

The Jewel of Ilon

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Boredom washed over me as I slumped on the couch. Glancing at the clock every now and then checking if it was that time again. The time for my little sister Rebecca to return home from school. It looked as though a unicorn had thrown up all over the house, because today was Rebecca's birthday. But for short, we called her Becca. I wondered what was keeping her and my father from coming home.

Dad was probably on his way home from his work. He worked as a video game designer but I had never been to his office before. Although it wasn't like I was interested in that video game stuff or anything. Just then I heard the door creak open. It was my dad coming in with a small present and a forced smile. "Hey Beth," he called from the entry way "I'm home." He continued on, "You see this" he pointed at the small present "I have something I want to show you." He was cut off by the creak of the door. It was Becca.

Why was Dad acting so weird? I thought to myself in annoyance, well weirder than usual anyway. "Is that for me?" Becca asked in delight. He glanced at me then Rebecca and finally the present. Fearfully looking around he shakily handed Becca the present. She snatched it and gave Dad a funny look but was soon too interested in the present to care anymore. "Wow, it's beautiful!" she squealed. I strained my neck from where I was sitting on the couch to get a better a look. It *was* beautiful, a purple glittering gem with a golden chain. I was almost jealous but considering the fact that she hadn't had a decent piece of jewelry since our mother died last

year, I stopped myself. “Ohh!!! I love it Daddy!” she beamed giving him a huge hug. “You’re welcome,” he replied.

That night I couldn’t fall asleep. Images of the necklace flashed in my head. The worried face of my father, the kind face of my mother. Suddenly my vision darkened and I finally fell into a slumber.

I woke up to the sound of my father harsh voice. “Get up!” he hissed under his breath “They are coming.” I felt more awake now as I looked up at my clock it read 3:05. “Dad, who?” “Shhh,” he whispered, “They will hear you.” Before I had a chance to protest he pulled me out of bed and slapped a suitcase in my hand.

A million questions raced through my mind as I was being lugged through the hall in my PJ’s. “Where are we going?” I whimpered. I’d never seen him so tense. “Well.....” he said after a long silence. “Somewhere far far away from here,” the rhythm of the car matched my loud heartbeat. BUMP! BUMP! “Who are we being chased by anyway?” I mumbled. “These things,” he said “These creatures. They’re after us.” “But why? Why are they after us,” I demanded to know. Suddenly we heard a big booming sound. It was the creatures.

I gasped in horror, “We’ve got to move” my dad screamed putting full force on the gas pedal. I whipped my head back to see who these creatures were but all I saw was an oatmeal delivery truck. “Dad,” I muttered wrinkling my nose, “It’s just a delivery truck. “Look in the driver’s seat” dad shouted. I turned back around and for the first time I was horrified by the gruesome scaly face behind the steering wheel of the truck. I covered my eyes in horror, but then reality flooded back to me. “Where is Becca?” I asked in a shrill voice. “I’ll explain everything later,” he boomed. “But first I got to

lose these things!” With that he shoved a button and missiles launched out of the trunk. The delivery truck was flung off the narrow road bursting in flames. And with that we sped off. My jaw dropped open. Did my dad just explode an oatmeal truck?

I looked at my dad. “Where is Becca?” He looked off into the distance and finally he spoke. “I am not a video game designer. I’m a top secret scientist. One night I was experimenting with my lab partner studying chemicals when I accidentally spilled a couple of liquids that forged together.” “Before I could stop the liquid, it dripped onto my lab partner, your mom. Beth, your mom...she changed. I don’t know how to tell you this. She became different. She grew scales and formed fangs and claws. She broke out of the lab and took some of the formula. She disappeared into the night and I never saw her again.”

Tears welled up in his eyes. “In grief, I went back to the lab and took the left over traces of the liquid to form an antidote. A glittering purple necklace, I named it after your mother Ilon. The jewel of Ilon, our only hope against the formula and the creatures. I guess she took that formula and made other living things into creatures too.” He held up the necklace. “I thought Becca had that.” I told Dad. He gave me a sorrowful look, “When they took her, they must have been looking for this. I was hoping it would protect her. And now we must find Becca or I fear we will never see her again.”

We pulled up to the parking lot of Dad’s laboratory. “I hope to find Becca here he told me.” We both walked through the halls until we found Dad’s remote work office. He did a few things on the computer and I sat it in a chair trying not to fall asleep. When suddenly we heard a sound. My dad murmured something about the air conditioning and I relaxed. Until we heard it again. “We better go check that out”

Dad whispered, "Stay close!" The sound was coming from a room nearby. We walked closer and Dad dared to open the door. He flipped on the lights and we saw none other than Becca, tied up in the corner. She was kicking a trash bin near her legs. Dad quickly took off her gag and untied her hands and feet. "Where have you been?" he stuttered. "They took me from my bed," she whimpered "and locked me in here all alone."

Suddenly we heard a voice from behind. "Ohh, I wouldn't say all alone." It was mom. Well, at least it looked somewhat like her. Her hair was matted and she had claws, fangs, and scales. I shivered was that really her? "Stay back, Ilon!" Dad yelled. He aimed the jewel right at her. "NOOOOOO!!" Mom screeched. She fell to the floor. Her claws and fangs disappeared, and her scales faded away. It was our *real* mother, I ran in for a huge hug and so did everyone else. "I missed you SO much!" I sobbed.

After all those hugs a streak of horror appeared on Mom's face. "I didn't come alone." "Is there any way you can stop this?" I pleaded to my mother and father. They exchanged glances and I could see they were both thinking really hard. "I have an idea" Dad exclaimed we could activate the P5RT with that 775H7 I have. "That could work" mom said grinning. "Huh?" I wondered aloud. "Basically" Dad explained, "we will connect a couple things then send a signal to activate a satellite that will come back as a huge zap worldwide. That zap will react to the creatures just like the jewel of Ilon, returning them to normal."

Once we all went back to Dad's office, my parents got to work on the computers. After a while we heard banging on the door. I knew it had to be more of the creatures. "Are you guys done with that yet?" I screamed. "It's loading!" my mom yelled.

Suddenly the door broke down and dozens of creatures poured in. I heard Becca scream from behind me. I knew we were dead until a glowing purple light poured from the ceiling everywhere. All the creatures screeched and disappeared into whatever living thing they were before. That was it. NO more creatures!

We all stared at each other in a mixture of disbelief and pure joy. I had my mother back. My dad was an awesome creature killing machine and I saw a truck explode. I looked at Becca who seemed to be in shock. “Well, Sis,” I said, “Time to go home and finish off the rest of that birthday cake.”