

future changes

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three years in the future and Dib notices a change in Zim. He goes to investigate and finds out the truth or rather the lie behind his mission. Now Zims just trying to get by but it seems fate has delt him a losing hand when his base gets destroyed. Zi

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1 - strange behavior

ch.1

Dib walked to school as usual with Gaz even though they were in high school now that hadn't changed. Dib was now 15 and 5 feet and 8 inches tall. In this delicate age he had often wondered if the world was worth saving but luckily for the human race his hormones also gave him a short temper for Zim's antics. Dib had also learned to keep his para-normal rants to himself as he knew his classmates thought he was crazy anyway. He still talked to Gaz about it though not that she was interested.

Gaz was 14 now and stood 5 feet 5 inches tall. She still enjoyed playing video games but she now had other interests as well such as acting in school plays usually ones that ended in tragedy. Hormones once again took its toll as she tended to show more interest in others not enough to make them think she cared but enough to carry out a small and usually sarcastic conversation.

Dib glanced up at the school from a distance and saw Zim sitting on the steps writing something in a notebook. "What's he up to, Gaz?" Dib asked knowing his sister wouldn't respond "he's missed an entire week of school so it must be something big".

Dib slowly approached Zim who didn't seem to notice he was there. "What are you up to now, Zim?" Dib asked suspiciously, Zim looked up, the usual irritated look on his face quickly faded as he sighed "if you must know I'm catching up on some homework" he said rising from his seat and calmly walking into the building. Dib was slightly stunned at Zim's response he had prepared himself for threats and namecalling but not this, even Gaz who had been watching was somewhat surprised at what had happened.

Zim had noticed early on that his classmates began to grow and in order to shake off any suspicions he had been taking human growth pills. True it had caused him much pain at first but in time that had gone away and he now stood 5 feet 6 inches tall. In addition to causing him to grow it had also gave him an immunity to the harmful effects of water. Zim had learned much about earth but still all his attempts at conquering it failed due to Dib's interference.

Inside Dib quickly rushed to class but he could only think of his earlier encounter with Zim 'this must be some kind of trick' Dib thought to himself. "Dib" the teacher yelled from the front of the room "you're wanted in the office" Dib detached himself from his thoughts and exited the room. Once in the office he approached the secretary who recognized him being there many times before due to his and Zim's fighting. She glanced up and handed him the phone "it's for you" she said "make it quick".

"Hello" Dib said putting his ear to the phone

"Hello there son" his dad quickly answered "I need you to stay after school during your sister's play rehearsals"

"But you said you were going to" Dib said obviously annoyed "besides I'm busy"

"i know son but something very important has just come up so i'll need you to tape it for me....have a nice day" with that said he hung up. Dib sighed it wasn't that he didn't want to watch Gaz rehearse cause she was actually really good not to mention it was the only time he saw her express any emotion, it was just that he was more interested in discovering Zim's next plan at the time.

'speaking of Zim' dib thought to himself looking up to see him exiting the counselor's office. In his hand was a sheet of paper "these are your new classes" the counselor said coming out from behind him "and if you ever need to talk i'm always here". she then looked up at dib she knew him rather well considering he was often sent there, her smile somewhat faded.

"what are you doing here " Dib asked confronting Zim.

Zim turned around "uh...i.." suddenly the counselor intervened

"this young man just switched some of his classes around" she said and zim nodded.

"i see" dib said curiously searching Zim's face for the his emotion. Zim seemed kinda ashamed as he lowered his head slightly and exited the room.

"you'd better get to class Dib' the counselor said

"ok" Dib answered "i'll probably see you later". her eyes rolled as she sighed "you probably will"

At lunch Dib walked in and sat by his sister as he always did, she was reading over her script and nibbling on some food when Dib remembered his conversation with their dad earlier.

"dads not gonna make it this evening Gaz" Dib said "he wants me to tape it though".

Gaz shrugged and growled slightly

"what else is new" she said "just don't embarrass me".

At this moment Zim walked in he took his usual seat by himself and moved his food around with his fork. He then walked up to the bulletin board of activities and afterschool events, took off a sheet of paper, stared at it, then folded it up, and put it in his pocket. he walked back to his seat and continued playing with his food.

"something strange is going on with Zim" he said to Gaz "i'm going to get to the bottom of this". Dib stood up and walked over towards Zim before Gaz could respond

"that's it Zim, i'm onto you" he said loudly. Zim looked up at him irritated

"i have no idea what you're talking about Dib human and i'm not in the mood" he then redirected his attention back to his food.

"yeah right Zim" dib continued "you're not fooling me alien scum" he said knocking over his tray. Zim stood up quickly making his seat fall over and slamming his hands on the table

"that's it dib" he said "i'm through, i don't care about this filthy planet anymore.... you can have it" he then walked angrily out the door. Dib was stunned at Zim's outburst as Gaz approached him from behind

"gee Dib what's your problem" she asked "why can't you just back off.....i don't think he's trying to destroy the earth anymore".

"and how would you know" Dib asked turning around

"because he told me" she said bluntly

"what" dib said "when"

"he's in my computer class now" she said "not that it's any of your business"

"he's probably trying to trick you,Gaz" Dib said "you can't trust him"

"i'm not stupid Dib" she said angry "your just mad cause your little friend doesn't want to play your stupid game anymore"

"this isn't a game this is the world "he said "and we're not friends" Gaz had already began to ignore him and walked away.

2 - discovery

ch.2

After school Dib walked into the auditorium to watch Gaz's rehearsal "can't you see i love him" gaz said to the male actor, she was able to whip up some tears in her eyes and Dib watched in amazement as she cried "why can't you understand" she pleaded "just give Zim a chance". Dib shot up "what" he said loudly both of them looked back but continued "i can't give him that" the male actor said staring back at dib (his acting clearly not as good). Gaz shot Dib an angry look as the director yelled cut 'did i imagine that' Dib thought to himself. He quickly rewound the tape to find out he had.

"i'm losing my mind" dib said to himself. Feeling awkward and ashamed he walked out into the hall for a drink of water once out there he observed Zim walking into the gym. "lets just see what he's up to" Dib said to himself walking behind him and sneaking into the gym. Inside he hid behind the bleachers and watched as Zim stood in a line with other kids. a coach paced back and forth looking at them "you're all here because you want to play basketball" he said "but some of you will not have the skills required to do so".

"who here has never played" he asked. Zim raised his hand and everyone looked at him "you mean you've never played before" the coach asked again

"well..no..but. "Zim suddenly regained his confidence "but there is nothing Zim cannot do"

"well then lets see what you've got" the coach said passing Zim a ball. Zim looked at it for a moment confused then the coach sighed "throw it in the basket kid" he told him. Zim looked up "oh i see" he said finally understanding. he nervously rotated the ball in his small hands at the three point line and exhaling deeply threw the ball. Dib's eyes followed it to the hoop "nothing but net" he then looked back at zim who had closed his eyes everyone clapped and he opened them.

"yes Zim is amazing" he said victoriously

"this is your first time" the coach questioned looking at Zim in disbelief "do it again" the coach asked. Zim shot the ball over and over again and made every shot with ease.

Dib's mouth almost dropped as did everyone else's and Zim smiled like he hadn't done since the last time he thought he took over the world. Dib was confused, could Gaz be right.....he certainly couldn't find out the plan behind joining the basketball team. "everyone did very well" the coach said after tryouts "tomorrow i will post the names of those who made it on the bulletin board, but for now go home". Just then the door opened and Gaz walked in, Zim turned around and slowly approached her, Dib watched and listened intently.

"hay" Zim said somewhat confused but pleasantly surprised to see her "whats going on".

"i was just looking for Dib, he disappeared and i thought he might be bothering you again" she said

"i haven't seen dib since lunch" he said briefly remembering his outburst

"what exactly is going on" Gaz asked changing the subject "i mean what now"

"i'm not sure" Zim said his eyes turned to the now empty gym "all i know is i'm stuck here,i don't have anywhere else to go" he then looked down to the ground then back up to Gaz "i'm not sure why i'm telling you all this"

"i'm kinda surprized too" Gaz said "but i'm sure once you get on the basketball team you'll forget all about your unpopular friends" she said sarcastically putting her hand on her head and obviously pretending to weep.Zim stared at her for a moment

"you, friends with Zim" he said then smiled slightly

"well sure"she said"why not"

"i'm not sure i know how " Zim said honestly

"same here"Gaz said "but i dont think it matters"

"nothing really matters" Zim said seeming slightly depressed but non the less smiling still "but atleast you make more since than Gir"

"hay" gaz said "do you wanna come over my house and play some video games"

"i ...uh...,i dont think your brother would like it" Zim said

"all the more reason to come over" she smirked. Zim laughed a little then nodded "fine"

They walked out of the gym and Dib crawled out from under the bleachers.he was stunned at all he had to take in 'could Zim really have changed and was he and his sister now friends'.Dib decided that while they went to his house he would go to Zims.He was confident if Zim tried anything his sister would be able to stop him but he still felt uneasy about it.

Dib slowly approached Zims house and to his surprize the gnomes did not shoot infact they didn't even move as he walked up to the door and opened it.dib catiously walked in but no alarms went off and no lasers fired.Gir skipped merrily into the room and squealed with joy at seeing Dib "i missed you big headed boy" Gir said hugging Dibs leg

"uh...yeah" Dlb said "you too".he then shook gir off watching him happily run into the living room wall over and over again.Dib then walked to the elevator trash can and got in,it was a tighter fit than he remembered.It was fairly easy to get down into the base but once he was there he wasn't sure what to do.

"who's there"the computer questioned as dib walked into the lab

"uh...it's me Dib" he answered not really thinking "its ok though....Zim said i could come"

"fine"the computer said sounding uninterested

"excuse me" dib said "by any chance could you tell me whats been going on with Zim lately"

"sure,why not" the computer answered and began to tell Dib what had happened

"it was a little over a week ago when Zim recieved the message from the tallest they told him his mission was a lie and they had exspected him to die..... they also told him he was not to return to Irk and if he did or tried to contact them again that he would be eliminated.....i believe they were also threatened by Zims increased hieght".Dib listened carefully as the computer continued

"Zim was devistated by the news and spent the remainder of the week in exile and depression.....he had shut down all security in the hopes you would come to have a finale battle with him one that would result in his death....but you didn't".

"well i was kinda busy"Dib said

"besides how was i to know what was happening...it's not like Zim hasn't gone into hiding before".

"i'm trying to tell a story here" the computer said sounding irritated at Dibs interuption

"oh sorry, continue" Dib urged

"Zim soon became far to angry at the tallest for decieving him and ultimately realized dieing would only give them more pleasure....but having nowhere to go he decided to stay here and adjust to human living as best as he could...i guess he forgot to turn security back on" the computer paused "thats pretty much it" he said.

"has he really given up on destroying the world"dib said to himself.Gir walked into the room carrying some muffins "it sure looks that way" he said handing one to dib.Dib took it and stared back at Gir who was shoving them into his mouth.'maybe Gaz was right' Dib thought to himself 'maybe i just wanted to play the hero'.

Gir tugged at dibs pant leg "are you gonna eat that muffin"he asked

"uh..no...you can have it"he said as Gir snatched it from him and walked away.

"i guess i'll go then" Dib said with a sigh

3 - adjustments

chapter 3

Dib had spent most of his time that day at the park trying to clear his head before he went home and also hoping Zim had gone home by now as well. Even if Zim had given up on destroying the world it didn't mean Dib had to like him or that he was any less evil. It was almost nine before Dib walked back to his house but as he neared it he heard Zim's evil laughter

"bow down before Zim" he could hear in the house

"i knew it" dib said running inside. But once he opened the door he realized the reality of the situation. there stood Zim and gaz, Zim holding a controller in one hand and a smile on his face. The screen in front of them displayed the words "game over player one" on gaz's side

"victory for Zim" he chanted.

Gaz could see the old spark of energy Zim had returned but she quickly pushed him aside "it's not that impressive" she said "we've been playing all day and this is your first and only victory".

"let me assure you human there will be many a victory for Zim" he said. Gaz gave him a slight smile as she cocked her head mockingly

"oh really" she said "then let's just see about that" she then pushed reset and began playing again.

"you've been playing all day" Dib asked from the door and both gaz and zim glanced over at him briefly

"yeah...so" gaz said. Zim now slightly nervous watched Dib from the corner of his eyes

"what about dinner" Dib asked ignoring Zim's stare "have you eaten anything"

"yeah sure whatever" Gaz said giving him the obvious hint she wanted to be left alone

Dib walked into the kitchen without a word and made himself a sandwich he then made his way upstairs into his room slightly disturbed at that sight of Zim in his house.

"remember Gaz there's school in the morning so don't stay up too late" Dib said from the top of the stairs Gaz just shrugged

"ha" she said "i win" she looked over to Zim who smiled at her

"what's that for" she questioned "you do realize i beat you, right"

"yeah" Zim said turning his head and smiling some more "i was just thinking" he said

"yeah" Gaz asked curious "what about"

"Dib really cares about you, ya know" Zim said

Gaz shrugged again "i guess so...whats your point"

"it must be really hard for him to see you hanging out with me" Zim continued "but he didn't say anything about when he walked in"

"wait a minute" gaz said "you're right..he didn't even act surprized....he's up to something"

Zim smile widened slightly "i am unfamiliar with sibling relationships" he said "but you sounded much like the dib human just then"

Gaz gave him an angry glance "like i care" she said "i'm only interested in winning"she then pushed start again on the game.they played for hours more untill it was 2 in the morning and Zim noticed Gaz was nodding off

"maybe we should stop" he said "dont you need to sleep"

"don't you" she asked

"not really" he said "i could sleep but i dont require it"

"lucky you" she said yawning Zim stood up and made his way towards the door "i'll see you at school Gaz" he said

"ok" she said "later then".

Gaz walked up stairs towards her room she stopped in front of dibs half opened door and looked inside. there Dib layed asleep on the floor his head near the door as if he had been listening in on thier conversation.Gaz felt slightly angry untill what Zim had said earlier played back in her mind "it must be real hard for him to see you hanging out with me" she then lowered her fist and put his covers on him "thanks for not ruining it Dib" she said before exiting to her room.

Later that morning Dib got up for school, he had realized that even though he no longer needed to chase Zim it didn't mean he couldn't still keep an eye on him(especially if he was going to hang out with Gaz).Dib sat at the table reading a newspaper as Gaz drug herself down the stairs for breakfast. it was obvious she was tired and as usual not in a good mood but Dib still made the effort to smile at her and be polite "good morning Gaz" he said. Gaz raised an eyebrow at him

"no really" he said "isn't it nice"

"whatever" she said making herself some cereal when prof. membranes monitoring screen floated in

"good morning,children" their father said "sorry i wasn't home last night but the time for catching up is now"

"I had a friend over last night" Gaz said attempting conversation with her father then she became slightly angry "and oh yeah you missed my first rehearsal"

"it's nice to hear you've made a friend, daughter" he said "what about you son, make it quick ,i am a very busy"

"nothing" dib said looking back to his newspaper

"are you sure" his dad asked "perhaps you'd like to rant about your foriegn friend for a few minutes"

"no" dib said simply "i'd rather not distract you from your work".

Gaz stared over in Dibs direction she could tell he was making an effort to be rude and she quiet enjoyed it.Dib then stood up and walked towards the door "are you coming Gaz" he said looking back at her.Gaz stood up without a word and walked out the door in front of him.The walk to school was very quiet until Dib began to talk"so you and Zim are friends now" he asked

"is that a problem"she asked not really caring what his answer would be

"no" dib said quickly "just wondering"

Dib had expected to see Zim outside of school but he wasn't there "wonder where Zim is" Dib said out loud realizing imediately that he was probably checking the basketball line up.Gaz knew too but rather than say anything she made her way to the cafeteria.once they entered they saw that nearly everyone there had gathered around the board but in all the noise they still managed to hear Zim "get out of my way.....move.....let me see".

He then was pushed out of the crowd and landed near thier feet with a loud thud. Zim growled, rubbed his back, and was just about to curse them when Dib reached out his hand reluctantly to help him up.Zim looked up at him confused but grabbed his hand anyway and regained his posture.Gaz had to admit that her brother was trying.

"did you make it" Gaz said trying to end the awkwardness of what had just happened

"I couldn't see" he said frustrated suddenly begining to mumble under his breath

"let me show you how it's done" Gaz said as she walked over to the crowd she took out a small tazer.She then in one swoop instantly shocked everyone

"move" she said loudly and everyone whimpered and backed away from the board.

Dib was kinda frightened at the fact that his sister had been carrying that but Zim was impressed"wow....very good" he said walking up to the board and looking at the list.

His hand then slowly fell to his side and they were sure he hadn't made it.Gaz was about to put her hand on his shoulder when he began to shake slightly and she paused.He then shot around rapidly and raised

his arms in victory "zim is number 1" he yelled. Gaz and Dib jumped back in surprize then Gaz punched Zim hard on the shoulder. Zim rubbed his aching shoulder but his smile remained. Before anyone could say anything else the bell rang.

4 - thing could be worse

chapter 4

Dib was somewhat surprised later to find out Zim was in his 2nd period science class and by the look on Zims face so was he. He didn't sit beside Dib but that was for the best considering he wasn't sure where they stood now.

Zim took a desk a few seats away and shot dib a slight smile. The class was pretty boring and like the rest of the students Zim half listened to the teachers lecture when his pak began to beep and flash. Zim stood up

"excuse me..teacher" he said panicked "i have to go" with that he dashed out the room.

Dib sat there for moment confused

"i need to go to" he said as he ran out after him.

The teacher just sighed and looked back to the class "as i was saying...blah blah blah."

Once Dib exited the room he could see Zim on down the hall talking into a screen he assumed came out of his pak. "don't do anything till i get there Gir"he said

"what's wrong" Dib asked coming up to Zim from behind. Zim turned around swiftly and aggressively pushed him against the lockers

"what did you Dib" Zim demanded

Dib pushed him away "i don't know what you're talking about"

"Don't lie to me dib monster" he said angrily "Gir said you were in my base yetserday...so tell me what you did"

"yes, i was" Dib said "But i didn't touch anything"

"i don't have time for this" Zim said "i have to get home". with that he took off down the hall and out the doors.

Something was going on and despite the voice in Dibs head that told him to just let Zim handle it there was an even louder voice saying 'you'd beter go help him pinhead' actually it sounded alot like Gaz.

Dib ran all the way to Zims house where in his rush Zim had forgotten to close the door not that it matter as the security was still down outside. Inside all the alarms were going off and Dib quickly made his way down below. Once there he saw Zim frantically pushing buttons on his computer

"this place will self destruct in one minute"the computer said

"Gir where are you" Zim screamed "i can't stop it". Dib gasped and grabbed Zims arm

"lets get out of here" Dib yelled jerking Zim away from the computer

"what are you doing here"Zim asked

"30 seconds til total destruction" the computer said

"never mind that" Dib said "lets run"

they both screamed and started running up into the house and out the door.they stopped, breathing heavily once they reached the street

"wait, where's Gir" Zim said glancing around "he isn't still.."before he could finish the house exploded and the force of the blow pushed he and Dib farther out into the street.

Zim stood up and looked at the giant hole where his house once stood.Dib could see the look of sadness fill his face.

Dib picked himself off the ground "i didn't do it,Zim" he said slowly

"i know" Zim said suddenly making a fist and letting his sadness turn to anger "it was the tallest...it wasn't enough for them to take away my pride they had to try to destroy me too"

Zim's voice softened "but Gir" he said lowering his fist "he..he's..."Zim fell to his knees and covered his face.Dib was sure Zim was about to cry when a voice from behind said

"awe...don't be sad master"

Zim looked quickly behind him and there stood Gir in his dog costume

"Gir" Zim said surprized,relieved, and happy "you're ok...but what happened back there i thought you were in the house "

"oh, i was busy talking to that squirrel over there"Gir said

"never mind that Gir" Zim said hearing sirens approaching "we'll be leaving soon"

"okie dokie" Gir said

"wait,where will you go" Dib asked

"you need not worry about Zim" he said faking confidence "we are survivors,right Gir"

"oh no master" Gir said "our house is gone.....but my moose was in there" he squealed crying "why my moose....whhhyyyyy"

Zim shook his head at Gir "for now i will go back to school and i guess Gir will have to stay in the park"

"yah" Gir said "i like the park"

"good" Zim said "we'll probably be there for awhile"

Dib wasn't sure what to do and so they stood for awhile in silence by now the police and firemen had

arrived but Zim and Dib were far enough away to look as merely spectators. Shortly after the authorities left finding no evidence that anyone lived there especially an alien Zim and Dib quietly walked back to school leaving Gir at the park.

It was lunch time by then and they walked into the cafeteria together which caused several people to glance up at them. Dib walked over to where his sister was sitting but Zim went and sat at an empty table.

"What's going on?" she immediately asked when he sat down

"Nothing" he said trying to avoid eye contact

"Don't play dumb Dib" Gaz said "even if you are really good at it I know something's up"

"What do you mean?" Dib asked still not looking up at her

"Oh come on, how dumb do you think I am?" Gaz said irritated "Zim wasn't in computer class and both of you are late for lunch"

Dib sighed "fine" he said "I'll tell you". and he did from the point Zim left class up to that very moment which was kinda of annoying but Gaz overlooked it.

"He can't just stay in the park" Gaz finally said

"Well he is" Dib stated

"Maybe he could stay with us" Gaz suggested

"What are you crazy?" Dib said "inviting him over once in awhile is bad enough but he can't live with us besides what would dad say and..."

"Yeah yeah I know" she said "it was just a thought". Gaz quickly took her tray and left, Dib picked his up and followed her reluctantly over to Zim's table. When she sat down her tray Zim looked up at her and then to Dib. He was confused but figured Dib had told her what happened. Gaz and Dib sat there for awhile in silence and Zim watched them pick at their food

"Do you want to come over tonight and play video games again?" Gaz asked Zim "if we play real late maybe you could just spend the night". Gaz was trying not to sound like she was doing him a favor she knew how angry it made her to be treated like charity "maybe you could bring Gir" she added "you'd really be doing me a favor by improving my skills"

Zim smiled slightly

"I guess I could do you a favor" he said "Zim will come"

"Oh yeah" Gaz said "I'm having rehearsals this evening so I might be awhile"

"That's ok" Zim said "I have basketball practice" He smiled more at hearing himself say this cause it made him feel important

"yeah" Dib said "i guess i'll just go home and watch tv".He wasn't exactly thrilled at the invitation Gaz had given Zim but what could he do about it.Zim didn't want to destroy the world anymore and without a base even if he wanted to he couldn't.A touch of sympathy rose in dib but how could he forget the years of torture and fighting he and zim had gone through. 'things could be worse' dib thought 'things could be worse'

5 - compromises

chapter 5

weeks went by and it became very rare when Zim didn't spend the night. Gaz seemed just as happy as ever and had even gotten a new moose toy. Zim was content despite being homeless, he was a highly valued member of the basketball team.

Gaz's rehearsals had gone well and her play was to be performed the upcoming Friday, their dad had even promised to come. Dib was doing very well at tolerating Zim but hadn't put a big effort into becoming friends with him. Gaz and Zim however had gotten to be pretty close and the three of them regularly had lunch together though few words were exchanged.

It was the day before Gaz's play and Zim confronted Dib after school was over during Gaz's final rehearsal

"I need to talk with you Dib human" Zim said

"ok" Dib said curiously "what is it"

"the basketball team's big game is coming up" He said

"what are you nervous" Dib asked with a smirk "is the pressure getting to you"

"of course not stink-beast" Zim said agitated "it's just that it's tomorrow night"

"wait" Dib said suddenly seeming more aware "Gaz's play,.....didn't you promise to be there"

"yeah" Zim said sighing

"it shouldn't be a big problem" Dib said "Gaz is pretty good about these things"

At that moment Gaz burst out of the school

"I can't believe dad" she said "he just called to tell me he's not going to make it tomorrow"

"he does this all the time" Dib said "you know you can't count on him"

"I'm just sick and tired of broken promises" she said "I'm going home"

Dib looked over to Zim when Gaz was out of sight "now you have a problem" he said

Suddenly the coach walked out

"there's my star player" he said "rest up for the game tomorrow we're all counting on you to bring us victory". the coach then smiled and walked out to his car. Dib could tell this was real important to him.

"you don't know what it's like to feel needed like that again" Zim said to Dib "I can't let my team down". Zim sighed and sat down on the steps.

"well when does your game start" Dib asked

" 6:30" Zim answered

"well that gives you half an hour before the play maybe you can catch the ending" Dib suggested

"maybe" Zim said "i guess we'll have to wait and see"

Zim didn't stay over that day and Dib could tell the next morning that it had been a very long night for Him. Dib didn't ask Zim about his decision and Zim didn't discuss it with him that day. Lunch was very quiet, Zim and Dib gave each other occasional glances and Gaz kept rereading her script to herself. Later that day after school Zim rushed to the park where Gir was.

"where's my uniform Gir" zim asked quickly

"here you go master" Gir said handing him his jersey and shorts from under the pile of sand he had made

Zim dusted it off quickly "ok Gir you are to go to the school and monitor Gaz's play" Zim said "these special sun glasses i had in my pak will allow me to see what you see" he explained
Gir looked up at him "i'm gonna eat some popcorn" he squealed

"yeah, sure" Zim said slightly ignoring him "just hurry up, once you get there sit with Dib he should keep an eye on you"

With that Zim rushed down the street to the opposing team's school. Once inside the Gym he put on his dirty jersey and shorts and sat down on the bench with the rest of his team. The coach was prepping them for the game "each of you have been given an opportunity for greatness today" he said "some of you will seize this opportunity and others will fail but the important thing is that we win". The coach then looked over to Zim and winked
"right kid" the coach said

"yeah" Zim answered unsure of himself "what could be more important"

"that's right" the coach said "lets get out there and win"
everyone ran out onto the court, Zim was to jump for his team. The whistle blew and they were off. Zim always played hard but this time he kicked it into over drive making basket after basket. Back at his own school the play was going to start in 15 mins. Gir walked happily into the auditorium with a large bag of buttered popcorn and immediately noticing Dib near the back row skipped over and sat down beside him. Dib looked over confused "uh.... hey Gir, where's Zim"

"oh master went to go play" Gir said "wants any popcorn"

"no thanks" Dib answered "i guess Zim made his decision"
Just then the director came on stage to introduce the play.

back where Zim was he had just sat down on the bench to rest and grabbed out his sun glasses. At

first he could only see Gir's hand shoving popcorn into his mouth but then Gir looked up and began to pay attention. "thank goodness" Zim thought to himself

"get back in there boy" the coach yelled as he pushed Zim out onto the court. Zim desperately tried to play while watching the introduction in his glasses.

Finally he began to lose his balance while a member of the other team elbowed him in the gut and he landed hard on the ground. his glasses fell off in front of him and the kid that had elbowed zim stepped on them. Zim had gotten the wind knocked out of him and he watched in horror as the glasses were crushed. some of his team mates began to run over towards him (being the star player he was very valuable)

Time seemed to stand still as they ran towards him

'what should i do' zim thought to himself.

suddenly he knew "oh my leg" Zim yelled grabbing his knee "the pain the horrible pain". The coach ran out to see pushing other members of the team out of his way "can you play boy" he asked "i dont think so" Zim answered as if it was hard to talk "the pain hurts so bad" "this is all my fault" the coach began to cry "i pushed you too hard" a couple of his teammates brought Zim to the bench

(back at the play the director was just finishing up "and now here it is" he said "gaz is in the next scene" Dib whispered to Gir who had already fallen asleep.)

"coach" zim called "since my leg is probably broken could i go to the nurse"

"sure kid" the coach said putting his hand on Zim's shoulder "you brave brave Kid". Zim nodded and limped out of the gym. once out he ran down the hall and exited the door.

"here it is" Dib said to himself as Gaz walked out. she looked across the room to see Gir and Dib but not Zim. Dib had gotten pretty good at reading his sister's nearly emotionless face and he could tell she was disappointed as she began to speak.

Suddenly the doors flew open and Zim staggered in breathing heavily. Everyone looked back at him but Gaz quickly recaptured their attention when she began to speak. Zim wobbled over to the seat beside Dib and sat down.

He was wearing a black jacket over his clothes and still panting.

"what about the game" Dib asked

"they do not need Zim to win" he said regaining his breathe "i trust my team to bring us victory"

he then turned to watch. Dib glanced back over to Zim he couldn't believe he had left his game to come see gaz's play 'wow' dib thought to himself 'Zim has really changed alot'

6 - finally fine

chapter6

At the end of the play everyone jumped up and cheered even Gir woke up and clapped loudly.the three of them went back stage to congratulate her.

"that was great Gaz" Dib said to her

"a play worthy of Zim" Zim said

"i liked the popcorn" Gir yelled

Gaz nodded trying to act like she didn't care "it was nothing" she said

Dib and Zim walked out and sat on the stairs waiting for Gaz and Gir who went back in to get her things. It was pretty dark outside when Zims coach drove up in his car

"there you are" he said "we won"

He jumped out and walked over to Zim " you gave us a big lead ya know" he said "i see your looking much beter, how is your leg"

"oh my leg" Zim said "still hurts pretty bad but i should be able to walk again soon".Dib gave Zim a look as he rubbed his knee

"good good" the coach said "our next game is in two weeks so rest up" with that he got back in his car and drove away

"we won" Zim said to himself smiling

Gaz and Gir walked out and Zim and Dib stood up "so" she said "how did your game go "

Zim and Dib looked stunned "how did you know about the game"Zim asked

"i heard one of your teammates mention it this morning at breakfast" she answered "besides i do go to this school too and i am aware of certain events"

"why didn't you say anything"Dib asked.Gaz shrugged her shoulders "it was Zims decision to make".She then rubbed her arms from the cold and Zim gently layed his jaket over her.

"thanks" she said "i'll give it back when we get to my house"

Dib looked over at Zim he could tell he was cold wearing shorts and a jersey.Actually it was the first time Dib had seen him in anything other than his normal clothes.He still had he gloves on and he had cut a hole in his jersey for his pak to go through But he now revealed his pale green arms and legs.It was nice of him to give Gaz his jacket, Dib was about to do it himself.

The four of them walked back to Dib and Gaz's house to celebrate but as soon as they walked in Dib rushed up to his room.Dib had made a decision and needed to go through with it before he changed his mind.Gaz and Zim played some of her new video games and Gir ate all the pizza they ordered. It began to get late when zim said

"i guess i should go home now".Dib then came running down the stairs a smirk look on his face

"what you mean the park" he asked rudely

"uh..yeah"Zim answered sorta confused "you know that"

"oh right now i remember" He said "it's almost hard to sleep at night knowing a crazy aliens out there"

Zim began to get angry "stupid human" he said "atleast i'm smarter than you"

"yeah right" Dib said. Gaz was starting to get mad herself she couldn't understand why Dib was acting this way again and would have stopped him until she noticed the enjoyment the both of them seemed to be getting out of it.

"here catch" Dib said throwing Zim some keys

"what are these for" Zim asked

"those are to your new room" Dib answered

"what" Zim said in shock

"thats right" dib said "you live here now"

"what about dad" Gaz asked recovering from the shock herself

"i've already talked it over with him on my computer" he said "it took some convincing but i told him it was an educational program on fostering foriegn Kids"

"lucky for us he was busy at the moment and caved in" Dib finished.

Gir ran over beside Zim "we live here now" gir asked and Zim looked to him and nodded

Gir jumped in the air and ran outside "i'd beter go get him" Zim said walking out after him still stunned.

Dib looked over to Gaz who was actually smiling not a fake smile but a real one. She then walked towards Dib and did something she had never done before she hugged him. Dib was surprized at first since it was really rare anyone showed affection in his family especially Gaz. Dib put his arms around her embracing the hug and had to admitt it was rather nice. "thanks" Gaz said still hugging him. Then thier dad floated in on his monitor

"what are you children doing" he asked in surprize Gaz quickly pushed dib away

"nothing" gaz said "i was just seeing if i could break him in half"

"oh" her father replied seeming relieved "carry on then" he said leaving the room. Gaz turned to her brother "if you ever mention that to anyone i really will snap you like a twig"

Dib nodded in agreement "of course not" dib said "wou'd believe me anyway"

Zim walked back in from outside with Gir tucked under his arm.

"i got him" Zim said looking to gaz and Dib awkwardly

"so wheres the room" Zim asked. Dib knew that it wasn't in Zims nature to swallow his pride and accept this but Zim was taking it quite well. Dib figured it had to be beter than sleeping at the park

"upstairs" dib answered "i'll show you". They all walked up past Dib and Gaz's room to the old Guest bed

"don't worry it's already fixed up" Dib said opening the door
everything was in order a nicely made bed, tv,dressor,computer and a poster over it like the one he had
above his couch in his old home.Beside his bed was a little doggy bed with Girs name printed on it.
Zim walked in and sat at the corner of his bed Gir dove into his and instantly fell asleep.Zim had to admit
it was comfrotable

"it seems nice enough" Zim said stretching out on his new bed

"your welcome" Dib answered from the door
Gaz watched as Zim closed his eyes and it was quiet for a moment

" i thought you didn't sleep" Gaz said and Zim opened one eye

"normally no" he said closing his eyes again "but it doesn't mean we can't we usual don't because it
wastes alot of time and it leaves us vounerable to attack"

"sounds like your a little paranoid" Gaz said yawning and Dib yawned too

"i guess so, after all invaders trust noone" he said "but i have a feeling i might actually get some rest
tonight" he yawned.Gaz and Dib stared at each other

"so does that mean you trust us" Dib asked but Zim was fast asleep.

the end.