

CHAPTER IV

"Retrieve The Cure - Return With Revenge!"

The cave is dark and dank as mutants and humans huddle behind acid-poked boulders along the walls.

KRYSTAL: Only a dark wizard or magician would live here, so to speak. A perfect place to conjure evil spells.

GINNY: Reminds me of the dark wizard "He Who Must Not Be Named" that is.

SALLY: I thought his name was Lord Voldemort, huh?

HARRY: Yes, that was his name. But many who feared him did not want to mention his name out loud, so instead referred to him as "He Who Must Not Be Named"

SALLY: I see, very well. <agrees with him> Let's keep going and stay alert.

NEVILLE: Uh, gang...we got company, I mean BAD company!

NINJARA: Eeeeeee! <cries in terror and points> Rats!

FOX: Great Scott! <quotes Dr Emmett Brown's famous phrase>

Rats about the size of house cats scuttle across the cave floor. Their fur glow neon green and eyes blaze red with fire as they hiss menacingly at the intruders as if poised to attack without warning.

HARRY: Stand still, no one move. If we do not show aggression or pose a threat to them, they will not attack.

GINNY: That's good to know. <nervously holds wand in defense posture>

NINJARA: I hate the way they are looking at us, oh...<shudders in fright>

HERMIONE: Do not, repeat...do not show any signs of threat postures. <whispers in warning>

Too late, however as one of the rodents hisses loudly like a snake, bares its teeth and sprang straight at a screaming Neville who let go a blast of magic from his wand that struck the creature in mid-leap through the air. Instantly it turned into a stone statue to clunk harmlessly to the cave floor.

FOX: What did you do to it?! <shocked> You turned it into stone?

NEVILLE: I what?! <stunned> I did? <looks from his wand to stone rat, then back to wand again>

FOX: Holy smokes! How did you pull off that magic spell, I wonder.

RON: Look out, incoming! <warns>

Weasley Junior flicked his wand at another attacking rat which burst into flame and sizzled into a pile of ash in seconds. Then Ginny released a spell into another rodent, shrinking that creature into a tiny form, about the size of a spider that scuttled away, only to be stomped by Ninjara's sandled foot, she grunted and cursed as she struck again and again, killing the beast.

NINJARA: Ugh, ugh, urgh! Take that, and that...mmph!

KRYSTAL: Take it easy, it's dead already. <calms her down>

NINJARA: Whew, okay. <grins weakly back>

KRYSTAL: No problemo, sister. <grins too>

Hermione, Luna and Harry blasted more rats with spells of their own, scaring them off into shadows, leaving only the stone rat that Neville felled himself and a smoldering ash pile that was created by Ron. That done, Acorn motions her teammates forward into the depths of the cave. Finally they arrive at the so-called Poison Laboratory where beakers and tubes can be seen bubbling and boiling over burners, filled with varieties of colored liquids within each. Nearby are cauldrons that bubble and boil merrily along, so to speak.

FOX: There, on that table yonder. That's the one we seek. <he points it out>

HERMIONE: I see it, that must be the antidote to the poison Malfoy tried to kill us off with.

FOX: Aye, that bully...hmmph! <frowns angrily>

LUNA: So who's going to sneak in there and get it, he? <shrugs>

All of a sudden, evil voices and footsteps can be heard coming from the rear of the chamber.

RON: Oops, more BAD company approaching this way, gang.

SALLY: Right, then. This is a job for...<hesitates before speaking> Krystal.

KRYSTAL: <astonished> Who, me? <points to herself>

SALLY: Affirmative, shaman. You must steal that bottle of antidote right from under the noses of the enemy.

HERMIONE: Do you think she can do it?

For the moment the vixen mind reader thinks quickly and then as though a light-bulb went off inside her brain, she said...

KRYSTAL: I've got it! <snaps fingers> I'll transform myself to look like Fiona Fox, Ninjara's one-time friend that is, ahem.

NINJARA: Right! <glowers back> Friend indeed...he.

KRYSTAL: As I was saying, after changing myself into Fiona I'll sneak in there and grab the bottle before...<peers into the lab> before Mr Snape sees what I'm doing, it would seem the Slytherin professor is hard at work.

HARRY: That no-good coward who told Voldermort about my parents and had the Dark Lord kill them. <glares>

SALLY: Easy, Potter...<calms him down> remember the mission, right?

HARRY: Yes, leader. <nods>

KRYSTAL: Then I'll get back here to you guys and gals ASAP.

FOX: Good luck, honey. <kisses her>

RON: Duh, honey? <shocked look> Are you two married?

NEVILLE: They are?

FOX and KRYSTAL: Um-hm, we are! <both grin and wink together>

NINJARA: He-he-he, <giggles and smirks> didn't know that, he?

SALLY: Never mind, get going. <scowls>

Nodding the blue-fur vixen uses her power staff to change her bodily form into that of the vixen kung fu warrior and leader of the Anti-Freedom Fighters Suppression

Squad from Mobius Prime then tip-toed into the laboratory while the others looked on.

FOX: Remember one thing, honey. Your illusions only last a few minutes so make it quick.

KRYSTAL <as Fiona>: No problem, dear. As the Terminator would say, "I'll be back"

Sally and company watched as the illusion of Fiona stepped into the lab, approached the table containing the bottles and vials of liquids and nonchalantly reached out to take the antidote formula when suddenly...

DRACO: Hey, what are you doing, lady? <stops her>

HARRY: Nuts, it's Malfoy! <swears under his breath>

FIONA CLONE: What? <scowls>

DRACO: Why do you have that bottle in your hand? <frowns>

FIONA CLONE: Tai Lung is badly hurt from trying to stop intruders from entering our lair. I must give him this antidote to make him well again.

SNAPE: <glances up> Oh, is he badly hurt?

FIONA CLONE: Yes, professor. <bows> Therefore I must take the medicine to him at once.

SNAPE: As you wish, I'm busy here right now. <waves her off> Malfoy, come help me.

DRACO: Yes, sir. <nods> Hope your friend isn't too hurt, he-he...<chuckles> I thought he was an expert in kung fu, that nothing could stop him. <sneers>

NINJARA: Ooooooh, does he have to look like that, huh? <frowns>

HERMIONE: That's how bullies are sometimes.

NEVILLE: Hurry, she only has a few seconds left before her magic wears off her.

RON: It's going to be close.

GINNY: Come on, shaman...move your legs!

LUNA: Duh?

SALLY: Quiet, they'll hear you! <hisses in reply>

Carefully the clone of Fiona Fox made her way back to the hiding place of her friends and in an instant, her illusion vanished like a ghost, restoring the lady fox back to her normal self again.

SALLY: That was cutting it close, whew! <sighs in relief> Did you get it?

KRYSTAL: Here it is, at-tah. <holds up bottle>

HARRY: All right, yes! <excited> I knew she would do it, I just knew it.

NINJARA: Congratulations, twin. <high fives her sibling>

KRYSTAL: Yo! <poses> It was nothing.

FOX: Oh, ho-ho...sure it was. <sneers playfully>

KRYSTAL: I overheard Professor Snape planning something evil, like he was talking to himself and had a stupid, evil grin on his face as though enjoying every moment of his plans.

HARRY: This is definitely not good. <glowers angrily>

Ron, Ginny, Hermione, Neville, Luna, Acorn, Ninjara and McCloud listened to what Krystal had to say...

The Freedom Fighters of Fox, Ninjara, Krystal and Sally with the HogWarts wizards of Harry, Neville, Ron and witches of Hermione, Ginny and Luna creep around to the other side the cavern to eavesdrop. By now Sleuth Dog has arrived and listens as Snape explains what he's cooked up so far, even shows him his evil potion creations and what their usage is for, to which the New World Order leader grins evilly and chuckles at this idea. Then both laugh out loud with Malfoy as if picturing a frightening image in their mind's eye.

SLEUTH: Yes, yes, I like this plan of yours, professor. Turn everyone into our slaves forever, he-he.

SNAPE: Indeed, my lord. With this mind controlled potion my assistant has created in your honor, ahem...it will allow us to force everybody or everyone who dare drinks it to serve your cause.

DRACO: And imagine, nobody would be the wiser to realize what is happening to them until it's too late.

SLEUTH: And you guarantee nothing will fail, go wrong once we've pulled off this mission?

DRACO: You dare doubt my inventions, huh? <glowering frown>

SLEUTH: <glowers back> Certainly not, young man.

SNAPE: Trust me, Sleuth...I assure you it will not fail. <grins evilly>

SLEUTH: Good, carry on then, I shall return shortly with my horde to begin filling the tanks with this mind control poison. <walks off>

By the time he was gone and the two villains began working on finalizing the final steps of their plan, our heroes had heard everything clearly and gasped in astonishment and anger!

HERMIONE: Did you hear that? I can't believe he said that, professor Snape that is.

HARRY: Now I know he is a traitor to my parents murders. <angry glare>

FOX: Sleuth wants to control the people of this planet by turning them into zombie slaves?

NINJARA: It sounds like Snape has just the potion to do it with, too. <angry glare>

SALLY: Well, he's not going to get away with that, oh-ho, no! <open mouth glaring snarl look, narrowed eyes> And I believed I defeated him, Sleuth Dog that is. Now he's back, survived that crash, I mean splash down into the lake and in business again.

RON: What are we going to do about it? We'd better take this antidote back to HogWarts Castle ASAP, I mean Galaxy Rangers headquarters, that is. Then all of your warriors will help foil the plan of the Empire. <speaks to Sally>

SALLY: Um-hm, yes! <nods in reply, facial expression changes to angry frown>

KRYSTAL: That might take too much time. We may have to act immediately.

GINNY: But, how can we do two things at the same time, huh? <puzzled>

At first the group of heroes try to decide what's the best plan of action to undertake. Either save the lives of their sick comrades or destroy the laboratory now, thus foiling Snape-Malfoy-Sleuth's evil scheme. Finally Acorn gives her reply.

SALLY: Don't forget our sick comrades back at HogWarts Castle. They need this life-saving medicine pronto. We must hurry back to rescue them before all is lost.

LUNA: I agree, save our friends first.

NEVILLE: Let's get out of here, this place gives me the creeps already. <getting scared>

One by one they stealthily tip-toe out of the cavern and back down the passageway tunnel towards the opening just ahead with the princess leading and Potter bringing up rear guard. Suddenly the son to James and Lillian Potter cried out as his back & shoulders hit something sharp in the dark.

HARRY: Ouch! <then curses himself> Darn it! <winces in pain>

HERMIONE: Harry?! <hisses at him>

HARRY: Sorry, <hisses back> hit something with my back, oh, it hurts.

HERMIONE: Here, let me see. <illuminates with her wand> Oops, it looks like you scratched yourself, bleeding slightly but I can fix that in no time.

RON: What happened back there? <turns to look>

HERMIONE: Harry bumped into something and cut himself but it's not too serious. <starts to heal his wound> There, good as new.

RON: Oh, okay. <nods>

HARRY: Thanks, I owe you one. <grins, pushes glasses up his nose>

SALLY: <softly calls back> Potter?

HERMIONE: It's okay, boss...<softly calls back> he's okay.

SALLY: I thought I heard him cry out back there. <worried>

HARRY: I'm fine, boss. <calls back>

The others are still quiet as they continue down the tunnel towards the opening. All of a sudden another mutant rat scurries into full view which makes Ginny, Luna and Neville gasp in horror, sucking in their breaths and try not to scream out loud with wide eyes, especially Ninjara, Fox and Krystal who also try not to scream too at the sight of the monster. Just then, the familiar voice of Malfoy booms down the passageway as if he was following our friends in shadows.

DRACO: What was that? Did I just hear Potter cry out, he?

SNAPE: Potter?! <his voice also booms out> Where is he, that no-good stupid boy?

SALLY: Get down, now! <urges her warriors to take cover>

Everybody ducked down, concealing themselves into shadows in the nick of time. Meanwhile the mutant rat scurries into view of the two wizards who glare suspiciously at the creature.

SNAPE: Hmmph, it's nothing. Just a stupid mutated rat. <annoyed look> Dispose of it, my apprentice.

DRACO: With pleasure, my master. <bows and aims his wand> Eat this, butt head. <grins and casts spell>

The rat shrieked as the bolts struck its body, then hissed and leapt at its attacker but was struck again by another burst of magic from Malfoy's wand, the second bolts exploding the creature into nothingness in seconds. Both teacher and student howled in laughter before going back to their work in the lab.

FOX: Whew, that was close.

KRYSTAL: Too close for comfort, honey.

NINJARA: Come on, back to HogWarts Castle, quickly! <starts to panic> We're running out of time.

SALLY: Right, everyone outside now and transform!

Once outside again, they noticed the figures of Fiona and Tai Lung were nowhere to be found, probably retreated into the cave again to hide from their enemies. Acorn, McCloud and the twin vixens again were ferried across the polluted stream via the brooms of Harry, Hermione, Ron, Ginny, Luna and Neville before changing back to vehicle modes and racing back to the castle ASAP.

But when they arrived at the castle and with Potter leading the way, burst into the hospital wing section, Madame Pomfrey was there to greet them, a look of terror on the nurse's face.

POMPFREY: Your highness! It may be too late already, your warriors, I mean.

SALLY: What?! <horror stretches her eyes>

NICOLE: *Master...Kato, Tigress, Slippy, Falco, Geoffrey, Amy and Bunnie have fallen into a coma-state...*

HAGRID: Yes, un-responsive to our attempts of trying to awaken them.

SALLY: NOOOOOOO! <cries in horror>

Immediately her highness rushed into the middle of the room and stared in disbelief at her sick warriors lying helpless on the beds, hooked up to life support systems, faces pale and sweaty, eyes closed. For a moment she did not know what to do, until...

HARRY: Boss! <snaps her back to reality> The antidote, here! <thrusts it into her hand> Use it to save your warriors.

SALLY: What? Oh, yes, the antidote. <takes it> Thanks, Harry. <winks at him>

POMPFREY: Here, I'll give it to your friends, princess. <she takes the bottle>

HAGRID: Sure hope it's in time to revive the Rangers. <worried look on his face>

The head nurse went to work injecting the antidote into each mutant's arm as the others watched and waited for a miracle. Acorn stood in the middle of the room, eyes closed and hands in praying posture began to speak.

SALLY: Please, get well my heroes of Mobius. You must fight back against this dark magic that has struck you down, do not let it conquer you, be strong in the power of the AllSpark that brings life and magic to us all.

MCGONAGALL: Do you think she will save her warriors?

DUMBLEDORE: I certainly hope so, madame.

All of a sudden, one by one the figures on the beds began to moan, groan, to stir awake. Then their heads moved side to side and eyes fluttered, blinked then focused open at last! Everyone looked on in stunned amazement, then cheers broke out from

the assembled party of Hagrid, Dumbledore, McGonagall, Harry, Hermione, Ron, Neville, Ginny, Luna, Fox, Krystal and Ninjara as they high fived, hugged each other, jumping up and down and laughing in joy & relief and pumped fists into the air, shouting in triumph.