

The Pieces of the Rainbow

Chapter Six: Crystals of the Colour Red

Hour 19:

“A crystal called cinnabarite, you say?” The man behind the counter asked.

“Yes, it’s red, a bright red,” Indigo emphasized as she leaned on the checkout counter.

“Alright, I’ll check in the back.” The man stated, as he rounded the corner and disappeared. Indigo took this moment to browse around the store, it was a small and cluttered shop, which made it hard to maneuver around. Taking note of this, Indigo grabbed my hand and guided me around the store with her, as she picked up random items, admired them, then put them back down.

“That’s pretty!” Indigo said as she pointed at a small glass fairy with blonde hair and a yellow dress.

“I think I found what you were looking for!” The man called out to us. We both made our way back to the counter. “You’re in luck,” he said as he held out a small black velvet pouch. Indigo looked inside and pulled out one of the crystals.

“Do you think this could be it?” I asked her.

“It looks pretty similar to the drawing Iris Eritque Arcus had in her book,” Indigo answered with confidence.

“How much?” I asked.

“Take it. Half of this shop needs to go anyways.” The man responded.

“Thank you so much!” Indigo expressed her gratitude, collected our things, and made her way to the door as I followed in her lead.

“How many crystals are in there?” I asked as we stepped into the sunlight and Indigo’s lavender hair danced under the bright light.

She pulled out a small handful of crystals and counted each one, “we have seven, that exact amount we needed!” Indigo stopped walking for a moment and unfolded a small piece of white paper.

“What’s that?”

“I don’t know, it was in the pouch with the rest of the crystals, I didn’t notice it until just now.” Indigo continued to unravel the paper and I moved closer so I could read what it said. “I-I think it’s a clue, or like a map of some sort. It says that the next set of crystals can be found at *Sweet Essence’s Market*. Is that near here?”

“Yeah. It’s two blocks from here.”

Chapter Seven: Crystals of the Colour Orange

Hour 18:

“So we’re looking for Sunstone, it’s a palish, translucent, orange, and we’ll need six of them.” Indigo read off the instructions from Iris Eritque Arcus’ journal to me. We had reached

the farmer's market and we're looking through the crystals that were on display at one of the many stands set up in the market. "This kind of looks like what Iris described, right?" Indigo questioned while holding up the crystal for me to inspect.

"I guess we'll take a leap of faith, especially considering that Iris didn't draw out a picture of the crystal."

"I know but I don't want us to find out that we got the wrong crystal and then have to come back," Indigo spoke, her words laced with worry.

"Okay, how about we buy every orange crystal that resembles the description of Sunstone," I said trying to find a resolution.

"Okay," Indigo said as the relief visibly washed over her. We began to dig through all the crystals collecting different sets of orange crystals. In the end, we had 4 sets of six orange crystals with one set that could possibly be the one we were looking for, Sunstone. I walked off towards the woman that was in charge of the stand, to pay for the crystals. When I returned Indigo had another note in her hand.

"It's the next instruction." She said dumbfounded.

"Where did you find that?" I asked, just as astounded.

"It was peeking out underneath one of the crystals." Indigo opened the note and her eyes darted back and forth as she read. "It says that the yellow sapphire crystal can be found at Alice's Beads. Hey, we passed that store when we were walking to Haven's Goods, didn't we?"

"Yeah, it's on the other side of the town but it's still not far." Indigo said and then the two of us set off to collect the third coloured crystal.

Chapter Eight: Crystals of the Colour Yellow

Hour 16:

Indigo and I walked side by side as we made our way towards the bead shop. A question about a previous conversation we had popped into my head, so I curiously asked. "So you said you gather research from other dimensions and then incorporate it into your school system, right?"

"Correct." She answered.

"How do you gather the research?"

"Well." Indigo paused, her eyes focused for a couple of seconds at a spot on the ground before she spoke, "It's kind of like how you have marine biologists dive deep into the ocean to discover a new species of aquatic life, right? Well for us we have different teams of researchers that will travel to other dimensions, that we know are advanced, and have them gather new information. But they'll only ever travel within our universe, one of the rules that they teach us in school is to never try to travel to another universe." Indigo stopped walking and looked up. "Alice's Beads." She said, reading the store sign out loud, "we're here, two down, five more to go Theo!" She called out to me as she made her way into the bead shop with ease.

The shop was big but barren. "I'll look for an employee," I said to Indigo as I made my way around the store, hoping to find someone in a uniform of some sort.

"Can I help you?" An older woman with a friendly smile asked me, she wasn't wearing a uniform but she did have a name tag pinned to her shirt, it read *Alice*. When I didn't answer right away the woman continued to question me "Are you here to pick up the necklace? The woman

that I spoke to on the phone said that she would come around five o'clock, I wasn't expecting to have to be done it so quic-

"No, no. I'm not here to pick up anything. But I was hoping that you might have some sapphire crystals on hand."

"*Yellow* sapphire crystals." Indigo came up behind me, correcting my mistake.

"Hm, there is a box in the back that might have what you're looking for. If the crystals haven't undergone any lapidary production then I may be able to sell them to you." Alice thought out loud. "I'll check, give me a moment."

"Thank you!" I called out to her as she walked towards the back.

"The jewelry she makes is beautiful," Indigo said as she browsed through various pieces of jewelry hanging from a stand. "I love this colour." Indigo picked up a sage green bracelet, took my hand, and adjusted it so it fit my wrist. "Looks good on you." She smiled and I returned the expression.

"Here are your crystals." Alice reappeared without Indigo or I taking notice. She held out a box containing several yellow crystals. "I've got eight."

I slipped the bracelet off of my hand and put it back in its spot as I spoke to Alice. "We only need five."

"Great, I can ring you up at the front."

I paid and Alice handed me the receipt and the box. I noticed on the inside of the box was a written-out description about where to find the green crystals that we needed. I showed it to Indigo as we both shared a look of confusion. The little notes were one thing, but this, this felt like someone was making sure that we found all the crystals that we needed.

Chapter Nine: Crystals of the Colour Green

Hour 15:

An hour had already passed. Indigo and I sat side by side on a bus that was taking us several towns over to find some rare green crystals. Indigo rested her head on my shoulder as we both admired the passing view from the bus window. We passed pastures of green as they reminded me of the green crystals we were journeying to collect.

"You said one of the rules was that dimension hoppers shouldn't try to travel to other universes."

"Correct," Indigo stated.

"Why's that? I mean, I know that the subjects in the experiments didn't really survive but does your world have any theories about why they couldn't successfully travel?"

"There are a lot of unknowns about what could exist in other universes' dimensions. They may not even be human over there, they may not use language to communicate, and there's even a possibility that I don't exist or you don't exist in other universes, our lives could be confined to only this universe and that's it. What we do know is that within *our* universe there is a certain level of relativity, there is a Theodore and an Indigo in every universe and even," Indigo concentrated for a moment before continuing, "an Irene."

"Irene! How'd you know my mother's name?"

"That's a whole other part of dimension travelling that I have yet to tell you about."

"Go on." I urged her.

“So basically, when you travel to another dimension, the only thing that *really* travels is your consciousness and of course, your consciousness needs a place to reside. So when I travelled to your dimension my consciousness inhabited and became the host of the Indigo that exists in this dimension. And for the time being, she will be dormant but if I ever need to find out some information about this dimension to help me during my stay, I can tap into her consciousness and learn whatever information that I need. Which is what I did to find out your Mom’s name, that fact about marine biologists, and the proper name for a color arc in this dimension.”

“How does it work? The ‘tapping in.’”

“It’s really just a strong sense, kind of similar to that strong feeling that I had to go back to my home dimension. It’s as if I can feel her presence, almost like she’s sitting right next to me, like she’s in my peripheral vision, I don’t have to see her to know she’s there, I just know, I can sense it.”

“Is she a carbon copy of you?”

“No, the other youse will never be exactly alike. They taught us in school that because all people are multifaceted and our opportunities allow for the different parts of ourselves to be showcased, you’ll never be the exact same person in every dimension. But the core essence of your being will remain the same, only because that’s the one part of you that is constant throughout every dimension. Like for example, I am an artistic person, but in one dimension I was born into a poor environment and because of that, I wasn’t able to explore my artistic traits to its full potential, whereas in another dimension I was born into a rich environment and so I had every opportunity you could ever imagine. Clearly, two very different experiences and our experiences shape who we are.” Indigos' voices began to get slower and her words became more drawn out. “So, although both Indigos may look similar and they both love art, the only *real* similarity between the two are their names.”

“You should sleep for the rest of the way, it’s been a long day. I’ll let you know when we’re there.” I spoke softly.

Indigo nodded gently and closed her eyes but right before she let sleep encompass her she whispered, “thank you, Theo, for everything.”

Hour 14:

Another hour had passed and Indigo and I had arrived at our destination and collected the four green crystals called Aventurine. Because of its scarcity, the crystals were more expensive than usual, Indigo offered to pay but I insisted. After I had paid, the man handed me my receipt and I noticed someone had typed something on the back about where to find our next set of crystals. When I turned around to ask the man if he had written it, he was gone.

“What’s it say? The receipt, I mean.” Indigo asked.

“That we’re to stay in the area and go to a metaphysical supply store called *Sun Moon & Earth*.”

Indigo looked straight ahead out towards the store's big windows and pointed, “well, the solar system is across the street.” I looked in the same direction as her and staring back at me was our next conquest, the metaphysical supply store.