

BOBBY BLUE ADVENTURES



BEYOND BRANUS

Book 1

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CHAPTER 13

Mother Nature

It's just before dawn, and the violently shaking ground wakes up the children. They are terrified and hope Grampy will come and tell them what's happening.

The group's afraid, really afraid, more from the unknown than the ground shaking. Wabigail and Yasmin, along with Blake, have tears in their eyes.

Grampy finally shouts at the door: "CALM DOWN EVERYONE! It's going to be fine."

But will it?

He tells them the shaking ground is just a warning, and they have a few minutes to go to the safe place.

Most houses are sturdy, but some do get blown away. Each time the winds come, they seem to be a little stronger than before.

Quickly the children dress. Granny Beryl packs up food as Grampy slides the sled by the door so supplies can be stored in it. The kids run from the house, grab the sled, and take off. Grampy catches up and points them in the direction they need to go, the caves in the mountains.

Each family has a designated cave to go to during the storm. As far as the eye can see, families, hundreds and hundreds of them head towards the mountains. Grampy throws blankets over the Whites and Yasmin Yellow to hide them from the other escapees. But everyone is busy trying to go to safety, so no one pays them any attention.

The adventurers reach the safe place and settle in. Grampy wants the group to experience this occurrence. 'Blake and Bobby were just born the last time it happened. They were too young to remember it, but I do,' says Grampy. "Both

newborns, crying away, keeping up the whole community, day and night.”

Every ten years or so, an occurrence happens on Branus that causes a massive disruption for most. It’s a little earlier this year, so most are taken by surprise. We know it as the planet cleansing.

Mother nature creates strong winds and heavy rains. She then twirls them around and sends them throughout the land. All the loose debris is gathered and distributed all over the planet in mulch-like flakes. These bits are nutrients for the trees and plants. After the storms go, everything is left looking so bright and new.

People are cautious when this occurs because they could be swept up and carried halfway around the planet before being dumped down. The adults would probably be okay, but the children could be hurt.

Yaul and Yal don’t know what is happening. The ground under them seems to be moving. They notice everyone flying away, including Yasmin and the group. Yaul suggests they hunker down. They have no idea where the others are going and are afraid they will get caught. They huddle in the corner of the shed, making a shelter with feed bags and hay; to protect themselves and wait for the storm to pass.

Back at the safe place, the kids sit at the entrance of their cave. They all line up, waiting to see what Grampy is so excited about.

Here they come, popping up from nowhere, tornadoes, beautiful perfectly shaped multi-blue shaded funnels. They are beautiful, swirling around through the mountains shaped like ice cream cones, except they have dark angry-looking clouds for hats and big wide eyes looking out where they are going. First, there are just a few, now, thousands, combing the earth, cleaning the ground. This goes on for hours as the children watch, fascinated by nature. They all fall asleep, and when they wake in the morning noticing only a few tornadoes left.

“Is it over Grampy?” asks Bobby.

“No, not yet son,” says Grampy quietly. “Just be patient.”



Once again, overlooking the land from their high perch, a tremendous dark blue cloud starts to form. Wabigail screams, piercing everyone's ears, but now they know why. The cloud forms into the shape of a monster with sharp fingernails and a long nose, almost looking like it will jump into their cave. They all scramble back and hug the sides of their safe place.

"Oh, don't be scared. Relax!" says Granny assuringly. "The cloud will not harm you. Come, have some breakfast!"

It's hard for the kids to eat with all the commotion outside. Thunder, louder than Wabigail's screams, fill the cave. Bolts of lightning looking like it is trying to enter the cave, lighting it up and causing everyone's skin to tingle.

Not too close to the entrance, but close enough to see outside. The children watch as big blue raindrops fall out of the dark blue clouds, washing everything on the planet, cabins, trees, rocks, everything. The kids notice that rivers are flowing all over the ground laying down a new layer of soil.

By bedtime, the thunder and lightning seem to be in the distance. It was still hard to sleep due to the odd crash, and a flash will appear and wake them.

The following day the sun is out, yet they can't hear any birds nor wildlife stirring. "Don't worry, little ones," says Grampy. "It isn't over until you do hear the birds and bees come out. One more thing has to happen. Mother nature has to dry and groom the planet before she gives it back to us."

They peek outside, not knowing what to expect, and then they see it. A soft wind, blowing through the trees, picking up anything out of place. This lasts for the rest of the day, and just before dark, Grampy tells them it's time to go home.

Meanwhile, the yellow boys make it through the storm okay. Although scared out of their minds, they enjoy the ending as the breeze refreshes the planet along with refreshing them. They spend the rest of the day putting everything back in place and

waiting for the explorers to return. That night, for the first time, they finally feel like explorers themselves.

Back at the cabin, the group sits quietly at the table as Grampy tries to explain mother nature and how this action is good for the planet.

Not knowing how to react to this situation, they retire for the night.

“UP AN AT EM!” Grampy yells as all jump out of bed, happy but sad to leave Branus.

Granny Beryl makes a big breakfast through her tears as she is in no hurry to say goodbye to the adventurers. Giving a big hug and kiss, she slips something into each child’s pocket. Bobby takes his out and sees it’s a small blue talking button. He won’t open it in front of the others because he knows that Granny has recorded a private message just for him.

They wave frantically to Granny Beryl, missing her already, and they haven’t left the ground yet. All bend their knees and jump up, catching the breeze and head up towards outer space. Grampy once again reminds them to hook onto the sled to orbit and slingshot towards the next planet. He also reminds them to do it before they reach orbit; once they get there, they will be going about 67,000 miles per hour, and it will be hard to hook up at that speed.

Swish, they are led out of orbit in procession by Grampy heading towards the next adventure.

Granny watches as the group disappears into the blue sky. Just as she is ready to go inside, a noise distracts her. Granny stops and listens again; yup, there it is, next to the shed. She tiptoes over and is so surprised to see two little children, yellow children, hiding behind the shed.

“OH MY! You look just like Yasmin. Do all the children on Yenus look alike?” she asks.

“No, not really. We are Yasmin’s brothers. I am Yaul, and this is Yal.”

“This is a story that I have to hear over blueberry pie and ice cream,” says Granny. “Come join me!” she insists.

The boys spend most of the morning eating up Granny’s pies and telling her how they are spying on Yasmin and following them around.

“My,” she sighs. “You are too young to be off like this without someone to chaperone you. We have to figure out a way you can either spy on the rest or join up with them.”

“We just can’t go home now,” say the boys in unison.

“I may have a solution for you,” says Granny. “Grampy’s son Bason is an adventurer also. When he knows that his dad is leading this expedition, he will be the first to jump in.”

Granny summons Bason to the house for dinner that night. She introduces Yaul and Yal and tells Bason all the boys have gone through to make sure their sister is not in danger.

Granny asks Bason if he has the time to follow the rest of the group without being seen until he feels it is the right time to join in with them.

Bason loves the idea and says he will be ready to leave in the morning and will be by to pick up the boys.

Granny wakes the boys with a sweet: “Hello, good morning. What would you like for your breakfast?”

They didn’t know how to respond, so they just sit as Granny brings them a meal that would make a king proud.

Bason shows up at the door with new oxygen tanks, much to the appreciation of the yellow brothers. He also has a duffel bag full of goods, so now they are ready to continue their spying mission. Granny sees them off, waving frantically. She proudly watches as Bason and the boys lift off for the unknown.

They have some catching up to do to reach Grampy and the group.
The new spies gingerly sling-shoot into outer space.