

The Mighty Ten

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For my future kids. Keep on dreaming with your eyes opened.

Chapter 1 – How It All Began...

A war was happening in the city that never sleeps. It was a real war where lives were in danger and sides were formed. I was a part of it and we started it. Standing in a skyscraper where anything could have happened was the three of us and we were being aimed at my team members. The general and his men. Below us, six members of my team had to fight ops that had firearms on them while cheating death. Above us was the reluctant member who had enough time to create his own flight tech and managed to cut through the jets that had been sent to end him. It was all a mess unlike any other. I kept wondering why it got to that point. I was spoken to by the general who was certain I was in shock. I was about to disappoint him. A lot. I am a Beaker and it meant a lot where I am from.

"All ten of us have to save the world." I said. He got angry then he fired at me. He hit me and I was hurled to the end of the building. I could have easily fell off but I managed to hold on. Somehow. God? Perhaps. The General chuckled but that faded away as he saw me with a smug similar to his.

"What's next, boy? You are bluffing, you couldn't beat me and now you smile in the face of death? I'm puzzled." he said.

"General, you should jump off..." I said to him.

"And why? Is that you arrogant?" he asked. I pointed out to the incoming fighter jets that launched side missiles that were aimed at my location, intersection would occur in above five seconds.

"Do I have to say why now?" I joked. The missiles detonated against the tower, it started to collapse and everyone else fell with it. This war became critical. New York City was turning into a barren wasteland. It seemed that falling off a tower inspired me to keep fighting, even with a fractured shoulder that was about to hit the ground first. With my last ounce of energy, I faced the sky and shot the grappling rope through the mechanism we all helped to create. It managed to pierce through the roof of the penthouse adjacent to the one the fighter jets had detonated. The rope ended up dangling five storeys from above the ground. I had to save the other two from their demise. The one thing I learned through this whole battle is that I never have to fight it alone. So I saw Aviator, the one from the Ten who was cutting through the sky and would disassemble fighter jets alone the way.

"Aviator!" I yelled, he heard my cry for help and even though he had his hands full, he had to save them.

"I'll catch her, you get our weapons." I said.

"Dude!" complained Picasso, who was descending from above.

"Also...get Picasso." I added. It seemed that self-sacrifice had to be done at the cost of my health. The only way I could save her is if I could use the rope and my body to form a pendulum. I had a shoulder to worry about and that act of sacrifice will make the injury worse. Hesitation never roamed in my mind, not even for a second. Aviator and I would help them by helping each other first, he was wise enough to reach firstly for the bag filled with our weapons. Aviator was flying at high speeds, clearly soaring away without fear. At Mach 5, he was reaching out for the bag, almost there. Then, trouble introduced itself, tanks and Apaches aimed towards him and fired. He dodged all of them. He switched of his rockets then quickly stepped onto the missiles and used them to spring board him right to the weapons that he caught. I shot a grappling rope right to the sky and it hung itself then I clinched onto it and after its first tug, I managed to stay on it and wait for her falling body. I stretched my hand and she saw it then...she trusted me. She dived right to me and grabbed my hand. She actually got caught by me and my body felt that.

"Okay, I got you, I got you." I said to her. She was panting. I was also panting. As expected, Aviator caught Picasso and that was not simple to do because he still had to fly down to the ground while still dodging strikes. The other 8 actually ended being safely on the ground. They all looked up to us.

"We have to go down but do not worry because one of us can be worried at a time." I said. She just turned to me and just smiled and nodded a lot. I safely landed with her and all seemed well. This was of course, incorrect because New York City had been set on fire but we were united again. Aviator and Pyro Picasso landed safely by my team and her and I ran to them. I nodded at all of them confidently. Bald Eagle was right, thank the Heavens he was. Seeing the team and I get ready to face the General brought me to sweet and joyful tears. I unfurled a near-mint US dollar bill and placed it to the skies and the team was astonished.

"I have got 999 999 more of those to give to Bald Eagle." I announced. The team laughed and then came the huddle, where I had nothing to say, I was compelled, speechless because of our unity.

"Let's save the world." she explained to us, rescuing me from my new-found silence...I slowly smiled at her as she would do the same facial expression, felt butterflies flap around my stomach again. My experiences with her were quite hilarious if you asked me. I had thought so much over the time, lied and gambled with death all in the efforts of winning her affections and as I reminded myself of all those antics - they were worth it.

"Very touching..." said the General sarcastically as he was slowly clapping his hands while walking towards us from a block away.

"I am impressed that all ten of you are still alive, that is a problem for me and me alone."

"Beating up a senior citizen is a felony in my books – " explained the mixed martial art-fighting Anchor Toss.

"I am only 27, with a Masters in Genetics at one of the world's greatest institutions, whatever you have is inferior to me. Children, what keeps you alive?" asked the General.

It seemed that everyone ducked down, he was right though. His resume was compelling and he was likely to have a Nobel Prize soon. I knew the answer.

"Our dreams..." I answered. I was serious when I said that.

"...and whether they are alive or dead - we will not give up on them." I concluded and then, there was the showdown, as Aviator lit his armour, the team became ready to fight the General, who had a wild card...the army formed a wall in order to give to bring a strategy for a counter attack that could end our now meaningful lives.

"Okay, Captain - let's save the world." she said with confidence and anxiety.

"Because we are the Mighty Ten." I said, there we were. Sprinting to our enemies, without shimmers of fear, fighting for a cause.

7 months earlier

Beaker Residence

Boston, Massachusetts

0600 hours

I've always read books, I had piles and piles really. Keeping them decent has been a dilemma for me but even Einstein himself wasn't the neatest scientist known. It all started on June 1st, 2012 - in the neighbourhood of Pioneer March, which was nearby Boston. The neighbourhood was grim in interest, eventful incidents occurred but were always controlled to avoid the attraction of crowds.

Pioneer March, because of its namesake was wildly exaggerated and it always and only came near to reaching its expected standards.

It was on this day, my life changed forever. Opening my brown eyes to the world seemed enough for me to accomplish, my hair was neatly messy and my scent could have been mistaken for Italian cologne. I had a scent of resentment and reeked of anger, firstly because of all I have ever tried to accomplish on my eleventh grade will forever remain not done, half done or even not noticed and secondly society still expects me to remain being who I am, by then I lost touch of who I really am. My personality was not a dime in a dozen, I could inspire all 7 billion humans on this world but like my persona I integrate in my life was challenged and confused, causing my personality to fall into mediocrity. I stepped out of my bed, went to the kitchen to make a fresh cup of coffee only to go back to my room, stare through the drapes as I sip my coffee and watch a drizzle fall.

I felt serenity, the kind of that has made my mind become absent from thoughts, I had to intervene. Luckily, I was in possession of my PDA and knew that a mandatory social networking routine check was needed. The most highlighted topic was the only dreary topic that I have tried to avoid the most - the Nobel Selections which was scheduled on that day.

It was just utter nonsense in my younger eyes, an event that considers those who can't even define the lack of morality in our new age, no humanitarianism. Hence I had resentment towards the Scientific Ministry, the whole union was mocked but in comparison, actually could have helped curing cancer while we are still on that topic. The Ministry actually cared and I wanted to prove it. My brothers and my cousin rushed to me with a finding. I turned to them and nodded.

"All about our cause." I said.

"All about our cause." said Terrie.

"All about our cause." said Bradley.

"All about our cause." said Brian. We were in agreement.

Elliot's

Pioneer March

1010 hours

I was with my brothers and my cousin. We were kept waiting. Again. As expected. By Cooper.

"I told you all that we should have had a better friend when we got here." I said confidently. We were stuck at the parking, waiting. He had said everything that had to be noticed. I am was just a bit tired. A lot more uneasy than usual.

"Are you okay?" asked Brian. I nodded a lot then kept thinking about what I had gone through.

Chapter 2 – Sub-atomic Summons

“I think Bald Eagle wants us to go there because he wants to kill us.” I said.

“I doubt it.” remarked Cooper. I turned to him. He kept nudging his head a lot.

“Oh, right and no.” I responded.

“So you do not think for a second that he doesn’t want us to help him with his cause in exchange for money?” asked Cooper.

“We would benefit more than him. Terrible long game from him if we get to.” answered Terrie.

1957 hours

January Coffee Shop

We waited for our order with complete serenity. It was all platonic to some degree. It felt as if contentment and acceptance made me immune from politics.

“Your sister, huh...” she said. I just nodded a lot and chuckled. Her name was Jeanie and I had wanted to find her my entire life. Her life was always meant to be as grounded as she felt at the time.

Chapter 3

Brought back from the medical institution – I was in awe of my new physical form. I would jog everywhere now – I felt reincarnated.

“It will be my most phenomenal and mighty effort to protect our world.” I said. I walked in and she was smiling.

Lopez High

Boston

1110 hours

I had slightly about an hour to prep for school. I had to attend again. I was back for my second last year.

“Onica, what has changed over the Summer?” I asked as we walked through the corridors.

“Well, not much.” she replied. I nodded. My mind linked to how my physique was.

“I can’t wait for PE.” I remarked.

1200 hours

It was time for my class at Physical Education. The pupils I was with in the class were seated in the gymnasium, talking about Summer. I had nothing to speak about however I listened to my friend Zachary’s story about the events of the holidays.

“Zac, I get it. Bungee jumping is pure adrenaline.” I commented and he nodded at me.

“How was the coma?” he asked me.

“Well, it felt incomplete. I do not remember enough.” I said. This got the attention of a young Jimmy Tyson, Jnr and Charlie Banks. They asked questions, drawing more people towards me. The coach arrived with the class list and his portfolio. I placed a serious expression on my face because despite being near-God, I had to give it my all. The usual warm-ups were a breeze for me. I had to let my thoughts be consistent.

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Over the matter of weeks – all was well, earned the stature in every key principle. I did not receive accolades however, everything had to stay grounded as nothing still did not click. I had doctor’s visits and neurologists felt the accuracy seemed timed. Perhaps not, I objected knowing God could have engineered everything. It had to be a concealed issue to protect the aspect so I can harness it. Ironically – it could mean the betterment of my

“Alright, Bruce...” said Bushy.

I got right to their yard and I knocked on the front door. I heard clamouring and arguing. I decided to actually pick up my complimentary gun and wait. I knocked again. Still no direct answer.

“Let me rush in.” I said. I heard an object being thrown and I didn’t listen to it crash.

“Okay, no.” I said then knocked again. Silence emerged and I waited. Footsteps – rushing to the front door. I pocketed my gun and waited.

“Chris Mason had to obliterate a building with a punch and that means I can always be brave.” I said. I got nervous when the footsteps ended. I felt calmness and that explained why I forgot I even had my gun with me. She opened and I saw her. It was Jeanie. Yes. She actually existed.

“I thought I was dreaming when I first saw you.” I said. She seemed unsettled. She was queasy. I started to try and read her.

“I think I am dreaming.” she said. She meant it in a relieved way. She had

Chapter 4 – The Home for Misfits

Everything that the very Bald Eagle planned was finally happening. I was in my room and all I did was think about what happened. I was, according to the public, dead. My family had to act in grief because they knew the actual truth. I was alive. I had to remain hidden.

“He wanted me to think he was going to shoot me with his gun.” I said. I was convinced about it. I had to think through all of my interactions. I heard a knock on my door then Celeste stepped into my room.

“Welcome to the Home of Misfits.” announced Celeste.

“I have some comments about the name I want to say.” I jokingly said. She actually laughed and nodded.

“I’ll give them time after you have settled in.” she said. I took note of what was said. The world I lived in was turning again. I was supposed to hang on. Hang on to what I believed in. I read enough documents to see that Chris Mason survived his war. I read enough documents to see that I have had to accept that I helped fake my death for Bald Eagle’s cause. A cause I knew little about. I was in on everything he wanted to do. I worried about what was next.

“All of this started in New York City.” I said.

“It could end in D.C.” added Celeste. I folded my arms.

“What do we do here?” I asked.

“We clear our names. We make progress, we go through setbacks. What matters is that we do this together.” she answered. I nodded a lot. I exhaled sharply then I smiled at her.

“I am here and I promise to help no matter what.” I said.

1500 hours

Everyone was in the house even the reclusive Leo. Celeste, Jonah and Isabella agreed with the theory that I presented to the moment I wrote the lead down. My theory was entirely narrative. I had limited time with Maximillion’s notes which I could read at a later time when needed.

“Bald Eagle...” read out Juvian while everyone gathered to hold another meeting.

“Yes, my one and only lead. I know Bald Eagle.” I said. Leo finally had a new expression whilst Aurora, Sharon, Carrie, Juvian and Melvin seemed extremely disappointed.

“It’s generic. Bland. Barely a lead so basically your entire involvement in this union amounted to nothing.” commented Melvin.

“Awesome, that means one remains.” said a female voice. I turned to the direction of where the voice could be heard from and there she was – Jeanie. She went by another name at the time and that was.

“Hi, I am Celeste Bridges.” she said to me. I nodded at her and pulled a face.

“Finally...” I said.

I spent minutes reading the holograms, seeing what the device said. The information based on my DNA was vast, spoke about it in its entirety. I was almost done eating then the last part of information rendered.

I wanted to leave the room, go outside yet I needed to see what was projected. I sighed then sat down and viewed the holograms. The category said "Special Abilities". I stared right at the hologram when I read this.

Now – there were two abilities stated. They were "Force Field Projection" and "Concussion Blast Generation". Both abilities, according to the data, were inherited by me.

I was shell-shocked, baffled and I was even timid about it. I was not convinced nor amused. I kept staring at the hologram. There were ways of triggering these abilities.

I clinched my right hand, power began flowing to my palm. I waited longer then aimed at a wall but I let the energy die out. I placed my arm down. I felt better about not trying then memories of me kissing Celeste swooped my mind. I blacked out. I just quickly lifted my hand and fired at the wall. I was hurled right to the floor and the concussion blast made impact. Yep. I had powers.

Chapter 6

The First Super-Powered Beaker

Sharon Lee's Cabin

Power City, MA

2310 hours

I finally had super powers. I allowed the moment to be familiar then I went to the outside world, sprinted to the Trident Neon 10, took a drives to get quality coffee at the city's January coffee shop. Reason was that I needed the scenery, needed caffeine and needed to just think over how I now had special abilities.

I returned to the premises of the cabin then yards away from the front door, I stopped the trident and opened the door of the car and viewed the hills. I exhaled then placed my coffee on the hood of the car. I decided to begin testing my powers. I began to clench my hand then I charged up, creating a tamed concussion blast, seeing well how it's generated and how it must be handled before propelled to the target. I allowed the energy to grow to amount to a lot, I placed my eyes to

Letting a few moments pass then the energy peaked, the concussion blast was not even volatile nor radioactive. I needed to somehow propel it with the concussion blast being able to create perilous destruction. I just took aim, then the moment arrived. I fired the concussion blast to the open field near the cabin, it collided and I conjured a few more concussion blasts and fired them. There were eight blasts excluding the first one I conjured after the first one that struck the open field so I conjured one more blast, it grew quiet stronger, a lot more powerful. I grew a serious face, it was fueled by so much rage and frustration. I looked to the city, a thought crossed my mind where I should fire at Power City and just let others suffer, it was a premature thought and it was determined. I just fired right to the very open field. I finally had power. I sharply exhaled, took the cut from the hood of the car and went back to the cabin after parking the Trident Neon. Calling it a night.

Sharon Lee's Cabin

October 11th 2012

05:33 hrs

Celeste was the first person to wake up and was already eating breakfast. The others would follow. She was hoping to get the chance to speak to me but in a setting that is more confined. She asked Jonah and Isabella firstly, they didn't know where I was. Celeste would go on to even ask Juvian about my whereabouts and his reply was familiar to what Isabella and Jonah. She proceeded to ask Sharon who

was busy with her morning yoga session. She walked into Sharon's room with the worry of not knowing where I was.

"Sharon, I'm looking for Bruce..." she said to her. Sharon could still converse with Celeste whilst working on the yoga. "Yeah, I knew you'd ask that", she said. "Whoa, wait- how?" she questioned. "The reason is because I know where he is, he promised that he'll call you soon." Said Sharon. Celeste received a call from me.

"Perfect time..." she said, then answered. "Good morning, Bruce. Where are you?" she asked.

"I'm at Power City." I said vaguely. She knew how answer. "This city is great, you could be anywhere." She replied. Clearly Celeste was worried about me. "I need more information on your current location", she said. I decided to be discrete but comply with what she asked.

"My exact coordinates are in the Trident Neon", I said. Celeste became a lot more baffled.

"You left your car behind and went into the city by foot?!" she asked.

"Yeah pretty much..." I said.

"Okay, I'll just have to get to you, stay put." She said. I just kept quiet then broke the news.

"Drive the Neon to my whereabouts, bring Sharon and Jonah with." I said to her.

"It sounds like you struck oil and perhaps ran out of canisters to store the mineral." She said.

"Well, not really but this clouds that guess." I said. "I found something powerful..." I said. Celeste had more thoughts run into her mind.

"We'll be there right now," she said. Then I said, "Alright, I'm counting on you, Celeste." I said.

"Yeah, well it's a good thing that the awkwardness from last night isn't in effect anymore." She said.

I wanted to ask a question towards Celeste, I never out spoke about wanting to ask a question, I deliberated mentally then perhaps ask if there is a reasoning. Now, this was a simple habit, the only fault occurred when I was done, I would blatantly yap about my own deliberation.

"Yeah, I shouldn't ask her." I said over the phone.

"Whoa, wait- Bruce, what did you say now?" she asked me.

"Yeah, wait- I'll explain later, make sure Sharon and Jonah are with you." I remembered.

"Okay, I will. Let me wait for her to finish her yoga and we'll both get Jonah, leave the cabin." She said.

"Wait, she still doing yoga?" I asked.

"Yeah, but why her specifically?" she asked me.

"She can navigate the streets of Power City easily." I said.

"Okay. And Jonah?" she asked.

"Jonah is one of the few people I can trust." I explained.

"Got it. Speak soon," she said.

"Be careful, drive safely, Celeste."

I bid farewell then hung up. Celeste placed her handheld into her pockets then broke the news to Sharon whom concluded her yoga session by doing a few stretches.

"Get ready, we need to go into Power City," said Celeste.

“Okay, let me change then while you wait on the next bus to the place since the gasoline for the sedan and van are very low and Lord knows, fugitive or not- my dad forbids me from driving the seven seater Irons car.” She said.

“Yeah we’ll be driving the Neon.” Said Celeste.

“Whoa, wait- did Bruce walk there?” asked Sharon.

“Yeah, pretty much.” Replied Celeste. Sharon knew how I was triggered emotionally and she even began her speculations.

“Bruce is in love...” said Sharon while she finished up changing. Celeste winded up feeling surprised by Sharon’s speculations about why I would walk such a great distance. She also knew that if I were to fall in love, I’d be with her. Celeste decided to reserve her thoughts for a later time. They left Sharon’s room, collected Jonah and went to the Trident Neon which was driven by Celeste, whilst Sharon and Jonah work on the Technological parts of his innovations, removing more kinks.



Power City, MA

07:10 hrs

The whereabouts of my current location was in the North side of Power City, which housed the elite society naturally. Since the confirmation of my abilities, I knew that the others have their own special abilities since we all varied geographically. Sharon spent summers in Japan, Jonah moved to San Diego and winded up living there for his entire life and Celeste was a European child since birth, the longest time she was apart from her real home was during the very decade we are in now. I was a wonder that she hasn’t cracked yet.

I was by the parking lot, skateboarding and just creating concussion blats and dismissing them, loudly playing music in my headphones. I spotted the Trident Neon from afar, took off my headphones and began waving. The car sped up running and a high speed and screeched a lot too. It wasn’t road rage, just Celeste’s impressive street racing. I just waited for them, taking a shortcut, they all finally arrived- with the tires screeching once aging. Jonah was the first person to open the door, he was lagging almost. Then it was Sharon and Celeste’s exit which was mutual. Clearly Jonah might fear heights.

“Good morning everyone.” I said to them, Sharon waved, Jonah was too out of the zone to reply.

“Good morning, Bruce.” Replied an anticipated Celeste. I just took attention to Celeste, needing my keys.

“Really? You need the keys to the Neon now?” she asked.

“The hydraulics cost about \$10 000...each.” I said.

After hearing how costly it is to repair and Trident, Celeste handed over the keys. I pocketed and waited on Jonah to completely be well since Celeste’s driving was relentless and clearly he was jetlagged.

“I’m good now, clearly Celeste was raised from a family of race car drivers and scientists,” commented Jonah. I just nodded.

“Yeah, clearly.” I added.

“Alright, why are we here, Bruce?” asked Sharon. I finally had to spill the beans, showcase my claim so I sounded logical and not just mere quantum theories.

“You read the pages, right?” I asked her.

“Yeah, it was a fascinating set of research that my father composed.” She answered.

“He was right, all of it is.” I said, then she laughed.

"That has got to be a bluff, I love my father but what was written was extremely exaggerated. Super powers? Ridiculous." She said. Then I started to find a view."

"You are right, it sounds ridiculous. I get it. Just imagine- super powers. All urban legend to the science community and to the rest of the world, then again..." I said, then found a perfect view to pierce a concussion blast. I was at a lack, it could ripple but not cause a quake. I decided to simply just conjure a concussion blast but not fire it.

Jonah and Sharon did not need to comment yet.

"Yes continue speaking," said Celeste.

"Yeah, I finally understand why they made us fugitives." I said then began to generate energy to my right palm. They all couldn't believe their eyes. Jonah was astonished. Sharon used blasphemy, which Celeste was almost in tears. The blast grew and I was chuckling in success. Celeste took a few steps closer then held the knuckles of my right hand, we looked into each other's eyes and I was fixated by her. They finally made sense of everything. The moment with Celeste and I was phenomenal, then I had to let the concussion blast's energy die out. They now knew.

"I have question." Said Sharon, Celeste took a step apart from me.

"Yeah, sure, you can ask, Sharon." I said.

"How exactly did you know about your super powers?" she asked.

"Last night, using the device that I had at the garage." I said.

"Yeah, but you need a specific chemical to activate it and use it," said Celeste.

"I figured it out. The chemical your dad used was DNA. The computer reads everything regarding DNA, not really its genome." I said.

"So we all have different abilities?" asked Jonah.

"Yeah, we ought to be different." I said.

"Meaning you need our DNA then we can confirm our abilities?" asked Sharon.

"Yeah, that's correct. If we know what we have, we can fight back, master our powers." I said to them.

"I'll settle for just knowing my special abilities for now." Said the confident Celeste. I was eyeing at Celeste.

"Alright, cool." I said. Jonah posed a question.

"Where is the device?" he asked.

"It's in the building on the 10th floor." I said.

"Okay, wait- who owns this building?" Asked Sharon.

"I saw the title deed, it only has one name." I said.

"Okay give us the name." demanded Celeste.

"It's bald Eagle." I said.

"Yeah, sorta knew it." Commented Jonah.

"He's quite the guy. Only mentioned once and he is now a property developer while he tries to eagerly save the world." commented Sharon while we were walking into the building.

I was renovated, vacant but still had electricity running and I had the device ready on the 10th floor. I was created by a solutions company in the 1970's and this very computer was meant to be the one and only that was ever created.



We were in the elevator, having the normality of keeping quiet in the lift. Obviously they had more questions. Not regarding the queries of my abilities nor why I walked to such a far location just to confirm the discovery- they were wondering about Celeste and I. Jonah began the questioning, being civil firstly, obviously- I was too smart, always kept having answers. It was elevating above the 4th floor, then the questions were asked.

"Bruce, why did Celeste old you like that?" asked Jonah. Before I could even say a word, Celeste had an answer to Jonah's naïve question.

"I had to see that the energy blast was real. Checked the legitimacy and see if there were no tricks or slight of hands." She said to Jonah.

"But you were looking at Bruce's eyes." Commented Sharron. I answered that claim.

"Oh, wait- she wasn't looking into my eyes." I said. I had more parenthesis to add. "She was directly looking across my face and trying to spot any deception. So she had to look into my eyes to see if it's all real." I said, then looked to Celeste with a smile.

"Yeah, it's all real, I now know that." She said back with a smile across her face. We were obviously talking about something we went through.

"But that was a long stare," said Jonah.

"Yeah, I don't even stare at my boyfriend for that long." Commented Sharon.

"I mean, you both held hands. Spent so much time lately," said Jonah.

"And Celeste, you were on my neck regarding where Bruce was," commented Sharon.

"To be honest, I worry a lot." Said Celeste.

"Beaker, we there yet?" asked Jonah, I looked at my watch then confirmed the time remaining.

"We are here." I said, then the elevator doors opened.

"I's swear that Bruce and Celeste kissed." Speculated Sharon. Then we walked into the vacant floor. The device was at the balcony of the floor. Jonah was the first person to job to it while I just walked to it with Sharon and Celeste. The holograms were showing, displaying my information. Jonah began reading my special abilities.

"You can project force fields, Bruce?" asked Jonah.

"Yeah, I can. It's stated but I haven't started learning." I said.

Celeste and Sharon were in awe, seeing the holograms.

"This is an interesting way to write down your genome." Said Celeste.

"So who's next on the microscope?" asked Sharon.

"You are", I answered. She turned right to me with a question.

"Why me?" asked Sharon. I knew why she had to be the next person to have evaluated.

"You and I differ in almost everything, event where we are raised, so our reading are meant to vary a lot," I said. Another reason, was that I needed Sharon to be tricked when I prick the tip of her thumb. She was afraid of needles. Snakes commonly. I just needed her co-operation.

"It makes perfect sense." She said now. I had to ask a question, then conceal the prick around my right palm.

"How many countries did you travel to in the past five years?" I asked.

"Germany, South Africa, Canada, Samoa..." She said, giving out a list of countries. Then, I just quickly pricked the tip of her right thumb, a small fraction of blood appeared. Sharon interjected.

"I'm sorry. I knew that you are afraid of needles," I said.

"Yeah, yeah- so you had to resort to all of that?" she questioned. I nodded then clicked on a few buttons then a canister, which was relatively small to the comparison of a modern day keyboard showed up. It was transparent.

"It's time to achieve your DNA, Sharon. You need to drop your blood sample into the canister and the machine will start to write out your generic essay." I said to her. She then began to follow my exact commands, with a broken brow on her beautiful and radiant face.

"Yeah, okay, you'll exact your revenge on Bruce but let's read out your powers." Commented Jonah. The blood sample floated within the canister. This was possible because of a function that every canister had, made it easier for DNA to be read. The information then flooded in, shown by the holograms. Clearly Sharon was an amazing specimen and her genepool was more of an intricate web that started to show how she now had abilities that were visibly shown.

"Great, now we can check out your powers." I said.

"How do I adjust to such a lifestyle?" she asked.

"Having abilities is like second nature. They don't threaten your health," said Celeste.

"Are the powers chronic?" asked Jonah.

"The notes never specified," she answered.

"Meaning we could have them forever?" I asked.

"Yeah, but neither of us are going to live that long," said Celeste.

The results were rendered. We could finally know Sharon's super powers. Sharon's lungs were better than mine. She now had the ability to breath under water as her first ability. The second one was written in more medical terms. Forcing me to jot down notes to ask a referred medical doctor.

"I wrote it out, best we don't use search engines," I said.

"Awesome, are we fabricating suspense?" said Jonah.

"Now that's why Jonah is invited here. It's like we're in-synch," I said.

"You are both a little psychotic," said Sharon. We just stared at her.

"In a good way," she added. Celeste was looking at the device, seething notes to find out more about the invention.

"Honestly, I'd rather fly to get here than to walk. It's a lot easier to do," said Jonah.

"Can you fly?" I asked him. He took a moment.

"Not yet." He replied.

"Yeah, that answer worries me," said Sharon. Then Celeste shared a few words.

"I need to speak to Bald Eagle," she said.

"That's not advised. He's practically and living conspiracy," I reasoned.

"I know about that, he's my only hope to find Intel," she said.

"I don't think you want to go down that path," said Sharon.

"Celeste, let's first fight our battles, win, stay alive and move past all of this. When it's all done and dusted, I will help you with finding the Intel." I said.

"Point taken. But that not all, Bruce." She specified.

"Okay, what is it?" asked Jonah.

"Bald Eagle was my father's cousin," she said.

"Whoa, wait, wait- how?" I asked.

"I recall memories with him. Childhood memories," she said.

"Jot them down, we'll verify Jonah's abilities, then yours." I said.

"Alright, this should take an hour," said Celeste.

"Wait, getting Sharon's DNA seen was a breeze. I am betting how there's more features of this device." Said Jonah.

"Well look, let's not mess with it still. Point is, it works and we just need to be patient," I said.

"Yeah, I don't think we should keep this device unknown from the others," suggested Sharon.

"Well, you're right and I thought about telling the others," I said. They waited for my verdict. "I only good thing that I will achieve is that I will see them getting pricked," I said. I had validity in my reasoning. Hence why I subjected myself into being stubborn, which systematically faded away.

"Think about the true capabilities if we all knew about our DNA!" preached Jonah.

"I agree with Bruce on this one. Letting ten teenagers know that they have actually is a really, really disastrous idea," said Sharon.

"Hence why we standardized it to just four of us. We can know our abilities, try to rout out why they are there," I said

"Yeah, I get what you are trying to accomplish, but that won't clear our names. We will still be fugitives," cited Celeste.

"Yeah, that will make us mercenaries, which will create a threat to the whole world." I justified.

"Not the best decision, to be honest, it could wind up getting us killed. Wait- I already know they want to kill us," said Celeste, who had a valid point. Now we had to deliberate.

"Yeah, great point, it's logical. It's just bias though", said Jonah.

"How so?" asked Sharon. I interrupted.

"You are all missing the point here. If I tell the others about their powers, we will all kill each other." I said.

"Bruce, you have concussion blasts- you are more likely, in fact- you are a threat," said Sharon. Time was being was being squandered on the talks of how this could alter the complexity of the situation. Jonah kept quiet then just pricked himself and his sample was verified.

"Whoa, wait- what are you doing?" I asked

"I need to check my abilities", said Jonah.

"You need to wait." Cited Sharon. I got a phone call, it was a new number but I answered it, it was a female's voice. She sounded quit familiar.

"Hello" I greeted.

"Leave Power City Beaker," the voice said.

"Whoa, wait- now?" I asked.

"Nope, not yet but you will have to leave the cabin. Stay together" she said.

"You mean, me Celeste, Isabella, Jonah and Sharon?" I asked the mysterious voice.

"No, I mean all ten of you. You all need each other" she said, then hung up.

"I will take some time to know which powers I have" said Jonah, while his DNA was being detailed. I was still trying to spot for trouble, check news reports on my PDA, there were no signs of authorities raiding and searching the Great Power City. This was still a war ring I had to take seriously. "We'll have to wait for the results on our way back to the cabin," I said.

"Wait, who just called you know," asked Celeste.

"She didn't say, but she said we should leave right now," I said.

"It sounds like a bluff," said Sharon. "I don't want to test her words," I said.

"You sound very scared," said a very vigilant Jonah. We heard sirens wailing from the distance. Clearly we had to leave the building. "Yeah, let's just leave," I said then took my backpack, placed the device into the bag and ran to the elevator. The doors to the elevator opened and someone was in the lift. I knew him, it was Bald Eagle himself and wasn't hostile. The others didn't know who he was, perhaps Celeste had saw him a long time ago to even remember who he was.

"Bald Eagle," I said. Celeste just stared at him. She could familiarize Bald Eagle. Remembering her own childhood. Bald Eagle was a man of a few words, he looked at all of us patiently. "Let's all finally have the talk," he said. Jonah could still hear the sirens, so did the rest of us. We had to trust Bald Eagle blindly again.

"Alright, let's talk, Eagle," said Sharon. "It's Bald Eagle," he corrected.

"Yeah, okay we get it. Quit trying to play God with our lives," I said to him. "Bruce, I know about the Trident Tech Hack," he said. I just kept quiet, Celeste just looked at me, and Sharon knew something about the incident, while Jonah heard about it in passing.

"Bruce, what is he talking about?" asked Celeste. I spoke clearly. "A few months ago, my brothers Terry, Vee, Cooper and I tried to hack into the data base of the Trident Tech and steal important files. We succeeded." I confessed. They were shocked when I revealed this to them. Bald Eagle still expected us to comply.

"All of you, in the elevator. We need to go somewhere." He said. We complied and stepped in. "We'll only be gaining altitude," said Bald Eagle.

"I hope the Trident Neon is safe," I said under my breath. The doors of the elevator closed. "I doubt that you even bought the Trident." Said Jonah.

"No, but it was a gift from the people who are making sure that all ten of you stay." Said Bald Eagle.



Washington, D.C.

Red Nest Base

07:23 hrs

The team 'Red Nest' was still at the base, not in a hurry to actually take their weapons and charge us blindly. Barron was working on the fridges, using software and captured footage to be sure that the fugitives were there. He worked round the clock. Beverly was patrolling around the base, brought cups of coffee to Barron and even had time to talk to him.

"You need sleep." She said, handing over a cup of coffee to Barron. "Sleep is for the weak. Plus, I'm finally complete. They are there, I just need to run a plan," said Barron.

"You are over working again." she said. "You know me a lot. I'll probably sleep for a week. Check up on Jamal. He suffered a hamstring pull and just came in from the doctors," he said.

"I know, I'm the one who sent him," she said. Barron was now embarrassed. "Yeah, maybe I do overwork myself," he said. She laughed hysterically. Barron was still having his own idea of how he needed to rest.

"I'll sleep for a few hours, maximum," he said. "Barron, just sleep. We're about to nab the biggest fugitives of our time." Remembered Beverly. Barron called a card, he decided to rest and leave the following days for fate to decide. Beverly decided to run to Eco's current location. She got there in time, Constantine was working on his machines, configurations and his entire artillery.

"Moring Constantine," greeted Beverly. He just waved and murmured numbers. Constantine Ecto was cold, rarely conversational and withheld most of his opinions. He spoke only when spoken to, he had a sordid life.

"We will be leaving for Power City soon. We surly will make a mess out of that place since we will be dealing with kids who are practically charged up." Beverly said excitedly. Constantine put down his rods, rubbed his eyes then had a sip of his cup of tea. He eventually had words to say and was finally willing to share his wisdom.

"Saving the world is hereditary, all part of a business move," he said.

"Finally, you spoke more than just a few words. You sound like you have had this sort of debacle", said Beverly.

"This isn't a debacle, it's a plot. A way to gain power, gain money and threatens any child that believes in anarchies. This is so much more about what the government says." Explained Constantine.

"We're not pawns, Ecto," said a naïve Beverly.

"Correct, we are not pawns...we are the knights." Said Constantine. Beverly was now the person who kept quiet, Ecto's words were eerie and relatively true and she began to question her own moral compass. An apology was said by the reclusive Constantine.

"I'm sorry, young Beverly. I bear philosophies. I am an extremist." Said Ecto.

"I read your resume, it's impressive too", she said.

"Please get to your point." Constantine asked kindly.

"You never speak about your achievements, your missions, your allies and the one question revolving your influence regarding your secret family. You don't even speak about your abilities." She said to him.

"I am a ghost. My path is not saturated with framed pictures of my young self. I am a scientist, a peacekeeper. I have a lot more to accomplish. That is why my resume is nothing more than a blueprint, a validation of my plan." Said Constantine. Beverly felt a sense of insightfulness while speaking with Ecto, it felt dark. It had elements of crude backlashes.

Constantine was determined, he walked through walls, and he wore a creepy, demonic mask and walked past warzones he generally caused. Beverly had something to say.

"I think you know who Bald Eagle is.' She speculated.

"I know Bald Eagle very well," he replied.

"Who is he?" Beverly asked Ecto.

"He used to be my brother. This war made him my sworn enemy..." He answered.



Power City

07:27 hrs

We never left the building, we were now on the rooftop. Bald Eagle owned the premises yet, the reason why we owned it was unclear. It would be revealed later into this war. He was clearly influential and collected, I have never seen him lose his temper before. Jonah, Sharon and I were just reserving new questions to ask Bald Eagle. The view of the city from the rooftop was nostalgic, truly a remarkable sight. Celeste sat down and just looked at Bald Eagle, she was consuming the food that he had brought for us. They were sandwiches, coffee, largos, rusks, fruits, it was a buffet.

I was devouring the food, drenching my stomach. I was starving. The walk from the cabin was the cause. I was just hungry and needed to refuel. I knew how we had so much to understand, to know of. Bald Eagle was not saying a word. Jonah and Sharon were trying to understand the atmosphere of being in the presence of Phenom Bald Eagle. Finally there was conversation being made and we were prepped to ask him questions. I was only going to see the answers about my fate and timely death. They were police sirens no longer heard.

"Everyone still thinks I am dead..." I said. Bald Eagle has something to say concerning that very issue.

"It's all part of the plan for everyone to believe that you are dead. The world needs to believe the government killed you," said Bald Eagle.

"Your plan is sadistic," I said freely. "It is still the plan." He said smugly.

"I thought you'd be taller," said Sharon.

"But we all knew you'd be bald." Said Jonah, they were comical.

"Yeah, the name gives it away..." said Bald Eagle. For a person who was able to play god and even have so much power- Bald Eagle was collected. Celeste didn't want to speak to Bald Eagle right away. She was still sitting down and letting her neurons picture herself on when she could have met him. I looked at her, I was concerned. The conversation was not pompous or abstract. It had a conspiracy which was only revolving around my fake death.

"Trivial vision at an enhanced state and to dismiss gravity," said Bald Eagle.

"What?" I asked.

"Those are the abilities of Jonah Evans the 3rd." said Bald Eagle.

"Can you speed up the progression of the machine?" asked Sharon. Bald Eagle chuckled.

"We are all in no rush to find out which genes we got from God." Said Bald Eagle.

"Well, perhaps not you, but we are. The world has been dealing with Trailblazer, the death of Chris Mason and the disaster that unfurled at Bison City. The world is scared. This debacle is a new problem". I said.

"Gaining knowledge of your Trident Tech- given powers ignites a philosophy of man being borrowed power from the gods. Now all you'll need to have is influence, faith and goodwill," answered Bald Eagle. Celeste stood up, took a few steps and was now standing right next to me.

"We need to know about TM10." She demanded. I knew that project TM10 was important. Celeste waited for Bald Eagle to answer.

"TM10 is a project that was first lead by the great Chris Mason. Over the years, it evolved," Bald Eagle explained.

"I found the file, 'Project TM10, it was all, encrypted", I said.

"Your hack was executed perfectly, you just can't decipher the information. You just don't have the right resources." Said Bald Eagle.

"You aren't speaking to me about what TM10 is, Eagle," said Celeste. Bald Eagle nodded in agreement.

"I need the flash drive that has the file now, Brice!" Bald Eagle firmly demanded. I removed it from my pocket and threw it to him.

"Now, I will decipher it... using the very device you used to find out about your powers." Said Bald Eagle. "I will maximize the device and you shall see which powers that all ten of you have," he added.

"Sounds to me, like we're about to watch a 3D movie." Sharon commented sarcastically. "Free admission for all fugitives." She added. Bald Eagle chuckled. I applauded Sharon's comedic efforts.

"Yeah, you need seven more samples." Said Celeste.

"I collected all of your DNA samples while you were still in a coma. All then of your samples," Bald Eagle said. There were ten canisters that were placed into the device and Bald Eagle clicked on various. The results were then displayed.

"That has to be illegal," I said.

"No, it is justified," said Bald Eagle.

"Still illegal. God probably reckons that you are in fact related to the serpent in the Garden of Eden." I replied.

"God it." Said Bald Eagle with a grin.

"What you did, is very evil. Ten kids are in a coma and you collect their DNA samples. Evil, sick sadistic!" I said bluntly.

"Evil enough to save fugitives and heroic enough to see something great within the ten, troubled teenagers." Replied Bald Eagle. For some reason, I understood his reply

"Yeah, I get why there was so much secrecy and politics. The government know I stole the file 'Project TM10.'" I said. Bald Eagle nodded in agreement.

"Oh, trust me. It's a political mess and it will topple the world." Bald Eagle said in a concerned tone of voice.

"What must we do to help stop this?" asked Celeste.

"Become The Mighty Ten." He said with his eyebrows raised.

Chapter 7

The Crimson Nightmare

Holograms light up and detailed all of our super powers. I still wanted to comment on what Blast Eagle had said to Celeste. "TM10 stands for 'The Mighty Ten.'" I said out loud, trying to make sense of it all. Celeste paged through the pages of her father's notes again

"Don't waste your time. Max never wrote about The Mighty Ten." Said Bald Eagle.

"TM10 is nothing more than an idea, a few written sets of data," I added.

"Yeah, most of it being encrypted," said Jonah.

"Aren't you fascinated by the holograms that show each and one of your abilities?" Bald Eagle asked. I began charging up a concussion blast.

"I'm not your enemy," Bald Eagle said, pointing at the concussion blast. I still hadn't dismissed it.

"Your plan will create enemies for all of us," I said.

"And it will bring greater allies." He replied. He was trying to reassure us of how and allegiance would be groomed.

"Yeah, can we sleep on it?" asked Jonah.

"Your allies need to be placed on a register, you know? Monitored by us." Demanded Celeste.

"That's a bit demented," said Bald Eagle.

"It sounds uncool, right? Looking over a group of people living in different countries, right?" I sarcastically asked Bald Eagle. At first he hesitated to answer.

"Yeah, it's very, very evil. I get your point, you want everything to be transparent," he said.

"No, I want everything away from us. Look at us, we are young and we all have our whole entire lives ahead of us," I said.

"Trying to save the world will get us all killed," said a concerted Celeste. The elevator was being used.

"It's not that simple. Earth needs you," said Bald Eagle.

"We don't have to talk politics here, right? I mean, the food is finished and the holograms shouldn't be seen by the people of Power City." Said Sharon who was impatient but attentively listened.

"You stole an idea. Now I need you to be the idea- I need you all to be TM10." Declared Bald eagle. I dismissed the concussion blast.

"We all just want our names cleared." I said to Bald Eagle.

"We don't need to have bullets to our names," I added. Bald Eagle kept quiet and then the holograms were a paramount. I noticed the information, Celeste was stunned too. Every one of us had different abilities. Grand abilities, I was looking thought the details. Bald Eagle threw a flash drive from the rest and it was completely destroyed.

"Politics helped to what was written in that digital file of "Project TM10. And because of all of that, it was all standardized, ordered and the heroics were limited. That's why there are no more heroes." Said Eagle.

"We all have powers." Said a very astonished Celeste.

"This is all unprecedented." I commented, reading the information regarding the ten of us. Bald Eagle knew of a greater idea.

"This is giving me goosebumps. A new set of fears too. But it's cool..." said Sharon. We took note of each ability that the device displayed. We were all dangerous, invincible. I had so many thoughts rushing in my mind when I read this then the real Intel rolled in. Bald Eagle opened up a new briefcase, it was made out of steel, its casing used by many different laboratories. I was awaiting to see what was harbored in the containment. Celeste was eager to ask questions, questions that were about her father. In the sake of simplicity- all Celeste ever wanted were answers and she could do something constructive with the very answers. I am not speaking of lawsuits, exposes of the juggernauts that played a hand in the death of Maximillian. This was the predicament young Celeste was navigating. We were all lost kindred spirits. This was all before the summer, before running away and the refuge we took at the cabin. We were no longer a group of teenagers, we could now choose to build a new fate.

What transpired in those moments, felt like a ritual. Since Bald Eagle convinced me to helm a new team, I needed to know how to know everything.

"Now, Beaker, you will have to deliberate on what you now know." said Bald Eagle.

"Clearly I shouldn't have a street fight with certain people anymore," I said.

"My father was right. A lot of people lost their lives to keep Intel from reaching everyone." Said Celeste

"Now history is about to repeat itself," said Jonah. Bald Eagle nodded in agreement.

"There are even events in the world that predicts all of this." Said Celeste. I was just listening to the conversation.

"We will be the cause of the New World War..." I said to everyone. Bald Eagle finally had the chance to open up the brief case.

"There won't be another world war if you all unite together. This entire feud is fueled by the events that took place thirty years ago and ten people triggered a new scope to understand biological warfare." Bald Eagle elaborated. I was getting how we all didn't lack the motivation to revolt, merely needed keys, idols to look up to. So that lining out our own blueprints would pay homage to a fallen hero, to a fallen generation that was oppressed. We needed a cause and I decided that I should save science and my generation.

The briefcase held a file which had many documentations. There was obviously significance with the file, it looked like it had been in existence for many decades. It was the intelligence that would catapult us beyond the fight. We were all inquisitive. I had a new epiphany of what was being spoken about. It was centered on the belief of how the young generation was not guaranteed power. We were then lead into a controlled system that standardized us all. This was passed on to every generation. TM10 was introduced, I could speculate that this was a revolutionary formula. There was surely a missing link in my story but I knew it was my own mission.

"You'll be doing some reading." Said Bald Eagle.

"I need caffeine to help." I answered.

"I need the truth." Said Celeste.

"Yeah, I need a new place to hide everyone." Said Sharon. Her statement saw the light when groceries ran out and neither of us paid rent.

"And, I need Sharon." Confessed Jonah. Bald Eagle sighed. Super powers or not, we were all young and we clearly faced problems even when we took refuge at the cabin.

"This file is all about The Mighty Ten." Said Bald Eagle. The file had survived many incidents in the past years. He continued, "It will help you all trust each other and fight this war together." I looked to the others, we were only four yet we held secrets that the six others believed were urban legends and myths. I could finally trust all the other nine others who lived with me. Dunking out from authorities and industrialized task forces that were placed in motion during the moment the hack was a success.

"We'll take the file from you. Take it to the cabin, because this is our war, just the ten of us. You can guide us, you and your allies and shed light on the dark and heroic path that we all on... but..." I said, then I allowed a moment to pass, then I continued. "When the war begins, it will be just the ten of us fighting for our lives and trying to restore our freedom, clear our names. It will be the ten of us, not more, not less."

The moving sentiment worked, I was living proof that you young generation was not yet doomed.

"Bruce, you have to run for president," Sharon commented. The collected forces that helped us to stay ducking would have to hear of what I said which was all said with great respects. Bald Eagle was a person who was very aware. He just locked the briefcase, then handed over the paramount and valuable information to young Beaker. The briefcase was more important than my life until the night in New York. It was composed by a writer whom we learned of only years after Bald Eagle only had another thing to say before we would leave. The monitor said this with a subtle tone, my memory would frame the images of the city more. Correction, Bald Eagle was brass and more assured when he said the last thing. Before we were dismissed and the memory of the event was flooded by the visuals of Power City, Celeste and her aura and the actual briefcase.

"It's finally time for you to all cement your legacies," said Bald Eagle.

"All we are trying to now, is save the world. It's more than just about project TM10 now." Said Celeste. And the new mission was integrated-finally.



Celeste, Jonah, Sharon and I walked to the elevator, the door closed, we arrived at the ground floor and rushed to the Trident Neon. In our possession was the DNA storyteller, the briefcase which contained the top secret file and the borrowed time. I sat in the driver's seat and Celeste sat in the front passenger seat. Jonah was next to Sharon in the back passenger seat. We all buckled up before I could even switch on the car, I had to tell them what the next move would be.

"We need to tell the others about their super powers." I said.

"I agree with you, Bruce." Said Sharon.

"Wait, what id Bald Eagle went and told them?" asked Jonah who sounded pretty concerned.

"No, Bald Eagle would never do that." I said.

"This is the very person who got all of our blood samples, started a grand plan that only needs the ten of us." Jonah reminded.

"I understand how influential and how powerful he is. I mean, he faked my death but this is a step for just us and hopefully it will work out." I explained.

"And remember, he still has superiors to answer to." Said Celeste. I looked to Celeste, she was absolutely certain about Bald Eagles ties

"Well, alright. You are right, meaning that the other six don't know yet." Said Jonah.

"Yeah, precisely. Now, we need to figure out when to tell the others," said Celeste.

"Do we have to tell them all at one time?" asked Sharon, I gave it some thought.

"We need to tell them all at once." I said, then I had a simple condition. Celeste continued, "We'll take our time."

"Yeah because we need to read everything about all of our powers and project TM10." I added. They all nodded in agreement, it was like we were all in a physiological link, and we knew how dangerous this game of chess was being played. I fired up the engine, it needed to be charged up before I could start driving it.

"We'll take our time before we start talking to them." confirmed Sharon.

"Yeah." Said Jonah.

"This isn't a race, it's all part of a war," said Celeste.

I was about to start driving, when I suddenly had a flashback of the past, I recalled my first day at Pioneer March, then I was suddenly back to the present moment.

"Let's go back to the cabin, read the Project TM10 file." I said, then stepped on the paddle. The tires screeched and the car picked up speed. We left to parking lot and were on our way back home.



Red Nest Headquarters

Washington D.C.

16:57 hrs

While the ten of us were still in hiding, Red Nest was finally ready to mobilize and launch a full force attack on us. The preparations were all done but the entire team was not yet medically cleared to partake in the mission. In the moment of the ultimatum, Nashief elected that Red Nest should wait for four more days. When Jerome heard this, he went back to training and working on the weapons he was secretly developing. Weapons meant for a fight with Juvian Totem. The others carried on, they were in their own spaces. The young Emma went into the city, she wanted to feel a sense of normality. Emma was drawn into the Red Nest, she was dwelling into the life of inheritance and consumerism. Her activity in Red Nest and the consent of her biological parents.

Barron was sleeping, the ground leader needed to finally place more hours of sleep during his free time. The sleep was peaceful until his consciousness created a very powerful and emotional dream. He dreamed of Elaine, they were both peacefully sitting in the woods and staring at the stars in the darkened night sky. They were having a conversation. She seemed to be creating humor and Barron would up the tone. She was laughing infectiously and he kept clinging onto her.

"I love you, Barron," she said to him and he always knew what he would say to her.

"I love you too, Elaine." He said back to her. They continued to look in to the sky and helmed conversation.

"You seem quiet tonight," she said to him.

"I'm trying to focus on our future." He said to her.

"Well, if you must know, I'm with you. That's all that matters." She said. Barron heard a crackle in the woods.

"You are right. We've made it through everything together," said Barron who was just trying to sort out the mood. Elaine was at peace, the stars flickered. Then something suddenly ran towards their direction. It was hostile force.

"Now, we need to talk about our heirs, we should start trying," she said to him.

"Well, I thought by now, we'd be expecting." He said.

"That's somewhat a conspiracy," she added.

"Wait, I know that tone." Said Barron a little overwhelmed. Elaine would go on to tell Barron that he was going to be a father.

"You are going to be a father," she confirmed with a smile and tears rolling down her cheeks.

"Now, I know that you said you had a rule and this completely goes against the very rule," she tried to explain, but Barron interrupted.

"No, no, no, forget the rule. You and I are finally going to have a family. Nothing else matters," he said with a smile. They shared a kiss. The hostile force finally managed to see the light, it was an android. Its eyes were lit up in blue, it clenched its fists.

"Barron." Said Elaine abruptly, worry in her tone of voice.

"Don't worry." Said Barron reassuringly. The android took another step. "I'm still on talking terms with him," he added. The couple stood up and Barron made sure that Elaine was behind him and that she could run away if a fight broke out.

"I know you have your orders. I know that Marshall North wants me to be a dead man. He doesn't even have to say it." Explained Barron. The android still took steps towards the couple. Barron saw Elaine trying to stand brave, she had an aura that was detailed to be a warrior. Barron only wanted Elaine to be prepared to run away.

"But, listen- there is always a better choice." Barron tried to negotiate. But the android began to activate its weapons. Barron sighed heavily and charged towards the android. It fired its guns at him, he dodged the shots.

"Run, Elaine!" he shouted. Elaine listened to him. She quickly picked up speed and ran into the darkened woods. Barron broke into a fist fight with the android.

This clearly wasn't a fair fight. Barron punched the bark of a tree close by and his knuckles bled while the android would strike the tree and the word "timber" was just needed to make the tree fall. The fight was fast-paced. Barron's blows were futile, the android would inflict damage onto his temple. The fight helped create time for Elaine to run away, someone needed her captured. The android was still calculating how the fighter placed war in his hands.

Barron had abundant weakness in the fight, it was because of the emotions that flood his mind. The android took a serious jab to Barron's gut. It would then go on to strike his nose with its knee, causing a deep, ugly cut on the bridge of his nose. The android continued the fight by throwing Barron into a tree. Elaine was still running for her life, the android laid Barron into waste. Then, it made a chase for her.

Barron suffered a fractured rib but he gathered the strength to stand up. He was groaning, his eyesight was not blurry. Barron began stumbling through the woods, trying to save Elaine from the clutches of the android. About a minute later, Barron was able to see a cliff, the android was with Elaine.

"Elaine, Elaine!" he screamed. The android looked at Barron and it was strangling her, hoisting her up. The android only needed to let her go then she would fall to her death.

"No, No! No! Wait! Please, leave her out of this!" Screamed Barron, the explosion pushed violently into another tree.

Barron's back was in pain, he then looked to the android, and there was an echo from the sky, the voice sounded demented.

"Ultimately, you will lose everything!" the voice echoed. Tears rolled down Elaine's face, her eyes and face red.

"Please save me," she said choking on the last breaths of air she had. Then, in the blink of an eye, the android let go, dropping her to her death. Barron couldn't stand up. "No!" was all he could utter.

Vladimir tried shaking Barron out of the deep nightmare Barron was in. "Barron, Barron, wake up!" Said Beverly, frightened from the sight of Barron's distress. Vladimir began chatting something in his native language. Barron kept screaming.

"Something is wrong, Vladimir, call for help!" said Beverly, before the brute could even leave the door, Barron woke up instantly and pushed Beverly off and took a gun and looked around the room wide-eyed and in a panic. His mind finally slowed its pace from racing, he now recalled where he was.

Vladimir helped Beverly up off the floor, she kept assuring him that she was fine. Barron noticed his gun in hand and realized how dangerous he'd become when he'd snapped out of the nightmare.

"I'm so sorry, Beverly." He apologized, he was still in a sense of shock and distress, Beverly had bumped her head when she had fallen, she had a visible bruise on the right side of her forehead. "It's okay, you were having a nightmare," she said. Vladimir activated a button and a medical team was rushing to the scene. Barron carefully placed his gun down, Vladimir opened the door for the resident medical professionals. Beverly sat down on a chair near by and was treated, the team was extremely efficient. Beverly was more worried about Barron, it seems that the young leader had been going through a lot since the death of Elaine.

Nashief walked into the room and looked around, wondering what had transpired. When walked to Beverly, the medics were working attentively to the bruise which was now bleeding.

"What the hell happened here?" he asked her "And how did you end up with the bruise?" Before Beverly or Vladimir could explain, Barron confessed.

"I panicked, then pushed her..." he said in a shaky voice.

"Whoa, what?" Nashief asked baffled. Barron had to now speak up on something he had hidden from Nashief. "I keep dreaming about Elaine. The dreams haunt me and whenever I wake up..." he was shacking and struggled to find the words, "I wake up in a panic. This may basically mean that I have the possibilities of hurting anyone who is near me when I wake up." He looked at his gun.

Nashief was shocked, everyone else was quiet in the room.

"This had been happening since January." Said Beverly.

"You knew Barron, I reckon that you are not even psychologically clear for this mission," Nashief commented.

"No, not wait. That's nonsense! I'm still the leader of Red Nest!" Barron said defensively.

"You are a threat to your own team right now," Nashief explained. Barron tried to calm himself, taking a few deep breaths before he could explain himself without snapping again.

"With all due respect- Nashief, that's an assignment that amounts to more delays." He explained in a calmer tone. "I am the only one who can apprehend them," he continued. Nashief had to deliberate, he needed to use the facility's AI in order to have a read on Barron's mind. In the easiest move Nashief did not want to rush this entire progression.

"Barron, I'm scheduling you for a therapy session, you just need that and you'll be cleared for the mission." Said Nashief. He played the route where he looked at it for now. This brought him time to really investigate what was really haunting Barron. The medics were done treating Beverly.

"I'll take my medication now," said Beverly, Vladimir decided to leave the room.

"Alright, I'll take you up on our order, Nashief." Said Barron, breathing a massive sigh of relief. Nashief nodded, Beverly still felt eerie about Barron's actions. He was still shell shocked, disconnected from everything. Factors that could jeopardize the entire mission.

"I need to speak to Barron in private, please." Said Beverly kindly. Vladimir had forgotten his PDA and had quickly made his way back to the room, this would sought out to be a moment that would be a key reason, why we triumphed against all odds. Everyone gave Beverly and Barron privacy, including Nashief. The conversation began.

"You need to focus," she said to Barron.

"I am focused, my prescriptions are helping," he said in defense. "This mission is our big break, we just need to nab them and we'll be eating dinner with presidents." She said. Vladimir was finally by the door but decided to listen in on what was being discussed.

"I have a higher call to answer to," said Barron. Beverly kept quiet and listened to what Barron saw as a greater priority. Barron had a normal, life being part of Red Nest helmed danger but she made it her second nature. Granted, Barron and Elaine fell in love and even got married- then she died. Barron redirected his anger and his focus on a new case. A very dangerous case. Barron was working for revenge.

"I need to find death serge and kill him." He said clenching his fist into the bed sheets.

"That's not going to end with you alive." Beverly warned.

"You don't have faith in me?" he asked her.

"I honestly don't see a killer in you." Barron felt trapped and powerless. "They took everything from me!" he said, tears were starting to fill his eyelids, but he didn't let them fall. Beverly knew the right words to say.

"They never took your soul. You are a good man, Barron Patriot." She said with a reassuring hug. The two were locked to each other Vladimir decided to leave the door, he witnessed a glimpse of a dark Barron.

The embrace that they shared was more intimate than before. The hug would converge, conclude their visages were very near. Barron and Beverly could share a kiss finally. They both leaned over, then before their lips were just about to touch- his phone rang, snapping Barron back into reality and disturbing the moment between them. They shared a nervous chuckle as the moment died out. Barron walked to his phone, it was very advanced in its technological features, and Beverly was scatter-brained and trying to gather her dizzying thoughts. She was actually still thinking about Barron and how he had the sudden courage to kiss her.

The call was from an associate of Barron. The associate had serious dealings being made with Barron which Red Nest had no knowledge of. Barron took a moment to excuse himself. "I need to take this call." He said to her.

"Go on," she responded, and went on to disappear behind the door. The person on the other end of the line was extremely blunt and had a cold tone. Beverly couldn't even hear what the person had said, he simply pretended to listen. All he did was agreed or declined in response. He could feel his own body become tense again, his fists clenched, his breath short and his jaws tighten, he was showing signs of anxiety again.

Beverly waited for him to round up the phone conversation, after just less than a minute or so, Barron dropped the call and reemerged from behind the door and placed his phone back in its initial place. A meeting had been scheduled over the phone.

"I need to go somewhere in a few hours," he began.

"Alright, I need to rest up too. I guess... we'll speak tomorrow." Said Beverly in a shy tone of voice. She left the room. Barron turned to his firearm, took a deep breath, exhaled heavily and picked it up, taking a moment to think. Repercussions were near and he needed to stay afloat mentally. Barron then began to turn heel.



Washington, D.C

22:59 HRS

Barron was at the location with a minute to spare. He had a gun with him and he needed to always be vigilant. The location was a famous restaurant that housed everyone, the store was always open. The associate was already seated and reading the news off his PDA. He was in fact a friend of Barron's and also studied genetics. He however, did not have great influence, he was still an individual who

was in dangerous dealings and even controlled many aspects of the situation. The associate caught wind of our story and he had a determined interest around everything. He had sources which would navigate and find new information and now he developed his own theory.

"Sorry, I'm late," Barron apologized the associate raised his hand, a sign to say he had been pardoned.

"Thank you," said a grateful Barron.

"Who the hell are The Mighty Ten?" the associate asked. Barron knew very well that this was a social call.

"Oh, crap." Said Barron pinching his temples.

"Relax, relax- the story didn't leak." He clarified reassuringly.

"You used your army of spies?" guessed Barron.

"Yes, now- who are The Mighty Ten?" he asked.

"Just a bunch of teenagers that became fugitives. My team has been given the task to find them and bring them to justice." Barron explained.

"They sound like serious a serious matter, if Red Nest had to called in. I just don't want the very "Mighty Ten, or whatever these wanna-be Power Rangers, to destroy everything I've worked on." The associate said.

"Your company is safe, there is revenue and there's growth. However... I just need more time to complete my task," Barron pleaded.

"Barron, my company needs to move to phase 3."

"I know but I am very near to a breakthrough, I just need six more months."

"In six months I could be dead, Death Surge is onto me."

"You can go incognito. Take your wife Martha and your children with. I will liquidate my funds to speed up my mission. I can also manage to pull this off," said Barron.

"I have faith in you, I seriously do. Which is why I am going to give you more time." Said the associate.

"Thank you..." said Barron, he then finally received his order. It was nothing more than his usual. It was a pepperoni pizza with anchovies.

"Now, moving away from the pending train wreck, how has Red Nest been?" the associate asked.

"The team is more and more insightful," he answered.

"And Cassidy North?" Barron shook his head and smirked.

"She still hates my guts."

"It's because of Elaine?" he asked Barron with his brows raised.

Barron cleared his throat and momentarily covered his mouth. He flashed back on his nightmare.

"Uhm, yeah, she was her older sister," he answered.

"It was more than that, Elaine was her hero."

"Yeah- I understand but she doesn't hate you nor Marshall," said Barron.

"Ever wondered why?" the associate asked.

"Yeah, I always do. Perhaps I am meant to be the only one at fault." Said Barron.

"No, No, brother. I helped you and Elaine to elope heck- I was your best man. You were both happy, content, Cassidy was happy for you both." The associate pointed out. He reminisced about better times. Barron had a thought when his friend mentioned how Cassidy initially felt about the marriage.

"I need to do right with Cassidy then I will be in peace with Elaine's death," Barron said softly. His associate nodded in agreement but highlighted his difficulties.

"That will take time but good luck, brother." Said the associate, raising his glass.



00:04 hrs

The meeting was not hostile, it ended with Barron handing over data to his best friend, the very associate. He and Barron then decided to take a walk into Washington, D.C. the moon was brightly lit, Barron was still trying to gather his thoughts, trying to fuel new philosophies and remembering Elaine. He kept sighing, but the night welcomed a better mood where Barron could see a glimmer of light in his life. I could move on again, separating himself from the past.

By the time he walked past a few blocks, Barron took note that he was being followed by someone. The person kept a steady pace and made sure to stay in the shadows. Barron sped up his pace, the mysterious follower did the same. He heard a gun being loaded and a click, he began to run. The follower began firing shots in his direction. Barron kept his head down, trying to dodge bullets flying past his head and ricocheting off the walls close by. He made a quick decision to run into oncoming traffic. This was a set up obviously to silence him. He was still being followed, a grenade was thrown at him, and he repelled it with a kick. It exploded near a parked car. Screams and car alarms sounded after the blast, but he ignored it. His life was at stake.

He made his way into New Street, a dark street, populated by trees and shrubs and hid in the darkness to recuperate and strategize his plan of flight or defense. The assassin followed stopped under a lamppost nearby, trying to figure out which direction Barron had disappeared. He now wandered the silent street, hunting for the Red Nest leader who could fire at the assassin from the distance. Barron had to make a final decision. It seems he may have had enough ammunition and could neutralize the target. He decided to call Beverly and preempt the event. Beverly answered.

"11th avenue on the West," he said with an urgent whisper.

"What? What about it? Barron, why are you whispering?" Beverly said annoyed.

"I'm under attack." Said Barron. On the other end, the sound of Beverly shuffling cracked over the phone.

"Any idea of who might want you dead?" she asked. But before he could answer, the call was disconnected. A server interrupted and overrode the call. Barron was not able to call or receive calls, he then resorted to his last tactic. He decided that calling for help or shooting back at the assassin would be futile.

He was in stealth mode. The assassin was close by, taking slow, soft and calculated steps in Barron's direction. Barron waited for the assassin to take two more steps towards him. Then, he went in for the tackle, throwing the opponent into the road. The fight for his life began, Barron threw punches, the opponent- whoever they were, was trained in physical combat as well. The fight was complex, this person was obviously determined to kill Barron, and one of them would lose at the end of this fight.

The opponent was quick and nimble, light footed, making use of parkour and mixed martial arts. Diving over parked cars and occasionally taking moments to aim their gun at Barron. After a few minutes of chasing and fighting, Barron finally found the opening, hitting the opponent with an upper cut, sending them tumbling onto the sidewalk.

Barron wasted no time in apprehending the opponent, but just as he was about to make his next move, an explosion went off and startled him. The opponent made a run for it, disappearing into the night without a trace. Barron looked at his phone, to his surprise, the communication network was restored.

“This is Barron Patriot, it’s finally time to travel to Power City.” He said panting. His hatred for the Mighty Ten grew in that moment.

Chapter 8

Happy birthday, Bruce

Sharon-Lee's Cabin

October 29th, 2012

0000 hours

I was finally 17 in that very moment. I was in fact content with how I have lived for so many years. The cabin was silent firstly, and then company walked in. It was everyone, they all sang happy birthday for me. This simple gesture moved me in the biggest way, I was truly honoured. I understood how they knew- Celeste told them a few days before and Sharon would help with formulating the act of kindness.

They brought me a traditional cake and I would only have a few simple words to say.

"Thank you, everyone," I blankly said.

"You did make a wish right?" asked Isabella.

"Yeah, and it is already here." I said. After speaking, everything else was pretty much normal formality, we moved out of my room then sat in the television room. It was all positive vibes. It had been eighteen days since we had last spoken to Bald eagle and we never told the others about their powers and project TM10. They didn't even know about the story behind me hacking the Trident Tech.

We procrastinated, held the news of our powers to ourselves for the moment, but we knew that the authorities would soon surface. Meaning the truth would eventually be told to everyone. I was left alone, seated on a chair, eating a portion of my birthday cake. Everyone else was conversing as music softly played in the background. Celeste asked Juvian to be excused. She sat in a chair opposite me, she knew what needed to be said and why it needed to be said.

"We need to tell them about their super-powers and TM10," she whispered. I could hear her, but I needed to say something to reply. I scratched my head.

"You are right. I guess it's finally time to let them know," I responded. Celeste added parenthesis into what she told me. Her face became serious, she swallowed and exhaled sharply.

"We need to tell them today," she said. I laughed nervously- the type of laugh I use anytime I am being confronted.

"Uhm, maybe we could wait a few more days, perhaps a week." I responded with a shaky smile across my face. But she still had a serious look on her face, she didn't even look like she was attempting to hide a laugh.

"Okay I'll tell them today," I said coming to my senses.

"Thank you," she said, tapping my thigh lightly.



06:53 hrs

I passed out while the music played. I remembered the last conversation I had with Isabella and Leo. I was the first person to wake up, it was still my birthday and I needed to collect my mind. I hadn't shaved the hair off my head since September meaning I looked scruffy. Blessing and a curse that was a courtesy of my genepool. I walked to the kitchen, my pajamas were blue in colour. I needed to eat some cereal.

'Happy Birthday, Bruce.' Said a voice before I could see their face. It was Bald Eagle, he wasn't armed.

"Thank you, Eagle," I said.

"Yet after seventeen years of existing in the world- you chose to procrastinate," I scoffed.

"Celeste told you..." I speculated.

"No," he said.

"It was probably Sharon, heck- I also question that Jonah has something to do with you knowing about their powers. Bald Eagle kept quiet for a moment, then continued to explain a simple concept that branched.

"No, that's not important. What's really important is to go fourth with the plan, or you'll have their blood on your hands." he warned.

"No one has introduced violence in this situation." I said.

"Yet, Bruce." He scratched the stubble on the side of his cheek and took a moment to find the right words. "They will not offer you all a truce easily."

"This is like the day I woke up in the hospital. You are psychologically handing me the gun!" I was on the defense, shaking with anger. Bald eagle didn't respond, he knew that I was wiser, I was insightful and I had agreed to speak up about biological warfare and how we were entities of the world.

"Yes, you are right..." Bald eagle shrugged. This was the first time that my mentor admitted that I was right. He then began to speaking in code.

"Wait, am I right? Crap, I am right and the great Bald Eagle just admitted that I am right," I said with a boastful giggle. "This is truly the best birthday ever," I added. The legend grinned and nodded in acknowledgement, and began to speak. Informing me in a few words to project what Earth was spoke about.

"The world is in whispers..." he began.

"Everyone shouldn't be afraid of the mighty ten," I said.

"Not everyone is afraid of you. I can name seven people who will take a fight with all ten of you." Bald Eagle said as a matter-of-factly. "It sounds to me, like you know who is after us," I said.

"The very people will hunt you all down. Apprehend you, and then you will be their guinea pigs, their test subjects. For now, you are all called 'runaways,' martyrs. In the next few weeks- all ten of you can be heroes," said Bald Eagle. I kept quiet and thought of something simple.

"This isn't something from a book. We are only trying to clear our names. We are not heroes."

"You are not heroes, yet. But all of you are freed." He said as he finished up his cereal. He had the courtesy to reins it and pack it away.

"Heave an awesome birthday Beaker. And learn about humility. That's how you save the world," Bald eagle said with a soft smile. I nodded. "Seven billion people need the Mighty Ten," he added as he walked out.

Celeste walked into the kitchen, she dreaded mornings and her hair was a mess.

"Morning Celeste," I said kindly.

"Morning, Bruce," she said in a weak voice and yawned.

"Bald Eagle was here a minute ago," I shared.

"Well he still needs to answer questions regarding my father," she said still drowsy with sleep. I nodded in agreement.

"Yeah, we are all past having mediocre loves. We deal with Cold War conspiracies and super powers," I said, Celeste laughed. Leo walked in, he was working on a sketch. He greeted us, we waved back. I had to get food into my system. Celeste looked like a hot mess, kissing her didn't complicate things, I believe kissing her was truly needed and it was timeless. As I was preparing my food, I saw, in the corner of my eye, Celeste approach me. She had a neutral, blank stare across her face. For a second I wondered what the problem might be. She spoke in a whisper.

"Bruce, we need to talk about the kiss." I knew how to respond.

"Yeah, sure, we can stay friends," I said blankly

"Whoa- what?" she asked with a look of shock. I opened up the fridge- there was a problem that I had to solve. "Great, we're out of milk." I said.

"Bruce, the thing is"- she got cut off just as Jonah and Sharon walked in.

"Bruce, are you going into the city today?" Sharon asked.

"Yeah, I need to get a few bottles of milk." I explained.

"That's, great. I ran out of material so I need more." Said Sharon.

"Which material is it?" I asked.

"Asbestos." She replied. I have been wondering why for the past couple days now. She seemed to be very pre-occupied with something and worked alone. We all wondered why but it was all influenced by the file.

"Alright," I said.

"I need fuel." Said Jonah. I rolled my eyes and sighed.

"Diesel is expensive," I said to Jonah. Jonah cleared his throat and scratched his head.

"I actually need jet fuel, I know about an old hanger in Power City and I can get it for a steal." He explained.

"I hope it isn't really stolen. We are all in enough trouble already." I said.

"Yeah, you're dead and we are fugitives." Said Celeste. She too had a list of charges and problems we had to fix. She couldn't mention the kiss to the others, however since it was still a discussion that Celeste and I would need to have soon.

"Alright, let's go then." I said.

"Bruce, you are still in your pajamas," said Sharon.

"Yeah, I know," I said.

"Aren't you going to change before we leave?" she asked. I looked at my pajamas, they were still clean and I still smelt of Italian cologne.

Nope, it's my birthday- I can do whatever I want." I said. Celeste then gave me a stare that meant that I should reserve my words. The look essentially meant I should shut up.

"Okay, let's go to the Trident," I said. We all stepped outside when Leo rushed out to approach us. He was out of breath. Moments before it surly wasn't an alert that the authorities hadn't found us. As Leo tried his best to catch his breath, Jonah said something comical.

"Someone get this guy a glass of water and an oxygen mask. Leo, please don't get a heart attack on us bro." we all chuckled.

"Leo, what is it? Why the running?" I asked him. He was crouching now.

"I needed to catch up with you guys before you left- I need a ride into the city. I need to buy a few gallons of paint." He explained panting and slightly red.

"You are a Da Vinci from Canada," said Celeste, complementing Leo's craft without ever even taking notice of his artwork. It was a blind admiration.

"Thank you, Cece." Leo said, his cheeks blushed red.

The Trident Neon had five seats, Leo could be accommodated and I knew very well that I could resort to telling him about his new abilities. In fact, I could even isolate my rival Melvin regarding the development.

"Yeah, but there is an initiation fee for being chauffeured using the Trident," I explained. A look of annoyance crossed Leo's face.

"Oh, crap. That's a problem. I haven't sold a single artwork in months. The coma gave me a blind eye. I thought that the scenery and resources would help cure it." Said Leo.

"Leo, relax. It's a creative block. You still have your arms and legs." I said. Leo nodded.

"The initiation fee is to always wear a seatbelt." I explained. Leo understood the terms.

"Just a reminder that I need more meds, so I will have to stop by the pharmacy." Said Celeste.

"Noted. Now, let's make our way to the great city!" I said.

We all made our way to the garage and went aboard the Trident Neon, and made our way off the premises of the cabin.

Power City

09:49 hrs

In the heart of the city, there were task forces that roamed the city, looking for any of us. The task forces were from the collected governments. They were ordered to apprehend us. Red Nest's first attempt ever.

By then, Beverly's injury was completely healed and Eddie had a new set of swords. Vladimir had lost a few pounds and Emma worked on her master weapon. Red Nest was not mobile, they were still on their highly advanced vehicle. Jerome spoke less and less and had a personal vendetta towards one of us. He had a sordid past and was once in a secret society and adopted the pseudonym "Scarret". Jerome left and he was shunned in an ultimatum join Red Nest or die in a few years. The ultimatum turned into a lifestyle and he made most of the life he lived now.

"Are you that scared?" asked Emma who wondered about Jerome's silence.

"This is worse than the time we had to raid Istanbul." Eddie said.

"Nope, it's just that, well, I was thinking about my younger years." Jerome answered.

"Your rebel era, I recon. I read up on your file." Emma confessed.

"The pyramid of Giza. You were a radical," said Dr Ecto, Emma was astonished when she heard Constantine speak.

"Yeah, Constantine can speak." Said Beverly who was placing her gauntlets that latched to her wrists

"And before anyone asks- No, I'm not dying" said Constantine.

"Crap now I need to change the eulogy that I wrote for you." Emma joked. Barron had a notification to give to the team.

“Still no sightings of any of the nine fugitives. Well, we still clearly need to use our new satellite to find them.” Said Barron.

“Wait, that’s still illegal,” said Eddie.

“Eddie, my friend, we still have the proxy. We can use the satellite just to track them down and then we can do all nine arrests before noon,” Barron explained.

“Wait, you have the proxy?” asked Beverly.

“Yeah, I have the proxy,” said Barron with confidence.

“How did you get it,” asked Constantine. Barron dodged the question, he just needed the team to support his idea.

“Look, we will all wonder why would we go to such lengths to gain the access proxy but that’s all not going to matter when we have government contracts worth billions and new team members.” Said Barron.

“You stole the proxy didn’t you?” Emma asked accusingly. Barron looked away in guilt.

“Dude.” Eddie began. “But it won’t trace back to us, if so- “I’ll take full responsibility.” Said Barron. The team decided to support his decision. The leader summoned a computer monitor that was connected in the vehicle. It was a state of the art piece of technology and Barron could use his personal PDA to type out the needed information will be used to have control of the powerful satellite.

The entire team stood by each other and gleamed at the computer which gave many ground features. It took about a minute for Barron to type out the needed information to access the satellite. Then, the proxy was typed in.

“Okay, we can use the satellite right now,” Barron notified. “Alright, there is a virtual escape ready if the alerts go off.” Said Beverly

“We just have to get nine co-ordinates then disconnect.” Said Eddie anxiously.

“Relax, I know what I’m doing,” Said Barron. He uploaded their names but nothing showed. They were barred from being tracked down by the satellite.

“Crap, this isn’t helping,” said Barron.

“It’s probable just a glitch, run the names again,” said Jerome. Barron would try to find the co-ordinates again. They could gain access to our location. There weren’t any faults with the system. Barron grew impatient and felt cheated. All ten of us were excluded from the invincible and futuristic invention. Now, Emma collected a simple idea, and she was well intoned with a supply of information. Before Barron would deactivate and think of a new plan, Emma decided to ask the one question that would change everything.

“Can the satellite track down cars?” she asked.

Chapter 16

The Next Generation of Heroes

I was trying to better the world and I knew that the mission was going to be the first step. The mission was more than just a heist, it felt like a test. I carried a new motion forward- the team needed Cooper's help. His hacking skills were impressive and his persona was boastful. We still needed his help without a doubt. Before we could continue with the planning, I texted Cooper briefly then tucked away my phone. We were taking medication and we were fixated on completing this task. I looked at my watch then felt like time flying.

The thing is - I couldn't sleep and I was still adjusting to the recovery phase. We heard a loud thud on my door. We all panicked. Leo ducked down, I quickly conjured a concussion blast then fired at the door. The blast was moderate and it didn't even damage the door. The person who caused the thud saw the door shake, however the warning didn't work- the person simply opened the door and wandered in. It was Celeste. We were all surprised to see her. Jonah freaked out, he believed in her alibi.

"Good morning, Celeste." I said to her. I was still trying to act normal.

"Good morning, Bruce." she said. She kept looking at my walls and desk. Celeste had a request.

"I need to talk to Bruce, privately." she said. Initially Jonah believed that I was trouble and he wanted to see how it would all pan out.

"It's cool, guys – you can go." I said. They peacefully walked out of the room and closed the door.

"You look like you need breakfast." I said.

"You look like you need sleep." replied Celeste. I scoffed then nodded repeatedly. Celeste knew that I was working on the mission already. I had to reason or apologize. Celeste waited for me to speak.

"I couldn't sleep last night. I doubt I'll even sleep for the next few weeks before the mission." I reasoned.

"Yeah, that's the problem, you think that this mission is our only way out." said Celeste. She was trying to introduce a more realistic perspective of the situation. I was caged into a domain of insomnia and scheming. Someone needed to set me free.

Celeste was growing through all of these events. She wasn't meant to save me however. I needed to die so that others could be freed. The Universe was trying to code that message into everyone involved. I just kept quiet and looked around the walls. I was trying to let it all sink in. Celeste kept looking at me. I wasn't even drowsy from the medication. I was trying to tell her what I knew.

"Celeste, look – I'm just trying to solve problems. This mission could clear our names." I said.

"And what if we fail to complete the mission? What if we can never take our lives back?" asked Celeste. She was asking the gritty questions that everyone was too afraid to ask.

I couldn't utter a word. Firstly I kept quiet then read her. I needed to speak rationally. I was trying to remind her about everything. "Okay! Okay – you win. I can't answer those questions!" I said.

"Really? That's not a good sign." she said.

"Yeah, well – look, time is still against. I'm just trying to lead you all and save everyone." I said.

Celeste continued speaking.

"Yeah but that's the thing – anything can happen. You could die. Sharon could die. Someone's child could die. We could all die." she pointed out. "I just have faith in all of you. Especially in you." I said emotionally. Celeste was moved. She ran out of words.

"This is our story and we are going to stay alive until the very conclusion." I said. A set of tears started to roll down her cheeks. I showed a wince then quickly kissed her on the forehead. Reassurance was greater than political insurance. Celeste believed in the union. A union of ten people. A union that was learning new ways of life. My speech reminded Celeste of her father. She began to feel at home in my moment of insanity, and intricate ideals.

"I hope that you'll keep every – thing under control." she advised.

"I will, I... I will" I said to her. I hesitated at one point. I was in the clear.

"Awesome, captain." said Celeste.

"Yeah, uhm – I don't want a superhero name. It's too much work." I said in a comical tone. Celeste laughed. Her lighter side was present. She actually thought of a pseudonym for me about right away, however. Now, we could resume with the preparations of the mission.

"Alright, let's continue with the planning. We only have less than three weeks to complete the mission." I said.

"That's still enough time." said Celeste. I agreed with her.

"Yeah, you are right." I said. She and I were still in sync. She was a guiding light.

"Awesome but don't squander it." advised Celeste. I nodded.

"Cool" I said then smiled at her. She smiled back. The moment was timeless.

"Whoa, wait – when did Jonah purchase jet fuel?" asked Celeste.

"Well, during the early hours of today." I answered. I knew the answer to this because he was excited about the purchase. Too excited.

"Oh, okay." said Celeste. She was happy for him. Worried but happy.

"Eugene said hi. " I said to her. She felt disgusted.

"Bruce, don't." she warned. This conversation was very humorous in nature.

"Okay. Got it. I got it." I said to her. I was being more interactive about the mission. She started to go through them right away. She was intrigued by how I quickly compiled the information.

"Yep, you are a nerd." she teased. I laughed hysterically at her remarks. I had to report to her. It was all in the spirit of teamwork.

"Let me tell others that our talk concluded." I said then walked to the door and quickly opened it. Melvin, Leo and Jonah were trying to hear what Celeste and I were speaking about. They gleamed at me, then acted normal.

"Um, yeah. Celeste and I are done talking." I notified them.

"Oh, cool – cool." said Jonah.

"That's great." commented Leo.

"Yeah, yeah – don't ever eavesdrop on us again." I clarified. I was dead serious.

"Yeah, sorry about that." apologized Melvin.

"Yeah, sorry brother." said Jonah.

"It won't ever happen again." reassured Leo. I nodded repeatedly then they walked into the room.

"I need to tell the others about the planning. They'll be happy to hear about the progress." I said.

"Well, we'll tell them as soon as they wake up." said Jonah. Leo chuckled.

"Yeah they'll all be shocked by what you are plotting, Beaker." commented Leo.

"What can I say? I'm solving problems." I said boastfully. Celeste was facing us, while we were all speaking about what could happen next and the reactions of the others.

"Wait. – are those Bruce's notes?" asked Melvin. Celeste gave a simple answer.

"Yep" she replied. Everyone looked astonished except for me. Celeste thought they were very vague.

"Wait – and you can read his handwriting?" asked Jonah.

"Yeah, without any hassle." said Celeste. They still remained astonished.

"What is it? Am I missing something important?" asked a concerned Celeste. I sighed then explained everything.

"Nope – the handwriting is terrible because I only started writing the notes a few hours ago." I said.

"Well, look – I can still read your handwriting." said Celeste. I was thankful because she paid attention to moving forward than to sloppiness of my handwriting.

"Yeah, that's cool." said Leo. Celeste squinted a few times as she was reading. At one point, she scratched her head. Nonetheless, she understood the intel.

"This is very impressive." she complimented.

"Thank you, Celeste." I said. Leo was enthusiastic. Jonah needed to roam around and test his inventions. Sharon casually walked into the room. She had a bunch of schematics with her.

"Sorry I'm late. I needed to pay the medical bills but my contact finally got me the blueprints." she reported.

"Wait- Sharon already knows?!" asked Celeste.

"Yeah, I told her a few hours ago." I explained.

"Yep, I didn't sleep at all. There's a lot to do." explained Sharon.

"Yeah, yeah – you are right. I mean this is the last fight." said Celeste.

"I seriously doubt that. This is actually a war now ... so." reasoned Melvin.

"Let's not speculate yet. Let's focus on the mission and we can all go home." I reminded.

"Well, Melvin still has a point." cited Leo.

"I know but well... we have a few back-up plans, if it's all a trap." I explained.

"Alright, we hear you... Beaker" said Melvin.

"Yeah, we get you. I hope we make new friends." said Jonah.

"Wait – Celeste." called out Sharon.

"Yeah, what is it?" asked Celeste.

"Are you reading Bruce's notes?" asked Sharon.

"Yeah, and I'm really impressed." she answered. I chuckled.

"Awesome, awesome – we have to get to work now." I announced. Sharon handed over the schematics that her contact managed to find. Jonah decided to wear his helmet and walk out of the room.

"I need to tell the others." said Jonah.

"No flying around my house." reminded Sharon. Jonah deeply sighed.

"Well that sucks." said Jonah. I was already studying the schematics with Celeste and Melvin. Leo was still reading the grey file again. I yawned while I was studying the blueprints. Sharon made that very rule a few weeks prior.

"You know – I can smell the jet fuel from here." said Sharon.

"Oh, yeah – this is advanced fuel." said Jonah.

"You know, I don't even want to know what that means." said Sharon.

"Okay – it's cool. Let me go and tell the others." said Jonah.

"No need to. I wrote a few notes and placed them in their rooms... and on the fridge." explained Sharon.

"Awesome." screamed Isabella, who was in the kitchen.

"See? It's a lot easier, Jonah." said Sharon.

"Now I know why you were late." teased Jonah. We all chuckled even Sharon.

"Uh huh, very funny." said Sharon.

"It's probably true." commented Melvin. Sharon looked around the room and felt emotional.

"I'm going to miss all of you." confessed Sharon. Isabella and Juvian got to my room and brought cups of coffee. I nodded agreeing with Sharon's words. I looked at Celeste and she looked at me. I smiled at her... and she smiled back at me. She and I held hands and we felt contentment. Melvin heard footsteps that were running to my room. Aurora and Carien got there in the nick of time. I could sense their presence.

"Let's save the world." I said. We were all fully committed to the mission, on that very day – we began to train. There was a lot of healthy competition and we were tirelessly working. Firstly, safety gear was issued, we couldn't any more injuries. We went to an open field and I'd address everyone.

"Okay, people..." I shouted to them. They were all attentive and cooperative.

"Now – here's the thing, we all need to stay alive during the entire raid. So – I have a simple solution. It's a really cool solution." I said.

"Okay, what's the solution?" asked Sharon. I simply chuckled.

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The days easily slipped away but every set of 24 hours brought progress. The first week passed and we were left with less than a fortnight. Luckily – we were all positive and completely sane.

"Good news, I spoke to Cooper again. He will be here in three days." I said. I was with Jonah, Melvin, Sharon, Aurora and Celeste. We were all looking at the blueprints of the research lab. Blueprints that were provided by Sharon's contact.

"That's good. Finally – we can be steps ahead." said Sharon. Melvin kept staring at the prints.

"Well, alright. Meanwhile – we still need to steal from this kid called Mabe." commented Celeste.

"Well, based on the info we received – he sounds like a young genius." said Melvin.

"Yeah but he isn't a soldier so he is an easy target." commented Aurora.

"We are after his invention, not him though." I said.

"Yep... an invention that we don't know much about." reminded Jonah. We all chuckled.

"It could be a super computer." guessed Melvin.

"It could be a bomb." guessed Sharon.

"It could be a person." I said to them.

"Now, your guess – your guess is interesting, Beaker." said Aurora.

"Yeah, I hope that I'm wrong." I said. Celeste looked at the blueprints again. She was realising something important as she stared at the schematics.

"Wait – are we all going to make bets about what the invention could be?" asked Jonah. We all scoffed. Celeste had seriousness in her visage.

"Jonah, can you get me more images of the research lab?" asked Celeste.

"Yeah, yeah – I can still travel there. I have enough fuel to travel to the moon." said Jonah.

"Good because, well – I need images of the building at its heavily guarded section." explained Celeste. We all looked shocked by the details of her request. Celeste was genuinely surprised by our reaction.

"What?" asked Celeste.

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Two days after making the request – Celeste finally received the images. Jonah abruptly landed then marched into the cabin. Celeste was reading her father's notes when Jonah walked into the cabin.

Jonah was so exhausted that he took off his helmet and dropped it on the porch before he opened the door.

Celeste heard him walk in. She was nesting in the living room. I was in the room during the time, keeping her company. Jonah walked directly to her then slammed the images onto the desk. He was still panting.

"It's like you want me to die." complained Jonah. Celeste picked up the images and a smile grew on her face. The images were numerous and they brought in new information.

"These images are awesome! Are you okay though?" asked Celeste.

"Well, I got shot at and almost got killed a couple of times but they didn't identify who I am." explained Jonah.

"Take the rest of the day off, Jonah. Celeste and I will study the images and keep planning." I said. Jonah just nodded.

"Alright, thanks." said Jonah.

"Jonah, your fuel tank is leaking." said Celeste. Jonah had a serious face on.

"Yeah, I know. They almost shot me." said Jonah.

"Well, aren't you going to patch it up?" I asked.

"Yeah, I will but not right away because I have a spare one." said Jonah.

"Well, alright then." I said, agreeing with his words. Celeste was skimming through the images already. None of them were blurry.

"Thanks, Jonah." said Celeste.

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The next day was a lot more grounded. We finally had the chance to speak to Cooper in person. His arrival was very subtle and he got a chance to meet everyone and shake hands. Cooper brought his computers with him.

It was in the afternoon, we were all present and for some reason – Cooper kept motivating us.

"Alright – so you guys want to break into a research lab and you want me to shut down their computers and communications?" asked Cooper. He was asking to gain clarity on the situation. I had to answer on behalf of the team.

"Yeah. The task is dangerous but you are the only person in the world who can help us out." I answered.

"Well, look – I'll do it. In fact, I will do it for free." said Cooper.

"Whoa, whoa, wait – you were going to charge us?" I asked.

"Yeah, I mean this is how I put bread on the table." said Cooper.

"Fair enough." I commented. Cooper nodded at us.

"Alright, now – let's talk about the invention." said Cooper.

"Um, well – we can't talk about the invention." I said. Cooper started to speculate. He began to believe that the invention can be used for malicious actions.

"Whoa, whoa... no, Bruce." said Cooper.

"What? What?" I asked.

"Yeah, look – I am not going to be in the dark about what you will be stealing." said Cooper.

I finally understood his protest.

"Cooper, I don't think you understand what I am saying." I said to him. Celeste and the others were listening carefully, for some reason. Cooper became frightened.

"Oh crap – that's serious Mafia talk! That's actual Mafia talk!" shouted Cooper in panic.

"You know a Mafia?" asked Aurora.

"Aurora, Wait!" I ordered.

"Yeah, I met a few mafia families through the years." said Cooper. I sighed sharply.

"I think we qualify to be called a Mafia." said Jonah, who got up.

"Jonah, don't entertain this." I warned him.

"I mean, think about it – we are being wanted by the law, we have a lot of money too." said Jonah. I sighed once again then threw the grey file towards him. Cooper caught the file mid-air and opened the file.

"What is this?" asked Cooper.

"The mission." I responded back to him.

"Yeah, this is too much for me to read." said Cooper.

"Skip the part about the invention" I said to him. Cooper jumped a few pages then he started reading. Everyone patiently waited for Cooper.

“Okay, you don’t know what the invention is.” said Cooper.
 “Exactly!” said Celeste.
 “This – this could be a good thing.” said Cooper. Cooper simply scoffed.
 “Okay, here is the thing – the invention is important, and the research lab is paranoid.” explained Cooper. I understood his hints.
 “I get what you mean.” I said.
 “Yeah, you see? Beaker gets it. So I’ll terminate the communications during the raid and not a second earlier.” said Cooper. The entire team understood what Cooper kept on hinting at.
 “Alright – it’s confirmed then.” I said to him. Cooper read further then he found out who the inventor was, then he chuckled. Cooper’s input didn’t alter our original plan – a plan that was still prepared for.
 “We need to resolve other parts of the plan.” I told him.
 “I hear you, Bruce. You have enough time to do so.” said Cooper. Celeste cleared her throat and spoke.
 “Can you get information on a team called Red Nest?” asked Celeste. I was surprised by her question. Cooper had to think about it firstly.
 “Yeah, yeah – I can get you information on the Red Nest.” said Cooper.
 “I need the information within four days.” said Celeste.
 “Not a problem. Look those guys are really dangerous though – never pick a fight with them.” said Cooper. We looked at him silently.
 “Cooper – we had, with the Red Nest, a few weeks ago.” I revealed.
 “Whoa, whoa... and you survived. All of you survived?” asked Cooper. I chuckled first.
 “Yeah, I mean – I almost died but you know... I’m Bruce Beaker.” I humbly said.
 “Yeah, yeah. Well, look – I’m still on your side.” clarified Cooper. The entire group was pleased to hear about his loyalty.
 “Awesome – we have a hacker on our side.” proclaimed Juvian.
 “Yeah, we are definitely a Mafia.” commented Jonah. We all burst into laughter. The moment lasted for seconds, then it concluded.
 “Alright – let’s get to work.” said Cooper.

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Cooper’s visit was productive and the preparations were almost complete. Our injuries were healing and we didn’t suffer any setbacks – this worried me, however my worries were about the mission and the ripples it will create. I winded up talking to Celeste, Sharon and Jonah about these very worries I had. We were sitting on the front porch when I spoke to them.
 “I’m worried about the ramifications of the mission.” I said.
 “Is that why you can’t sleep a wink lately?” asked Sharon.
 “It’s part of the reason.” I explained.
 “What’s troubling you?” asked Celeste.
 “I’m worried about the ramifications of the mission and the people involved.” I said to them.
 “Well, you know – you should worry about that.” said Jonah.
 “Yeah, that’s not helping.” I notified him. Sharon shared a surprise laughter. Celeste would do the same thing but her laughter a slightly greater magnitude. Jonah would explain his words.
 “Here is what I mean – you shouldn’t be ignorant about anything, Bruce.” said Jonah.
 “Yeah but honestly – what we are going to do could endanger many lives, including our own lives.” I said.
 “The security company is definitely going to get fired.” I said.
 “Mabe will hate us until the end of time...” said Jonah.
 “But we get to go home... and that’s what matters.” cited Celeste.
 “Yeah, our names will be cleared and we can be with our families again.” I said.

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“Eureka.” I said. I was seated in my desk in my room when I said this. I reached a serious milestone in that very moment. Celeste overheard my voice while she was strolling through the hallways. This caught her attention then she walked into my room. I was still ecstatic when she walked into my room.
 “Um, Bruce...” she called out. I turned around, saw her then smiled. “What’s going on?” asked Celeste. I began to speak in riddles. “I, I actually did it! I actually did it! I mean I’m a real genius.” I said to her.
 “Okay, stop speaking in riddles.” said Celeste.

“Oh, sorry about that.” I said to her.

“It’s, it’s okay.” she said. I cleared my throat, then tried to explain what I had accomplished.

“Well here’s the thing... since the fight with the Red Nest, I’ve been worried about the dangers of my concussion blasts.” I said. I was introducing her to the information which I was about to inform her about. Before I could continue speaking, Celeste received a phone call from home. Celeste quickly looked at her phone’s screen then her phone lit up.

“It’s my mum.” she said.

“Um, answer it.” I said to her.

Celeste answered.

“Hey, Mum” greeted Celeste, her mother greeted back then they continued speaking. Thanks to Cooper we could make phone calls and receive phone calls without being traced. I couldn’t explain it further since you know... it was complicated and illegal. Point is...we were a few steps ahead of the competition. Celeste’s call with her mother lasted for a few minutes. She was laughing a lot and she kept agreeing a lot too.

The final words were about me then the call concluded. She placed her phone back into her pocket.

“I’m so, so sorry.” she apologized. I chuckled.

“It’s completely cool.” I said to her.

“Okay, you can tell me about why you said ‘Eureka’.” she said. I decided to lie to her. I had to keep quiet about my work.

“Oh, yeah. Well I learned how to minimize the magnitudes easily.” I said.

“Oh, um – is that it?” asked Celeste.

“Yep, that’s it.” I said to her.

“It sounded like you wanted to say a lot more than just that.” she cited. I chuckled then continued speaking.

“Nope, nope – just that. It’s big news because the collateral damage will be a lot better.” I said.

“Well, alright then.” she said.

“Yeah, yeah, it’s...yeah.” I said to her.

“I need to go and review the information that Cooper managed to find.” said Celeste. She was talking about intel on Red Nest.

“Awesome.” I said to her.

“I’ll give you the intel when I’m done reading it.” said Celeste.

“Yeah, I need to know about the people who are trying to kill us.” I said to her in a lighter tone. Celeste chuckled then she started to walk to the door. Before she left, Celeste had something to say.

“Um, oh yeah – there’s something important that I need to say to you.” said Celeste.

“I’m all ears.” I said to her.

“Yeah, you know – I’m glad you joined this fight.” said Celeste.

I smiled then saluted her.

“Thank you, Celeste.” I said. She smiled back then walked out peacefully. Celeste closed the door on her way out. I was alone again. I looked at my desk and made a declaration.

“Yeah, I’m going to marry her.” I said to myself.

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With only a few days remaining before the mission – the entire cabin was extremely busy. I had park the Trident Neon outside, since the garage was being used for preparations of the task. Jonah flew around in an open field for a few hours. He was practicing his manoeuvring. Melvin was focusing on the healing of his right knuckles. He trained himself into fighting using only his left arm. Some of us trained together. I was completely positive and I was always vigilant. I was trying to lead everyone. During that time I had the intel on the Red Nest. I viewed Red Nest as a failed attempt into achieving world peace. They were trying to be heroes and they wind up being nothing more than people with orders.

Celeste and Sharon worked on the uniform for the team. It was an open secret. We were all seated in the living room and we were conversing about what’s going on in our lives. We were all chattering. During that time, I was beyond confident and I was grateful. Celeste was prepped for war.

“You know what? Bold Eagle’s right.” I said, everyone looked at me silently.

“We are the next generation of heroes!” I proclaimed.

Chapter 17
We all trying to save the world

Red Nest Headquarters
Washington, DC
1609 hours

Red Nest awfully preoccupied. The team had to travel and aid parts of the West Africa. They were still to be heroes. Their attempts were admirable but they didn't suffice.

The team was returning from a mission. They were all exhausted and some of the members looked emotional. Barron and company were walking around the Red Nest Headquarters.

They were very reserved while they were walking to their very own lounge.

"That mission was..." said Jerome, whom couldn't complete the very phrase right away. He had to think of the correct word.

"Emotional..." added Jerome.

"Yeah, I agree with you." said Beverly.

"Ditto." said Emma.

"Well, look - the people were in serious trouble but we managed to help where we can." said Barron.

"You have a point, Patriot." said Dr. Ecto, who was mere verbal lately. Vladimir was still quiet.

"Disaster relief isn't meant to be child's play." said Eddie. Along the way the way Barron received a call from Nashief. He stared at his phone firstly.

"It's the head honcho that's calling me." said Barron.

"Yeah, you need to answer that." said Eddie.

"Alright then." said Barron, then he answered the call.

"Nashief, talk to me." said Barron.

"Drop everything that you're doing and run to the boardroom." said Nashief. He said it quickly and he was also very assertive.

"Whoa, whoa, wait...what?" asked Barron.

"You have 5 minutes." said Nashief. Barron tried to reply but Nashief abruptly hung up.

"What was the call about?" asked Emma.

"I don't know, but I need to the boardroom right now. Duty calls." said Barron.

"Alright Barron. You'll find us at the lounge." said Eddie.

"I'll order some meals." said Beverly.

"Thank you." said Barron, then he separated himself from the group. Barron made his way to the boardroom.

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Barron was near, he was only a few paces away from the boardroom. There was someone waiting on the door and the person was in possession of a gun. A gun that was placed away - he was a bodyguard. Barron walked to the door, and the bodyguard got out his way so that Barron walk into the boardroom. The bodyguard said, Barron walked in.

"You are late." said Clement, whom was in the boardroom. Nashief was in the room as well and he was nervous and anxious.

"Yeah, I know." said Barron, then he studied the room. The mood was tense, very tense. The windows were open too. There were only seven people including Barron. There were actual government officials that were visiting the Red Nest Headquarters. One of the people in the room was on his feet and he was looking towards the outside world. Barron tried to look at his visage but he couldn't because it was too far away and once again, the person was turned away from everyone else.

"Whoa, wait, who you are?" asked Barron, the very same person looked towards everyone - it was the President of the United States. Barron was stunned to see him.

"Just take a seat, Mr. Patriot." said Shamilla.

"Alright, alright." said Barron, then complied. The President would also take a seat momentarily.

"Good afternoon, Barron." said the President.

"Good afternoon, Mr. President." greeted Barron.

"Thank you for making the time to come and attend this meeting." said the President. Barron was still in the dark about the agenda of the meeting. Barron just nodded. The President opened a docket which was information that he read prior.

"Can I review this again before we begin? I just want to be sure that I have went through everything." said The President.

"Sure, sure. Of course, Mr. President." replied Barron. Nashief just anxiously nodded.

"Thank you." said the President. He showed a wince then he started to read through the file briefly... Barron sat right across Nashief who was still anxious. Barron began to speak to him using whispers. Shamilla and Clement patiently waited for the President's response.

"Why the Hell are you nervous!?" asked Barron. Nashief pointed at the President.

"Oh, makes sense." said Barron.

"Yeah, that file is proposal that I compiled. It's about Red Nest." replied President.

"Wait, wait - what?" asked Barron.

"Yeah, look - Red Nest is in a lot of trouble." said Nashief. This was news to Barron.

"Whoa, what!?" asked Barron.

"Yeah, I know and I'm to solve everything." said an optimistic Nashief. Shamilla started to stare at Barron. She was silent and she didn't want to tell him to keep quiet. She was trying to understand what they were talking about.

"Define 'trouble'." said Barron.

"Well, alright. We could lose a few military contracts and we could even be plunged into a serious financial crisis." explained Nashief. Barron felt bombarded by news.

"Whoa..." replied Barron.

"And that's not all Barron. We are in a lot of other dilemmas. Other problems. Problems that started because of the incident that happened in Power Circle." said Nashief.

"Oh crap - well, look we were doing our job and sometimes things do get out of hand." reasoned Barron.

"Barron, still - we are still trouble and now, I had to be a miracle worker for the team's sake. I just needed you to be a very responsible, Barron. That's all." cited Nashief.

"Okay, okay - I get it, I get it. Look, let the man speak first then we fight for Red Nest." whispered Barron. The President loudly cleared his throat. Nashief and Barron looked right towards the President. Instantaneously. They were both worried in that very moment.

"You do know that I can hear you, right?" asked the President.

"I'm sorry, Mr. President. We were... um, just trying to brainstorm." said Barron.

"Once again, I'm sorry." added Barron. Nashief still couldn't speak to the President.

"It's very humble of you, Mr. Barron Patriot and it is duly noted." said the President. Barron optimistically nodded to the President's words.

"Awesome, awesome." said Barron.

Nashief still remained silent. The President decided to tackle the situation.

"Now, I went through the proposal that was compiled and honestly - I was impressed. I was very impressed. I applauded your efforts." said the President.

"Thank you, Mr. President." said Nashief.

"Yeah, that's Nashief. God's gift to Red Nest." added Barron.

"Yeah, I... I think that the compliment is too much." said Nashief, whom slurred the words.

"What? No, brother! You are a miracle worker." said Barron. The President wasn't smiling and cheering yet, there was a serious reason for this.

"Gentlemen, wait - the President is not done." said Shamilla.

"Whoa, what?" asked Barron.

"She's right. I'm not done speaking." said the President.

Barron briefly cleared his throat while loosening his tie.

"Oh, I'm sorry, Mr. President. Please continue." said Barron. Before the President could continue speaking, Barron's new phone started ringing. Barron didn't hesitate. He took out the phone and quickly switched it off. Barron placed the phone back into his pocket then he pretended like nothing happened. Clement and Shamilla were surprised by Barron's actions. The President didn't lose his patience and he simply continued speaking to everyone.

"Alright. Now, here's the thing - the proposal is very good. I was impressed. In fact, I'm still impressed by the intel...however...Red Nest is still being questioned." said the President.

"We are being questioned?" asked Barron.

"Yeah, by everyone." said Shamilla.

"Now that's bad because well, Red Nest is meant to be a secret to the world." said Clement.

"Yeah, you have good points but look - Red Nest is still focused." said Barron.

"Red Nest is, well - the team is still being doubted." said Clement.

"There has been criticism about it since its very inception and people will lose their lives unless the government does something about it." said the President. Barron couldn't reply or defend his team.

He felt stationary. Barron felt dazed. He couldn't comment. Shamilla was astonished by the limitation of Barron's words.

"Well, you are right. I won't argue with that." said Barron.

"Whoa, well, alright. Patriots admits that he's wrong. This will save a lot of time." said Clement.

"Hate to admit it but he's right." said Nashief.

"Whoa, wait - who's side are you on?" asked Barron. The question was meant for Nashief. Nashief easily kept quiet then he just scratched his head.

The President would continue speaking.

"Now, there is good news and there is, bad news for Red Nest." said the President.

"Oh crap." said Barron.

"Barron, shut up." said Nashief.

"Yeah, you are on their side." commented Barron.

"Mr. Patriot." called out Clement. Barron kept quiet.

"Yeah, my boss is still talking. I think you know him. He runs the country." said Clement. Barron chuckled firstly.

"Yeah, I'm sorry. Um, wait, who are you again?" asked Barron. The question was rhetorical. Now, Clement kept quiet. Barron diverted his attention to the President.

"Mr. President, please start with the good news and... then tell us the bad news." said Barron. The Red Nest leader was taking charge of the meeting. The President knew that he had true influence and power in the meeting.

"Alright, here are the good news - Red Nest is not going to lose any of its government contracts. Furthermore - Red Nest will not be held accountable for the collateral damage that occurred in Power City last month." stated the President. Barron and Nashief were relieved by the good news. Nashief even spoke.

"Well, this is great - this is a relief. I really need the money." said Nashief.

"Yeah, we are in the clear." said Barron, who was ecstatic. He felt like the motion will help the world.

The celebrations were very premature. The President was not done speaking to them. Barron was still over the Moon. Clement and Shamilla kept silent as the dialogue that involved Nashief and Barron took place.

"I'm not done." said the President. Barron and Nashief kept quiet again. Barron would listen attentively to the bad news.

"Here are the bad news - Red Nest is ordered to enter a new agreement with the State. The agreement states that you will no longer be involved in the debate that includes the fleeing of nine teenagers who have been deemed fugitives." said the President.

"Whoa, what!?" abruptly asked Barron.

"Barron, calm down." advised Nashief.

"If your team fails to sign the agreement - losing the government contracts will be least of your problems." said the President.

"This is nonsense! All bull!" shouted Barron.

"Barron, calm down. Just calm down." said Nashief. Barron slowed down.

"Alright, alright - I'm calm. I'm completely calm." said Barron. He refrained from his outcry then started to process the news, collected himself.

Shamilla introduced the agreement to Barron and Nashief. Clement handed a pen to Nashief.

"There's the agreement." said the President.

"... and you have a pen." said Clement.

"Sign the agreement, and Red Nest will be saved." said the President.

"We need our lawyers first. Let me call them and they will show up." said Barron. He took out his phone then tried to dial their numbers.

"There'll be no need for that." said Shamilla.

"Why?" asked Nashief.

"Because they already reviewed the agreement and they urge you to accept it." said the President.

"Yeah - I don't, I don't believe you." said Barron then he made a few calls to the lawyers that represented Red Nest. He was given a similar reply, what varied was the choice of words and the language Barron used. All of the lawyers that represented Red Nest have reviewed the agreement and they advised Barron to sign the agreement and make peace with it. The lawyers also believed that the agreement will restore the strained relationship between the government and the Red Nest. Barron stopped making calls then he placed his phone into pocket silently.

"All of our lawyers told me to sign the agreement." confessed Barron.

"Exactly, they agree with us." said the President.

"When the Hell did you speak to all of our lawyers!?" asked Nashief.

"A few weeks ago. Shamilla and I met with all of them and showed them a copy of the agreement and... they said that the very document will save Red Nest. All of your lawyers even said that this could rectify the malicious and irresponsible actions that were motivated by the Red Nest leader." said Clement.

"Ouch." whispered Nashief.

"Furthermore, Red Nest could shift its paradigm and become the great team that it has been destined to be." said Shamilla.

"Look, the proposal is great and you are no longer ordered to submit your intel to us but this is no longer your fight." said the President. Nashief looked towards Barron and he spoke to him in a discreet tone.

"I hate to admit it but the President's right." said Nashief, the volume of his voice but Barron could hear him perfectly. Barron replied in the same volume.

"Wait, what are you talking about?" asked Barron.

"Well, initially – I was ordered to surrender all of the team's intel. I'm talking about every bit of information." said Nashief.

"The government wanted the intel." guessed Barron.

"Yeah, that's right." said Nashief.

"That's a very interesting move." said Barron.

"I compiled the proposal in order to stop that order. I mean, our files cannot surrendered to anyone. Not even the authorities. Our intel is too important. Now, the proposal helped but we can capture the fugitives. Things could be worse." said Nashief. Barron gave it same thought. He was trying to think rationally. Barron looked at Shamilla, Clement and the President. Barron noticed how vigilant they were. Barron sensed a hidden agenda in the air. Nashief couldn't sense anything however, he was too stressed to think of any conspiracies.

"I'm going to sign the agreement." said Barron. He picked up the pen reluctantly. Shamilla was surprised be Barron's surrender. Clement believed it was a calculated move by Red Nest, the President was just pleased. Nashief was worried about Barron's intention.

"There, we have a deal" said Barron, who got up and walked to the door.

"You made the right decision, Barron." said the President.

"Yeah, I need to go and tell my team about the agreement." said Barron. Nashief signed the document and conveniently placed it into his pocket.

"You are more than welcome to tell them about the agreement. I'm sure that they'll be thrilled" said Shamilla. Barron believed the news about the document will create mixed feelings.

"Yeah, we'll see about that." said a concerned Barron.

"Wait, where's the pen?" asked Clement, who noticed its disappearance.

"I, I don't know." lied Nashief. Clement looked around the desk for the pen.

"Dude, it's just a pen." said Nashief. The President amused by Nashief's words. Barron knew that he was no longer needed in the room but the President decided to give him reassurance.

"Thank you for your time, Mr Patriot and I'm pleased to know that you are still on our side." said the President. Barron kept quiet, then replied.

"Yeah, yeah – I know. It's a good thing to know or else, you would need all of the heroes in the world to protect your life" said Barron.

"That sounds like a threat." commented Nashief. Barron was facing everyone as the conversation took place.

"That was not a threat, Mr President. Trust me, my threats are more violent than they are narrative." explained Barron.

"Well, alright then! Nashief will give you the file that has information on your next missions. Execute them and keep working hard. Your team is saving a lot of lives." said Shamilla.

"Thank you." said Barron then he finally left the room and he walked to the lounge which was occupied by his team.

* * *

Barron walked into the lounge in a peaceful manner. The others were having lighthearted conversation and laughter was in abundance.

Barron walked to the fridge then selected a drink, opened it then sat down with the others.

Everyone was listening to Eddie, he was telling them a story. A story about how he approached his dream girl and won her heart. The story was hilarious. Barron sat next to Beverly and listened to the story too. In nature, Eddie was always a storyteller and it seemed as if he has seen it all.

"What happened?" asked Beverly. The question was meant for Barron. Eddie decided to take a break from telling the story. Everyone wanted to know what happened.

"Yeah, what happened in the boardroom?" asked Emma.

"Well, we are not fired and we are not going to lose any of our government contracts." said Barron.

"Well that's great news!" said Dr Ecto.

"Yeah that is great news. Red Nest is still active which means that we can still help the world." said Emma. Beverly read Barron and knew that there was more to say about what happened in the boardroom.

"Barron, I know that look on your face. What also happened?" asked Beverly. Barron decided to spill the beans about the document.

"They made me sign a new agreement. The agreement states that Red Nest will no longer be allowed to capture the nine teenage fugitives whom are still in hiding. We are ordered to surrender every single bit of information about the case then isolate ourselves from it completely." explained Barron. Eddie and Emma thought that it was a joke. They began to laugh.

"He is dead serious." said Beverly in a very serious tone. Eddie and Emma stooped laughing abruptly.

"This is... This is messed up!" said Jerome.

"Welcome to the world of modern day politics, kid." said Dr. Ecto.

"The deal is watertight. No loopholes." said Barron.

"Okay, now - that's crazy." commented Eddie.

"This case was our big break." said Emma.

"Summon our lawyers, I'm sure that they'll help." advised Beverly.

"They saw the agreement prior and they all advised me to sign the document. They said that we should treat it as a cure." explained Barron.

"Okay we are down but we are not out." said Beverly.

"Beverly is right, we need to come up with solutions." said Eddie who was fired up. He wanted to be freed from their agreement.

"We can write out a new proposal that will prove the case needs the team's involvement." suggested Eddie.

"That idea is great... but it will take too long." said Emma.

"Okay, then here's another idea - we initiate legal motion. Take this entire situation to court." said Dr Ecto.

"We are above the law." said Jerome.

"Meaning?" asked Emma.

"A court case will make a serious mess and we could get suspended." explained Barron.

"Okay, okay - then we'll have to call the President." said Emma.

"Trust me, that won't work because the agreement is in his handwriting." explained Barron.

The team was running out of ideas. They needed to be very innovative and they needed to find a plan during that very moment. A dark idea arrived into Barron's mind. The idea was very subtle too. He stood up then paced around the room. Everyone knew that he was thinking of something. This always happened when Red Nest was in serious crisis. The others were waiting to hear his idea. Barron stopped walking around then he faced everyone. As he was about to speak, there was a knock on the door.

"Wait, when did I close the door?" asked Barron.

"Someone is getting old" commented Eddie who spoke in a comical tone.

"I'll get it" said Emma then rushed to the door. The person knocked on the door once again then Emma opened it.

"Finally" shouted Emma.

"What?" asked Eddie.

"The food's here" said Emma.

"Bring the cart into the room" said Eddie. The cart strolled into the lounge. The cart was being pushed by an employee named Chuck, who was responsible for their orders.

"What took so long, Chuck?" asked Emma.

"Sorry guys. A lot's been happening but we are trying to catch up." explained Chuck. Everyone was surprised by Chuck's explanation issued.

"I'll leave the cart here. Call me if any of you want seconds" said Chuck then he peacefully walked out of the room. Emma was too curious about Barron's idea that she left the cart alone and took a seat. Everyone wondered why she was making so much movements.

"The food is okay, and it can wait. I want to hear the idea" said Emma. Everyone in the room looked towards Barron once again. He finally revealed the idea.

"Let's go rogue. Find them. Arrest them then hand them over to the authorities" said Barron.

* * *

Sharon Lee's Cabin
Power City, MA
1727 hours

Our home was peaceful and we were in the last stages of preparations and we were counting down the remaining hours. I was in my room. Celeste, Leo and Isabella were keeping me company. Sharon was refilling groceries and Jonah was doing test runs. I had a realization while I was in my room. I had that realization while Leo and Isabella momentarily left my room. I explained the realization. "We are all trying to save the world" I said. This caught Celeste's attention. Such a concept has been running in her mind too.

"Exactly" she vaguely said.

"Yeah, it sounds like a title for a book" I said.

"Wait a minute, are you writing a book based on what's happening right now?" she asked.

"Well, I want to write a book but I don't know where to start." I said.

"Yeah, I completely understand." Said Celeste. She smiled at me and I smiled back. The truth was that have tried to write a book but it sounded very farfetched. Leo and Isabella walked into my room.

"We are back." said Isabella.

"Awesome, awesome!" I said.

"I can control my powers now," said Leo.

"Leo are you sure?" asked Celeste.

"Yes. I can but I can only use my powers for only ten minutes," said Leo.

"That will be enough time for the plan to work," I said. Sharon called me while I was still in my room. I answered my phone.

"Hi Sharon." I greeted her.

"Hi Bruce, are you okay?" she asked.

"Yeah, I'm great. I'm with Celeste, Leo and Isabella right now." I said to her.

"Awesome, I need to see everyone right away." said Sharon.

"Whoa, wait, wait – are you okay?" I asked her.

"Yeah, yeah. I am awesome, Bruce." She replied.

"Awesome, that's good, that's good." I commented.

"Yeah, you guys need to stop abusing the word 'awesome'." I teased. Celeste, Leo and Isabella chuckled.

"Yeah, anyway why do we need to see you?" I asked her.

"Well, the uniforms are her but I still need you to see them." She explained.

"Yes, finally!" I shouted. Sharon expected such a reaction, she started laughing.

"Yeah, I know – its great news." Said Sharon.

"Yeah, where is the gear?" I asked her.

"The gear is with me" she answered. I had a follow up question for her.

"Where are you right now?" I asked her.

"I'm in my room right now." She said. I had another follow up question. "Do you have food with you?" I asked her.

"Let me check – yeah I have some food with me" she said. "It's pizza, isn't it?" I asked.

"Yeah, how did you know?" she asked.

"I can smell it from here." I said.

"Makes sense" said Sharon.

"Yeah, we'll see you within a minute" I said.

"Awesome" she said, then hung up. I tucked my phone into my pocket.

"What was the last thing she said before the call ended?" asked Isabella.

"She said 'awesome'." I said.

"Crap!" shouted Isabella. "Isabella, you owe me \$50" said Celeste.

"You guys made a bet?" I asked.

"Yep and I won" said Celeste.

"Yeah, we need to go right now. Sharon needs to see us right now" I said.

"Alright, let's go." Said Leo then he walked to the, opened it and left the room. A few seconds later Leo returned.

"Um, where is Sharon?" asked Leo. I started to laugh then walked out.

“What? What is that about?” I didn’t get an answer” said Leo. Celeste and Isabella left the room few seconds after my departure.

“Oh, yeah – I got the message. Follow the leader” said Leo then he left the room again. He spotted us in the hallways then followed behind.

Sharon’s bedroom door was closed when we got there. I knocked on the door twice then Sharon instantly opened the door. She smiled when she saw me. I smiled back.

“Awesome you are here. Said Sharon. She allowed us to walk into the room.

“Thank you, Sharon” I said as I walked in then I saw the team’s gear.

“Yeah, it’s official – we are the Earth’s superheroes” I said.

Chapter 18
The Chris Mason Theory

Sharon Lee's Cabin
Power city, MA
1739 hours

I felt like a real superhero when I was staring at the team's uniforms. In fact, I was beyond impressed. I was astonished and I wanted to take images. I was just staring at the suits.

"How long has he been staring at the suits for?" asked Celeste. Sharon looked at her watch the she answered.

"It's been ten minutes now" said Sharon.

"It looks like he is hypnotized" said Leo. Everyone else was sitting down, eating pizza. Aurora walked into the room and finally saw the uniforms.

"Whoa, those are cool" said Aurora, who took a slice of pizza.

"Yeah, I'm still impressed by the design. I'm okay – Bruce is scaring me. "Isn't he hungry?" asked Isabella. I shook my head.

"Well, that's a subtle answer." Said Sharon.

"How much did they cost?" asked Celeste.

"Don't worry about it" said Sharon.

"Are you sure?" asked Celeste.

"Yeah, it's completely cool" said Sharon. Jonah flew into the room, the door was left open.

"Jonah! No flying in the house!" reminded Sharon.

"I'm very sorry." Apologized Jonah then he saw the team uniforms.

"Huh, interesting. They look very expensive" said Jonah. I stopped staring at them then sat down and started eating.

"Okay, we need to sleep early tonight. Tomorrow's going to be hectic" said Aurora.

"You have a point plus some of us might get seriously hurt" said Celeste. I was keeping quiet, collecting my idea.

"Alright, there are sleeping pills for the insomniacs" said Sharon. I stopped eating and everyone looked at me. They thought that something was wrong.

"Bruce..." called out Sharon.

"We are meant to save the world" I said.

"Yeah we are. I mean that's been their plan but we have to just clear our names" said Celeste.

"Yeah, but can't we do both?" I asked them.

"To do that – we must be prepared to die" said Isabella.

Sharon had a theory regarding my behaviour.

"Look, I'm not saying we should go into war, but I feel like we were brought together because we can protect this world than everyone else" I said. Melvin and the others walked into the room. Everyone was present.

"But let's focus on the mission. I'll venture into that quest in a more political domain" I said.

"Wait, why do the uniforms have numbers?" asked Juvian.

"What?" asked Aurora.

"Um yeah – they have numbers on them" said Juvian. My mood became relaxed, I was at peace. In fact, I was always at peace since I walked into Sharon's room.

"Oh, yeah – I did that purposefully" said Sharon.

"Really?" asked Jonah.

"Yep" answered Sharon.

"Do the suits also have names on them?" asked Celeste. We all chuckled.

"Um, nope. They don't have names on them – at all. They only have numbers" said Sharon.

"I know why – the embroidery work would be too expensive. Heck, do you know that Bruce has three middle names?" comically asked Jonah. I was amused. Honestly, I was. "Okay, Jonah – don't push it pal" I said. The others were also amused.

"Alright, I'm not sure about his third name but – come on, people. Have you seen Isabella's last name? I, I can't even spell it" asked Jonah.

"Is it hyphenated?" asked Carien.

"Nope" answered Jonah.

"You all know that I'm adopted, right?" asked Isabella.

"Whoa, what? Are you serious?" asked Celeste. Isabella nodded.

"Whoa, that's ... that's ... whoa" stammered Leo.

"Guys, it's completely okay. I'm adopted and my family loves me. The end" clarified Isabella.

"It sounds like you made peace with it" said Juvian.

"Yeah I have and I'm actually looking forward to seeing my adoptive mother. She really misses me." said Isabella.

"Yeah and you'll see her very soon" said Melvin.

"Yeah, anyway – no, the uniforms don't have names placed on them. The suits only have numbers" reminded Sharon.

"Yeah, that's confirmed" said Juvian.

"Okay – what do the numbers represent?" asked Aurora.

"Rankings" I answered.

"Wait – how did you know that?" asked Sharon.

"I, um – it's a long story but that doesn't matter" I said.

"Bruce is right. The numbers represent rankings. Our rankings" said Sharon.

"Oh, crap – this could cause a serious fight" whispered Carien. "So they are only ten suits available?" asked Jonah.

"Exactly" said Sharon.

"Alright, I was hoping that we would have spare uniforms though" commented Celeste.

"Why?" I asked.

"We might need them in the future" reasoned Celeste.

"Alright – how do we fairly solve the issue of rankings?" asked Aurora.

"Why do you think that it's an issue?" asked Celeste. Aurora simply laughed then pointed at Melvin and me. I sighed firstly.

"Yeah, she has a point. But let's just use words firstly then we'll consider fighting" I said.

"Agreed" said Melvin. Sharon loudly cleared her throat. We all looked at her.

"What is it?" asked Jonah.

"Yeah, here's the thing – I saw this coming from a mile away, so I already drafted a list for our rankings" said Sharon. Some of us groaned when she told us the news.

"Oh, no..." said Leo.

"Are you kidding me?" asked Celeste.

"Nope, she isn't" said Jonah.

"Okay, okay – the pre-empt idea could be a good thing. Sharon we need to see the list" I said to her. Sharon walked to her drawer, opened it then took the list. She walked to me then gave me the list.

"Here you go" she said.

"Thank you" I said, then I started to read the list.

"Which number am I?" asked Isabella.

"Whoa, wait a minute" I said.

"Still reading it?" asked Jonah.

"Yep" I answered.

"Alright, we'll be a little patient" said Aurora. After she finished saying that, I quickly replied.

"Yeah, I'm done memorizing the list" I said.

"Alright, what's my ranking?" asked Jonah.

"Jonah, you are ranking number 3" I said.

"Wait, what? Who is number one?" asked Jonah.

"I'm number one" I said.

"What? Sharon do you have a crush on Bruce?" asked Jonah.

"Yeah, I'm not even going to answer that" said Sharon.

"Okay, but why is Bruce ranked number one?" asked Melvin.

"Fight him and then you'll understand my reasons" said Sharon. The comment was blunt and I was placed in a very, very awkward position. I felt like I needed to apologize to everyone because of what she said.

"I, err – I can't accept any open challenges for now." I said.

"Oh, crap – I was going to use my arrows" said Juvian.

"Sharon has a point, people" I said with a slightly comical tone.

"Which is?" asked Carien.

"Dead people have first preference." I said to them.

"Alright, we need that sort of confidence for tomorrow" stated Leo.

"We also need code names for tomorrow" I said.

"Actually – I also compiled a list of nicknames" said Sharon, but I interrupted her.

"-Whoa, wait let's focus on the mission and the rankings firstly, plus codenames shouldn't be a priority" I cited.

"Our leader has a point" said Leo.
 "Your leader? I am your leader?" I asked everyone.
 "Yes" confirmed Jonah.
 "When were the elections?" I asked.
 "Can I please have the list rankings? I feel like we should alter it a little. The alterations will better our unity" said Melvin. I passed the list to him. Juvian had a request.
 "I'd like to be ranked tenth" said Juvian.
 "Alright, noted" said Melvin.
 "Oh, oh – number 4 is reserved for Leo. The suit is heat resistant" said Sharon.
 "Got it" said Melvin. Then he began to read the list.
 "Anything else that should be said about the list?" asked Melvin. I raised my hand then started to speak.
 "Yeah, I – I've got something to say. The rankings are nothing too serious. We should all just pick a number, gear up, complete the mission and win the fight." I said.
 "Yeah, I agree with Bruce" said Celeste.
 "He has a point" said Juvian.
 "Alright, let's do that right away then, call all go to bed early" said Melvin. We winded up not sleeping at all.
 "Alright, but remember – Bruce should still be number 1 and number 9 and 4 are already reserved" said Sharon. Everyone agreed with her.
 "Alright, noted" said Melvin.
 "Yeah, this is going to be awesome" commented Isabella. "I'll order pizza and drive to the January Coffee Shop. We are all going to need coffee" I said, grabbed Celeste by her hand and then we both ran to the Trident Neon. The others weren't surprised by what had happened, in fact they were inspired by it because I was confident and I always took care of her.
 "Yeah, while we are at it – let's make the invitations for Bruce and Celeste's wedding" said Jonah. For some apparent reason – all of our rooms were also bugged during the stay.

* * * *

1849 hours

We returned, went to Sharon and saw what has happened since our absence.
 "We are back" I announced as we entered the room. "Whoa..." said Celeste. We had coffee and pizza boxes with us. The others were still working on the numerals but in a very harmonic setting.
 "What?" asked Carien.
 "You are not fighting with each other" said Celeste.
 "Yeah, we know" said Aurora.
 "-Which is a good thing" I said.
 "Yep... we are still working on the list" said Sharon. I groaned then placed everything on the desk then took the list. "I need a pen" I said to Isabella.
 "Thank you" I said then started to write on the list. I wrote on it for Lesego than a minute. "Wait, are you changing the entire rankings?" asked Sharon.
 "Nope. Give me a second" I said and I kept on writing.
 "Wow, alright" commented Leo.
 "Perhaps, he is writing in cursive" said Jonah.
 "There, I'm all done" I said.
 Everyone got the opportunity to see the list that I drafted and they all agreed to it.
 "Now, that's proper planning" commented Carien.
 "Yeah and now – we can focus on tomorrow's mission" said Melvin.
 "I thought that you were going to doodle Celeste's name somewhere here on the list" teased Jonah. I shared a fake laugh then replied. "Very funny, Jonah" said Carien.
 "Okay, we all need to remember our roles in tomorrow's mission. No slacking allowed. Always focused. If they fight, we fight back" I said.
 "We hear you loud and clear, captain" said Celeste. Gradually the nickname was becoming a part of me. It had stature and it held responsibility. I was doing a lot of work for a hero – a self-proclaimed hero.
 "Awe" I said to everyone.
 "Tomorrow's going to be epic!" said Aurora.
 "Yeah – as long as we don't die" said Jonah.
 "Wait, that's still a possibility?" asked Sharon.
 "Yep..." said Jonah.

"Not all of us can catch bullets" reminded Celeste.
"No one is going to die" I said.
"Bruce the guards are going to be heavily armed and they will shoot on sight" said Melvin.
"We are already outnumbered and out-gunned" said Isabella.
"I know, but we are going to win the fight... because we are the Mighty Ten" I said.

* * * *

Kensho Research Lab
Providence, Rhode Island
0947 hours

Kensho Research Lab was the location that held Lesego Mabe's inventions. The research lab was situated in the north side of Providence. The research lab felt isolated from the city however. The establishment was working on revolutionary breakthroughs that would help humanity in the long run. The research lab has been active since the year 2000 and it was funded by 173 collected governments such as South Africa, Canada and Germany to name a few. Lesego was always at the research lab if he wasn't at high school. He was a book and his inner circle of friends was limited. He was a very sarcastic being... and he was very scrawny too.

Lesego was very busy during that morning. He had a goodnight's sleep however and he still wore a smile on his face. He had signed documents with him. He was greeting people along the way as he walked to the hangar. He had a brief meeting at the hangar. A meeting with Cassidy North. The meeting was very casual hence why he wasn't wearing a suit like he always did. Lesego walked into the research lab's hangar then Cassidy spotted him easily.

"Mr Mabe!" he called out Cassidy, the young inventor saw her and rushed to her. Cassidy was with her bodyguards – yes bodyguards. Bodyguards that were hidden amongst the personnel of the laboratory.

"Good Morning" greeted Lesego. He was a neutral being and he believed in the narration of good versus evil.

"Long time, no see" commented Cassidy, when he reached her. Lesego just nodded.

"Have you been watching the news lately?" asked Cassidy.

"I always watch the news" answered Lesego.

"That's good – that will make this meeting a lot shorter" said Cassidy. Lesego shook his head.

"Yeah, you are still not a fan of using words" said Cassidy. He didn't reply in anyway. Cassidy knew Lesego's nature and she knew him for a few years. Naturally, Lesego was a great speaker but he refrained from speaking a lot when he was at the laboratory and similar settings.

"Alright, let me carry on. The world is under attack" said Cassidy.

"Nope" replied Lesego.

"Excuse me?" asked Cassidy.

"North Industries is under attack. In fact, the world security is under attack" explained Lesego.

"Well, okay – you make a good point when you say it that way" said Cassidy who finally understood Mabe's choice of words. Before Cassidy would continue to speak, Lesego had a question that he asked her.

"Who dropped the ball?" asked Lesego. She decided to answer his question.

"No one dropped the ball but someone has been pulling the strings" said Cassidy. He was astonished.

"Whoa..." said Lesego.

"Yeah" said Cassidy. He had a follow-up question.

"Do you have any suspects?" asked Lesego.

"That's classified information, I am not permitted to tell you" said Cassidy. "I understand, Cassidy" said Lesego. "It's nothing personal. It's a huge part of my job" reminded Cassidy.

"Wait, wait – why are you here?" asked Lesego, Cassidy groaned then responded.

"We need to shut down Kensho Research Lab temporarily." Said Cassidy.

"Whoa, what?" asked Lesego.

"It will only be for a month. We will relocate your operations to the North Industries base in South Africa" said Cassidy. Lesego started to panic regarding protocol.

"There's no place like home, right?" asked Cassidy.

"No! No! That's a bit too radical" said Lesego.

"Being radical is also part of my job" explained Cassidy.

"Really?" asked Lesego.

"Yes!" answered Cassidy.

"You deserve a promotion" teased Lesego.

"Okay, listen up. The world security wants to capture these people and put this entire situation to rest" explained Cassidy.

"To rest? It sounded like you want to kill these teenage fugitives" said Lesego.

"That's still an option" confessed Cassidy.

"Yeah, okay – let's wait for a minute" said Lesego.

"We don't have a minute, however you have a choice to make right now" said Cassidy. Lesego finally understood the seriousness of the situation. He could sense Cassidy's anger, he started to co-operate with her however he had to turn it into an impartial deal.

"Alright, I'll co-operate on two conditions" said Lesego.

"Name them" said Cassidy. He started to believe that she was almost at her wits' end.

"Firstly, I will move my operations to the North Industries HQ. The place is a better facility for my project" said Lesego.

"Alright, consider it done" said Cassidy.

"Whoa, really?" asked Lesego.

"Yes, I understand your reasons" explained Cassidy.

"Oh good, good – this is good. It's good to know we are on the same page" said Lesego.

"We're, we're not on the same page yet" said Cassidy.

"Oh, that's, I mean... I thought that this entire conversation... ok, I understand" stammered Lesego.

"Lesego, what's the other condition?" asked Cassidy impatiently.

"Right, right – my other condition is going to be a lot more costly" said Lesego.

"Yeah, I'm not going to give you a raise" said Cassidy.

"Whoa, wait – I'm not asking for a raise, Cassidy" explained Lesego. Cassidy nodded repeatedly, allowing Lesego to state his case.

"The thing is... I need my team to also work with me at the headquarters" said Lesego. Cassidy had to remember the people that Lesego was talking about.

"Wait – your team?" asked Cassidy.

Lesego gave her a serious hint.

"Yeah, you met them once. Yeah, you met them during the summer and you even wanted to work on a pending project that involved a university in South Africa. Wait – better yet - you took a photo with them and then you sneezed and we still kept the image. The sneeze felt timed" said Lesego. He needed to say a series of hints. One hint would not have sufficed. Cassidy finally remembered the team that Mabe was referring to then she started to laugh. Lesego saw this as a positive sign.

"Yeah, yeah – I remember your team" said Cassidy. She was laughing and speaking – at the same time.

"Really? You remember them?" asked Lesego with a smile.

"Yeah, yeah" replied Cassidy in a cheerful tone.

"Well, alright" said Lesego using the same tone.

"Yeah, it's great. In fact – I'm glad that you mention your team" said Cassidy.

"Yeah - why?" asked Lesego.

"Yeah, well they are efficient and they trust each other" said Cassidy.

"Thanks for the compliment, Ms North" said Mabe.

"But here's the thing – your team will never walk into the headquarters of my family's company" said Cassidy.

"Whoa, whoa, what?" asked Lesego. Cassidy was being brutally honest. She was also very opinionated about the matter. Lesego wanted serious reasons.

"Go and pack up your stuff. You are leaving tomorrow" said Cassidy, who was using her assertive voice. Cassidy looked at her watch for the time.

"Wait, wait – what about my second condition?" asked Lesego.

"What about it?" asked Cassidy. She had to leave soon.

"They are miracle workers, they are insomniacs. The decision will definitely benefit the lab and your company" stated Lesego.

"Your flight leaves at 3am tomorrow morning" said Cassidy.

"Wait, you already booked a flight for me?" asked Lesego.

"Yes, Lesego – I did" confirmed Cassidy.

"That's very confident" said Lesego.

"Closing the lab has been a pre-empt move. A move that has been talked about for almost three weeks now. We made the final decision last night. We were waiting on the President's call. It seemed as if he was stalling. Right now – I am going to get on a plane to Bison City to see an old friend" explained Cassidy who wouldn't stop staring at her watch. Lesego was speechless at first.

"Whoa, you, you need to catch your flight" said Cassidy. Lesego nodded.

"Let me get my mail then I will pack up my office" said Lesego.

"Oh, emails?" asked Cassidy.

"Email and actual mail" said Lesego.

"Whoa, alright – I need to leave. I have a meeting at 10am" said Cassidy.

"Another meeting? Where?" asked Lesego.

"Washington, DC" said Cassidy.

"Oh, okay, well travel safely" said Mr. Mabe.

"Thank you, Lesego" replied Cassidy.

"Wait, what about my second condition?" asked Lesego. Cassidy decided to trust Mabe blindly.

"Call them and tell them to pack their bags. I'll book their flights within the hour" said Cassidy. Lesego became joyous then spontaneously hugged Cassidy. She didn't hug back since she was too stern for such.

"Stop hugging" said Cassidy in a very serious tone. Lesego complied then stopped. He also took a solid step back.

"I'm sorry" apologized Lesego.

"Just don't do that again" warned Cassidy. Lesego repeatedly nodded, agreeing with her.

"Let me go and pack up my office" said Lesego. He turned around and started walking up to his office. Cassidy showed some genuine concern. "Lesego, be careful" said Cassidy. He nodded and kept on walking.

* * *

Lesego finally reached the door to his own office. He had a cup of coffee on his left hand. He was taking his time but he kept track of the time. Cassidy was long gone but she still knew what was happening in detail. She had eyes and ears everywhere with the exception of Sharon Lee's cabin. Lesego was memorizing the numbers of his friends that he needed to call using his office landline. Before he even unlocked his office, a delivery girl approached him and asked for his signature for the delivery. He blindly signed then Lesego unlocked his office. He walked into the office, the delivery girl stood at the door while she filed the signed document. Someone was standing in the office. Lesego was easily rattled by what was happening. He believed that the person was a representative of a hostile force. I was the person that was standing in the room and this was part of our plan. Lesego needed to know that we were there. I was reading a document that Lesego wrote. Lesego tried to identify whom I am but I was looking into the outside world through the large window. I looked to the door and saw them. The dialogue finally began.

"Who the hell are you?" asked Lesego in a controlled volume. I placed the document onto the desk, chuckled then answered. "My name is Bruce Beaker" I answered.

"What are you doing in my office?" asked Lesego. The delivery girl walked in then unwrapped it. The package was a metallic baseball bat. The delivery girl was actually Aurora. Lesego waited for an answer. Aurora threw the baseball bat at me, then I caught it.

"Whoa, wait – what just happened?" asked Lesego who saw the bat being thrown to me.

"Mr Mabe, I was looking for the keys to your invention" I openly said.

"Yeah, your honesty really scares me" said Lesego.

"The bat should scare you. Not my honesty" I said to Lesego.

The young lad felt boxed and he knew we had an objective concerning his invention.

Lesego still tried to be defensive. "Okay look, Mr Beaker – my invention isn't here. It was moved a couple of days ago" lied Lesego.

"You are lying..." I said, he tried to act normal.

"Look, trust me, you are wasting your time" said Lesego.

"Okay, I ran out of patience. I am going to have to find the invention myself" I said. Lesego was completely terrified, he wanted to bargain with us so that we could peacefully leave the premises.

"Okay, wait – don't kill anybody" shouted Lesego. Aurora punched him in the face then he fell to the ground. Aurora walked and stood by me.

"Yeah, that's got to hurt" I commented. Aurora took out another package, it was an explosive generally. It had a metal casing and a timer. Lesego quickly stood up then wanted answers from Aurora.

"Why did you punch me?" rudely asked Lesego.

"Cause you lied about the whereabouts of your invention" explained Aurora.

"Why, you little..." said Lesego. He was trying to curse at Aurora but I interrupted him.

"Watch your language, I still have a baseball bat with me" I warned. Lesego chose to keep quiet completely.

"We know that your invention is here and we need it" I said.

"You are right, but it sounds like you have orders" said Lesego.

"Yeah, we have orders. You know we are just trying to clear our names..." I explained.

"Yeah, I don't really care. You are just fugitives" said Lesego. I fully accepted the criticism.

"We are also superheroes" I said.

"What?" asked Lesego. I quickly created a concussion blast then fired at him. He was throttled to the wall then he fell to the ground. The concussion blast wasn't fatal so he was still conscious. Lesego experienced pain from the force however he slowly stood up.

"Okay, okay – I get it. Everything finally makes sense" said Lesego in a straining voice. I just chuckled. He got to his feet. I stopped chuckling.

"Yeah, finally" I said. Lesego was near the door. He decided to try hatch an intricate escape plan, which needed a good distraction. Lesego has also managed to push the panic button on his wrist watch countless times since he walked into his office. Lesego took a few brave steps towards us. He was trying to make it seem as if he is no longer afraid of us. I knew that he was up to something, so I planned ahead. Lesego was poised and timid naturally. He was smart and he tried to outsmart us. Lesego knew that he couldn't fight us. Meanwhile, the others were ready to carry the plan forward. Lesego swung his fist at me. I leaned back in time then he missed. The mechanism of his punch was terrible and it acted as a distraction. After he swung, he made a run for it. Lesego Mabe tried to run for his life. Aurora was surprised by his attempts to flee... Lesego ran to the door but he collided with the force field that I created, that covered the entire door frame. He fell again.

"How did you know that I was going to run?" asked Lesego.

"I read the Chris Mason Theory" I said.

Chapter 19
The Brawl of the Year

Kensho research lab
Providence, RI
0957 hours

I knew that our plan was working accordingly because I was following the Chris Mason Theory. The theory is too complicated to explain and it needed blind faith and subtle understanding. It was not a dissertation. It was a lot more influential since it helped nations win wars. It was a handbook for advanced warfare. Conspirator believed that it was an urban legend. The theory was written by Chris Mason before he disappeared.

Aurora and I waited for Lesego to stand up again. He had a bruise on his right eye and a cut on his nose bridge. The force field was gone.

"We don't really need you alive" I said. That was a serious threat. A threat that miraculously worked.

"Alright, alright, alright – I will co-operate" said Lesego.

"Wow, that was easy" commented Aurora.

"Yeah, I know but the fun's over" I said.

"Correct" agreed Aurora.

"I'm okay, just minor injuries by the way" said Lesego.

"Alright, we get it – listen Lesego, you'll be okay" I said. I started to lose my patience gradually. Aurora placed the metal case on the desk and then activated the timer.

"We only have 10 minutes and counting down" said Aurora. I activated the team's communication network. We used ear-pieces and similar technology. We used spyware and created a secure network where we can communicate with each other from afar.

"Alright, team – we have Lesego than 10 minutes to secure the invention" I said using my spyware.

The others heard me.

"Got it" said Juvian.

"Let's try to get the invention within 7 minutes" said Celeste.

"Bruce – is Mabe going to comply?" asked Melvin. I looked at Mabe then he nodded repeatedly.

"He's going to comply. Don't worry about that" I said to the others.

"He does know that we don't really need him alive, right?" asked Isabella.

"Yeah, he knows. Anyway let's carry on with the plan." I said.

"Wait, wait..." said Leo.

"What is it?" I asked.

"Oh, no it's cool. Sorry you can continue" said Leo.

"What were you doing right now?" asked Carien.

"Well, it's, err – it's a long story but it's sorted now" said Leo.

"Alright, let's get moving people" said Sharon.

"Jonah, you're up" I said.

"I'll be inbound within 90 seconds" said Jonah. I stopped communicating with the others then I continued to work on my part of the plan.

"Aurora, let's get going. Mabe, just listen to me and no one's going to die" I said.

"Okay, okay – that sounds very specific" commented Lesego. We still had about nine minutes left.

Aurora didn't feel the need to change into the team's uniform yet. She handed Lesego a mug filled with coffee. He started to feel awry.

"Here you go" said Aurora. He grabbed the mug.

"Wait what's in this mug?" asked Lesego.

"It's poison. It should kill you in a few seconds" I teased. Lesego started to panic.

"Relax, pal - it's just coffee." I said.

"Wait, why do I need coffee?" asked Lesego.

"Familiarity" said Aurora.

"We need you to act natural when you walk to your invention." I explained. If you were wondering, Jonah was dropping off from the sky. This wasn't a metaphor - Jonah was literally dropping from the sky above.

"Alright, I get it - want to walk peacefully, take my invention then walk out. " speculated Lesego.

"Yeah, um, our plan is not that simple" I said.

"Whoa, I can see Jonah from here" commented Julian using the team's communication.

"Any sign of Cassidy North?" asked Melvin. "Nope, she's long gone" said Isabella.

Jonah was going to fly into the building and about a minute. Lesego walked out of the room we accompanied him. Little distance was there since he could try to run away.

"Jonah's going to crash into the building within a minute" said Celeste. "Crap" I said. "What is it?" asked Celeste. Lesego who started to become worried to guards were approaching us and they had firearms I started to conjure a concussion blast. Aurora post by Lesego then run to them. The guards became startled then reached out to their firearms. They were about engage and Aurora stopped running. "What is she doing?" asked Lesego in a whisper.

"Keep quiet and watch" I whispered. Aurora was naturally good at improve which is why she could cloak herself as a delivery girl without being detected. She needed to find a way to talk yourself out of the predicament that could lead into violence shelter had to distract the guards. By the way Jonah was still falling from the sky. Lesage and I kept on walking towards the guards and Aurora. We needed to proceed normally. Aurora finally found the right words.

"Oh, wait, wait I'm so sorry" said Aurora.

"Um guys, what the heck Aurora is doing?" asked Jovian using the team's technology.

Communication networks were always active. "She could blow our cover" warned Carien.

"What?" asked one of the guards.

"I am sorry you reminding me of my dead boyfriend" said Aurora she started to get emotional the guards fell for it." I'm so sorry said the first guard whom Aurora pointed at.

"This girl is something else" said Melvin.

"that's a compliment right?" asked Leo, who sounded anxious. "Yeah it is" answered Isabella.

Aurora stunt worked perfectly. Lesego and I casually walked past the guards whom were caught up in Aurora's story. The guards kept speaking to her. The guards allowed us to pass peacefully. "It's official aurora needs to go to Hollywood" said Celeste. "Meanwhile we need to keep going" I said.

"Jonah's drop can be delayed" said Celeste. "Why?" I asked as Lesego gained entrance to the elevator. "It's just a safety precaution" reasons Celeste. I walked into the elevator with Mabe. I weighed in on what she said before replying. "Going up" said Lesego.

The research Lab was vast and had floors hence the elevator.

"Well that could disrupt our plan. Jonah needs to rush into the building" I answered.

"Um, I have a question how you steal stuff from research labs?" asked lesego.

"This is our first one in Providence" I replied. "It makes sense" commented Lesego. "I honestly love the scenery of the great city and I don't want any form of collateral damage being done" I said. "Good man, yeah also on Kensho Research Lab too. This isn't a military base, we are trying to save lives here" explained Lesego. "Bruce listen, Jonah is going to fly into the building within seconds" reported Juvian.

"Lesego what is your invention?" I asked. "It's going to take time to explain it" answered Lesego. "You only have a minute" I said. "That that's too" limited said Lesego. "I'm trying to save everyone here. I need you to cooperate man. This is bigger than all of us" I explained. Lesego's conscience spoke to him. He decided to cooperate with me fully, he could see that I was trying to protect everyone despite my orders. "Okay, I'll give you all of the information that you need" said Lesego. "Alright start speaking" I said. "Firstly, my invention is not a weapon" said Lesego. "Okay, that's reassuring" I commented.

Yeah people would be against it. Heck my parents would ground me" explained Lesego. "My parents would probably give me a hiding then ground me" I said. "Yeah well now I would also use my scholarship" added Lesego.

Jonah swirled around the sky then crashed into the building. He just flew through the window. He landed then quickly tackled the guards that were on the floor he was sweeping. Jonah had to use his gauntlet in order to fire at the ones who were too distant. Jonah flew around the space and used his ability to suspend gravity. The guards were suspended in the air then Jonah, punched and shot at them.

"Jonah is in the building he needs to get his space first" explained Juvian.

"Can we help him out?" asked Isabella. "Yeah sure" answered Melvin.

The team was strategically placed in the building. We were imposters is in every sense. Firstly I used a set of codes to bypass security then walk into the building. Aurora had a solid disguise some of us had within the personnel.

You know the janitor, the intern and even the cable guy. We had to pan out everything. While the

remaining few cloaked themselves using a group of high school learners whom were on excursion at then research lab.

Juvian had to hide himself and observe everything that was happening. When the package would be reached Juvian would have to rush to the building and only witness the spoils of the war. The plan was being approached with accuracy. Celeste, Melvin and Carien only needed to causally separate themselves from the excursion. Sharon acted like the new intern while Leo had to be the custodian.

"Lesego, I feel like we are getting off topic here" I said.

"Oh yeah I'm sorry Bruce" apologized Lesego. "I need to know about your invention" I said. Before Lesego would speak to me further the others gave the reports.

"We are heading to Jonah's floor" said Melvin.

"My invention has one core capability" said Lesego. He pushed the panic button again I waited for him to say a word then the elevator door opened. "Times up pal. We will just steal it and clear our names" I said. I coldly walked out of the elevator then Lesego followed and started to bargain.

"Wait what!? Look man this doesn't have to be a heist. No one has to even endanger their lives and you don't have to know about my invention because it's top secret" explained Lesego.

"You see- that's the thing. This is more of a sweep than a heist. A few bones will be broken including yours. Trust me no one's going to die because we are fugitives not mercenaries. Now regarding your invention - I will take it, study it and understand it." I said to Mabe.

"Then sell it" said Lesego. Before I could answer the team received a distress call from Fletcher.

"I'm, I'm - I am not okay. I am overheating. I am overheating!" Said Leo in a panic.

"Oh, crap!" Commented Juvian.

"That's, that is not a good sign" said Jonah.

"Dr McKenzie warned us about this" commented Sharon. I need help shouted Leo, whom started to stumble around his whereabouts.

"Don't move kid." I said to Lesego.

"Yeah trust me I won't" said Lesego who was still remembering his failed attempts of fleeing.

"Leo I need you to get away from everyone. We can't afford any casualties or human loss. Sharon can you reach him on time?" I asked.

"Well yeah if I ditch these stilettos then I can get to him" Sharon said. "Then abandon your post" I said.

"Alright let me get to it." agreed Sharon then she collected her backpack from a cubicle and then ran to the lift.

"By the way, I'm still sweeping the space I invaded. There a lot of guards" reminded Jonah.

"How many are there?" I asked. "Give an estimation" said Celeste. Jonah looked around then he got shot at by the guards whom were still conscious.

"I need to count in 5s but they are a lot" said Jonah. "Oh crap" said Juvian. "I admire how Juvian minds his language" commented Carien.

"I am almost there Leo" said Sharon. Jonah started to notice a bad pattern the guards were too resilient and they were determined to apprehend him.

"Uh - We have a problem" announced Jonah. Before I could continue the crisis control and delegation, I received a phone call.

"It sounds like your plan is backfiring" commented Lesego. I started to think of solutions. My phone kept on ringing so I decided to answer it.

"Hello Bruce" said Violet.

"Violet? Hi" I replied.

"I have great news" she said in a cheerful tone. I actually had an idea.

"Wait, give me a second" I said.

"Oh, alright, brother" said Violet.

"In fact - I'll call you back" I said to her.

"Awesome" she replied and then I hung up. Lesego was still there.

"Alright guys, I have an idea but it will be very dangerous" I said to everyone.

"We're listening" said Celeste. "Leo, I need you to let the overheating progress. Sharon, shut the elevator doors and stay there." I said.

"Whoa, that's crazy" commented Juvian.

"Oh Juvian, start running to premises with your bow and arrows" I said.
 "But – if I do that, I'm going to burst into flames" said Leo.
 "Exactly, brethren" I said
 "Wait, what about us?" asked Melvin.
 "Go and help Jonah. The guards are too many" I said.
 "What about you?" asked Carien.
 "I'm going to collect the invention I said. "Whoa, whoa, wait" said Celeste.
 "Yeah, what is it?" I asked.
 "Are you done? Because I still need to use the bathroom" said Lesego.
 "Mabe, you need to keep quiet, honestly" I said to him.
 "You still need to call your best friend" reminded Lesego.
 "You want to ask the most secure part of the research lab on your own?" asked Celeste.
 "Yeah..." I replied.
 "Good luck" said Aurora using the network.
 "Thank you, thank you" I said to everyone.
 "This is a bad idea..." commented Jonah.
 "You could die" warned Sharon. I chuckled firstly then continued speaking.
 "Yeah, I know" I said.
 "We are running out of time" said Melvin.
 "Yeah we need to get out of this place soon" said Jonah. "Yeah, I'm going to burst into flames soon" said Leo.
 "Just take off the spyware firstly." Advised Aurora. Leo quickly did so as he walked to the nearest window.
 "Alright, alright, I'm, I'm actually keeping calm. I'm making progress" said Leo.
 "Okay, that's not what we need right now" said Carien.
 "We need a distraction and we need to make sure that the high school students on the excursion do not get caught in the crossfire." explained Sharon.
 "Um, alright – I have an idea. It will take a few seconds." I said. "Bruce, good luck." said Leo then he started to generate heat which turned into flames that stretched from his right fingertips until his rights shoulder. Miraculously – his clothes were still intact.
 "Awesome" commented Leo. Meanwhile I decided to finally run to the invention's whereabouts then extract it."
 "Alright, now – let's go collect your invention because I need to leave soon." I simply said.
 "You know that you are starting a war, right?" asked Lesego.
 "The war has already started. I'm just trying to stop it." I explained.
 "By stealing?" asked Lesego.
 "By following my orders" I answered. Lesego didn't have any follow-up questions from there.
 "Well, alright" said Lesego. He didn't have any questions but I did.
 "Wait, quick question – who hired you?" I asked.
 "Cassidy North. She was impressed by my work" replied Lesego. "Oh yeah. She seems like a nice girl." I commented.
 "Well she has everything, money, power and beauty" said Lesego. I nodded.
 "Greet her for me" I said.
 "Yeah, I'm sure she will hate you because of this entire raid" said Lesego.
 "Alright" I said then continued to march to the invention. The plan was in motion again and there stakes were still raised. Melvin, Celeste and the others aside from Leo, were already making their way to Jonah's perilous whereabouts. Aurora managed to change her clothing then joined the fight.
 "You are walking into a death trap." Said Lesego.
 "I am a walking death trap" I commented.
 "You and your team don't understand the mess you are making" said Lesego.
 "Trust me, we are ignorant but the authorities left us no choice." I explained then I started to conjure a concussion blast on my right palm.
 "No choice?" You plotted against collective governments, failed then ran away." Said Lesego.
 "Alright, I'm ready to create a distraction" announced Leo.
 "I'm at the section where Jonah is – fighting for his life" reported Sharon.
 "Alright, alright – this is promising" said Jonah who was becoming hopeful. Sharon could breathe underwater and her second ability was still a mystery"
 "Are you injured asked?" asked Sharon.
 "Well... nope, nope but I'm stranded" said Jonah. Leo was creating a very powerful distraction. "I didn't encounter any guards yet during the dialogue and I refrained from talking. Before the mission –

I studied the images of the most secure place of the research lab and knew it like the back of my hand. Originally – three members of the team were selected to take on the security and win in an indecisive fight.

The selective team members were me, Jonah and Aurora. Due to countless developments – I had to get the invention on my own. Leo threw a set of sphere- shaped flames which broke the window of the floor that he was on. The flames managed to trigger the smoke detectors which made the building's sirens go off... The intercom projected message to the entire building. "Attention, everyone. Calmly exit the building. I repeat, calmly exit the building." Said the female announcer. Everyone in the building started to clamour and move out the building.

"Okay, Juvian – you are up" said Celeste. Juvian used the crowd as the way to enter the premises without being detected by the security.

"I'm finally in the building" said Juvian

"You guys heard the announcement. So – just drop your guns then leave!" shouted Jonah. He addressing the guards that were trying to gun him down. As a reply, one of the guards threw a grenade that landed near Jonah.

Jonah quickly ducked away then the grenade exploded. The others managed to get nearer to Jonah despite all of the movement made by the people who were exiting the research lab.

"Watch out for pick-pocketers" teased Aurora.

"Yeah, this isn't time for jokes" commented Juvian. Some of the others started to laugh. "What's funny? What's funny?" asked Juvian.

"This entire talk is funny" answered Celeste.

"Yeah – I'm in a bad place right now. The guards threw a grenade at me." Said Juvian.

"Leo, try to get to Jonah. Juvian reach the floor that's below Jonah's floor then amplify the gravity" I ordered.

"Heard you loud and clear" said Leo.

"Wait, are you almost there Bruce?" asked Aurora.

"Nope but I will be in few seconds" I said.

"I have your board with me" said Aurora.

"Keep it safe. Remember the board is part of the plan B" I reminded her.

"Wait, Plan B?" asked Lesego.

"We have to go, the plan B is just a lot more violent." I explained then I walked into the area of where the invention was. There was a vault in the centre of the area. The invention was inside the vault.

"Alright – I have got eyes on the price." I said to my team.

"What about the guards?" asked Carien. I took another step then I heard guns being locked and loaded.

"Yeah, they are here" I replied.

"Bruce – you don't have to risk your life. We can help Jonah then rush to your whereabouts" said Sharon.

"No, no, no. it's okay – I can do this" I said.

"Um, I should warn you" said Lesego.

"Yeah, I'm listening" I said.

"They will shoot you. They won't hesitate" said Lesego. He was advising me to surrender or I would lose my life.

"You are right, but they don't know what I'm capable of" I replied. The guns were aimed at me. I rolled up the sleeves of my jacket. There were similar devices that were on my wrists. One on each wrist. The devices were very thin but they had an important purpose in the mission. I created the devices in secret.

"This is your last chance to walk out of the room without broken bones" I said. No one took the opportunity and stood firm. Lesego was impressed by their dedication.

"You all deserve a serious raise" commented Lesego. They were above par with hand-to-hand combat and ballistics. They were going to fire their guns at any moment. I wasn't going to be able to project a force field in time. This was a fact. I still had confidence despite the setting. I started to generate a concussion blast rapidly, they placed their fingers on their triggers then I slowly allowed the energy to die out. The guards did ease up however – they were prepared to kill me in order to protect the vault.

The battle was about to begin and I stood there on my own. My god complex was in effect and I was focused. Lesego waiting to see how all of this would pan out. We were all certain that a lot of people were going to get hurt. I also knew that the guards were not going to take me lightly. They were highly trained and they were intending on apprehending me – no matter what.

I received a message from one of the members of my team. I heard the message through the earpiece. The message was actually crystal clear. It wasn't complex set of words.

"Bruce, I'm ready to amplify gravity" said Juvian. Lesego was starting to understand the intricacy of our plan. Firstly we wanted him to hear our discussion on how to extract the invention and defeat the guards. Lesego would see the plan as a hopeless attempt and wouldn't bother to warn them at all. Lesego was outwitted by us.

"Oh, crap – this is not going to end well" said Lesego. The guards were about to fire at me I decided that it was finally time to fight.

"Now" I shouted. The guards started to feel heavily strained by gravity. They felt a greater gravitational pull which made them very vulnerable despite their firearms.

I could finally use the advantage by attacking right away. I recollected the energy of the concussion blast that I was developing. Lesego was still there and he barely moved. I fired the concussion blast then they were hit by the attack. Bodies flew around the room but this was merely the beginning.

Lesego tried to run away. "I wouldn't do that, if I were you" I warned him. Lesego stopped running.

"Thank you because if you do run away, I'll set off the explosives which will amount to serious collateral damage" I aid.

"Great, now – this is a lot more messed up" complained Lesego. I chuckled.

"How will all of this clear your names?" asked Lesego.

"He was trying to distract me. Meanwhile, the others invaded the floor where Jonah was.

"Finally!" said Jonah. They used their abilities to fight them. Jonah started to fly around and attack from above.

"Bruce, back up is here" said Jonah.

"Alright – Juvian, go and join them. I'll take it from here" I said.

"Wait – are you sure?" asked Juvian.

"Yeah, yeah – just go" I said. Juvian started to run to the other fight. By the way, Juvian was on the floor above the vault which was the perfect place to amplify the gravity. I ran towards the guards who were still recovering from the gravitational pull and the concussion blast. I conjured another concussion blast as I ran towards them.

The others were busy fighting the guards that kept on appearing out of nowhere. We all trusted each other. Melvin didn't throw jabs because of his injury. He had to use a gauntlet to fight them. I finally started to engage into the fight against the guards that protected the vault.

"Watch out!" I said then punched three guards in succession. I spotted one of the guards picking up his gun from the ground then I fired the concussion blast at him then he flew to the wall. I was getting used to fighting knowing that everything was at stake.

"This is the brawl of the year" I commented then ran to the other guards. A few bullets were flying so I jumped for cover. "You reckon?" asked Celeste. "Well at least we'll have all of these memories when we part ways" said Sharon. We all laughed then continued to fight the guards. We all had a certain way of fighting and using our powers. By the way – celeste barely used her powers because she believed they were too dangerous.

I tried to be very careful when I fired my concussion blast. They had to be subdued, nit killed. After fighting for 3 more minutes, they were all unconscious. I could finally secure the invention.

Chapter 20
The Mighty Ten Versus Red Nest

Kensho Research Lab
Providence, RI
1007 hours

I could finally secure the invention then the mission would be complete and we would all get to go home to our families and friends.

I started to stare at the vault that was harbouring the invention. I noticed that it was built from a rare metal. The vault had a very advanced computer, which was fitted into the side of the vault. The keyboard was digital.

I began to study the vault for a few seconds then took a few steps back. I started to create another concussion blast carefully. I had to be very careful because I needed the right amount of power. If the blast has too much power it will destroy the vault and damage the invention, if the blast has far lesser power then I would be wasting my time and energy.

Lesego was walking around and checking on every guard that was lying on the floor. He knew that they were all done and out. I complete the concussion blast, aimed at the vault then fired it. The result was disappointing. The vault didn't budge at all.

I was starting to believe that the vault should be stolen along with the invention. That would have made greater statement to the world.

Time was ticking, I needed to think of solutions right away. Solutions that could work. The others were making their way to the vault.

I conjured another concussion blast then fired again. The blast couldn't make the vault budge. I started to rethink my ideas. I started to look into that technology that was attached to the vault – especially the computer. Lesego stopped pacing around the soldiers then he observed what I was doing. I decided to look into the computer. It showed details about the cargo but it never said what the cargo was. The team was at the corridors and they were walking to the area where the vault was.

Lesego took off his watch then placed it on his palm. He became very frustrated for some reason. He placed his watch in his pocket then marched to a firearm that was loaded. I didn't pay attention to what he was doing. I was only focusing on the mission. I switched on the devices that were on my wrists. They were functioning well and I finally use them to access, wait – destroy the vault.

"We are about to save the world..." I said, the team heard my words through the network.

"Be careful" said Celeste using the spyware. The others were only a few seconds away. I looked at my devices to see if they were not spiking. I nodded then started to chuckle.

"I am a genius..." I said to myself then started to conjure a concussion blast. One on each hand. The devices started to be in effect. Originally the hue of the concussion blast was blue but the devices changed it to white. Rendering a new capability that came the concussion blast. The capability affected technology. I kept conjuring the attack.

Lesego picked up a gun then aimed it at me from afar.

"Get away from the vault!" warned Lesego.

"Nope" I simply said.

"I have a gun" said Lesego.

"I have super powers" I replied. Lesego started to feel afraid. He shot at the ceiling a couple of times. The noise that it made distracted me. I stopped generating the concussion blasts. I was becoming very angry. The others quietly walked into the room.

"Do I have your attention now?" asked Lesego. Leo shot a ball of fire towards Lesego which hurled him to the wall then he clinged the gun so that he wouldn't get separated from the gun. Lesego tried to get quickly but Juvian shot an arrow which pinned Lesego to the wall. When it pierced through the right sleeve of his jacket.

"Well – you have their attention" I said.

"Sorry, that we're late" apologized Aurora.

"Apology accepted. Now help me crack open this vault" I said to the others. They were all looking around and assessing the damages. They were surprised that I subdued every guard in the room in such record time. "Guys! Look alive, we need to find a way to destroy this vault, walk in then collect the invention" I said to them.

"Yeah, we heard you but here's the thing – we won his fight" said Jonah.

"We don't have the invention yet" I replied.

"You need to relax for a few seconds" advised Carien.

"Relax?" I asked.

"Yeah, it's official – your concussion blasts are a hazard" said Isabella.

"Thank you for the criticism but we need to finish the mission" I said. Lesego finally got the chance to remove the arrow that pinned his jacket to the wall.

"What's up?" asked Melvin.

"The vault, we need to open it" I said.

"Alright then... let's just break it down" said Aurora.

"That's not going to be easy. The vault can withstand the force of my concussion blast" I said.

"Prove it" said Juvian

"Alright" I quickly said, conjured a normal concussion blast since I switched off the device. I fired the concussion blast towards the vault and not much progress was made. Lesego was being guarded by Juvian and Celeste.

"See? Nothing. Nothing" I commented. "Wait, what are those devices?" asked Sharon. I just chuckled then I started to rethink the idea.

"This should have been the easy part" said Juvian. I decided to use more concussion blasts at the vault with a single warning.

"Whoa Beaker" said Carien. After the 7th concussion blast I stopped firing the vault.

"Whoa, whoa – stop being emotional about it" advised Celeste

"I wasn't being emotional about it – I was just proving something" I replied. Lesego started to see a psychological philosophy that was rooted to my mind. "Oh, I'm sorry" apologized Juvian.

"It's okay but we need to leave" I said.

"Wait – what about the other guards?" asked Carien.

"Well, they won't fight and we will use Lesego as a distraction" answered Isabella.

"You are trying to sell me another lie. It won't work this." Said Lesego. I loudly sighed then charged up the next concussion blast that was aimed at the vault then it kept on generating. I switched on the devices prior to the gathering of power.

"Lesego, listen – we don't need you alive." I reminded him.

"I thought that it is useless to fire your blast" commented Celeste.

"This attack is different" I told her.

"Wait, wrong grammar. Your powers aren't effective in this case. Celeste use your powers!" said Aurora.

"Okay – that's a terrible idea..." said Carien.

"That should be the last option" said Jonah.

"I don't think that it shouldn't be an option" I said.

"My abilities are a bit too much" cited Celeste.

"I wish I had your powers" said Sharon.

"Okay, it's decided – Celeste's powers are out of the picture" I said. Celeste nodded and the others agreed with me.

"Wait, wait – what can she do?" asked Lesego.

"Yeah, I'm not going to tell you. That information is confidential" I replied. Lesego just chuckled. He was trying to seem relaxed in the setting despite being vulnerable.

"Also – stop pressing your panic button!" I shouted.

"What? You, you all know about my secret weapon?" asked Lesego, he clearly chose the wrong word to end his question.

"Yeah, I'm going to believe that it's nerves talking... because that's not a weapon. That's more of a whistle. That panic button is actually your greatest weakness." I said to Lesego.

"You actually sound like my physics lecturer" commented Lesego.

"Wait, I thought that you attend high school" said Juvian who was baffled.

"Yeah, I'm still in high school but attend university lecturers to help me with development of my invention" explained Lesego.

"Alright, thanks for explaining" said Juvian.

"Wait, how did you know about my panic button on my watch?" asked Lesego.

"Well, that information is also confidential but we can tell you why we need your invention" I said.

"Why?" asked Lesego.

"Because it's the only way to regain our freedom" explained Isabella.

"I'm sorry, Lesego but we need to return to our homes" I said. I started to conjure a new concussion blast whilst the devices were switched on. Lesego felt our pain and our frustrations.

"Okay, if this doesn't work – we'll have to find a way to move the entire vault" I said.

"Well, I already have a few suggestions" said Aurora.

"We only have a few seconds until detonation" reminded Celeste.

"Alright, I'm almost done" I told everybody.

"Yeah, no pressure. Just focus" advised Jonah. Lesego quietly sat down and peacefully waited. He was actually thinking about the entire situation. The hue of the concussion blast was white and the force was only above par.

"Whoa, wait – wait" said Celeste.

"Yeah, what is it?" I asked her.

"When did you invent those devices?" asked Celeste.

"A few weeks ago" I answered. "Do they really work?" asked Celeste. I was about to fire the concussion blast that could help us with the final steps of the mission. I nodded firstly. "Yeah they work..." I said then I fired the concussion blast and it struck the computer then the blast began to affect the system. The team patiently waited. The concussion blast was altered to affect electronics and disable any form of technology such as computers, cell phones and so forth. The new capability was a stepping stone for the team. The devices allowed this conversion. I could finally create EMP blasts.

The blast crippled the entire safety system that protected the invention. This was a good thing for our team.

"Bruce, you are a genius..." commented Melvin. I looked towards him in disbelief.

"Yeah, I'm going to believe that it's the nerves talking" I said then looked at the vault. Lesego was also looking. The vault was seconds away from shutting down completely.

"Wait, are those even legal?" asked Carien.

"Not at all but we need such weapons" answered Jonah.

"They tried to turn us into propaganda for war..." said Leo.

"And they failed" said Aurora.

"Yeah and now we are about to make history" said Jonah. "No, Jonah – wrong choice words" I said.

"What is happening to the vault?" asked Isabella.

"It's collapsing, the computer is in distress so – yeah, and it's collapsing" I answered. The screen turned black then the door of the vault slowly opened.

"Wait, wait – how did you know that it would work?" asked Leo.

"Research. I did a lot of research about the system used to protect the access of the invention." I explained.

"Alright, go on..." said Melvin. "It made sense the vault had to have some sort of pressure point that unlocks the entire thing, so I had to be threatened" I said.

"Hence – the EMP blast" guessed Isabella.

"Yeah and the threat activated the system's kill switch which saves the original data safely but it would trigger the door into opening" I said.

"Now, that's smart. Intricate but smart" commented Aurora.

"Yeah, now we can collect the loot." said Melvin.

"Well, yeah but be careful" advised Jonah.

"Yeah, we don't know what could happen next. Perhaps there could be more guards" said Carien.

"We wouldn't mind taking them down" said Celeste.

"I'll walk in firstly" I announced.

"Alright, Juvian and I will follow you" notified Aurora.

"Alright" agreed Juvian.

"The rest of you must guard the door" I instructed. Juvian drew an arrow, I created a force-field then slowly walked in with them.

The vault was pitch black and it had an eerie atmosphere that tied with it.

I started to conjure another concussion blast while I walked in the vault. I finally saw an object.

"I spotted the invention whispered to them.

"Wait, why are we whispering?" asked Aurora.

"I don't know" I whispered back.

"Wait – THAT is..." said Juvian. He used his normal voice.

"Go on..." I whispered.

"No, wait, it's not a funny joke at all. I'll tell you the joke after we retrieve the invention." Said Juvian. I had to state a request.

"Um, Juvian..." I whispered.

"Yeah, what's up?" asked Juvian.

"Start whispering!" I shouted. There was a message from the others.

"Detonation will happen in 30 seconds" notified Celeste.

"Wait here..." I said then marched to the invention. Aurora was keeping guard. I wanted to conclude this mission.

"Trigger the explosives" I said.

"Now?" asked Celeste.

"Yeah. Do it" I said then snatched the object. The explosives went off the parts of the building were destroyed. I walked out of the vault with the others. The object was a capsule, it was a cylinder-shaped capsule and it harboured the invention. I had to carry the capsule with both my arms. It wasn't too heavy however.

"Alright, the mission is complete" I said to them.

"Not yet, we still need to deliver the invention to the given address" said Aurora.

"Oh, yeah – you are right" I replied.

"The explosives have cut all communications for at least 24hours" reported Jonah.

"Yeah, which is enough time for us to leave, deliver the invention and get back to the cabin" said Melvin. I needed to apologize.

"Sorry about your office, Mabe" I said to Lesego.

"I hope you have insurance" said Jonah.

"Okay, enough waiting, we need to leave" I said. We secured the capsule and placed into a backpack. I decided to carry the backpack.

"I got it, I got it" I said when I started to carry the bag.

"Okay, okay" said Carien. Lesego was still silent then he finally spoke.

"This is not going to be easy. This is all part of war" said Lesego.

"I actually understand your concern but look no one died. Which is a big deal considering the nature of our abilities." I said. My phone started to ring. I saw the screen. It was Bald Eagle. I chose to ignore it. My phone stopped ringing.

"Who was that?" asked Leo.

"It was Bald Eagle but I will call him back later" I said.

"Oh yeah, makes sense" commented Jonah. Celeste started to sense danger. This wasn't an ability however.

"Something is terribly wrong. I can feel it" said Celeste who was very concerned.

"Relax Celeste. We won the fight" I said. Bald Eagle called me again.

"Oh, crap!" I shouted.

"What is it?" asked Aurora.

"It's Bald Eagle. He is trying to call me again" I said.

"Answer your phone" said Celeste.

"This is not the right time" I said. Celeste gave me a cold stare. She looked very, very ...serious.

"Answer your phone" said Celeste in a slow serious tone. I answered the call.

"Bald Eagle" I said.

"Good Morning, Bruce" said Bald Eagle. He sounded calm. I couldn't believe it. The others were looking around and they also waited for the call to end. They believed that Bald Eagle could carry out new instructions to us.

"How is everyone?" asked Bald Eagle.

"They are okay. No one's hurt" I reported.

"Good, have you secured the invention yet?" asked Bald Eagle.

"Um yeah, yeah, yeah, we have secure the invention" I stammered.

"Alright – now all of you need to leave the research right now" instructed Bald Eagle.

"Yeah, we have to. We know. Just give us ten minutes then we will leave the building" I replied.

"Bruce, you don't have ten minutes to spare" warned Bald Eagle. He was still calm when he was speaking to me.

"Alright, I understand" I said then hung up.

"What is it?" asked Melvin.

"We are about to be ambushed or surrounded" I said to everyone.

"By whom?" asked Isabella.

"I don't know. Bald Eagle didn't say." I said.

"Wait, do you think that this entire mission is a trap?" asked Celeste.

"I, I don't know..." I said to Celeste.

"Bruce, try to call him again" suggested Juvian.

"Not yet, for now – we need to make a run for it." I said.

"We need to run, yes I agree with you but we need to be careful" said Celeste.

"Careful?" I asked.

"Please explain what you are trying to say because I've been distracted since I walked into this room" commented Jonah. The others sighed then the conversation continued.

"Listen, I have a plan and it will work" said Celeste. Everyone looked around and decided to trust her.

"Alright, not here. We can talk in the elevator" said Celeste.

"Alright, let's roll" I said then we ran to the elevator while Lesego stood in the room.

* * *

We all managed to fit into the elevator. Celeste explained her plan within a minute. "Wait?! That's your plan!?" I asked her.

"Yeah, that's my plan" answered Celeste. We were all warned about Celeste's plan – it was a very perilous idea.

"Any questions?" asked Celeste. We all raised our hands. It was clear we all had questions about her plan. We didn't have enough time to actually listen to each one.

"Okay, I thought that the plan sounded clear" commented Celeste.

"Yeah, look – your plan is crazy!" I said in panic.

"And I'm very sure that it will get us killed" added Juvian.

"Listen, trust me – it is the only way" said Celeste.

"Point taken" replied Melvin. We all looked at Melvin. "What? She has a point" said Melvin. We were still raising our hands by the way.

"Wait, what if we are not in trouble?" asked Jonah.

"Go on..." I said.

"Think about it – our plot worked. It worked brilliantly! We did everything precise, even the fighting" explained Jonah. We all dropped our hands because we noticed we looked ridiculous. Jonah continued to speak.

"We even secured the invention in time. They are stranded and we won. Bald Eagle is a person who believes in urgency, so he probably wants us to deliver the invention right away" said Jonah.

"So you think that the call was just a scare tactic?" I asked Jonah.

"Yeah, I'm very sure" said Jonah.

"Alright, let's make a bet" I said to him. The elevator was almost at the roof.

"This is interesting" commented Aurora.

"It's not constructive but it is really interesting" added Carien.

"If you are right, you get to drive around the Trident Neon for a week after our names get cleared" I said.

"Awesome but what if I'm wrong?" asked Jonah.

"If you are wrong – I gain ownership of your flying gizmos for only four days" I said. The stakes were higher than expected.

"Alright, you are on!" said Jonah. He sounded confident. "Yeah, that escalated quickly" said Celeste. Jonah and I shook hands and the wager was on.

"Alright, cool. Now – let's focus on my plan" said Celeste.

"Alright but I was thinking that we should bargain with them" said Aurora.

"That's, that's not going to work" replied Melvin.

"Just hear me out" said Aurora. I interrupted her.

"They will probably shoot us on sight" I said to everyone.

"Okay, it seems like you are avoiding my plan" said Celeste.

"Your plan is just too dangerous, Celeste" I said to her.

"Yeah I feel like it is too dangerous to execute" said Carien. Celeste simply kept calm. The elevator finally was seconds away from reaching the roof of Kensho Research Lab.

"Alright, look alive" I said to everyone.

"Well... it might be the last time that we all look alive" commented Isabella. The comment had a dark humour. Everyone noticed and no one laughed.

"Wait, I wonder who was sent to stop us..." said Celeste.

"Yeah, I mean – it could be anyone." said Juvian.

"Or... or it can be no one" said Jonah.

"Maybe they sent Jonny Tempest and his ally" said Melvin.

"Perhaps so" said Carien.

"Well, I don't care who we are fighting" I said. The others got ready to leave the elevator.

"Why?" asked Celeste.

"Because we are... The Might Ten!" I said. They felt my confidence.

"Yeah, that will never get old..." said Sharon. The elevators doors finally opened, and I walked out of the elevator and the others followed me. Our enemies were waiting for us.

"Oh, crap..." said Jonah. They enlisted Red Nest for help.

"You don't know when to quit, that's starting to be a problem for me and my team" said Barron. There was a great distance between us.

"Yeah, well – we are just trying to clear our names, so we have to steal a few things and hospitalize a few people." I said.

"Okay, that doesn't seem like heroics." said Emma, who had her weapon ready. In fact – all of their weapons drawn before we arrived. We knew that we were going to get into a serious fight with them.

"Well, trust us – we know what we are doing." said Melvin. "And you will finally face the consequences." said Eddie. I tried to talk it out with them firstly.

"This doesn't have to be a fight, Barron." I said.

"We all took an oath and we will stand by it." answered Barron.

"Think about the millions of lives that are in danger." I said.

"Alright, you clearly don't understand – you are the danger. All of you. You need to be eliminated. We have our orders." explained Barron.

"Well, it sounded like your mind is made up..." commented Celeste.

"Yeah and honestly – I'm sorry but we are going to have to take you in." explained Beverly. The situation was quite tense. It was seven people against ten – we had some advantage before the fight even began. However, Red Nest was a very well-polished team and their weapons were advanced. My team was still new and we were learning to trust each other. This fight was going to be interesting.

"Yeah, well, talking is pointless now..." said Leo.

"That's one thing that we can all agree on." said Eddie. We drew our weapons and activated our devices. Red Nest took a few steps nearer to us.

"Celeste." I said.

"Yeah?" asked Celeste.

"We are going to go with your plan." I told her. Celeste nodded.

"Awesome..." replied Celeste. Everyone agreed with the new motion despite the intricacy and worries of the plan.

"Well, this is going to make a great story someday..." commented Jonah.

"Yeah, it will probably sound a little too escalated. The odds have always been against us." said Melvin. We all laughed briefly.

"Finally, it's the Mighty Ten versus Red Nest." I said. Barron and his allies aimed their guns. We were still calm. Barron was baffled.

"Wait for it..." I said. They still approached us carefully.

"Wait for it." I said. Red Nest stopped.

"Wait for it." I said to the others.

"What exactly is your plan?" asked Emma.

"You'll see." said Aurora.

"It looks like you don't have a plan." said Eddie.

"We have a plan." I said to them.

"Go on, fire at us." said Leo. Red Nest restrained themselves. I quickly fired a mild concussion blast towards Barron and it struck him – I was hoping that he would suffer a mild concussion. Red Nest were startled by the attack.

"Now!" I shouted when I saw Barron's body rolled near to the edge. A new set of explosions went off. Once again our enemies were startled again.

"Barron!" shouted Beverly who ran to him.

"Okay, plans working." I commented. They all aimed their guns towards me. Dr Ecto started to count us.

"Alright kid, you are in serious trouble right now!" said an angry Eddie. I just chuckled.

"Go on fire at me..." I said.

"There's only 9 of them. One female escaped." reported Dr Ecto.

"Nope, she is still in here." jokingly said Juvian.

"We are going to ask you again – do you really want to do this?" I asked. Something pulled Eddie then threw him away. The very person who couldn't be seen was doing this...Carien had the ability that resulted in invincibility.

"What the?" asked Dr Ecto.

Carien walked to our side then reappeared.

"Thank you, Carien." I said to her.

"Don't mention it." said Carien. Red Nest quickly started to recover from the attack. Barron walked to his team.

"Alright, we get it – you have superpowers." said Barron.

"Yeah, now – move out of the way" I said to them. They collected their weapons and waited. Celeste's plan was still in effect...

"Alright then – let's fight until one team gives up." I said.

Chapter 21 – The World Needs The Mighty Ten

They were in awe.

Kensho Research Lab

Providence, RI

We finally reached our destination.

I knew that The Mighty Ten could defeat Red Nest. My team was motivated and driven. Barron was still shaken because of the attacks. Red Nest decided to fight us despite what happened.

We knew so little about war. We were relying on The Chris Mason Theory. Red Nest decided to forget about sportsmanship conduct – they solely wanted to apprehend us using violence. Our abilities were very helpful but we were still learning how to master them. We were young but we could fight them. We were also young but we could fight them. Barron took another solid step towards us. It was time to square off. I started to run towards them. The other joined me. Red Nest ran to intercept us. I was trying to stay focused. My team had optimism and a plan. The two sides finally clashed. The fight spun out of control right away. I tried to swing a punch at Barron then he caught it, stopping the attack completely. Beverly managed to punch Carien and Sharon consecutively. Vladimir tackled Melvin then tried to step on his skull. Melvin managed to dodge this. Juvian used his cables to fight Jerome. I couldn't free my hand. Barron wouldn't patiently allow me to try. I started to create a concussion blast then Barron placed pressure on the hold then punched me in the gut. I fell down on one knee. I quickly retaliated though. Barron tried to reach for the backpack. I stood up, punched him in the face then I was freed from his hold. I swung a few more times at him.

Jonah decided to start flying around the battlefield and assist all of us. Despite being outnumbered – Red Nest managed to seriously hurt us without even relying solely on their weapons.

Dr Ecto was a more polished fighter and he easily dealt with anyone who faced him. My punches were barely causing damage. Barron quickly recovered and continued fighting me. Barron was very collected during the fight. I was trying to calculate his fighting techniques. The others were trying their level best. Eddie managed to fight Melvin and Leo at once. Beverly was consistently attacking Celeste who kept on dodging,

Jonah flew in and snatched Eddie's sword. Eddie got distracted then Melvin punched him with his injured hand then he fell to the ground. The surge inflicted additional damage.

Jonah threw the sword to me then I caught it in mid-air. Barron decided to introduce a firearm. Barron aimed and fired at me. I created a force field in time. I dropped it after the last shot.

"We are not going to stop fighting." I said. Isabella decided to take on Vladimir. She needed to use her abilities.

"You are being brainwashed." said Barron.

"Yeah but your team is trying to kill us." I reminded.

"We are trying to capture you." corrected Barron. Jonah landed and he tried to fire at Ecto. The shots flew through him then they almost killed Juvian. The archer used his enhanced sense to dodge them then land on his feet safely.

"Now – that is awesome!" commented Jonah. Juvian and Jonah decided to have a short conversation during the fight.

"You almost killed me." said Juvian in a collected tone.

"In my defence, I didn't know that I was going to fight a ghost." said Jonah. Juvian dodged a few jabs that were thrown by Jerome. Juvian kicked him in the chest then he had time to reply.

"Point taken." said Juvian. Dr Ecto angrily walked to Jonah.

"Always respect your opponent!" shouted Dr Ecto. Jonah didn't take his words seriously but he tried to punch him then the doctor dodged.

"Whoa – you are not that old." said an astonished Jonah. Dr Ecto grabbed Jonah by his throat and lifted him up.

"Oh, crap! This is only supposed to happen in movies!" said Jonah in a struggling voice.

"Help!" shouted Jonah. I continued to square off. I decided to control the environment or...try to.

"Trust me, I don't want to fight you." I said then snatched the gun from him then threw it from the building. The crowd saw the object falling then they noticed that a fight was happening.

"You should have thought of that before you broke the law." said Barron.

"We didn't commit treason." I said. Barron took out another firearm then aimed at me. I dodged quickly and slipped then fell to the ground. Aurora ran to help Jonah.

I stood up and tried using words once again.

"Okay – this isn't going to end well for your team." I warned him.

"Just hand over the invention and surrender." said Barron. Aurora reached Dr Ecto then she used her ability which caused temporary paralysis.

"Help's here!" screamed Aurora then she struck his right knee. Dr Ecto felt weak when dropped. Jonah who caught his breath then kicked Dr Ecto. The doctor hit the wall then tried to get up but failed.

"Stand down!" shouted Jonah. Dr Ecto couldn't feel his right leg.

"I can't, I can't, I can't feel my right leg..." said Dr Ecto who was heavily panting.

"Don't worry – you'll be okay, Doc." said Aurora. The fight between Celeste and Beverly was very even and the two barely managed to hurt each other. Beverly abruptly lost her cool the she simply tackled Celeste to the ground. Beverly got up and left Celeste alone.

"Enough of this nonsense..." said Beverly. She was completely enraged. Celeste got to her feet.

"I'm sorry." I said to Barron.

"You are not a hero." said Barron.

"I am hoinh yo hurt you if you don't get out of my way." I warned. Juvian tried to fight Beverly but she took his bow then struck him with it. Juvian caught it then snatched it back. Eddie ran to Juvian then punched him. The archer fell down.

"Thank you." said Beverly.

"Don't mention it." said Eddie.

"This is taking longer than expected." complained Beverly. Eddie chuckled. I ran towards Barron and started fighting him. He fought back, the fight was very compelling. Barron knew how to defeat my punches and kicks. I created a concussion blast and fired at him then it struck him. Barron flew away then fell down. Barron started to recover from the attack. I conjured two concussion blasts.

"Bruce, be careful! Your concussion blasts can cause collateral damage." said Carien.

"And loss of life." added Isabella. I nodded.

"I got it, just take care of their muscle." I said to Carien and Isabella.

"Consider it done..." said Isabella. I fired the concussion blasts towards him. Barron grunted then dodged them.

"Damn it!" I shouted in frustration. Barron sprinted towards me. He actually got the chance to punch me in the face then tossed me near the edge of the building. I got up, sprinted towards him then leaped. I lifted my knee then it collided with the left side of his face. Barron stumbled down to the floor. Here's the thing – everything was still going to plan. We had to continue fighting them. None of us were going to die.

"Yeah, that's got to hurt." I commented. Barron was badly hurt it seemed. He felt dizzy and he was bruised. Beverly paid attention to Aurora and Jonah who were relaxed. Eddie noticed that a few people were missing during the fight.

"Wait, something doesn't add up." said Eddie.

"Eddie, we need to keep them grounded." said Beverly. Aurora and Jonah were finalizing something.

"I got it. You want me to shut down his systems." said Eddie.

"Then possibly push him off the building..." said Beverly.

"You are hilarious." commented Eddie. Dr Ecto was still trying to stand but continued to fail. Vladimir was blindsided by us. Juvian fired a few arrows at him. The brute dodged then caught the last arrow.

"Yeah – you did alright..." said Juvian. Vladimir didn't understand what Juvian was trying to accomplish. Vladimir looked around and saw no changes. The brute took a step further then he felt his surface weaken. Vladimir stopped walking.

"Awesome – now, you are stuck. Good." said Juvian.

"Vladimir's neutralized." reported Isabella.

"Alright - did you clone the material?" asked Melvin.

"Yeah, yeah, I did." said Isabella.

"Good 'cause we need to finish this fight before someone gets badly hurt." said Melvin.

"I'm going to need a few more minutes." said Celeste.

"Alright, let's keep fighting." said Carien. Eddie threw his sword towards Jonah then stopped it in mid-air. Carien re-appeared – she was the person that caught the sword that was aimed at Jonah.

"Yeah, that part of the plan worked." commented Jonah.

"I'm starting to hate these kids." said Eddie.

"This is a crazy plan, Celeste!" shouted Jonah. Celeste threw the sword at Aurora and she caught it.

"You are going to need that." said Carien.

"It's not a hot potato." said Eddie. The swords were very light.

"I'm going to surely hurt them." said Beverly in an enraged tone.

"Calm down, Bermuda Beauty." said Eddie who still had his composure despite being unarmed. Barron finally got up but I already concocted my next attack. Barron was struggling to maintain his balance. He tried to say something while he was rising. When Barron fell down, I started to create a forcefield behind him. Barron tried to speak then I violently pulled the forcefield towards him. The forcefield collided with him then he fell to the ground again.

"Yeah, that has got to hurt..." I said. Barron got injured, he didn't call it quits hence he tried to stand up once again. I was astonished. I decided to keep fighting him. Eddie drew a pair of his daggers which were concealed in his sleeves.

"Yeah, I am planning to keep your sword." said Aurora. Eddie still kept calm. He knew how to deal with taunts. Beverly was less forgiving and she was always emotionally motivated. Vladimir was still stuck and he couldn't move.

"You are not helping the world by stealing the invention." said Barron. He managed to stand up and recover. He didn't bother to check his surroundings. Luckily for him – I didn't plan to attack him right away.

"The world think that I am dead..." I replied.

"Wait, dead?" asked Barron. Celeste spoke to us through the network.

"You can make the run for it." said Celeste.

"Now?" asked Aurora who was marching towards Eddie and Beverly.

"Celeste, new plan – we defeat Red Nest then we can walk out." I said.

"This is Red Nest we are talking about." said Celeste.

"Yes and for some reason, they are not focused. They are distracted." I reasoned.

"They can still fight." They can still hurt us." said Leo who was dodging Emma's bullets. Barron swung at me and I dodged it then took a few steps back. I chose to refrain from fighting. I needed to keep reasoning.

"Red Nest is their ultimate weapon. We need to end this fight." said Aurora who rushed to fight Beverly. Jonah took to the skies and landed near Jerome then punched him. Celeste decided to rethink the stakes of the fight.

"Are you sure that we can fight them and win?" asked Celeste.

"I am very sure that we can take them to church." I said to my team. Celeste laughed and she decided to have in on my idea.

"Alright – let's defeat Red Nest then go home." said Celeste. I was thrilled to hear that.

"Awesome, we only need a few minutes." I said to her.

"A few minutes?!" asked Celeste. Barron managed to punch me, I punched back then he tried to reach for the invention. He was never going to reach it. I caught his hand, placed it in a grip then kicked one of his knees, he dropped down then I punched him in the face,. Everyone was astonished. Barron fell to the ground.

"Yeah, we only need a few minutes." I said to her. Emma witnessed my attack the she easily became flustered with emotions.

"Look, Barron – I had to punch you that hard. That was a statement. A serious statement that I keep saying." I said to Barron who looked dazed and beaten down.

"Stop messing with my team!" I shouted. Emma was extremely enraged. I believed that Barron was coaxed out of the fight. Emma decided to fight me and she intended on hurting me badly

"Bruce, focus!" said Celeste. Red Nest were outnumbered. Only four of them could still fight. Jerome was still a threat and his face was concealed. Jerome had a personal vendetta to settle with Juvian Totem. The other fights continued. Beverly carelessly pushed Aurora and kicked her in the gut. She fired a contraption that clinched onto her wrist.

“What the?!” asked Aurora as she studied the contraption. Red Nest were very cunning and they were already working on a way to recover from the setbacks.

“Eddie, you know what to do.” said Beverly.

“That doesn’t sound like good news for us!” shouted Leo. Jerome decided to use his speed and agility to level the battlefield.

“That’s my cue too.” said Jerome. His voice was not distorted and Juvian heard him speak.

“That voice is familiar...” whispered Juvian who was ducking for cover from Emma’s attacks.

“Alright, Vladimir – I need the boost.” said Eddie. Vladimir merely nodded. Jerome allowed him to see heat signatures meaning that he can easily find Carien who kept on using her ability. Emma ran towards me then tried to tackle me using a massive gun that she used. Her gun looked like a nostalgic missile launcher. The fight was becoming too shrouded. I decided to try to overpower her by pushing back towards her. We both started to strain. Jerome ran around then managed to jab both Melvin and Leo in succession. The contraption that was attached to Aurora’s wrist started to beep. Beverly began to read Barron’s vitals. I was too busy fighting Emma to interrupt her. Barron started to get up again while Beverly propped him. Eddie ran towards Vladimir then leaped. Vladimir opened his palms, joined them then he pushed one of Eddie’s feet upwards. Eddie soar into the skies and threw a dagger towards Jonah. The lookout saw it coming then suspended its gravity causing the weapon to float away.

“No!” shouted Eddie. Finally – our plan could rule out more members of Red Nest. Eddie was outplayed by Jonah and he was in serious trouble.

Jonah aimed towards him. Barron and Beverly thought that Eddie was going to be shot out of the sky. Jonah was going to fire his gauntlet but he wasn’t going to fire at Eddie. Jonah was distracting Eddie by aiming at him.

Juvian knew it was finally time to continue with Celeste’s crazy plan. From above, Juvian threw his cord. The same cord that he used to save Isabella from falling off the roof. The cord travelled and it latched onto Eddie’s back then he was pulled down by Juvian. Jerome charged towards Juvian. This was also meant to happen. Aurora was still trying to remove the contraption but was failing to do so. Carien became invisible again. Eddie was dragged downwards. Barron was stunned when he saw this. I powered out Emma then she fell to the ground. I conjured a concussion blast then fired at Jerome. The force was powerful enough to push him near the edge and his mask was shattered then fell out of his face.

Jonah fired a missile that went passed Eddie’s descending body then it exploded near Vladimir.

Vladimir’s feet shook then he collapsed through the cracks. The missile created a huge hole on the roof. The detonation was loud and it frightened the people that were rushed out of the research lab. One of the guards noticed that Lesego was not in the assembly. He deduced that Lesego never left the building but this was his own choice. Lesego wanted to join the fight and help Red Nest.

Vladimir reached the lower floor and suffered a concussion. Eddie’s body was driven into the cracks then the cord was detached. Eddie’s boy collapsed onto the floor and sustained serious injuries. Emma was shocked by what happened.

“Eddie!” shouted a devastated Beverly. Eddie still moved but he couldn’t continue fighting.

“I’m okay.” shouted Eddie. Barron was relieved.

“Someone should just get me my swords.” added Eddie.

“You always have jokes to tell.” said Emma who started to get up on her feet.

“There’s our exit. Celeste, you can start the engines. We’ll be there very soon.” I said. Every member of The Mighty Ten abruptly ran to the opening and leaped into it and ran down using stairs, We were

too fast and our movements were rehearsed it seemed. I was the last person to dive into the exit. Emma picked up her gun.

"I need to go after them." explained Emma.

"No, it's too dangerous." said Barron.

"Look at what they did to us! I need to try to recover the invention." said Emma. While they were speaking, we reached the floor we were rushing to. Lesego was still in the shadows.

"Emma, it's okay..." said Beverly. On our arrival – we saw an advanced aircraft which was fully functional.

Red Nest decided to stand down completely. This was their first defeat. Barron started walking on his own without needing the support. Beverly was still devastated by what happened.

"Are you okay?" asked Barron. Beverly tried to find the right words to use.

"No but I will be." answered Beverly. Dr Ecto had a revelation. Eddie couldn't stand up at all. Vladimir was still unconscious. Barron looked around and he saw that Red Nest fought a good fight despite the outcome.

Dr Ecto knew something about us. His revelation made sense. Jerome was still feeling the effect of the concussion blast. Jerome couldn't even speak. He chose to remain silent and recover. Emma ran to him then she offered a helping hand. Dr Ecto decided to share his revelation with the others.

"Bald Eagle is their mentor." said Dr Ecto. Barron looked at Dr Ecto.

"You sound very sure." said Barron.

"I can bet my life on it." said Dr Ecto.

"Bald Eagle? Who's Bald Eagle?" asked Emma.

"I'll tell you everything about him." said Dr Ecto.

"Emergency services are on their way." said Beverly.

"Just hang in there, Eddie." said Barron.

"Bald Eagle is trying to do what he tried to accomplish a few decades ago." said Dr Ecto. My team and I were about to leave the building. The aircraft was our transportation but we were not boarded yet. Firstly, we needed to check on everything including the loot.

"Alright, the capsule is still intact meaning that the invention is safe." I said.

Meanwhile, Aurora needed to be freed from the contraption that was attached to her wrist. The beeping didn't stop. Isabella used her abilities then ripped off the contraption from her wrist without hurting her. Isabella's abilities were very useful. She could study a metal or mineral and her bodily cells could shift into the studied matter, allowing her to have full control of the transformation.

"The beeping was starting to annoy me." said Isabella. Aurora relaxed her arm and the contraption was torn apart and stopped beeping.

"Awesome so who is going to fly the aircraft?" asked Jonah.

"You are going to fly the aircraft." I said to Jonah. Everyone knew that he was the best choice. Jonah started to laugh hysterically.

"You are kidding, right?" asked Jonah.

"I'm dead serious. Jonah, you are the only pilot in the team." I said.

"Yeah I know but...I don't know if I can actually manage." said Jonah.

"It's okay to have anxiety about flying an aircraft but you should just relax and try your best." said Sharon. Jonah nodded.

"Alright, I'll fly the aircraft." said Jonah. The others agreed with the motion.

"Get into the plane, we are leaving." I said. We all started to board the aircraft. I was excited about leaving the research lab because I knew that my orders were complete and I was very a very effective leader. Defeating Red Nest was a footnote for us. The fight was extremely demanding and it had major ramification.

Before I could walk in, I had to tie my shoelace. The others kept on walking.

"Just give me a second." I said then quickly tied my shoes. I got up the started to walk to the aircraft.

"I thought that Red Nest was going to run after us." commented Melvin.

"They are human beings. They can be broken," vaguely said Celeste. Her words were cold, blunt. Juvian was silent. We walked onto the aircraft then someone tried to be a hero.

"Bruce Beaker!" called out Lesego who looked enraged. I sighed then turned around so I could talk to him.

"This kid has guts..." commented Isabella.

"Yeah, I feel bad for him." said Leo.

"Yeah, what is it?" I asked Lesego.

"Return my invention. Right now." ordered Lesego.

"Look, give up. My team won the fight and your invention is the prize." I said to Lesego. The others were standing with me. Celeste was studying the surroundings.

"Prize? You have got to be kidding me!" shouted Lesego. None of us replied. Lesego carried a helmet with him. We knew that he was up to something.

"What you are carrying is a revolutionary scientific advancement that can help millions of people." explained Lesego who started to walk towards ys.

"Wait, is he talking about us?" asked Leo.

"Yeah, I will say it again – the kid has guts." said Isabella.

"Look, we are stealing one of your toys. Get over it. You will build a new one." I said to Lesego.

"The invention costs billions." said Lesego.

"Then send the invoice to someone who cares." replied Melvin.

"The invention is just a key." I said.

"A key?" asked Lesego.

"A key to our freedom." I said.

"You are very gullible." said Lesego.

"I'm also very dangerous." I said. Lesego was not threatened by my words. He clearly had a plan. I started to believe that Lesego was trying to buy time. His mannerisms, his sudden return – nothing made sense.

"Bruce, don't leave. We can help you." said Lesego.

"We?" I asked.

"Now you sound gullible. Very gullible." said Celeste. Lesego didn't mind the criticism. It moulded him. Lesego's early career dealt with a lot of criticism.

"You are involved in a political cover-up. A serious cover-up." I said. Lesego continued to approach us. He still carried his helmet. In fact, Lesego kept counting us for some reason. Carien was very attentive. Very attentive. Lesego didn't even have a problem with collateral damage.

"Bruce, bring back my invention." ordered Lesego. I knew a fight was about to happen. I took off my backpack then I held it up. This was a dare. Lesego finally lost his cool. Celeste took my backpack then boarded the aircraft. The others joined her.

"Good luck." said Celeste.

"Thank you." I said. I switched on my devices. Lesego wore his helmet then the helmet locked itself. Lesego had an advanced gauntlet on his left wrist. He used the gauntlet to activate his weapons. I was not even afraid. I ran to him then tried to punch him – he caught it. The helmet was consistently active.

"Wait, what?" I asked. Lesego clearly levelled the fight. Lesego dropped my arm then he fired an energy beam which hurled me away. I hit the wall then collapsed.

"I am taking you in, Beaker." said Lesego. His voice was a little distorted, heightened. This was because of the helmet.

"Oh, crap." I got up then dusted myself.

"Did you honestly think I wasn't going to fight back?" asked Lesego. I ran and threw a few jabs at him. Lesego's tech allowed him to dodge and mangle to counter-attack. The fight stretched past two minutes. Lesego punched me. I nearly fell down.

"Nerd!" I shouted then delivered an uppercut and fired a concussion blast at him. The concussion blast managed to end the fight. Lesego collapsed and he broke a rib.

"Ouch!" shouted Lesego.

"Yeah, guess what – my team and I never used Plan B." I said then ran into the aircraft. I was tired of all the fighting.

"Alright, we can go." I said to my team. The others agreed then Jonah programmed the aircraft's engines then we took off. The aircraft flew through the building then we left. Our mission was finally complete and all of us were alive.

Chapter 22 – The Age Of Early Nights

We were still tired during the flight. Sharon was fast asleep. Jonah was doing a great job at flying the aircraft. Thanks to Cooper's tech, the aircraft couldn't be traced.

The backpack was on the co-pilot seat. I sat down with the others. We spoke to each other but we had to stay alert.

"Alright, we are in the clear. We'll land at the address within 3 hours." I told them.

"Thank you. Now we can rest..." said Aurora.

"Yeah, I'm beat." said Isabella. Leo was awfully quiet.

"Are you okay, Leo?" asked Carien.

"Yeah, I'm, I'm fine." answered Leo.

"Are you sure?" asked Isabella.

"Well, I'm just worried about having a date for prom." confessed Leo. The others briefly laughed. Leo felt embarrassed.

"Alright, alright. Don't you have options?" asked Juvian.

"Well, there is this girl that I wanna ask but I don't know – she intimidates me." said Leo.

"That's so sweet." said Aurora.

"Just ask her, Leo. It'll be okay." advised Isabella.

"Isabella's right." I said.

"Really?" asked Leo.

"Yeah, just go and ask her." I replied.

"Thank you. All of you." said Leo.

"Don't mention it." said Juvian. Melvin was listening to the conversation.

"So...Bruce..." said Celeste.

"Yeah?" I asked her.

"Who do you want to go to prom with?" asked Celeste. I had to lie to her. I needed to lie to her. There was a simple reason for this – I didn't want to show her that I was getting attached to her.

"I'm not going to my high school prom." I said to her.

"Oh..." said Celeste. She was surprised and disappointed.

"Yeah, yeah..." I said.

"But why? Why aren't you going there?" asked Celeste. I easily gathered a reply.

"Everyone still thinks that I am dead. You know and I will be too busy to go there." I explained. Celeste understood my reasoning.

"I understand..." said Celeste. I simply nodded. I needed to wait a bit longer then tell her how I felt. Celeste was too sad however. Since we left – none of us spoke about Red Nest. I tried to say something else but I couldn't project the words. Celeste looked up, waiting for me to say something. Melvin said something. Successfully interrupting me.

"You know what's really cool?" asked Melvin. The question felt rhetorical but Aurora followed the dialogue.

"What?" asked Aurora.

"Pseudonyms." answered Melvin.

"Yeah, I think we deserve pseudonyms." Said Carien.

"That's really cool but nicknames are overrated." said Juvian.

"Whoa, overrated? Nicknames, wait, no – we don't need nicknames, we need pseudonyms. There is a difference. Oh, yeah...we also need a theme song." said Jonah.

"Theme son!?" asked Celeste.

"Yeah, a theme song. It has to have trumpets and a guitar solo." stated Jonah. The others laughed. The suggestion was very interesting. Perhaps we seriously needed a theme song.

"Jonah, I have a question..." said Juvian.

"Ask away..." said Jonah.

"Have you written the lyrics for the theme song?" asked Juvian. Jonah was actually happy when he heard the question.

"Yeah! The lyrics are ready!" shouted Jonah. He was really amped about it.

"Wait, when did you even write the lyrics?" asked Aurora.

"That doesn't matter." said Jonah.

"Um, why?" I asked.

"Bruce, you are asking too many questions." said Jonah. I laughed it off. Jonah sighed then answered.

"Alright – I wrote the lyrics a few weeks ago. I was inspired." said Jonah. Sharon opened her eyes slowly.

"Well, that's awesome!" said Juvian.

"Yeah, I know. I know." said Jonah. Sharon finally got up and she looked rested.

"Hey everyone..." greeted Sharon. We all greeted her back. Sharon yawned then stretched.

"What are you all talking about?" asked Sharon.

"A theme song." said Melvin.

"Yeah, the team's theme song." added Carien.

"Whoa, that's so cool!" commented Sharon.

"Yeah, I wrote the lyrics and you will hear them." said Jonah.

"Well, you know what? I'm content right now – our plan worked." said Sharon.

"I thought some of us were going to die." said Celeste.

"I thought I was going to die." I said.

"Yeah, you – you were a bit too reckless, Bruce." criticized Melvin.

"Point taken but look, Bruce managed to take down the guards." said Celeste.

"Yeah, I agree with Celeste." said Juvian.

"Wait, you do?" asked Sharon.

"Yeah, well, what he did was awfully dangerous but it worked." said Juvian.

"Good lad." said Leo.

"Where is the invention?" asked Sharon. I pointed at the co-pilot seat/

"There it is." I said to her.

"Wait, it's still in the metal capsule? You never opened it?" asked Sharon.

"Yep." said Jonah.

"But why?" asked Sharon.

"Bruce's orders." answered Carien.

"The less we know, the better." I explained.

"Well, okay – I understand the safety precaution but we almost died while we were securing the invention." said Sharon.

"So?" I asked.

"So? Aren't you curious about what's inside the capsule?" asked Sharon. We all looked at each other then we all looked at the capsule. Sharon deduced that we were too scared to find out.

"Um, nope." I said.

"Ditto." said Celeste.

"Yeah, you know – it might be radioactive." commented Jonah.

"It might be alive." said Leo.

"Yeah, plus, plus we don't need to know what it is." said Melvin.

"Exactly, exactly." I said.

"I mean, it's just a capsule. Just a capsule." said Carien.

"It's just a tool of evil!" said Jonah.

"Exactly, point taken." said Leo. Sharon decided to address the elephant in the room.

"You are all afraid to open the capsule" said Sharon. We were all in denial.

"What?! No..." said Celeste.

"We are not, we are not afraid." I stammered.

"Really?" asked Sharon. I nodded repeatedly.

"Yeah, we are not scared at all." I said. Sharon decided to walk to the invention.

"What are you doing?" asked Isabella. Sharon cleared her throat then spoke.

"I am going to open the capsule." said Sharon. We all panicked.

"Whoa, wait!" I shouted.

"Why?" asked Sharon.

"Sharon, you could trigger an explosion." I said.

"Bruce is right." said Leo.

"Relax – it's just a capsule and we know that Bald Eagle won't betray us." said Sharon.

"Alright, I agree but what if Lesego activated or placed a trap in the capsule?" I asked. My speculation was feasible. Lesego was very cunning and it seemed as if he gave up easily.

"Well, you have a point." said Sharon.

"See? Thank you." I said.

"Aurora should open the capsule." suggested Leo.

"Whoa, why me?" asked Aurora.

"It is pretty obvious." said Juvian.

"Yeah, you have a healing factor. You will be okay despite what happens." said Leo.

"Wait, what if the explosion destroys the entire cockpit?" asked a concerned Jonah.

"Um, okay – that highlights that we shouldn't open it." I said.

"Yeah but we almost died." said Sharon.

"But we didn't." said Celeste.

"But we almost died still and we deserve to know why. I am on Sharon's side on this one." said Isabella.

"Look, we all understand Sharon's reasons but our mission is to deliver the capsule to the address and then we get to go home." I said.

"Beaker, we need to see the invention. We need to know our superiors." said Sharon.

"And we will but first – we need to complete the mission. Yeah, that's how we will gain their complete trust. After that, we will get back our lives then we go after them and expose them." I explained.

"That, that doesn't sound violent at all." said Jonah.

"Bruce, this is a dangerous game to play." warned Celeste. My phone started ringing.

"Wait, your phone survived the entire fight?" asked Carien.

"Yeah, I know how to fight for my life carefully." I said. I was teasing everyone.

"Yeah, right." replied Aurora. I laughed then I took out my phone.

"That's a weird ringtone." commented Leo. I looked at the screen.

"Who is calling you?" asked Isabella.

"It's Bald Eagle." I said.

"Hang up." advised Juvian.

"Nope! I need to answer." I said.

"Yeah

"Awesome..." I replied.

I was on board with the others.

I stood up and started to run.

Jonah threw the sword at me then I caught it in mid-air.

“We are not going to stop fighting.” I said.

Chapter 28 – The Chase in the City of Providence

Sharon Lee’s cabin

Power City, MA

1649 hours

December 7th 2016

I still had high hopes for everything. It was because of faith and the need to grow. New York City had answers to our problem but no one truly knew Barron Patriot’s phone that I’ve had with me since the first chase with Red Nest. I kept the phone safely and learned how to use the device. A lot of the others saw it but they never ask. I went through Barron’s contact list then jotted numbers and names. I knew that I needed them for the future. “Where are you going?” asked Sharon. She walked into my room and saw packed bags.

“I’m going on a little trip before we all move to New York” I said while I was packing I had a cup of coffee with me. “Whoa, a trip? Asked Sharon “yep” I replied. “Do the others know?” Asked Sharon. I laughed firstly then replied “yeah, I brought it up a few times.” I said then finished my cup of coffee. Sharon scratched her head then tried to remember “oh well - it’s cool. When are you leaving... and when are you coming back?” Asked Sharon. “I’ll be going on the 10th and I’ll come back ... on the 10th” I said. “The 10th!? What about the meeting?” asked Sharon. “I asked Bald Eagle to cancel it. It’s for the better.” I said. “I understand what you mean” said Sharon. “Yeah can you help me with these bags?” I asked. To be honest I don’t like using my other power.”

Confessed Sharon. “Why?” I asked “because they scare people” explained Sharon. “Sharon I understand but you should embrace them.” I replied. “Well after all this fiasco ends – I want to cure them” said Sharon. I saw that Sharon wanted normality which was the motivation of her obedience. I had the phone with me. “Interesting.” I simply replied. I was finally done packing and I could finally rest then wait for a few days. “I’m done packing” I said. “Yeah I can see. Just be careful” replied Sharon. I simply nodded. “I can’t believe that Bald Eagle released all of that information to the world” I said. I was trying to make conversation and it worked. “Yeah, now we honestly need to win this war.” Said Sharon I agree because if we don’t humanity will be under attack. “I said.

"Yeah millions will die" added Sharon. "I wouldn't be able to sleep at night." I commented. "Yeah the pressure is on. You'll manage said Sharon. "Thank you, Sharon" I replied. "You are welcome Captain." Said Sharon with a warm smile.

Chapter 30 – A Beaker in New York City.

Trident Tech New York Base

New York City, NY

1453 hours

December 21th, 2012

The Mighty Ten finally made it to New York City and we were all safe and sound. I was finally reunited with the others at the Trident Tech New York Base. The base was a lot more advanced than it sounded. All of our weapons and our inventions were taken in for inspection. This included the board that I have had since my 17th birthday. However – they all allowed us to keep our phones with us. I still had Barons old phone and no one knew about it. I was seated with my team at the penthouse. We were all excited and we felt the energy of the city that never sleeps.

“I love New York City” I announced.

“Yeah, me too” said Sharon.

“Ditto!” shouted Leo.

“You can add me on that list” added Melvin.

“Yeah, I’d like to have whatever you are all having” commented Juvian. We all chuckled. We all seemed lively, powerful.

“We’ve only been here for hours and we already love this city – we are hopeless romantics” teased Jonah. Celeste and I looked at each other.

“This is where it all started and this is where it will end” I said with assurance. Some of them nodded while the other kept quiet.

“Yeah - finally” said Aurora. The penthouse was meant for us and had an amazing view of the city.

“Wait, when is Bald Eagle going to talk to us about the rest of the plan?” asked Leo.

“I don’t know, he didn’t specify” replied Melvin. Leo was a bit stale due to all of the waiting.

“Oh well... okay, we will just have to wait for him” said Aurora.

“Whoa, wait – we are getting our weapons back, right?” asked Jonah.

“Yeah – we are still going to need them.” I said.

“The war is still not over and the world needs The Mighty Ten” said Celeste. I nodded to that.

“Now more than ever” added Carien.

“Exactly” said Isabella. We were all grateful to be alive and we were missing our families again. Christmas was near and we hoped that we could visit our homes during that very day. The penthouse was very spacious and we explored the entire place and picked rooms. We actually had to share rooms and we paired ourselves. It was a very easy thing to do. We removed all of our jammers; we didn’t need them anymore when we were at the premises.

“You know... we are disarmed right now” said Jonah. I formed a concussion blast in my left hand and had a wince.

“Hell no... we are still armed” I cited.

“Yeah – how long are we going to have these powers?” asked Jonah.

“Good question” commented Sharon

"Your guess is as good as mine" I answered.

"Come on, Beaker – you must know something" said Juvian.

"Ask Bald Eagle – he knows everything" I said in a comical tone. Some of them appreciated the humor.

"Yeah but we need more teenagers in this team" said Sharon.

"That's a good idea. Ill draft a proposal" added Isabella. We still communicated to the outside world using our phones. The media didn't speak about Red Nest. They didn't even speak about what happened in Providence. The elevator reached the penthouse then the doors opened. There were four people who were in the elevator.

"Okay – this... this is ... ok" I stammered. The people in the elevator walked out. They all had portfolios with them and smiles too.

"Would you look at that - Bald Eagle actually has friends" commented Melvin.

"Yeah, I have friends, Isaacs! This really isn't a surprise" replied Bald Eagle.

"Uh, yeah – Bruce was surprised that counts for something" said Celeste.

"It counts for a lot of things really" I added. I was surprised by the arrival of the other three individuals. The other three individuals had to be Bald Eagles superiors – that would explain everything. Leo dropped his jaw. The others were also stunned.

"Well.. this is just the beginning of most of it so you are going to be a lot of surprises from this point onwards" announced Bald Eagle.

"Yeah – that's not something new for us" commented Melvin. The CEO of Trident Tech was in the room yet we continued our own shenanigans in his presence.

"90% ... no... 99.9% of the things that happened have took us by surprise" I added.

"Yeah, you are right. Yeah – you are right but... I mean... you are all still alive" said Bald Eagle.

"You say that like it wasn't supposed to happen" said Celeste.

"Whoa, why is the CEO of Trident Tech here?" I asked

"He is clearly a hostage. We are probably here to raid this place!" teased Carien.

"Trident and I have been friends for years" said Bald Eagle. Mr Trident simply nodded. The other two people wanted to laugh.

"Oh yeah – interesting, so he knows your real name?" I asked.

"Yeah, he does..." replied Bald Eagle.

"Noted, noted" I said.

"We need to finally know your real name then we can fully trust you" said Isabella.

"That sounds fair enough" commented Mr Trident.

"Don't encourage them" said Bald Eagle.

"Why is he here?" I asked. We all wanted to know.

"I am here to talk to all of you about project TM10" announced Mr Trident

"Too late, that was already covered. We all know the story...I hacked your database, took a few files and now we are all in this war" I said.

"A lot of your details are vague" commented Mr Trident.

"Uh... yeah! That's because I was in a coma for the entire summer" I said.

"That's why he is the captain of our team" cited Celeste. We assumed that they had their own powers and that they were a lot more powerful than us. We wanted to be free. We wanted to know Tridents involvement in this entire war. Mr Trident was a humble being; he understood most of our frustrations.

"Yes, Bruce Beaker is the perfect leader of the team. I finally understand why Bald Eagle single handedly chose you for the team" said Mr Trident.

"A lot of things have changed ever since..." said Juvian.

"Correct Mr Totem and we all want the war to end" said Mr Trident. We all laughed then ran to the elevator. We went to the ground floor then left our cellphones at the lobby and left the building. We all wanted to explore the big apple. Bald Eagle and Mr Trident were expecting us to return soon but they were wrong.

"Yeah, they are going to be gone for a while... lets catch up on life" said Bald Eagle who already made peace with our antics.

Manhattan, NY

1657 hours

December 21th, 2012

We were given powers and we were given views of a great city – things were still looking up for us. I was buying eleven hot dogs at a stand on the street. I paid for them and a girl walked to me.

"Hey..." she greeted.

"Hi..." I replied to her. I actually managed to hold all of them alone. The other nine were with me and saw this happen.

"I, I – you look familiar she said. I laughed hysterically and nodded.

"I get that a lot. Have an awesome day" I said then walked to my team. The girl had a smile on her face.

"There you go, there you go" I said while giving them out.

"Thank you" said Leo then we started eating and drinking while we were walking. We left the penthouse because we wanted to deliberate on the matter at hand. We planned to leave in such a manner and we made sure that we weren't followed.

"So – Mr. Trident wants us to deal with his opposition..." I said, introducing the matter once again.

"Yeah he needs us to. Let's not downplay it Bruce" commented Celeste

"But... North Industries is his opposition" cited Jonah.

"Yeah – it makes sense to believe that they are at war and they needed to back certain military groups to fight for them" said Juvian.

"But – governments would have intervened" replied Aurora.

“Perhaps – yeah, Aurora is right” commented Isabella.

“Wait!” I shouted.

“What?” asked Melvin.

“The Intel that bald Eagle released to the public actually narrows down a lot” I said.

“Okay, okay – go on” said Celeste.

“No – I’ll let Trident give us what we need. We’ll have us what we need. We’ll have to earn his complete trust” I said. The other agreed with the motion.

“Bruce – why do you have an extra hot dog?” asked Leo. I just laughed.

“Just wait and see...” I replied. We continued to speak about the wars.

“” Lets talk about Red Nest... I said.

“Well – we still hate them” commented Sharon.

“And they still hate us” added Melvin. We all agreed with their words.

“They are a lot more dangerous than before” said Juvian.

“We actually pushed them to the point where they won’t hesitate to kill us” I said.

“Yeah so we need to watch but – stay alert at all times” said Jonah.

“We just need to take away the tech from Barron Patriot and do what we did to them countless times” said a confident Melvin who was excited about the next encounter with Red Nest.

“Wait – what if it’s biological?” asked Sharon.

“Then well find an antidote for him” I replied. We were planning everything – we couldn’t afford to be blindsided by them. Juvian had a personal feud with Scarab. The feud has grown since childhood and neither of them wanted to talk about it.

“Let’s face it – Red Nest is not going to give up or sign a treaty with us” I said

“Yeah – that would be very boring...” commented Aurora.

Barron Patriot’s Mansion

Washington, DC

1743 hours

December 21th, 2016

Barron felt a lot younger ever since he started using the Repo technology. He wasn’t suffering from any side effects yet which was a good thing. Barron was medically monitored and he had a prescription that he took to deal with the strain of using the tech. The other six members of the team paid him a visit. Barron still seemed ok. Beverly was awfully worried about him.

“Uhm – Barron...” called out Emma. Barron Patriot carried a pile of food using a force field.

“Yeah?” asked Bald Eagle. A lot of them were impressed by his adjustment to the technology – Barron taught himself how to successfully use the powers.

“Uhm – where is... where is everyone?” asked Emma. Barron carried a simple explanation.

“Oh yeah... they left for the festive season. They will only return next year” explained Barron.

“Wow, that’s very warm blooded of you...” complimented Beverly. Barron carefully placed the pile of food onto the table then the force field faded away.

“Yeah... I know” commented Barron.

“I bet that the pool will be green in a few days” teased Jerome. They all laughed.

“Barron, thanks for the food” said Dr Ecto, he nodded. Barron felt in control of some aspects of the war. He still yearned to find a way to recreate all of our super powers.

“Yeah, we are with you on that one” replied Emma. She still yearned for one more fight. She was encouraged to do so when she did some self-introspection. Beverly looked into Barron’s eyes – the color was changing. It seemed as if the hue was going through a change.

“How long have you had the tech active?” asked Beverly. Barron started to count and had a number of hours.

“Well – I’ve been using the tech for 95 hours” answered Barron.

“Whoa! That’s more than four days” said Jerome.

“Yeah... it’s been really awesome” added Barron.

“Dude, dude! How is it even still on?” asked Emma.

“Well, I’m using a new power source which manages to last a lot longer. Trust me – it’s like a wizard created it” explained Barron.

“You probably stole it from a wizard” commented Eddie who was teasing. Barron’s developments and alterations were allowing the tech to excel. He did this with Lesego’s consent.

“Barron, take it off! All of it! Right now!” commented Beverly.

“It’s okay, I’m okay. I’m getting used to the tech” replied Barron.

“That’s not the focus here. I’m worried about your cells and the mutation that the tech could cause” explained Beverly.

“Wait – mutation? Mutation?” asked Jerome.

“Don’t worry – I’ve been taking my pills and other medication so I’m okay” said Barron

“I’m going to have to press the fail switch” warned Beverly. Barron sighed.

“Yeah – we still need to know more about this mutation. It sounds very serious” said Jerome. The others were still eating.

“Scarab – you can relax. The mutation won’t happen at all. If the worst was to happen we will be prepared to revert the very problem” said Emma.

“You are taking this lightly” replied Jerome.

“Everyone – let’s just focus on finding the Mighty Ten and winning back our funding!” shouted Barron confidently.

“Alright, let’s do that” said Emma.

“Thank you – now we need more info on them. They have been quiet for days now” said Barron.

“Well, it’s clear that they are being ordered” speculated Eddie who kept thinking of all of the reasons for our silence. Everyone kept quiet and tossed a few theories around. Some of the theories spoke

about death, reinvention and so on. While time passed, Barron began to remove the Repo technology from himself. The energy source needed to be tucked and in that very moment – he did not need super powers.

While Barron was taking off the tech, Emma began to narrow down a theory that made sense.

“We need to go and research all of Trident Techs projects” said Emma. Barron felt a little lighter.

“Yeah – that’s... that’s too much” stammered Jerome. “Such information is classified. Very classified” added Barron.

“Then lets hack it. Yeah, lets hack their system then take all of their files” suggested Emma.

“That’s a bit too much. None of us can do that” reminded Dr Ecto.

“Yeah but I know someone who can. I’m sure about this guy. He lives in Boston and he is really good” said Emma. They looked at each with doubt. They were a bit skeptical about the idea.

“Alright, we’ll do that. We’ll hack their files. I’m in” said Eddie. Barron finally took of the power source which lit up the entire room.

“Yeah, Trident Tech is still hiding something and we are going to find out what it is...” said Barron.

Trident Tech New York Base

New York City, NY

1910 hours

December 21th, 2016

We returned to the penthouse after the sunset. We took our phones from the lobby then we went to the elevator. We walked in and saw our weapons again.

“Whoa – this is cool...” I said. I was surprised.

“Yeah... they...they brought them back ... but they are a lot better” added Sharon. I looked at my stash of weaponry and I saw how well-crafted they were. The weaponry were cleaned and sharpened. Jonah’s suit had a slicker casing and design. His helmet connected with the Trident Tech interface and it was fitted with a small feature that enhanced his aim.

“Yeah, we still need to end this war” announced Melvin.

Bald Eagle and his allies were still there. They actually waited for us. I still had the hot dog with me.

“Impressive right?” asked Bald Eagle.

“Yeah, yeah – it is. Thank you” replied Celeste. It was almost time to give away the hot dog.

“This is all courtesy of Trident Tech” announced Mr Trident.

“Well – there we go... you actually care” said Isabella.

“Bruce – why, why do you have a hot dog with you?” asked Bald Eagle. I laughed then reception called me. “Yes?” I asked.

“Mr Beaker... your sister is here” the receptionist said.

“Please tell her to come up to the penthouse” I said then hung up.

“She’s here! Shamilla is here!” I announced.

“Wow! That’s awesome” shouted Celeste with excitement. She was genuine, her eyes lit up.

“This is going to be very interesting” commented Sharon.

“You can say that again” added Melvin. Everyone wanted to see how it was going to pan out... everyone wanted to meet Shamilla.

Trident Tech New York Base

New York City, NY

1917 hours

December 21th, 2016

“You really – you are still alive” said Shamilla who still couldn’t believe it. I kept nodding and smiling. Everyone was still in the room. Shamilla was seated and I was seated across her. I gave her a bottle of soda and the hot dog.

“You seriously messed up this time” added Shamilla

“Yeah, this wasn’t beyond my control” I stated.

“Why did you hack into Trident Tech’s files?” asked Shamilla with a blank look in her eyes. I had to provide answers.

“Well, look – I didn’t really do the actual hacking but it was my idea originally” I answered.

“You are a very smart kid with the worst ideas” proclaimed Shamilla.

“Look let’s just blame all of this on puberty and move on” I said to her.

“Oh yeah – they warned me about your god complex” said Shamilla.

“Uhm – so...” interrupted Jonah.

“Yeah?” asked Shamilla. I got a little worried.

“Are... are... you...” stuttered Jonah.

“Go on – ask away” said Shamilla who was encouraging conversation.

“Are you really related? You know – biologically?” asked Jonah. Some of the people in the room felt in an awkward mood after hearing the question.

“Uhm, no. we are not but that has never mattered. Bruce is still my brother” answered Shamilla.

“Wow – I really feel like I dodged a bullet right now” commented Jonah.

“You were the person that pulled the trigger” said Shamilla. It was somehow a warning directed to him.

“Uhm, yeah – can I talk to Shamilla outside?” I asked my team. Bald Eagle would’ve obviously agreed.

“Yeah, sure – well just stay in the penthouse” answered Melvin on behalf of the team.

“thank you guys” I sincerely said. Shamilla left the hot dog behind when we walked out. The team was a little baffled by the summoning of Shamilla.

“sorry about Aviators joke. The guy means well and stuff” I apologized for Jonah’s sake.

“It’s completely okay. I’m just happy to see you alive” said Shamilla.

“Yeah – I know. I just need to clear up everything then we can finally have some quality time” I said to her.

“Yeah you are my brother and family means a lot more than this job I have” cited Shamilla. She clarified where her loyalty was.

“Awesome because I’m going to need you to do something for me” I said.

“Name it” replied Shamilla.

I took out a page that was folded from my pocket and gave it to her.

“Yeah, I can’t name. this is a lot better, this saves a lot of time” I explained. Shamilla didn’t even open it up – she tucked it into her pocket.

“Yeah, yeah – we both know you talk too much and you love to explain” said Shamilla.

“We are both familiar with that trait” I added.

“Do your friends know that you’re not from here?” asked Shamilla.

“Yeah, yeah I told them a long time ago” I answered, she nodded.

“That’s good. That’s good” said Shamilla. I chuckled.

“Yeah sis, it had to be said” I added. Shamilla was surely trying to gain enough ground so she could start helping. She noticed that I was content. I was a little too content.

“Bruce” called out Shamilla.

“Yeah, what is it” I asked her.

“Are you in love?” she asked me.

“Uhm... whoa... uhm, wait, wait – I, er... well, there is this one girl and she is in the team” I explained. I was stuttering a lot!

“Are you sure about her” asked Shamilla.

“Well – Celeste and I seem to be sure” I said.

“Yeah, this could get bad” commented Shamilla.

“Relax, Shamilla – she won’t hurt my feelings, I’m sure about it” I said to Shamilla to calm her down.

“Bruce that is not the point, I’m very sure she will hurt you” said Shamilla.

“Whoa, what?” I asked in a whimper. I was baffled by her choice of words and she was right – girls are evil. Shamilla carried on. “Bruce, I can see that your feelings for her are growing and that’s beautiful but you are both in a war. That means that one of you or both of you might get killed. If any of that happens – it will bring pain to you and that will be too painful for me. Just be careful and always stay alive” explained Shamilla. She had a stern look on her face.

“I know. Thank you for everything sister. I can’t wait to go home again” I said sincerely.

“All of you will go home. All of this will end for good. Youll even go to university and graduate” said Shamilla who was very optimistic about our future.

“Thank you Shamilla” I said. She smiled. The private conversation was over and we both walked back into the penthouse. Celeste actually held a deep conversation with her and Shamila could understand why I was drawn to her.

More food was provided, some of us started to surf the web and I had a little chat with Bald Eagle and Mr Trident.

The conversation was very simplified and it was about Shamilla. I told them that she can be fully trusted because I have known her for years and that she must be integrated into the personnel that will help The Mighty Ten.

I stated that all of that was actually an ultimatum – either she stays and works with us or I leave. My departure wasn't going to be a premature and a half-baked idea because I could use Barron's phone to somehow prove my innocence. They agreed with my terms. They knew that I had the team's best interests at heart. All of this would explain Shamilla's invitation to the penthouse. Bald Eagle saw that his teachings were being used by me in a very effective way. After a few hours, Shamila left the premises and went to her aunt's place. She knew all of our names before she left. We all went to our selected rooms and got ready for bed because we needed to brush up our fighting skills and continue to understand the functions of our upgraded weapons. I shared a room with Juvian, this was by choice. Juvian and I had similar interests despite the initial bad blood. We studied the science behind our abilities and the numbers brought chills down our spines. Juvian and I spoke about family, girls and the war. We were always the last people to sleep. That's because we barely slept. Melvin was with Jonah and it created a comical setting. Jonah would constantly pitch pseudonyms to Melvin before he slept and Isaacs couldn't find which one to pick but there was a direction. Leo and Carien were roommates and it worked. Both of them were the shyest members of the team. They were also powerful and bounced off ideas on how to fight and control their powers. Aurora was with Sharon and Celeste stayed with Isabella. During the 23rd hour – we got bored in our room. We decided to gather and converse. We got out of our rooms, left the penthouse and sat on the rooftop.

I looked at the view of the city then took a few sips of my coffee. I was still feeling the euphoria.

“I am a Beaker in New York City” I announced to the world then chuckled. We were appreciating the light of the city that never sleeps.

Chapter 31 – A Mighty Christmas

Cooper's Home

Pioneer March, MA

0700 hours

December 25th, 2012

I have only went to Cooper's home a couple of times before the war began. He would leave a jacket or a device at my house so I would travel to his home then return the items. Cooper would give me food and advice on girls – advice that I rarely used.

Eddie and Jerome volunteered to get Cooper while the other five members were trying to find The Mighty Ten. None of them could get a hold of Lesego.

Eddie and Jerome underestimated Cooper – they thought that it was going to be an easy task.

"Let's just talk to Cooper and bring him back to Barron's mansion." explained Eddie who was nervous.

"Yeah but it won't be easy." replied Jerome.

"It's never easy but we have our weapons with us." Said Eddie who had a gauntlet in his left arm. Jerome had his backpack which had useful tools for combat.

They were speaking while they were walking to Cooper's home. They entered the yard and approached the front door.

"Remember – don't introduce the weapons to the situation impulsively." stated Eddie.

"Got it, Kill Switch." said Jerome then they knocked on the door and waited. They heard voices in the house. Someone opened the door, it was Cooper's father.

"Good morning, gentlemen." greeted Cooper's father. Cooper's family was unwrapping gifts under the tree.

"Good morning, Sir. We'd like to talk to Cooper please." said Eddie.

"In connection with?" asked Cooper's dad.

"Trident Tech." said Eddie.

"Well...alright. Let me take you to his room." said Cooper's father then Eddie felt confident.

"Thank you." said Eddie. Cooper's family knew his allies and most of his numerous enemies so they had ways to divert them away from him.

"Honey – the cracker is broken and the fireworks are needed." said Cooper's father who was talking to Cooper's lovely mother. They were speaking in code. A code that was heard by Cooper.

Cooper didn't waste any time – he collected his backpack in his wardrobe and silently opened his window. Cooper was making his exit. Cooper and his family invented a set of these codes years prior. The codes never failed the family.

"Oh, well – we can buy more at the store on the Eastside of Pioneer March." said Cooper's mother. This was part of the code and Cooper heard it. Jerome and Eddie followed Cooper's father. Cooper stepped out of his window then he recalled something important. He got back into the room. Cooper searched through his bedside drawer and found a device that he was working on.

Before Cooper could leave, his dad opened his door then Eddie and Jerome saw Cooper. Cooper's father did not fret because he knew that his son would escape and so forth.

“Son, you have visitors.” said Cooper’s father.

“Awesome. I will talk to them. Thanks, Dad.” said Cooper. His dad had a smile on his face – the entire family was very confident. Cooper’s father left the room then closed the door.

Eddie noticed that the window was open but he doubted that Cooper would jump out of it.

“Finally – I get to meet Scarab and Kill Switch.” said Cooper.

“It’s clear that you watch the news.” commented Jerome. Cooper laughed.

“The news? No, no! I have ears and eyes everywhere.” said Cooper who actually walked towards them. Jerome’s backpack was ready to dispense weapons.

“We need your help.” said Eddie.

“I’m sure you do.” replied Cooper.

“We need you to hack into Trident Tech’s computer systems and steal their files.” explained Eddie.

“Wait – that’s it?” asked Cooper.

“Yeah, that’s it...” clarified Eddie.

“Well, alright – I’m not going to do it because I know that a lot of people are going to die if I do.” said Cooper. His reason was solid and it was based on what he had experience before.

“I know that you have your reasons but we are at war.” said Eddie.

“Yeah – I know and I’m on their side.” confessed Cooper then his watch started to beep. Jerome looked around then Eddie aimed his gauntlet towards Cooper. A harpoon was fired through his wardrobe. The harpoon was aimed at Kill Switch. Jerome punched Eddie away from the harpoon and the harpoon was headed towards him. The harpoon pierced through his backpack. Jerome was not hurt but he was hurled into the wall.

“Yeah, that’s got to hurt.” commented Cooper. Jerome fell to the ground and started to groan. Eddie was standing up then Cooper kicked him down. Eddie deduced that he already chose a side. Eddie concluded that Cooper was not impartial.

“I need to leave right now. See you next year.” said Cooper then he went out using the window. Cooper slipped and fell to the ground. Eddie and Jerome heard his body hit the surfaced. Cooper felt the pain and shouted. Cooper would then do what Cooper always does – he got up and marched on.

“This is the 30th time this year!” shouted Cooper.

“He fell. We can catch up to him.” said Eddie who activated all of his functions of his gauntlet.

“My backpack is destroyed. I don’t have weapons at all.” said Jerome who removed the harpoon from his backpack then dropped it to the floor.

“Well – that has never stopped you before. I’m going to try and catch up to him. Cooper knows something.” said Eddie then he ran out of the window. Jerome started to plan.

“The Aztec gods hate me. I know they always do.” complained Cooper who limped out of the yard. Cooper placed his device into the backpack. Cooper knew that he had to run away and go to one of his many hiding spots.

Cooper decided to run East and do so with the pre-empt idea that there other members of Red Nest that were after him. Cooper used his watch to remotely activate the self-destruction function in case he would separate from his cargo for too long.

Eddie finally ran out of the house and into the street. He saw Cooper and ran to him.

“Cooper, stop!” shouted Eddie who was still running.

“Watch out for more harpoons!” shouted Cooper.

“You are bluffing.” replied Eddie then he fired towards him and Cooper ducks down in time. Cooper knew that he didn’t need to conform. They continued to run. Jerome finally joined the chase. Cooper jumped onto cars and leaped around. Eddie followed his very steps. Cooper was rushing to the city.

“He’s rushing to the city!” reported Eddie, he was talking to Jerome.

“Barron would have ended this in minutes.” commented Jerome who was trying to catch up. Eddie aimed at Cooper again and fired at him. The blast struck his backpack and Cooper was hurled further away. The cargo wasn’t damaged. Cooper grunted and continued to run. Cooper tried to call me but he concluded that it would be too risky and continued to run.

“You won’t defeat The Mighty Ten!” said Cooper.

“Drive! Drive! Drive! Drive!” said Cooper.

An awkward moment occurred.

“Now we can find the Mighty Ten, kill them then win the war.” said Barron.

“Yeah – I did.” said Barron.

“Wait,

“I was kidding

“But, but Mason is dead.” said Emma.

“Yeah, wait – why are you all surprised?” asked Barron.

“Let’s wake them up.” I said to her.

“Yeah, let’s do that.” she replied. I nodded.

“We still need to prepare for the war.” I said then we went back into the penthouse.

My team and I were focusing on the Chris Mason Theory.

“I love you, Celeste.” I said to her.

“I love you too, Bruce.” said Celeste. The others heard us then they were happy for us.

Barron was seen as a hero.

I was done training for the day and went into the elevator by myself.

“Red Nest knows that you are here.” said Shamilla.

"No." I replied.

"No?" asked Shamilla.

"We are going to fight Red Nest in New York and we are going to destroy them." I said. Shamilla started shaking her head a lot.

"No. You are going to get onto the plane and go home. All of us need you alive and your friends get to be extradited in a month from now." Responded

"The rods work." announced Jonah.

"We need to keep in touch after the end of the war." I said.

"We are living legends." I said.

"The rods work." announced Jonah.

"And what about the other devices?" asked Aurora.

"They are working too." answered Jonah.

"Great work, everyone." I said.

Chapter 7

It wasn't my time. The world still needed me alive. I knew that from that point – I was going to wade through the war and stay alive. I just needed to make sure that the others survived the war then we could all go home. We heard a loud thud. It came from the lobby. We just laughed. We heard a few more loud thuds and kept on laughing. Jonah kept on chuckling and our laughing echoed. Bald Eagle suddenly landed and walked into the penthouse. Bald Eagle knew little about what was going on.

"The Mighty Ten – Earth's most trusted superhero team." I said in a banter.

"Sorry to disturb but I need to talk to you all. It's very important – a matter of life and death." said Bald Eagle who spotted the rods and disruptors.

"Yeah, sure – what is it?" asked Celeste. Before Bald Eagle could speak, another loud thud was heard by all of us.

"Okay – how did you do it?" asked Bald Eagle.

"We used the internet. It was my idea." I answered.

"Alright – I'll deal with you later. Right now, we need to deal with the situation at hand." said Bald Eagle.

"Chill, Bald Eagle – no one won't get hurt." said Leo.

"Yeah, this is really funny." commented Aurora.

"This isn't funny. This isn't meant to be funny. We are going to fix all of this right now before it makes it to the news!" said Bald Eagle. He became flustered.

"Cool, cool...we get it. You are not a fan of our practical joke." said Aurora.

"Which is also a statement. A very clear statement." I added.

"Bruce is right, it's not the alcohol talking. We are all sober." said Melvin who freely insinuated that we were free from intoxication.

"Yeah...and besides...we are going to laugh about it in a few years." said Juvian.

"We needed a mascot...so we went and found one. That's it." I replied.

"Merry Christmas, Bruce

"Merry Christmas, Sharon

There was a male African elephant in the lobby.

I had a really good question.

"Yeah. After all of this, we are done. This superhero thing is not for us. We'll find new ways to save the world." I said.

When Celeste started crying...I started crying.

"I'm going to need my board." I said.

Red Nest got a message. It was co-ordinates to a place that they had to go to if they wanted to end the war. They were told to be there at 23:30 and not a minute later.

"Because you started this war." replied Barron.

I jumped off the cargo door of the aircraft while it was flying then landed on the rooftop that was occupied by General Repo. I had my board with me. I landed between my friends and our enemies.

"Barron, let's talk." I said after landing.

"Bruce...you are back!" shouted Celeste who was happy to see me.

"I needed to talk to you about the war." I said.

"Barron, think about

"What about the war?" asked Celeste.

"The war is over. We can finally go home. I was on the phone with the President about an hour ago and I gave him footage that showed him what we were all doing during the night of the treason. He watched it a couple of times. He knows that we are innocent. I had to give him a lead so I threw Bald Eagle under the bus. We are cleared from all charges. We won this war." I said.

"Maybe we will fight on the same side in the future." I said.

"Barron – think about what you are about to do." I said to him.

"Are you okay?" asked Barron.

"I'll fight Barron." I said.

"They will always be my best friends." I said.

This was all sorted the day before.

"You can call me General Repo." announced Barron.

I actually saved Celeste's life.

After falling off a building with Celeste and Leo then reuniting with my team – The Mighty Ten was finally ready to fight Red Nest and their army.

"Now – let's end this war." said Barron.

"We need to contain their army within a few city blocks. We'll evacuate people out of the streets." I said.

"Jonah and I can rush to them." responded Carien. I nodded and she zoomed right away. Jonah took flight.

General Repo kept using his powers to try and kill me.

"Alright – let's end this, Repo!" I said when I ran in. He punched me a lot then threw me threw a wall then waited.

"Okay. I can still end all of this because I studied you enough." I said then I got up.

"Studied me? All you ever did was draw oxygen and that's it." responded Barron.

"I made you question your legacy. Your sanity. Got you to push to the point where the suit wears you." I said. I dusted myself.

"I tried to call off this feud but no, this is what it got to. Super-powered beings that have to bash their fists into Red Nest skulls. Not cool." I said.

"You were always going to be ran rampant by your anger. Your anger to society. To your enemies!" he shouted. I shook my head.

"I was angry but I stopped. I am disappointed and I get it. Everything that I created got stolen from me. Not always but if it wasn't stolen, it was mocked. For years. I felt bullied because I am great. I am a great kid and I have had the chance to get these powers because of that. I threw my so-called mentor under the bus to help all of us and you decided to clench your fists so what I do from this moment, not from the moment I got into the building but right now...is done in the

"I'm sorry, Barron. This is for your own good." I said. The gauntlet was locked – he tried to removing it but failed.

"I'm really sorry, Barron. I'm really sorry." I said.

"It's over – we finally won the war." I said then the year finally ended. It was 2013.

The White House

Washington D.C.

1647 hours

December 29th, 2012

Our names were finally cleared. We could all go home. Shamilla managed to get us fight to our homes. She used all of the footage from the fight zones and my intel on Bald Eagle to prove his actual existence and therf

"Congratulations, Captain Mighty. You won the war and saved your team." said Bald Eagle. He sounded really proud.

"Sorry I had to throw you under the bus." I said.

I just laughed.

“Yeah, do it.” I said.

“I’m sorry, Barron. This is for your own good.” I said. I lifted my board, grabbed it with both of my hands then struck his helmet with it.

“We are going to have an army on our side.” said Barron.

“Let’s finally end this, Repo.” I said when I ran in.

“Pheziwe, Frans, Tiwonge and Tea Que – I’ll see you all after the war.” I said.

Barron was seen as the hero.

Celeste finally used her cosmic beams to strike him.

He created hype.

“Look –we had to be told about what the final plan was. It’s the White House – that’s his territory.” said Barron.

I activated a function in my gauntlet.

I tossed something to Barron and he caught it – it was his old cell phone that I had since the 29th of October. It was still logged onto the satellite. Barron decoded everything but kept quiet.

“Wait – where is Emma?” asked Barron. I had an explanation for that.

“Emma...Emma is under custody until Red Nest complies with the agreement they signed to the State.” I explained.

Barron and Elaine would spend time there and make memories.

“A long time ago. Specifically on the last day of the Mayan Calendar.” I said.

Celeste tried to rescue me from my own plan. She thought I was trying to be too selfless.

The Mighty Ten was finally ready to fight Red Nest and their army.

“That’s up to you. You can decide that as a team. My mission was to create the team and I am done.” explained Bald Eagle.

Everyone was moved.

Barron wasn’t upset that Eddie mentioned Elaine.

“Yeah, it makes sense, bros – I mean, you are the legendary Beaker twins.” I said.

The finale was hours away.

I couldn't see Celeste at all. I thought she would be back already.

"I'm going to go and look for her." I said.

I was frightened by the dreams.

I saw the destruction of war and the deaths that followed after the conflict.

Shamilla managed to get us flights to our homes.

I had to be very focused.

They thought we were kidding, they laughed – we didn't. I

We were still united.

I wanted to talk to her.

The feud was called off.

I started having nightmares.

I believed that my team and I should have signed a peace treaty with Red Nest.

I managed to read the letter while I listened to her.

Chapter 32 – The Rise Of General Repo

Trident Tech New York Base

New York City, NY

December 26th, 2012

It was the morning after Christmas and instead of training for the war. we were still sleeping well – most of us were sleeping with full stomachs. I still had my sobriety, and the night was memorable – we took images and footages of the festivities. The penthouse was cleaning up and our weapons were already prepped... yet most of us were still sleeping. We were that tired. Most of us were actually considering to sleep all day Celeste and I were the first people to wake up. Her and I even had coffee on the roof top.

We witnessed the sunrise together and had moments of silence. She was still reminiscing about the night before

“Let’s wake them up.” I said to her, she chuckled firstly then spoke.

“Yeah, let’s do that” she replied. I nodded.

“We still need to prepare for the war. Things tend to get messy and people could die.” I said then we back into every room and wake them up. I started by waking up Sharon first. Everyone was finally up. We collected our weapons then went to train for the war

Barron Patriot’s Mansion

Washington, D.C.

10h13 hours

December 26th, 2012

“What the hell?” asked Emma. “Yeah – our team leader, has been... awfully preoccupied.” Commented Jerome. “Beverly – did you know about this? Asked Eddie. “Nope. I didn’t know that Barron was planning to do... all of this.” Answered Beverly.

Barron was using the Repo technology with amazing precision. The entire team was outside with him. Barron was chuckling when he heard them. The team was surprised by his tenacity. “Hey everyone...” greeted Barron “how long have you been using the suit?” asked Dr Ecto. I lost track actually but that’s okay – the suit, the powers they are a part of me. Said Barron. “A part of you?” asked Emma “Yeah” replied Barron. “And what about the side – effects” asked Jerome. “I’ll increase my dosages.” said Barron “It’s not that simple.” said Eddie. Eddie’s right – this tech is very revolutionary but also very... very dangerous.” Reminded Beverly. “Yeah but I won’t need it forever. In a few days, it will all be over.” Said Barron “Optimism is clearly one of the side-effects.” Commented Emma

“Yeah – wait why, were you all surprised?” asked Barron. The yard was turned into a training ground. “Because of the yard... your cars and, one more thing – the that you are still wearing the helmet Barron.” Answered Beverly. “Yeah – take it off we want to talk to you in the eyes.” Said Emma. “To hell with it...” said Barron then he removed the headgear. The team presumed that his face was scarred or mutilated because of the spikes from the energy source but Barron was completely okay. His hair was messy but he was okay. Beverly smiled.

“Alright cool.” Said Barron who did exactly what they asked him to do without any hassles at all. “Whoa, okay – aside from the lack of sleep, you are fin. Yeah your face is okay” commented Emma. “Jerome, catch!” shouted Barron then threw the helmet to him and it was caught, Jerome almost fell to the ground. “This helmet is heavy! How do you even manage to wear this thing for hours?” asked Jerome who was who was astonished. “Well I got used to it – yeah that’s it,” explained Barron “You said that all of this will be over soon.”

Recalled Dr. Ecto "Yeah and I really mean it." Answered Barron. "Heck we don't even know where The Mighty Ten are..." reminded Emma. "I know but it won't even matter I found a way to end this war. Just follow me." Said Barron then walked into the mansion. "Um, yeah – that's creepy." Commented Jerome. He believed that Barron was a bit off. "You heard Barron, let's go." Said Beverly then she started walking to the house

Emma started walking seconds later then Eddie joined her. Everyone else also followed but, Jerome was very sceptical. "Yeah, we, trust Barron a bit too much now." Said Jerome who kept on walking to the house. They entered saw Barron and followed, him. The others were prepared for anything. They had new presumption was that Barron managed to capture one of the members of The Mighty Ten and he was still interrogating the captured person.

"Barron is not a murderer. We all know that." replied Emma who had an idea of what Barron spoke of "Oh, yeah? I didn't know. It's almost like Barron is capable of it. I'm just saying." Commented Eddie wasn't carrying his weapons.

"Eddie that's rude." Said Dr Ecto.

"Doc, I know but Barron won't deny it." Said Eddie, the idea seemed reinforced in his mind Barron simply chuckled. "Yeah, Eddie is right. He has known me for a long. Time and he is also my brother" commented Barron. This introduced a darker feel into the room. Everyone sensed it. They reached the mansion's garage. Where there was tech, medication, files from their headquarters and even their weapons.

"We are here." announced Barron.

"Whoa- now this is cool..." commented Emma.

"Yeah I used my superhuman strength to set it up. Had to make room so I parked a few of my cars on the town. " explained Barron. They all looked around the garage and admired the technology. Jerome placed the helmet down and applauded him. Eddie easily noticed the files from their headquarters. Dr Ecto viewed the car.

"This is really awesome, Barron." Said Beverly.

"Now we can find The Mighty Ten, kill them and win the war." explained Barron.

"Whoa – wait..." said Eddie.

"What is it, Eddie?" asked Emma.

"Did you just say that we are going to find The Mighty Ten... then kill them?" asked Eddie.

"Yes, I did." Answered Barron. Jerome laughed, he thought that Barron was joking. Jerome stopped laughing after a while.

"Why aren't you all laughing?" asked Jerome.

"Because Barron is not kidding. He really wants to kill The Mighty Ten." said Beverly. Jerome was stunned. Jerome was actually worried he believed that's Barron has lost his mind. Eddie and Beverly were familiar with all of this.

"Whoa..." said Jerome.

"I don't see how killing them will help salvage Red Nest and our careers." remarked Eddie. Barron chuckled.

"You are setting the bar really low. I'm not trying to salvage our careers – I am trying to save Red Nest." explained Barron.

"By crossing out a few kids out of existence?" asked Emma.

"Well – this entire war has led to that." replied Barron.

"Let's just stick to the original plan." advised Eddie.

"I'm with Eddie on this one." commented Dr Ecto.

"Our original plan ends in the same way. We wind up defeated always running out of options." said Barron.

"So you want us to attack them with the intention of killing them?" asked Emma Barron clapped his hands once and pointed at Emma.

"Emma actually gets it. She deserves a medal" said Barron

"No." protested Beverly.

"No?" asked Barron.

"That was never part of our job, Barron. I know this you know this." said Beverly who was becoming agitated and Barron sensed it.

"I actually didn't know. I didn't bother to read any of the documents." commented Emma.

"I have to go. My team needs me right now." I said to him. I waited for his response.

"Thank you for saving my legacy, Mr Medabeaker." said Bald Eagle. I nodded then hung up the phone call. I rushed to the others.

"I have your real names with me. Now – I need your hero names." said the President who was with his people that had to document everything about our team.

"Power Surge." said Juvian.

"Lotus." said Sharon.

"Knuckles." said Isabella.

"Anchor Toss." said Melvin.

"Riot." said Aurora.

"Pyro Picasso." said Leo.

"Urban Surf." said Carien.

"Aviator." said Jonah.

"Lady Cosmic." said Celeste.

"Captain Mighty." I said.

"Now – collectively, you are?" asked the President.

"The Mighty Ten." I answered.

After all of that – it was time to say our goodbyes and go to our families. It was emotional. Celeste and I had some time to talk before we parted ways.

"Move out of the way, Beaker!" shouted Melvin.

"Whoa!" I said.

Juvian chose to spare Jerome's life.

She even kissed me. Doors closed, it descended.

She asked me to help her and I agreed.

After a few extra hours of travelling – I finally got home. They were all waiting for me. My brothers, my folks, my friends – they were all there. Even my cousins made it to my homecoming.

Bruce Beaker's home

Disaneng

Mafikeng

North West

South Africa

2000 hours

December 31st, 2012

"My family! I love you all!" I shouted. They all cheered for me.

"What's going to happen now?" asked Aunt Laura.

"Endorsement deals." I answered.

"That's an awesome idea!" shouted Brian.

"Get to it!" shouted Bradley.

"But first, I need to meet up with Cassidy North and Johnny Tempest regarding a mission then I need to help Celeste." I said.

We all made a toast. It was to The Mighty Ten. I felt a state of euphoria.

"I'm finally home..." I said. We are the new generation of superheroes. We are Earth's greatest hope. We are the Mighty Ten.

The End

Writing history

Started writing physically from May 10th, 2012. End writing it physically on October 26th, 2016.

Future

The Mighty Ten will return in McKing's Phenoms

