

# Not Without You

"I can't believe they fell for it!" exclaimed August. His sister, Alley, stood next to him. Both stared at a large screen, watching Galaxy Fighters swarm towards a planet's surface.

"Did you deploy all the decoy ships?" she asked.

"No, just enough to get the Dicio's attention. The rest are waiting on the planet's surface." he replied. He reached over to open a drawer, and pulled out two contraptions. "This scanner will track the Globe, and this little beauty will get you past the Dicio's ship sensors, and you already have the Immobilizer."

Alley took the two devices. "Hey they're purple just like my hair dryer... August did you use my stuff for your inventions again?"

"Now, now," he reasoned, "if I wasn't inventive where would we be? Without me you'd have been sucked into a black hole by now."

He smiled at Alley trying to get her to smile back; it been a long while since she had done that. But now wasn't the time. "See you later, August."

"Later? But I'm coming with y-" Alley pushed a button on her wrist watch device and August disappeared with a popping noise. A speaker crackled and August's voice echoed throughout the ship: "Alley what are you doing? You can't just transport me to another planet! Besides you need me to activate-"

Alley pressed a button and cut her brother off. "I'm sorry August, but I won't lose you

too," she whispered. *Now that we're orphans it's up to us to save the universe, but that doesn't mean I won't do all I can to keep you safe.* He would reprogram the teleporter eventually, but hopefully not for a long while. She prepared August's devices for action and she too teleported with a pop.

She was on the Dicio ship. A small 3D map appeared from one of August's devices, showing her a path to the Globe. All the hallways she walked were empty of guards, it appeared August's decoy ships were working.

This mission was the most dangerous one so far. A villainous organization, the Dicio, had found the powerful Globe of Magnus. All the rumors of the Globe have one thing in common-- the ability to incinerate people. Her parents had been searching for it, to keep it from the wrong hands, when the accident happened. She missed them so much, she could tell August did too.

Alley stopped. The Globe was located in the next room, apparently with one guard. She stepped in front of the metallic doors, they slid open, revealing a dark room. With the Immobilizer in hand she darted into the chamber.

Alley gasped. She saw the Globe of Magnus, half way sticking out of the chest of the Dicio leader. She pointed the Immobilizer at him. Nothing happened.

"I expected you sooner," he whispered, "Your parents were always so punctual." He laughed and flicked the Immobilizer away and picked her up by the throat. Alley tried to struggle but it was as if something was draining her will. She hung limply and watched as the Globe pulsed in time to his heartbeat. "Tell your parents hello for me," he whispered. Through the haziness of her mind Alley thought she heard a popping noise.

"Put my sister down!" ordered August. *No*, Alley thought as her brain struggled to wake up. *August, what are you doing? Get out of here!*

The Dicio leader dropped Alley. She tried to get up but her body wouldn't respond. "It doesn't matter. You two will both be joining your parents soon enough," the Dicio leader replied calmly.

August gave a nervous gulp and continued, "Now just hand --um-- detach yourself from the globe and you'll have the satisfaction of knowing you helped out a couple of kids."

A beam shot out of the globe towards August. August was gone. "NO!" Alley heard herself scream. *That couldn't have happened. August can't be gone.*

The leader turned towards her. "Now your turn." Alley watched as the globe grew brighter. She didn't care. Nothing mattered without August.

The globe shone like a sun. Then the light was put out and the Globe rolled onto the floor. The leader let out a scream and dived for the Globe. Alley saw a flash of blue light and the leader collapsed. She looked at where the light came from and saw "August!" Alley stumbled towards him and fell on top of him.

Both of their watches started beeping. A computerized voice said: "Globe of Magnus acquired. Dicio organization acquired. Helpers acquired. Prepare for transportation to appropriate locations." Alley and August were suddenly back on their ship, sitting in their seats.

"Oh sure now you transport us," August vented, "You dumb alien computer. If you protect the universe why don't you help out instead of just sending *us helpers* to do it for you."

Alley starting laughing. She was laughing so hard she rolled onto the floor.

"Alley, you're laughing. You're really laughing. You haven't done that in forever."

"I forgot how good it feels. But we need to talk. How are you alive?"

"If you happen to remember I am a tech genius. I hacked the transportation system to transport on my command. I transported a fraction of a second before the beam reached me; making it seem as if I was incinerated. My destination was behind the leader, where I found the Immobilizer, activated it-"

"But how? I couldn't get it to work."

"Well the Immobilizer needs two operators to activate it. Dad explained it to me a few days before he..." August took a deep breath, "Then you transported your dear old brother out of harm's way before he could tell you. Anyways-- I activated the Immobilizer, then I tasered the leader and saved the day."

A beeping sounded and red lights began blinking. "Another mission," Alley sighed.

"It's fine," August comforted. "We can do it, together."

"Yeah, together."