

Olivia Palmer sighed tiredly, stretching her arms over her head. Once again, she had lost track of time while working on her current assignment, it wasn't the first time it happened and she reminded herself to be more careful with things like these. More so in situation like today's, when she had an equally important appointment in short time. She made sure everything was properly taken care of and in its place and she left for her next appointment, one she was looking forward to. It had been a long while since she had last seen her cherished friends, and after countless rescheduling and postponing they had finally managed to set a date to see each other again. It would be a nice change of pace, and recently one of her colleagues had come with a suggestion that she found interesting.

*"Still have to see what they think about it though."* She said as she descended the stairway towards the street, coming into the sunset bathed street.

- Well, well. Long-time no see Miss Science.

Olivia's thought chain came to an end as she reacted to one of the nicknames, they had given her so long ago, when she started her scientific career. The one that had called her was Alyssa Winter, long-time friend and somewhat of a local celebrity, even if it wasn't for the reasons one would expect. Dressed in a revealing white blouse and a short skirt, Alyssa was a rather attractive woman, with a nice slender body and a long blonde hair that flowed behind her like a cascade of gold.

- Alyssa, it's been too long. -Said Olivia smiling sincerely.

- You got that right.

Alyssa gave Olivia a heartfelt hug, not caring if anyone saw them, while Olivia tried her best to respond while lighting up in a very visible blush. After parting Alyssa signalled her friend to follow her.

- I've got the car just around the corner. Now let's go find Chloe and Claire.

Alyssa's car was nothing special nor eye catching, the way she liked it. A blue SUV spacious enough for the two of them plus the two passengers they were about to pick up. She started the engine, which let out a rumbling noise and they were off to pick up the missing pair.

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It wasn't the first time Chloe Payne had to get rough with drunk people, and it wouldn't be the last either. One to move around the not so glamorous levels of society, she had gone from part-time job to part-time job, the current one being a weird mixture between bouncer and waitress. The second part could be easily understood, since her somewhat petite frame allowed her to attend customers swiftly and efficiently, going back and forth through the bar; but the other part did not seem to go with her at all, since her slender build and her overall frame did not seem suitable for such things. However, if it got rough, she was more than eager to prove otherwise.

The guy had not been a challenge at all, due to underestimating her and the immense quantity of alcohol he had tried to drown in. A single punch and down for the count.

She did feel somewhat bad for him though, since he had obviously lost control when trying to drown his troubles in booze. She stepped outside and left the KO'd foe resting against the wall of the alley, only to be met with a familiar face. Leaning against the wall was a tall, lean woman with long dark hair. Her hair invaded part of her face, hiding her left eye while making the scar that crossed her face far more notorious. Dressed in a shirt, trousers and boots, her serious and stern expression might come across as cold, but her green eyes betrayed warmth and care for the smaller woman that had come out.

- I see you still hold your own.

- Pfft. Please Claire, I can do much more than that.

- I assume he's going to be fine?

- Yeah, don't worry. -Answered Chloe with a dismissive tone- Too much alcohol can make that to you, he'll come around in some time, and the boss will keep an eye on him. He'll be fine, the face will hurt, but nothing more.

- Good to know.

- Wait for me at the entrance, and I'll be ready in five minutes.

- Roger that. -Acknowledged Claire as she started walking to turn the corner and wait for her.

- Good to see you again sarge.

- I told you not to keep calling me that, punk. – Called back Claire with affection on Chloe's nickname.

- Yeah, try to stop me.

Mumbling these last words Chloe got back in and went into the back store, quickly shedding the apron she wore over her clothes and fetching her personal belongings. Keys, phone and wallet, ready to go. Outside Claire waited for her in the silence that followed her wherever she went, but she managed to crack a sincere smile when Chloe walked out.

- Ready?

- Yup. Now we wait for Alyssa and Olivia to show and pick us up. - She looked the time in her phone- They should be here in no time.

- Alright then.

Silence set in again, changing the mood between the two of them until Chloe started talking again, trying to get a conversation going.

- So... How is life treating you? How's the change from the military to civilian life going?

- It's... strange. -Claire admitted- I don't mind the change at all, in fact is nice; but I'm still getting used to not having to get out in a heartbeat and gear up in minutes to march several kilometres or deploy in combat.

- Yeah... pretty drastic change huh?

- You could say so.

- Listen Claire, it might look hard but if you ever need help with anything tell us. Ok?

- Thanks for the offer, but-

- No buts. When we got the news that you had been injured... Christ, I don't think I've ever before seen Alyssa cry and Olivia get nervous to the point of a nervous breakdown.

Silence set down again, as the revelation sunk in Claire's mind.

- Understood.

- Really?

- You got it... Punk.

Claire had her characteristic poker face on her again, but her tone betrayed that she had felt Chloe's words deep down, seriously evaluating them and taking them to heart. Not wanting to let her down, Chloe answered back.

- Good to know that, sarge.

They smiled at each other, but before anything else a car horn caught their attention. The car stopped next to them, Alyssa and Olivia waving from inside and motioning them to get in, which they immediately did. The car drove away to Alyssa's place as soon as the four of them were in, looking forward to the long-awaited reunion.

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The night had been fun, they had a plentiful dinner and had talked about pretty much everything: each of them, their current life and occupation, hobbies, future prospects, interesting news and opinion on them... Now they sat on the couch, talking and deciding whether they should turn on the TV or not, looking for something interesting or absurd to make fun of in their slightly tipsy stupor. They might have gone overboard with the alcohol this time, but none had gotten drunk just yet. It was then when Olivia saw her chance to make them the offer that had been in her mind for some time.

- Girls, I've got a suggestion to make you all.

The other three fell silent as they centred their attention on Olivia, curious of any offer that might come from her, since she wasn't exactly the most outgoing of them all.

- In a week I'll be leaving for some days to conduct some research in some ruins that have been recently discovered to the west. I'd like for you to come with me, since I could use the company.

- That sounds... nice -answered Chloe- but can we just do that? I mean, if it's a scientific expedition of sorts, don't you have to ask for permission or something?

- She has a point -added Claire- We don't have the expertise for what must be done.

- Don't worry about that. I already informed them that some people that are not related might accompany me since otherwise I was going on my own. The primary reason being safety, in case anything bad happened to have someone to rely on.

Silence set in again, although this time it was a much shorter one as Alyssa approved wholeheartedly.

- I say we go. How many times can one get to be the first to visit some mysterious ruins first hand before the mysterious aura goes away?

- Count me in too -Said Chloe- it will be a nice change for a week.

- And what about your job? -Pointed out Claire.

- Don't worry about it -dismissed Chloe- it's a part time job, so the boss will have no trouble in filling it for a week.

-Alright then.

She didn't say it explicitly, but Claire was on board too. A week on a different place might be beneficial for her after all. And the decision taken by them all certainly pleased Olivia, who had a bright smile on her face.

- Fantastic! Then I'll notify it as soon as I can.

Their meeting went on until it was well into the night, none of them being in any hurry since the week end had just started. They would plan things in the meanwhile, making sure they had everything ready by the time they left with Olivia for a week to those ruins.

- Alright then, I think that's enough for today. We should hit the bunk. -Said Alyssa.

- Is there enough place for the four of us?

- Don't worry Claire, there's plenty. -Said Alyssa as she slid an arm around her friend's waist. – Chloe and Olivia sleep in the sofa-bed while we take the bed. Alright?

- Yeah, sure. -Said Chloe while glancing at Olivia, who shrugged back despite a slight blush on her face.
- Uh... Well, seeing the current situation, I don't mind.

-Alrighty then! -Said Alyssa a little too loudly and enthusiastically. - Then let's tidy up this a little and then I'll bring out blankets and nightwear for all.

Between the four of them, they cleaned the place in little time, Alyssa delivering as promised. They went to sleep as agreed, according beforehand not to put on any alarm clocks on. It was weekend and they would rest soundly that night. None of them said so, but they were glad they had agreed in accompanying Olivia, it was nice to spend more time around each other.

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The week in the ruins had gone by without a hitch. They had helped Olivia in any way they could, be it holding sources of light if she couldn't read or visualize something, taking care of the cooking, helping her transcribe notes... and they had done quite the hiking, since the place was isolated and with plenty of nature to enjoy around and they preferred not to cause trouble to Olivia if she was concentrated in studying something or taking notes. Nevertheless, they were in the right, and all of them welcomed the change that brought tagging along.

The new day however was busy for them all, since they would enter the ruins once more, searching for any unusual artefacts in the chambers that remained untouched by time.

- Are we all ready?
- Yep, ready to go Olivia. -Confirmed Alyssa.

The four of them set off without delay, making their way to the complex of ruins. If there was a word to describe them, it was ancient. It would come as no surprise that Alyssa would describe them that way, while each of the other three women had their own take. Olivia found them fascinating, Chloe thought of them as ominous and Claire was of the opinion that it was imposing.

The group entered the ancient corridors, their boots leaving footprints in the dust along the ones left the previous days when they had gone in. They navigated narrow halls and wider corridors, crossing some rooms that were familiar and others that were not, until the group, led by Olivia came to a halt.

- What's the hold up? -Asked Chloe.
- I dare say we haven't been here before.

And she was right. Making way for everyone, the four women now stood before a very ornamented doorway. The door was framed by an elaborated golden pattern that made it stand out, while here and there it added red, green, blue or purple. Needless to say, it was quite the eye catcher.

- How did we miss this?
- Good question Alyssa. I don't have the answer, but...

Olivia was interrupted as the double door opened outwards on its own, almost as if it was reacting to them. Inside stood what seemed to be an altar or a pedestal, illuminated by light that poured in via a small hole in the ceiling.

- Well, that was ominous. -Noted Claire.
- Agreed, perhaps we should go back. It could not be completely safe...
- What? Now you're chickening out Olivia? We have come all this way and besides, the previous times we entered the ruins nothing bad happened. Why should anything happen now?
- There could always-
- While I have my doubts, I agree with Chloe. – Said Alyssa- We should at least take a peek inside.
- I'm with Olivia. We should proceed with caution.
- Screw it, I'm going in. If I don't come back remember me as a heroine! -Said Chloe in a joking tone as she stepped in the room.

- Chloe!

Things sped up from that point onwards. Chloe entered the room, Alyssa followed her, prompting both Olivia and Claire to step in, to avoid dividing the group. Once inside, the room followed the same pattern as the door, mixing golden with blue, red, green and purple. Crowning this decoration was the altar, an elaborately decorated stonework with the golden pattern on it; But instead of mixing the colours, the altar held four crystals up, each corresponding with one of the colours. One of them was a vibrant blue, in front of it was a vibrant green, between the two of them a red crystal and filling the last place was a purple one.

The girls were silent, admiring the delicate nature that the room and its content had. It seemed completely out of place in a place like this, the room having suffered minimal damage and being in a much more decent shape than the rest of the complex. But the most interesting part about it was its contents, the crystals resulting almost hypnotic. They gleamed and twinkled under the little light the room had, almost as if they emitted light from within, each of them reflecting their smooth and polished surface.

- Whoa.

The other three could only agree with Chloe's reaction. Not only it seemed completely out of place, but their attention was slowly but surely focusing in the crystals and the crystals only. And the girls eventually approached the resting place of such unique finding. Chloe, Alyssa and Claire observed with a mixture of interest, curiosity and

caution, while Olivia approached and half-kneeled while looking at them with a more insightful gaze.

- Anything you can tell us Olivia?

- Not much. I've dabbled in geology, mineralogy and gemmology, but I've never heard of something like this. Much less see something like it.

- So that puts us all in the same boat. - said Alyssa- Interesting.

- They are so... pretty, I guess. -Said Chloe.

- Really? I never saw you as someone with a liking to thing like this.

- Oh, shut up Alyssa. I might not look like a lot of things, but from time to time I do enjoy breaking other people's impressions.

- Alright, alright. No need to get yourself worked up.

Alyssa's eyes turned to Claire, who was completely enthralled by the green crystal, completely oblivious to being the centre of attention for the other three. Eventually, due to the silence, she snapped back to reality, blushing lightly and looking down.

- ...what?

- Nothing, nothing- said Alyssa, trying to comfort her friend- it's just that its nice seeing you so passionate about something for once.

- You seemed to enjoy quite a bit watching the crystal, Claire. -smiled Olivia- Don't worry, I don't think you are the exception. I particularly enjoy this purple one.

- Oh my god- said Chloe while trying not to burst out laughing- I never, in a million years pictured you liking polished crystal so much. But what she said, it's all fine and dandy. I like this red one, girls!

- Then this blue one will be mine! -Said Alyssa cheerfully, trying to work with Chloe to avoid Claire feeling embarrassed. – That way each has its own. Red for Chloe, Purple for Olivia, Blue for myself and Green for you. Sounds good?

- Yeah, yeah it does. -Said Claire with a small smile.

The four girls looked back at the crystals, each fixing her gaze in the one in front of her and slowly approaching it in a sudden complete coordination. Their approximation was slow but steady, their attention completely fixed on each's favourite crystal and completely ignoring anything else that might happen in the room. Somehow the crystals seemed to gleam with more intensity now.

- So shiny. – Said Chloe.

- So polished. – Said Claire.

- So beautiful. – Said Alyssa.

- So intriguing. – Said Olivia.

With complete and total coordination, the four of them reached for the crystal in front of them, gently and carefully touching its smooth and polished surface. The four crystals then went wild, emitting a light from the inside that only grew brighter and stringer by the second, until eventually the world faded to white for the four of them.

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The four women eventually came around, finding themselves laying in the cold stone floor of the room. They didn't know how much time had gone by, but it had been enough time for sunlight to be replaced by moonlight. The girls groaned and twitched as their consciousness came back to them, slowly incorporating and standing up.

- Alright, anyone who is alive, say anything.

- Ugghh... -groaned Alyssa.

- Aye... -Answered Chloe.

- I'm fine... I think. -Said Olivia.

- Alright, that makes four of us. -Said Claire, with notable relief in her tone.

Slowly, the girls stood up, although their disorientation made things difficult. However, their problems were far more pressing than disorientation, since what seemed to be a stone slab blocked their way out. Claire quickly approached the obstacle, a firm, heavy slab of considerable thickness and even more considerable weight; it would not make it easy for them to get out.

- Girls, whenever you can try to lend me a hand with this.

- Gotcha.

Chloe made her way and stood next to her, both of them crouching and trying to lift the stone door. It had fallen from above the doorway, so it would be easier to try and lift it enough time for them to get out. However, it was for naught, for as much as they both tried the damned thing didn't even budge, much less lifting. They tried several times, while Olivia did her best to help a still disoriented Alyssa in the tenuous light that they had available. Both Claire and Chloe tried time and time again, but after their sixth attempt they stopped, clutching their hands in slight pain.

- Goddamned crap! -Yelled Chloe in anger, turning around and giving the stone slab a heartfelt kick. Her leg also felt the effects of the kick, since she immediately cursed again, this time due to the pain of her leg, although it dissipated quickly.

- Any other ideas? – Asked Claire.

- Uh, mind if I give it a try?

- Go ahead Alyssa. – Said Claire.

- Don't expect much though – pitched in Chloe- we might as well try and sneak through the roof's small hole.

- Chloe, I know you're frustrated but...

- Not. Now.

Chloe cut Olivia before she could even formulate a full sentence, stopping the scientist dead on her tracks and being a little bit too harsh on her. They were all worried and stressed, and if they started going down that path everything would get much worse.

- Alright, here I go. - Signalled Alyssa- a one, a two, and three!

Mimicking the previous attempt by Claire and Chloe Alyssa got a hold of the door, with the severe difference that she did lift it. On the first try she had lifted the thing all the way up to her knees, and she refused to back down.

- Alright, here we go! The thing is heavy as hell though!

In front of the astonished women, Alyssa plunged in a second time, this time lifting the stone door all the way to her chest.

- No way.

- Incredible.

- Amazing.

Each of the other girls had her own take on the scene, but Alyssa didn't care much at the moment struggling with the stone's weight. A third time and she held the door above her head, spreading slightly her legs and holding her arms up, to keep it up there. She then looked over her shoulder, giving the other three a confident look and smile.

- Alright, I keep it like this. Some help would be appreciated.

Her strained voice gave away that she was struggling to keep the stone slab up, although the fact that she was able to lift it already was outlandish. However, her tone made Chloe spring into action.

- Right, let's do this!

Chloe rammed the door with all of her energy, the door budging slightly and giving away that it was locked from the outside. Claire joined her, each pushing on each side of Alyssa, but the door didn't seem to open much more than a couple centimetres. As Alyssa huffed again, shifting position to hold on, Claire stepped back and delivered a

powerful kick. However, she only managed to widen the space they had opened by two or three centimetres.

- Crap. There's got to be a better way to do this.

- Something is blocking it from the outside. From the looks of the situation, its most likely it's some chain or rope.

- Ideas?

- I'm afraid none. Still trying to figure something out.

- Well - chimed in Alyssa, effort noticeable in her voice- figure something out quickly. Chloe, how are you doing?

- Fine! Managing to keep this thing somewhat open.

Something felt weird in Chloe's voice, as if more than one people spoke with her voice. Alyssa had her eyes closed, trying to concentrate on keeping the slab up, but Olivia and Claire could easily see two identical silhouettes each holding one side of the door.

- C-Chloe? -Asked a confused Olivia.

- What?! -Both girls answered, finally acknowledging each other. – Oh. Oh. Sorry for yelling Olivia.

-Don't worry. But this is starting to be...

- Unbelievable? -Said Claire.

- Freaky? -Answered both Chloe's.

- Weird? – Said Alyssa.

- Yeah... Alyssa, Chloe, quick question. What did you feel when you did... well, your thing?

- I just wanted to lift this damned stone and get out. – Huffed Alyssa.

- I wanted to get the door open. Mostly due to the amazon over here. -Answered both Chloe's. – Wait, I?... We?...

- I see...

- What's the plan Olivia? -Asked Claire.

- Give me a moment.

Olivia closed her eyes and concentrated, steadying her breathing and holding her hands. When she opened them, she quickly walked towards Alyssa and the Chloe's, shrinking her size before Claire's eyes and easily slipping through the opening.

- Whoa... - Said both Chloe's simultaneously.

Outside of the room, Olivia returned to her normal size, immediately turning to the door and finding the problem. A chain kept the door closed. What had previously seemed to be an intricate decoration had turned out to be security measure concealed in plain sight. The ruins certainly held more secrets than it seemed at a first glance. She started trashing with the chain, but she wouldn't be able to break it without going back to the camp and bringing some tools, and she was very apprehensive at the idea of leaving her friends behind.

Inside the room Claire grew annoyed at her seeming passivity at the situation. The ex-soldier would never break her stone-cold expression, but it irritated her to no end that being the only one with experience in dangerous and tense situations, she was the only one that could not do anything. And there was this itch on her body that only angered her further.

- Olivia -she called- what is it?

- The door is blocked by a chain. We thought it was decoration, but it was a trap...

- Your... "ability" worked the same way as Alyssa's and Chloe's?

- This is only a theory, but if you come with a clear objective you might strike gold. "Lift the stone", "open the door", "get out..." simple objectives, but they seem to work as triggers for these... well, newfound capabilities.

- I see... Answered Claire as the gears in her mind started turning.

- Alright Clair, listen. -Said Alyssa. - Olivia, put part of the chain in the space that's open. Chloe, or Chloe's, move to the side but keep it open. I'll move to the side and keep this up. You try to break the chain when possible, and we get the hell out. Sound good?

- Yes, give me a minute. -Said Olivia, as she managed to put a part of the chain in the space opened. – Ready!

- Ready to rock over here too! – Said both Chloe's.

- Alright, Claire – said Alyssa as she let her see the opening- your turn.

In a swift move, one that came from her very heart, Claire stretched her right arm and opened her hand, focusing at her palm. That itch left her body only to focus on her hand, materializing into a green ball of energy; one that launched itself at terminal speed against the chain, shattering its target and allowing both Chloe's and Olivia to open the door completely.

- Let's go people!

At Alyssa's command the four of them got out, the other Chloe vanishing in a red aura and leaving only the original with them. However, the group either didn't notice or didn't care, hurrying out in a not-so-orderly fashion, quickly navigating the dark complex and guiding themselves by the light that got in through the entrance. And finally, the four of them got out into the open world again, finally realizing the full extent of the changes under the moonlight. They were themselves, and at the same time, they were a completely new self. Alyssa, Chloe, Claire and Olivia looked at each other in silence, inspecting each other's appearance, only to turn their attention to each's body.

Gone were Alyssa's the fair skin and long golden mane, all of it replaced by a vibrant blue colour that seemed to glint under the light that provided the moonlight and the starry sky. Chloe's fair skin and brunette hair had been turned into crimson, mimicking Alyssa's condition but changing the colour for a visible red. Claire was now green, from head to toe; gone was the fair skin and long dark hair, all replaced by a vibrant green. Olivia for her part, was on the exact same boat as them, her short light brown hair having taken a pinkish shade and her fair skin having been washed away, only to be substituted by a light shade of violet. They all stood in silence for some minutes, before someone finally dared to break the silence.

- What... what is this?

Claire voiced the question that all of them had in their heads, but none dared to answer.

- What happened back there...

...yes Chloe, it was very real. My body is still sore.

Silence again, while they each let the new information and their new conditions sink in. One had managed to lift a door made on solid rock that had its considerable weight, not without effort, but the point remained; other had duplicated herself for a brief period of time; the third had shot lasers out of her palm and the last one had shrunk her size at will.

- I'm just theorizing -adventured Olivia- but when we touched those crystals, we probably changed into... something else, something different.

- Yeah- huffed Chloe- different doesn't even begin to cover it.

- Perhaps if we go back in and touch the crystals we change back?

- I don't think so Claire- answered Olivia- they had lost their... "shine", to put it simply. I would dare say that they now are what we thought from the get go, inert crystals.

- You are the most knowledgeable in this Olivia. -said Alyssa- Any idea on how to go about it?

- Sadly no... or not now. But if we run some tests, we might get some tangible results we can understand. I have what we need in my home...

- ...where we could do this discreetly. – Finished Claire.

- Yes. My home is big enough for us four, so we could stay together while we figure this out.

- Sounds good to me. Let's get back to camp.

The quartet quickly made their way back to camp, where they finally noticed their roaring stomachs. Special powers or not, they still had to attend their basic necessities, and they were overdue in that front. After attending their needs, the four of them sat in a circle dinning silently, their new situation still weighing on them.

- Um, girls?

When she saw she had their attention, Olivia kept going.

- I wanted to say I'm so very sorry for this. I never meant for something like this to happen.

- Olivia, none here blame you.

- Yeah, Alyssa is right. It wasn't your fault. - Corroborated Chloe.

- If anything, we are all at fault, for letting our guard down and acting without a care on the world.

- Still, I proposed this and-

- Olivia, there's no point in blaming yourself. You couldn't have predicted in a thousand years this would be the outcome. You couldn't even imagine this as an outcome, so don't blame yourself. We return to your home, run those tests, and choose the curse of action.

- Yeah, what the sergeant said. -Said Chloe.

They spent the rest of the dinner talking, dissipating the tension and cheering Olivia, lightening the spirits of all of them. Tomorrow they would return and make their way to Olivia's house, and with any luck they would have to give little to no explanation.

- Uh, girls? -Said Alyssa- I just realized, if we have to go shopping for food...

- Don't worry. -Reassured Olivia- I have the provision thing down. There will be plenty for us for enough time.

- That's a relief...

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The trip back home had been uneventful, and they hadn't come across anyone when they left the expedition equipment where it belonged. And, as Olivia stated before, she

had plenty of supplies in her home, which would be their residence for the near future. It was big and spacious enough for them all and it was somewhat isolated, which allowed them to stretch their legs in the back garden of the house.

As promised, Olivia had started immediately with the tests, the four of them realizing different physical and physiological tests. Currently the four of them formed quite the picture, since they were all in their underwear while Olivia went over the final results. Claire and Alyssa were finishing the detachment of some equipment, which Olivia had used to measure some medical aspect that none of them quite got.

- Hey this is not half bad. – Said Alyssa while she caressed her curves. - Never thought I would say this, but I look damn good in blue.

- Alyssa please...

- C'mon Claire, loosen up. We are all on the same boat, and you look quite stunning yourself.

Claire's blush was perfectly visible, and it only intensified when Alyssa pressed her chest against hers. Claire, caught off-guard, was not able to react as Alyssa locked her arms behind her back, giving her a goofy smile.

- We could make a killing as models! What do you think Chloe?

Chloe's blush was visible despite her red skin, the girl quickly turning her eyes away in embarrassment.

- I- I guess...

- Oh, I would love a photo of the four of us like this!

None of the other three knew if Alyssa was joking or not, but they did have the suspicion that the azure woman was both saying it as a joke and giving it away seriously. Olivia, blushing visibly too, cleared her throat to catch their attention.

- Um... girls, do you mind for a moment?

Alyssa finally let Claire go, the green woman relaxing.

- I'll give you the abridged version, since I have to go in depth with the results to fully comprehend the extent of the changes. The general gist of it is that whatever those crystals were, altered our bodies to their most basic level. Some more notable changes were written down though. In Alyssa's case, her muscles are reinforced, allowing her much greater strength. In your case Claire, your body is surrounded by powerful energy, this being able to be concentrated and fired on blasts, much like you did back in the cave. Chloe, you display what could be considered mitosis, but in its function it's much more similar to replicating two objects or cloning an organism.

- What about you?

- My results show that I can both enlarge and shrink my body, although I do not know the extent of it.

Silence took over, as they pondered on the results and what Olivia had revealed to them. Amplified strength, replication, shrinking or enlarging, and energy manipulation. It was quite the turn for all of them, and probably their previous lives would suffer drastic changes.

- Besides that, the colour is clearly linked to the crystal we each touched.

- I guess its not going away anytime soon?

- As far as I can tell, it's permanent. I'm sorry Claire.

- Don't worry, I can get used to it, I guess. I mean, it's not that different to the camouflage I used to wear in areas with vegetation. You three on the other hand...

- Yeah, a colour pattern that would make the superheroes for kids proud. It's not going to be easy to walk around being red or purple, or green or blue for that matter.

- Hey, it's not a problem as far I'm concerned.

The other three sighed at Alyssa's antics as she struck another suggestive pose, Claire keeping her distance this time.

- The thing is -said Alyssa, now in a serious tone- how are we supposed to... well, live? You know, go shopping for anything we need, work...

It was a good question, a very valid question. Silence again as they thought of any possibilities about how to approach their new problems. They couldn't run on their savings forever, as these would eventually dry out, and society wasn't exactly welcoming of anomalies and strangers. It was then when something caught the eyes of both Alyssa and Chloe. It was a comic book Chloe had brought along, not a recent one and not in the best shape, but she did enjoy them. They looked each other as the wildest idea formed in their heads.

- Girls, this might make me sound like a complete lunatic, but listen to me. – Said Alyssa. – How about we get our earnings as superheroines?

- What. – Both Claire and Olivia answered back.

- Superheroines... I like it. -Said Chloe.

- You can't be serious. -Insisted Claire.

- Dead serious Claire. We could work and live as heroines. We use our powers and we can make money with our service.

- Wouldn't then be better to enrol on the police? We would probably get assigned to some special force.

- No, I don't like it. – Said Chloe- we would probably be under heavy restriction. As freelancers we might be able to... get creative with our powers.

Silence again, as the idea slowly started taking shape. If they managed to secure their earnings... this could be the life she was looking for, although it was very far from what would be considered “normal”.

- I like it. -Said Olivia, surprising them all. - Working independently will give us more room to manoeuvre when testing our powers and their applications.

- That's right! Well put Olivia!

Chloe was getting more and more excited by the minute; Alyssa was completely on board and even Olivia was starting to fully get on it. Perhaps they were right, although she still had to be sold the idea completely.

- Alright, I'll accept with two conditions: we cooperate with local law enforcement keeping collateral damage to the bare minimum and we train these powers to hone them and make better use of them. Understood?

- You bet Sarge!

- Of course!

- A safe and logical approach. Most definitely.

- And the other question. How are we going to be called?

An excited silence followed as the women tried to come up with a name. Surprisingly it was Olivia who planted the seed.

- Back when we came out to the ruins, when we saw our bodies under the light of the moon and the stars, they seemed to reflect its light like a metallic surface... its just a moment but...

- That's it! -Exclaimed Alyssa. – How does “Radiant Force” sound.

A general approval followed, followed by Claire's proposal, which made both Alyssa and Chloe smile, as it showed she was on board as well.

- I would like to propose a callsign for each, based on our colours. Azura Force for Alyssa, Crimson Force for Chloe, Violet Force for Olivia and Emerald Force for myself. Sounds good?

Claire's excitement and embarrassment made her let her guard down again, as she was tackled by both Alyssa and Chloe, hugging her effusively. Remembering they were still on their underwear, Claire didn't know whether to be embarrassed or return the hug, ending at their mercy while Olivia blushed visibly but smiled and giggled, letting herself be caught by their effusivity.