

Stephanie continued searching for this 'Archie' person, using her speed and super hearing.

She zipped and zoomed around the semi-destroyed city, still searching for the man as fast as she could.

Not only that, it is semi-destroyed from those cannonballs that Robert the Terrible launches, but it is empty too!

It all seemed like a ghost town Stephanie had entered after being teleported from the Helpseeker.

Just as she passed by an 'abandoned' alley when she heard shuffling and a group of people laughing.

Instantly, Stephanie took a sharp turn and entered the alley before stopping when she saw something.

A group of vegetable pirates was surrounding someone who was pinned against the wall, holding swords in their 'hands.'

Angry at them for attacking someone innocent and out in the open, Stephanie charged at them as fast as she could.

She grabbed the nearest one that is close by the back of the shirt with her right metal hand.

When she yanked back, her wrist separated from her arm as it had a long chain from inside and connected, still gripping the man's shirt.

He, on the other hand, was confused about who was behind him, trying to look behind him.

Stephanie quickly flung the pirate away from where he was standing and over the buildings.

She did not want to harm him, but instead scared him, as he was heading towards the pirate ship on the ocean.

During that moment, he was screaming at the top of his lungs as he was thrown away.

He disappeared into the distance as his screams faded away.

Once she had flung the pirate over her body, she gripped the metal chain in her left hand after it came close to her and swung it towards the other pirates who were trying to escape after seeing her toss one of their friends.

But the metal chain wrapped around them as her hand gripped the concatenation behind them.

Using her strength, she flung them over her body like a sack of potatoes, throwing them back to the ship as they screamed like the last pirate she had thrown.

After the last pirate was gone, she sighed as her metal chain collapsed on the ground, as her hands released it.

Using her powers, she reeled the metal chain back into her metal arm, as her hand connected to her wrist again from being a whip.

Turning around to the person who was pinned against the wall, she was surprised that it was another adult asparagus.

But this time, he was wearing an almost torn off red bow tie around his neck, and a monocle was by his side, the lens cracked.

There were bruises all over his body and on his face, and he looked exhausted as he was sweating.

Stephanie's stomach nervously twisted into a knot when she noticed him, worried he might already be too hurt.

"Hey," Stephanie softly spoke, stepping over to him carefully. "Are you okay?"

From the look of his body, Stephanie could tell that he slightly flinched when she spoke to him, before gently lifting his head up to see who it was.

But when he instead saw Stephanie, his pupils shrank in fear and started trembling in fear.

Immediately, Stephanie stopped for a moment when he started shaking in fear because of her, but she assured herself she could get him to trust her.

But slowly since Stephanie looked like an 'alien' to him.

So, Stephanie continued walking towards him, but carefully without scaring him more with her appearance.

She figures that he was probably afraid of her because he thinks she is going to do the same thing as the pirates.

When Stephanie was close enough to him, she reached over to him with her right hand and gently touched his side, feeling a slight jolt from him again.

After feeling that jolt from him, she pulled her hand away from him, feeling worried about him.

Had she accidentally touched a bruise on him?

...Or maybe he is afraid of her than thinking he was going to be tossed around?

Stephanie's stomach twisted again with worry and guilt, thinking she must have been the one scaring him.

But, she assured herself again and went on fixing his belongings first.

Being careful again, Stephanie gently picked up his monocle from beside his side, seeing how cracked the lens is.

"*Instaurabo*," She spoke in Latin, gently tapping the side of the monocle with her left hand.

After she had gently tapped the side of the monocle, the lens started to repair back to its normal state, easy for the man to see.

Stephanie knelt in front of him and moved her hand close to him.

She was about to place a hand behind his head to move him up slightly, when he closed his eyes and winced, waiting for what could happen to him.

But Stephanie instead stopped after he winced, feeling sorry for him to be beaten up by a bunch of pirates for no good reason.

"Hey," Stephanie softly spoke again, getting his attention. "I fixed your monocle. Do you want it?"

He opened his eyes and glanced over at her from glancing away from her, seeing the monocle between two of Stephanie's fingers, holding it up to him.

A soft, surprised expression appeared on his face when he saw how careful Stephanie was with his monocle, but still hesitant to take it from her.

Stephanie hummed to herself softly when she noticed that he was still hesitant.

But Stephanie was still patient with him instead of losing her temper with him.

"I am going to pick you up," Stephanie spoke, opening her sweater and placing his monocle into her shirt pocket on her chest. "It's still not safe out here with Robert's pirates around. Even if I am that powerful to do that, you just saw back there, but I am still vulnerable."

He moved up slightly from lying on the ground against the wall behind his back after Stephanie explained, looking confused rather than hesitant.

"And I don't want to push you too much to trust me," Stephanie placed her hand against her chest after zipping her sweater back up. "I'm not a monster. I am a human being like you. I don't want to harm anyone, especially if they are evil."

A slightly surprised expression appeared on his face again, before glancing away from her for a moment.

He was thinking to himself about what she had said to him, even though he had seen how strong she was with those pirates.

Even with her abilities too that he does not want to know.

Stephanie patiently waited for him to answer her, rubbing the back of her left hand gently with her fingers.

After a few minutes had passed, he glanced back up at Stephanie and nodded his head.

Stephanie softly smiled and knelt to his height as he flinched in startlement.

"Oops!" Stephanie sheepishly chuckled as she stopped moving. "Sorry. Got a little fast."

A slightly confused expression appeared on his face for a moment before watching Stephanie readjust his bow tie around his neck.

Once his bow tie was readjusted, Stephanie placed her hand against his chest and said, “*Sana.*”

After Stephanie said that, the bruises all over his body started to heal slowly, as her left eye gently glowed.

Minute by minute, his bruises and scratches went away with magic as Stephanie kept her hand against his chest during the time.

Once the last of his bruises were healed, Stephanie removed her hand from his chest and asked, “Can you stand up now?”

He paused for a moment and glanced down, before looking back up at Stephanie and shook his head no.

“Tired?” Stephanie asked as he nodded his head, answering her question.

Stephanie shrugged to herself gently and said, “I’m sorry to burst your bubble, but I have to pick you up if you can’t get up.”

A slightly fearful expression appeared on his face after Stephanie said that, shaking like a leaf again.

Pushing her glasses into place with a single finger, Stephanie assured, “Don’t worry. I’m not that clumsy, nor hungry. I had a large breakfast earlier when I was back home.”

Remembering she is teleported here from the Helpseeker, she corrected herself, “Not vegetables, to let you know.”

He sighed in relief after Stephanie corrected herself, before feeling one of her hands behind his head.

Like a guinea pig, he froze when he felt Stephanie’s hand behind his head before her other arm scooped him from underneath.

Once he was in Stephanie’s arms, Stephanie repositioned her feet and picked him up from the ground.

Maybe it was a little too fast for him.

He yelped after he was picked up from the ground and wrapped his 'arms' around her neck, causing Stephanie to stop mid-lift.

"Sorry!" He froze again after she had stopped noticing that Stephanie looked sheepish. "It has been a long time since I have done this to someone smaller than me, no offense."

A slight chuckle came from him as Stephanie started going back to lift him from the ground, this time, a little slower than before.

Once Stephanie was at her height while carrying him in her arms, he was shaking slightly like a leaf in her arms but relaxed a little.

He continued mentally assuring himself that she was not a monster, even though he has his 'arms' around her neck safely.

But, on the other hand, he was judgmental about what she said.

Knowing that he could have stepped in, Stephanie could instantly eat him out of hunger!

He shuddered slightly at himself mentally as Stephanie turned around and started heading back to the secret hatch.

During that time, Stephanie kept a careful eye out for any more of those pirates that tried to hurt him, sneaking through the darkness as stealthily as she is.

Mentally, he was surprised at how careful Stephanie was carrying him in her arms, although he is an adult, he seemed to weigh nothing on her.

Once Stephanie got over to the secret hatch, Stephanie stopped for a moment, thinking to herself.

He was about to ask what was wrong when he felt something move from underneath him.

Confused, he glanced over at what was moving from underneath him, seeing that two arms were opening the door.

But the two pairs of arms are the ones that are holding him.

Instantly, he softly gasped when he realized that they were her second pair of arms!

He stiffened as the second pair of arms finally opened the door after a few struggling attempts, before entering inside and closing it behind her back.

Once she was inside, she repositioned him back into her first pair of arms as he rewrapped his 'arms' around her neck.

She stepped in the middle of the area, patiently waiting for something as her second pair of arms disappeared.

Before he could ask what she was waiting for, the ground collapsed from underneath Stephanie's feet, allowing them to enter a tunnel.

They slid down the tunnel for a few minutes before landing on the mattress.

Luckily, they did not land on top of anyone else who was confused about what was happening.

They were on the large table in the middle of the hidden room, playing poker with only rocks.

The kids were reading books in a corner, as Junior, on the other hand, was doing nothing.

"Hey, she's back!" Junior exclaimed, hopping up from the ground and over to her.

Stephanie slowly got up from the mattress she landed on, still carrying the man in her arms.

"She even found Archibald!" Larry added, jumping out of his chair and hopping over to her with Junior.

Another female asparagus, with a small mole on the side of her cheek, perked when she heard the name, seeing him and hopping over to him as fast as she could.

Stephanie glanced over at the man in her arms, smiling softly to herself that she had found the man named 'Archie.'

“What happened up there?” Bob asked Stephanie as Larry with Mr. Nezzer helped Archibald out of Stephanie’s arms.

“Well,” Stephanie began, pushing back a stray strand of hair from her face. “He was going to get seriously hurt by some pirates, but I managed to toss them away.”

“How?!” exclaimed Larry, almost dropping Archibald, but luckily Mr. Nezzer caught him before he could. “They have swords that can slice you into pieces!”

Stephanie reached up to her arm with her left hand and grasped her wrist.

Gently yanking it, her hand disconnected from her arm, showing the chain from inside to them.

Their jaws dropped when they saw the chained hand as Archibald looked a little nervous.

“That’s how I tossed them.” Stephanie softly smiled before releasing her hand and connecting it back. “It was easy, too, since they weighed nothing to me.”

All the vegetables glanced at each other as Mr. Nezzer placed Archibald down onto a chair.

“How is he, though?” Stephanie asked, shaking her head slightly from her pride.

“I’m fine,” Archibald finally answered as he shakily sat down on a chair. “I just need some time to get my strength back from running away.”

A soft smile appeared on Stephanie’s face for a moment, before noticing that there was something off about him.

Remembering something, Stephanie unzipped her sweater and reached inside, before pulling out the monocle she placed inside.

“I forgot about this,” Stephanie showed him. “You may have it back.”

Archibald took his monocle back from Stephanie and placed it against the side of his eye, which slightly impressed Stephanie of how much balance there was of him keeping it on.

“Thank you,” Archibald thanked her, not even looking at her from eye to eye.

A soft smile appeared on Stephanie's face after Archibald assured her he was okay, and placed his monocle on his eye, as an awkward silence filled the air.

It had lasted for a few minutes before Stephanie said, "Let's get the elephant out of the room and talk about something serious."

"What's that?" Junior asked, cocking his head slightly to the side.

"About Robert," Stephanie mentioned, pointing up to the surface. "He's going to be the king of the future if we do nothing to him."

"Are you sayin' that we should...?" Larry asked, before trailing off, and Stephanie nodded.

"We have to get up there and travel through the seven seas to send him back to his time," Stephanie nodded, finishing Larry's sentence. "And I'm not going alone on this trip."

One of the vegetables that was drinking some water did a spit-take from what Stephanie said.

The unfortunate vegetable that was sitting in front of him, looking slightly annoyed.

A sheepish expression appeared on the vegetable after the spit-take, as the other sighed, picking up a napkin and wiping the water spit off of him.

"What are you, crazy?!" exclaimed Bob. "Going up there and defeat Robert?! That's a sign of death!"

"He'll crush us like coconuts!" nodded another vegetable.

He is a gourd with a mustache and wears a beige safari-like hat on top of his head that is covering his eyes and wearing a white shirt.

"I know," nodded Stephanie. "And he's going to rule the earth if we do nothing to stop him."

"Well," Bob glanced away before hopping away from Stephanie. "If you're going to risk your life to defeat him, we're staying here!"

Stephanie gritted her teeth and placed a hand against her temple, before snapping at them angrily, "Listen! Don't all of you love living in peace? Don't you all want to live out of hiding? This is the reason you need to fight back! Right now, you all are acting like mice!"

They all looked somewhat surprised from the snap Stephanie said before she sighed and said, slightly calmly, "Fine. Live here and watch your homes destroyed by that maniac. I'm sorry I suck at empathizing with your first world problems."

The kids winced from the roast Stephanie said to them as the adults' cheeks blushed a shameful shade of different colors on their skins before Stephanie walked past them and towards the exit.

"I'm going out there like it or not," Stephanie said firmly, before opening the door and exiting out of the secret hatch.

After Stephanie had left, everyone glanced at each other, rethinking to themselves about what Stephanie said.

She was right; it was their homes, and all they were doing was watching it all get destroyed by a fearsome pirate.

Meanwhile, Stephanie stopped for a moment after walking out of the hatch, her hands clenched with anger.

She was angry that they are being scared over a pirate from the past.

It is easy to defeat him with their technology, but it seemed to be scary to them.

Stephanie reached into her pocket and pulled out the Helpseeker, wondering to herself for a moment.

She wonders if the Helpseeker did send her to a world that needs help.

But all she is getting is whiny and scared vegetables that do nothing against a villain.

Sighing, Stephanie placed the Helpseeker back into her pocket and marched straight towards the beach where she could create a boat to leave the city to fight against the pirate responsible for the chaos.