

# A Mighty Adventure

*by Karina Iafanti-Larouche*

It was November 27<sup>th</sup> 2103. Billy was walking home from university when rain began to pour.

He reluctantly pulled out his floating metal platform and used it as protection against the acid substance.

“What a day,” he thought to himself while jogging to his porch. As he entered his apartment, his friend and roommate Joey greeted him.

“Tough day?” Joey asked with a mocking tone as he saw Billy's depressed expression.

“Yeah. Wanna go for a ride? I could use the fresh air.”

Moments later, Billy and Joey embarked in a spaceship, leaving for outer space. Since 2087, domes filled with fresh air were installed on the perimeter of the atmosphere because the air on Earth was lacking in oxygen.

As they entered the dome, the two friends inhaled deeply, relieved by the purity of the air in their lungs. The dome resembled a cafe: it had seats here and there as well as a counter where you could order a snack. The whole thing was made of glass so visitors could look at the stars or down at Earth. As he observed the stars, Billy wondered what laid beyond what he could see.

“I have a crazy idea,” he whispered to Joey. “Let's leave...let's explore the universe!”

Joey looked at him blankly. “That *is* a crazy idea,” he replied. “But I'm in.”

They raced to the spaceship, adrenaline pumping through their veins. Going further out than the domes was totally forbidden since there were meteor showers around the planet.

Less than an hour later, Billy and Joey were riding in space. It was the adventure of a lifetime and they were enjoying every second of it...until a meteor hit the ship. The two friends saw a cloud of smoke and they panicked, but not for long. After

the collision, the ship began to swirl and twirl and Joey, who was in control of the ship, flew off his seat and into the side of the vehicle, followed by Billy. They both fell unconscious.

Billy woke up first. He slowly lifted his throbbing head off the ground and glanced at his surroundings. He gasped. The view was breathtaking. On his left there was a desert. Sand covered the ground and the only greenery for miles was a cactus. On his right there were glaciers and ice for as far as the eye can see. These two magnificent scenes were separated by a thin strip of grass, which wasn't larger than Billy's shoe.

After taking in the view, Billy checked on Joey, who was lying motionless at his side. Billy shook him a few times and he woke up moaning, to Billy's relief. The two friends began to worry.

“What should we do now?” Joey asked. “I'm hungry.”

“We can't stay here,” Billy answered. “We'll die of thirst and hunger. We should leave the ship for now and start walking.”

Billy and Joey walked along the grass strip until a sound broke the silence. Seconds later, a net fell on their heads, trapping them. Then, strange-looking creatures began to surround them. They were tall and they were covered with bright purple scales.

“They look like a combination of fish and dragon,” Billy thought to himself.

The creatures also had odd weapons. Some of them had a glowing sword, similar to the ones in "Star Wars".

“Your species is unfamiliar to us, too,” Billy heard in his mind.

“Mind readers?!?” he yelled, looking at Joey.

“Yes,” the unspoken voice answered. “We wanted to eat you, but we now realize that you might be of use to us. You are now confronted with a decision: you become our meal or you join our army and fight the Blioo, the people of the desert.”

Billy was stunned. “How will I get out of this one?” he thought

“You make a decision,” said the voice.

“Oh, that's right! They're psychic!” Billy fumed. Right that second, he realized that the only way to outsmart these things was impulse.

Billy shouted.

The creatures were taken by surprise. Billy used that advantage to grab a creature's sword by passing his hand through the net. He sliced the net open and screamed: “Run, Joey!”

Then, Billy heard a "thump". He turned around and saw that Joey had tripped and fell. When he heard him yell in pain, Billy knew that it was too late for his roommate: the creatures had gotten to him. He reached the ship and tried to start the engine. It was no use, the ship was entirely destroyed.

The creatures were getting closer. Panicked, Billy stopped what he was doing and looked for a way to escape. Then, he saw some of the purple creatures were collapsing. Confused, he looked at the group of monsters and saw that there were green ones that had joined the mob.

A battle was taking place. Billy regained hope. He joined the green creatures and fought by their side. Eventually, the remaining purple creatures fled, afraid to suffer the same fate as the others.

“We are the Blioo,” a green creature said. “The people of ice are our rivals. We would pay you back for your assistance by fixing your ship but, sadly, we don't have the required knowledge or technology to do so. Therefore, we would like for you to live amongst us.”

Billy chose to stay with these peculiar beings. He slowly learnt how to survive in a desert and lived a happy life.

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