

A New Life
Lilly Nicholson (2022)

I'd always been different from the rest of the town. Some thought I'd gone mad. Others assumed I wasn't related to humans. I'd been born with hair that had been electrified. No hairdresser or barber was able to touch the bundle of blue hair without being zapped by a stream of electricity. I didn't know why I was the only misfit until a couple of days ago.

'Marvin are you even listening,' asked Ms Plaza, my geography teacher.

As I turned to face her, I noticed the disgusted look on all my classmates face. I tried my best to blend in, but my hair just swayed back and forth, making it impossible too.

Ms Plaza ignored me and continued the lesson. As kids beside me glanced away, an explosion blasted next to the building as the ground shook. Everyone dived out of their seats and screamed in terror. Light posts tumbled and cars crushed to the beneath the depths of a gigantic, strange object. It could have been a superhero jet, but it would've been impossible to get through space in. A staircase folded down onto the road and three strange people came from out of the jet and walked down the ramp. They appeared to look the same as a human but with green hair and one, large eye.

Piecing screams echoed around me. The sky darkened as the three mysterious people walked towards the crowd of people who had made their way towards the jet to see what the strange object appeared to be. I tumbled down the staircase and onto the oval. I looked around to see the one-eyed people standing right beside me. My brain told me to run away, but I but I was too curious to listen.

The tallest of them stepped forward and raised its hand. 'I am Aituk, leader of the Inceds. We have come seeking help. Our planet is being attacked by the Gholqieks, and if we don't return with some of your people, we will all die.'

They looked at me, waiting for an answer. I looked around, but no one seemed interested. I looked at Aituk and hoped for the best. 'No one will listen, not to you and especially not me.'

'Please, for the sake of our people, help,' Aituk said.

'Why me though, why not someone else. Trust me, I can't do anything'.

'This is what you have been waiting for your whole life, it is your destiny.

I knew only one person would be willing to help the Inceds. 'Okay, I'll help.'

‘We will prepare the ship for take-off. Only a couple of adjustments need doing and then we will be ready to go.

I went back home to gather my belongings. My dog, Honey, stood at the fence barking at me, excited for my arrival. A shot of guilt stabbed me in the ribs as I bent down to greet her. ‘It won’t be for long girl. Soon, I will be travelling through galaxies to go to save the Inceds planet.’

I grabbed a bag and started to shove what I needed for the journey in there. I swung it over my shoulder and grabbed a pen and paper. ‘What do you think, girl, nice and short? Yeah, I agree.’ I scribbled down a note and put it on the kitchen bench.

Dear mum and dad.

I am off to battle the Gholquieks on the Inceds planet. Don't worry about me, I'll be OK. Thank you for being such great parents over the years. I hope I'll see you again someday.

Love Marwin.

I showed Honey the note and she barked her approval. I gave her one last hug and made my way to the ship. Everyone had started to settle down again. I walked towards the ship when Aituk came to me.

‘We are ready for take-off,’ he said.

I made my way inside the ship. The ground shook as we took off. I looked down at my hometown and hoped it wouldn’t be the last time I saw it.

‘It is time to start your training,’ said Aituk as I followed him into a room full of training equipment. I worked hard both day and night until I finished. I walked around the spaceship and saw Aituk playing rock, paper, scissors with the others. I sat down next to them.

‘Hey Aituk, how long does it take to get to your planet?’ I asked.

‘About a normal earth day or two,’ he replied without looking at me.

We landed at the Inceds planet and battles were being fought as far as I could see. Fires had surrounded the whole planet and scrap pieces of junk laid everywhere. As I stepped from the ship, I was handed a sword and shield. I shivered as I looked around. *I’m just a kid*, I thought. I’m too young to die. I took a deep breath and walked out into the battlefield.

Bodies of the Inceds were everywhere. Anger burned inside me. How could anyone do this. Most of the Inceds looked like Aituk, while the Gholqieks had charcoal bodies with red eyes and fangs that could piece amour, skin, and bone.

I marched towards a smaller Gholqieks and swung my sword at its head. The cut was small. It would take a lot more to kill one of these creatures. A couple more swings did the job. One Gholqiek down and about five hundred to go. As I moved towards another Gholqiek, a scream echoed in the distance. Aituk collapsed onto the ground. The Gholqiek above him smiled. It swung its sword and stabbed him right through the chest. Tears rolled down my cheek as I watched.

Anger surged through me. I sprinted towards the Gholqiek and chopped it in two. No Gholqiek would survive this day. I lifted from the ground and moved above everyone. It was time. I blasted back down and hit the rest of the Gholqieks. One by one, they fell to the ground in single punches, and, in a couple of minutes, they were destroyed.

I landed on the ground, out of breath. I had never used so much energy in my life. I moved towards Aituk. He was the only one who understood me. No one on earth understood me. I didn't fit in, and I couldn't do anything. Tears flooded down my face. I didn't want to go back to Earth. I wanted to live on the Inceds planet. They were the only people who were like me.

The Inceds came towards me and gathered around Aituk.

I stepped forward and made a speech for the death of Aituk. An Inced stepped forward and spoke to me. 'My name is Sulana. I was Aituk's best friend. You were a friend of his too. We have a choice to offer you, you could return to your home planet or, come live with us.'

Words squirmed inside my head, as I thought about my answer. 'Your planet, please,' I replied.

'Then your mind is made up,' she said. 'You shall live with us.'

Finally, after all these years of hard work, I would fit in for the first time in my life. We walked away from the others, discussing what to do next, waiting for whatever obstacles we had to tackle next.