

CHAPTER VI

The Race To Capture The AllSpark - Who Wins?

During their return back to home base, Harry, Neville and Falco are unaware that they are about to be set upon by members of the Syndicate horde from out of nowhere.

HARRY: You know something? I like being a spy, working undercover for the princess.

NEVILLE: Yes, me too. <agrees> It sure is fun that way. <then> Hey look, no hands. <takes hands off wheel>

FALCO: Ha-ha, big deal. I'm doing the driving. <in his form of GMC TopKick Pickup Truck>

HARRY: <looks out window> Uh-oh, I think we got company!

Swooping down from above came jet fighter planes of the F-22 Raptor and Su-30 Flanker with their laser guns blasting away to score hits on the pickup truck which immediately evaded the shots aimed his way. Both jets streaked overhead, banked around to come in for another strafing run on the falcon warrior. They were Drago and Fiona!

NEVILLE: <begins to panic> Can't you go any faster, Falco?

FALCO: Sorry, this is it. I'm not built for speed.

HARRY: Oh, man! We're going to need some help.

FALCO: Radio home base.

Potter grabbed the CB microphone from the radio device and pressing the talk button, shouted into the mouth-piece.

HARRY: Calling Galaxy Rangers, come in! We're under attack by Syndicate pirates, we need help.

SALLY: Harry?! <alarmed at hearing his frantic call> Okay, don't worry...help's on the way, pronto!

HARRY: Thanks, princess. <signs off>

NEVILLE: Wait! <grabs microphone> Your highness, you still there?

SALLY: Yes? Who's this speaking?

NEVILLE: Neville Longbottoms, princess. Hope that help gets here soon, because here comes trouble!

SALLY: Not to worry, friend. <assures him> I've already sent reinforcements, they should be arriving at your location any time now, good luck! <she signs off>

FALCO: I may not be fast, but I'm tough.

Fiona and Drago swoop down again to blast away at the fleeing truck but Lombardi manages to shake off his attackers with ease, the laser bullets missing him on both sides. Then out of nowhere came two more autos on an intercept course and with them, galloping behind were half horse-half human creatures called Centaurs and they were armed to the teeth, ready to fight.

FALCO: All right, the calvary has arrived at last.

HARRY: Aye, it's Tigress and Kato!

NEVILLE: And the Centaurs too, yes!

Both the Nissan 350Z and Pontiac Solstice zoomed past the TopKick, skidded to a stop then U-turned around again to double back and shield their friend from danger. All of a sudden the attacking jet form of Drago, the F-22 Raptor let fly with missiles that exploded against the body-frame of the sports car guise of Kato, making the snow monkey angry!

KATO: Hey! <screeches in rage> That's a new paint job.

TIGRESS: Centaurs, ready...aim...FIRE! <gives command to let fly their weapons>

As one the creatures shot a stream of arrows and hurled spears into the air directly at the two jet planes and before they could get out of the range in time, both were struck repeatedly by the projectiles that rained down upon them both. Yelling and screaming in rage and pain, the two bullies veered off and flew away into the far horizon till they were gone from sight.

DRAGO: Curse you, stupid Centaurs! I'll get you for that, oooooooh! <flies away>

FIONA: Yes! You'll be sorry you mettle in our affairs, interfere in our cause, grmph! <she too flies away> I'LL BE BACK!

Soon they were no longer visible as the Centaurs cheered and danced about in victory, along with Tigress who changed back to her mutant self and joined in the celebration with Potter and Longbottoms who also cheered, high-fived each other that is. Falco also changed back to his normal form too.

FALCO: Hey, thanks for coming to my rescue, fellas. <gives thumbs up sign>

TIGRESS: Any time, partner. <returns thumbs up sign>

KATO: <still in auto form, still angry> What about my paint?! That stupid lupine canine scorched my handsome looks.

HARRY: Uh-oh, he's not too happy here. <looks uneasy>

KATO: Damn right, I'm not. <snaps back> Oooooooh, ho-ho-ho-ho-hooh! <screeches some more>

TIGRESS: Relax, Kato. You can re-scan your vehicle guise and it'll look as new again.

FALCO: Aye, no need to get burned up.

KATO: Oh, okay. <calms down> I can do that.

NEVILLE: Uh, can we go back now, I mean to the castle? It's scary out here in the forest.

HARRY: Yes, all students are forbidden to enter these woods, either by day or night.

FALCO: Right, back we go then.

KATO: <changes back to mutant form> Good idea, I'm bored of being here anyway.

TIGRESS: Really...<arches eyebrows> I didn't know that.

But they proceeded, escorted by their Centaur guides to the edge of the forest and there reunite with her highness, Fox, Krystal, Slippy, Geoffrey, Ninjara, Hermione, Hagrid and others waiting for their safe return. Once plans were made to head out to the mines, Acorn with permission from Dumbledore commanded the Centaurs to lead them all the way to the mines, to which the leader of the creatures agreed to show the way, so to speak. And with that, the Alliance began their trek through the Forbidden Forest.

Meanwhile...inside those same mines were the Destructix mutants digging out the crystals from the dirt walls and loading the gemstones into mining cars, then

shuttling them into a large cavern where machines were set up to transfer the crystals into energy sources and filled into magical 3D cubes in minutes. Tai Lung supervised the work in progress, actually urging his warriors to keep up the pace like a drill sergeant at boot camp.

TAI: Let's go, hurry up. We don't have all day, get these cars loaded.

FIONA: Oh, why don't you help out instead of ordering us around, huh?

SHE-LION: Yeah, sucker? <glowers>

TAI: I resent that, lady. <glowers back>

DRAGO: Come on, he's right. The sooner we finish, the better we can escape. At least we found the magic cube, though.

LIGHTNING: That's good news, yeah. We re-possess the AllSpark.

LEON: Victory for the Empire.

PANTHER: You going to help, brother?

TAI: Of course, dear brother. <bows>

And while that was going on, in another part of the chambers were Snape, Draco, Simian and Sleuth marveling at their good fortune of finding the AllSpark as well as stealing plenty of crystals too.

SLEUTH: Ah this place is magnificent, unbelievable.

SNAPE: Certainly, my friend. It seems fortune shines on you and your forces today.

SLEUTH: It sure does, professor.

SIMIAN: Enough here to power the entire planet of Mobius?

DRACO: From the look of things, it appears you have all the power you could hope to achieve.

SIMIAN: Yup, looks that way.

SLEUTH: I will build the Ultimate Weapon, to defeat the Rangers, control the planet, conquer the universe!

SNAPE: Ah, yes! Rule the universe forever!

They laugh evilly and throw crystals into the air that rain down like hailstones around them. Back outside the entrance the Rangers prepare to make their move.

SALLY: Okay, they're inside that dark tunnel. <she points it out>

NINJARA: Then let's kick their butts out of there, ha-ha. <sneers>

RON: Now you're talking, lady.

NINJARA: Yeah! <slaps high five with him>

SLIPPY: We got just the trick to do it, too. <he holds up a bomb> There's enough explosives here to bury them forever.

SALLY: Not so fast, Toad. We know they're in there, but we don't know where.

DOPEY: <appears out of nowhere> House elf Dopey can help in searching for the Empire, your highness, <bows> I used to work those mines so long ago that I know my way around.

SALLY: Really, you do? <surprised look> Gosh, you actually can find your way through those shafts in there?

DOPEY: Yes, princess. <nods> I also serve Master Potter as his loyal servant.

HARRY: Right you are, Dopey. I'm sure you can track down those villains in no time.

GEOFFREY: And I have the best chance of getting through, I'll stick that bomb under their noses. <transforms to auto mode> Hop in, house elf.

DOPEY: Gee, I don't know...<hesitates nervously>

SALLY: Fear not, Dopey. It's safe, St John will protect you from danger, I promise. <smiles at him> Go ahead, get in. <gestures>

GEOFFREY: Sure, you can pretend to drive me into the mines.

DOPEY: Uh, okay. <grins> Dopey agrees to your request, sir. <bows again and climbs into vehicle>

SLIPPY: <hands over bomb> Once you set this timer, you got 60 minutes. Once it's set, that's it. No turning back to disarm it.

DOPEY: I understand, set the bomb and get out before the blast.

SALLY: And remember, if there's any problems, get out of there quickly. We'll find another way.

DOPEY: There won't be any problems, your highness. This one is for Earth and your world. Let's go!

HARRY: Be careful in there, my servant! <calls after him>

With that the vehicle form of St John, the BigFoot monster truck rolled off in the direction of the mine entrance.

Dobie and Geoffrey made their way through the main shaft that sloped downhill deep into the underground passageways of the mountain mines in search of the Syndicate terrorists, the house elf was listening with his ears tuned for any sound made by the cube's presence to inform him it was still waiting to be discovered. Unfortunately what he did not know was at that precise moment however, it had already been found by the Empire bad guys! St John was dazzled by the colors glowing from the dirt walls along the tunnel.

GEOFFREY: Oh, I've never seen anything like this. Check out these bright colors.

DOBIE: Ah, yes. <agrees> It's caused by the crystals that glow with magic light and power, like they're alive.

GEOFFREY: Very interesting to look at, though. Uh-oh, I hear voices coming this way.

DOBIE: Oh, dear. <grim look> We must hide then from whoever is approaching, quickly now.

He disappeared in the blink of an eye like a ghost while St John used his ring to make himself invisible too at the last second just as two figures came into view, pushing a mine car and chatting. It was Fiona and Drago as usual.

FIONA: You know something? I can't wait to get back to Mobius, this Earth is boring, blah! <sticks out tongue>

DRAGO: Yeah, he-he...I know what you mean, sister. <smirks at her> Boring if you ask me.

FIONA: Well, nobody asked you, lupine, ha! <snaps back>

DRAGO: Oh, blah! <sticks out his tounge back at her>

FIONA: Ooooooooooh! <snarls>

Then they trade nasty taunts, swear words at each other and laugh all the while as they continued down the tunnel, through a side passageway that is and were gone. Minutes later the elf re-appeared again and looked around to make sure no one else was coming then called out to his friend.

DOBIE: Mr St John?

GEOFFREY: Here. <appears again>

DOBIE: They're gone, those two Syndicate goons that just passed by without seeing us, sir. <bows>

GEOFFREY: Good, let us proceed with, what-the? <hesitates, looks surprised> Do you hear that?

DOBIE: Hear what, sir? <puzzled but he listens too> Ah, yes...it sounds like a humming noise, coming that way. <he points> Come!

The elf lead the way down the tunnel as the sound grew louder and closer as they approached its source until coming upon what looked like an open chamber or cavern as big as a church with machines transforming crystals into ENERGON cubes, being manned by Lightning, She-Lion, Leon, Panther, Tai-Lung and Simian with Draco and Snape supervising and Sleuth looking on. Not far away in one corner sat the AllSpark unguarded for the moment, humming silently to itself and glowing with magic.

GEOFFREY: There it is, the AllSpark! <gets excited> The cube of magic that sustains life on Mobius. Darn it, <angry> the Syndicate got to it first, ah nuts.

DOBIE: Oops, <looks afraid> what do we do now, sir?

GEOFFREY: <thinks quickly> I'm going in there and steal it away without those idiots seeing me. You stay here and let me know if any of those terrorists spots me.

DOBIE: Um, perhaps I can go get that cube for you instead. <offers> I'm sure they won't pay attention to a harmless house elf.

GEOFFREY: Okay, I'll wait here instead. Good luck. <winks>

The elf winked back, nodded and silently as a shadow slipped into the cavern unseen, slinking over to where the cube sat humming away to itself. Carefully he reached out and making simple hand gestures, summoned a magic chant to levitate the AllSpark into the air and commanded it to float back to where St John waited nearby, looking on in awe and disbelief at what he witnessed. The mutant skunk warrior grabbed the cube as it came within his reach, silencing its singing for the moment, then beckoned for Dobie to return and the elf did just that, hurrying over to join his friend.

GEOFFREY: Good work, Dobie. <salutes him> Now to set and arm the bomb that will bury these goons forever.

DOBIE: Yes, sir. <agrees> I'll guard the cube while you do that deed.

Now it was St John who scurried to a nearby timber beam to attach the bomb to its surface and input his username-password that activated the timer and the countdown began at once.

GEOFFREY: It's set!

DOBIE: Hurry, we must escape before the blast. <runs for the opening>

GEOFFREY: Right behind you, partner. <follows in his wake, carrying the cube in his backpack>

Even as they ran back towards the tunnel entrance however they collided, so to speak with Fiona and Drago who were stunned at seeing them standing there.

DRAGO: Hey, where did you come from?

FIONA: Intruders?! <gasps, then glares> Hmmph!

DOBIE: Uh-oh, we're doomed. <cringes>

GEOFFREY: No way, we're not. Bonzai! <springs into attack>

The skunk warrior tried beating off both wolf and vixen himself but proved to be no match in a 1-on-2 confrontation for the moment as the bomb kept ticking down to destruction. While back outside the mine entrance.

HERMIONE: They ought to be out of there by now.

RON: What's taking them so long?

SALLY: <scowls> I don't like it, something's wrong.

HAGRID: Fear not, your highness, I'll check it out. <starts to walk off>

SALLY: No, <grabs his arm> I'll do it. Besides, I'll send Nicole in to look for St John and Dobie that way.

NICOLE: Yes, my maker...<bows>

HARRY: Want me to accompany as backup?

SALLY: That's a negative, Potter. If I'm not back, then come get me. <winks at him, then changes to Big Rig>

NICOLE: *Let's roll.* <flies after her creator>

And back inside the main shaft...Drago and Fiona stood over the fallen form of St John who lay sprawled at their feet but there was no sign of the house elf since Dobie disappeared during the skirmish fight.

FIONA: Let's give Sleuth a little present, he? <sneers>

DRAGO: Maybe we should wrap him up and stick a bow on, he? <sneers also>

Outside the main entrance...the Peterbilt pulled up and stopped as Acorn wished her bodyguard good luck.

SALLY: Okay, Nicole. Fine out what's going on and be careful.

NICOLE: *Your wish is my command, master!* <flies into the mine entrance>

All of a sudden a powerful explosion rumbled deep underground as the bomb exploded! Tsunami shock waves of super-heated air rushed down the tunnels, collapsing timbers and ceilings began caving in as rubble rained down onto the horrified Syndicate warriors and their allies! Unfortunately the same blast waves shot out the tunnel's mouth to impact into the Big Rig, knocking it off balance.

SALLY: Nicole?!! <cries in horror>

HARRY-RON-HERMIONE: Sally Acorn!!! <all three scream her name in horror>

The others, the Hogwarts School teachers, Hagrid, Fox, Falco, Slippy, Kato, Tigress, Krystal and Ninjara watched with eyes wide in terror as the Peterbilt began tumbling end over end down the pathway leading up to the mine!

INTERLUDE - INTERMISSION

NOTE: *This is the halfway point of the story, so to speak. Book II will continue the adventure*