Scourge of the

Zerg

Scourge of the Zerg Part 1

 “Well, I think that’s everything!” Mom finally told us all.

 We had been moving back to our house after not even being in it for almost two months! We had just returned from saving the world. Seriously. Well, we hadn’t finished yet. It had all started when aliens from my favorite video game, StarCraft, somehow appeared and invaded Earth. Those aliens, called the Zerg, are killer bug-like creatures covered in claws, fangs, spikes, and thick carapaces. Luckily the Protoss, other aliens, came to save us.

 The Protoss are powerful and can use various abilities that are really cool!!!! They are my favorite in game as well as out. They also have futuristic everything! Oh, and no mouths, everything is telepathic for the Protoss. I also found I had cool powers that could do...a lot. Like blowing up 30,000 Zerg in five minutes. That one takes a lot of energy though. Anyway, my brother fights alongside futuristic humans, while my friend Ada and I have Protoss powers.

 We also have pets, Raydon has a robot named Probie; Ada has a cute dragon that shoots fire, courtesy of her psionic construct ability, and I have a lightning tiger that I lightning-printed myself. I have several lightning powers. Also, I mentioned psionic energy. It’s a Protoss thing, though barely latent in most humans. Ada and I got to put that energy to use. I think it’s directed brain electricity, but I’d need to ask Karax.

Lastly, I still need to explain about the main characters, so I’ll be quick. Artanis is the Hierarch of the Protoss; Kerrigan is the leader of the good Zerg; Raynor is the leader of the futuristic Terrans; Vorazun is the Matriarch of the Nerazim; Karax is a Protoss engineer; and Amon is the evil horrible xelnaga who wants to destroy the universe.

Scourge of the Zerg Part 2

 “Finally!” I sighed, relieved. We were done unpacking. I took a very long nap in my bedroom.

 “Kale, wake up! Artanis wants to see you!” Raydon rolled me off the bed. Lucky for me, he thought to put a pillow there. I combed my hair, realizing I hadn’t done that in weeks, and my hair made me look like a porcupine/clown. I had to use half my hair gel to get it to lay down flat. When I warped aboard, Artanis immediately noticed that.

 *“Why does your…hair…seem like a rock?”*

 I neglected to reply.

“So, what’s wrong?” Ada walked up from down the hall, where she must have warped in.

 *“We have located some of the Zerg smugglers. Tonight, you must infiltrate their defenses and spy on their organization in hopes we can find more about them.”* Artanis answered.

 “Awesome!! Swann just got us some incredible spy-gear.” Raydon exclaimed.

 “Well, we’ll report the results of the mission tomorrow!” I called, warping off, after Artanis briefed us.

 We warped home, and all took long naps. Yes, ALL of us! Even though I had just finished my other one.

 That night, Ada teleported to our house. We were all dressed in black, tight fitting armor.

“You guys ready?” she asked.

 “Ready as I’ll ever be. Let’s GO!” I replied.

Scourge of the Zerg Part 3

 Ada teleported us to the enemy location immediately. After a rush of sound and light, we were on the outskirts of New York City. In front of us was a large and rusty warehouse.

“Uch, typical warehouse hideout.” I groaned. The door in front of me groaned too!

 “Quick!! Ada, get us out of sight!!” Raydon called. We instantly teleported to the roof just as two thugs walked out the rusty door.

 “Whew! That was close!” I whispered.

 “Let’s listen, quietly!” Ada replied.

 “Ugh, these monsters give me the creeps!” one of the thugs said. “Can’t we just kill ‘em and get out of here? A single chunk of those Protoss ships would fetch a high price anywhere!”

 “Don’t let the boss hear that,” the other one replied. “He might let one out.”

 “Come on, what’s the boss’s name again? I can never remember it!” the first thug asked.

 “Eh, better you know… Let’s be quiet about it though. Shshesheshehshs Sheshshshsshsh.”

Or at least, that’s all I could hear. A small blocky object flew up towards us from behind the thugs. Raydon grinned widely. Probie relayed the message*. “Alexandrovich Krasnaya.”*

Scourge of the Zerg Part 4

 “Alexandro-what now??!!” Ada rolled her eyes. “I can’t even say it! Where in the world would you get a codename like that!?”

 “Russia.” I answered. “That’s where that name comes from. His name is Alexander Red.”

 “Great, we won’t even be able to understand the guy! Or read secret documents! Or listen in on his conversations! What are we gonna do now!!!!???”

 I calmly replied, “To answer your questions: I can understand Russian, I can read Russian, and I can speak Russian. Even if I couldn’t, ever heard of Google Translate?”

 “Let’s see what’s inside, and get out of here!” Raydon exclaimed. “The thugs will be back soon!”

 We crept along the roof towards the nearest window. I peered inside. There was a single light attached to the ceiling. I made a motion for silence. There was no one inside, but there was a large cage in the corner. Lots of test tubes looked like they were in the process of being packed up. We silently floated down from the window. Raydon had installed a weird gadget on our backs for this fall-preventer-thing. A good thing too, the window was on the top of the building, which was at least twenty feet tall. When I landed, I almost screamed. Inside the cage was a sleeping Zergling. What worried me was, Zerg never sleep. What worried me most though, was a lack of chains, or a very strong cage. This was a death trap, but strangely the thugs hadn’t sprung it. I thought for a moment. Wait, what was on that box label? I walked closer to the box. It said: ZERG BREEDING FACILITY, USE CAUTION. Zerg…Breeding…oh no. My eyes widened, Raydon and Ada seemed to be realizing it too.

 Humans were trying to use the Zerg as a weapon, but Amon would use the humans as his weapon.

“Oh no.” I breathed. “Oh no.”

Scourge of the Zerg Part 5

 “Let’s get out of here!” Ada exclaimed.

 “Not until we destroy that Zergling.” I replied. A single piece of Zerg DNA can grow into an enormous army with a protein sample to energize it. I sent a bolt of lightning into the Zergling. It woke up, alive. I realized that this Zergling had twice as many spines and teeth as any other I had ever seen. Its armor was so thick, I couldn’t even tell where the body began. It looked even more hideous than anything I had ever seen, including other Zerg.

“Oh great, that’s helpful! Now we have super Zerg to deal with!! Now what?!” Ada was not happy. In fact, I was worried her hair would catch fire. Luckily the Zerg escaped just then, so her last question was answered. I jumped and whirled around in the air. When I came back down, my armor was gleaming, blades ready. Raydon tapped a grey marble and a large sniper gun appeared in his hands. Ada took her blades from the straps on her back and her dragon raced toward the Zergling. We made quick work of it, though the fight was much harder than usual.

“Imagine an Ultralisk with that kind of power!” Raydon exclaimed.

“I already have.” I replied. So much for an easy fight against Amon. This was going to be very, very hard.

Scourge of the Zerg Part 6

 Ada teleported us home, and we all went back to bed. I took a quick shower and gave Mom the latest updates before going to bed. When we got up in the morning, I looked at the calendar *“Whew! Weekend!”* I thought. After breakfast and a couple of games, Ada dropped by.

 “Artanis needs us, and Karax wants a sample from the Zergling. He might want the whole thing.” she shuddered.

 “Okay, Mom, Dad, we’ll be back!” I called as we teleported to the Spear of Adun. Or so I thought, Ada wanted to get a sample first. We walked into the abandoned warehouse. Cleared out, except for the Zergling. I zapped it. As I thought, it sprang up.

 “Just what I thought!” I called “Amon must have replaced it as a trap!” I zapped it again. It ran towards me. I had just enough time to project a lightning shield around me, when it leapt onto me. Ada quickly trapped it in a huge bubble. Luckily, the bubble was nearly indestructible, as it fell to the hard floor.

 “How do we carry the thing?” Raydon asked. I simply shot a controlled lightning bolt and formed a little bowl under the bubble. Ada grimaced and we teleported to the Spear of Adun. Karax had been waiting. He ran up and then jumped back

 *“Whoa? I thought it was dead! Never mind, this will do perfectly. Oh, hello there”* he inspected it and then noticed us. Karax gestured for us to follow. Some High Templar walked by. Ada and I must have shown the strain, as they immediately raced over and added their own lightning bolts and constructs. I dropped my end, exhausted. Ada held hers, we did not want this specimen loose on the Spear of Adun. Especially one that could grow and make its own army in a matter of hours without ever being found. Anyway, Karax led us to the Solar core and began tapping buttons. More buttons. Even more buttons. I decided to stare at the solar core itself. A small sun, contained inside a cool ball. It also had the power to nourish and strengthen people. I felt rejuvenated, and added a little lightning to the Zergling holding pen. That sure got it to quiet down. Finally, Karax was done. The ball was dropped to the floor, and a large reinforced pen formed around it. We all let go of the shield and the Zergling rushed out. Only to be zapped as soon as it raced against the walls of the pen. That zergling was going nowhere. Now, how did they make it so powerful? I turned to ask Karax as he did thousands of microscans.

Scourge of the Zerg Part 7

 “So, how in the world did that zergling get so many spines, muscles, teeth, claws- ferocity!!!??!!!” The last one was thought of just then, as the zergling jumped 50 feet in the air and scraped the wall with a tremendous roar. I was quite terrified and jumped almost as high, a lightning bolt crackling and zapping the zergling as I went up.

 Karax looked up, way up, *“Well, that’s one way to do research. I think that the humans from Earth have been inventing some sort of super serum. They stole research from the Terrans, and added stimpacks to the mixture. The Zerg’s regenerative capabilities reverse the negative effects of stimpacks. These Zerg have been given so much power, I am glad you have the power to help us. The problem is: Amon already has control of the humans. Though his mind-control powers are strong, we have no way of knowing if their leader is corrupted by Amon.”*

“Sounds great.” I sighed “The fate of the world in our hands, blah blah blah, I’m going to take a nap when we get back.”

 Ada, who had been quiet for a while, spoke. “Maybe we can get to ol’ Redsie first. We could beat Amon to him, and convince him to help us!”

 “Hmm. There was another Russian guy that wanted to blow up everyone and turned out good in the end.” I pondered. “Ha! And his name was even *Alexei* Stukov! Alexandrov-Alexei…Okay, you don’t get it….”

Scourge of the Zerg Part 8

 “I think we should train some more.” I randomly threw in. We were sitting in the HM several days later. We had been discussing…Well, anything but saving the world. “Also, I need a hobby.”

 “Blowing stuff up not good enough for you, Lightning Boy?” Ada joked.

 “I already told you, I don’t like that nickname. Ninja of Light is a maybe.”

 “I want a superpower nickname!” Raydon asked.

 “Umm… Grenade-Blaster?”

 Raydon shook his head.

 “Thirteen-inch-long-metal-shooter?”

 He glared.

 “The Ultimate Gun Slinger?”

 I almost fell over with the force of the Death Glare.

 “How about: Captain Raydon?” Ada asked.

 “Nice!” Raydon agreed.

 “Me?” Ada asked.

 “How about the Dragon Maker?” I suggested.

 “Nah, I’ll think about it.” She replied.

Scourge of the Zerg Part 9

 *Kshing! Boom! Bzzaw! Crack!* Another day training. Ada finished off the last hologram with a well-aimed ice-arrow. I did a lightning backflip, soaring through the air. What is a lighting backflip? It’s a complicated flow of energy directed at a source, quickly using electric currents to swiftly transport a subject to a target and letting loose a power surge dealing high density area damage on contact. In much more simpler terms: I use electricity to fly backwards really fast and blow up a bunch of stuff. You should try it sometime...if you ever have access to an alternate dimension. I love using lightning for more and more things. More new tech, Raydon now has super cool laser guns that use high power contained radiation charges that are really cool. They also blow stuff up. Luckily, the radiation only effects the target. Raydon is a master with technology. On Ada’s side, she has a really cool ability to levitate stuff and thrust them down. We have found that her abilities are more focused on controlling and manipulating the environment. Finally, I have some special shields on my feet. This way, I can use my Taekwondo practice to save the world! I think saving the world is going to be very fun with these new upgrades. Still, I went to ask Karax about the super zergling. As I walked in, it flew into the air with wings that were not there before.

 *“Oh, hello! I have found this zergling very fascinating. It can mutate abilities normally given by a spawning pool. I believe it can be quite deadly, as it continues to grow new abilities. I must keep an eye on its progress. I will ask Artanis to set up some guards.”*

Oh great, now we have Zerg that get stronger the longer they’re alive. I’m glad we have new abilities to stop them.

Scourge of the Zerg Part 10

 I was walking around the vast Hyperion, Raynor’s battleship. I liked being around humans. Sometimes, I do need a break from aliens. I walked past the armory.

 “I want a B16 sniper with super configuration, a V7 machine gun, and an overpowered magnum with-”

 I walked in, surprised. I knew that voice.

 “Jacob! What are you doing here!?” Jacob is Ada’s brother. If Ada cut her hair like him, they would look nearly identical. Jacob really likes video games and various kinds of guns. He also likes blowing stuff up. Apparently, he decided to join the team. Swann was thrilled to know he liked guns and knew a bunch about mechs. Jacob would be a valuable asset to the team. I came to the Armory a few hours later after taking a nap at home. Jacob had given Swann some new schematics for some weapons from Halo. Swann was able to replicate them and set up a production line for them. Jacob also had gotten himself a sophisticated battle suit, he called a goliath. Yes, we could use all the help we could get, and this was just what we needed.

Scourge of The Zerg Part 11

 Training had become even more fun with Jacob around. I can never remember the names of his guns and gadgets, but it’s really fun hearing him talk about them! ‘Boom!’

 “S23 machine guns rule!”

 ‘Blam!’ “Magnum plasma blasters with Y12 charges-instant kill!”

 ‘ZummmmBRAWABOOM!’ “The charge is crazy long, but totally worth it!”

 ‘Btrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrr’ “U1739 Mech blasters are great for trillions of targets!”

 All I could see was explosions and flying bullets- “Duck!”- but Jacob knows every bit of every gun. I was getting better at turning my blades into other objects. Hammer- ‘Blam’ “There goes that Ultralisk!” Saw- more like a nail file, but still helpful. Screwdriver- for fixing big machines! Ada is practicing a new ability, she won’t tell me what it is! Raydon likes practicing his aim… and playing Minecraft in the hologram room. Finally, I got very bored of blowing stuff up. I walked up to Artainis.

 *“Kale, you and your team have a new mission: there is another human with abilities…”*

Scourge of the Zerg Part 12

 *Boom*! The mission wasn’t looking good. *Blam!* The scanners were unable to pinpoint who it was that had the abilities. *Crack!* Super Zerg ambushed us wherever we went. *ZZwawawa-BOOM!* We were fighting them off the best we could but- *Crack!* – these guys were tough! *Btrtrtrtrtrtrtrrt Kshing! Bzzaw! Blam! Roar-* Roar? Oh no! “Ultralisk! Look out!” I raced towards it, swinging my hammer-blades. I got it, but was attacked from the side by a zergling. Ada got it with a well-aimed icicle shot, but she got hit by a Hydralisk! Raydon shot it with his sniper, but Jacob just barely shot down a fresh zergling wave before it overwhelmed Raydon. Wait, who had Jacob’s back?! Uh oh, I forgot…I was supposed to. Just then, I ducked under a flying zergling and yelled, “Look out! JACOB!” He got hit full force from an Ultralisk. I smashed it, but Jacob was unconscious. We all formed a protective circle around Jacob, but it wasn’t looking good. Just as I thought it was all over, I felt a strange sensation of energy pulsing through me. We had long ago used up the power of our Kalahadrahin crystals- we needed new ones- so it couldn’t be that…. I suddenly found the energy to lightning all the Zerg around us, they fell to the ground…and blew away in the wind.

 “What in the world… I thought…” Ada breathed.

 “I never knew I could do that…even after battling?” I also barely could speak.

 “What happened…” Jacob stood up. We all had just enough energy to jump in surprise.

 “Um…hi…guys.” Ava walked up.

Scourge of the Zerg Part 13

 “So…wait, how long have you known about this????!!!” I asked a little while later. Ava had just given us the energy to fight an unstoppable army. None of us could do that on our first day. I don’t count, I had been practicing for months. Ava had been practicing all her ten years of life, not knowing what it was she really was capable of.

 “All I knew is that I was good a helping to heal people.” She responded.

 “What else can you do?” I asked.

 Ava grinned. “Let’s find out, but I want it to be a surprise. Just Ada and me.” I agreed, and we teleported to the Spear of Adun. She gasped, awestruck at the elegant design. Even I gasped as a new mech trudged by.

 “That’s new!” I commented. “Nice deflector shields…Wow is that a bombardment missile! On the same mech?! Karax has outdone himself there!”

 “Uh huh, and here’s the training area.” Ada directed Ava to the right. Jacob, Raydon, and I walked off to the HM to play some Halo.

 A few hours later, Ada walked in. “Okay guys, you have got to see this!”

Scourge of the Zerg Part 14

 We walked into the training room and froze, literally. “What!??” I wanted to say, but my mouth was frozen shut. Luckily, Ada started a telepathic link, but all I could hear was giggling. Make that laughing. Then Ada and Ava fell on the floor, laughing loudly.

 *“Let me guess, that’s what you wanted to show me?”* I glared.

Luckily, they forgot about my Psionic fire ability, so we quickly got un-frozen.

 “So, you can heal people, freeze people, and drive people nuts.” I grinned.

 “I also can do this.” Ava returned it with a smile. “Ada?”

 A beautiful unicorn appeared in the center of the training area. I could already see the strain on Ada’s face, her ability was hard to sustain. Suddenly, a purple glow came from Ava’s hands as she stroked its mane. Ada didn’t look tired anymore, the unicorn…changed. First, it changed color, from light blue, to a deep black and purple. Then, it began to breathe, not the forced, robotic breathing of a construct, but more…realistic. The magnificent steed whinnied and raced around the room. Ava hopped onto it and rode swiftly! Ada projected a simple target in the center of the room, and a laser shot from the unicorn’s horn, hitting it. Ava also showed us how the unicorn could heal. I stared, Ava would be so helpful… “So…I was going to ask you guys…could I…join your team?”

“Absolutely!”

Scourge of the Zerg Part 15

 ‘Crash!’ “Ada! Bad guy on the left!” ‘Bang!’

“Raydon look out for the-” ‘Shhhing!’ ‘Bzzaw!’ “I love these things!”

“Kale, get to the checkpoint!”

 Actually, we weren’t on a mission, just a day at Jacob and Ada’s house. Still, we had all decided to play Halo. I like hanging out with my friends, even when we aren’t destroying evil legions. Life can still be normal, even when it’s out-of-control-crazy. Anyway, we kept on playing for several hours. Mom finally came down and ordered us to go play outside. It was a magnificent day, sunny, bright, and plenty of zerglings. Wait, WHAT!!! The street was covered in super zerglings!

 “Oh, come on! Can’t we have a normal day once in a while!” Ada complained as the horde rushed toward us. I tossed everyone a shield generator and Ada teleported our armor and weapons to us. Ava gave us a boost, and we confronted the army. Just zerglings, hmmm. Wait a minute…

 “Duck!!” I screamed, just in time as a flock of mutalisks fell from the sky and shot at us with deadly blades. The air is very hard to fight when on the ground. Try hitting a jet going at high speed high above your head with lightsabers stuck to your hands. Ada, luckily, used her new crystal to jump into the air and sliced at least five mutalisks. Jump, slash, leap, jump, slash, leap… I did the same. Jacob and the pets (Probie, Claws, Ada’s dragon, and the unicorns) took on the zerglings, while Raydon used a jetpack to get some leverage. We quickly finished them off with no damage to the neighborhood. Ada teleported the dead zerg in the middle of the sun -a very handy disposal method. We walked inside.

 “Inside already, and so dirty?! What did you kids play out there?!”

 “Let’s just say playing outside is dangerous.” I grinned

Scourge of the Zerg Part 16

 “We need a plan.” I commented. No one replied. We were in the HM, Raydon and Jacob were playing Halo loudly, Ada and Ava were…I couldn’t tell what they were doing, and I was drawing up battle plans. “Uch! Come on!” Lightning fingers are not helpful when trying to draw battle plans, I kept frying the circuits of the computer. Where could Alexander Red be?

 “Kale, come on, let’s go practice a few things, and maybe you’ll think of something.” Ada and Ava walked up. Jacob decided to play a solo mission and Raydon joined us.

 It was awesome. Ada finally demonstrated her new ability: Mind Control. That may sound crazy, but it is probably the coolest power ever. Especially since she can’t use it on us. Actually, she can only use it on non-intelligent beings. So, it won’t work on humans or Protoss, but most zerg are susceptible to her ability. She can also command the neighborhood squirrels to bombard us with acorns whenever we go outside.

 “Hey Lightning Boy, any new abilities?” Ada asked me.

 “Please don’t call me that, and yes.” I replied. I jumped into the air, let a hologram super Ultralisk (Karax upgraded the holo-system for super zerg) appear, and transformed myself into a lightning bolt, crashing down and destroying the enemy in a single blow, plus area damage, so the newly formed hologram zerglings blew up too!

 “Hey Raydon, what have you got?” Ava called.

 “Oh… nothing… just this!” He tapped a button on his wrist and a huge mech formed around him. The mech smashed at least a hundred zerglings with one blow of its bare fist! The mech disappeared, and Raydon grinned. “Hey Ava? What new thing can you do??”

 She grinned wider until it outshone all the other grins, which seemed like frowns in comparison. “Watch this!” With that, she flew into the air.

Scourge of the Zerg Part 17

 It turns out flying is not her ability. Soaring into the air, doing a triple backflip, three split circles, one more front flip, and hitting the ground with incredible velocity is her ability. A sparkling purple aura shone around her. Her eyes gleamed with excitement. “Wait for it…Wait for it… Now!” she exclaimed. The aura pulsed outward in continuing circles, enveloping the ship, and then- *Whoosh!* The rings of purple mist retracted with incredible speed. Ava floated in the air, purple mist floating around her. Mist shot from her once again, this time, it kept coming, and with greater, and greater strength until- BOOM! Pure purple healing energy exploded from her and she fell to the ground. I felt stronger than I had in years. I felt like I could run a thousand marathons, without ever trying. I also felt slightly cold. Ava’s eyes shone. “*That,* is my power overload.”

 “That seems familiar…” Raydon grinned

 I stared with shocked eyes “Didn’t I do that?!?!”

Scourge of the Zerg Part 18

 “So… We each have special hidden abilities right.” Ava confirmed

 We nodded.

 “And we discover them by…” Ava hesitated

 “Blowing up a bunch of guys.” Ada replied.

 “Gathering more strength.” I added at the same time.

 “Getting smarter” Raydon grinned.

 “What Ada said.” Jacob finished.

 “Okay then,” Ava smiled “and we each have power overloads… but what are they?”

 I answered. “The culmination of our abilities, multiplied tremendously.”

 “So your power is lightning.” Raydon looked over at me.

 “Yup! I think we figured that out.” I laughed, shooting tiny streaks of lightning at the wall.

 “My ability is making sure you guys stay alive...” Ava grinned. “and this.” A dark purple ball of energy formed around her hand. She pitched it at a training wall -something Ada came up with for target practice. The ball exploded on contact.

Scourge of the Zerg Part 19

 “So, now you have another ability. That is epic!” Ada exclaimed. “Now you can blast the bad guys too! While freezing them of course, and then, if they survive, a single shot would obliterate an Ultralisk!”

 “Yup! I think we each will have a power overload by the time we fight Amon.” I told everybody. “I think Ada’s overload should activate with a lot of bad guys, and I mean a lot!”

 “Oh! So we can put her in front.” Jacob teased.

 “I also need a team meeting about where to look for Alexander Red.” I smiled.

 Everyone looked at me like I was crazy. “Well, what have we been doing for the past hour, huh? Having a team meeting!” Ada laughed. “Now, any ideas?”

 “I say we go straight to Russia and blast bad guys until he comes out of hiding.” Jacob got his gun out.

 “Definitely not. This is a spy mission. We don’t want him finding us.” I immediately vetoed the idea.

 “What if we just asked around for him.” Raydon suggested.

 “Still too obvious.”

 “Search creepy warehouses?” Ava added.

 “Nope.”

 “Follow the packages we found at the warehouse?” Ada grinned.

 “That’s brilliant!” I exclaimed with excitement. “But……The packages were cleared out when we got there. We can’t trace them if we don’t have packages to trace.”
 “Kale, I’ve known you long enough to know you have photographic memory.” Ada smiled.

 “Only basic photographic memory!” I protested “So that won’t…wait…uh huh…zoom in.”

 “For someone who only has basic photographic memory, you seem to be on to something rather fast.” teased Ada.

 “Found it!” I opened my eyes, grinning. “And you should bring your warm clothes. We’re going to Antarctica.”

Scourge of the Zerg Part 20

 “Brrrr…Why does it have to be so cold!” Ava complained.

 “Because we are on the coldest spot on Earth.” I replied simply.

 “But WHY are these guys even out here!” Ava was looking rather hot actually – with fury.

 “Because Zerg improve their abilities when placed in extreme temperatures” I replied calmly. I was actually quite enjoying the trip. We had futuristically warm clothing, and I had white hot lightning zapping around me all the time, which normally left me so hot I nearly exploded from annoyance. (I don’t like being hot about as much as Ava doesn’t like freezing her nose off.)

 “It would be nice if you could warm us up.” Raydon asked, shivering.

 “What do you mean?” I asked, forgetting about the fact I had used complicated shield maneuvers to use my fire as a heater without burning my clothes to a crisp. Raydon explained, and we quickly all had heaters.

 “Ada, we should stop for the night.” Jacob commented. “Could you make some sort of shelter?”

 We had decided to teleport in a few miles away so that we would not be detected by the scientists at the facility, so it was a two-day long hike to get there. Ada levitated about fifty tons of snow to make a nice, three-room igloo for us.

 “Wow! You’re getting better at that!” Raydon commented as we crawled in. It was very comfy and nice in there. Raydon got out some tap-marbles, from which he withdrew some wood. Ava blasted a small hole in the ground, and I started a fire. Soon, we were sitting around the fire, drinking hot chocolate and telling stories. Raydon had also gotten out some blankets and pillows, so the room quickly warmed up. To be careful, we had projected a shield around the igloo, plus cloaking devices. After a while, we contacted my parents and Artanis, saying we were getting ready for bed. We updated them on our mission, said goodnight, and rolled out the sleeping bags. I slept very soundly that night.

Scourge of the Zerg Part 21

 *‘Yawn’* “Good Morning!” Ada called and teleported to the main room. I was already outside, doing some lightning tricks. Ada crawled out of the igloo.

 “Look at this!” I told her. I used lightning to draw a detailed picture of all of us with our pets. “My photographic memory works for lightning too!” That picture had actually been drawn by Ada a few months ago.

 “Wow. Now, could you help me cook breakfast?” Ada asked.

 “Sure!” Soon breakfast was cooking, and everyone was up. We left the igloo standing, but we took all the blankets and other stuff. We trekked off again.

 “Are we there yet?” Raydon asked, very bored.

 “I guess so!!” A zergling jumped from a nearby pile of snow. I leaped backwards, and my armor and blades formed around me. Ada flipped into the air and her blades teleported to her hands and she sliced the zergling and jumped back. More zerglings began to thunder from around us. Raydon whirled and a sniper and machine gun appeared in his hands and blasted at least fifteen immediately. Jacob hit an Ultralisk that was thundering towards us. Ava pitched balls of energy into the mass of the enemies. Lightning thundered onto the enemy. The were vaporized, but only to be replaced by a hundred more! Ada and I flipped out of the way of the encroaching enemy.

 “Retreat!” I called, realizing we were fighting a downhill battle. We used our long-range abilities to cover our retreat, but we had to make it to the facility. The zerg were chasing us *away* from our destination! “Wait!” I called. Everyone stopped. “I have a plan.” I didn’t have enough energy to use my power overload, so I needed to improvise. I closed my eyes. I had read a book about something, there! I could probably replicate… Done! I opened my eyes. My friends were made of confused electricity. I looked down, so was I. As in the book, with a thought, we were at the facility.

 “Isn’t that my ability?” Ada asked, confused.

 “Yes, but you were too tired.” I countered and collapsed.

Scourge of the Zerg Part 22

 “No more trying to kill yourself okay?” I woke up to Ada teaming up with Mom on the com-chat to scold me about over-using my abilities un-necessarily. Ava was too busy keeping me alive to comment, Jacob and Raydon were outside on a perimeter check, otherwise they all would be getting on to me. Oh yeah, and Dad was at work.

 “Okay, but wasn’t Ada too tired to get us out of here? She used her abilities the most of all of us.” I finally opened my eyes.

 “Kalyhadrahin crystal!” everyone exclaimed at the same time.

 “Oh, but…I didn’t use mine…oops.” I realized.

 “We had to make you touch it as soon as possible, or your abilities would be gone, and you’d probably have died.” Ava finished up healing me. I sent a torrent of lightning through the roof and blasted a huge hole in the ceiling of… oh, another igloo. My hands crackled with energy. Yup, I still could blow stuff up.

 “Where are we?” I asked.

 “We zapped to the middle of nowhere!” Ada suddenly exclaimed. “This is exactly where the facility should have-” BOOM!!!

 A huge blast made the ground shake. I ran outside.

 “I think we found the facility-” Jacob shouted, “-and a whole lot of killer bug aliens!!!!”

Scourge of the Zerg Part 23

 I sent torrent after torrent of lightning into the zerg around me. Ada zipped around throwing darts the size of my arm and slicing an Ultralisk to ribbons. Jacob’s gun flashed as he sent a blast into a hydralisk the size of my house. Raydon got another one with his lightsaber. I finished off the last of the zerglings. Speaking of which, they weren’t super Zerg, actually weaker than the regular ones.

 “Umm, guys… That was too eas- ACK!!!!!!” Ada yelled as the ground erupted beneath her. A super Ultralisk rose from hiding. More super zerg came up from the ground. The battle erupted again. Ava launched an energy ball at her feet and flew up into the air sending energy pounding into the enemy. Raydon ran inside the igloo and came out with the pets. Ada’s dragon swooped into the zerg forces, sending fire into their flammable carapaces. Claws roared, incinerated at least a hundred zerglings at once. As Probie sent waves of bullets down on the hydralisks, the unicorns charged, blasting their lasers. As Ada sliced the Ultralisk, we realized the zerg were defeated. The facility had risen out of the ground during the attack and was now sitting in plain sight with at least fifty feet of snow and ice on top of it.

 “There we go, let’s to this thing!” Raydon ran up the stairs to the facility.

 “WAIT! No! Don’t-” *Click!*

 A flash came from inside the facility, and then a bang, and then- *BOOOOOOOOMMMMM!!!!!*

 Something I hoped to never see came out of that facility: The Hybrid.

Scourge of the Zerg Part 24

 “Ahhh!!!” Raydon raced back towards us. Ada just barely managed to teleport him before the hybrid barreled into him. The hybrid are evil creatures made of zerg and protoss essence. This hybrid seemed to be dominantly protoss. That was both good and bad for us. They would be weaker against regular attacks, like lightsabers and guns, but they would be more resistant to our special abilities.

 I sent a huge blast of lightning at it, blue bolts crackling, but the hybrid absorbed the blow completely! I dodged a huge blast of energy and lightning backflipped onto the hybrid. Ada had launched a wave of huge darts, but the hybrid brushed the energy darts away like nothing. She then teleported behind the hybrid, slicing with her lightsabers, effectively slicing a tentacle off. Raydon and Jacob pummeled the hybrid with blasts, but we weren’t even hurting it! The tentacle re-grew, and I had to zap out of the way as a charged tentacle shot towards me.

We were now on the defensive. Raydon and Jacob pummeled the hybrid behind their shields but were blown off their feet by a massive explosion. I directed all of my energy into a shield to protect us, but it wasn’t going to last long. Ada and Ava added energy. We used all of the Kalyhadrahin crystals, but the shield was weakening. We only could hold it for a few more seconds as the hybrid sent waves of energy into our shield.

 Just as the shield was about to crack…BOOOOMMM!!!!!! An explosion caught the hybrid off guard. BOOM! BOOM! BOOM! More explosion rocked the surface of ice. The hybrid suddenly collapsed as energy drained from it, into us. I looked at Ava, who was just getting up after collapsing from the exertion. She shook her head. BOOM! Another explosion drew our attention to who had just saved us.

“Did someone call the Mom squad?” Mom joked, a legion of Protoss and Terrans behind her.

Scourge of the Zerg Part 25

 “Okay, WHAT. JUST. HAPPENED!!!!” Ada looked exhausted. Actually, we all did. Raydon was on the ground, knocked out, but he would be okay. Jacob was trying to get up and collapsing. Ava looked ready to fall over again. I barely was able to keep my eyes opened. Mom raced towards us. She gave me a huge hug, and waved her hand in a circle. I instantly felt much better and watched as Mom healed Ava, and then they both helped the others.

 Once we were all back to normal, Mom told us what happened. “A few minutes after you hung up on the com-chat, I sensed something…. I think it was-”

 “Super powers!” I cut in excitedly.

 “- motherly intuition.” Mom finished. “Anyway, I talked to Artanis and Dad, and I decided to check it out. Artanis had me take a small escort, but when I saw you guys fighting that thing…” She pointed at the hybrid. “Artanis made me get some help.”

 “Cool!” Raydon exclaimed.

 “Mom, one: thanks for saving my life, two: thanks for having super powers, and three…you are the coolest mom ever!!” I gave Mom a really big hug.

Scourge of the Zerg Part 26

 “What do we do now?” Ada asked later. We were looking at the Arctic facility. “We can’t just leave, but if we go in…” The end of that sentence didn’t need finishing. If there were any more of those hybrid, we would be destroyed. If we left, the facility would produce more hybrid and destroy us later. Not much of a choice.

 “We have to go in.” I decided. “We can’t let the hybrid in this facility get out; they would destroy the world.”
 A while later, we had gathered our supplies, and prepared to go inside. We each had new Kalyhadrahin crystals. Karax joked that it was a good thing they were already being mass produced for the high templar or we wouldn’t have enough to last a week! Karax is the only Protoss who is good at making jokes. Of course, he’s practically the only one who has ever attempted making them. Jacob, Ada, Ava, Raydon, and I all strode up to the icy facility.

Mom ran up, “I’m coming with you!”

 After nodding to Mom, I turned to everybody. “Okay, we’re ready. Let’s go.”

 The army stayed outside and defended us against the incessant attacks of the super zerg. We had to hurry, they wouldn’t last long.

Scourge of the Zerg Part 27

 “Woah!” we gasped.

 “This is incredible!” I exclaimed.

 “What on earth…” Mom looked around.

 The facility was full of tech computers, but that wasn’t even given a passing glance. The real wonder was the artifacts. Great objects of immense power were hidden throughout the galaxy centuries ago. No one knows who hid them, or why they were buried. Huge, intricate and made of powerful crystals and stone, these incredible relics filled the room. Unintelligible hieroglyphs lined the artifacts.

 “This is what they’re doing…” I realized. “They’re using the artifacts to power their army.”

 “Where did they get so many?” Ada whispered.

 The Taldarim hoarded these artifacts, they would guard them with their lives. The sad thing is: most of the Taldarim are still under the control of Amon. Their lives were already lost. This must be the accumulation of centuries indeed…

 “Good to know…” Ada replied, though I hadn’t spoken.

 “Ada, did you read my mind?”

 “No, you spoke it loud and clear.”

 “Uh… I didn’t hear anything.” Jacob glanced around nervously.

 “Did you guys hear him?” Ada asked anxiously. Everyone shook their heads.

 “Everyone, be on your guard,” I warned “-I think these artifacts interfere with our abilities. Raydon, can you contact Karax? He’ll want to inspect these.”

 “Uh oh, the com’s jammed! These artifacts are interfering…and there’s something else…”

 SLAM!! The door slammed shut behind us!

 “It won’t open!!” Ava tugged at the door.

 “This is bad.”

 “Uh oh!”

 “What are we going to do?!!”

 RRRROOOOOAAAARRRRR!!!!!!!

Scourge of the Zerg Part 28

 RRRRROOOOOOAAAAARRRR!!!!

 There it was again. There was obviously a hybrid somewhere in here!

 RRRRRROOO “What is that!” OAAAAARRRR!!! Ada tried to yell over the loud roar.

 RRRROOOOOOAAAAARRRR!!!! “I think it’s coming closer!” BOOM! BOOM! BOOM!

 Raydon was crying, Ava and Mom were comforting him when ROOOOOOOAAAAARRRR!!! A huge hybrid rushed in and bellowed. This hybrid was an ugly purple with random spikes sticking out of every corner of its body. The thing that made it definitely a hybrid was the evil, intelligent eyes. Huge, Ultralisk-like claws extended in long strips. This was a zerg-dominant hybrid, and that was bad news for us. These hybrid can only be defeated with a colossal army and powerful upgrades. Or five kids and a mom with epic superpowers. I raced at it spinning and diving with my psi blades. I lightning backflipped onto the creatures back but ended up face-first on the ground. Ada sliced a hundred spikes off, only to be replaced by impenetrable skin. She tried to use her ability to throw it to the wall, but instead, she was thrown back. Ava tried to drain it’s energy but collapsed as it gathered her strength instead. Raydon and Jacob held it at bay as Mom kept us alive. The hybrid suddenly stopped, roared, and disintegrated. We shakily cheered, but I was suspicious. Something wasn’t right.

 The particles of the hybrid coalesced together again, this time in three different forms. One was made of pure lightning, wind swirled the ammo that Raydon and Jacob had shot at the hybrid and became a swirling form, the last was an ice giant. They just stood or floated there. This was interesting.

 “Ummm…What do we do if they attack?”

 “Uhh…. I don’t know.”

 “Why aren’t they doing anything.”

 “I don’t like this… I think we should-”

 RRRROOOOOAAAAARRR!!!! ROOOOOAAAAAARRRRRRR!!!! RRRRRRRROOOOOOOOOOAAAAAARRRRRRRRR!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

 “RRRUUUNNNN!!!!!”

Scourge of The Zerg Part 29

 The strange forms charged at us. We raced through the facility, the hybrid close on our tail. Startled scientists cowered behind impenetrable glass structures as the huge facility alarms began to blare. I screamed as a huge Ultralisk appeared in front of me. So did a bunch of zerglings. These monsters had huge spines and claws in a misshapen order. Not super zerg…

 “The test experiments!” I called out.

 We turned around. The hybrid were almost to us! The zerg were in overwhelming numbers. We were trapped! I tried to lightning all the zerg, but I was so tired that I barely could gather a spark. I needed to concentrate, but I was too busy trying to stay conscious. Same with everybody else. The hybrid thundered closer, the zerg swarmed us. We couldn’t even fight back! Just then, all of our pets, Probie, Claws, Ada’s dragon, and Ava’s unicorns, came to our rescue! Ava’s unicorns held battle line against the zerg, while Ada’s dragon bombarded the ice giant with fire. Claws transformed into a raging tiger and sent fire everywhere. The fire sucked the wind from the air creature and destroyed that too. The lightning monster was no match for Probie’s water cannon. My last thought before I fainted was that I should thank Ava after the mission for stabilizing our pets.

Scourge of the Zerg Part 30

 “Huh? Whaaa…?” Black, white, colors, light. “What… is… GOING ON HERE!” I screamed and jumped up, remembering where I was.

 ‘Graaraw’ Claws hissed nearby.

 I blinked. Zerg bodies were everywhere, shattered ice crystals strewn across the steel gray ground. The unicorns were holding a perimeter, while the other pets guarded their owners. I woke the other up… or at least I tried. First, I tried shaking them. No luck. Then I yelled their names, nothing. Finally, I lightly zapped everyone. That worked. Ada jumped up and immediately sent me flying back into the wall while everybody else grabbed their weapons and started wildly shooting. Once we all fully woke up, I thanked Ava for technically saving our lives and briefed everyone on the situation. Mom was no where to be seen. Actually, we were the only ones around.

 “Where is everybody?” Raydon asked curiously.

 “Maybe they’re outside?” Jacob pondered.

 We raced to the entrance of the facility and looked out. Not good. The protoss and terran re-enforcements were in battle and it was obvious that they were losing. Strangely Mom wasn’t there either.

 “Where’s Mom?” I asked, looking around.

 “Right here.”

 “Who said that?”

 “Your mother.”

 “Mom, where are you?”

 “Right here! Can’t you- oh my.”

 Mom appeared right next to me.

“W…Wh…Wha…WHAT!” I exclaimed.

“Mommy! You can turn invisible! Woohoo!” Raydon yelled happily.

Scourge of the Zerg Part 31

 “Well, that’s new!” I commented as Mom showed us how she could appear and disappear. “That could be very helpful.”

 “Cool. Now here’s the next problem: HOW DO WE GET OUT OF HERE!!” Ada viewed the battle scene in front of us.

 The zerg were a never-ending tide, a flowing mass of death, a-

 “Kale! Stop being poetic and come up with a plan!” Ada was very annoyed.

 “Wait, these artifacts are still affecting us!” Ava exclaimed.

 “Artanis can’t warp us up!” Jacob warned.

 “We’ll have to fight.” I interrupted. “We aren’t getting anywhere by panicking.”

 “Artanis can’t beam down re-enforcements either.”

 “How are we supposed to fight with a couple hundred tired warriors and five kids against a never-ending wave!”

 “Artanis has figured out how to beam down a weapon that should help us.” Raydon commented. “It’s Jacob’s sword that we’ve been working on. It was supposed to be a birthday present.”
 A strange handle materialized in the air in front of us. Jacob took it. The handle was normal, except for a circle surrounding it. A blade swiftly rose from the top of the circle. The entire weapon was golden with silver streams running through it. When Jacob gripped it with both hands and pressed a button, the blade began to spin around the circle. We all stepped back about ten feet as the blade was at least two feet long.

 “Woah!” Jacob jumped. “Epic!”

 “Try it out!”

 Jacob began swinging it, testing the feel. Soon, he was wielding that sword expertly, weaving, dashing, slicing, and slashing. When he wanted to hit multiple targets, he could make the sword spin, and then send it flying. Teleportation tech made it come back when Jacob pressed a button on his wrist.

 Ava walked off so I ran after her.

 “I’m the only one without a sword, lightsaber, or weapon in general.” She told me.

 “I thought you might worry about that,” I grinned. “, so, I thought we’d make it for you!”

 We walked back to the group.

 “Ready guys?”

 “Yup!”

 We all gathered in a wide circle. Ada called it an assembly line. First up, Jacob and Raydon consulted Ava on the type of weapon and all that. Next, Ada created a thin, sharp blade with a smooth handle. Finally, I gave it an energy boost that gave it an electric touch. I might have overdone it on the light though, as we had to look away at the brilliance of it. Ava grabbed it and concentrated. Suddenly, the blade turned dark as night. The crackling aura I gave it became elegant shadows. The blade became ethereal and yet solid as steel.

 “I’ll call it, The Shadow Blade.” Ava stared at it,

 “The Shadow Blade… seems catchy.” Ada commented.

 “Now we’re ready.” We faced the zerg flood.

Scourge of the Earth Part 32

 Zerg poured on our defenses. It looked like Artanis and Raynor’s forces had set up a command center and nexus nearby on a couple mineral fields that they had found buried in ice. Huge bunkers had been set up and were stocked with marine defenders. Protoss photon cannons were firing constantly on the enemy waves, creating powerful shock damage. Kalyhadrahin monoliths shot highly powerful electric bolts at equally towering ultralisks. Still, as more warriors fell to the zerg mass, we realized this formidable camp wouldn’t hold out long. I rushed to the front lines and stared. This was worse than I thought! The zerg weren’t even all on the icy ground. Ravenous monsters climbed on top of each other to get to us. I twirled and sent lightning flying into the mass of zerg. Ava zipped around the zerg with viper’s speed, her dark blade slicing. Jacob used powerful thrusts with his sword and cleaved two hydralisks simultaneously! Raydon sent waves of bullets into a huge mob of evil creatures. Energy swirled and circled through the zerg, decimating hundreds, only to have thousands to take their place. I sent lightning until I had no strength; I used my crystal until it was gone. I took out thousands, to have millions take their place. Nothing worked. I collapsed, seeing everyone else do the same. Except for Ada, I hadn’t seen her until now. She stood, no, floated. Her eyes glowed with energy. My own words echoed in my mind. *“-a lot of bad guys, and I mean a lot!”*

Scourge of the Zerg Part 33

 Dust flew, huge chunks of ice tore from the earth and was thrown into the air, chaos ensued. The billions of zergling that had assaulted us earlier were swept off their feet and were smashed together into a huge, writhing ball, Ultralisks were flying along with huge boulders, both getting pulverized.

 “That. IS. AWESOME!!!” Raydon jumped up in excitement.

 Even with my soreness, I attempted to stand. A sudden shockwave blew us over again as Ada rose higher, a huge tornado of snow beginning to form. The winds were so forceful, we began sliding rapidly away from Ada. Suddenly, a roar sounded nearby, three supercharged hybrid were here, coursing with energy! I tried to stand as the winds howled and the hybrid drew closer, but I just couldn’t battle again. Suddenly, a blinding light shone from somewhere deep below me. The brilliant blue light pulsed with a resonating energy. I jumped up, rejuvenated for the moment, and without hesitation activated my psi blades.

 Charging toward the enemy, I suddenly transformed into lightning and zapped through the ice, cracking it as I sped toward the hybrid. The hybrid were surprised at this assault and leapt backwards, only to meet my burning blades slicing through them. They turned around, but were blasted back by a surge of lightning. The only ones to be able to stand, the hybrid and I stared off as the winds grew into a powerful blizzard around us.

Suddenly Ada appeared above us, with her cyclone circling around her. We were in the eye of the storm. With winds whipping my body, but with strange energy pulsing through me, I jumped up and zapped around the hybrid, circling them in a cone of lighting. A cone of lightning, on an icy desert tends to get rather hot. Water also happens to be an excellent conductor. I plunged into the ice, sending pure electricity on the three evil creatures. The water they were standing on melted, and the defeated hybrid sank beneath the waves. That was when I collapsed again.

 Later, I was told that Ada had sent boulders crashing right in front of Raydon, Ava, and Jacob. Ada then told me that she had sent the zerg whirlwind into space and right into the sun. The shockwaves involved in this would have crushed everyone to smithereens. But we were safe, and when I woke up in the camp later, the sun was shining.

Scourge of the Zerg Part 34

 When I woke up, the first thing I heard was yelling. The remnants of the protoss and terran forces were rebuilding the outpost. I stood up and looked around and found that I was in the very same igloo that Ada had created the day before, the hole in the roof I had blasted allowing cold sunshine into the igloo. I was wrapped in several thick blankets and laid on a snowy mattress-like mound. I walked outside and gasped.

The yelling wasn’t just by the remnants of the small armies. Huge carriers had descended onto the icy plain and were being busily unloaded. Large buildings were being set up and huge science facilities were being built. Amon’s facility had been destroyed in the battle, but the artifacts were more than safe. In fact, no one could get to them! They seemed to have a defense mechanism built in to protect themselves from destruction. A huge force field had been somehow projected around the artifacts, zapping anyone who got too near. The mysterious artifacts were pulsing energy but that wasn’t the crazy part.

 They were also floating, an invisible force seeming to string them together into a perfect mobius strip. Tents had been set up all around the force field and scientists were busy inside of them. I noticed that some of the scientists had laminated nametags, not the holographic nametags of the terran scientists. Earth was doing its part to help.

 The other races weren’t doing badly themselves. The golden tent with the pulsing crystals and the robots floating around contained protoss phase-smiths working hard on a way to break the field. The strange organic caves nearby had zerg mutators attempting to adapt a strain of zerg to break through the field. I avoided that one.

I walked over to the protoss tent, looking at the strange crystals being experimented on. The robot probes were busy putting small chunks of glowing rock into a machine. Every time, when the machine finally stopped vibrating quietly, the chunk came out pulverized and dull. The scientists shook their heads angerly. A protoss scientist greeted me as he strode out of the tent. I followed him to the force field. He threw a glowing crystal at the field only for it to fly backwards. We ran over to the crystal, the light within it dying as the crystal turn a dull grey. Several scientists began scribbling on clipboards as a mutator came and grabbed the sample for future use. I wondered, why couldn’t anyone go through the field? I touched the pulsing force field and flew backwards.

I skidded to a halt about fifty feet away, just barely able to stand. I had heard that some of the Earth scientists had tried touching it earlier and were electrocuted. The protoss and zerg were thrown back and drained of energy. The crystals were full of psionic energy… wait. I tried to summon a lightning bolt and only got a flicker. It would take some time to rejuvenate, I thought. I stood in front of the energy field, thinking. After a while, I walked away in search of Raydon