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Another Place, Another Time

If there was an answer, it was there. In the place where Dr. Nefario has his guards on watch through the day and night. If the people of Moonland even dare to glance in its direction, they were to be punished. I was always the one to question the existence of things and wonder how we've gotten to where we are now, I guess that's what led me to finding the truth. I plan to create writings about what I find so future generations will know the truth of what happened. If you are reading this, congratulations, you made it to the future. However, for me to continue this tale of my adventure, I must let you in on a little back story... brace yourself.

My name is Jace. I am 13 years old and I live in Moonland. Ever since I was a young boy, I have been friends with William, Maxwell, and Olivia, and since then, we have all called ourselves the Seekers. We seek a better life, something fun to do, but most importantly, we seek answers.

Answers as to why Moonland became how it is. Moonland had become the biggest city on this planet, there are approximately 9 million citizens and counting. We are all living under the rule of the wicked Dr. Nefario. He has a rat head with the body of Humpty Dumpty and always walks with a cane, which, believe it or not, is the best description of Dr. Nefario I can give you. He is ruthless, mean and incredibly unforgiving, but to the eye, he's this old man who's been ruling Moondland since he was 18. The Seekers and I have never trusted him, he's been hiding some sort of truth to our past. Here is what we know about the past: there was this thing called an iPhone and that's it. The knowledge of this so called "iPhone" came to us from Olivia's father, who works in a factory that disposes of "all things unnecessary". Olivia's father brought home an iPhone with her name inscribed on it, which Olivia then brought to us, the seekers, to investigate.





Now that you are all caught up, the knowledge of the iPhone is how we all got to where we are now. The iPhone sits in the bunker that is underneath my house, which is the only place we dare look at it. This “iPhone” was beaten up, cracked, and chipped so badly that it was useless to us. But then, it was Maxwell’s idea to open this iPhone up like it was some sort of treasure box. Maxwell has the brains in the Seekers, he can multiply and divide any number as easy as blinking. What he found inside was an itty-bitty note which read, “Follow the tracks.” With that, we made our plan. At this time, we did not know if the iPhone or the message inside had anything to do with the land beyond the tracks, but it was something, right?

William was born selfless, so he was the first to come up and help with the diversions, tactics, and overall plan. We knew Dr. Nefario kept guards watching the tracks to the land beyond every single hour of the day. That was the first puzzle to crack, William thought it would best to split off into groups of two, so we did. Olivia and I came up with the plan to distract the guards while William and Maxwell created our “getaway car.” And what can I say, the plans worked perfectly, except for one hiccup along the way. We took off after nightfall, alongside the river to the tracks, carefully dodging the blinding searchlights that would paralyze you instantly if you were to be seen in them. Olivia led the Seekers, like she always does, fearless as always. The plan of distraction was bulletproof, I went off ahead of the group to throw a handle of rocks into the river to catch Dr. Nefario’s security men guard for one second. It worked. They went to investigate the sudden sound which gave us just enough time to put the contraption that Max and Will made onto the tracks for taking off. We all jumped aboard and off we went into the unknown. The guards, who now realized they had been fooled, sounded the alarms, but we were too far to hear or care.

It seemed like we were on the tracks for years, at moments the wind would die down and someone would have to get out and push to keep us moving forward, it was a long haul, but we all knew it would be worth it. Once the fog began to clear, my heart started jumping out of my chest. I thought inside my head that this is the moment, this is when I find out the truth, the moment I've wondered about since I was a baby was finally happening before my eyes. In an instant, the fog was cleared but no one could see anything, it was blacker than the night. I remembered stepping off and feeling something hard under my feet. It was not mud or grass that we were used to walking on in Moonland, no, this was something hard almost as if we were stepping on the moon itself. Luckily, Olivia brought along her lantern for light so we could see about 4 feet in front of us. With the lantern in one hand and the iPhone in the other, we went in search of clues.



We didn't split up this time because we only brought one source of light, but it was because none of us wanted to leave each other's side. So, we walked in a huddle, searching, whispering, and questioning together as a team. Until we hit it. The tallest building, I have ever seen in my whole life. I remember Maxwell saying, "It's not too late to head back now guys, I bet Dr. Nefario will be somewhat understanding." But we all knew he was lying, we were too far in this adventure to turn back now, not when the truth could be right in front of our eyes. We walked around the building searching for the entrance but there wasn't a door or any windows. Near the backside, I saw something unusual, a little space in the building, almost like a hole. "Put the iPhone thingy in there Jace," Olivia said. So, I did, and the iPhone emerged into the building as if the whole thing was just an illusion. Then we fell. It was as if we were defying gravity, the ground beneath us disappeared and we fell inside it till we hit the bottom. In an instant, we were all up and looking around us. We didn't need the lantern anymore; this place had blinding lights hanging from the ceiling as if they formed a straight line of arrows pointing in our direction. We ran to the end of the hallway and what we saw was indescribable.

Millions of billions of iPhone things, giant boxes with what looked like a screen on them, one's with little letters and numbers attached, what looked like a normal watch but it also had a baby screen on it, and so much more that I don't even know how to describe. But the one that brought the most attention to our eyes was a 292-inch (at least that's how big Maxwell said it was) screen thing with what looked to be a clicker next to it. I picked the clicker object up in my hands and in that instant, I heard the thumping of Dr. Nefario's wooden, crooked, cane tapping down the hallway. "You do not know the horrors that you young kids will see if you decide to go on with this," he called out to us. I didn't believe his lies, none of us did. I looked at the Seekers and they

nodded their heads, so I pressed every single button on that clicker till the screen in front of us turned white. In a sudden instance, an image of a half-eaten apple appeared, and a voice that said, "Stay hungry, stay foolish." I looked behind me and Dr. Nefario left as fast as he came, and I knew the truth was about to be set free.

