

SPACE QUEST 2

HIDDEN PLANET

Chapter 7

by James Gelsey

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Chapter 7

Everyone huddled inside the dark cave waiting for the signal. The Mok-Ri hadn't moved at all, except for one sweeping arc when it tried to grab a dagoreem snack. But the Navon'od generator frustrated even the Mok-Ri, sapping every last dagoreem from the crystal pool.

The entire crystal cavern was bathed in the greenish glow of the crystal energy receptacle atop of the generator. The machine's hum changed pitch.

"That's the sound of the pump cycling off," Druis reported. "Any second now, the

energy receptacle will lock and the alert signal will start transmitting to the Navan'ods."

Just as Druid predicted, the generator fell silent and a short antenna rose up into the air.

"Let's go!" Druid called. He, Zale and Yalcof headed straight for the generator as Sivah and Bey ran out to distract the Mok-Ri.

"Hey, Mok-Ri!" Sivah yelled. "Yeah, you!"

The creature stirred and opened its fierce yellow eyes. In a flash, it spread its wings and dropped from its perch.

"Raaawwwwwkkk!"

The Mok-Ri swooped down at Sivah and Bey, who ducked down at the last minute.

Leep rolled to the heavy door and shut it so that the Mok-Ri couldn't escape.

Meanwhile, Zale and Yalcof pushed against one half of the open rock. Druid pushed against the other. Together, they slowly closed the fake rock covering over the generator, cutting off the cavern's sole source of light.

Once the rock clicked shut, Zale, Yalcof and Druid took three steps backwards and found the cavern wall. From there, they began feeling their way around back to the cave.

Unable to see, Sivah grabbed Bey's arm. Bey's night bulge enabled him to see perfectly in the total darkness.

"Sivah, I'm taking you over to the wall," he whispered. "Follow it to the right and you'll reach the cave."

Be careful, Sivah 'patched as she let go of his arm.

Bey scanned the cavern and saw the Mok-Ri hanging from another of the pipes. Bey planned his route and started running. The Mok-Ri tracked Bey with its yellow eyes and then pushed off from the pipe. Bey felt the wind beneath the creature's wings as it

approached. Just as the creature lowered its head to spike Bey, the cadet threw himself to the ground.

"Raawwwk!" The creature flew overhead, narrowly missing Bey. Bey got to his feet and ran towards the generator rock. The Mok-Ri focused its yellow eyes one more time. It flew around in three large circles, building up speed. Then it soared to the very highest part of the cavern, flipped over in the air, and began its rapid descent.

At the last moment, Bey threw his body to the ground again. The Mok-Ri's sharp beak narrowly missed him and pierced the rock.

The Mok-Ri struggled to fly away, but its beak was stuck. The rock split open a bit, releasing some light into the cavern. The more the creature struggled, the more light was released. The Mok-Ri gave a mighty yank and tumbled backwards. As it did, the rock burst open, releasing a blinding flash of light.

“RRRAAAWWKK!”

Sivah, Zale and Druids heard an enormous splash and jumped out of the cave. They ran over to Bey, who was beginning to sit up.

“Bey! Bey! Are you all right?” Sivah asked.

Sivah and Zale helped him stand.

“I’m fine,” he said. “What happened to the Mok-Ri?”

Sivah and Zale pointed to the glazed Mok-Ri, bobbing up and down in the middle of the crystal pool.

“Hurry!” Druids yelled. “The generator!”

Zale ran over and helped Druids break off the diamond-shaped receptacle from the top of the generator. As dagoreems poured out of the crystal, Druids and Zale heaved it into the pool. The dagoreems darted back into the water. In a matter of moments, the entire crystal cavern began shimmering with light and color. With

the crystal pool once again teeming with
dagoreems, the waters began rising inside the
crystal pipes.

“Our planet is saved!” Yalcof cheered.

“Not if the Navon’ods get here,” Druids
warned.

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