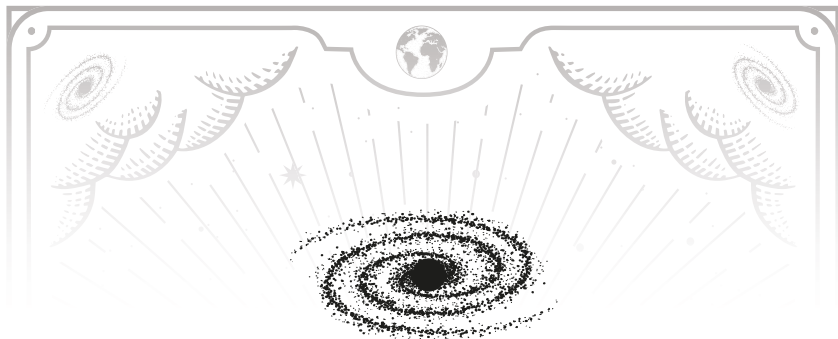




PEACE MISSION

JENNIFER LISS



Chapter 1

DREAM COME TRUE

I'll never forget the moment I found out about the Ramlix.

Mr. Ebert had just projected a map of Syria on the board. "Today, we're going to talk about how a peaceful uprising turned into a civil war," he said.

At that moment, my phone vibrated in my pocket. I tried to ignore it. When it happened again, I couldn't.

Mr. Ebert looked at me and raised an eyebrow.

“Silas West, is there something more important than my class?”

Then a buzz came from a girl’s purse on the desk next to me. Looking around the room, I saw my classmates touch pockets, backpacks, or whatever held their buzzing phones.

We weren’t supposed to look at our phones in class, so we stared at Mr. Ebert. Students weren’t sure what to do. The whole room was in a frenzy. Mr. Ebert’s eyes widened. I couldn’t tell if they showed alertness or concern.

“Something must be going on,” he muttered.

That seemed close enough to permission. At once, everyone scrambled to grab their phones. Before I could even read the notification on mine, the door flew open. A girl in the front row let out a little scream.

Coach Ebert ran into the room. She was Mr. Ebert’s wife and the coach of the school’s soccer team.

“Aliens,” Coach Ebert panted. “Aliens have landed!”

Mr. Ebert snorted. “Karen, what in the world are you talking about?”

Coach Ebert grabbed the remote control off Mr. Ebert’s desk. She turned on the television. Live footage showed a gigantic black disc hovering just above the ground. It looked like an oversized frisbee. I wondered if it was really a spaceship.

“It’s at the airport!” Coach Ebert said. “And there are more ships! They’re all over the world!”

The image on the news shifted to a world map with dozens of blinking red dots. We soon learned that each one of those lights represented an alien ship. They had landed at airports around the world, unannounced and undetected.

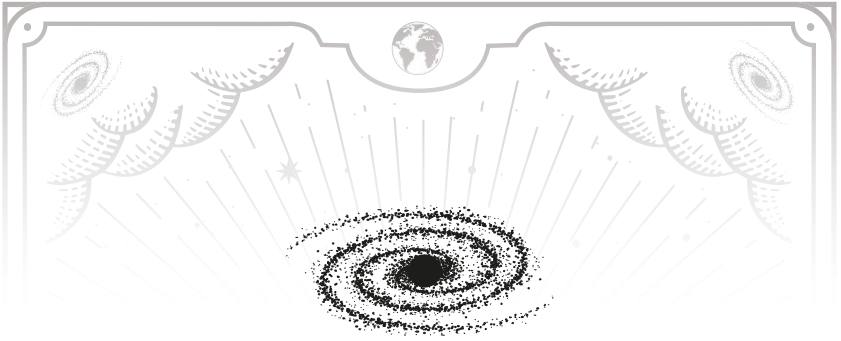
The next hour was a blur. Mrs. Park, our principal, made an announcement on the speaker system. She immediately dismissed school. We had prepared for emergencies, but not this kind. Many

people panicked. It was chaos. Students ran from their classrooms, pushing and elbowing each other. Parents began showing up to get their kids. They shouted frantically, driving the wrong way on the roads around school.

I was one of the few people who stayed calm. The screaming and running didn't affect me. I walked to my locker and grabbed my skateboard.

By the time I got outside, most of the kids and teachers had fled. Will Cobb was standing by the gate. That was where he waited for me every day after school. A huge grin was plastered on his face. "Can you believe this, Silas? It's absolutely amazing! A dream come true!"

I lightly punched his shoulder and started laughing. There was a reason Will and I were best friends.



Chapter 2

INFORMATION OVERLOAD

When the Ramlix first showed up, Will's dad had been deployed abroad for about four months. He had been deployed before, but it was going to be for much longer this time.

Will's mom wasn't in the picture. He had other relatives, but he wanted to stay with my mom and me. She loved Will like a son. I loved him like a brother, so it was a no-brainer. My mom became Will's official guardian while his dad was away.

Mr. Cobb's absence was hard on Will. Still, he really enjoyed living with us.

My mom always kept the kitchen stocked with our favorite foods. Best of all, Will and I had plenty of time to do what made us happiest. We watched alien movies, drew alien comics, and played alien video games. Aliens had been our obsession since the fifth grade. That was when we first met.

By the time we got to my apartment on the day the Ramlix arrived, my mom was already home from work. The television was blaring.

"Wipe those grins off your faces," she said when she saw us. "This is serious. Aliens! It's unbelievable! We don't know what they're doing here. The whole world has basically come to a stop."

But then she let a little smile slip. My mom knew that we were thrilled.

"They aren't making any trouble," Will said.

"Yet," my mom added. "They aren't making trouble *yet*."

I tried to offer reason. “In movies, aliens often show up as enemies. They come ready to attack. But most experts think that aliens wouldn’t do that. If they have made contact with us, it’s out of curiosity.”

“They’re peaceful,” Will added. “It’s like if we ever found aliens on another planet. We wouldn’t just start bombing them or do something crazy and violent.”

“We’ll see how this unfolds,” my mom said. “But until we know more, you boys aren’t going anywhere.”

“Where would we go?” I asked. “All we want to do is stay glued to our screens anyway.”

“Yeah,” Will said. “We have to learn absolutely everything.”

That was what we did for the next several hours. So much news came in. Will and I devoured it. My mom was on the phone the whole time. She talked to friends and relatives all over the country. Everyone was freaking out.

Will was able to get in touch with his dad. Mr. Cobb basically repeated what my mom had said. He agreed that we should stay put until the world had a better sense of what was going on.

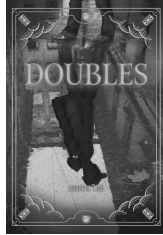
Will and I set up our laptops in the living room. We also kept the television on and constantly monitored our phones. There were six screens to keep us completely informed. We weren't going to miss anything.

WHITE LIGHTNING BOOKS®

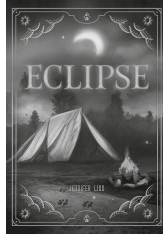
MYSTERIES



9781638892083



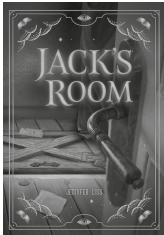
9781638892052



9781638892069



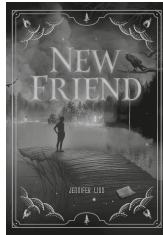
9781638892113



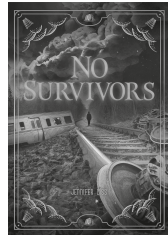
9781638892106



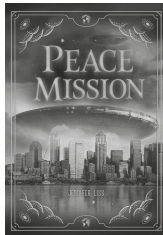
9781638892137



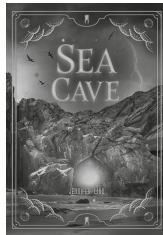
9781638892090



9781638892120



9781638892076



9781638892045

www.sdlback.com/white-lightning-mysteries

PEACE MISSION

Best friends Silas and Will are obsessed with aliens. When a group of them, called Ramlix, suddenly land on Earth, the boys jump at the chance to join their mission. Soon Silas starts to wonder if everything is as it seems. Why are the Ramlix here? Do they really come in peace?



 **SADDLEBACK**
EDUCATIONAL PUBLISHING
www.sdlback.com

LEXILE HL410L

ISBN: 978-1-63889-207-6



9 781638 892076