

# SPACE QUEST 2

## *HIDDEN PLANET*

### Chapter 4

by James Gelsey

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“This tunnel will take us directly to the central crystal pool,” Yalcof explained. He led the group through another large crystal doorway.

“Yalcof, why does this tunnel dull while the one we took before was so dark?” Bey asked.

“The main stream from the central pool flows directly under us,” Yalcof said.

“Does the water from the central crystal pool light up the entire planet from within?” Bey asked.

“Yes, but not directly,” Yalcof said. “The waters flow through crystal-lined pipes and tunnels. The crystals magnify the light and reflect it throughout the planet.”

“Impressive,” Bey said.

Sivah dragged her hands along the smooth walls.

“These walls feel like glass,” she reported. But when she took them from the wall, her hands felt funny. She rubbed them together, and a silver paste appeared.

“Ewwww. What’s this?” She held up her hand and showed Yalcof.

“That’s wol web,” he replied.

“What’s wol web?” Zale asked.

“Wols are tiny insects that weave intricate webs in the crystal tunnels,” Yalcof said. “We use their webbing to make things like our vests.”

“Seems like they’ve been very busy in this tunnel,” Sivah said, looking down at her green Endio Academy travel suit. It was covered with patches of the silvery paste. She tried but wasn’t able to peel them off.

“Here,” Yalcof said, handing her a silver mesh glove.

“What’s that?” asked Sivah.

“It will remove the wol webs from your clothes,” Yalcof said. Sivah put the glove on and brushed it over the silvery patches. Sure enough, the webbing lifted right off her clothing.

“What is this made out of, Yalcof?” Bey asked.

“I don’t know,” the Huheet leader replied. “We found it in one of the tunnels. I think the visitors left it behind by mistake.”

Zale, Sivah and Bey stopped in their tracks.

“Visitors? There were visitors here?” Zale asked.

“There were two of them,” Yalcof said.

“They came here looking for some kind of mineral. They threatened us, so we had to let them dig around. They said they couldn’t find what they wanted, so they left.”

“Where were they from? Who were they?” asked Sivah.

Yalcof hesitated. “Navan’ods.”

The very sound of the word sent a chill down Sivah’s spine. She stepped back and leaned against the tunnel wall for support. Leep rolled over and stood by her side.

“I didn’t tell you, because I was afraid you wouldn’t help us,” Yalcof said.

“You’re right about that!” Zale stated.

“We’re not going to help anyone who helped those evil mohedds!”

“But we had no choice,” Yalcof protested.

“You could have fought them like my father did on Alron,” Zale said. “He led the battle that saved the Alronian capital.”

“He saved the capital but lost the rest of the planet, Zale,” Sivah said quietly. “The Navan’ods were too much for him and the Alronian army. Just like they were too much for the peace force on Qoton when they took my parents prisoner. We can’t blame the

Huheets. The important thing is that the Navan’ods left.”

“Actually, the important thing is that they don’t come back,” Bey said. “Are you sure they didn’t find anything here, Yalcof?”

“They said they didn’t,” the Huheet answered.

“So we’re going to take the Navan’ods at their word?” Zale asked. “Why not, right? They’ve only violated every peace-keeping law in the galaxy.”

*You made your point, Zale,* Sivah  
’patched.

Leep quickly changed the subject.

“How much farther is it to the central crystal pool?” she asked.

“A short way,” Yalcof answered.

As they walked, Bey noticed it getting darker in the tunnel.

“Yalcof, shouldn’t it be getting brighter in here as we get closer to the crystal pool?” asked Bey.

“Yes,” Yalcof replied. “That means the central pool is losing light more quickly than I thought. We’re running out of time,”

Suddenly, a strange sound echoed through the tunnel. Yalcof froze.

“What was that?” asked Zale. “A swarm of flying wols?”

Yalcof looked Zale in the eyes and said, “Wol’s don’t fly. But Mok-Ri do!”

“Then let’s get a move on!” Zale shouted as he took off down the tunnel.

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