I woke up with the rock fragment still in my hand. I looked around and saw my friends’ worried faces looking at me. “What happened? Where am I?”, I asked.

“Thank God you are alright!”, Damon exclaimed. “You are fine, we are at Jenny’s. When you left the house I …”

“Shh”, I said putting my finger on my lips. “Listen”.

Jenny’s mum was on the phone again, “Honestly, I don’t know how we all could miss that stupid piece of rock all these years. She went to the ruins and just found it … Yes, she has got the last fragment … No, believe it or not she is fine, it seems the piece of rock didn’t harm her… What? You want me to take the three of them to the lab now? … Well, I suppose you are right … Yes, I’ll try to explain it to her … See you soon.”

I couldn’t believe my ears: they thought that piece of rock could harm me, there was another laboratory somewhere and we were about to go there! Maybe this was the day when I got some answers.

Jenny’s mum came into the room and asked nervously how I felt, before I could answer she said we had to go to Damon’s house. Jenny tried to ask what was going on but her mother interrupted her and said that she could explain everything while we got there.

We sat in the car silently, waiting for her explanation. She drove for some minutes without saying anything. Suddenly, the words poured out of her mouth. “Alice, your mum managed to get you three out of the lab the day of the explosion, but the impact of the rock on her was too much, she was badly injured and didn’t make it: she died two days later. I am so sorry, dear. However, your father is alive and looking forward to being with you again. Everything he is doing is only to protect you, the three of you. He is still working on the secret mision for the Government and the Agency. His mision is to mend the rock. Because it transferred you some powers the day of the explosion, you three are essential to reconstruct it. But your father couldn’t let you get close to the rock because we didn’t know what could happen, we didn’t know if the rock would harm you or how it would react to your presence. We thought it was dangerous.”

Jenny looked astonished, Damon not so much. I remembered the day when I saw the photograph of his father and mine in his house, the day when he told me my father was alive and how angry he got with me. I understood now, he knew some secrets that he could not share with me.

Jenny’s mother was talking nonstop, “… so it seems that we were wrong because you have found the last fragment and you are fine, nothing has happened …”

I wanted to shout that it was not true, that something happened because I could see my mum in that piece of rock and it didn’t make any sense. But the words didn’t want to come out of my mouth.

Jenny’s mum was still talking while she was parking the car in front of Damon’s house, “ … and they have decided that it is safe to put the last fragment in the rock to finish its reconstruction, but you must be present.”

We followed Damon, who went straight to a cupboard, opened the door and moved out several baskets. To our surprise, there was another door at the back of the cupboard. When Damon opened it, there it was: the laboratory with the incomplete colurful rock, and next to it the two men in the photograph. I ran to the man with the warm hazel eyes, my father! We hugged for a long time, the rock fragment still in my hand. Then, he pulled me away softly and asked for the piece of rock. The moment he put it in the gap, I heard my mother’s voice, “Alice, sweet baby, I love you. Remember, whatever happens, I will always be with you.” This was what my mum thought the moment she saved my life and somehow it was recorded in the rock fragment that I found.

The Government hid the magic colourful rock somewhere unknown, it disappeared from our lives together with the powers it gave us. I finally could have a plain, ordinary existence.