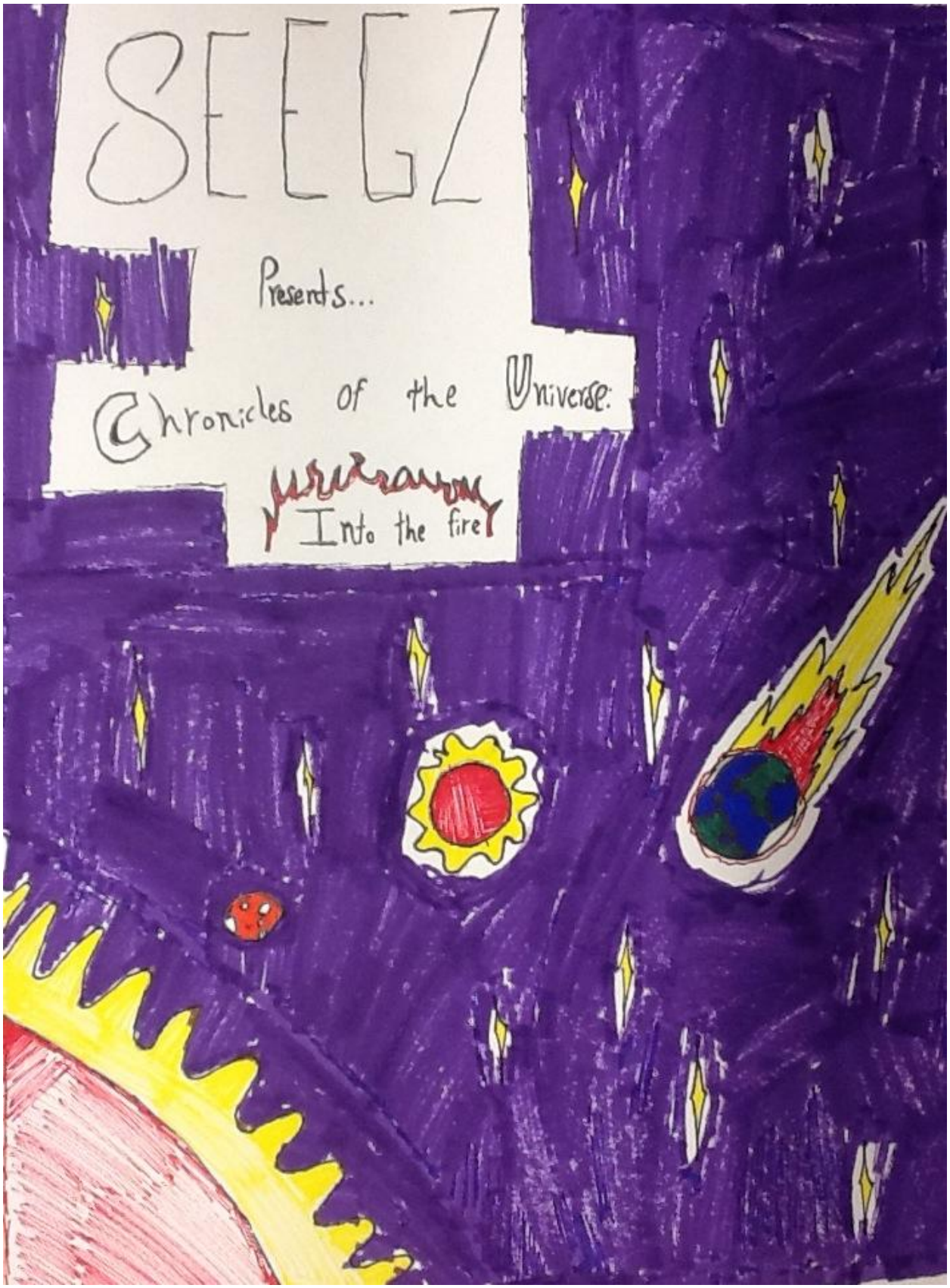
SEEGZ
Presents...
Chronicles of the Universe:
Into the fire

CHRONICLES OF THE UNIVERSE

Book II

INTO THE FIRE

By Seegz

NOTE: This book will make a lot more sense if you have read the prequel, *The Fabric of Space-time*.

“NO! The rocket must be launched through the sonic projectile launcher!” Joseph yelled. The silver-blue rocket shot into the atmosphere and exploded. Then it hit us. The earsplitting noise and a wave of force smashed into the crowd. I was thrown backwards, skidding to a halt 5 meters from where I had been standing. The wave of force smashed into the Earth, which began to rumble. Ian, Henry, Frank, Nathaniel, Joseph, Awonder, Mr. C, and I rushed into the lab.

“The readings show that Earth is slowly, but surely, moving towards the Sun,” Henry pointed out. “The explosion was so significant that it altered Earth’s orbit!”

“That’s bad! The Sun will consume the world in fire!” Nathaniel exclaimed.

“That’s not all,” Henry stated, “we have even less time because we’re on a collision course for Venus.” A deadly silence swept across the lab.

“Guys, it is even worse. We have much less time than that. According to my analysis, Earth’s temperature will rise by 2 degrees per hour, and will reach deadly heat in a matter of 12 hours (24 degrees increase).” Frank warned.

“Woah! Literal global warming!” I exclaimed.

“We have to at least slow the process so we have proper time to prevent this,” Joseph suggested. “We should study the data file of the rocket that was launched.” We rushed to the data vault and searched for *Force rocket (Jedi technology)* in the *sonic projectiles* section.

“The file’s here!” Henry yelled to us when he reached it. He pulled out the file and brought it to the projector. The content flashed up onto the wall and we studied it. *Force rocket… blasts a planet or asteroid, moving it off course…*

"Yeah, we saw all that," Joseph remarked. ... *Made by using a rocket, and replacing the regular core with a microchip (program code 77325) created with quartz and rock from asteroid 27116, coordinates 224, 8736, -42933*... "Mm hmm" ... *counteracted by the use of another force rocket on the opposite side*...

"That's it! We use another rocket!" Nathaniel exclaimed.

"One problem: it says only one has been made. We'll have to construct a new one," I stated. "Help me get the quartz filling. I'll traverse space to find the asteroid." Joseph led me through a hallway and three flights of stairs to an underground storage area. We found a container with quartz inside and used a laser to chip off a tiny shard.

"That'll do," Joseph approved. We walked back up and took one of the microchips. Once it was hooked up, we typed in the code. 77325. "Alright, Awonder and I will prepare the ship. See you at the launch pad."

"See you," I walked down to the pad while they strode towards the shipyard. They were done in no time. Joseph and I hauled it to the launch pad. I stepped in and fired up the engine. The pod took off, and the main thrusters blasted into effect.

I set course for a direct path to (224, 8736,-42933). Stars and planets blurred out of sight as I rocketed towards asteroid 27116. In a matter of seconds, meteors and stars condensed from a blur to solid objects. The asteroid lay straight ahead. When my pod reached 1 meter above the surface, I piloted it to skim the surface of the glittering grey rock. Within a few minutes, I found what I was looking for. Jackpot. A tiny chip of rock small enough to fit the microchip, identified and confirmed by the scanner. The mechanical arms picked up the fragile object and stored it away in the ship's storage bay. I set course back for

Earth. I slowed down at the ISS and made contact. *Chhhhhht!* "Max from the IUS, requesting access to landing bay."

"Access granted." The silver-grey pod landed and I strode out. I was greeted by two men who worked there, Ethan and Hayato.

"Konnichiwa," Hayato greeted me.

"Hello, what do you need?" Ethan asked.

"A standard small rocket module with the core removed," I answered.

"Come in and have a seat while we get one." Ethan led me inside to a beige couch. I sat down and waited. A minute or two later, they came back. Hayato carried a rocket and said something in Japanese. "Here you go," Ethan translated.

I inserted the microchip and told them, "Thanks, where is a sonic projectile launcher (SPL)?" Hayato pointed to the right hallway. I dashed down and loaded the projectile into the SPL and took aim near Australia. It zoomed off soundlessly and blasted the ocean below. I watched the Earth slowly stabilize. I picked up my mobile communication device (MCD) and called Joseph. "I launched the rocket. How's it going?"

"Earth is stabilized and on correct orbit, but it is still 8 degrees hotter than normal. Launch back to earth and we can talk more about it," he replied. I marched down to the landing bay, boarded my pod, and lifted off.

When I landed, Joseph greeted me. We strode towards the lab and it appeared that everyone was researching. "We're looking for a way to stop the heat wave. The only suggestion was to cover the Earth in ice cubes, and no, Mr. C, that won't work."

"Aw, but it was a good idea!"

“There isn’t enough ice cubes on Earth to do that!” Ian yelled.

“However,” Frank piped up, “there is an ice cube we *can* use. Antarctica’s ice cores from the IceCube labs! We can send a plane to Antarctica and retrieve an ice core from the labs. Our technology is able to release the stored cold to the world!”

“That’s a great idea! I will go with Max and Awonder,” Joseph decided.

“We can make contact with IceCube on the way there,” Awonder suggested.

“See how many good ideas there are! No, covering the world in ice isn’t one!” Joseph exclaimed. “We can take a flight from the private IUS airfield. At top speeds, we can reach Antarctica in a matter of 2-3 hours.”

“Sure, I’ll do it,” I said.

“Me too!” Awonder exclaimed. The three of us raced down to the airfield.

The order for the flight was called in advance. “Joseph to airfield, top-speed flight. Three passengers. Antarctica.”

“Yes, sir,” was their response. The plane was ready to take off as soon as we were buckled up. The small 4-seater (Not including pilot’s seat) zipped up the runway and into the sky.

After a few minutes in the air, I took out my MCD and called IceCube labs. “Max from IUS, calling for an ice core sample.”

“What size? What for?”

“Standard. You’ll see us in 2 hours at the landing bay. Have the core ready, we’re aiming for a short visit. We are working to stop the heat wave,” I responded.

“Understood,” they replied. For the remaining time in flight, I took out a laptop and studied the ice core data files. *Ice*

core sample… Contains cold stored for thousands of years… Has never come into contact with heat. Melts at -25F. Must be stored in completely heatproof containers and rooms.

"Ok," I said. Then I decided to discuss with Awonder on how to spread the cold. "Maybe we could break it and spread the pieces all over the world," I suggested.

"Well, that would work, but only on an extremely small scale. We could break it down to microscopic proportions and use a scattering device to spread it," he decided.

"Ok," I agreed.

When we finally arrived at IceCube, they were waiting for us. He carried the container to us as we stepped out. We accepted it, thanked him, and took off back to the IUS. It was not long by the time we all got back. "Hello, Joseph! News?" Ian asked.

"We got the core. We need a scattering device and a few lasers," Joseph replied.

"On it." We strode down to the equipment area and severed the ice to microscopic bits. It was hard not to miss the spot you were aiming at and melt the ice. The process took almost an hour.

When we finally finished, you could barely see all of the transparent blue parts. I went out to the field and took the pieces to a scattering device, and began to program it.

SPREAD: CONTENT

SCALE: GLOBAL

SPEED: HIGH

DENSITY: WELL SPREAD

I loaded the parts as the group waited in anticipation. As I pressed *FIRE,* I was anxious to see the result. Would it work right? Would the heat overwhelm it? *5…4…3…2…1…0.* CRACK! The near-invisible pile of ice shards disappeared. The air still felt hot. We waited a second, 2, 3, 4, pow! no more extreme heat. The machine had worked. "Yes! It worked!" I exclaimed in relief.

"Happy yay-we-didn't-all-burn-up-because-Earth-nearly-crashed-into-Venus-and-got-really-hot-because-it-got-too-close-to-the-sun-and-die-day (October 21)!" Mr. C exclaimed.

"-Because-SOMEONE-launched-a-force-rocket-with-a-firework-launcher!" Ian yelled. We argued and celebrated, unaware of the trouble that awaited millions of light-years away. DUN DUN DUNNNNNNN!

To be continued in
Chronicles of the Universe book III:
Dimensional Destruction.