

THE CRYSTAL CREATURE

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"The black hole is getting bigger! Put him in the pod!"
An alien shouted to another.

All these human-like aliens were running around trying to get their kids into a safety pod. The black hole was increasing in size rapidly, and the stars and blackness of their universe was vaporizing. The aliens fought the pull of the enormous black hole, and they struggled to put their kids in the pods. The five planets connected by stone bridges were crumbling out of existence. First was earth, then fire, next water, and finally air.

What was left was Planet X.

All the pods were being launched. Only three pods were supposed to launch at a time, but they launched over 150! This malfunctioned the pods that had already launched. They started triggering blasters, and since they were going the same direction, it opened a wormhole!

Before one more pod could launch, the ones already into the void of space powered down. They could not withstand the pull of the blackhole and were pulled in. Only one was left. It had not launched yet, so it had fuel.

The last pod blasted into the wormhole. The further in it went, the more the wormhole collapsed. For a few seconds it was total darkness. The baby started crying and yelling. He was throwing his arms around. As he did that,



he touched obsidian inside the pod. The pod instantly filled with mist and fog. His body changed from a purple alien to a normal human baby. The fog cleared and he shot out of the wormhole toward Earth in a human universe.

As he got closer to Earth, he started plummeting down and the pod started burning up. It was nighttime, so most folks didn't see him, but some people were outside. He was going to land in Smoketown, Nebraska.

Many people ran to their basements since it looked like a big meteor coming right towards them. One family was intrigued, the Beckers. They watched it because they were interested in astronomy. They were still worried because the pod was closest to them. It was so close that it landed in their wheat field. They ran to the back and checked on it.

"What in the world?" Mr. Becker said.

Mrs. Becker was right by him. She got closer to the pod still thinking it was just an odd meteor. This thought stayed with her until she saw the baby. She jumped back out of fear.

"What is it?"

"There is a baby!" He questioned her. Since he did not believe it, he went to see for himself.

"Wow, there is a baby, you weren't kidding."

"Exactly!"

"What should we do with it."

"I guess we have two choices."

"And that is?" Said Mr. Becker.

"Well, we could give him away."

"Or?"

She thought for a moment.

"We could keep him."

Mr. Becker was trying to figure out if the second choice was even a good idea. He realized that if they did not take him, nobody would. "I think we should keep, because do think anyone would really keep an alien baby." "I don't think he is an alien. I mean he looks normal." Mr. Becker moved closer again. He reached in and picked up the baby. He found the baby quite cute.

"We could do this, right?" Mrs. Becker asked.

"Yeah, I think we can." Mr. Becker answered. "What should we name him, momma?"

Mrs. Becker was happy she is finally a mom. "I think, Nolan, Nolan Becker."

They both smiled. Then they started walking up to their house. Finally, the Beckers had a family.

13 YEARS LATER

"Yo, Nolan, did you get the homework done?"

"We had homework?" Nolan asked. The boy laughed. His name was Stevie, and he was Nolan's best friend.

"If you keep falling asleep in class, you might, like, get the most C's of 2006." "I know, I know. Plus, we have a chemistry project today so maybe I'll raise my grade."

"True." Nolan and Stevie had been friends since the second grade.

The bell rang. "Shoot, we got to go to class!"

Nolan looked at his watch. "You're right." Nolan said. They both grabbed their notebooks and headed to class.

"Alright class, today we will be talking about crystals." The teacher said. Half the class groaned. "Come on guys, this will be fun. Here, you know what? I'm going to go around the room and let you each feel the crystals. Some say that crystals help relax your body."

Nolan did not believe in that stuff, but he did find crystals pretty. As the teacher got closer to Nolan, he put his hand out. Nolan loved green, so that's the one he wanted to touch. This backfired though.

As soon as he put the crystal in his hand, the whole room filled with a green smoke. All the kids started coughing. The teacher opened the windows to let the smoke out. As the smoke aired out, everything became more visible. Nolan felt taller. He looked at his hands. They had transformed into wood covered in moss. All the kids looked at him in pure shock. Nolan was terrified. He opened the door and ran to the bathroom. Stevie looked at him, then at the teacher's desk. Stevie ran to the desk and took some crystals. He followed Nolan to the bathroom.

Nolan wanted to cry but for some reason he could not. His body wouldn't let him. He looked in the mirror. "Woah." His body was like a knight made of wood. It was covered in moss.

"Jesus!" Stevie said. "How do you feel dude?"

"How am I supposed to know? I'm made out of wood!"

The two boys sat there not knowing what to do. Stevie had an idea. "Hey, we should go to your house." Stevie said.

"How will we convince the principal?" Just then the speaker announced, "Stevie Evans and Nolan Becker to the office for early dismissal."



Stevie smiled. "Come on bro, let's go!" Stevie down the hall.

Nolan's mom was there. She rushed them out to her car. "Mom what's happening to me?"

"I'll tell you when we get home." The drive felt like

forever. Stevie and Nolan sat by each other. Nolan was so uncomfortable just sitting tall looking like a giant. He thought he looked cool, but others would fear him. As soon as the drive ended, both boys begged to find out why this was happening. They all sat down in the living room and talked.

"So, when you were a baby, there was a meteor, but it really wasn't a meteor. It was a spaceship. It fell in our fields. We went to go check it out, and there you were. You looked like a normal kid, but we knew you were different, and now we know why."

The boys were both shocked. "Dude, you're an alien!" Stevie said.

"Wait, I changed when I touched a crystal. What if it does the same with other crystals." Nolan said.

"Then you are in luck. I stole some from our teacher." Nolan's mom stared Stevie down.

"I'm sorry!" Stevie said quickly. "I have red, blue, white, green, pink, purple, and black." Stevie told Nolan. Nolan stood up and touched the blue one. He turned into a body of water, but he still had the shape of a human.

His skeleton was made of coral. "Woah!" everyone said. Then he touched the black one. His body transformed into a human again. That was boring so he touched the pink one. Nothing had happened.

"Was that it?" Stevie asked.

"No there has to be more." Nolan said. He touched the red one. His body turned into a big fire with molten rock on various parts of his body.

"That's hot." Stevie said.

Nolan and his mom looked at him. "Not... Not like that." Stevie replied. Nolan touched the white one next. He

turned



into a big cloud-like tornado. "Okay, one left." Nolan said. He reached out for the purple one and his body transformed one last time. He turned into a body of purple goo but was in a human form.

"Okay, I love these, but I think I'm good for the day." Nolan said.

"Hey Stevie, today has been pretty crazy. Why don't you stay the night?" Nolan's mom asked.

"I would love to!" Stevie responded.

Nolan touched the black crystal so he could be a human again. Stevie put the crystals back in his bag.

"You guys go to Nolan's room. Mr. Becker will be home soon and then I'll make dinner."

They walked to his room and turned on his Nintendo 64. Nolan wanted to show off his crystals tomorrow. He felt like a cool person with them.

THE NEXT DAY

Nolan's mom was driving the two boys to school.

"Do you still have the crystals?" Nolan asked Stevie.

"Yeah, do you want them?"

"Sure."

Nolan put them in his pocket. He touched the blue crystal and surfed into the halls. Everyone was shocked, but not scared. They thought it was cool. Then when he got to his locker, he touched the black one. He grabbed his stuff, touched the white crystal, and flew to class. Once he got to the door, he touched the black one.

"Nolan! You are here early. I didn't think you would even show up."

"Well, I made it!"

Nolan walked to his seat and put his stuff down. The bell rang so the teacher started talking.

"Okay class, today, we are watching a movie."

Everyone cheered in excitement.

"I was going to continue the crystal lesson, but *somebody* stole my crystals."

Nolan and Stevie looked at each other and laughed. Nolan could not believe it, he was so much different, but no one cared. He had powers, and friends. Nolan was happy he could fit in anywhere.