a few detective shows, so I could only guess the person who belonged to the voice was on the other side of that wall. I shook my head at myself in the mirror and said, “Nope.”

The voice laughed a little but then got sterner, “Sit, or you won't like the outcome.”

Thinking of my friends, I quickly moved over and sat on the cold, hard chair.

“That's better,” the loud voice said over the intercom.

“Who are you, and where am I?” I asked quickly and started to fidget a little in the chair. The voice didn't answer and I sat in a very uncomfortable silence. I tried to use my telepathic power, but still wasn't able to hear anything.

“Your powers won't work, Alex.”

I was starting to get angry, and I couldn't help myself when I stood up and yelled, “Oh yeah, well if you're such a tough guy come out here and talk to me face to face!”

I heard whoever was on the other side start to chuckle, and that only made me more infuriated. I was about to say something else when the door started to squeak open. I slowly turned around and

saw a tall, older man with thick silver hair standing at the door.

“It's nice to finally meet you, Alex. I have been waiting thirteen years for this day.”

I focused on the man walking through the room, and I had a very eerie feeling that I knew him. He looked very familiar. I tried to think back if maybe he was ever at Camp Powers, but I couldn't remember seeing him there.

“Who are you?” I asked as he walked around and set a chair down that he was holding.

“That will come in time. How are you feeling right now?”

I didn't say anything. I just stared back at him. I didn't know why, but I just had this feeling we were connected somehow.

He stood back up and started to walk around my chair, “You know, the reason you can't use your powers is because I had you injected with a special serum that prohibits them. Can you feel it?”

“Yes,” I answered quickly and gritted my teeth.

“Good. So let's begin our conversation. One that I have been waiting to have for over a decade.”

I rolled my eyes and ended up getting a small slap on the back of my head. “Don't start getting an attitude, it won't help,” he said with a hint of annoyance in his voice. But he continued on. “Tell me exactly what you have learned about your powers.”

I didn't like that he was telling me what to do, and I definitely didn't want to tell this man anything about my powers. So, I didn't say anything. I just bit down on my tongue and focused on a small spot in the corner of the room.

“It's going to be like this? I was told you were stubborn, which I can admire, but not now. Not with this. Hmm, what am I going to do with you then? Maybe I will just have to set a little fire under you, so to speak.” He walked around me so he was standing in front of me, about six feet away.

I shrugged my shoulders and looked back over to my spot. I knew the more I told this guy, the worse it would be. He laughed a little and continued to stare right at me, “Maybe I should have my guys pay a little visit to your friend Kai.”

My eyes shot up and I almost started to protest, but I shook my head and kept my mouth shut. At least I knew Kai was here as well, I just hoped he was bluffing about doing anything to him.

“No, not Kai then. How about Ryan?” When I didn't say anything he continued on, “Jessica? Jamie?” Nothing. He was not getting a rise out of me. “Okay, Ellie it is.”

For some reason, that hit me like a ton of bricks. There was no way that I was going to let these monsters touch a hair on Ellie's head. She was too sweet and too innocent. She was probably only here because of me and my darn unique

power. I couldn't take it anymore, and I could feel a jolt run through my body. Power, I had it and I was going to use it.

I stood up and loved the shocked look that ran across this mystery man's face. I held my arms out with my palms up and threw the force that was building up in my body right at him. A huge current flew out of my fingertips and headed straight towards my new nemesis. However, right when it went to hit him, it bounced off of some sort of forcefield and headed straight back towards me. I tried to duck down, but it barely grazed the tip of my head. An electric jolt went through my body and instantly laid me out on the ground.

I wasn't completely knocked out, but it was very hard to catch my breath. I could hear the man laughing a little, but I was more concerned about being able to stand back up.

I heard him clear his voice, "Very impressive Alex. No one has ever been able to push through my serum."

I coughed a little and started to push myself back up. I could feel my regenerating ability start to kick in, and I felt better within seconds. I walked over and sat back down in my chair and asked, "How did you block that?"

He chuckled a little and shook his head, but then he looked back up at me, "I have protection. I am a very powerful man and I want you to listen, and listen carefully. I have been planning this for over fifteen years. When I heard you were born, I

knew right away you were the missing piece to my puzzle.”

I tried to listen to his thoughts in between his breaths, and I caught him thinking... *'Finally, we are going to have the world to ourselves.'*

I sucked in some air and looked straight into his eyes. “You're going to try and take over the world, aren't you?”

He laughed a little and shook his head, “No Alex, I'm not going to try to take over the world. We ARE taking over the world. I am not going to live in a place where people with amazing gifts and powers are forced to hide themselves in pointless jobs and in meaningless everyday activities. We are ready to come out, and we are ready to live in a world that not only accepts us, but worships us.”

I couldn't believe this. He was delusional if he thought I was going to be a part of this. I looked up at him and said, “You're crazy, and you are even crazier if you think I'm going to help you with this. It has the makings of another World War, and I am not going to have that on my hands.”

“Yes, there will be casualties, but Alex, in the end... It will be all worth it.”

“What about our families? Are you going to protect them? What about innocent children and people who don't even know anything about this?” I was practically shouting by now, “And what about my friends? Where are they? I want to see them.”

The man took a deep breath and placed his fingers on the bridge of his nose. He closed his eyes and then suddenly jumped up, which startled me, “I knew you were going to be difficult, especially because I can't control your mind, but I will convince you. You'll understand soon. Please come with me.” He held out his hand and reached for me. I didn't trust this lunatic as far as I could throw him, and that very well could be to China.

“I can stand by myself,” I said in a low and angry voice. He just laughed a little under his breath and walked to the door.

“Oh, and if you try to run, or do anything stupid? Well, let's just say there will be some serious consequences.” He held the door open for me and I knew I better just listen for now. I was positive he had someone who had put a shield over him. I had never seen anyone with that power, but Dr. Henry had told me it is an amazing one. Rare, but one of the most dangerous ones around. It prevents someone from getting hurt and it deflects powers. He had told me if there would ever be a war, this kind of power would be the key to winning it. I just knew someone in this building had that power, and I know knew my mission was to find them.

As I followed this man through the door, I finally had the courage to ask him his name, “So are you going to tell me what to call you, or is that a big mystery too?”

He turned around and stared at me for a solid

minute. Finally, he stuck his hand out to me, “I guess now is as good as ever. You can call me Mr. Tice.”

All the blood drained from my face and I probably turned completely white. It all finally made sense. I suddenly knew why this man looked so familiar to me. I looked up at him and whispered a very soft, “Grandpa?”

Chapter 12 – He's Alive

The man, who I just learned was my grandfather, looked straight down at me and gave me one little nod. He started to walk out of the room, but I needed more information. You don't just drop a bomb like that and not explain yourself. There was no way I was just going to be 'okay' with this.

“Wait, just wait. You really are my Grandpa? I thought you died with Grandma in a car accident before I was born?”

“I ended up surviving it,” he said bluntly and didn't even slow his pace down.

I couldn't believe this, all this time he was alive. Why would he keep this from my family and me? I started to think about all the things that were weird about my grandparent's death. Like: why there weren't many pictures of my Grandma and Grandpa together, and why my mom and dad never talked about them. Every time I would bring them up, my dad would simply say the same exact thing, 'Your grandparents were amazing people, but it just hurts too much to talk about them. I'll tell you about them someday. Maybe when you are a little older.' I would respect my father and not push the issue. Now, I had a sneaky suspicion why he didn't want to talk about it.

“You controlled my mom and dad's minds?”

My Grandpa let out a little sigh, and started

walking out of the room and down the hall. I had a hard time keeping up with him, but I stayed right on his heels.

“Alex, I don't expect you to understand everything. I know you are still only thirteen, but soon, very soon, you will see how hard I have worked on this. You are all I am waiting for to make this mission complete.”

“You still didn't answer me about my parents.”

He suddenly stopped, which made me bump into the back of him. I felt this really strong surge go through my body. He turned around and took a step back, “My oh my, you really are a powerful boy.”

He put his hands up and flipped them around, like he was inspecting them. He then knelt on one knee so he was face to face with me, “My power is close to yours, Alex. Yours is just much more powerful than mine. I can regenerate in small amounts, and when I walked out of a car accident with hardly any scratches, it made your dad wonder. I tried to explain to him, but he just looked at me like I was some kind of alien. I loved your Grandma so much, it killed me to lose her. Then, to have my only son look at me like that? I lost it. I am not able to use mind control, but I had a very gifted friend who owed me. He showed your dad an image of my death, and told him what to say if anyone ever asked about me. So now you know.” He quickly stood back up and started

heading down the hall to two very large double doors.

“So that's what his is? Some kind of vendetta about losing Grandma? My dad doesn't have super powers, of course he wouldn't understand.” I just kept talking, knowing he was done for now. I continued to follow him and when he finally came upon the huge double doors, he pushed a code into a keypad and the door instantly unlocked.

My Grandpa motioned me to follow him. I still couldn't believe he was alive. I also couldn't believe he was a bad guy, and was serious about taking over the world. I had heard a few stories in my history class at Camp Powers about people who were tired of hiding their powers. It never ended well. There is a branch in the Army, Navy, and Marines that is made specifically if this sort of thing happens. They never make it very far, the Army always wins. But if the bay guys would... It would be bad.

I focused back on my Grandpa and the first thing I noticed when I walked into the gigantic room was two ridiculously large television screens. Now these would be awesome to have during a Broncos game. Except, they weren't watching football. I squinted my eyes and tried to focus on what was being projected across these inhumanly large screens, and to my surprise it was shots of people living their everyday life.

“Why are you watching people?” I asked and looked over at my Grandpa. Which was still weird

to say.

He cleared his throat and put his hand to his chin, “Like I said earlier, this isn't something we just threw together. I'm not going to tell you a lot now, but you'll see. It is going to be for the best. Just imagine our world with super powers. It's the dawn of a new day.”

Well, that just clarified my earlier thought. He's insane. He's lost it. “I see. Well, can you at least tell me that my friends are okay?”

“Of course they are. In fact, they are probably settling in by now. You'll see them soon,” he walked over to a man sitting behind one of the large screens and an image of the White House popped up.

I just watched and observed. It seemed like the man controlling the screens acted more like a robot than an actual human. Maybe he was a robot? I looked around some more and noticed everyone else was also acting the same way.

Grandpa walked up behind me and motioned me to follow him. I tried to look for someone who followed us, or someone that was always around us. I was determined to find out if my theory of a shield protector was true. As of now, no one fit the bill.

I tried to use my ability to see the future, but all I was seeing was the scene of Kai and I running through the woods. I looked down and noticed I still had my super hero costume on. I rolled my eyes and laughed a little.

Grandpa turned around and arched his eyebrow at me, but then turned back around and continued walking into a small room. I made sure to watch all the people in the room, and I came to a conclusion that everyone here was either A. A really crazy good human robot, or B. Was under some serious mind-control. The crazy thing was, that either one could be true.

We walked into a room that looked like an upscaled version of a home theatre room. It was dark, except for a huge screen that was playing a movie about what it would be like if people with powers ran the world. They sure painted it picture-perfect, but I knew it couldn't ever come true. I had seen what this thought process could bring and nothing about it was good. That's why we have such drastic measure to stop this sort of thing.

I looked across the theatre and noticed five kids sitting in the front, with their heads up watching the film. They were my friends. They were in here? I moved away from Grandfather quickly and ran down to them. "Guys! Oh my gosh, are you okay? Guys? Hey! Look over here it's me, Alex..."

They didn't even budge. I headed straight over to my Grandpa and yelled, "What did you do to them?"

He put up his hand and let out a little sigh, "They are fine. They are just watching our 'introduction' video. When it's over, you can talk with them."

I stopped and stared at him with my fists balled up beside my body. It wouldn't do any good if I tried to hurt him. He was protected. I turned back around to face them, and crossed my arms over my chest. I didn't like this, not one bit. I knew there was a way to defeat my Grandpa, but I just didn't know how yet.

I waited for this ridiculous video to be over, and in the mean time I was trying to read their thoughts. Nothing.

“Why can't I hear them?” I asked quietly, but didn't get a response. I wondered if it had something to do with either the serum, or the force field around everyone here.

The video finally ended and all of my friends just sat there. I walked back down to them and said, “Guys, it's me. Alex.” Ryan finally turned and looked up at me.

“Hi Alex. Isn't this place great?” he turned back around and continued to stare at the blank screen.

They were being brainwashed. Suddenly a thought appeared in my mind and I quickly turned to Grandpa, “You aren't using them in your army, are you?” I asked as I watched his expression.

He laughed a little and rolled his eyes, “Of course I am. Ryan has one of the most precise future capabilities I have ever seen. You don't think you became friends with these guys by chance do you? Well, all except Ellie. She wasn't part of this plan, but it looks like she's a package

deal.”

I looked over at Ellie and felt my shoulders dip down. She was here only because of me.

“Come with me, we have more to do to prepare for tonight,” he said and headed out of the theater room.

I looked back at my friends and knew I would save them. I just knew it. Just as we were leaving, I had a great thought. Since I didn't have a plan, I would have to pretend to go along with my Grandpa. I just hoped I would be able to pull it off.

As we headed back into the main room with all of the huge T.V. screens, my grandpa stopped right in front of a screen that was zoomed in on the White House.

“You know, you will never get through the Army,” I said matter-of-factly.

Grandpa just sighed and shook his head, “Oh ye of little faith. I will get through, and I know this because I have some very talented future tellers on my side. Your friend Ryan even confirmed it when they got here. We are going to win.”

I looked back at the white house and asked, “How?”

“You see, Alex, I have people on the inside. In the Army and even in high rankings in the White House. I have worked hard on this, because it's the only way we will ever gain power. We were meant to have this world. People without

powers will not be missed,” he said so seriously it sent chills down my spine.

I couldn't believe what I just heard. He doesn't just want to rule the world, but he also wants to get rid of every normal human in the world? That would mean my family and my friends from school would all be in danger.

I looked over at him with a shocked expression. “So, you're just going to kill every non-super human?”

“Precisely, and you are going to help me,” he said with a twisted smile. I couldn't care less if this man was my grandfather. I was not going to help him, and it was time I started to act the part.

I put on my best poker face, and I was really glad he wasn't able to read thoughts, “I guess I can kind of see your point, I mean, it would be nice to be able to use my powers and not worry about hiding them all the time.”

He gave me a quick nod and said, “I knew you would come around because I was shown you would. Just to be sure, I have someone I would like you to meet. Follow me.” And with that Grandpa was heading out the huge steel double doors and took a right down a new long hallway. I wasn't sure where I was, but I knew for sure we were in a warehouse. Although I had no idea how much time has lapsed since we were injected and taken away from the dance, I did know it was the next day.

“Here we are,” he said as he opened a door to

another small room. Sitting behind a table in the middle of the room was a man. He was messing with a machine as he motioned for me to come over and sit next to him.

The small chair I slid into was cool, and shocked me a little when I sat down. I looked at the man, and concentrated on what he was thinking. Of course he had a shield protecting him, but this was much different from my grandfather's shield. It wasn't very thick and it was almost like I could see through it. I concentrated really hard, and I could hear the faintest whispers coming from his mind. I finally had a little hope jolt through me, and I was confident that I would be able to break through his forcefield.

I smiled over to him as he asked me to place one of my hands on the machine, and the other in one of his palms. I did what he asked, but looked over to Grandpa.

“He is able to detect lies. The machine helps him see snapshots of what you see,” he said quickly and motioned for me to look back at his lie detector test.

The short man looked up at me and asked if I was ready. I nodded my head yes, and started to focus really hard on the machine in his hand.

A second after he asked me if I was being truthful when I said I would help win the war, his eyes went wide and he pulled his hand quickly out of mine. The man turned to face the other wall and mumbled a quiet, “He's telling the truth, and you'll

win.” I barely heard him.

My power must have worked on him. I hid my smile and silently gave myself a high-five in my head. I may have gone a little too far with the image I projected into this poor man's brain though. I showed him a picture of us winning and taking over the White House, but I also may have shown him an image of him falling off of a cliff. I know that was mean, but hey... They started this.

This opened so many doors for me. If I was able to go past the forcefield on this guy, maybe I would be able to penetrate the forcefield that was over my friends.

I looked over at Grandpa as he walked over and put his hand under my armpit to pull me up, “Good, everything is falling into place. I need you to do one more thing and then we will be ready.”

“Ready?” I asked in a small voice. I knew I was powerful. I could feel it running through my veins. All of my teachers, especially Dr. Jake, told me I hadn't seen anything yet. They just knew I was capable of so much more. So why couldn't I just use it, and end this all now before anyone got hurt? I knew why. My grandpa was also very powerful. He was different from any other person I had ever been around, and his brain just seemed stronger. It would be harder for me to control him, even if he didn't have a forcefield around him.

“I am sure you have noticed a forcefield here,” he said bluntly and motioned me to follow him. I wondered if he had mind reading

capabilities, but when I didn't say anything he just continued on. "I have a very powerful person on my side. They can create the largest forcefield anyone has ever seen. Even though it is quite large, it isn't large enough to protect our entire army. I don't want anyone to be able to control their minds, so that's where you come in Alex."

My super intelligence power really came in handy when people around me decided to talk in a cryptic language. I finally knew why he needed me, not wanted me, but needed me. I would be able to create a forcefield so grand, that it would be able to stretch across his entire army. Making them untouchable. No one has ever been able to do that, and if they could... They would probably be in lock down or even worse, destroyed.

"I understand," I said in the strongest voice I could muster-up. "I just have one question, why my friends?"

He let out a loud breath and put his hand over his eyes, "I needed leverage. I needed something that you wouldn't want to get hurt. I also need a few of their powers. The twin girls are the strongest with weather that we have ever seen, and as I said earlier, Ryan is a piece of the puzzle as well, and speed always comes in handy."

"What about Ellie? What are you going to do with her?" I asked cautiously, and wasn't sure I wanted to hear his answer.

"Bait," he quietly said and gave me a slight head nod indicating we were at our destination.

“The person with the forcefield is in this room, for now. I do not want you to try anything. Just absorb her power, and then we will be all set. If you do not, you will personally watch one of your friends get destroyed.”

I gulped down a little breath, and was nervous to even try to push through this woman's power. When I thought about it, I could instantly feel the forcefield as it started to run through my veins. This was definitely the strongest power I had ever felt. My fingers started to tremble and I knew I now held the key to destroy humanity.

“I have it,” I said in a defeated voice.

“Perfect, let's go test it out. If it works, which I know it will, then we are ready. Follow me.”

I nodded my head and followed him back to the main room. We walked over to one of the large screens where there was a man looking into a camera, which made it look like he was looking right at us. I was told to try to wrap a forcefield around him. I had no idea where he was or how far away he was from us, but I did what I was told. It was simple, and no big deal.

Grandpa just smiled and kept shaking his head yes. He now had his weapon, his missing piece of his hazardous puzzle. He was ready to declare war on the entire world.

Chapter 13 - The End of the World

The next few hours were spent watching my grandfather yell orders, and talk with people all across the United States on the huge television screens that were strategically placed around the ginormous headquarters. One interesting fact I did find out was that all the super human's that were taken away to be 'destroyed' when they acted out in public, or gave away their identity, were taken to this facility. These super humans were not only here, but here on their own free will. That meant they didn't have to be injected with serum that made their mind easy to control.

I also over heard that we were by Chicago, which surprised me because I didn't know we were in the van with the kidnappers for that long.

Zander was also here, along with his huge friends. I only saw him one time and he just shot me a terribly dirty look. You would have thought he would get over his hatred towards me since we were on the same side now. Well, kind of.

I hadn't seen my friends yet. I think Grandpa must have known I would try to save them, and he was waiting for the last minute so I couldn't try anything. He had proof that I would help him, but he wasn't stupid by any means. I was promised, though, they would be by me when we went to take away the Army's secret area, which was just a few miles away. The Army had no idea this facility

was here, and that we were about to launch the third World War.

When we took over the Army, we would be unstoppable. I was busy thinking of ways to keep Grandpa from carrying out his plan, but every power I thought of using had a consequence. I couldn't make time stand still, because there would be other time travelers that would stop me. If I didn't use my shield, the government would destroy us all, without asking any questions. I knew that would be the only way they would know how to stop us. Every time I tried to use my future power, all I saw was Kai and I running. I was ready to get that over with so I would stop seeing it. I was stumped, but I needed to think of something quick.

Right before we were given the orders to start moving, my super intelligence must have finally kicked in. The one power my Grandpa needed me to have to take over the world, was also the one power I could use to stop him. I just knew I would be able to save my friends, only if I could break through their mind control serum and wrap my forcefield around them.

Just as my master plan finally came into play, I saw Ryan, Kai, Ellie, and the twins march out from a dark hallway. They still had their super hero costumes on as well, and they looked like they were straight out of a movie. I could tell people were watching me, so I had to be extremely careful.

I looked at Ryan and started to concentrate on him; on what he was doing inside of his brain. I could feel the serum, and the forcefield created by the other person here. I used all of my mind power to push through both and I found a crack. I finally was in! I started to talk gently to him, “*Ryan, do not freak out. Keep acting normal, and just do as I say. We are in a facility with an army that is going to try to take over the world. You have to keep pretending you are under their control. I am going to protect you, but you have to act like everyone else is. Okay?*”

I watched Ryan closely and finally he locked eyes with me and gave me a slight nod yes. I felt like one hundred bricks had been lifted off of my chest. I did a little victory dance inside of my head. Now, I just needed to fix the rest of my friends.

My friends stepped right in stride with me, and we all started to walk towards the exit of the building. I couldn't believe my eyes when I saw the amount of women and men my Grandpa had here. I bet there were over three thousand super humans. I suddenly started to get nervous that I wouldn't be able to pull this off. I stopped thinking about that for a second and I started to concentrate on Kai, the twins, and Ellie. Kai was the easiest to break through. The twins were a little harder. I thought they were going to send a tornado flying through the room. I talked them out of it before they could follow through with it. I

could tell Ellie was scared, but she put on a good front.

Now that I had all of my friends out of Grandpa's control, I could start to strategize my master plan. I needed to find the woman who created the first forcefield, the one who is still protecting my Grandpa. If I could get to her, then maybe I could stop him and shut the whole operation down. I knew she would be coming with us, because she couldn't be that far away from my Grandpa. I thought I would maybe try to use my power that is able to detect other super human powers.

All of my thoughts were pushed to the side when I saw someone walk through the main doors. I couldn't believe my eyes. Standing right besides my Grandpa was Jane. The same Jane that took me to Camp Powers. I knew she was bad, and the minute she waved goodbye to us at the dance was the moment I knew our lives were in danger.

Jane looked over and found me right away. She smiled and said, "*Alex. I see you have chosen wisely.*"

I instantly used a power to push thoughts in her head that I was on board, and so were my friends. She just smiled at me and started to talk with my Grandpa. I noticed there were a few students behind her that must have come to help out as well. This was getting out of control.

I started to scan the room, but right when I noticed a small woman that was dressed in

complete black in the corner of the room with a gun strapped on her back, the front door flew open and everyone started to move.

I looked over at my friends, and they were doing an outstanding job acting like they were still under my Grandpa's mind control. I also pushed thoughts in their head so if another mind reader was to check, they would look like everyone else.

We were starting to move outside, and it looked like it was only going to be light outside for the next few hours or so. We moved into some army-type vehicles, of which I was placed in the first Hummer with my friends. Grandpa slipped in the front seat, and the woman I saw earlier was right behind him. He wouldn't let me find her that easy, but he does think I am on his side. I concentrated really hard on her, and there was nothing. I couldn't see anything about her. I knew in an instant that this was my forcefield woman. She was strong, but I was stronger. I could feel it.

Now that I knew who she was, I would be able to pull her force down and take control of Grandpa. I smiled and looked over at my friends. Ryan and Kai did a great job of sitting still, but the girls were looking around. I calmly talked to them, and told them to just stare forward. I focused on Jessica, and told her a plan I had. Her and Jamie needed to be ready for my cue.

On the way to the Army base, I tried and tried to break through this woman's forcefield. I had to give it to her, she was really good at her power. As

I was searching through her mind, I saw a little glimmer of a crack. There it was, there was my chance. I pushed through it as much as I could and finally it was like I made it through a bubble and something popped. I could see her face, and she could see me. We were now in each other's brains. I continued to push, and I finally was able to control her completely. I owned her! I sent a message to her that she was still in control and not to act differently. It worked, because I could see her settle back down and nod over to Grandpa. Perfect. This was going to work, and we were going to stop this.

It wasn't ten or fifteen minutes when we stopped in what looked like the middle of nowhere. It looked like a rough terrain out of my window, but I wasn't exactly sure where we were. Everyone started to form a huge line, and my Grandpa motioned for us to get out of the Hummer. I looked over to the woman, but she just avoided me and acted like she was still in charge. Perfect, it was still working.

I looked ahead of us and noticed a large building about 400 feet away. This was it, it was time. I could tell that my Grandpa was excited as he shouted orders and certain people were doing this and that. He had people here with every type of power you could think of. I could feel someone trying to pry into my brain, but there was no chance I was going to let that happen. Now that I had the chance, I started to try to pull down the

force field from my Grandpa. I had to act fast; before we launched our attack.

When everyone was lined up, I looked over at the twins and gave them the signal. I had sent an image into their brain that showed them exactly what to do. They were going to create a powerful storm that was only over the army base. That way it would be extremely hard for anyone to enter it.

Jessica and Jamie stepped forward and threw their arms up in the air. A huge blizzard started to form over the base as Grandpa yelled out a very loud and very not nice line of words. I held up my hand and stopped him mid-stride. The confused look that was plastered across his face was priceless, and he looked over to his woman that was supposed to be protecting him. She was useless. Grandpa also made a huge mistake. He made sure that everyone was under his serum. He had complete control of them, which meant I now had complete control. I made everyone freeze right where they were. No one was strong enough to go against it. With my new forcefield power, I could control all of them. All, except my Grandpa.

As Jessica and Jamie continued to create their blizzard, Ellie took off into the sky to warn some flyers from the Army that were starting to come our way. They knew we were here now. I had to finish my plan so we wouldn't be harmed.

Grandpa was not happy about this. He hollered and made some sort of high pitched noise that sent all of my friends to the ground, holding

their ears. It didn't have an affect on me, but the storm that was holding the attack suddenly stopped.

Jessica and Jamie were still on the ground when they screamed, "What's happening?"

I looked over to Ryan and he was trying to stand back up. When I finally found Grandpa, I pushed through his mind to make him stop. He just smiled at me and told me this was not over. He shot his hand up and threw some sort of bolt towards Ellie. I hollered for her to watch out, but it was too late. The bolt struck her and she spiraled to the ground like a 4th of July firecracker. Before I knew it, I had moved so fast that I was under her in a second. I caught her before she hit, but she was knocked unconscious. I looked at Ryan and the twins, and sent them a message to help. I showed them an image of Ryan grabbing Ellie, and all of them jumping in one of the Hummers to get out of here. I didn't know if they could drive, but I was hoping they could figure it out.

Jamie and Jessica instantly created a mini-tornado between them and my Grandpa. Ryan was able to grab Ellie and run to the Hummer we had just been in.

Ryan looked over to them and was yelling, "Hurry, just get out of here."

They jumped in and took off. They must have not been that important to Grandpa's plan, because he almost seemed happy to see them go.

Maybe because they were my one thing that could save us from the government.

Kai looked over at me and then motioned behind my Grandpa. All I could see was a mob of black heading my way. It was just Kai and me now, against the world. My Grandpa was still controlling his army, and they were now headed straight towards us.

Chapter 14 - Loss

Kai and I just stared at each other and took off in the other direction.

“They have runners, I can hear them!” Kai hollered as we entered a small forest that was just on the other side of the army base.

Suddenly, I knew exactly where we were. My flashes of the future. They were of this exact moment. Kai and I were running so fast, and I could hear hollering behind us. Grandpa couldn’t go through his plan without me, so of course he would have me chased down. The ones that were after us must have been too strong for my freezing power. I looked over at Kai and he was yelling at me to move faster.

I knew this was the moment that Kai was going to trip and fall. I heard some commotion, and when I looked back I saw Kai laying face down on the ground. I was not going to let this happen. I ran back over to him and grabbed him by his waist. I used my super human strength power and threw him over my shoulders. I took off again like a rocket, until I came to the end of what looked like a cliff.

I set Kai down as he finally came too. “No, what happened?” he asked in a panicked voice and started to look around.

“You were knocked out for a minute, but it’s okay. We are going to have to fight these guys.”

Three runners and my Grandpa came barreling out of the trees. I held my hands up to stop them, but they just pushed through my power. These guys were strong, but I knew I was stronger. I used my forcefield and quickly wrapped it tightly around all three of them. I finally had them right where I wanted them, and forced their minds to stop and lay down like a dog. Kai let out a little laugh, because honestly they looked ridiculous crawling in a circle getting ready to lie down.

“Nicely done, Alex,” Grandpa said as he held his hands up in the air like he was admitting defeat. I didn’t buy it.

“You know I couldn’t let you go through with this. It isn’t right,” I said and watched him carefully as he started to creep closer to Kai and I.

He shook his head and started to laugh. He was full on delusional, and that made me very nervous. “I just don’t get it. All of my future tellers told me I would be successful with this. I checked, and made sure I was doing everything they saw.”

Kai and I had started go the opposite way of the cliff. I did not want anything to do with this. I looked over to my Grandpa and said, “Just stop. You have to know this is wrong. I know there is still good in you. You can stop all of this and live a normal life. With us.”

My Grandpa just threw his head back and let out a loud laugh, “Boy, you really are nothing like me.”

Before I knew what was happening, Grandpa took off towards me like a torpedo hunting down a submarine. I threw my hands up to stop him, but before I even had the chance to send out my force field at him, Kai came out of nowhere and matched his speed. It all happened so fast, and I barely blinked before Kai ran straight towards my Grandpa and wrapped his arms around Grandpa's waist. They went flying off of the cliff, with Grandpa yelling for me to help. I was in complete shock, and started to move towards them, but then something strange happened. A huge jolt of what felt like electricity zapped through my body. I fell to the ground instantly. It felt like someone had just knocked the air completely out of my lungs.

I was only down for a second before I jumped back up and stopped time, but it was too late. I walked over to the ledge and could see two people at the very bottom. I fell down to my knees and put my hands over my face. A few tears started to fall down my face. What had Kai done? He saved us all, but he had sacrificed himself to do so. I didn't want to unfreeze time, because I knew when I did I would lose one of my best friends forever. I also just lost my Grandpa again, even if he was crazy.

It felt like hours before I finally put time back to normal. I continued to hold my head in my hands. I didn't know how I was going to explain this to Ryan and the girls. I was supposed to be powerful. How could I let this happen? I was

about to stand up when a hand was placed on my right shoulder. I jumped up, startled that anyone would be behind me. When I turned around, I was face-to-face with Byron, the mind reader from Camp Powers. He smiled at me, and my body suddenly felt really calm.

“What is going on?” I asked as I tried to read his mind. I gasped when I saw what it was like in there. How had I not ever noticed his mind before?

“We have some things to discuss, Alex. Come with me,” he motioned for me to follow him to a flying machine that was just on the other side of some shrubbery. The aircraft was so quiet, that I didn’t even hear it coming. It was also unlike anything that I had seen before. It looked like it flew right out of the future.

I was trying to use my super intelligence power, but it didn’t seem to help my confusion. I was also trying to keep my composure after losing Kai. I wish I could go back in time and save him, but I was taught some very strict rules about time traveling. You could never, ever change the future. The future was inevitable. I did not want to go through losing Kai again, especially if it would be a more painful death.

Byron placed his hand on my back and led me to the futuristic hover craft. “Come with me. I’ll explain everything.”

“Wait, what about them?” I asked quietly as I looked over my right shoulder towards the cliff.

Byron turned me around quickly and looked down at my face, “That wasn’t supposed to happen. You need to trust me, Okay?” he turned back around, and motioned for me to follow him inside. My curiosity was getting the better of me, so I just remained quiet and followed Byron into the strange looking airplane. For all I knew he was going to take me to an army that was defeated, and people with super powers were getting ready to run the world. I honestly didn’t know what to expect. I suddenly saw a quick flash of my friends, and then it was gone.

When I climbed the stairs and entered into the main body of the aircraft, I made a gasping noise. My friends were sitting in the middle of the plane. They all four jumped up and ran straight towards me. Ryan gave me a knowing look, and I heard him think that he hadn’t told the other’s about Kai yet.

The twins ran over first and both engulfed me in a huge bear hug. They told me repeatedly how sorry they were that they didn’t do more to help, but they were so relieved that I was okay. Ellie was next. I was so happy to see her, and to see that she wasn’t seriously hurt. She slowly walked up to me with tear-filled eyes and stepped right into my arms for a tight hug. She whispered in my ear that she was so scared that something had happened to me. I had really grown close to Ellie, and it made me feel good that she cared about me too. She looked over my shoulder and seemed to be

searching for someone. She looked back at me and asked, “Where’s Kai?”

I slowly turned my head and looked over to Ryan. He just let his head fall and placed one of his hands over his eyes. The twins were now catching on, and Jamie started to run towards the exit.

I grabbed her arm and pulled her back to us. Jessica said a very quiet, “No,” and fell to her knees. We all embraced each other in a group hug. I finally mustered up enough strength to say, “He saved us all. He took down my Grandpa.”

Ellie let out a little sob, and Ryan wiped a tear from his own eye. It felt like we were like this for hours, when in reality it was probably only a few minutes. Byron walked over and asked us all to have a seat in the back of the plane. He motioned for one of his men to start up the aircraft as he joined us.

“I’m really sorry about your friend, Kai. I did not know that was going to happen,” Byron said in a very calm voice.

I had just about had it. I was about to stand up and unleash some serious power, but just as I felt a jolt go through my body, Byron put up his hand and asked me to sit back down. “There’s no need for that, Alex. I am going to tell you everything.”

My friends and I all looked at each other. Ellie grabbed my hand and gave it a gentle squeeze. I gave her a small nod and looked back

over at Byron. “Well, let’s hear it.”

As I sat there and heard how Byron had known about my Grandpa for a very long time; I tried to hold my look of shock that wanted to creep across my face. Apparently, Byron was hiding his true power. He is very talented and has a very strong power. He is not only able to control minds, but he is also a picture pusher. That means he is able to push a picture, or thought, into someone’s head. Like he did with my parents, but he can do it from any distance. He doesn’t have to touch them. He was set up in Camp Powers by the Army to make sure I was taken care of. He also was responsible for making sure that the future tellers that were working for my Grandpa saw an end were Grandpa won. I felt a little hint of sadness about my Grandpa, but then it was quickly replaced with disgust and pity. I lost one of my best friends because of him.

“So, let me get this straight,” I said and let go of Ellie’s hand so I could stand up. “You knew about this the whole time, and did nothing? No one did anything?” I was starting to feel my fire energy creep through my body, and I had to take a few breaths so I didn’t end up blowing all of us up.

“Alex, please sit down. If there was anyway to stop your grandpa, it would have been done immediately. He was too powerful, and had too many people on his side to just simply take him down. I also have many powerful people on my side, but nothing that was comparable. I had to

wait for you. You were shown to be the only super human that would be able to defeat him. His only weapon was also his ultimate demise.”

I sat back down and took all of this new information in. Byron was a secret weapon as well, but he also ended up saving us. I finally looked up at him and nodded my head once. He was a very complex person. I could feel the energy around him, and his brain was something else.

Byron shot us all a quick smile and headed up to the front of the plane. We didn't talk much on the plane. Ellie mentioned how silly it was that we were all still in our super hero outfits. We laughed and agreed it was fitting for what we had just been through. Our laughter was short lived before we all thought of Kai again. I wondered how long it would take to not feel this sadness in my chest.

I don't know how long we were in the air for, but finally after what felt like hours Byron stood up and said, “It's time for you all to go home and rest. You will need to return to Camp Powers, but I think it will be important for you all to return home first and take a much needed break from all of this. Mourn your friend, and then when it's time I will call for you.” He motioned for us to start exiting the futuristic space craft. He stepped out after us and reminded us to not use our powers, and to be careful when we were home.

I knew we would be watched and protected, but it still seemed surreal to be able to just go

home and pretend like I was visiting for a few weeks. My friends and I all hugged and were taken back to our homes. Ellie and I got to ride together for most of the way, until I was dropped off at my house. As I walked up to my front door, a shiver ran through my body. I just hoped I would be able to control myself, and not do anything super human.

Chapter 15 - Back to 'Normal'

It has been exactly one year since I have learned that there are people in our world with super human powers. One year. I am back home with my parents now. I finally graduated from Camp Powers, and have been granted a few months at home to feel 'normal', whatever that is. It was hard to come back here after the showdown that happened when we lost Kai. I was only home for few weeks when I was called back to finish my time at Camp Powers. I didn't particularly like erasing my parent's memory of our visit, but it was fun to see my friends again once I did return to the camp.

Byron ended up taking over the camp, and took care of all the other super humans that went against our government. He was only in charge a few months until we were told that he had a new assignment that he needed to prepare for.

Jane was locked up with a few other higher officials, as well as Hector and his crew. There were even a few teachers that were part of the huge conspiracy that were fired and placed in a more secure area.

It was extremely hard to not mention anything about Grandpa, or to make sure I didn't show any emotion about losing my friend in front of my parents. I made sure to have many stories about my time in Amsterdam, and about my Aunt and

Uncle that live there. That was tough, because I hardly know them.

I also found out that Ellie is only a few hours away from me. She lives in a small town on the eastern plains of Colorado. We have made a deal that whenever she visits Denver, we will make sure to get together. I guess you could say we became really good friends, but a relationship sounded way more complicated than learning how to breath under water or freezing time.

It still seems unreal that my friends and I saved the world, and that nobody knows how close they came to becoming extinct. But, now you can see why I needed to share this story with you. I wish I could tell you that humans are safe now, but I can't. This is far from being over.

I just have one more thing I need to share with you, and it is about what is happening in Washington D.C. at this very moment. There is a race going on for who is going to be elected as our next President of the United States, and you'll never guess who is running as a main candidate. Byron.

About the Author

As an elementary school teacher, Katie is always trying to find new and inventive ways to engage her wiggly, energetic students. Her goal as a teacher is to share her love of reading and writing, so that the students may have a chance of unlocking the wonderful world of imagination through text. One day she assigned a writing piece that involved the students creating their own super power. This was a huge hit! Katie would hear the students talking about super powers at lunch, at the water fountain, coming into hang up their backpacks, and so on, and so on. That's when it hit her like a ton of bricks. Super heroes! Kids love them, and they want to be them. When this concept crept into her brain, it settled down and became a permanent resident.

Katie dreamed about super heroes, and nine out of ten times they would awaken her at three in the morning. They would not vacate her imagination until she was upstairs on her laptop typing away. When Katie presented her new found thought to her class, they of course loved it.

Katie currently lives on a farm in southeast Colorado with her husband, her two children, and their bulldog Mary.

How to connect with Katie Smotherman:

Facebook - <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Katie-Smotherman-Katherine-May/294662910717036>

Twitter - @ktmaybooks

Amazon - http://www.amazon.com/Day-We-Saved-World-ebook/dp/B00P4ITIQA/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1419187356&sr=8-1&keywords=the+day+we+saved+the+world

Katie Smotherman

Make sure to keep an eye out for the second book
in the “Saved the World” series by Katie
Smotherman.