AND THERE CAME A DAY, A DAY UNLIKE ANY OTHER. WHEN HEROES FROM ACROSS THE MULTIVERSE WERE CALLED TOGETHER TO DEFEAT A FOE THAT NO SINGLE DIMENSION COULD WITHSTAND. ON THAT DAY, AN ALL-NEW, AND ALL-DIFFERENT E.G.G WAS BORN.

-Episode 1-

Escort Duty

“If it looks like it could explode, please do not touch it.” Princess Cortexia called, as members of E.G.G Corps shuffled through Blackout’s lair, taking things through a portal. Two corpsmen walked by with his spear. “And lock that away in my personal vault. I never want to see that thing again.” They nodded and went through the portal. At the other end of the room, Fumiko and Acacia Wuthrich, along with E.I.L.E.E.N, were strapping up Eileen’s stasis tube to a levitating platform.

“Are you coming back with us?” Fumiko asked.

“Not just yet.” Charlie answered. “There’s something I’ve got to take care of.”

“Alright, we’ll be waiting.” Fumiko said, as she, Acacia, and E.I.L.E.E.N took Eileen through the portal.

“This is crazy.” Leviathan said to Julian. “First Josh falls from the sky into my world, and brings some friends and a whole new S.H.I.E.L.D with him, but now I figure out there’s a million other dimensions, with a million different Josh’s, and Kyle Rice’s, and, well, everyone!”

“Yeah man, it’s trippy.” Julian replied. “But hey, we saved the day, right?”

“Yeah,” Leviathan said. “I’m just wondering what the next threat is gonna be.”

“You don’t gotta be so pessimistic about it.”

“Where I’m from, the danger never stops. It only gets worse.”

“Prisoner on deck!” A member of E.G.G Corps shouted, as they wheeled Blackout in, restrained in a similar device to the one in 2099.

“Load him into my ship.” Cortexia ordered.

“Yes ma’am.” The E.G.G Corps soldier replied, wheeling Blackout out of the building.

“Where are we taking him?” Charlie asked.

“Somewhere I keep the worst interdimensional criminals.” Cortexia answered. “It’s called the Spire. He won’t be getting out anytime soon.”

“Good.” Julian said. “I done had enough of this dude.” Cortexia looked to Portal.

“I have the coordinates to the Spire’s dimension, if you’d be so kind.”

“Of course.” Portal said, handing out ear pieces. “Take these, I can keep in touch with you, even across dimensions.”

“You’re not coming?” Leviathan asked.

“I’ve been chained to a wall for several years, I’m not really in any condition to go anywhere.” He replied.

“Besides,” Cortexia said. “If something goes wrong, we need him to be able to get us back in an instant.”

“Why would something go wrong?” Charlie asked. “Just hop to the prison, drop him off, hop back.”

“We cannot.” Cortexia explained. “I made it so that dimensional portals cannot be opened in or around the Spire; it’s an easy way to break someone out. I’ve also ensured that the journey to the Spire is treacherous and perilous.”

“So… We’re about to embark on a treacherous and perilous journey?” Leviathan asked. “That’s a bit disconcerting.”

“Fear not, Leviathan.” Cortexia said. “I have a route planned that forgoes the danger. We will be safe.”

“Cool.” Julian said. They all walked outside to find a large, purple, oval shaped ship.

“This is my transport unit.” Cortexia said, as a ramp came down and they all entered. “Please, make yourself at home.” A group of E.G.G Corps members wheeled Blackout in and secured his detention device behind a glass wall in the back of the ship. Another member dropped a crate with the pieces of his armor in the cargo bay.

“Is there an armory where you store the villain’s weapons?” Leviathan asked.

“No,” Cortexia answered. “Having the criminal’s technology within their reach is never a good idea. We destroy any and all weaponry we confiscate. The spear would be with it if not for the matter of the Infinity Stone.”

“Huh…” Leviathan looked at the crate. “Well if you’re going to destroy it, do you think I could take it? Hank Pym would have a field day.”

“I suppose there is no harm in your request.” Cortexia replied. “As soon as Blackout is secured, the armor shall be yours.” She sat in a chair behind a control terminal and began to press buttons. “Alright then, everyone strap in.” Everyone grabbed a seat and began buckling up.

“Portal, can you her me?” She asked in her earpiece.

“Loud and clear princess.” Portal replied.

“Excellent, open the passage.”

“You got it.” A large blue portal opened up in front of the ship. Cortexia flew up, and then took off.

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The ship came out of the other end into a world with a storming, dark sky, and large black thorns covering the ground.

“Wow, this place is cheery.” Charlie said.

“It is not meant to be welcoming.” Cortexia replied. “It is a prison, after all.” The ship soared through the sky, as Cortexia put it on autopilot and unbuckled her seatbelt. “Well, we have a while before we reach the Spire, so help yourselves to anything on board. There are beds in the upper level and a kitchen in the lower. I also have a training room, where I am headed now if anyone wishes to join me.

“Bed! Please!” Charlie said, heading up the stairs.

“Food!” Julian cried, going downstairs.

“I’ll train with you Cortexia.” Leviathan said, as she smiled.

“Good. I am curious as to the nature of your powers.”

“Well, it has a lot to do with the water in the air and what not.” They both headed to another area of the ship.

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Blackout stood, restrained. He closed his eyes.

“Sum quod eris.” He heard Infinite Josh say. “I am what you will be.”

“No…” Blackout said to himself.

“I am what you will be.” The voice repeated in his head. “I am what you will be. I am what you will be. I am what you will be.”

“NO!” Blackout yelled. He inhaled. “I will not be defeated. Signal, activate.” Suddenly, part of his arm lit up, and an invisible version of the Signal de-cloaked. “Detect armor.”

“Armor detected.” It replied. “Operation level: 37%.”

“That’ll do. Bring it to me.”

“Armor activation in progress.”

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Kyle fired icicles at Cortexia as she flipped out of the way and trapped him in a purple aura.

“Gah!” He cried, struggling to escape, as Cortexia tossed him onto the mat.

“You can’t leave yourself open.” She said, helping him up.

“Yeah, well, I’m not used to fighting people with… magic.” He replied.

“It’s not magic. It’s part of me, my essence, if you will.”

“Well, I think it’s cheating.”

“Shall we go hand to hand?”

“I warn you, I’ve been trained by the Black Panther.”

“Then this should prove to be a rather interesting spar indeed.” Suddenly they both heard a bang.

“What was that?” Leviathan asked.

“It came from the cargo bay.” Cortexia said, as they both took off. They ran to the doors, where Julian rushed up attempting to finish a half-eaten burger.

“What was that bang?” He asked. They heard it again. “Uh, ain’t that where we stashed Blackout’s armor?” Cortexia’s hands lit up purple.

“Brace for anything.” She said. She pressed a button and the door opened, the pieces to Blackout’s armor soaring past them.

“What on Earth!” Leviathan cried. The armor pieces crashed through the glass wall and attached itself to Blackout. He pulled himself free and jumped down.

“It won’t end like this.” He growled.

“On the ground!” Cortexia shouted, as she fired a purple aura at him. Blackout tapped his arm and activated a shield, then he turned and fired a missile, blowing out the back of the ship. It shook and everyone fell as he jumped out of the hole he had created.

“He’s getting away!” Julian cried.

“Let him, we must stabilize the ship or we’ll be killed!” Cortexia yelled, as she rushed to the control panel. Charlie frantically ran downstairs.

“What the shock is going on!?” He asked.

“Blackout got out!” Julian replied.

“I’ve lost control!” Cortexia shouted. “The ships systems are fried, all we can do is slow our approach!”

“So we’re gonna crash!” Charlie exclaimed.

“It seems that way.” Cortexia replied. “Leviathan, freeze that hole Blackout made!”

“On it!” Leviathan said. He fired a stream of ice and began to seal the hole.

“Charlie, I need you to check the relay panel and see if you can restore any of our systems.”

“Okay.” Charlie said, ripping a panel off of the wall and investigating the relays.

“Julian, our engine is overheated and the cooling system is offline, I need you to manually apply the coolant.”

“You got it!” Julian replied. He rushed through a door where the ships engine was on fire. “Dang!” He cried. He took out his Repulsor Blaster and blasted a tube on the wall, which began spewing liquid nitrogen. He grabbed it and aimed at the engine, cooling it off.

Charlie was flipping switches, but all of the relays were flashing red.

“I can’t get any systems back online!” He yelled. “This is gonna need a manual override, but even then unless I get inside the wiring we’re not gonna recover.”

“I can’t keep this up forever!” Leviathan shouted, his ice stream getting weaker, as pieces of it were chipping off. Cortexia pulled up on the controls. The ship scraped against some thorns, then went up a bit, but began to descend again.

“Brace for impact!” Cortexia yelled, as the ship crashed down in the thorny landscape.

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Charlie slowly opened his eyes. He looked around to himself surrounded by large thorns, lying in black dirt. He looked up to see the ship crashed, impaled in various places by the thorns.

“Hello!” He heard in his ear. “Is anyone there!”

“Portal, this Charlie.” He replied.

“Thank goodness. What happened?”

“Blackout escaped, our ship crashed.”

“Okay, have Cortexia send me your dimensional coordinates, I can pull you all back.”

“Right, okay, I…” Charlie looked around. “I don’t see her.” He stood up. “Cortexia?” He called. “Julian? Leviathan? Anyone!” There was no response.

“I can’t reach them on comms.” Portal said.

“Then I’ve got to find them.” Charlie replied.

“GRRRRRAAAAAHHHHHHH!!!!!” Something roared, as Charlie spun around.

“What the shock was that!?” He shouted. The thorns began to rustle, as a giant, black, lizard-like monster stomped through.

“Grrraaahhhhh!” It roared.

“Run Charlie!” Portal shouted.

“Aw man!” Charlie shouted, as he turned to run, the creature right on his tail.

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“Dude, I swear, if you don’t wake the shell up!” Julian shouted.

“Gyah!” Leviathan cried, jumping up.

“Dang bro, I called you like a million times.”

“Sorry.” He looked around. “Where’s Princess Cortexia?”

“I don’t know. Charlie’s MIA too. We on our own.” Leviathan stood up.

“Well we’ve got to find them, and the ship!”

“I don’t even know where we are dude! So how are we supposed to find them?”

“I know a thing or two about tracking.” Leviathan replied. “For one,” he pointed downwards. “Footprints.”

“Oh.” Julian said. “Well alright then, what are we waiting for!”

“Wait…”

“What?”

“There’s footprints… and drag marks.”

“You think Charlie dragged Cortexia off somewhere? If that’s the case we should stay put, he might be comin’ back for us.”

“Maybe…” Leviathan picked up a small piece of black metal. “But something tells me it wasn’t Charlie.”

“Aw nah…” Julian said.

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Blackout, badly damaged, and armor sparking, trudged through the thorns, dragging an unconscious Princess Cortexia by the arm behind him.

To Be Continued…