

Betrayal (Rated G)

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Zim recieves letters of admiration from someone and writes back. Then the story goes to story form and you find out who sent the letters. It gets better...JUST READ! ^_^

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1 - Introduction

Zim,

I do hope you are reading this because I like you more than the Tallest themselves. I would disobey them just to risk my life in saving you from their clutches. If you don't understand what I mean, then write back. Just for saying, I am NOT Dib. I am like a secret admirer toward you. If this helps, remember Tak pretending to like you? Well this time it's real. Please write or type back. From someone really close to you, yet you don't know it.

@@

I AM ZIM!!!

WHOEVER YOU ARE WHAT DO YOU WANT FROM ME!!!? HOW DO YOU KNOW ABOUT TAK!!?
ZIM NEEDS NO ONE!! NOOO ONE!!! WHAT IS THIS SECRET ADMIRER THING!!? SOME KIND OF
WEAPON? TELL ZIM!! TELL ZIMMMMMMMMMMMMM!!!

@@

Zim,

Yes I know you are Zim. I know which school you go to. I know you are in Ms. Bitters' class. I know about your defective SIR unit, Gir. I know you are Irken as I am. I know you like the snacks with the dip. I know what time you patrol around your base. At exactly 6:00 pm, unless Gir delays you. I watch you when you take your trips to the Earth store for equipment or food items for Gir. Usually once or twice a month. I know exactly how tall you are. I am four feet, as you are two feet and three inches. You may be

Meania smiled as she started sweeping the hallway. Lexia looked at Meania once more before heading the other way. She went over to Dana, who was wiping dust off a fan. Dana turned when Lexia entered.

Dana: Hmmm, what is it Lex?

Lexia: *smiles* Oh, it's Meania.

Dana: *worried* What happened? What's wrong?

Lexia: Nothing bad. She's just hiding something though.

Dana: How could ya' tell?

Lexia: When she's even happier than usual, I know she's up to something.

Dana: That's Meania for you.

Lexia nodded and started to help Dana dust.

The entire base was being cleaned with cleaner spray, Irken vacuums, and robotic arms. With all the noise everywhere, no one heard the doorbell, until Dana turned the vacuum off. The doorbell rang for the hundredth time and Dana answered it. Meania looked through a window and saw Zim with a bunch of weeds that looked like flowers (though they were weeds), and laughed. She was excited and couldn't wait until Dana saw Zim.

Dana: *opens door* Oh, hi Zim. What are you doing here?

Zim: *sighs* You mean you don't know?

Dana looked over her shoulder at Lexia, who shrugged.

Dana: Um, no.

Meania was having a fit of giggles behind the couch.

Zim: Where's Meania? I know she sent me "secret admirer" letter things.

Dana stared at Zim and blinked slowly. Meania stopped laughing abruptly. She rose from behind her hiding spot and looked at Zim. He hadn't figured out who the admirer was.

Meania: *slowly* What do you mean?

Zim brushed past Dana in the doorway and went to Meania, who started for her room. Zim followed her and left Dana and Lexia staring at each other. Zim shut the door behind him when he entered Meania's room. Her room was littered with toys and stuffed friends. On her nightstand was a framed picture of Dib.

Zim: Now that they're not here, you can stop pretending that you have no idea what's going on.

Meania: But you don't under-

Zim: I knew it was you who sent me those things Meania. You wrote about yourself and Lexia. I knew Lexia didn't like me.

Meania: What about Dana?

Zim: Same thing. I don't like her anyway. I am so much a better Invader than she will ever be.

Meania: **a little bit angry** Dana is a great Invader!

Zim: **ignores her** Anyway, um, ever since I heard about you, I thought you had the potential to become an Invader.

Meania: **shocked and confused** Me? You must be thinking of Lexia. **sadly** She would be a better Invader. She can fight better; trick others better, and can do everything I can't.

Zim: Not like that-the fighting and tricking I mean. You have the ability to talk other species into becoming allied with Irk.

Meania: **still sad** Oh, yeah. I can do one thing Lexia can't. One thing. That's it.

Zim: When you came to Earth for the first time, I had this strange sensation. **starts to sweat** I thought you were kind of.....cute. I've always secretly liked you. Can you promise not to tell any other Irken?

Meania nodded slowly which sounded like a rusty old gate. This wasn't what her plan was supposed to turn out to be. She wanted Zim to know Dana loved him. Meania was crazy for Dib, not Zim. But, through all that terribleness, she felt warm inside. It was a comforting feeling for a while, until she remembered that Dana and Lexia had their eyes on Zim first. Meania was about to tell Zim the truth, but when she opened her mouth, no words issued out. Zim did mention that he didn't like Dana and he thought Lexia didn't care for him. At least some of the guilt died away. She also knew Dib didn't really like her at all-she just loved him.

Meania: Don't worry, I won't tell anyone. It's just-

Zim: Just what?

Meania: Dana and Lexia are smarter than you think. They usually know what's going on. They may find out.

Zim: When that time comes, we'll think of something.

2 - Chapter 1

Chapter 1

The next day came so fast for Dana and Lexia, yet it seemed slowed for Meania. The other day Zim came over to see her instead of Dana and so began the strangeness between the two. As soon as she saw Meania, Lexia questioned her of last night's events.

Lexia: Meania, you've been awful quiet lately. You haven't mentioned Dib at least once today. Anything wrong?

Meania wanted to avoid the subject, but she knew Lexia would continue to press on.

*Meania: *gives a false smile* No, I'm perfectly fine. Honest!*

Lexia: If you say so...Anyway, what did Zim want with you last night?

Meania: I don't-

Lexia: Because he said something about secret admirer letters and he knew you wrote them.

*Meania: Well, it was a practical joke-that's what it was and Zim believed me. Funny huh? *laughs nervously**

Lexia: You just sounded like the Tallest right then, didja' know that?

Meania: Oh, really? Well, thanks I guess.

*Lexia: *folds arms and shakes head* That wasn't a compliment Meania.*

*Meania: *shrugs* I knew that.*

Lexia shook her head again and went out to find Dana. She found her watching T.V on the couch.

Lexia: I'm telling you, Meania is acting extremely funny Dana! She's hiding something deeper than I thought.

*Dana: *looks at Lexia* It just may have something to do with Zim coming over yesterday. Unless of course, the Tallest are controlling Meania's brain. I highly doubt that though.*

Lexia: Yeah, I too find Zim a number one “suspect” in this “crime”.

Dana: Let's put two and two together. What's our first clue Lex?

Lexia: Clue number one is the many hours that Meania spent on her computer answering “e-mail”. I never knew she had an account.

Dana: The second clue is how she acted yesterday morning before Zim came. She seemed to be expecting him.

Lexia: I can vouch for that Dana. Our third clue is Zim. He came over with a bunch of “flowers” for Meania and went to her room. We can assume they talked about something in secrecy because I heard them whispering.

Dana: And of course, Meania wouldn't open up about it today. One thing you may have forgotten to add Lex. Zim said he knew Meania wrote to him as a secret admirer. Did you notice how her face suddenly fell? It was as if some plan didn't go accordingly. That could mean Meania wasn't supposed to be the admirer and somebody else was.

Lexia: That's exactly right Dana. The only question is this: Who?

Back in Meania's room, she was pacing around, trying to take in all that was taking place. She passed by her picture of Dib and sighed sadly. She smiled a little and soon that evaporated into the air.

Meania: Didn't I already tell myself that he doesn't like me whatsoever? I guess facing the facts is too difficult for someone like me. Oh, what will I-

She stopped short when she heard someone tapping his or her hand on the window. She walked slowly to the source of the noise and peeked out. There Zim stood, looking up at Meania. He waved when he saw her. Meania opened the window and let him in.

Meania: Zim? What are you doing here?

Zim: *shyly* I came to....see you.

Meania: Why? Shouldn't you be thinking of plans or something?

Zim: I'll do that later. So...What do you wanna' do?

Meania: What do ya' mean?

Zim: Well, what did you use to do with the Dib-Beast?

Meania: *laughs* I'd hogtie him and lock him in here. I hugged him and sometimes I jumped on him out of nowhere.

Zim: That wasn't a very good example I suppose.

Meania: I guess not.

In the living room, Dana and Lexia heard Meania talking.

Lexia: Is she talking to herself?

Dana: It sounds as if she is having a real conversation with an invisible person.

Lexia: You don't think Zim came back, do you?

Dana: No, my Zim alarm didn't go off.

Lexia: *confused* Your ZIM alarm!?

Dana: *laughs almost embarrassed* Well yeah! I installed this system to tell me if Zim entered my base. That way I'd know and be able to think of what to say to him before he came near me. Then I wouldn't be so surprised! *laughs some more*

Lexia: *giggles* That's why they invented locks for doors Dana!

Dana: Oh well!

In Meania's room, Zim presented her with a better example.

Zim: Okay, what do you and your friends do for fun?

Meania: Dana, Lexia, and I? We usually go to the park, have a picnic and talk. On weekends we see a movie at the theater and after it we talk. There are the carnivals we see and talk about too. Most of the time we stay here and talk or do nothing.

Zim: Yes, by the way you said it, there's an excessive amount of conversation going on daily. Anyway, we could see a movie or something.

Meania: *thinking: This isn't the Zim I knowaloud* You probably wouldn't want to see a human movie, but we have a whole bunch of videos here.**

Zim: All right, though Dana and Lexia are here. I don't want to be near them.

Meania: Maybe I could persuade them to leave.

Right then, Tyla appeared in the middle of the room. Zim jumped when he saw her and fell down. Meania hadn't moved-she apparently was used to it.

Tyla: Need help Meania?

Meania: I sure do!

Tyla: *helps Zim up, who sticks his tongue at her* You still don't trust me, do you Zim?

Zim: Of course I don't Tyla!

Tyla: In time, you will. Anyway, I'll get Dana and Lexia out of the base, though I do warn you. Keeping secrets like this away from your two best friends can cause a few broken friendships. Remember that Meania. *vanishes to where Dana and Lexia are*

Dana: Hey Tyla. What're you up to?

Tyla: The usual. Say, we haven't hung out in a real long time. Would you two join me in a little shopping spree at the mall?

Lexia: Sure, I need new boots anyway. I'd also like to get some more books.

Dana: I have nothing to buy, but I'll come with.

Dana, Lexia, and Tyla walked outside and started talking about everything. Soon, they were heading the other direction to the mall.

Meania: Okay, they're gone Zim. I'll grab a few snacks!

A little while later, Zim and Meania were watching a home video with movie theater popcorn. The movie Meania chose was one from when they were Smeets. The part they were on now was the Tallest as Smeets.

Meania: *laughing* It's funny seeing the Tallest as small as that!

Zim: I wonder who was filming them at the time?

Meania: I wonder the same thing. Oooh, here comes the good part!

On the screen, Red and Purple were standing next to each other.

Red: Let's see which one of us is taller!

Purple: Okay! *follows Red to a measuring wall*

Red: *looks at Purple* No cheating, got it?

Purple: Uh-huh. Let me go first! *stands next to the wall*

Red: You are three feet! Man, are you short!

Purple: Cut it out! I bet you two monies I'm taller than you!

Red: You're on! *takes his turn* So, how tall am I?

Purple: Ummm....

Red: What's wrong? Spit it out!

Purple: *scared* You're the same tallness as me!

Red: *turns to look at wall* No way....Hey! You're right! So....who wins the bet?

Purple: No one.

Red: I hate you.....

On the couch Zim and Meania were laughing so hard, tears were streaming down their eyes.

Zim: How did you get THAT footage!? It's hilarious!

Meania: I didn't. One day, Lexia and I were walking around and we found the tape in the trash aboard the Massive, so we took it to see what was on it. We were surprised to see the Tallest and us on it.

Zim: You are on it? Well, skip to that part then!

Meania: *weirded out* Uh, okay! *fast forwards tape*

Zim went to the kitchen and retrieved a box of Snowcaps to share them with Meania. Then he sat back down to watch the scenes of Meania and Lexia as Smeets. The first one was from a conversation Meania had with Purple when she was younger.

Meania: *scribbling on the floorlooks at Purple* Why you so tall?**

Purple: *clearly annoyed* Because...I am the Tallest.

Red: *in background* Me too!

Meania: Why?

Purple: *confused* I'm really tall.

Red: *again* So am I!

Meania: But why are you so tall?

Purple: I have no idea!

Red: Yes you do!

Purple: Be quiet back there!

Red: *sticks tongue out* Make me!

Purple: Grrrr..... *throws a chip at Red and it hits him in the headRed shuts up***

Meania: How come you don't know?

Purple: *yells* I JUST DON'T KNOW OKAY!? NOW LEAVE ME ALONE!

Meania: *cries* You don't like me!!!

Purple: *pulls antennas* GO AWAY!!!

Meania: Noooooooooooooooooo! *cries some more*

Red: *throws a piece of cardboard at Purple* HAH! Beat that! I bet you can't!

Technician: *to Purple* My Tallest! You're needed in the other room!

Meania: *still crying* You hate me!!!!

Purple: *can't take it anymorehovers away extremely fast* AHHHHHHHHHHHHH!!!!**

Once he had gone, Meania instantly stopped crying, Red discontinued gloating, and the technician walked away.

Red: *hands five monies to Meania* You're really good at this acting thing.

Meania: *grins* Thanks!

The screen turned to black and the video ended. Meania and Zim were rolling around the floor with fits of laughter.

Zim: *holding his sides and gasping for air* Can't-breathe! Too-much-funny!

Meania: *gets up* I know!

Zim: So, now what do you want to do Meania?

Meania: We could watch another one if you want.

Zim: Do you want to?

Meania: I asked you first.

Zim: Well, only if you want to.

Meania: Yeah, I do. They're hysterical!

Zim: Yes they are!

Meania ran to the video box and picked out one that had "The Continuous Files of Humiliation" written on a piece of tape. Underneath that, was a list of names of who was caught on film displaying embarrassing things. Meania brought it to Zim and he looked at it. Then she popped it in the machine.

Dana's voice was heard from behind a camera.

Dana: These are The Continuous Files of Humiliation brought to you by Invader Dana. First, you will see one of the many rarities of life-Lexia messing up something.

On screen, Lexia walked into the living room and didn't see Meania lying on the floor. Thus, Lexia tripped over Meania.

Lexia: *when she fell* Ooof! Meania, watch where you're lying!

Meania: *giggles* You tripped over me Lex! That's a first-you fell!

Lexia: Say not a word to anyone.

Meania: *looks at camera* Too late-you were being filmed!

Lexia: *turns as well* Dana!

Dana: *hides camera behind her back and turns it off, but leaves the sound on* I don't have a camera behind my back if that's what you're thinking. *sees Lexia grinning* Ooops!

The screen faded to gray and went to another scene. Meanwhile at the mall in the bookstore, Dana and Lexia had been explaining to Tyla of what they thought was going on with Meania.

3 - Chapter 2

Chapter 2

Dana:and we think something's happening with Zim and Meania because as I said before, he came over and wanted to see her....

Lexia: ...which just doesn't add up. What do you think Tyla?

Tyla: **thinks for a second** Should I tell them? Well, if I don't, things could get ugly between all of us. **aloud** I wasn't planning on saying this, but Meania doesn't want any of you to know anything that relates to this issue.

Lexia: We already figured that one out.

Tyla: There is more. Earlier today, I sensed Meania needed some help, so I appeared in her room. I found it odd that Zim was there. Anyway-

Lexia: **folds arms and looks at Dana** I think your Zim alarm might need a few repairs, Invader Zimlover.

Dana: **rolls eyes** How am I supposed to know if Fir tampers with my stuff? As you were saying Tyla?

Tyla: Meania wanted you two to leave and then she and Zim would be alone. So, I told her I would do it, though I reminded her that secrets don't work too well with friends.

Dana: I just don't get it. Why would Meania do this? It's not like her at all.

Lexia: Who knows? Meania can be pretty strange sometimes.

Tyla: Yes, that she is. I'm sorry, but I've made plans with Tak to do only things with her today after this, and I have to leave you two to try and figure this out. See you later. **disappears from sight**

Dana: **smiles** I say we bring back our little spying game we used to "play". Only this time, there'll be one player short.

Lexia: You've got that right! Let us begin at your base Dana and slowly sneak from under the ground.

Dana and Lexia used the back roads and their spider-legs to reach the base. Soon, the two made

it to the right destination and snuck around back.

*Lexia: *whispers* Isn't it funny how you have to sneak into your own dwelling?*

Dana: Pretty much, yeah. Now, we descend downward.

Dana and Lexia stepped on a certain spot and Dana gave the command to let them go through the ground. Once inside the labs, Dana chose her hovering chair in front of the main controls and Lexia sat to the left of her.

Dana: If you would, I'd like you to put security on for every room of the base, Computer. I want to enable viewing screens to be displayed on the center screen please.

*Computer: Enabling viewing screens. *a second later* Viewing screens are now enabled. Anything else Mistress?*

Dana: No that will be all Computer, thank you.

Lexia: I don't think many Invaders would be willing enough to thank their computers.

*Dana: At least my computer likes me. Usually that rarely ever happens with most Irkens. *looks to the center screen* Looks like Zim and Meania are watching T.V.*

*Lexia: *kind of jealous because Zim actually likes Meania* Yeah, and they're laughing too! It makes me want to throw up!*

*Dana: *turns to Lexia, shocked* You're not jealous, are you?*

Lexia: Of course not! It just-it just makes me sick that's all.

*Dana: *doesn't believe her for one minute* Riiight.....*

*Lexia: *still mad* I wonder what's so funny!*

*Dana: Let us find out, shall we? *presses the zoom in button on the panel**

The scene Zim and Meania were watching came into full view.

*Tak: *on screen talking to Meania* Just because I fell doesn't make me less of an Irken! So quit looking at me like that!*

Meania: I'm not looking at you like anything.

Tak: Stop lying! I see how you are staring at me!

Meania: I'm NOT staring at YOU! I'm looking at the camera Dana's filming you with!

Tak: She's taping me!? *growls and blocks camera with her hand*

Dana pressed the zoom out button and could see Meania shutting the T.V off.

Dana: Now what are they going to do? *looks at Lexia and sees her crying softly. Lexia sees Dana looking at her and quickly wipes the tears away***

Dana: Lex, what's wrong? I thought you said you weren't jealous.

Lexia: *sadly* Nothing's wrong with me. I poked my eye by mistake.

Dana: You know that you did not do that Lexia. We've been best friends since we were Smeets. You know you can tell me anything and I won't get upset from it. Now tell the truth Lexia.

Lexia: *wipes eyes again* Dana, I guess this all hit me really hard and I couldn't control myself. It just doesn't seem right with them sitting there, laughing and having fun. It should be one of us sitting next to Zim and not her. She's supposed to be out chasing Dib around or baking horribly tasting cupcakes.

Dana: *not surprised* Just because we secretly love Zim, doesn't mean Meania can't either. Maybe she really likes him and not Dib. Maybe she's putting on a little false advertisement. Please don't let any of this ruin your friendship with Meania, because it could cause a few broken friendships, like Tyla said.

Lexia: You are right as usual Dana. I feel so rotten right now. I don't want to stop talking to Meania forever. It was bad enough not talking to her for a month.

Dana: Don't feel bad-this kind of stuff happens to us all the time. I think now is the time for us to come back from the mall if you know what I mean.

Lexia: *suddenly smiles* Yeah, there isn't anything to read at this bookstore. I've been here too many times.

4 - Chapter 3

Chapter 3

At the sound of the doorbell, Zim and Meania jumped, obviously startled. Meania looked at Zim.

*Meania: *worried* Do you think Dana came back?*

*Zim: I don't know. You better check it. *hides behind the couch**

Meania answered the door, and breathed a sigh of relief, for the person who rang was only Dib.

Meania: It's just Dib, Zim. You can come out now.

Zim poked his head from behind the couch and stood up.

*Dib: *bewildered* What are you doing here Zim?*

Zim: None of your business pointy-head Dib!

Meania: What brings you here Dib?

*Dib: *even more confused* Whatever happened to jumping on me when I came? You didn't even give your shriek of happiness when you saw me. Not that I care or anything.*

Meania: I guess I'm in no mood today. Are you looking for Dana?

Dib: That's the only reason I come here. Is she here?

Meania: Nope, Dana, Lexia, and Tyla went to the mall or something.

Dib: Aww, I was hoping she'd be here.

*Zim: *laughs* You like Invader Dana!?*

Dib: Yeah, so? What's wrong with that? Oh, I get it. You like her too.

Zim: Are you kidding!?

Dib: Not really.

Meania: **says to Zim* Dib is extremely crazy in love for Dana!*

Dib: *I wouldn't say `extremely'. I guess I'll be going. Tell her I said hi.*

Dib *walked out, and turned a corner. Meania's happiness soon died away. She didn't realize it until then, but she really missed Dib. She shut the door quietly and turned back to Zim.*

Zim: *What happened with you all of a sudden?*

Meania: *I think I poked myself in the eye. I'll just be a minute in the bathroom.*

Meania *strode down the hall to the bathroom, which was meant for Dib when he was hanging out with Dana, Lexia, and Meania. Zim sat back down on the couch and watched T.V. At that moment, the doorknob turned and Dana and Lexia entered the base.*

Zim: **startled* What are you doing here!?*

Dana: **slowly* This is my base. What are you doing here?*

Zim: *Uh...um...I sleep walked over here!*

Lexia: You mean you were sleep walking and you ended up here?

Zim: Yes! That's exactly what I did!

Lexia: Were you dreaming?

Zim: Of course not!

Lexia: Then you weren't sleep walking.

Dana: Where's Meania?

Zim: She poked her eye a moment ago. She went to the "bathroom".

Lexia: Zim?

Zim: What?

Lexia: You can leave now.

Zim: But-

Lexia: Go on. Back to your base with you.

Zim: **looks to the hallway* I just can't go without-*

Lexia: Without what?

Zim: *sweatsvery quickly* Without my installation chip I made for Gir! Meania has it!**

Lexia: You can retrieve it later. Good-bye Zim.

Zim: *stands up on couch, pointing to Dana* YOU CANNOT SEND ME AWAY!

Lexia: I didn't want to do this, but.... *presses a button on the wall and a robotic arm grabs Zim and throws him to his base*

Zim went flying through his open window and landed safely on his own sofa. Then Dana closed her door. Just then, Meania came back down the hall, all cheerful again, humming away.

Meania: *eyes closed* Zim I'm back! I just had to-*opens eyes to see Dana and Lexia standing in front of her* Huh? What's going on guys? Why are you looking at me like that? Where'd Zim go?

Lexia and Dana did not answer Meania's questions and moved closer to her. They lightly pushed her onto a chair and sat in two chairs in front of her.

Meania: *scared* Why are you two acting so strange? Did I do something? Dana? Lexia? Why am I not getting any answers!?

Dana: Calm down Meania. We're only here to help.

Meania: Huh? What are you-?

Lexia: *in a flat voice* We know about Zim and you. We have been spying on you.

Meania: *angrily* You were spying on me!? How would you know? Who told you?

Dana: It does not matter who or what told us.

Meania: *mutters* I bet it was Tyla. She's such a traitor.

Lexia: Tyla is not like that at all! She just wanted to keep us all friends.

Meania: I guess she just lost one. And I've lost three.

Dana: What do you mean you lost three friends? Do you mean Lexia, Tyla, and I? We are still your friends Meania. That's only if you want us to be.

Meania: *looks down* I don't think I want to.

Lexia: *worried* Want to what?

Meania: Be your friend. *stands up* I'll go pack my things.

Dana: Why? Where are you going?

Meania: I think I'll find better friends on the Massive. *walks away to her room*

Meania slammed her door shut and locked it. Dana and Lexia looked at each other with sad faces.

Lexia: Maybe we should have planned this whole conversation out?

Dana: Yes, and we should not have said we spied on her. We can't let her go Lex! We are best friends! I'm going to stop her from going!

Dana started for Meania's room, when Lexia grabbed her shoulder. Dana swirled around to face Lexia.

Lexia: Let her go Dana. I know Meania far better than you will ever know. Once she comes to her senses she will race on back to us. I know you'd rather not do this, and neither do I, but we must.

Dana nodded and did not speak another word. She knew what Lexia was saying was the truth and she hoped everything would turn out right. The next morning, Meania left before anyone awakened and did not say good-bye.

5 - Chapter 4

Later that day, Dana and Lexia awoke to find a familiar face missing. They had expected Meania to leave, just not in the form she did. She hadn't even explained herself to anyone.

Dana: I just don't get it. Doesn't she know she can talk with us, so we can help resolve her problem?

Lexia: You've been saying that all morning. It isn't going to change a thing. Meania can't stay on the Massive forever. She'll realize that nobody is there for her to talk to or hang with. Meania hates being lonely.

Dana: I know, I know, but I can't help feel as if this is my fault. It was my idea to spy on her.

Lexia: That may be so, but Dana, we can't see into the future. Let this go. We have to hear Zim's side of the story anyway to find out more.

Dana: You know he won't do that. And especially after yesterday, he will try avoiding us forever.

Lexia: Then we'll have to reinstate the "Tallest Method" to find out.

Dana: And what would that be?

Lexia: The Tallest usually try getting information by nabbing our diaries and journals to learn of our secrets.

Dana: Good idea. On Monday, Zim will go to school and we shall call in "sick".

Lexia: Exactly!

When she arrived to the Massive, Meania had not expected the huge confrontation that awaited her. She was walking through the Transmission Room and Tallest Red stopped her.

Red: What are you doing back? Why aren't you with Invader Dana?

Meania: All you need to know is that I came back and that's that. *walks around Red*

Red: If there's no reason, then leave.

Meania: No and that's final.

Tallest Purple hovered into the room stuffing his face with cheese doodles and stopped as he saw Red and Meania debating.

**Purple: This channel's boring. *pretends to change the “channel” with an invisible remote*
What's going on?**

Red: She came back and won't say why she did. I told her to leave.

Meania: And I said no I won't. I don't need to go if I don't want to.

Red: Yeah, ya' do! We don't want cha' here!

Purple: What happened? What are you doing here Meania?

**Meania: It doesn't matter! All I'm saying, is when your friends stab you in the back, you leave.
That's exactly what I did.**

Purple: *whimpers* That must've hurt!

Red: *looks at Purple and rolls his eyes* It's just an expression.

Purple: Yeah, an expression of pure evilness.

Red: You don't get it, do you?

Purple: *grins stupidly* Nope, none whatsoever!

While the Tallest argued, Meania slipped away to her room. She pressed the lock button and sat down on her bed. Soon after, she took a long nap. Down on Earth, Dana and Lexia told Gaz, Tak, and Tyla what happened thus far.

Lexia: So you see, Meania just took off and that's it.

Tyla: I see.

Tak: Then she really wasn't your friend if you say that! She could care less about you!

Gaz: Hush Tak! Must you always have a negative attitude?

Tak: When I'm around you I do!

Tyla: Enough of that guys. We have something more important than your bickering all the time.

Dana: On Monday, we'll sneak into Zim's base to retrieve any information of what has been going on.

Tyla: You can't just waltz right into his base. His security is pretty tight.

Dana: We didn't think of that. Come to think of it, we haven't been thinking a lot lately.

Tak: And you call yourselves intelligent!

Gaz: Get a grip Tak!

Tak: Make me!

Gaz: *clenches fists* Grrr....

Tyla: I know I said that was enough you two. Gaz, if Tak says anything unimportant, ignore her.

Gaz: *smiles* I like the sound of that!

Tyla: For a limited time, I will let you borrow some of my powers.

Lexia: Cool!

Tyla: They will only be used on the day you search Zim's base. Let me think. You can use the powers to be soundless, invisible, and able to walk through walls. If you touch anything, you will also have the power to wipe off any evidence with your mind.

Dana: Thanks Tyla! That's really nice of you!

Lexia: It sure is!

Tak: But that means, you'll be stealing powers from us! What if I want to be soundless or invisible, huh?

Tyla: It'll only be for a day Tak, and they are our friends.

Tak: I am not friends with them. I merely am here because you told me to be.

Tyla: *rubs forehead* Calm down Tak. You're giving me a migraine. Yes, well, you two now have those powers I mentioned.

Dana: I don't feel any different.

Lexia: Nor do I. When did you zap us to put the powers in us?

Tyla: I didn't zap you. You just have them. Since they aren't permanent, there are no changes in your DNA.

Lexia: How will we turn them on when we need to?

Tyla: *laughs* You don't turn them on like a switch, Lexia! If you want to use them, you have to think of what you want to do and it happens. It's that simple. Tootles! *vanishes along with Gaz and Tak*

Dana: Now to wait for Monday.

6 - Chapter 5

After her nap, Meania found herself on the Massive, forgetting that she was there.

Meania: I thought this was just a dream. I guess not. Dana and Lex really did betray me. Zim is probably wondering where I am. I should transmit to him.

Meania looked around her room for her pocket transmitter, yet she could not find it.

Meania: Where could that thing be? I can't use the wall screen because the Tallest decommissioned it. Lexia's room is locked and so is the one we share. The only other screen is in the Transmission Room where the Tallest are. How will I get them out, plus all of the technicians?

Meania paced around the room, pondering what to do. An idea struck her and it would actually be usable.

Meania: I got it! *runs out of the room and heads for the Transmission Room*

Purple: Take that and that! *takes one of Red's ships down*

Red: I'm still winning, and you're still losing!

Meania walked into the room to see Red and Purple playing a video game.

Meania: *pretends to be interested* Whatcha' doin'?

Purple: Playing "Vortex 9, Battle of the Black Holes".

Red: It's supposed to have better graphics than "Vortex 8, Battle of the Champions".

Purple: It's also better than "Vortex 7, Battle of the Cybernetic Clones".

Red: Even way cooler than "Vortex 6, Battle of the Dirty Hampers".

Purple: Now that one was stupid.

Red: Not nearly as stupid as "Vortex 5, Battle of the Flavorless Gum".

Purple: Actually, that one was okay compared to "Vortex 4, Battle of the Rock Thing".

Red: That was so lame, though "Vortex 3, Battle of the Radioactive Tree" was even lamer.

Purple: Why did we bother with “Vortex 2, Battle of the Lawn Chairs”?

Red: We thought it was cool back then. We even thought “Vortex 1, Battle of the Automated Bed”, was cool.

Meania: *yawns* That's good. So, did you hear about the new “Vortex” game coming out?

Purple: Yeah, “Vortex 10, Battle of the Sea”, is supposed to come out next year. It looks too good to be true!

Red: We're definitely going to get it!

Meania: Sounds great. Hey, did you know they're throwing a party on the other side of the Massive?

Red paused the game, looked at Purple, and they stared at Meania. Some of the technicians turned to face her.

Red: They started a party without me!? Where is it!?

Purple: Or me!? Take me to this party!

Meania: It's being held in the Game Room and they told me to tell you.

Red: Really? Well in that case....*gets up and hovers to the Game Room*

Purple: *follows Red* Wait for me! *leaves the room*

Meania: *to the technicians* You guys can go too.

Tech.#1: All of us?

Meania: Yep, that's what they said.

Tech.#3: Yes! C'mon guys, we have a party to attend!

Tech.#2: I'll put this on autopilot and we can go! *pushes random buttons and leads the others out*

Tech.#1: *on his way out* Thanks Meania! We owe you one!

Meania: *sort of blushes* No problem!

When they all left, Meania sealed the entrances to the Transmission Room and immediately went over to the control panel.

Meania: It's a good thing I could get the other technicians to put aside their jobs to throw a party.

I owe *them* one. I hope Zim's at his base. *activates the Transmission Screen and contacts Zim*

Zim: *thinks the Tallest called him**salutes* My Tallest, Invader Zim reporting for duty! *sees Meania sitting in Purple's chair* Meania? What are you doing there instead of the Tallest?

Meania: Hey Zim! It's a long story why I'm here, but I guess I could tell it.

Zim listened while Meania told him about Dana and Lexia spying on her. She said Tyla was also to blame.

Zim: Yes, Tyla was always untrustworthy. That's why I don't trust her. When are you coming back, Meania?

Meania: I...don't...know. All I know is that I can't go back and I can't stay here.

Zim: Oookay, you're in a predicament all right.

Meania: I suppose so. What am I going to do?

Zim: What *can* you do? Maybe you can stay with me for a while until this all gets straightened out.

Meania: Maybe, I'll think about it. I'd still be close to Dana and Lexia though.

Zim: Not if they don't know you are here.

Meania: Believe me, they'd know! They knew something was up *before* they spied on me.

Zim: That's true. Well, I have to get back to what I was doing, so just think about it.

Meania: Okay, I can hear the Tallest coming back anyway. Bye! *shuts off screen just before the Tallest came in*

7 - Chapter 6

Chapter 6

Monday arrived in only two days, and that would mean school for Zim. As was custom, he walked out the door at seven in the morning, and headed for the school. To be sure he had embarked, Lexia and Dana held back, watching Zim exit the safety of his base. An estimated five minutes later, the duo took their chances and ran across the street. When they reached the house, Lexia put her hand on the door.

Lexia: **panting** We-could-have-used-the-powers-instead.

Dana: Funny, I forgot we were given them. Oh, well, we have more important things to remember. **becomes invisible** This is too cool!

Lexia: **laughs** Where are you Dana? **gets invisible too** There-now I see you!

Dana: Do you think if we're both soundless, we will be able to hear each other?

Lexia: Tyla didn't mention that. She wants to let us do this on our own. She *knows* the ending to all this, yet would rather have us figure it out for ourselves.

Dana: Then let's get soundless now so we can test it out. I'll say something and if you don't hear anything, undo your invisibility. Ready? **Lexia nods****Dana becomes soundless** Hi Lex, how are you doing?

Lexia: I'm fine, how're you?

Dana: Great! It works! Let's get through the wall now. **they walk through the door** We're in.

Lexia: Dana, does Zim even have a journal?

Dana: He could, but I don't know for sure. Let's check the labs.

Lexia: That'll take all day! Shouldn't we search for it in the computer?

Dana: Unless he has his computer on, we have to enter an access code, just like mine.

Lexia: Well, we'll see if it's on. I haven't met an Invader yet who shuts their system down before heading out to do something.

Dana: Just come *on!* *pulls Lexia to the elevator and declines down*

Lexia: I don't know why we keep diaries anyway. I mean Irkens don't need them because they store their memories into their PAKs or computers.

Dana: For one thing, we *like* to write and as another, stop *complaining*.

Lexia: *sarcastic* Oh, look, it's on and you didn't believe me.

Dana: I never said that Lex. *presses the search button on the computer*

Computer: Type in the thing you need to locate. Then press ENTER.

Lexia: This computer needs an upgrade.

Dana: You're probably right. As for now, I have to find where Zim keeps his plans and what not.

Dana typed in the word journal, and selected ENTER. Like an advertisement, an icon popped up on the screen. It was a picture of Zim as a Smeeth with a word underneath, which said: ME!!

Dana: I'm guessing this is it. *moves finger to the icon and another screen comes up* This must be the cover to his journal thing.

Lexia: Anyone can tell because it says, `This is ZIM'S journal thing and looking is NOT permitted! Got that! Go away and stop reading this!'. Start at the beginning Dana!

Dana: As if I'd start anywhere else! We've got the day ahead of us, and a whole diary to read. We'll have *plenty* to do.

The scene flashed to Zim at school.

Zim: *looks around classroom* Okay, this is odd-why aren't Dana and Lexia here?

Inside the Massive, Meania was *trying* to avoid the Tallest. After the party two days ago, the Tallest came back really happy for some reason. They were a little *too* happy and they actually talked to Meania for more than five minutes. The next day, they would not leave her alone for a second. No matter where she went, the Tallest were not far behind. They still kept it up even on Monday.

Meania: *hides in an equipment room* This place is so big, there should at least be *one* place to hide. I hope this is it.

Somebody poked her in the shoulder and she jumped.

Meania: Yipe! Who did that?

Red and Purple: *giggle* You're it!

Meania: *screams and runs out* Will this insanity never end!?

Purple: *shouts after her* Meania, you don't understand! We tagged you!

Red: *smiles* Forget it. We'll use the secret passage again! Come on!

Meania ran all the way to her room and bolted her door from top to bottom.

Meania: *leans against door* Where will they *not* find me?

Then she suddenly remembered something she shouldn't have ever forgotten.

Meania: The Memory Chamber! Why hadn't I thought of it before? Even if they knew where it was hidden, they wouldn't be able to get in! *walks to her closet, opens the door, and stands in front of the end of the closet* Now I just need to remember the password. What was it again?

On Earth, Dana and Lexia were reading memories of a different sort. They were in the middle of Zim's journal and it was already noon.

Dana: *reads* I was about ten point four at the time, and I was eating a marshmallow creature or something. Suddenly, the Smeat next to me snatched the snack out of my hand. I tried getting it back, but he was at least two feet taller than me, so I stepped on his foot. He dropped the thing; I grabbed it back, and ran for my life.

Lexia: Aww...How sweet.

Dana: This next one is sweeter. Will you do the honors?

Lexia: I'd be delighted. All right, here goes. *reads* Question: How come when it comes to me, the snack I want is either taken, or broken? Once I went to every snack place on Irk and asked each one for a bag of spicy chips, and they said they were all out! I find that very peculiar because once I'd leave, an Irken would walk in and come out with what I asked for.

Dana: Poor Zim.....

Lexia: Yeah, but how is this helping us find what *we're* looking for?

Dana: You're right-it's already two twenty-five. Zim gets out of school at three.

Lexia: We can't be here-invisible or not-when he comes.

Dana: Let's skip a few pages until we see a more recent entry. *presses the screen ten times so she can get to a current section*

As Dana scanned through the database, Zim presented Ms. Bitters with an excuse to leave class.

Zim: I'm feeling sick. May I go home, Ms. Bitters?

Dib: You're not sick! You were fine up until the point Ms. Bitters asked us for our calculus homework! Was it too hard for you Zim? Or do you need to be demoted to preschool?

Ms. Bitters: Enough! Zim, *you* can go home. As for Dib, *you* can stay here until midnight, doing everything the janitors do when everyone goes home for the day.

Dib: But-

Zim: You lose, pitiful creature! I laugh at you! Hah! *heads for his base**on the way* I hope Gir remembered to keep the doors and windows shut.

At the base, Dana was still searching for any clues related to Meania and Zim.

Dana: I found it!

Lexia: Great! Read it Dana!

Dana: *reads* When Meania came down to stay with that pitiful Invader across the street, my first thought was, "Great, now I have much more competition." Later, I began to see what she was like, and tolerated it. I'd watch as she'd pull Dib along a rope-hogtied-and begin a method of torture to him. Compared to "what's-her-face", Meania was more skilled at capturing Dib than "Invader Dana". Pretty soon, I felt more appreciative of what she could do, even if she doubted herself. Strange things started happening to me, like I thought Meania had pretty eyes. I pushed that aside, but it kept coming back in different ways. For instance, I also thought she was...cute, yet I always thought back to the Tak occurrence. Then, just two weeks ago, I received letters of admiration from Meania, who I just realized sent them. The next day, I went over to-

Lexia: *antennas prick up* Dana, did you here the unlocking of a certain door upstairs?

Dana: If you mean the *only* door upstairs, then, yeah, I did.

Lexia: Close the file Dana. We have to get out of here and fast! I hear him walking above us!

Dana: Let's go.

Lexia: Wait! We can be soundless, but the elevator *can't*.

Dana: Yep, we're toast. What if we walked through the lab's wall into the dirt and crawled up?

Lexia: That isn't going to be easy Dana. I have a better idea. Call Fir, asking him to come play with Gir in here, so it won't look like nobody is riding the elevator.

Dana: It's better, but it won't work. I can't contact Fir if I'm supposed to be soundless.

Lexia: Oh....yeah. Why couldn't Tyla have given us the power to vanish somewhere like she does?

It would have been much more effective.

Dana: Yes, it would have. However, we don't have that ability right now, and Zim has just flushed himself down the toilet.

After finally remembering the password, Meania entered the Memory Chamber.

Meania: I feel really stupid right now for hiding from the Tallest, but they just won't leave me alone. I wonder if I should go to Zim's base like he suggested. It's better than hide and seek.

Purple: WE FOUND YOU!

Meania: *jumps* B-but how did you get here!?

Red: We were in here before, don't you remember?

Meania: No! Why do you keep *following* me everywhere I go?

Red: *looks at Purple and grins* Didn't she always want to be played with?

Purple: I believe so.

Meania: You didn't answer the question! Why are you in every place I turn? When Lex and I come here, you ignore us and eat food.

Purple: *to make Meania annoyed* How much food?

Meania: It doesn't matter!

Purple: Then why'd ya' mention food?

Meania: Cut it out!

Red: Hey, didn't Meania say something about going to Zim's base?

Purple: Yeah, and it makes me wonder.

Red: You don't think....

Purple: Exactly!

Meania: Huh?

Red: Now it all makes sense!

Purple: Exactly!

Red: I see the connection!

Purple: Exactly!

Red: Stop doing that. It's really annoying.

Purple: Exact-wait!

Red: That's better.

Meania: What are you talking about?

Red: *to Purple* Let's get out of here! We have serious blackmailing to do! *leaves and Purple follows*

Meania: I have a bad feeling about this...

8 - Chapter 7

Chapter 7

Five minutes later at Zim's base, Zim entered his lab to see that nobody was down there. Dana and Lexia were walking a few feet from him so they wouldn't touch him.

Zim: Odd, I had suspicions that someone would be here. I guess I was wrong, though Zim is never wrong.

Lexia: We can go up when he does. I wonder how long he will be down here?

Dana: I'm not sure, yet the idea is a fine one. We'll use it.

Lexia: Ya' know, it would be funny if we poked Zim and ran away. He'd be so confused!

Dana: *giggles* Yeah, I can hug him all day, and he will never know I did it!

Lexia: I dare you to do that Dana, unless you're too scared!

Dana: I'm not scared! I'd do it if he weren't so busy.

Lexia: *looks at Zim who is sitting down, eating a sandwich* He isn't doing anything important. Go on Dana! You said he'd never find out!

Dana: But-he's *eating*!

Lexia: So?

Dana: He looks so happy, enjoying his sandwich. It'd be rude to interrupt someone while they're eating.

Lexia: *rolls eyes* Oy! You may never get another chance! Just do it!

Dana: You really think I should?

Lexia: *pushes Dana closer to Zim* Yes I do Dana! It's not like I dared you to kiss him or something.

Dana: *points at Lexia* You do have a point there. Fine, I'll hug him.

Dana walked in front of Zim, watching him lick his fingers after eating the sandwich. He stretched in his chair, put his hands behind his head, propped his feet on the table, and shut his eyes halfway. It looked as if he were ready for an afternoon nap. Even though Zim couldn't see her, Dana was nervous to move a step further. In a daze, she brought her arms around his neck and hugged him.

Zim: *stands up immediately* Wha-what was *that!*? Who touched me? Gir was it you!?

Gir: *upstairs* I'm not down there!

Zim: Did I fall “asleep” and “imagine” someone touching me? *looks around lab and shudders**sits back down* That was just creepy.

Lexia: He sure is jumpy today, don't you think?

Dana: Yeah, but he *is* soft like I told you! I wanna' hug him again!

Lexia: *laughs* Look, Zim fell asleep! I wish I had a camera! He's so cute when he's sleeping!

Dana: This is our chance to leave, even though I'd rather stay here and watch Zim all day.

Up the elevator Dana and Lexia went and stopped on the upper landing. They walked through the door without a sound at all and raced to Dana's base. Once inside, they felt safe enough to become invisible no longer, and broke the silence as well.

Lexia: So, Zim likes Meania now.

Dana: He's liked her before she sent letters, which means Meania isn't to blame.

Lexia: We're still missing a clue to solving this case. Why did Meania give up Dib for Zim? Ever since she saw him on your screen, she has been trying to get his attention.

Dana: We need to talk to Meania about this. There must be a way to get her back without a commotion.

Lexia: Speaking of that, I wonder if she's doing okay up there.

On the Massive, Meania wasn't having the happiest time. Boredom was all around and everyone was busy as ever. The Tallest had stopped following Meania, but they were up to something, and she knew it.

Meania: *in the hanger bay* If I just go with no one noticing, then I won't be missed. That works for me.

She hopped in the cruiser she came in, opened the hanger, and flew out, back down to Earth.

She set the course for Zim's base and watched the stars go by. It wasn't a long wait, and soon, Meania was on his roof. She found her way down, trying not to let anyone see her-she had forgotten her disguise. She rang the doorbell several times before Zim answered. He opened the door, rubbing his eyes from his nap.

Zim: *grins* I thought you'd come!

Meania: I couldn't stand the Tallest or the Massive a minute longer!

Zim let Meania in and shut the door softly. Next, he turned around and stared at her. He just happened to notice how tall she was to him.

Zim: This is a random question, but just how tall are you?

Meania: Um, four feet I think. Why?

Zim: No reason. So, what do ya' wanna' do?

Meania: I'm not sure. Have Dana and Lex been pestering you about me at all?

Zim: Actually no. They weren't even at the school today either.

Meania: They've got to be up to something! Do you think they may have come in here?

Zim: The computer had no indications of anyone besides Gir and me in my base.

Meania: Oh. Well in that case, have you been to the park recently?

Zim: To study the humans, yeah.

Meania: I mean for fun.

Zim: Of course not. That would be wasting my precious conquering time.

Meania: Then I suppose you wouldn't want to go with me to hang out there.

Zim: I didn't say that. What would we do there?

Meania: We could go on a picnic, fly kites, and a whole lot of other stuff!

Zim: *confused* Picnics? Kites? What does all that mean!?

Meania: *giggles* I'll show you! *finds a disguise and runs out the base with Zim following after*

Across the street, Dana and Lexia were thinking of something to do.

Dana: Lex, why don't we take a walk in the park? I think it'll do us some good.

Lexia: Sure, why not?

Dana and Lexia headed for the park, unknowing of what they could find there.

Meania and Zim were already on the playground way before the other two came. Meania had a pair of sunglasses and a hat on as her disguise. At the little shop, she bought two kites and a pre-made picnic basket, which she put Irken Food Spray on.

Zim: You didn't have to buy those things. I have plenty of monies you could've used.

Meania: That's okay. Now, I'll show you how to fly the kites. *hands Zim a green kite and takes the purple one* First, you unwind the string until you think it is long enough for flying. When a large gust of wind comes, run back as far as you can to get it in the air.

Zim: *unwinds string* What happens when it's in the air? Does it explode?

Meania: Why would it do that? Just make sure it doesn't crash into a tree or something. *feels lots of wind and runs back until the kite is high in the sky*

Zim: *does the same**His kites is next to Meania's* It's pretty neat!

Meania: I'll say!

Outside of the park, Dana and Lexia were walking through the gate entrance, when they noticed two colorful kites flying over the trees.

Lexia: Oh look, the first two kites of the season.

Dana: I wonder whom they belong to? Let's go check it out! *runs with Lexia to get a closer look*

Dana and Lexia entered the field and casually walked up to the kite fliers, though Meania and Zim had their backs turned in the other direction.

Dana: It's a nice day for this, don't you agree?

Lexia: We should have brought along our own kites.

Meania: *recognizes their voices**whispers to Zim* It's them. Walk away slowly.

Zim: *talks normally* What did you say? I couldn't hear you.

Dana and Lexia: ZIM!?

Zim: *whips around as Meania dashes for cover* Dana!?! Lexia!?!?

Dana and Lexia: What are you doing here?

Zim: *snarls* What does it look like I'm doing! I'm experimenting with human technology!

Lexia: Kites aren't technological!

Zim: That's *exactly* why I'm experimenting.

Dana: Okay, but who was that other person? What were you doing with her?

Zim: That was just some pesky, bothersome human, trying to annoy me as best as she could.

Lexia: Why did she run when she heard us?

Zim: She was desperate to use the "restroom".

Dana: Funny, she sounded a lot like Meania and she looked pretty Irken to me all right.

Lexia: Dana is hardly ever wrong, you know.

Zim: Why don't you two go find someone else to pester?

Dana: We like bothering *you*.

Zim: I can see that. Now go *away*!

Lexia: You don't *own* this park-it belongs to *everyone*.

Zim: If this is so, and after I conquer the pathetic Earth, it *will* be mine! *walks off in the direction Meania headed**Lexia and Dana look at each other*

Dana: Thinking what I'm thinking?

Lexia: You betcha'!

Dana and Lexia still had Tyla's powers from earlier so once more, they became soundless and invisible. Then the two of them followed after Zim.

9 - Chapter 8

Chapter 8

Up at the Massive, Purple was in Red's room, watching him send an e-mail to everyone on Irk and the Massive. They were having fun too.

Purple: Okay, write, "Meania likes Zim" on each one!

Red: Nah, that's too easy. How about, "Zim is actually crazy for someone! Guess who it is and win one thousand monies"?

Purple: I likey! Do that one!

Red: All right! *presses the `send to every Irken' button* This will be *interesting*...

Miles away, Dana and Lexia were running through bushes and the like, just trying to keep up with Zim. Apparently, he was going pretty fast. After three minutes of searching for Meania, he found her hidden among some trees. Upon the influence that no one was near them, Zim and Meania began to converse.

Meania: Do you think they recognized me?

Zim: I don't think they did. I do believe they *know* about what's been going on.

Meania: Why do they have to be so smart, huh!?

Zim: Who knows!

Meania: We have to go somewhere they won't find us. This reminds me of when the Tallest followed me like hawks.

Zim: A place to be alone, eh? One where those two won't think to look...somewhere we would never go...Gir might know!

Meania: *scratches head* Gir? Are you sure about this?

Zim: Come on! *grabs Meania's sleeve and runs to the base*

Dana: To Zim's base! *starts running when Tak appears in front of her* Tak!?

Tak: It just so happens that I want to become invisible at this very moment.

Lexia: But we-

Tak: Don't give me excuses little Lexia. I'm taking that power back!

Lexia: *growls* Couldn't you take the evidence wiper one?

Tak: I have no use for that one right now. Don't make this any harder than it is. *takes invisibility away* Checkmate. I win. *vanishes*

Dana: *sits down on log* Great....

Lexia: *sits next to Dana* Stupid Tak...

Inside the base, Zim and Meania were combing through every nook and cranny, looking for Gir.

Zim: He was here earlier watching T.V. Where did he go?

Meania: Somewhere far from here probably. Call him up.

Zim: *an emergency communicator came from Zim's PAK* Gir! Get over here!

Gir: Do I have to? I'm busy at the moment.

Zim: *sigh* What are you doing?

Gir: I'm applying for a job at MacMeaties.

Zim: You work for *me* Gir! Come now!

Gir: Gee, are you sure grumpy. *happily* I'LL PICK UP SOME HAPPY STICKERS ON THE WAY HOME!! *cancels call*

Meania: *puts hand to mouth and giggles* Gir is funny!

Zim: I don't think so. He better be back soon. Otherwise Dana will already have an army spying on us.

In Red's room

Computer: You've got mail.

Purple: Look, someone thinks they know the answer!

Red: *gets excited* Yeah! *presses e-mail icon* This one is from an Irken named Tart. *reads it* Even though it's wrong-this little `game'-I really want those monies, so my guess is that Zim likes

Invader Dana. Am I right? PLEASE LET ME BE RIGHT!

Purple: Man, is she pathetic. She probably doesn't pay attention to our website.

Red: I know! Well, for a reply, I'll write, "YOU ARE WRONG! HAH! DON'T TRY AGAIN!"

Purple: Perfect!

At the park

Dana: Tak made it harder for us, huh?

Lexia: I'll say. Why don't we try our luck with Fir? He can pretend to play with Gir.

Dana: Hey, not a bad idea! It's just that I haven't a single clue of where he could be.

Lexia: Call him up then.

Dana: *does same thing Zim did* Hi Fir, how're ya' doing?

Fir: Fine. Do you have change for a five?

Dana: Why?

Fir: I need a quarter for the spin cycle.

Dana: What are you doing?

Fir: I'm washing myself! Now I need to dry off!

Dana: Could you do me a favor in exchange for a quarter?

Fir: You bet!

Dana: Good. Find Gir and go to Zim's house. Play with Gir while you record what Zim does.

Fir: I can do that! Talk ta' ya' later!

Dana: You too Fir. *hangs up* Now to wait this out.

At Zim's base, the Irkens there consumed their time by talking about many different things, and it sure brought a more enjoyable wait.

Zim: I wish I were a Smeat again. Those were the days.....

Meania: Me too. Except for the fact that the Tallest cared nothing of us whatsoever. They'd eat then and they eat now. What a life, huh?

Zim: That *could* get dull after awhile. So, were you allowed on Irk often as a Smeet?

Meania: No, we weren't. We have run away many times, and one of our attempts at it, caused everyone to know we existed. Now *that* was our moment. We had met Dana earlier in a park and became friends. She came right on time to help us be known.

Zim: **becomes admitting** Well, it's a good thing *you* make friends. It's as if the planet of Irk itself is your friend. I never had *one*.

Meania: You never *wanted* friends the way Lex and I did. Imagine being the only two Smeets on an enormous fleet ship with only technicians and the Tallest-who would rather eat slugs than play with us-to play with.

Zim: I can see that. Wait-you played with technicians?

Meania: The Tallest would make them play with *us* so we wouldn't bother *them*.

Zim: I gotcha' there!

Next moment an overly excited retrieval unit bounded in through the front-and only-door. He shouted with recurring glee as each word escaped his mouth.

Gir: Fir's wit' me! And so is the stickers!

The latter then came through the doorway as his name had been called. He was just as eager as his friend was.

Fir: Hi Jimmy and Meania! **looks at Gir who returns a smile**

Fir and Gir: Zim an' Meania, sittin' in a tree! K-I-S-S-I-N-G! First comes love! Then comes marriage. Then comes the baby in the baby carriage! **both run off**

Zim: Insane I tell ya'! GIR! I still need you!

Gir: Awww, can't it wait? Fir *really* wants ta' play wit' me!

Zim: No. Gir, do you know of any places that Dana and Lexia would never go or look?

Gir: There's the dance clubs an' the....Fir do you know?

Fir: Dana always said how she'd never play miniature golf if she were paid. They both wouldn't go to a make-up place or somewhere to get bows in their antennas.

Gir: Or the jewelry places. They *hate* those.

Fir: You could go to Dib's house. Dana hates him so much! But he'd call Dana to say you were

there.

Zim: Yes, he is compatible in that area. I just have to get rid of him or get Gaz to persuade him. You three stay here. I'm going to take care of this!

Zim left his base in two seconds flat. Meania watched him zoom down the street until he faded from view. Suddenly, she plopped down.

Meania: Dibby....

Fir and Gir sang the song from before, though it lasted much longer.

10 - Chapter 9

Chapter 9

Zim was apprehensive as he pushed the doorbell, which brought about a resounding burst of noise. He waited for a moment until footsteps could be heard growing louder and closer to the door. The person who answered the door was a strange surprise.

Professor Membrane: Why hello, small child. What have you come for?

Zim: Uh...Dib is in there, yes?

Professor Membrane: *chuckles to himself* I wouldn't say he's in the sane category! But, Dib is in the living room watching his sister play a game. Have fun! *walks back to the lab*

Zim marched into the said area and stood next to the couch.

Zim: What are you playing?

Dib: ZIM!? Who let *you* in!?

Gaz: Hush! He asked me about my game, Dib. It's "Vortex 9, Battle of the Black Holes". It has *way* better graphics than "Vortex 8, Battle of the Champions".

Zim: Yes, that *is* true. It's also better than "Vortex 7, Battle of the Cybernetic Clones".

Gaz: That one stunk. And so did...

Dib: Now this is getting weird! Zim, what do you *really* want?

Gaz: Hey, we were talking about video games! Don't you understand!?

Dib: No.

Zim: *formulates a plan* Ya' know, they're selling the game previews for "Vortex 10, Battle of the Sea" at the mall.

Gaz paused her game and stared at Zim with her mouth quivering.

Gaz: Really!?

Dib: No they're not!

Gaz: Be quiet! Go on Zim!

Zim: The only way you can get one is if you have an older sibling to accompany you. In fact, I sadly cannot get one. *sniffs* I am an only child.

Gaz: I seriously understand your pain.

Dib: Oh come on!

Gaz: After I see the game preview and beat it, I will willingly pass it on to you.

Zim: Gee thanks!

Gaz: Dib let's go now! They won't have that many left!

Dib: There is no game thing at the mall! Zim's tricking you so he can have access to the whole house!

Gaz: You *will* go and you *will* like it! If you don't, I will crush you. I will crush you so hard, your spleen will be screaming in horrible pain. Your liver shall see its last bit of happiness. Nightmares will be in your dreams of me crushing your spleen and liver.

Dib: ...And I believe everything you say! Okay I'm going!

Gaz: Good. I'll meet you at the corner.

Dib: I just hope dad checks on you Zim! Then he will know everything about your evil plots of terror!

Zim: *waves* Bye Dib.

Dib kept his eyes on Zim the whole time as he walked through the door, finally taking them away when he shut the door completely. Zim squealed in delight the second Dib was on the street.

Zim: Now to get rid of the other nuisance.

Zim put on a frightened expression and ran screaming into the professor's lab.

Zim: Professor! Professor!

Professor Membrane: What is it!? What happened!?

Zim: Oh, you gotta' come quick! The fish in the bear suit has returned with some friends and is wreaking havoc about the city!

Professor Membrane: Oh gosh! Some *moron* must have tampered with the timeline again! You stay here where it's safe and I'll go get some backup!

The professor grabbed a few supplies and dashed up the stairs. He headed out the door and ran down the street telling everyone he passed to `stay inside and think happy thoughts'. Zim sighed at the silliness of how Membrane acted and took the stairs to the upper landing. There, he called his base on the phone. Meanwhile, the Tallest were no longer in Red's room because transmissions had to be answered as always.

Technician: We're going to get a ton of transmissions today, my Tallest.

Purple: *annoyed* Yeah, yeah, we know!

Technician: In fact, here is one now! Transmission from Invader Larb!

Larb: *salutes* How are ya' doing, my Tallest?

Red and Purple: *confused* Um...good?

Larb: That's good.

Red: *slowly* Okay...so what do you want?

Larb: I've looked into that contest of yours, and I'm gonna' try it!

Red: Who do you think it is Larb?

Larb: I think Zim likes Invader Tenn! Am I correct!?

Purple: *makes a `wrong answer noise'* NO!

Red: You lose! You're a failure and a disgrace to the entire Empire!

Purple: Be very ashamed!

Larb: *mutters* I thought contests were supposed to be fun....

Purple: Well, they aren't, so deal with it! *ends transmission*

Red: *bursts out laughing* That Larb will believe anything! Next time, I'll tell him that his head's on fire!

Purple: Oh, what fun that will be!

At Dib's house, Meania, Gir, and Fir had arrived five minutes after Zim called. The two retrieval units sat quietly on the bed (which wasn't very likely for them) while Zim and Meania stared at each other. After one minute, Meania broke the increasing silence.

Meania: Sooo, now what?

Zim: *shrugs* I don't know. What about getting rid of Dib's stuff and deleting his files?

Meania: Actually, we can't do that.

Zim quirked his eye at Meania. He was confused as Meania could see. One reason she did not want to mess up Dib's possessions was that she still liked him deep down. She could not tell Zim this because he didn't think she cared about Dib at all. The other reason was Dana. Dib had a major crush on Dana since she first stepped foot on Earth. If Meania were partially blamed for snooping around in his room, he would start feeling that all Irkens couldn't be trusted. This would cause even more friction between Dana, Meania, and Lexia, making it so they'd lose their friendship forever. In her mind, Meania still thought of Dana and Lexia as her best friends. Zim would also know that Meania lied to him about the letters if she told him about Dana.

Zim: Meania, did you hear me?

Meania: Oh yeah I heard you. What'd you say again?

Zim: While you were staring into nothing, I asked why we couldn't cause chaos in Dib's room.

Meania: I...can't say.

Zim: Why not?

Meania: Well, I sort of can, but not really. Can't we do something else?

Zim: *eyes her suspiciously* Sure, even though I really wanted to tear this entire place down...

11 - Chapter 10

Chapter 10

Dana and Lexia had gone back to Dana's base and were just sitting on the couch waiting for Fir to tell them where Zim and Meania were. Lexia had a soda in her hand.

Lexia: Oooh this is taking so long!

Dana: I never said how long we'd wait.

Lexia: Yeah, but this is taking forever. Let's go break in Zim's base and grab Meania all ready!
acts like she's getting up to go out the door

Dana: If we do that, she's just going to hate us more. Besides, I'm not sure they're in there anyway. It's too quiet over there. Fir and Gir make so much noise together it's hard *not* to get a migraine.

Lexia: This is still taking forever. I'm getting antsy.

Dana: I can see that. Listen, where else could they be? Zim and Meania are like total opposites of one another. Half the things Meania will want to do, Zim won't. Meania may have bribed Zim to fly a kite. Let's face it; I'm stumped on this one.

Lexia: You can say that again.

The emergency communicator emerged from Dana's PAK and it showed Fir sitting on the couch in Dib's house.

Dana: What do you have to say Fir?

Fir: I know where Zim an' his girlfriend are!

Lexia: *spits out soda she was drinking* WHAT!?

Dana: Lex, you know how Fir can get carried away.

Lexia: If you say so...

Dana: Well Fir? Where are they?

Fir: Here!

Dana: A little more specific please.

Fir: In Dib's room. They're reenacting the balcony scene from Romeo and Juliet!

Lexia: *looks at Dana* Dana, I now believe every word you say.

Dana: Stop messing around Fir. This isn't a game. So you're sure they're there?

Fir: Yep!

Dana: Good. Carry on then. *attempts to close the connection when Fir cries out*

Fir: What about my money?

Dana: *annoyed* We'll discuss that later. Good-bye Fir. *shuts it off*

Lexia: What's your next plan?

Dana: I thought you'd have one.

At the Massive...

Technician: Incoming transmission sirs! It's from Invader Tenn!

Tenn: I would like to try my luck in this contest.

Red: Just to let you know, Dana or you are not the answers.

Tenn: He doesn't like me? What's wrong with me?

Purple: *glances at Red* Don't tell me you're another freak who likes Zim too!?

Tenn: Are you crazy!?! I don't like Zim! I'm a superior Invader compared to his sorry self.

Red: *sarcastic* Uh-huh. Listen we don't have all day ya' know.

Tenn: Fine. Is he crazy for Lexia?

Purple: *makes the wrong answer noise again* No way! In fact it's the other way around.

Tenn: Oh how stupid of me! Do I get another chance at it?

Red: Nope you blew it. *smiles as though he's happy she didn't get it* Bye now!

Tenn: But- *gets disconnected*

Purple: That's another point for us! *adds a tally mark on a digital screen that already has two tally marks on it**gives Red a two-fingered high five*

Red: Oh yeah!

In Dib's house, Zim and Meania finally were doing something other than staring at each other. They were watching home videos of Dib and Gaz.

Zim: This is actually entertaining!

Meania: I've seen these before.

Zim: How'd you get in here?

Meania: Whenever Dib calls us to come over, we just do.

Zim: That easily? Why would he let Irkens in?

Meania: Remember when I said Dib loves Dana?

Zim: Yeah?

Meania: He believes he can trust her.

Zim: The miserable human! Doesn't he know Irkens are prone to betray their enemies? I highly doubt she really likes him. There is so much evidence that she doesn't!

Meania: I don't know about that Zim.

Zim: Don't be ridiculous! I know she doesn't like him! She *told* me.

Meania: She did?

Zim: Well yeah! I've also seen her draw sketches of Dib with an `L' on his forehead.

Meania: Oh...those pictures.

Zim: *turns TV off* Why don't we get out of here and cruise around in space?

Meania: *surprised* What about your mission?

Zim: I'll call it a vacation and leave my mission for a while. I'm so close to destroying this entire planet anyway. It can wait.

Meania: Are you sure?

Zim: Yes I am.

Neither one of them realized that their hands were touching...

12 - Chapter 11 (I fixed it!)

Chapter 11

Dana: I've got it! We dress like the Tallest and demand to see Zim!

Lexia: That's not really your plan is it?

Dana: You're right. That's a stupid plan.

Lexia: At least you tried. What if we could sneak into Zim's base again and finish reading that journal?

Dana: We would need those powers obviously. But we can't keep asking Tyla to help us because she wants us to figure this mess out ourselves. I don't want to take advantage of her.

Lexia: I know what you mean.

Dana: Maybe someone else can help us however.

Lexia: Don't say the Tallest.

Dana: I wasn't going to.

Lexia: I was just messing with you.

Dana: I know. I was thinking more along the lines of a really annoying bigheaded boy whom we cannot stand.

Lexia: **annoyed** What can Dib do? Let's not get him involved in this. It's too personal.

Dana: Stop making excuses Lex. Who else do we have?

Lexia: Fine Dana. We'll see how this plays out.

Dana nodded and contacted Dib with her wrist communicator. At the moment, Gaz was dragging

Dib around the mall, as she happened to be furious about the nonexistent game preview. When he heard his wrist communicator buzz, he looked at it to see Dana's face. Gaz noticed this too.

Gaz: Make it quick Dib!

Dib: Okay! Sheesh! What's up Dana?

Dana: How fast can you get over here?

Dib: Why?

Dana: I'll tell you in person.

Dib: I'm not sure if Gaz will let me.

Dana: Bring her to the communicator.

Dib: Okay. *calls Gaz over*

Gaz: *whispers so Dib can't hear* Yeah Dana?

Dana: Is Dib allowed to come?

Gaz: I want to beat him up soon. How badly do you need him?

Dana: Let's just say it's a D.I.B (code for Desperate In avoidable Bleak/Bad times) circumstance.

Gaz: That bad huh?

Dana: Yep.

Gaz: Oh, all right. *looks at Dib* I'll beat you up later. Now go.

Dib: Great!

Dib ran off to Dana's base in a flash and was soon inside her living room. He hadn't the slightest clue of what Dana had in mind.

Dib: What is it?

Lexia: Yeah, I wanna' know too.

Dana told Dib everything that had happened from them spying on Meania to where Zim and Meania were now. She only left out the part where Lexia and herself felt disappointed that Zim didn't necessarily like them. After her explanation, Dana informed Dib of what she wanted him to do.

Dana: We want Meania to come back to us without much force.

Dib: And?

Dana: My guess is that she still likes you Dib, even if she hasn't been showing it. We're going to use you as bait.

Dib: But if she likes Zim now, won't she just ignore me?

Dana: Probably, unless we plan this wisely.

Lexia: I just realized something. Zim and Meania are at Dib's house. Why can't Dib just act like he's going home? It wouldn't seem as if we told him to and Meania couldn't say we said anything to make him go. Besides, she doesn't know what Fir's up to.

Dana: That's it!

Dib: What happens after I make them leave? They'll just go somewhere else.

Lexia: It was a good plan. Why'd you ruin it?

Dana: He's right Lex.

Lexia: This stinks. I say we hogtie Meania and keep her locked up in her room for a while.

Dib: Either way, Zim's in my house and that's not good. I gotta' get him outta' there!

Dana: Tell Fir-if he listens-to continue his spying.

Dib: Okay. Bye Dana! *waves and zips out of Dana's base to his own house*

Lexia: I don't think he's ever said goodbye to me since I first touched Earth.

Dana: I wish I were you.

13 - Chapter 12

Chapter 12

Dib ran inside his house to discover that Zim and Meania were not in sight. He checked each room, yet none of them bore signs they were ever there.

Dib: I've gotta' tell Dana!

However, Zim and Meania were already in space, and it would be a waste of time for Dib to do anything; of course he didn't know this. He also didn't know that Zim and Meania were having a great deal of fun in Zim's cruiser...

Zim: So I said, I said, `how else do you think I managed that!?' And the Tallest-oh man the Tallest-were completely baffled!

Meania: *laughing* You-You're kiddin' right? That's outrageous!

Zim: I know! Do you have any funny stories Meania?

Meania: You wouldn't believe the number of times we confused the Tallest!

Zim: Try me. Name one of `em!

Meania: There was a time when they were supposed to get shipped a fresh batch of donuts, right?

Zim: I'm listening.

Meania: It was to be at three-thirty that they were to come. So, as a joke, Lex and I changed the clocks to four o' clock. When the Tallest saw what time it was, they were flippin' out because they thought the donuts never came!

Zim: Did they find out you did it?

Meania: Nope. The donuts did come at the right time and they forgot all about the other incident. It was magical...

Zim: I'll say! *chuckles*

Meania looked through the windshield and couldn't find anything familiar about the area they

were traveling through. She turned back to Zim; he had a determined look on his face, as if he knew something she didn't.

Meania: **slowly and slightly nervous** Zim, where are we?

Zim: **gives a smile that is obviously false** It's a surprise! You'll have to wait `til we get there!

Meania: **still not sure about it** Okay...**thinks** I wonder where he's taking me. And I kinda' wonder if Dana and Lex miss me...Oh, I don't know what to think! It's just weird I guess...

Meanwhile, the Tallest had received yet another call about the contest, which no one had won so far.

Spleen: Any winners yet?

Purple: Are you kidding!?

Red: Nobody has the brains to do this...unless you know the answer?

Spleen: Well, Tart told me it wasn't Dana. Larb said it wasn't Tenn and Tenn said it wasn't Lexia. My guess would be either Tak or Tyla.

Red: Pick *one*.

Spleen: I'll say Tak! **smiles as if he won**

Purple: **adds a fourth tally mark** You don't have brains!

Red: Even though your head is very tall. **cuts transmission**

Invader Spleen seemed disgruntled about his loss when they turned him down. He spun around to face a group of Irkens sitting around his table.

Spleen: Okay everybody it's not Tak. Viz, you call them in an hour and ask if Tyla is the answer. One of us is sure to win and then we'll split that thousand ten ways!

Skutch: **negative** And if none of us does...?

Spleen: Then we're all morons!

Vizor: If I win, can I keep the monies to myself? **all the others growl viciously at him** What!? Reporters for an outdated newspaper ("The Irken Enquirer") don't make that much!

On Earth, Dib had just dialed Dana's number and was waiting for her to pick up. Lexia answered however, and wasn't exactly thrilled that he called.

Lexia: What?

Dib: Is this Dana?

Lexia: No, what do you want?

Dib: I need to talk to Dana! It's important!

Lexia: Just tell me.

Dib: But-

Lexia: She's not the only person in the universe who exists.

Dib: Okay already! Meania and Zim were gone before I came!

Lexia: And Fir?

Dib: He's swimming in my bathtub.

Lexia: Get `im on the phone.

Dib: Fir!!! I've got noodles!

Fir used his jets to travel into the living room and stood in front of Dib.

Dib: Lexia's on the phone. Talk to her.

Fir: Okay! *grabs phone* Yo, what's chillin'?

Lexia: Do you have any idea where Zim and Meania may have gone?

Fir: I didn't know they left! I did hear them talk about goin' somewhere though.

Lexia: Where do you think they're going?

Fir: Somethin' `bout cruisin' around somewheres. I dunno'.

Lexia: Dana tells me she needs you here. Hurry it up will ya'? *hangs up*

Dib: Well...?

Fir: I gotsta' go!

Fir flew out of Dib's house and headed to the base. That's when Gaz entered through the door. Dib shrieked in a girly fashion as she stomped toward him, preparing to dismantle his every cell...

14 - Chapter 13

Chapter 13

Zim: **mysteriously** I have plans...plans that involve you.

Meania: What are you saying Zim?

Zim: If I told you, there'd be no surprise.

Meania: Yeah, but I'd prefer to know where we are in case I have to contact someone.

Zim: Why would you need to contact anyone?

Meania: For emergencies I guess. I'm prone to accidents.

Zim: I won't let anything bad happen to you. I promise.

Meania: **more at ease** Hey Zim?

Zim: Hmmm?

Meania: I was wondering...do you like me? **bites bottom lip**

Zim: Why would I be near you if I didn't like you?

Meania: **shy** I don't mean like that! I mean do you really like me? Ya' know?

Zim: Um...

Meania didn't think Zim would understand what she was saying. A human would be more likely to grasp the concept, but an Irken...an Irken wouldn't have a clue. Meania and Lexia were considered "rare" by their fellow Irkens. Not only were they related to the Tallest, they also felt differently about other things, such as emotions. Very few Irkens cared for one another and they were considered weak in doing so. Meania had to think of another way to tell Zim.

Meania: Do you watch TV?

Zim: Sometimes...why?

Meania: On some shows, a guy likes a girl so much that he asks her to be his girlfriend. And they

go on dates to the movies, and eat in restaurants.

Zim: Oh...those shows. Don't worry Meania. I do like you.

Meania: Really?

Zim: **somewhat hesitant** Yes. And that's why I'm taking you out somewhere. Consider it a "date".

Meania smiled, but looked away so he wouldn't see her hand hiding her gleeful expression.

Dana and Lexia had run out of possible options where Zim and Meania could have gone. Each place seemed less reasonable than the last and the two were getting nowhere. Earlier Lexia had said the aquarium would be a good bet. Then a minute later, she changed her mind as she remembered Zim feared water (even though he knew about paste).

Dana: I'm out of ideas.

Lexia: That's one thing we can agree on. **sigh** And we still don't know what Zim was going to say next in his journal...

Dana: **dully** We can thank Tak on that one.

Fir: Want me to go get her?

Dana: No need Fir. It would just make her ego rise.

After Viz called the Tallest, it was his turn to tell everyone that it wasn't Tyla.

Viz: I...lost. What now Spleen?

Spleen: We have five chances left! Skutch, wanna' go next?

Skutch: Not really...

Vizor: How about the winner gets more monies than the rest? Say one hundred extra?

Everyone else: **annoyed** Vizor...

Fiz: If Skutch won't do it, I will!

Spleen: Okay, call in half an hour Fiz.

Meania: Are we there yet?

Zim: Almost, just a couple hundred miles.

Meania: Can you give me a hint? Please?

Zim: Well, it starts with a C and it's in a different galaxy.

Meania: Is it Conventia? I've been there several times.

Zim: No, I doubt you have ever been to the galaxy I'm talking about.

Meania: It isn't? Well, that makes it tough. I haven't visited that many galaxies yet. Not that I'd want to...some of them are known for dangerous hand-eating species. *shudders* How could *anyone* eat someone's hands?

Zim: *unknowing Meania doesn't want to hear this* First they sink their fangs into the person's wrist and unhinge the bone before they yank it off and devour it within seconds! Neat, isn't it? Wait `til ya' hear what they do to their legs!

Meania: *scolds Zim* ZIM! I really *really* did not want to know that!

Zim: *shrugs* Ya' shouldn't of asked then.

Meania: *irritated, yet understanding* Zim...

In Dana's base, the two were still contemplating where they might have gone, when Tyla appeared in the room. She didn't say anything at first as she watched Dana and Lexia take notice of her. Her face read that something wrong was going on and she almost looked a little worried. She stared at the two a moment longer before she broke the silence.

Tyla: *sigh* I have bad news...

15 - Chapter 14

Chapter 14

When Zim estimated one hundred miles more, he was dead off. He was actually closer than he thought, which made all the difference. Before landing, he circled slowly around the planet to find a suitable area to park his cruiser. Finding one, he landed a distance away from a smoking volcano. He let Meania and the S.I.Rs out and covered his cruiser with a tarp that made it become invisible. Meania was impressed, but confused, as she couldn't see any reason in hiding it.

Meania: Why'd you do that?

Zim: So no one can steal it.

Meania: Why would anyone do that?

Zim: Meania, we are now in the Clagnorf Galaxy.

Meania: **scared** I-I've heard of this place! It's one of the most dangerous parts of the u-universe! People have gotten k-k-killed here! Why did you bring me here!? Are you crazy!?!

Zim: Not to worry...this planet's inhabitants have died off. There's no threat of any kind. I always cloak my cruiser wherever I go anyway.

Meania: **not entirely convinced** That doesn't stop any other aggressive species from coming! What planet is this anyway?

Zim: It's Crock, once home of the savage Crevaks, or mutated man-eating slugs, which is the Irken translation.

Meania: **looks behind her to make sure there isn't one ready to pounce** There better not be any left!

Dana: Is something up?

Lexia: Do you know where Zim and Meania are?

Tyla: **slowly** Yes and yes. I haven't been there myself, but the last time I checked the future, Zim was taking Meania to a planet called Crock in the Clagnorf Galaxy.

Lexia: What!?! You don't mean that nasty galaxy where the species eat peoples' hands do you?

Tyla: **disgusted** That's the one.

Dana: What business could he possibly have in going there? Not to mention, Meania's with him. I thought he liked her.

Tyla: **hesitant** That was a...lie. It was Zim's plan in the beginning to pretend he adored her. I don't know how he found out that you two were going to infiltrate his base that one Monday afternoon, but he did. From what Tak told me-she read Zim's journal; that's why she wanted to take the powers-Zim had written that he secretly liked Meania before the letters started coming. That was to throw you off to make you *believe* he had liked her for some time. But he really hadn't written that entry until he was *sure* Meania wrote the admiration letters. I also don't understand why he used Meania instead of one of you.

Lexia: That's because Meania is the most gullible Irken I know. She'll fall for practically anything and she just *loves* romantic shows. Figures... **rolls eyes**

Dana: But why would Meania write letters to Zim?

Tyla: That I cannot answer. All I know is that Meania is in possible danger and you two have got to go after her.

Lexia: Aren't you gonna' help us?

Tyla: I wouldn't be able to; Clagnorf has large particles of plasma in its gases. I'd be no help to you anyway. I wish I could though. I'm very sorry.

Dana: We understand Tyla.

Lexia: **determined** Then we're gonna' have to do this old school.

16 - Chapter 15

Chapter 15

Tyla bid them good luck and farewell before she left. Dana and Lexia made haste to collect supplies necessary for the trip. Once they had everything accounted for, the duo took to flight in Dana's cruiser, leaving behind Earth as they did so. Meanwhile, the Tallest added a fifth tally mark to their scoreboard after Fiz answered.

Fiz: It's not Tak?

Red: Nuh-uh!

Purple: Duh!

Fiz: Darn...*gets cut off* Who's next Spleen?

Spleen: Skutch are you gonna'-

Skutch: No...

Vizor: I'll do it and win!

Spleen: Let's hope so Vizor.

Vizor grinned.

Zim: Would you kindly follow me please?

Meania: Um...where are we going? This place has danger written all over it.

Zim: I told you not to worry Meania! We are the only ones here!

Meania: If you say so...

Zim let his hand out to Meania and she took it after a moment's consideration. Together they walked in silence, Zim looking straight ahead. Meania never did like staying quiet since she usually felt the need to talk. Not even a minute later she started a conversation.

Meania: So, what's your favorite color?

Zim: I don't have one.

Meania: You've got to! Everyone has a color they like best! Dib's favorite color is black. Mine is purple.

Zim: I don't prefer any color over the other.

Meania: Okay, but is there one that stands out to you the most?

Zim: **takes time to think** Sky blue because that's what Dib's tears will look like when I conquer his precious little Earth.

Meania: I didn't expect that, but I guess it works.

Now they were standing directly in front of the volcano Zim had parked away from. It was a magnificent sight and stood somewhere around four hundred feet tall. It was thickly layered with a blue and purple clay-like powder and was jagged along the base. Other than that, it appeared to be an ordinary volcano. Zim brought Meania to a cavity in the back that linked to the inside of the volcano. He stopped in front of it and looked toward Meania.

Zim: You wouldn't expect this either, but inside that very opening is a restaurant. The smoke is actually coming from the kitchens.

Meania: I can't believe that. You told me nobody but us was here. So how can anyone be cooking in there?

Zim: I never said *real* people work there. The leftover androids from this planet continue with what they were programmed to do.

Meania: Who are they cooking for then?

Zim: I made a reservation. They're cooking for *us*.

Meania: **now excited** You made a reservation for me and you? Oh wow! Why didn't you tell me before!?

Zim: And ruin the surprise? Listen, I forgot something in my cruiser. Why don't you go on in and tell them we're here? It's seven-thirty. The reservation expires in five minutes.

Meania: Are you sure?

Zim: Do you want our date to be cancelled?

Meania: **thinks** He said `our date'! **squeals**aloud** Of course not! I'll go right in! **runs inside**

As soon as Meania was deep inside the tunnel, Zim ran the opposite direction his cruiser was in, and didn't stop until he reached a band of boulders that were hiding a control base with camera

monitors aligning the walls. As of this moment, they were screening Meania walking through the tunnel, wondering which way to go. Zim rubbed his hands together in glee and produced a wicked grin.

Zim: Very good little Meania. That's it; keep going...there's absolutely nothing to worry about. And when there is, Zim will jump in out of nowhere and heroically rescue you and the Tallest will thank him for saving you. Then they will offer him new battle mechs and doomsday devices and all the riches in the universe...

Lexia: Grr...can't this piece of junk go any faster Dana?

Dana: I'll have you know that `this piece of junk' is the fastest cruiser an Irken could want.

Lexia: Why aren't we there already if you say that?

Dana: Lexia, what have I ever said about keeping faith in me?

Lexia: **annoying tone** That we should always have faith in you...why?

Dana: **simply** Because we just arrived in the Clagnorf Galaxy. Look...

Lexia took her gaze off Dana and turned to look through the windshield. Now Lexia was most certain that Dana apparently knew what she was doing.

Lexia: Hmm, so we are. Good going girl.

Dana: **looks at the mapping system to locate Crock, but it starts smoking lightly** Don't speak too soon. There is a problem. It appears that something is affecting the navigation unit.

Lexia: And this means...?

Dana: It means we have to locate the planet on our own. If we ask for directions, someone's bound to pry our antennas off.

Lexia: How are we gonna' find a planet we've never seen?

Dana: There are only thirteen planets in this galaxy. Besides, Zim's cruiser has to be on *one* of them. **sees Lexia's stubborn face** Hey it's not like we hafta' find a needle in a haystack!

Vizor: **looks like he's about to cry** I didn't win! **starts to cry**

Spleen: Who wasn't it?

Vizor: **cries harder** It wasn't Penda!

Penda: **finally says something** It wasn't me? Well, that's good...I hate Zim.

Vizor: No it's not! I lost!!!

Skutch: Spleen, make the crybaby shut-up. I'm getting a headache and you know those make me cranky.

Tart: When are you *not* cranky?

Tenn: Yeah, I agree with Tart for once.

Tart: Just once!? Why you-

Fiz: Don't start stuff!

Tart: DON'T TELL ME WHAT TO DO!!!

Viz: HE WAS ONLY TRYING TO HELP!

Fiz: Why are you yelling now!?

Viz: BECAUSE I WAS DEFENDING YOU!!

Fiz: And yet you're *still* yelling...

Tenn: WHY SHOULD I AGREE WITH YOU!!!? YOU'RE STUPID! HEAR THAT!? STUPID!!

Tart: DON'T MAKE FUN OF ME MORON!!

Tenn: NOW WHO'S MAKING FUN OF WHO!?

Vizor: **still crying I LOOOOOSSSSSSTT!!!**

Flobee: **says something for the first time You guys make me *sick*.**

Larb: **says something since he lost Tell me about it...**

Spleen: SHUT-UP!!!!!!

Tenn/Tart: CAN'T YOU SEE WE'RE IN THE MIDDLE OF AN ARGUMENT RIGHT NOW!!!?

Skutch: **looks at Vizor See what you start?**

17 - Chapter 16

Chapter 16

Meania was far into the cave by now and could find no way of getting any closer to a reservation stand or restaurant for that matter. When she looked behind her to check if Zim was coming, she could only see a pitch-black darkness without a light anywhere to see. There was also an eerie silence that filled the atmosphere of the cave. It would be nice if there were people walking around, chatting about everything and nothing at the same time. Or at least lighting. The deeper she went, the more disorientated she had become. It was then that she chose to turn back and exit the way she had come. Unfortunately, there was no possible way of knowing which way was out because of the taunting darkness. Instead of trying her luck, she just stood there blinking to see through the blackened cave.

Meania: What's taking Zim so long? He should be here by now! It's been more than five minutes! Is this all some joke!? It better not be because-

Meania stopped short in her mid-sentence when her antennas pricked up in fright. From somewhere in the dark came a low growling noise.

Meania: Who-who's there!? Show yourself! I'll-I'll fight you! *raises fists to her face*

There was no answer except for the same horrible growl, which sounded closer and much louder. Then she heard giant footsteps moving about the stone ground. THUD. THUD. THUD.

Meania: Hello? Is any-anyone there?

Without any warning whatsoever, the entire room was illuminated with fire coming from torches along the walls. That's when she saw the most terrifying creature she had ever laid eyes upon. Even though she had never seen one, she knew right away that this putrid beast was one of the Crevaks that Zim said were no more of. She could tell by the sluggish appearance and its deafening roar. Its beady little eyes glared at Meania in hunger as she slowly backed away. Her heart was racing and sweat was pouring down her face. She kept on backing up until she was against a wall and realized she was cornered. The Crevak brought its head toward Meania's height and roared again with saliva showering her. She turned her face away in response and shut her eyes tight preparing for the worst.

Zim: *from his control base* And now for the rescue! *signals Gir who comes to Zim and uses his jets to take Zim to the cave in seconds*

Meania: *whispering* Please don't eat me...please don't eat me...please-

Crevak: ROOOOOAAARRR! *licks Meania who trembles*

Zim: *behind the creature* HEY YOU BIG UGLY DOOFUS! YOU GET AWAY FROM HER! I TASTE BETTER! *points to himself*

Meania: *happily* ZIM!

The Crevak half-glanced at Zim and turned back to Meania, eyeing her as its meal. Then it produced an arm from its body and grabbed Meania's legs. It brought her to its side and began dragging her up the side of the volcano. This was its way of tenderizing the "meat."

Meania: AHHHHHHHHHHHHH!!!!!! ZIIIIIIIM!!!!!! HELP ME!!!!!! *continues screaming as she is pulled higher*

Zim: *shocked* This wasn't supposed to happen...

Lexia: *points* What's that coming out of the volcano?

Dana: Huh? *looks too* That's a creature and it's dragging something. Heh, I wonder what it is.

Lexia/Dana: *a second later they look at each other* OH MY GOSH!!! THAT'S MEANIA!!!!!!

Instinctively Dana dove down with the cruiser to where Meania was. She let it hover for a moment, trying to think of something quick that would save Meania.

Lexia: What do we do Dana!? We've gotta' hurry! Don't you have pulsar cannons, lasers...ANYTHING!?!? *shakes Dana aggressively*

Dana: I don't wanna' hit Meania!

Lexia: What do we do then!?! I think it's almost ready to eat her!

The Crevak was opening its mouth wide...

Dana: SALT!

Lexia: What the heck!?!?

Dana: Crevak means man-eating slug! Salt will make it explode!

Lexia: Where are we gonna' get salt!?!?

Meania: *now notices Dana's cruiser* GUYS!!! A LITTLE HELP HERE!!! IT'S ABOUT TO EAT ME IF YOU HAVEN'T NOTICED!!!

It was now raising Meania up to its mouth...

Zim was standing outside, looking at the Crevak holding Meania.

Zim: The Tallest are going to kill me for sure!

Dana didn't bother to explain to Lexia how they were going to get salt. Instead she piloted the cruiser directly over the Crevak and pushed the hatch open, causing a ton of salt to pour all over the unsuspecting creature. On impact, the Crevak dropped Meania, causing her to fall hundreds of feet to her doom below. It began bubbling up and then BOOM! It burst into millions of tiny jelly-like specks that sprayed in all directions. Lexia opened the windshield and Dana caught Meania in the cruiser before she became SPLAT! Then she landed the craft next to Zim, who had his eyes closed when the Crevak was about to eat Meania. Dana, Meania, and Lexia stepped out and stood in front of Zim with their arms crossed. This was one of those times where Dana had no apologetic tone when talking to Zim about something he did. She really didn't like him at the moment.

Dana: I think you owe us an explanation...

Lexia: And no funny business got that!?

18 - Chapter 17

Chapter 17

They were on the Massive four days later, standing in front of the Tallest, who were curious to know why Dana and Lexia were scowling at Zim. The two were eating popcorn as if they were watching a movie.

Red/Purple: What happened?

Dana: Tell them Zim...tell them what you did.

Zim handed Purple a disk and gestured to the transmission screen.

Zim: Go ahead and put it in and see how I was there to save Meania.

Dana and Lexia rolled their eyes, but Meania still did not know Zim was lying to her. Purple gave the disk to a technician who placed it inside the computer. When the video came on, it showed Meania walking through the cave, and then the part where the Crevak first appeared and when Zim jumped in. From there, the footage was obviously edited to make Zim look like he was the hero. The video ended and the Tallest didn't blink.

Zim: So, do I get a reward? *holds hands out greedily*

Red: Why?

Zim: *confused* I saved Meania of course!

Purple: So?

Zim: What do you mean so!?! Aren't you two related?

Purple: Yeah, but what difference does that make?

Zim: No new machinery or riches of the universe!?

Red/Purple: No.

Zim: *long whiny voice* Why!?!?

Lexia: You're forgetting one thing Zim. We may be related to the Tallest, but they could care less

about what happens to us.

Zim: That's the most ridiculous thing I have ever heard!

Lexia: Oh well, that's life.

Zim: Grr...this stinks! *stomps off to his cruiser*

Technician: Incoming transmission from Invader Skutch Sirs. It's regarding the contest.

Red: Put him on!

Skutch: I'm pretty sure it used to be Meania, but he really doesn't like anyone.

Purple: Wait...how would you know that if you weren't here?

Skutch: Lucky guess.

Vizor: *in background* Did we win?

Spleen: Was that right?

Tart: Are we still morons?

Red: You're working together to get the monies?

Skutch: Not anymore! *lowers his voice* Just ship the monies to my temporary residence and don't mention it to anyone. *salutes and ends the transmission*

Red/Purple: Ookay...

19 - Epilogue

[-Author's note: Sadly, this is the final part! I hope you guys enjoy it immensely! *cries because I'm so happy*]

Epilogue

Once again Dana, Meania, and Lexia were together in Dana's base, talking about all that went on.

Meania: **ashamed** I didn't know Zim didn't like me. I'm terribly sorry for the way I was acting guys. Can you ever forgive me?

Dana and Lexia smiled at Meania.

Dana: Of *course* we forgive you. There was no way any of us could have known that Zim was planning to dump you.

Lexia: He was putting up a very good act I admit.

Dana: I thought he liked you too. Even more than that I might add. Sorry he was just using you in his evil scheme.

Meania: To be honest, I never stopped thinking about Dib.

Lexia: So why did you write Zim secret admirer letters? That's what we want to know.

Meania: **suddenly chuckles** I wrote the letters, but they weren't meant to be from me!

Dana: Then who were they meant to be from?

Meania: You! I was hoping Zim would figure out the letters were from Dana so he would go out with her! I did it after Dana was staring out the window looking at Zim's base, talking about fantasies she wanted to come true that involved Zim!

Dana: You little eavesdropper!

Meania: I was sitting on the couch; you weren't exactly whispering.

Dana: I can't believe you would do that for me. I would never attempt it myself. Even though it

didn't work, thank you Meania!

Meania: You're welcome Dana!

Lexia: *grinning* How can we be sure you're really back to your old self?

Due to writer's convenience, the doorbell rang and you can guess who was at the door. Meania opened it to see Dib standing there. He didn't have any time to think as Meania leapt out and chased him all the way down the street and into the city.

The End

Christina Price, Age 16, 8/04/05, 2:14am, Thursday