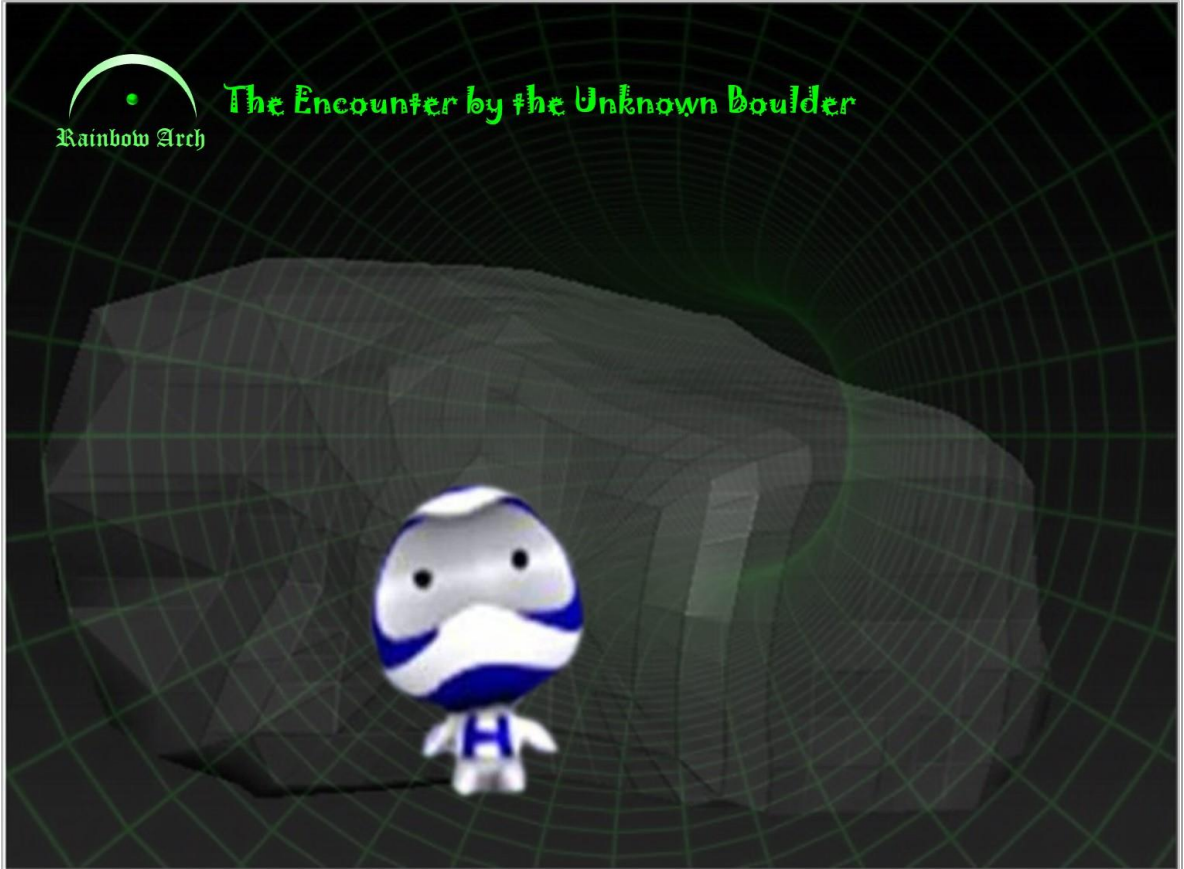




The Encounter by the Unknown Boulder



Chapter 1. The Encounter in the Bubble Forest Scene 1. The Encounter by the Unknown Boulder

It was a beautiful morning with a crystal-blue sky. Sunlight sparkles were dancing over the top of the trees. The flourishing clusters of tree leaves along the forest trails looked like green shining bubbles spreading all over the giant tree branches.































: Hey guys, this forest is awesome, just like a fairy wonderland. It makes me feel very comfortable. Maybe we should live here forever - there must be lots of foods and fun here.



: Howard, I don't think so. We got a mission to accomplish. Master won't give us a mission to enjoy our lives in a fancy world. I wonder why the forests flourish so weirdly here. The whole landscape actually looks dull and the species are not very diversified.

In spite of the exotic joyful scene, some members of the Z5 crew didn't look happy; instead, they looked worried because they were getting lost in the overwhelming Bubble Forest. Suddenly, they saw an extremely dazzling light-burst over a bunch of scattered big boulders hundreds of yards ahead. Curiosity drove them to rush to the spot without awareness of any possible danger. There they saw a strange human-like, kind of, creature after the light faded away. The creature had a very exotically curved face and a glassy mask - looked like having only eyes without a nose and ears. The eye-like objects are actually two marbles floating inside the glassy mask. The creature had no movements at all

	until moments later ... The marbles suddenly trembled and scared the Z5 crew to jump backwards a few yards. When the marbles settled down, Stark bravely stepped forward and began their first contact.
	: (in an uneasy tone) Who are you?
	Monique giggled behind Stark.
	: (in an innocent tone) Who are you? Where am I?
	This creature was able to communicate and speak like a human kid by his verbal sounds although his tone sounded as funny as quacks of a duck. The crew then felt more comfortable to approach him closer.
	: (in a naughty tone) You are in the bubble wonderland!
	: Hey, are you the Z5 crew?!
	: Yeah, but how do you know us?
	: Islemma told me. Your outfit dresses look so cool and colorful. I can tell.
	: Who is "Izlama"?
	: Her name is Is-le-mma! She is a perfect A.I.
	: What's that - A.I.?
	: Gosh ..., never mind. Islemma is just my teacher and guarding angel.
	: (replying wryly) Okay, good for you, but are you gonna tell us your name or not?
	: Why don't you tell me your names first?
	: You first, or we'll just leave you here.
	: All right ..., my name is Nova.
	: Hahaha ... your name is so funny.
	: (talking with attitude) No, it's not. You fat boy. Tell you what, I am a prince.
	: Oh yeah?! Give me a break, no prince on Earth looks like you. You look so weird!

	: Actually, I came from somewhere far away.
	: Yeah right! You don't even have a car.
	The crew laughed out loudly ...
	: Listen! We don't have time to talk with you for nonsense, all right?!
	: I don't know how to tell you, but ...
	Nova felt frustrated and found Bondi looking more "friendly" than the others, and then turned to her.
	: Can we be friends, and you tell me your names?!
	Bondi kept being shy and quiet, then suddenly had her eyesight shooting toward the sky.
	All the crew members spotted a big black vulture quietly gliding through the sky, and became very nervous immediately while Nova was left alone in confusion.
	: That's a barus vulture. We better run. It will tell the Dark Magician where we are in no time.