

Deus Ex Machina...

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A story that explains Blain's past...

Fancharacters listed:

Child of the Feral

-Tala

Saluki

-Thunder

-Ice

-Magneto

AngelicZero

-Zero

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1 - Chapter 1... Prologue

You guys know me... But never knew what happened in the past... Lets start where I was "born"... Mobius... What? Yeah, the planet Mobius... I was born on the planet Mobius. So... What the hell I've been doing on Mobius you ask...? Lemme tell ya...

Someone I now know said I was created by Robotnik... Also known as Eggman... The planet was taken over by Robotnik back in those days. I never knew Shadow or Sonic back then, but that was all about to change. So as I said, I was created by Robotnik 17 years ago. I was created along with the other lifeforms, Tyrone, Cyrus and Jasco... The 4 of us formed the RRTS... Or, the Rapid Response Tactical Squad. Kinda like Robotnik's personal bodyguards. Our main task was to take out the large threats that defied the reign of Robotnik. He claims that we are Ultimate Lifeforms... Heh, yeah right... All we do is warfare...

The others...? Well, my "co-workers" are pretty laid back... We got best buddies since the day we first met... We've all been through a lot... Hell, I even managed to survive a full blown guerilla war... Don't ask how I did that though... It came at a high price that no one is willing to pay for...

It was the largest battle ever seen on this damned planet... The battle against Red Faction and the Freedom Fighters took 6 years... Even so, the Red Faction and the Freedom Fighters will ultimately decide our fate... Even if Robotnik was taken down by the Red Faction or the Freedom Fighters, the 2 rebel forces would still continue to fight for the planet...

Robotnik was a tyrant. Riots were taking place almost each day. All I know about these groups is that the Red Faction is led by the humans and the Freedom Fighters by the creatures... Not much else is known, since they're very well organized. They've managed to take out vital command posts of Robotnik... You don't want to hear the story of the war and how many were killed over the years... Instead... I'll start with the 6th and last year of the war against Robotnik and his reign... Not because it doesn't have a meaning, but it's because in that last year, I started living...

My name...? Epsilon 223... Also known as Blain... This is my story..

2 - Chapter 2... Conscious...

Heh... It's been 5 years already since that this damn war has started... Each day was the same routine... Pack our gear and do something important while the droids of Robotnik fought off the incoming attacks of the Red Faction and the Freedom Fighters...

One day, we got called out. It seems the doctor had a little surprise for us... We got scrambled together in a large room.

Robotnik: Good morning men...

All: Good morning sir.

Robotnik: Follow me, I've got something for ya...

Cyrus: Sweet...

I saw Robotnik walking up to a keypad and is punching some numbers in. Then the walls turned 180 degrees and we saw 4 kits... Each designated to one of us... It looked like an assault kit, a tactical kit, a demolitions kit, and a heavy weapons kit... We all walked up to the panels which had our number on it...

939 – Tyrone – Tactical kit.

345 – Cyrus - demolitions kit.

879 – Jasco - heavy weapons kit.

And me... 223 – Blain – Assault kit...

We all took the weapons we got... I took the assault rifle, and it said SCAR-11... This was pretty kick @\$\$, considering we only got “primitive” weapons... Still, the primitive weapons were still better than what the Freedom Fighters used... Sticks and stones...

Robotnik: Press your thumb on the fingerprint analyzer to activate your weapon...

So we did it...

A.I female voice: RRTS Special Ops clearance verified. Handle ID: Sarge.

Tyrone: Hell yeah!!

A.I female voice: Handle ID: Danko.

Jasco: Say my name baby!

A.I female voice: Handle ID: Reaper.

Blain: Aight!

A.I female voice: Handle ID: The Kid.

Cyrus: What the... hell...? The kid?! O_o

Robotnik: Now... One of my informants told me that the Red Faction rebels are preparing an assault with the Freedom Fighters. We've taken precautions and my droid army is on the alert. We've set up a curfew. Anyone who is out on the streets after 7:00 PM will be arrested. Sources indicate that full blown guerilla war is about to be unleashed, so I'll will be honest with you.

Blain: The Freedom Fighters teaming up with the Red Faction...?

Robotnik: Yes... Something that got me off guard as well.

Tyrone: What is it...?

Robotnik: The Red Faction Army is heavily armed. They just lack the manpower to overtake us. IF they succeed to join forces with the Freedom Fighters, its all over. So, what I need you guys to do is to round up the leaders of the Freedom Fighters, and execute them. Without the leaders, it's a lost fight for the remaining people. Then we'll take care of the Red Faction. Understood?

All: Yes sir.

Robotnik: Very well... Dismissed.

We got out of the room and discussed the tactics we were gonna use tonight to round up the leaders of the Freedom Fighters...

Nightfall broke down... Droids of Robotnik announced a curfew in the city... We packed our gear and got dropped off in a location near one of the hideouts of one of there leaders... We ran up the door... Cyrus grabbed a small device out of his pockets and placed it just above the doorknob. I got ready... Cyrus connected the small explosive, and gestured us to take distance. He counted with his fingers, and blew up the door. I immediately kicked down the door and activated my lights and looked for people. Then the others came in, and searched the place... It was empty...

Jasco: What the hell...?

Cyrus: It's empty!

Tyrone: They must have been warned or something...

Blain: Or it's a diversion...

Meanwhile...

Shadow: I think I got this fixed guys...

Tails: What?

Shadow: I got in contact with an old friend of mine...

Tails: So...?

Shadow: She agreed to help us with a trap to take out the RRTS.

Amy: What's so special about those guys...?

Sonic: Don't you get it...? If the RRTS gets you, you're a dead man!

Amy: Woman... I'm not a man... -_-'

Knuckles: So... When are we meeting her...?

Sonic: She should be here any minute now...

Tails: And what about those Red Faction guys...?

We continued to raid houses... So far, we got 4 possible suspects of joining the Freedom Fighters rebels. They got picked up by Robotniks droids and got carried away. We got a message from Robotnik...

Robotnik: 939, come in.

Tyrone: 939 here, go ahead.

Robotnik: One of my droids intercepted a message while patrolling. He traced down the call and is waiting for instructions. Check your PDA to find him. He got orders to stay put until you arrive. Arrest everyone in that building.

Tyrone: Yes sir, 939 out.

Cyrus: Now what?

Tyrone checks his PDA...

Tyrone: New objective guys. It seems that possible suspects are discovered, a few clicks northeast of here. A droid is waiting for our instructions. Let's move out.

We ran to the location of where that droid was... I felt something weird in my stomach... I felt nervous... We arrived at the location, but no droid... We looked around and Cyrus saw something glowing... He called us and saw robot parts everywhere, and he holds something...

Cyrus: Guys, check it out...

Blain: What is that?

Cyrus: A tracking device...

Tyrone: What?

Cyrus: Check it out... Someone destroyed the droid but left this tracking device-

Then suddenly, we heard shots and saw Cyrus falling down... We took cover behind a wall... I peeked around the wall to see how Cyrus was doing, but another shot was heard and it ricocheted off the wall... Nearly hitting me... Jasco pulled me over...

Jasco: Stay down for fracks sake!!

Blain: Cyrus!!

I peeked again... I saw Cyrus was trying to stand up...

Tyrone: Stay down Cyrus!!

Jasco: DAMN IT!!!

Tyrone: Did you see it...?

Blain: Left building, fourth floor, Second window. It's not a sniper! I'm gonna take him out.

Jasco: Good luck man...

Blain: Wish me luck ...

Jasco: I just did asshole!

I threw a smoke grenade to use it for cover. After it exploded, the air got filled with smoke, and I ran like hell to the opposite wall. I prepared my assault rifle, aimed at the building... zoomed in on the scope... set it on single shot... After the smoke got cleared up... I aimed through the scope... I didn't see him... I looked up and saw that he was replacing himself to get a better view... After he was settled, I held my breath... Aimed at him... And shot... I hit him right in the head...

Blain: Tango, down!

We all ran to Cyrus who was shot in his shoulder...

Cyrus: How do I look man, is it bad?!!

Jasco: Put some fracking pressure on the wound Blain!!

I pushed my hands on his wounds firmly. Jasco got a small needle, bit off the cap, and punched it in Cyrus arm...

Jasco: You'll live.. It's just a fleshwound...

Cyrus: Fleshwound...? Is that suppose to be a fracking good thing...?

He took out bandages, and managed to stop the bleeding.

Cyrus: Eleven years on the job, never happened, then this shoot happens!

Jasco: Well, shoot happens...

Cyrus: No, shoot doesn't happen... It takes a reason for shoot to happen...

Jasco: What reason would that be...?

Cyrus: Someone must really hate me...

Tyrone: Guys, listen up. Clear out the buildings, set up the perimeter!

Jasco and I got in the building, looking for possible suspects... We barged in every room and found nothing... Until Jasco kicked down a door and we both searched the place... He kicks in another door and saw a very young girl sitting there... Holding on to an old teddy bear... With a dead man and woman lying next to her... Probably her parents... I don't know how old she was, around 3 or 4 years of age... She looked at Jasco, who was rather baffled by the looks of her... So was I really... We would never expected to see this...

Jasco: Should we take her with us?

Blain: I don't know... It's not a smart thing to do...

Tyrone contacted us through headset...

Jasco: Blain, you read?

Blain: Yeah, go ahead.

Jasco: I've spotted some humans in the distance, I don't know if there with the Red Faction, but I've took Cyrus in cover not to reveal our position. If you get out, be careful. I'll stay on watch.

Blain: Copy that, thanks.

Jasco picked up the girl with one arm, while he strokes her cheek with his other one...

Jasco: Don't worry... We'll get you out of here... What's your name...?

Blain: Damn it Jasco! Put her down!!

Jasco: My conscious is telling me to take her with us!!

Blain: WELL MY CONSCIOUS IS TELLING ME THAT WE'LL GET SHOT TO PIECES IF WE CARRY HER!! SHE'LL SLOW US DOWN!!!

Jasco: Then you go ahead! I'm NOT leaving her alone!!

We cant afford to risk our lives just for her! Jasco took her anyway... We got outside again and we couldn't see Tyrone or Cyrus... Tyrone contacted us and told me that he was on the opposite building, on the second floor. He saw the humans were armed...

Blain: frack!! I told you Jasco!! I fracking told you!!

Tyrone opened fire on the oncoming humans. They saw him and opened fire... Jasco jumped behind a wall and put the girl down...

Jasco: Cover your ears ok?

We ran back and shot the humans... After a while, there was only one left who surrenders... Jasco ran up to him, smacked him down on the ground, and puts his knee in his neck while cuffing him... Meanwhile, Tyrone joined us...

Guy: I'm not telling one fracking thing to you guys...

Tyrone: Good, we don't expect you do.

Guy: You fracking traitors...

The guy spits Tyrone in the face... Tyrone just lost his patience and bashed his face... Jasco walked back to the place where he left the girl, but she was on the ground, bleeding... She was dead... Probably got hit by a lost bullet... I saw the look on Jasco's face...

Jasco: She wasn't gonna hold on to life for much longer...

Blain: What do you mean...?

Jasco: The only thing she saw in her life, was death... I'd try to give her one chance of happiness by taking her out of that hellhole...

Jasco then walked away... Few moments later, Robotnik's droids came to pick us up... That night, we didn't said one thing...

Meanwhile...

Shadow: Ssh...

Sonic: What...?

Shadow: Listen...

They both hear tapping on a window...

Shadow: That's her...

Sonic: Who?

Shadow: Our contact...

Sonic cautiously opened the door... He sees a purple female wolf standing outside holding a large, silver briefcase... She got in...

Shadow: Long time no see...

???: What do you expect with this whole deal going on?

Shadow: Right...

Shadow introduced her to the others... After explaining what was going, she opened her metal suitcase... Inside is a Barrett M95A1 .50 sniper rifle and she's assembling it...

Shadow: That's a large sniper rifle...

???: Heh, these bullets are bigger then your brains...

Shadow: Still hasn't changed over the years did you...?

???: No...

Shadow: Heh... Welcome home, Tala...

To be continued...

3 - Chapter 3... F.U.B.A.R

That night, we got back to base. Cyrus was treated to his wound, while the 3 of us didn't said anything... Jasco broke the silence...

Jasco: Unbelievable...

Blain: What?

Jasco: I've been a RRTS my whole life but I couldn't even save a little girl...

Tyrone: You know its against the rules of engagement to take someone with ya. What if someone had you in your vision while you were busy looking after that girl?

Jasco: Then I'd die happy with the thought that I catch the bullet instead of the girl...

Blain: Well still, its stupid of you...

Jasco: Then what would you do? Just let her die like that? Leave her?

Blain: Yeah! We got orders to follow, and you're jeopardizing our objectives if you keep fracking up like that!!

Tyrone: HEY!! Cool it!

We both looked at Tyrone while he looked at me. I got his point though. I admit it was a bit of a cruel thing to say to Jasco, but... Somehow I don't get him...

Jasco: I'm going to bed. See ya guys later...

Jasco walked out of the room and slammed the door. He was pissed off... He just needs to cool down I guess... Tyrone and I talked but not long after that, we went to bed...

That night, it happened... We got called out of bed and reported to Robotnik... It was a condition 4 situation, so it was very urgent... Cyrus ran down the halls. He got his shoulder patched up in bandages, but seemed ok... We've scrambled in the mainhall. Robotnik was waiting there.

Tyrone: RRTS reporting for duty sir.

Robotnik: Good. A reconnaissance droid reported Red Faction rebels taking over the powerplant. We lost every form of communication with the powerplant since then. I want you guys to infiltrate the powerplant and secure it. You get a flying sentry droid at your command.

Eggman activated a small ufo type like thing. He starts buzzing and 2 triangular shaped muzzles with 3 barrels each mounted under the droid started spinning...

Tyrone: What.... The... Hell is that thing...?

Robotnik: The SD-8 Accipiter is a flying sentry droid with assault capabilities, armed with an optical tracker and multi-barrel rotating cannons. Targets are acquired by the squad's NetBat System, allowing all members of the squad to utilize the droid.

Blain: Heh, sweet...

Robotnik: If the powerplant falls in hands of the Red Faction, our defence lines are getting a severe blow. Retake the powerplant... At all costs.

Tyrone: Yes sir.

Robotnik: Dismissed.

We grabbed our gear and ran to an airtransport. Thirty minutes later, we got dropped in the desert, in the middle of fracking nowhere... The powerplant was easy to see though. You couldn't miss it... It was humongous... We got dropped off about 1.55 miles southeast of the powerplant. We could see some humans, most likely Red Faction...

Meanwhile... Tala's lurking in the shadows with the sniper rifle...

Tala: Shadow, you read...?

Shadow: Go ahead.

Tala: I spotted the RRTS, about 2 clicks from the powerplant. There accompanied by a sentry droid. Should I take them out?

Shadow: No. Wait until the rebels take out the droid. Then you can fire.

Tala: Copy that.

The powerplant was heavily guarded by the rebels. They've settled up stationary weaponry. We prone in cover until I saw something moving up a hill and I looked at it... I totally forgot about the droid... He starts rotating his multi-barrel cannons... That means he must have identified something... He then blasts with a high rate of fire at the ledge...

Tala: shoot!!

Shadow: Tala! You ok?!

Tala: Yeah... They've spotted me!

Well, there's goes our cover... Damn droid... The rebels noticed the droid and suddenly the droid starting shizziling and short circuiting... He then falls to the ground... They hit it with an EMP grenade... The rebels started firing towards our position...

Blain: We're fracked... Truly @\$\$-invaded...

Jasco: Guess that makes it even then, we both fracked up.

Tyrone: Will you shut the hell up and shoot back?!!

We've managed to take some rebels down, but we're starting to run out of ammo...

Tala: I cant stay here.

Shadow: Go to a more safer place. Keep track of what is happening.

Tala: Got it.

Not long after that, we ran out of ammo... Since the droid wasn't working, we didn't stand a chance...

Jasco: Come on!! YOU STUPID SON OF A dog!! WORK WITH ME HERE!!!

Jasco grabbed the droid and smacked it a few time... Shizzlings is being heard again and it started floating again. He spins his multi-barrels and fired. Not long after that, it short circuited again and fell down... We ran back, and took cover...

Jasco: Oh God, not again....

Tyrone: Cyrus... Listen up...

Cyrus: What?

Tyrone: Get out of here, now.

Cyrus: What?! Why?!

Tyrone: Use the hill to contact base. Ask for reinforcements... Take the satellite phone.

Cyrus: Got it.

Tyrone: Go, now! We'll give you covering fire!

Cyrus ran up the hill while Tyrone, Jasco and I shot the oncoming rebels. Then the worst sound ever was being heard... The sound of an empty assault rifle... Now we're truly @\$\$-invaded... Not long after that, Tyrone went dry too...

Tyrone: Listen Blain... Don't tell them anything. No matter what...

Blain: Same for you...

Tyrone: I never would ...

He looks at me and smiles... He then got bashed down by the running rebels and not long after that, I was bashed down too...

Cyrus: This is six-four, do you copy?!

Droid: Affirmative.

Cyrus: We need support! Coordinates are 45 degrees longitude, 36 degrees south-southwest. I'll place a beacon to determine our exact location.

Then suddenly, something got pushed against his throat. It felt sharp... It's a combat knife...

Tala: Cancel that request...

Cyrus: Who the frack are you.....?

Tala pressed the knife harder to his throat...

Tala: Cancel it...

Cyrus: Eeh... This is eeh... Six-Four, discard my last, situation contained.

Tala: Very good... It's not often I meet an RRTS member just like that...

Cyrus: Oh damn it...

I got placed inside a room... They tied me up and put me down on a chair. Then a guy walked through...

Guy: You shouldn't have come here. This is a civil war. This is our war, not yours...

Blain: I'm not in charge, I just follow orders. Robotnik doesn't negotiate with rebels.

Guy: Then perhaps you and I can negotiate, huh? Soldier to soldier...?

Blain: Like I said, I'm not in charge...

Guy: Off course not, you have the power to kill, but not to negotiate. In this world however, killing is negotiation...

I looked at that guy and couldn't really understand what he meant with that. We're not the

enemy, he is...

Guy: Ever see what happened to people when they defied Robotniks reign...?

Blain: They get arrested...

Guy: Wrong... Well, almost... Robotnik sends them to deathcamps. Either working for him or there being executed... Why the hell do you think those riots are starting each day...? Don't you see...? They get more violent... Then you guys just come by and blast the shoot out of everybody and are being praised by everyone for restoring the order?

Blain: Something like that...

Guy: You're wrong... You don't realise how much enemies the RRTS has... Everyone wants you guys dead... Common people, the Red Faction, hell, even those sorry @\$@ bastards of the so called Freedom Fighters wants to get rid of you guys...

Blain: Right...

Guy: So I'd be reasonable with you... Then we can all go our separate ways and do whatever the hell we want...

I got a weird feeling inside of me...

Guy: So... Let's pop the question... You see... We need access to Robotniks base. You know, the one where you guys are stationed. We took over of Robotniks vehicle depot, and his nearest commandcenter is your station.

Blain: Vehicle depot...? But, we never heard that it was being attacked and-

Guy: Whoa whoa whoa, calm down... Well, it was taken over 2 years ago... We got 2 battlewalkers, 5 tanks, 15 gunships and 2 airtransports... We made sure no one would ever know about it... But, it's not a secret anymore though... Robotnik may not tell you guys everything, but the war is almost over for Robotnik... He suffered blow after blow by the Red Faction and its growing in numbers by the day... Robotniks defeat is immanent. That's why we need access behind his line of defence, so it will end sooner... So help us out... Do it for freedom... Robotnik has been lying to you guys... *lights up a cigarette*

Was it a trick...? Was he bluffing...?

Blain: I don't have the proper authorities. Robotnik tells us on a need-to-know base.

Guy: Well if you ask me... *Blows smoke in Blains face* That's bullshoot...

The guy pistol-whipped me in the face... I fell something dripping off my right eye...

Guy: Why are you struggling...? Just say it... Then you'll be free... No more Robotnik, no more war...

Blain: I told you, I don't-

He pistol-whipped me again...

Guy: I tried being reasonable, but too bad for you I'm someone without patience...

He kicked the side of the chair where I was on, and I fell down... He grabbed the back of the chair and I got dragged to another room. I saw Tyrone, beaten up in a chair like me... But the guy left me on the ground...

Guy: You get 10 seconds to tell how to bypass the defence system...

Tyrone: Don't tell him...

Guy: Shut the frack up!!

He pistol-whipped Tyrone...

Guy: One...

Blain: I don't know... really...

Guy: Two...

Tyrone: Don't tell him... No matter what...

He pistol-whipped him again...

Guy: Three...

Blain: Can't we just work something out here?!

Guy: Four...

Blain: Look, I-

Guy: Five...

Blain: I told you!! I don't know!!

Guy: Six...

Blain: We don't know anything about those systems!! We're fracking RRTS!!

Guy: Seven...

Blain: We're some fracking soldiers who carry out orders!!

Guy: Eight...

He pulled back the slide of his pistol...

Blain: Just... Just give us more time, we can find out...

Guy: Nine...

He aims it at Tyrone's head...

Guy: You think I won't do it...? That I'm bluffing? Is that it....?

Tyrone: Don't do it Blain...

Blain: All we need is more time...

The guy looked at me... There was an eerie silence...

Guy: ... Ten...

**Right after that... He shot Tyrone in the head... I saw he fell down while he was tied to his chair...
Right next to me... The guy left the room, puts out the lights, and locked the door... All I did that
night was sobbing...**

To be continued...

4 - Chapter 4... Truth and reconciliation

Cyrus: ... That's all I know...

Sonic: You sure about that...?

Cyrus: The others know more. But I don't know where they are right now...

Sonic: Right... Shadow: Maybe Tala has seen the others...

Sonic: Contact her and see if she's spotted them...

Shadow: *picks up radio* Tala, you read?

Tala: Go ahead.

Shadow: Has anyone else made it...?

Tala: One dead RRTS member, one live one... Want me to snipe the other one?

Shadow: No, there's been a change in plans. We need the others. They can help us to overtake the Red Faction. You waste everyone who comes near them, do NOT kill any RRTS members, understood?

Tala: I don't do live, I do death.

Shadow: Waste everyone who gets too close to them...

Tala: *sighs* Fine...

Tala sees a human walking past the window...

Tala: Heh... Theeeeeeeeeere you are...

The guy that interrogated us yesterday came in... He lighted up a cigarette, then suddenly, a loud shot was heard, and he fell down, dropping his cigarette... I was rather baffled by that. I looked up, but saw nothing. I tried standing up, but I was still tied to that damn chair. So I tried hopping to the shattered glass that lies on the floor. I managed to grab a piece of glass and cut the rope. After that, I stood up, took the guy's pistol and was about to walk off... I saw the smoke, and well... I couldn't resist, so I picked it up, and ran out, looking for Jasco. I ran through the corridors, and shot 2 guys. I kept looking for him, but I didn't find him. Then I kicked a door, and saw him tied up a chair.

Blain: Ready to go?!

Jasco: frack yeah!

We blast our way out. Killing every human we saw. Which wasn't that much. We got outside...

Tala: *looks up from scope* ...Jasco...

Jasco: Where's Tyrone...?

Blain: Dead...

Tala: Get out of the bloody way Jasco...

I saw something moving behind Jasco. I pulled him down and aimed at it, but I saw the guy falling and then heard a loud shot. We thought that a sniper was aiming for us, so we ran off. We didn't know where he was hiding, but we took cover behind a wall. Another guy we came across got shot... After a while, we started crawling on our hands and knees... Then another shot was heard...

Jasco: GAAAAAAAAAH!!! JESUS!!!

Tala: Told you to get out of the way Jasco...

Blain: What?!

Jasco: I've been shot!!

Blain: Where?!!

Jasco: IN MY frackING @\$#!

Blain: It's a near hit, don't be a pussy.

Jasco: Well still, it hurts like hell!!

I saw someone standing up a hill in the distance. After a closer look, I saw a purple female wolf standing there, holding a large sniper rifle. She turned around and gestured something.

Blain: Take a look at that...

Jasco: fracking hell...

Blain: What...?

Jasco: That's Tala...

Blain: Who?!

Jasco: My ex-girlfriend...

Blain: Don't bullshoot me man...

Jasco: I'm not!

Blain: Then why the hell does she wanted us dead?!

Jasco: Believe me, if she'd really wanted to kill you, you'd be dead already! She never misses! Take a look at that! *points to his @\$#!

Blain: Heh...

Jasco: If she'd really wanted to hit me, I'd be shooting down a tube for the rest of my life...

Then we saw Cyrus...? What the hell was he doing?

Blain: Cyrus...?

Cyrus: These guys... There the Freedom Fighters... They've got a deal for us...

Then we saw a blue hedgehog, and a black one walking towards us...

Jasco: What the hell...?

Cyrus: What...?

Jasco: Are those the leaders of the Freedom Fighters...?

Cyrus: Yeah...

Jasco: But, there just a bunch of fracking kids!

Blain: They look like us Cyrus.....

Cyrus: I know... Just listen what they have to say.

Shadow: Listen up. I only say this once. Everyone knows the war against Robotnik is immanent. He suffered massive blows of the Red Faction and his line of defence are getting weakened. We don't have the proper tools to get the job done. We need people like you to overtake the Red Faction and Robotnik. Like I said, Robotnik's defeat is immanent. However, when he's out of the way, the Red Faction would continue to fight us. To take control of the planet.

Blain: I thought the Red Faction and the Freedom Fighters worked together...

Shadow: No. Whatever Robotnik told you, is a lie . The Red Faction has been fighting us and Robotnik a long time. Even before this war started.

Jasco: Somehow I don't believe this...

Shadow: You're choice...

The black hedgehog walked away... While the blue one still stands there...

Sonic: You know... What if Robotnik is the first one to lose? Where would you guys be...? You wouldn't be safe. This is your only option to get out...

We thought for a while... Robotnik got indeed massive blows over the years... I decided not to join the Freedom Fighters. But Jasco and Cyrus however...

Blain: No, I'm not doing it.

Jasco: Think about it... Remember that we got send out to re-take Westopolis...?

Blain: Yeah...

Jasco: We had to retreat because we got blown away by battlewalkers... The Red Faction got control of the city and took over another crucial strategic point... And it happened before you know...

Cyrus: Yeah... I don't know about you guys, but I'm playing it safe...

Jasco: Count me in...

Sonic: Great... What about you...?

I hesitated... But, Jasco had a point though. And well, I didn't really had much of a choice since Jasco and Cyrus already agreed on joining them...

Blain: Right... I'm in...

Sonic: Awesome... Let's go...

Blain: ... Wait...

I got back in the building and carried Tyrone over my shoulders. When I got outside, everyone looked shocked of what happened... Jasco took him over. I ran back and grabbed my weapon... That blue hedgehog looked at me with a rather weird look...

Blain: I'm fond of it...

Sonic: Ah...

I didn't know where the hell we were going, but we kept on walking for about half an hour. We saw in the far distance a forest and we eventually reached it. The blue hedgehog said it was called the Great Forest. We entered some bushes which appeared to be a secret passage... Then we got baffled of the view... It was a whole village...

Sonic: Welcome to Knothole guys... Make yourself at home...

Blain: Whoa...

Jasco: Knothole...?

Cyrus: How come this isn't discovered yet by Robotnik...?

Sonic: It's a hidden village. The only place left that isn't touched by Robotnik's droids.

We looked around and saw a small two tailed fox running towards us...

Tails: Sonic! You're back!

Cyrus: Sonic....?

Sonic: Yup... Sonic the Hedgehog...

Cyrus: I never expected you to look like this...?

Sonic: Why's that?

Cyrus: Well... We did heard about you...

More people started to gather around... A red echidna, a pink hedgehog, that black hedgehog

again... That purple wolf... A female bat... Damn...

Blain: You sure about this...?

Cyrus: Well yeah... Why?

Blain: I got the feeling we're not wanted here...

Cyrus: We're the ones with the guns Blain...

Blain: Still...

Sonic explained to the crowd that we joined them... I kept noticing Jasco staring at that purple wolf... After he was done talking, we all went our separate ways. Jasco puts Tyrone down and starts digging a hole. He pulls out his side-arm and took a bullet out of it and placed that on the grave...

Jasco: I'm gonna miss him man...

Cyrus: Yeah...

Meanwhile...

Amy: Tala!

Tala: Yeah...?

Amy: Something tells me that you had a crush on that wolf dude!

Tala: No...

Amy: Come on! I saw you staring at him! And he stared at you!

Tala: *sighs*

Amy: Come on! Tell me!

Tala: Actually... He's my ex...

Amy: Really...?

Tala: His name is Jasco...

Blain: By the way... What did you mean with ex girlfriend...?

Jasco: *sighs*

Blain: What?

Jasco: There's something I never told you guys...

Blain: What is it?

Jasco sat down in on the grass... Cyrus and me too...

Jasco: I'm not created by Robotnik...

Blain: No shoot...?

Jasco: Yeah...

Blain: I thought it was weird... Three hedgehogs and a wolf...

Jasco: Before the war took place, I met Tala... We fell in love, but as soon as the war broke out, her parents got killed. Mine too. She came in contact with the Freedom Fighters and I've never seen her again. I wasn't aware of it and thought she was dead... Until now...

Blain: I see... What did you do in the mean time...?

Jasco: I was with the Red Faction...

Cyrus: You were...?

Jasco: Yes... Those bastards didn't give a shoot about us... More of us joined them but they were only meant as cannon fodder... Those were the ones who died first... One time, when we invaded an outpost of Robotnik, the droids set up a trap. Those bastards left us... We all got wiped out except for a few of us. We started working for Robotnik and 13 years later, the RRTS was formed. I was promoted to the RRTS because of the campaigns I led against the Freedom Fighters and the Red Faction. Robotnik saw I had experience so I was placed with you guys...

Cyrus: So you had a squad under your supervision...?

Jasco: Yeah... You see, when... when you end up seeing the killing of one your men, you tell yourself it happened so you could save the lives of two or three or ten others. Maybe a hundred others. Do you know how many men I've lost under my command?

Blain: How many?

Jasco: ...Ninety-four. But that means I've saved the lives of ten times that many, doesn't it? Maybe even 20, right? Twenty times as many? And that's how simple it is. That's how you... that's how you rationalize making the choice between the mission and the man.

Blain: Whoa...

Jasco: Yeah...

Then there was that long silence again...

Cyrus: So how was she...?

Jasco: Who?

Cyrus: Tala...

Jasco: A sweet girl... She changed a lot after the war broke out... She had problems...

Tala: He had problems...

Amy: Aw... So romantic...

Jasco: Before she joined the Freedom Fighters, we were still together... But, she became reckless...

Tala: He was reckless...

Jasco: Didn't care for anything...

Tala: He didn't cared about me anymore...

Jasco: Naah... I'm better off without her...

Tala: I'm better off without him...

Blain: I still got a feeling that we're not welcome here...

Jasco: Me too... But... face it, it's our only chance of survival...

Cyrus: As long as you stop farting, you'd be more then welcome... *pokes Blain*

Blain: What?! Don't look at me! Jasco's the one who got shot in the @\$#!

Jasco: Yeah so!?

Blain: You get shot in the @\$\$, and not expecting to crack one?! frack no!.

Jasco: Watch it blue boy, or I'll make you clean toilettes with your tongue until you cant taste the difference between shoot and French fries!

Cyrus: Heh, you smell that? I smell bullshoot!

Jasco: Probably your upper lip!!

Jasco/Blain: *Imfao*

long silence

Blain: I wish Tyrone could see this...

Cyrus: Yeah...

Jasco: Well he aint dead until you place him of your heart...

Cyrus: What kind of sentimental bullshoot is that...?

Jasco: No, fo' real! Tala said that to me once...

Blain: I think he's up there right now, laughing his @\$ \$ off at how sentimental you are right now!

Jasco: I may be the tallest, but I have my weaknesses you know...

Cyrus: You're nothing but a sheep in wolfs clothes...

Jasco: No... More like... A tiger in wolfs cloths...

Blain: What do you mean by that...

Jasco: Tender and caring, but when threaded, ferocious and no mercy...

Cyrus: *Imfao* You're so full of shoot man! Damn! I bet if I'd punch you in the stomach, shoot would drain out of your fracking nose! *Imfao*

Jasco: I'd like to see you try! *pokes Cyrus*

Blain: Look... Look at those stars man...

Jasco: Where...?

Blain: There, right there...

Jasco: I cant see it...

Blain: Damn! You blind or something!?

I pointed my finger near his snout to point the “star”...

Blain: It's right there!

Cyrus: I cant see it either...

Blain: Then you gotta look more closer!! *flicks Jasco's nose*

Jasco: You asshole!

Blain: *Imfao*

We glommed on Jasco, but as big as he is, he throws us of him...

Jasco: Bring it on! I got plenty left!!

We glommed at him again, and we wrestled a bit, but after a while, we got tired. We saw the sun was rising and we fell on the grass exhausted. I looked to my left and saw that wolf girl walking away with that pink girl. I looked to my right and saw that Jasco was looking at her too. He got a smile on his face and closed his eyes...

To be continued...

5 - Chapter 5... Spread the love...

When we woke up, the sun was shining on our faces. Nice and warm. We got up and walked towards the village, where everybody where just... doing stuff...

Amy: Hey! Look who's here! *pokes Tala*

Tala: Shut the hell up...

Sonic: Goodmorning! You want something to eat?

Blain: Eeh... No I'm good...

I saw Jasco and Cyrus stuffing themselves already... So I sat down and ate something. After we're done, that black hedgehog came towards me with some papers.

Shadow: Take a look at this.

Blain: What is it?

Shadow: Blue prints we confiscated from the Red Faction.

I looked at it, and it were the blueprints of the T-39 Bogatyr and the L5 Riesig...

Blain: Those are Robotnik's droids...

Shadow: Not really...

Blain: What?

Shadow: There being driven by droids. I saw the Red Faction got hold of one. We once got attacked by one of them, but we've managed to take it out. I saw a human bailing out of it, so if there's a chance the humans can control it, why cant we?

Blain: I've seen them in action. Maybe if we get our hands on one, we might be able to use it.

Shadow: We do have one...

Blain: What?

Shadow: Tails is trying to figure it out at the moment.

Blain: I see...

I saw Jasco and Cyrus still stuffing themselves with food...

Blain: Yo Jasco! Cyrus!

Both: What?

Blain: Come on, we got something!

They both were reluctant, but they came along. We followed the black hedgehog to a wooden building, and lowered ourselves using a pulley block. After we got down, a large underground area was seen. We walked ahead and saw the battlewalker... I never noticed how large it was... We've seen them in combat before, but never took notice of how big they really are... Then that fox pops his head out of the top hatch on top of it.

Tails: Hey guys!

Shadow: This is it...

Blain: *looks at blueprint* That's not the L5 Riesig...

Cyrus: *Yanks blueprints out of Blain's hands* That's the Bogatyr...

Shadow: You found anything yet Tails?!

Tails: Eeh... I found out how to arm it!

Shadow: Let's go check it out.

The four of us climbed up the Bogatyr. Jasco and I lowered ourselves in the cockpit while that black hedgehog and Cyrus sat in another cockpit, which looked like it was used for air defence and infantry. It was a tight squeeze though... Jasco sat behind the controls. He grabbed the handles. On the floor were pedals too. He pushed the right pedal. Nothing happened.

Blain: Maybe you should turn it on first... T_T

I saw the fox looking too... He presses his thumb on a fingerprint analyzer and pressed a button. You heard it was starting up.

Jasco: Sweet...

Blain: What did you find?

Tails: If you pull this lever, you'll arm it. *pulls it*

A.I Female voice: J-ROTC armed.

Tails: This one however, changes the type of ammunition. *pushes button*

A.I Female voice: Switched to SABOT.

Jasco: What's the button to fire?

Tails: This one, but its empty. No ammunition left.

Jasco: Switch it back to J-ROTC.

Tails: *pulls lever*

Jasco puts his foot down on the right pedal again. We started turning to the right until Jasco let go of it. However... Turning went like waggling...

Jasco: This thing is quite manoeuvrable...

Cyrus: WHAT THE frack WAS THAT!!

Jasco: That would be me, my bad!

Tails: I know this things has gyrostabilizers. When it's walking, it keeps balance by shifting his weight on the other leg that stands on the ground.

Blain: Jasco, try moving this thing forward.

Jasco: With what?

Tails: With those levers you have in your hands.

Jasco pulled it forwards. We started walking! Which was actually no surprise really, because it was so damn obvious... We walked a bit for a while... Then we stopped.

Jasco: Ok... We know how to drive this thing...

Blain: How to fire it?

Tails: Eeh... The 2 buttons on the side of the levers. Press it simultaneously.

Jasco pressed the 2 buttons... Which was a wrong thing to do... We heard the cannons charging up and fired rapidly. For a short moment, I saw dark blue like smoke out of the barrels. Jasco immediately let go of the controls... After the smoke cleared up, we saw an airplane being annihilated...

Tails: ... There goes the Tornado...

Jasco: Sorry about that...

Tails: I forgot it was set on J-ROTC...

Blain: What is SABOT?

Tails: Eeh... SABOT's are the laser guided missiles. There effective against armoured vehicles and the air defence system on top get to take out planes with it.

Jasco: What's the ADS...? There's a button here that says ADS...

Tails: Oh yeah! That's the Active Defence System. I've tested that before. If you get locked on by an enemy vehicle or anything else, an alarm goes off. If you activate the ADS, an energy shield pops up for a short amount of time. After that, it takes up to 10 to 20 minutes to recharge the shield. In the mean, your vulnerable. So use it wisely.

Blain: Which reminds me... What is this thing made of...?

Tails: This one is multi-layered. Combining steel and reinforced plastic laminates with kinetic energy and heat absorbing materials. Combining titanium with alloy and carbon with reinforced structures. This thing can take quite some blows before it goes down. But its not indestructible. It is however, invisible on radar.

Jasco: Right... What about the fuel...?

Tails: That's the weird thing. It has a biohazard symbol on the back, meaning it's a nuclear vehicle. It makes fuel on his own as long as its used. The protons and ions attract and expand when its activated. So you get a chain reaction. Kinda like a atomic bomb, but on a very small scale. I don't know how its used, but I assume it runs on it.

Blain: Right. Anything else...?

Tails: That's all I know now. I'm going to investigate the wreck of the Tornado to search for more clues of what J-ROTC is made of. It looks like plasma cannons, but its not any typical plasma energy.

We all got out of the battlewalker and got back to the village. I was still wondering though...

Blain: How did you guys get that thing in that underground garage...?

Tails: With a lot of pain and effort. We found it somewhere deserted and it was in pretty bad shape. Over the years I've been studying it, and I've told you everything I know about it!

Jasco: Heh... Sweet...

Cyrus: What about weapons? Assault rifles and stuff?

Tails: We do have a some, but most of us don't know how to use. Even Shadow doesn't know how to use it.

Blain: Shadow?

Tails: Yeah. That black hedgehog.

Blain: I see...

Tails: I'll see if I can create ammo for you guys. I just need to know the type of weapon.

Blain: Here, take this with you.

I gave my weapon to Tails and he almost drops it because it was so heavy. So I took it back and we both walked to his workshop. I pulled out the clip and gave it to him.

Blain: You think that would be enough?

Tails: Plenty. I'll make a round and you should stop by tomorrow. We'll do some tests.

Blain: Thanks... eeh...

Tails: Miles Prower. You can call me Tails.

Blain: Thanks Tails.

Tails: What's your name by the way...?

Blain: ... Blain...

Tails: Awesome! Well, guess I see ya later then!

I walked back to the others...

Blain: He sure knows a lot doesn't he?

Cyrus: Who? Blain: Tails.

Jasco: That fox? Blain: Yeah...

That night, there was a campfire. They all sat around it but we sat on the grass and looked at the night sky.

Jasco: You still got a feeling we're not wanted?

Blain: No not really... They've been nice to us ever since we got here.

Then suddenly, someone called us... It was Sonic.

Sonic: Come on! Join us!

We looked at each other and decided to join them. So we sat down...

Sonic: We never got your names...

Jasco: Jasco...

Blain: I'm Blain...

Cyrus: Cyrus.

They all introduced themselves too... The female bat was called Rouge, the pink hedgehog was Amy, the red echidna was Knuckles, Tails, Sonic, Shadow and Tala... Then there was a very young rabbit, Cream. I haven't seen her before... She didn't say much... Actually, she didn't said anything...

Rouge: So what's it like...?

Blain: What? Rouge: Being RRTS...?

Jasco: I don't know what the fuzz is about. I mean... We're just elite...

Blain: No... When we got interrogated, the guy said we got a crap load of enemies.

Tala: Whatever happened there anyway...?

Jasco: We got captured and got interrogated about Robotnik's defence lines.

Blain: He said that the war was almost over for Robotnik. The Red Faction could end it sooner if they'd knew the weaknesses. Once discovered, they can take him out with ease, considering the vehicles and weapons they have. But they lack the manpower.

Shadow: How many of them are there?

Cyrus: Robotnik estimated that about 7800 people joined the Red Faction. Since he already caught 1500 people over the years, there numbers have been degreased.

Sonic: Still... Don't mess with them. They've got the vehicles and the weapons. We may have more numbers, but that's nothing compared to the weapons they got.

Shadow: That's one of the reasons why we brought you guys in. You know the tactics used by the humans since they've been using strategies of Robotnik.

Rouge: That's why Robotnik was getting these blows over the years. He never expected that his own strategy would be used against him.

Blain: So... Is this what's left of the Freedom Fighters...?

Sonic: Heh... No, there's a lot more scattered over the planet. We're just one of those HQ's that's trying to resist.

Tails: Did you guys ever killed someone?

That was a rather unexpected question... It felt weird that we're talking about how we killed people and creatures in the riots and warzones...

Jasco: Yeah... We did...

Rouge: Didn't you felt guilt when you did that...?

Cyrus: Actually... No... It's just war... You don't realize what your doing until you pull the trigger. You get to decide between life and death, with one finger pull away from the trigger. The difference is that small... The trick is to think not to die for freedom, but to let the other die for HIS freedom... That's all there is to it... Nothing more... Nothing less... It's just war... Things like that happen...

Jasco: *laughs* Who's the sentimental bastard now huh?! *pokes Cyrus*

Cyrus: I do have my weaknesses you know...

Amy: But... What about those people...? I mean, they have family and friends...

Blain: Doesn't really matter what I think. Once that first bullet goes past your head, politics and all that shoot just goes right out the window. You don't think. You kill to survive...

Tala: You know what I think...? If you put me with a sniper rifle anywhere up to and including one mile from Robotnik... with a clean line of sight... Well, pack your bags, boys. War's over...

They all looked baffled at us and Tala... The way we were talking like that, it made it sound like it was nothing at all to take a life... Like your throwing away a candy wrapper...

Cyrus: I know what you guys think of us right now... But that's what we're created for... That's our purpose...

Sonic: Created...?

Jasco: Yes... We we're created by Robotnik...

I saw Tala looking up and looked at Jasco. She knew that he wasn't created... So did I and Cyrus, but the others didn't... She walked away...

Knuckles: You guys were created...?

Cyrus: Yeah.

Blain: I thought it was rather weird of why we looked like you guys...

Sonic: Yeah...

Blain: But now I get it why people called us traitors...

Then there was a long silence. I guess they never killed anyone before, but we had no choice... Living in wartime changes everyone. Even the most sophisticated, social goody good guy can change in a killing machine if he thinks its worth it to protect the things he loves... Freedom...

Cyrus: I see you guys are thinking. Don't... Because... You can't control who dies or who doesn't or why he gets hit. It ain't up to you. It's just war.

Jasco: Cut the sentimental bullshoot Cyrus...

Cyrus: You say I'm sentimental? Well, this is my boot, soldier, and it will fit up your @\$@ with the proper amount of force!

Everyone started laughing... The mood was pretty good. Everyone started talking where they came from and how they ended up here. I looked around and didn't noticed that Shadow left. Jasco saw Tala sitting near a small lake.

Blain: Go to her man...

Jasco: Who?

Blain: Tala... T_T

Jasco: ...Right...

Blain: Then you can tell her how much you love her and bullshoot like that! *Imfao*

Jasco: *punches Blain*

Blain: Hey! I'm just trying to help!

Jasco looked at me and smiled, and then he went to Tala... Everyone saw them sitting together...

Cyrus: Aah... L'Amour Toujours...

Blain: What the hell is that suppose to mean...?

Cyrus: It's French dumb @\$\$, it means: Love will prevail...

Blain: Again with the sentimental shoot... Geez... Sometimes I just wanna throw up...

Amy: Well I think its cute... Don't you agree Sonic...? Sonic: No not really no...

Amy: *smacks Sonic with hammer*

Rouge: Oh Knuxie...

Knuckles: Don't even think about...

We all looked at Jasco and Tala who were hugging each other...

That was the first time we felt comfortable with others. Like, being yourself for once. We were not fired at for one whole day which was pretty strange. We're used to that we were taking fire everyday and not hearing the shooting, not seeing people dying, not killing anyone was a bit weird. Although it felt good. I got a feeling I'm beginning to like it here...

To be continued...

6 - Chapter 6... The 3rd generation...

The next morning, I woke up. I saw Jasco lying in bed, and Cyrus in another one. We heard talking outside and I tried waking them both up...

Blain: Yo, wake up...

Cyrus: Meh..... Blain: Dude, wake up.

Cyrus: Eight more hours man.....

Blain: WAKE UP!!1

Cyrus: WHOA!!1 Damn! What the hell is your problem?!

Blain: We need to stop by Tails.

Cyrus: Right...

Blain: Jasco!!

Jasco: Stop yelling for fracks sake, I got a fracking headache...

Blain: Ah... What happened...?

Jasco: I tried to kiss Tala last night, but she smacked me on the head...

Cyrus: Ouch...

Blain: Well, get up, we need to stop by Tails.

Jasco eventually got up... We walked over to Tails's workshop...

Tails: Hey! Goodmorning guys!

Jasco: Hey Tails, wassup?

Blain: 'Morning... You got to make the rounds?

Tails: Yes! I made 5 of them, but we need to test them out.

Blain: What type of ammo is that?

Tails: It's 5.56 calibre ammo. Standard rounds, but I've made a small adjustments to it.

I was a bit baffled that Tails knew so much about weaponry...

Blain: You sure know a lot...

Tails: Heh, the Tornado was equipped with 7.76 rounds. It could fire 1500 rounds a minute.

Jasco: How much ammo did you had on board...?

Tails: Eeh... 1500... A small mistake I made...

All: T_T

Tails: Come on, lets test it.

We went outside and got to an open field with hills where Tails lined up some cans behind the others, a piece of armor, and a bunch of other stuff. Meanwhile, others came watching too.

Tails: Ok, go ahead.

I pulled out the clips and Tails gave me the 5 rounds. I insert them one by one in the clip, rammed it inside. And I pressed my thumb at the finger print analyzer.

A.I Female voice: RRTS Special Ops clearance verified. Handle I.D: Reaper.

Shadow: A talking gun...? How redundant...

Blain: This weapon is designated to me. I'm the only one who can use it.

Rouge: Reaper...? Blain: Yup...

I pulled the bolt to arm it.

Tails: Aim at the first can. Set it on single shot and fire one round.

Blain: Got it.

I set it on single shot and fired. Blue smoke came out of my barrel and the sound of the shot was not something I was used to. Almost a high pitched whistle and the impact seemed like a very small explosion...

Tails: Great! Hold your fire! Set it on safety!

So I did... Tails ran to the cans and saw that the cans that were lined behind each other were penetrated with a large hole in it. Also, the last can had a huge hole, so that means it must have gone through...

Blain: Whoa...

Cyrus: What the hell are those things made of...?

Tails: Tungsten-core ammo...

Blain: Tungsten...?

Tails: Yes. Material almost identical the battlewalker is made of. Instead of plastic, I used carbon and reinforced it with polyurethane.

Jasco: Something tells me this little dude can be of a use to us...

Blain: frack yeah...

Tails came back to us...

Tails: Now fire at that piece of armor.

I pulled of the safety and shot at the armor... It went right through...

Tails: You see that? It went right through. Eggman's droids got angular shapes to ricochet of incoming bullets. This type penetrates the armor, effectively taking out armoured enemies.

Blain: Why is it making such a weird sound? It's not typical.

Tails: This isn't relying on old fashion gunpowder. The core is filled with chemicals. Once the trigger is pulled, it sets of a reaction to the chemicals that explode on the inside, making the bullet more lighter then the old gunpowder ones. The friction of the bullet is also reduced, which makes it travel faster. I've already tested on yesterday to find out how fast it goes...

Jasco: And how fast does it goes..?

Blain: The exact speed isn't determined yet, but it goes faster then 1.900 mph.

All:

Blain: That is fast...

Tails: Now to determine what it does on human flesh...

Jasco: We get to kill a human...?

Tails: No. I got a ballistic gel dummy, which is almost identical to human flesh...

Jasco: Ooooooooooh..... Right.

Tails: Fire the remaining three rounds on the ballistics gel. Set it on burst fire.

I pulled off the safety and set it on burst. I aimed, and shot. What I saw was rather scary... The 3 rounds penetrated the ballistics gel... The target was rather... Incomplete...

Tails: Can you imagine what happens when you shoot someone with it...?

Blain: Strangely enough, I can...

Tails: so...

Jasco: How long do you think you need to create 4 clips...?

Tails: Eeh... Four clips, containing 30 rounds a clip, so that would be 120 rounds...

Blain: Yeah.

Tails: Not long. I can mass produce them... With a few adjustments to the machinery, I can create these rounds...

Blain: Heh, thanks Tails...

Tails asked Jasco and Cyrus to him move stuff from his workshop. They helped and I saw the lake. Rouge was sitting there, holding something. I walked up to her, and sat down next to her.

We talked for a long time...

Nightfall broke. The 3 of us couldn't sleep. Cyrus and I were playing a game of Scrabble since there was nothing else to do. Jasco sat on the grass, gazing to the stars as something caught his eye... He gasped... Not long after that, we heard a hovering sound. Like... Jet engines...

Cyrus: Limo...? That's not a word...

Blain: Yes... It is...

Jasco got up, and ran towards us, almost tripping himself...

Blain: What the frack is your problem...?

Jasco: Red Faction troops are scrambling together. There being dropped at the open plains now.

Cyrus: What the hell are they doing here?

Jasco: I don't know.

Cyrus: Blain, we're not safe here, go wake up the others.

Not long after that, we heard shooting and explosions in the far distance. The 3 of us ran to the wooden houses and we banged on the doors. We yelled to wake up. I got Sonic, and Knuckles, Jasco got Amy, Tails and Cream, and Cyrus got Shadow, Rouge and Tala.

Sonic: What's going on....?

Jasco: Red Faction troops have been spotted. I'm not sure if there heading this way, but we cant be to careful. You'll do exactly what's told and don't act like a hero. It will only get you killed. Got that?

As we heard the battle in the distance, I saw lights shining through the tree's. Cyrus gestured to take cover as he spotted a few soldiers heading this way. We all took cover in the bushes... Not long after that, the soldiers were walking through. They got ordered to search the houses, but they found nothing of interest. Jasco gestured to take out the combat knives, since we got no weapons... Jasco whispered to the kids...

Jasco: Stay as low as possible and don't talk...

We sneaked through the bushes and each of us looked for a soldier that was alone. One soldier was shining his flashlight in a window. As he passes by, I stabbed the guy in the chest while muffling his mouth. I let him down slowly so that it would make the least noise. We've managed to take out 5 of the soldiers. Until one soldier sees something moving in the bushes. He walked over to it, shined his flashlight and saw Amy, Tails and Cream sitting there, terrified... He was

alone, while the other 2 were in the centre of the village...

Soldier: Captain! I think we have some survivors!

Jasco: shoot.....

Cyrus and I took out the soldiers standing in the centre of the village, while Jasco sneaked up on the guy...

Soldier: Captain...?

Jasco then holds him in a headlock, and stabs him from the back... He looked down at Amy, Cream and Tails and saw how scared they looked...

Jasco: I don't ever want to see you kids do that. It's not nice...

Cream then suddenly cried...

Jasco: Ssh, sssssh, don't cry! He's just asleep... That's all...

Blain: Damn it, we cant stay here...

Jasco picked Cream up...

Jasco: Where the hell are we suppose to go now...?

Blain: Damn...

Cyrus: We need to split up for the night.

Blain: Agreed. Grab as many weapons and ammunition you can carry. Stay low for the night. Keep your PDA activated so we can locate each other. Contact us as soon if there's something.

Jasco: Right, Tails, Amy, Cream, follow me!

Blain: You guys, come with me.

Cyrus: Shadow, Rouge, Tala, come on!!

Jasco went south east, Cyrus went north west and I got south west with the guys. We saw the open grassland in the distance and saw it was covered with dead bodies, human and droids, and wrecks of crashed vehicles. We stood there for a while looking at the scenery in the distance while we heard artillery fire coming down and large areas got clear within seconds...

Knuckles: That's quite a view...

Blain: Yes... That's quite a view...

Sonic: Robotnik's on the losing side... I don't wanna be him when he gets overrun by the Red Faction...

Then we heard gunships flying above us with high speed. They didn't see us. One got immediately shot down by a battlewalker...

Blain: This is one of the last lines of defence Robotnik has...

Sonic: What do you mean...?

Blain: It's not the amount of terrain he conquered, but the strategic locations...

Knuckles: Like Westopolis...?

Blain: Yeah... This is hill is 18 miles of Station Square. He got defence lines across major cities. If they manage to advance through this position, Station Square is next. After that, there's no stopping them to end the war by going all out in Robotropolis...

Sonic: So it's ending soon...

Blain: Yeah... Come on, we need to get moving.

We ran through the forest and took shelter in a crashed air transport. Cyrus contacted me through headset...

Cyrus: Blain you read?

Blain: I read ya, go ahead.

Cyrus: Just checking if everything was ok.

Blain: We're good, we're hidid in a wrecked airtransport. How about you?

Cyrus: We found small cave to hide in.

Blain: Right. Don't do anything stupid. I'll see you guys tomorrow.

Cyrus: Yeah. Same for you. Goodnight man.

Blain: Oh an eeh... Cyrus...?

Cyrus: Yeah?

Blain: About that Scrabble board... Limo IS a word. I don't want to hear about it.

Cyrus: It is not a word. It's an abbreviation of a word.

Blain: Limo is a word in common usage. That is the key phrase in Scrabble, my friend, common usage.

Cyrus: No! If it's not in the dictionary, it doesn't count!

Blain: It doesn't have to be in the dictionary!

Cyrus: It does have to be in the dictionary! Listen, when we get back, it's coming off the board!!

Blain: You touch my limo and I'll spank you, Cyrus. You hear me?

Cyrus: Heh... Just get going asshole...

Blain: Goodnight... Be careful...

Meanwhile...

Shadow: You guys are real professionals, aren't you...?

Cyrus: That's what we do...

Shadow: If there's something you ever need... Let me know... I can also help out...

Tala: So can I...

Cyrus: Heh... We really need all the help we can get right now... What are you specialized in Shadow...? Anti-tank...? Demolitions...? Special forces...?

Shadow: I'm not a soldier...

Cyrus: Where did you come from anyway...?

Shadow looked at Cyrus with a rather angry look. He turned around and closed his eyes...

Cyrus: Eeh...

Rouge: Touchy subject... Long story...

Cyrus: Right...

Meanwhile... Jasco, Tails, Amy and Cream are sitting up in a tree, hided behind the branches and the leaves...

Jasco: It's not that comfortable, but it'll do... It's just for the night.

Cream: Mr. Jasco...?

Jasco: What is it kid...?

Cream: Thank you for saving us... I shouldn't have cried...

Jasco: Naah... It's ok...

Cream: Why are people hurting each other...?

Jasco sighed...

Jasco: Well... In this world... There are 3 groups. The mean robots of Robotnik, the humans and us. The mean robots of Robotnik want to hurt the humans, the humans want to hurt us, and we want to hurt Robotnik.

Cream: But why...?

Jasco: It's because we have the right to live you see... Robotnik just came by and said, Hey! I'm going to take over now! And we didn't wanted that. So we fought back!

Tails: You think this will end soon Jasco...?

Jasco: I hope so Tails... I don't like it either...

Tails: But... I thought you were created for this...

Jasco: But that doesn't mean I have to like it...

Amy: What if there coming when we're asleep...?

Jasco: Don't worry... I'll stay up all night...

Tails: The whole night...?

Jasco: Yeah... Just get some shut eye...

Not long after that, the 3 kids fell asleep in Jasco's arms. He looks down on them, then to the war scenery in the distance and is wondering what the hell these kids have been doing to deserve this...

To be continued...

7 - Chapter 7... Clash of the Titans...

When I woke up, I saw the sun rising... In the distance there was still the shooting and the explosions, but not so bad as the night before. Sonic and Knuckles woke up too and looked at the sun rising up from the darkness and colored the hills... The hills slowly got more green as we saw the devastation of the battle last night... We suddenly scared the shoot out of us when a battlewalker walked through the forest just next to us, taking down some tree's in its way... I contacted Jasco since I didn't spoke to him last night...

Blain: Jasco!!

Jasco: Yeah?!

Blain: Watch it! Battlewalker heading your way!

Jasco: I can see that damn thing in the distance!

Blain: Well get the frack outta there!!

Jasco: I need help here!!

Blain: Stay as low as possible!! We're on our way!!

Jasco: You'd better hurry up!!! I can see it's-

Then the transmission cuts down...

Blain: frack!!

I contacted Cyrus and told him to go where Jasco has left his beacon. His PDA was seen on the GPS, but he's not moving... We ran as fast as we could, but once we arrived, we saw the battlewalker standing there, not moving an inch... Jasco point his weapon to a guy...

Jasco: Look who finally arrived...

Cyrus: What...? How did you do that...?

Jasco: *holds up EMP grenade* Don't you just love 'em...?

Blain: Heh, nice job...

Jasco: It wasn't me who had thrown it... She did... *points at cream*

Cream: Oh... It was nothing!

Jasco: I couldn't stop them... Once the walker was died down, Tails and Amy got inside and smacked him...

Tails: Heh... ^_^

Jasco: Maybe they should join the RRTS...

Tails: ... We can...?

Jasco: Naah, you're too young right now.

Tails: Aw...

Jasco: Sorry...

Cream: We got one!

Guy: Hey!! frack YOU!!! YOU DON'T THINK THAT YOU JUST GOT ME, THE RED FACTION WOULD PUT HIS WEAPONS DOWN AND WE JUST SURRENDER?!! frack NO!!! YOU GUYS CAN GO TO HELL!!!

Jasco smacked him in the face...

Jasco: Hey Blain...?

Blain: Yeah?

Jasco: Wanna have some fun...?

Blain: Sure!

Jasco: Wanna bet I can rebuild this guy's face...?

Blain: You cant...

Jasco: How much...?

Blain: ... A fiver..

Jasco: Deal...

Blain: Eeh... Look away kids...

Guy: No! NO!! NO!!!

Jasco took off his jacket, tightens his gloves and gave the guy a really... Really hard punch in the face with his fist... The guy was knocked out... And well... It looked liked his nose was broken...

Jasco: Cough it up Blain...

Blain: Nah, don't have the money right now...

Jasco: Wanna make me rebuild your face too?

Blain: No... Because I know you love me and respect me and would never do such a thing to me.

Jasco: I know.... ^-^

Blain: T_T

We've waited until the guy woke up again... He screamed in pain because of his face... Rouge and the others left us alone to interrogate the prisoner...

Guy: AAAAAAAAAAAH!! MY NOSE!!

Blain: You mind...? *grabs pack of cigarettes out of the guy's jacket*

Jasco: Wanna know a little trick to forget about the pain...?

Guy: MY NOSE!!! YOU frackING BROKE MY NOSE!!

Cyrus: Don't do it man...

Jasco: Here, gimme your hand... *takes his hand*

Blain: Don't do it Jasco...

Jasco grabbed his middle finger and pulled it backwards until we heard a... pop sound...

Guy: AAAAAAAAAAH!!! MY FINGER!!! MY FINGER!!!

Jasco: Works every time... ^_^

Cyrus: Well I tried to stop him.... But.... Never mind...

I lighted up a cigarette...

Blain: Ok... Listen up... You got 3 options...

Option A: You speak, we listen.

Option B: You're not telling us anything. Jasco pulls your thumbs out...

Option C: Identical to option B, and a lot of nasty stuff in between. Bottom-line is, you're dead in the end.

Guy: O_o

Blain: Ok, I guess that's option A... Good... Listen up. First question. What were you doing here in the first place?

Guy: Eeh... The battle of last night... We've been waiting for reinforcements, but it never came... And eeh... Titans are on there way...

Blain: Titans...?

Jasco: Titans?! I thought Robotnik got rid of those things!

Blain: What the frack is a Titan...?

Guy: He didn't got all of them...

Blain: Hello.....? What the hell is a Titan...?

Jasco: How many Titans are there left...?

Blain: Can someone explain what a Titan is...?

Guy: Three... Three Titans are left...

Jasco: Where are they gonna strike...

Guy: I'm telling you nothing...

Jasco cracked his knuckles...

Guy: OK OK OK!!! Eehm... One is heading to... eeh... Angel Island... The other one... Is eeh... Heading

towards Mystic Ruins and the third one is eeh... Attacking Robotropolis right now...

Jasco: Right... Any creatures kept prisoners by you guys on the Titans...?

Guy: A lot...

Blain: What the hell is a Titan...?

Jasco: Turn around...

Guy: What the frack are you doing?!

Jasco ripped a piece of his shirt and blind folds the guy, then spins him around a few times and stopped him...

Jasco: You'll be walking in this directions for a thousand of footsteps. Don't turn around and don't pull your blindfold off.

We saw him walking away dizzy...

Blain: So... Can someone explain what a Titan is...?

Jasco: A Titan is a large battleship... Very hard to take out, but not impossible.

Cyrus: So... How do you take it out...?

Jasco: If you manage to destroy the 5 consoles and destroy the engine core, it'll become unstable and will overload. Then kabloowey...

The others gathered around...

Sonic: Why are you so interested in those Titans...?

Jasco: Creatures are imprisoned on those Titans. If we want to win the war, we need all the help we can get.

Rouge: Before you go all heroic and shoot everything, I just got one question...

Jasco: What is it...?

Rouge: Well, when that thing is flying high above us, how do we board it...?

Jasco: With an APC... Or... Airtransport...

Cyrus: I can understand with the airtransport, but how the hell can you board it with an APC.....?

Jasco: Ejection pods... You'll get launched up in the air...

Blain: What are you suggesting...?

Jasco: Heading back to Robotropolis... Free the prisoners and destroy the Titan...

Knuckles: Well... Let's do it...

Cyrus and Jasco got in the battlewalker and set to Robotropolis. We ran behind the battlewalker for cover. A few hours later, we reached Robotropolis... A battle was already underway...

Blain: Listen up. This is risky shoot. Stay behind the battlewalker at all times. Jasco, follow me, Cyrus, keep on the look out for threats.

I led the way... As soon as we entered the city, we got fired at. Jasco and Cyrus managed to take out most of the threats... But then...

Cyrus: GUNSHIP INBOUND!!! ACTIVATE THE ADS!!

Blain: GET THE frack AWAY FROM THE BATTLEWALKER!!

We all ran away from the battlewalker... Not long after that, it gets hit by an EMP grenade. I turned around and shot the guy... Because the battlewalker got hit with an EMP grenade, it died down, meaning that the ADS didn't worked... The gunship fired at the battlewalker and got some severe blows to it. It flies by and turned around for another go... Jasco and Cyrus got out in the meantime...

Jasco: WE'D BETTER START RUNNING dogES!! OR WE'RE ALL GOING HOME IN BODYBAGS!!!

Jasco picked up Cream, while we all ran like hell with the gunship on our tail. A loud explosion is heard behind us as the battlewalker was destroyed by the gunship... We kept on running down the streets of Robotropolis, still being chased by the gunship. The gunship fired its multi barrel rotating canon at us. We hid in an alleyway for the gunship... I peeked around the corner and saw it was heading our way again... Then suddenly, his tail caught fire and crashed in the building, nearly hitting us...

Jasco: WHAT THE frack WAS THAT?!!!

Blain: Eggman's droids...

We peeked around the corner and saw an APC driving by of Robotnik... I got a plan...

Blain: Stay here...

Cyrus: What the frack are you doing?!

I ran towards the APC, and knocked on it. A droid opened up the hatch...

Blain: Epsilon 223, Blain, handle ID: 345147-94/D-Z.

Droid: RRTS Special Ops clearance verified.

Blain: We need to take this vehicle. We got prisoners we need to escort.

Droid: Affirmative.

I looked at the alleyway and saw Cyrus and Jasco. I nodded them to get over here... The droids got out and aimed there weapons on the others...

Cyrus: Aah, I get it!

Jasco: Listen up, act like you're scared... Play along...

Jasco and Cyrus pointed there weapons at the others, while they walk with there hands on there heads...

Cream: Oh no!

Tails: Whatever shall we do?!

Amy: We're all gonna die!

Shadow: Please don't kill us mister RRTS sir... T_T

Sonic: OH!! THE AGONY!!

Tala: Eek...

Rouge: ... I'm not saying anything...

Cyrus: Keep on walking you sorry @\$ \$ bastards!

Jasco: WE FINALLY GOT YOU!!! HA!! YOU'RE ALL GONNA DIE!!!

Cyrus: Don't push it Jasco...

Jasco: Sorry...

We all got in the APC and left the droids outside... Cyrus decided to blow them up... Jasco got behind the controls and drove off... What we didn't know was...

Droid: Sir, RRTS spotted in Robotropolis. Extracting Freedom Fighters POW's...

Robotnik: Track them down...

Droid: Yes sir.

Meanwhile, back in the APC vehicle...

Cream: That was fun!

Blain: So where's the Titan? I haven't seen it yet...

I saw Jasco looking up to the right...

Jasco: Take a look... There it is...

We all looked outside the small windows and saw the big @\$\$ battleship... Gunships were taking off, people got dropped down by pods, the canons fired, causing mass destruction on the ground...

Cyrus: You never told us how big it is...

Jasco: You know now...

Tails: It looks like it's protected with a shield...

Jasco: We need to take that down first.

Blain: How?

Jasco: The missile silo's. Every 2 minutes, a missile is launched from the silo, redirecting it to the Titan. It's purpose is to destroy the Titan's shield. There are 2 ways to destroy a Titan. Shooting a crap load of missiles on it, and the much faster way, destroy the engine core. You need to board it, which is what we're gonna do, and free the prisoners. The silo's are heavily guarded. We're almost there.

Not long after that, we reached the first silo...

Blain: Right. You guys stay here. Jasco, Cyrus and I will board the Titan. You stay in the APC. Don't let them get you. If there's trouble while we're away, we cant back you up. Use the weapons on board the APC to take out enemies.

Rouge: How?

Blain: Aim and shoot Rouge... That's all.

Jasco: Remember, we're RRTS!! Not some sorry-@\$\$ Delta's We're Elite. Let's act like it out there. Can I get a Hoo-ah?

Blain/Cyrus/Jasco: Hoo-ah!!

We slapped our fist at each other...

Blain: Let's go kick some @\$\$...

Cyrus: With ya...

Jasco: Oh yeah...

The back of the APC got lowered down, and the 3 of us ran out to take the first silo... Then it closed again...

To be continued...

8 - Chapter 8... End of the beginning...

As soon as we got out of the APC, we ran like hell towards the first silo. It wasn't that far away. It seemed like an eternity to arrive since we got bullets whizzing by... We all ran like hell and took cover behind a wall...

Jasco: There it is.

Cyrus: *grabs binoculars* What the frack...

Blain: What is it?

Cyrus: I'm not trusting it. The silo is deserted.

The silo opens up, and a missile is launched. We looked up and saw a battleship similar to the Titan, of Robotnik. The missile hits the battleship and we heard a loud explosion... Then we heard in the distance cheering... Humans, presumably... The shooting stopped and we looked at the Titan. Airtransports were taking off, pods were flying through the air...

Blain: What the frack is going on...

Jasco: There boarding the battleship... Let's go, now's the time!

We ran towards the silo and Cyrus was accessing the mainframe to re-direct the missiles... Bullets where whizzing by...

Jasco: COME ON MAN!!! HURRY UP!!

Cyrus: HEY IM TRYING!!

Jasco: BOOGIES AT YOUR SIX!! WATCH IT!!

Blain: I GOT SKINNIES WITH RPG'S!! 12 O'CLOCK!!!

Meanwhile... Inside the APC...

Knuckles: Those guys are weird... Hoo-ah...?

Tala: What's taking them so long?!

Shadow: The battles are getting louder guys. We need to get out of here.

Rouge: Cream, what are you doing...?

Cream sticks her head out of the top hatch.

Knuckles: Get out of there! Are you out of your mind?!

Cream: I can see Mr. Cyrus, Mr. Jasco and Mr. Blain shooting!

Shadow: We need to get out of here.

All: What?!

Rouge: They saved our lives Shadow!

Shadow: What good did it brought to us?! It was a mistake to bring them in!

Sonic: We can still win this war Shadow!

Shadow: At what costs...?

Everyone stares at Shadow...

Shadow: What?!

Rouge: You might need this... *tosses a Chaos Emerald to Shadow*

Shadow: *sighs* Fine... Open the hatch...

Cream: Please save them Mr. Shadow!

We were taking fire... A lot. We took cover behind a wall and shot at everything we saw... I heard a soldier yelling something and a few of them looked to the right. We decided to look to... Shadow was walking there... They shot at him, but... He didn't seem to be hurt by the bullets...

Jasco: What the frack...?

Blain: Shouldn't he be dead by now...?

Cyrus: Guess not...

Shadow was walking towards us...

Shadow: Take cover...

Jasco: What are you doing?!

Shadow: Just do it...

We peeked around the wall and saw he was walking in the middle. He got surrounded, and the soldiers are looking quite baffled but didn't shoot. Then someone yelled and they all started shooting again at him... He tossed something up which looked like some emerald. It started glowing...

Shadow: ChaaAAAAAOS..... BLAST!!!

The emerald gave an eye blinding, blood red flare. We couldn't watch because it was too bright, and not long after that, a loud blast like sound is heard... After that, it went quiet... Did he just blow himself up...? How the frack was he able to do that.....?

Jasco: Shadow! You dead?!

We peeked over the wall and saw him standing...

Blain: What the frack was that...

Shadow: The power of Chaos...

Cyrus: THE TITANS HULL IS CRITICAL!!! WE NEED TO GO NOW!!

Blain: GET YOUR @\$@ BACK TO THE APC!!!

Cyrus and Jasco ran back, I turned around to get Shadow but he disappeared...

Blain: What the frack... What is he...?

I got back inside the APC. Shadow was inside...

Blain: Just... What the hell are you...?

Shadow: The Ultimate Lifeform...

I looked at Shadow and he grinned... But... There was something freaky about that grin...

Cyrus: Last missile on its way!! Get ready!!

I saw Tala getting ready to enter a pod...

Jasco: What the hell do you think you're doing...?

Tala: Someone needs to keep an eye on you...?

Shadow: I'm going too... You'll need me...

Sonic: Sure why not... I'm in...

Knuckles: So am I then...

Rouge: Cant be assed to say no so I'll just say yes...

Jasco: WAIT A SEC!! WHO'S LOOKING AFTER THE KIDS?!!

Amy: I will!

Cyrus: TITAN SHIELD DOWN!! JASCO!! YOU'RE UP!!

Cyrus slammed a button and Jasco got shot out... We could here him screaming, FUUUUUUUUUUUUUCK!!, but it faded away. Only seconds after that, all of us except for the kids got shot up in the air. We landed on the back take off deck of the Titan. As soon as we touched down, the 3 of us secured the deck. Not long after that, the others arrived and we barged in. Cyrus and Jasco went to the core with Tala, Sonic and Knuckles. Rouge, Shadow and me went to go search for prisoners... Jasco contacted us that they found the first console and that they are about to destroy it. We couldn't find any prisoners and we kept on running. Rouge suddenly stopped...

Blain: What the hell are you doing?! Get moving!!

Rouge: No, this way!

Blain: What?!

Rouge: Follow me!

She ran down the corridors, and we decided to follow her. Bad intuition I guess, because we saw a shoot load of Red Faction rebels preparing for assault... They all looked at us, and aimed at us, and stared yelling to me to put down my weapon...

Blain: Oh frack...

Rouge: Put it down Blain...

Blain: Got any more ideas Rouge...

Rouge: If they take us prisoner, they will lead us to the prisoners...

Blain: What if they kill us instead...

Rouge: There's always a back up plan...

I was rather pissed... But... She had a point... She looked at Shadow and he rolled his eyes... So I put down my weapons, and we got captured... We walk a small corridor and then to the left, and got thrown in a jail with out bars... Not long after that, Dark blue lasers blocked the exit... Jasco contacted me that the fourth console was destroyed... Alarms went off on the Titan...

Blain: You know... We could have just shoot the crap out of everything... It wasn't that far you know...

Rouge: Relax...

Blain: How the frack can you relax?! This ship is about to be destroyed!!

Rouge: Still got the Chaos Emerald Shadow...?

Shadow: Nope...

Rouge: WHAT DO YOU MEAN NO?!!

Shadow: Left it in the APC...

Rouge: HOW THE HELL CAN I RELAX?!!

Blain: Got more of those great ideas Rouge...?

Meanwhile...

Jasco: Fith console!! Set it up!!

Sonic: How are Shadow and the others doing?!

Cyrus: No fracking idea!!

Sonic: Well contact them!!

Jasco: DO IT YOURSELF!! WE'RE BUSY RIGHT NOW!!

Jasco took off his headset and throws it towards Sonic...

Sonic: Eeh... Blain...? You there...?

Nothing...

Sonic: Blain! You there?!

Still nothing...

Sonic: He's not responding!

Jasco: Oh shoot...

Cyrus: STAND BACK!! FIRE IN THE HOLE!!

Cyrus pushed the other back and detonates the bomb.

Sonic: We need to find them!!

Jasco: THERE'S NO TIME!!

Cyrus: THE GATES TO THE ENGINE CORE ARE OPEN!! GO!!

Everyone ran towards the engine room, where a huge plasma like orb is glowing in a round, visible chamber. Cyrus and Jasco shot at it. After a while, Cyrus is placing a few explosives on it...

Cyrus: GET READY!! THIS IS IT!! FIRE IN THE HOLE!!

Cyrus detonates the explosives... The orb starts to wiggle and plasma fluid is leaking. The lights are starting to flicker and it became darkness. Jasco turned on his flashlights and led the way out.

Jasco: WOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOO!!! THAT'S HOW WE DO IT!!

Cyrus: GET YOUR @\$@ TO THE DECK!! THERE'S AN AIRTRANSPORT WAITING!!!

Meanwhile...

Rouge: What's happening?!

Blain: They did... Those bastards it! They blew up the core!!

I saw the lights flickering, then it turned dark... Emergency lights got activated, but the bars in front the jail disappeared... We ran like hell to the deck, while explosions are being heard. Shadow and Rouge ran right before me, I looked behind and saw some Red Faction rebels running behind us. They weren't after us, but escaping a darkblue plasma fireball that was coming our way at a high rate of speed... I saw how they got swallowed up by the fireball. I ran even fast and pushed the two in another corridor. Not long after that, the blazing fireball rushed by us with only a few inches in between... The 2 of them looked baffled at me, and I smiled, and ran off again. Not long after that, we got outside on the deck, looking for airtransports. Nothing... The front end of the titan started tearing off from the back of it... I saw an airtransport taking off under the Titan...

Rouge: Oh no...

Blain: There's one taking off now!!

Rouge: I'm not-

Blain: DO YOU TRUST ME?!!

Rouge: What?!

Blain: I SAID DO YOU TRUST ME?!!

Rouge: YEAH!!

Blain: THEN JUMP!!!

I pushed Rouge off the deck. Not the most subtle thing to do against a lady... She landed on top of the airtransport. Shadow took a run up and jumped too, landing on the tail. I also took a run up, and jumped off the deck, and land on the airtransport. I lost my grip but could hold on to the landing gear...

Meanwhile...

Jasco: WHAT THE frack WAS THAT?!

Cyrus: GO CHECK IT OUT!!

Jasco opened the doors by sliding them to the left...

Jasco: Blain...? What the hell are you doing there...?

Blain: ENJOYING THE frackING VIEW!! WHAT THE frack DOES IT LOOK LIKE?!! SHUT THE frack UP AND PULL ME UP!!!

I got pulled up by Jasco, inside the airtransport...

Jasco: Where's Rouge and Shadow...?

Rouge: Yo! Up here! Take us in!!

After everyone got pulled inside...

Blain: We didn't found any prisoners...

Cyrus: So... They all got blown up...?

Blain: Yeah...

Tala looked outside and saw a few pods taking off... Two of them hit the ground and she saw 2 hedgehogs running towards the APC, where we left Tails, Amy and Cream...

Tala: Those pods... They got escaped prisoners inside... Two of them is running off right now. .

Jasco: Oh shoot... There heading for the APC...

We descended, and stopped just before them, then made a 90 degree turn, then landed... Those hedgehogs are looking quite baffled... We got out... I saw one of them looking rather strange at me... Quite angry too...

???: You...

Blain: What...?

The hedgehog runs towards me and punched me in the face. We both started fighting, receiving and deliver one blow after another... Until the other one holds him back, and Jasco just picked me up with one arm...

Jasco: My momma told me fighting is not the answer Blain... *chuckles*

Blain: frack you Jasco... What the frack is your problem?!

???: YOU!! YOU GOT US HERE IN THE FIRST PLACE!!

Blain: What?!

???: Oh... Right, the forgetful one... Remember those riots 2 weeks ago!? YOU SHOT MY BROTHER FOR frackS SAKE!! WE GOT ROUNDED UP AND PLACED IN THOSE CAMPS!! AFTER WE ESCAPED, WE GOT CAPTURED BY THE RED FACTION!! DON'T ACT LIKE YOU DON'T KNOW ANYTHING YOU frackING PIECE OF shoot!!!

The other one glared at Jacso, Cyrus and me...

???: Come on... Let's go...

???: YOUR DEAD!! YOU HEAR ME?!! DEAD!! LET GO OF ME!!!!

The other one let go of him... The both glared at us and the one who punched me spit at us just before our feet... He looked at us again, and walked off... We all were quite baffled... We saw them walking away...

Jasco: Heh... There's no way those 2 can survive on there own...

Rouge: What was that all about...?

Blain: Nothing...

I banged on the APC. The hatched got opened up and Tails and the others got out... Suddenly, the shooting stopped... There was an eerie silence... Few moments after that, we heard loud cheering in the distance... It finally happened... Robotnik was defeated...

Blain: We're going back to Knothole...

To be continued...

9 - Chapter 9... The fourth guy...

I was rather sad about the fact that I confronted one of the victims... I never really thought about it, but... It was hard really... For the last 2 weeks, I've been realising that we were doing the wrong thing. Seeing the others hanging out and keeping their morals up is something we never learned in this Godforsaken place...

As we walked through the city, we saw devastated buildings, wrecked gunships, dead bodies, destroyed droids and a lot of other things. Yet the rebel forces celebrated their victory of Robotnik. They didn't seem to be bothered with the destroyed Titan... As we walked away, I looked at the others and I could see what they were thinking... Now that Robotnik was out of the way... We were next... Suffering the same fate Robotnik had... Total annihilation...

After many of hours, we reached the village... I gestured to Cyrus and Jasco to take positions and search the village for threats. After a while, it was clear and we could get in. I saw the scrabble board earlier, and grabbed some letters and formed the word FUBAR... Sonic was standing next to me...

Sonic: Fubar...?

Blain: Yeah...

Sonic: What's Fubar...?

Blain: You'll see Sonic... You'll see...

I looked at Sonic and he looked at me a bit baffled... We returned to the huts and went asleep...

That night... I woke up. I heard something in the bushes... I thought it was just an animal, so I went to sleep again. But... Not long after that, I heard footsteps through the bushes... I sat up in bed and listened more closely. I could hear the footsteps getting louder. Then something tripped, and I heard a loud Damn it!

I got up and woke Jasco and Cyrus...

Blain: There's someone out there...

Jasco: Allies...?

Blain: No idea, we gotta check it out. Gear up.

We took our weapons and spread out in the last known direction where I heard the sounds. I saw something moving up ahead and gestured to Jasco and Cyrus to surround him, and move in on him closely. I couldn't see it right, because it was so dark... Something was there though... I saw him in front of a few meters, Jasco sneaked in from the right and Cyrus from the left... Cyrus got so close that he pulled a gun against his head...

Cyrus: Lookie... We've got an intruder...

???: WHOA!!

I walked towards them and Jasco shined a flashlight in his face... It was a yellow hedgehog, who looked a bit like Shadow... A bit younger though... He carried a bag...

???: Eeh.... WAIT!!! THIS ISNT MY HOUSE!!!

All:

???: Bad case of sleepwalking!

Jasco: You didn't fool us pal...

???: Aw damn it... Caught again...

The hedgehog stretched his arms as if we could cuff him anytime... We all looked at him a bit baffled and then he looked baffled at us...

Blain: What's in the bag...

???: Well actually, I'm on my way to granny to deliver some snacks.

Cyrus: We're not asking again, what is it...

???: Classified information... You're the bad guys you see, seeing your bulletproof vests says RRTS... I know the reputation of the RRTS. But eeh... Newsflash for ya guys, Robotnik has fallen!! HA!!

All:

???: Now if ya'll excuse me, I gotta go.

Cyrus: Right...

???: You wouldn't happen to know where Knothole is do you...?

Blain: Right over there...

The guy didn't seemed like a real threat... We followed him back to the village...

???: Eeh... You see, this village is suppose to be a secret village... If you follow me, then it wouldn't be a

secret anymore...

Cyrus: Pssh, this is lame... I'm going back to bed...

???: Yo doggy, could you hand me that flashlight for a bit...?

I looked at Jasco who looked so baffled, it made me laugh out loud! Doggy! I don't know who he is, but he sure had a sense of humor! Jasco walked up to him and grabbed him by his throat...

Jasco: I'm a wolf for Gods sake!!

???: SHADOW!!! HELP ME!!!!

Blain: Put him down Jasco... Come on...

At that point, Shadow came out to see what was going on... Shadow looked at the yellow hedgehog...

Shadow: Put him down Jasco...

Jasco: He called me a doggy!!

Blain: Put him down...

Jasco puts him down...

Blain: Good doggy! *chuckles*

Jasco glared at me...

Shadow: Good to see you again Flash...

Flash: Same to you man!

Shadow: Whadda ya got...

The yellow hedgehog opened his bag and showed Shadow some papers...

Flash: Satellite photo's of Angel Island. It reveals rebels are scattered around the island and have taken up defensive positions. There expecting us to attack any moment. As you can see, the beaches are heavily fortified. We cant storm the beaches like some fracking retards you know...

Shadow: Right. We'll work it out tomorrow. Get some sleep.

Jasco: And now all of a sudden he's a military advisor...?

Blain: Yup...

Jasco: Hmpf, yeah right...

Shadow: You can stay with them...

Jasco: We're sharing a hut with this guy?!

Flash: I'LL GET TOP BUNK!!!

Jasco: frack no!

Shadow: Just do it Jasco...

Jasco: *sighs* Fine...

Flash: You're lucky Shadow spoke for you wolf boy! Otherwise I would whoop yo @\$!

Jasco picked him up by his throat, pulled him over to his face, showed his teeth and growled softly...

Jasco: If you ever make fun of me again, I'll wring you like fracking sponge...

Flash: You don't wanna make me go Kung-Kick-Ya-@\$-Fu on you!!

Blain: Would you guys just stop! Damn! That's suppose to be an RRTS member...

Jasco/Flash: Sorry...

Blain: That's so fracking immature Jasco...

Jasco: Well he started it...

Blain: JASCO!!!

Jasco: *sighs* Fine...

I sighed and walked away to the hut, but couldn't help myself chuckle and when I got inside, I split my sides laughing... Jasco entered not long after that...

Flash: What are you guys doing with the RRTS...?

Shadow: Intimidate those who intimidate others Flash...

Flash: So... Like I said, what are they doing here...

Shadow: Well, they have the military experience to lead us to victory... We've managed to take out a Titan, they saved us a couple of times... I got a feeling that we're just getting started here... If we wanna take over Angel Island again, we need a lot of experience and manpower...

Flash: Yeah...

The next morning, I woke up. I saw that Flash was lying on the top bunk, while Jasco is annoyed by his snoring... He pulls a pillow over his head, but... That didn't helped...

Blain: Dude, you ok?

Jasco: He's snoring like hell, I didn't get any sleep last night!

Blain: Well get up, we need to look at those photo's.

Jasco: Aw damn it...

Jasco looked up and saw Flash's leg sticking out. He got up and pulled Flash's leg, so that he fell out of the bed...

Flash: WHOA!!

Jasco: Goodmorning.

Flash: ... Asshole...

We looked outside and saw that everyone was getting up. Amy and Cream were setting up the tables... We ate something, and after we're done, Shadow gestured us to sit at another table, where he had maps of Mobius and those photo's.

Shadow: Take a look at this, See something you recognize?

We all took a look at the maps and the photo's. It looked liked Mystic Ruins, Angel Island and Westopolis formed a triangle shaped defence line while in the middle of it were some small bases. Robotropolis fell in the middle of it.

Blain: Now I get it...

Cyrus: What?

Blain: Robotropolis was to fall. The Red Faction managed to take over Angel Island, Mystic Ruins and Westopolis and closed Robotnik in. Robotropolis had to fall, because it got surrounded...

Shadow: Angel Island has the largest base of the Red Faction. These photo's indicate that the beaches are heavily fortified to fight of incoming attacks.

Jasco: How we gonna pull this one off...? We cant do this just with us...

Shadow: We've been planning it for a while now. Most of the other local resistant group are aware of the assault. We just need to plan it.

Cyrus: Hey Jasco... Take a look at this...

Jasco: What's that...?

Cyrus: They've got whole AA batteries...

Shadow: What?

Cyrus: Artillery fire... Look. This one is placed on the north side of the beach. If we can capture it, we can use it to bombard the other batteries, clearing the whole area for us to storm the beaches.

Blain: Wait a sec... Angel Island, I thought that it floated in the air...

Shadow: Not anymore. Since the war broke out, Knuckles couldn't guard the Master Emerald anymore. It got shattered to pieces and the island fell in the ocean...

Blain: I see...

Cyrus: How many are participating in the attack?

Shadow: About 100.000... Angel Island is very large to take over.

Jasco: Are they trained in combat...?

Shadow: Most of them... No... However, ex-G.U.N agents are trying to recruit the others. Which is another reason why we brought you in.

Jasco: You're expecting us to recruit them?

Shadow: No... But, you'll get the full leadership of those troops, divided into four battalions.

Cyrus: Four battalions...? There just the three of us...

Then Flash came standing next to Shadow...

Flash: G.U.N Second Class Lieutenant Flash, reporting for duty sir.

Jasco: No way...

Shadow: What?

Jasco: Look how young he is! He cant be a lieutenant!

Shadow: G.U.N trained there agents at a very young age...

Cyrus: Agents...?

Shadow: Mercenaries if you will...

Blain: Welcome aboard Flash... Sergeant Blain...

Cyrus: What the frack...? You're a sergeant...?

Blain: Yup...

Cyrus: Since when!?

Blain: Since the recapture of Station Square 4 years ago...

Jasco looked at Flash...

Jasco: Private First Class Jasco...

Cyrus: Corporal Cyrus...

Flash: I don't know Shadow... 25.000 people under your command is a bit risky...

Blain: We cant split up during the attacks.

Cyrus: Well... The south side of the island is the most weakest. It isn't that heavily guarded as the other sides of the island. They might think that if we're gonna attack, we'll attack from the north, because that is the most likely option for us.

Blain: So we're taking the left side...

Jasco: We're not going alone. We need to take a couple of others who are experienced themselves. The other ones however, just need to lay low and shoot back. Once we manage to take out the artilleries, then they can storm the dunes.

Flash: But... Remember, those guys, there not stupid.

Blain: What if we send a specialized squad to take out the artilleries...? Then we'll be able to coordinate the attack on the beaches, and once an entrance is breached, there's nothing what could stop us.

Shadow: Don't think its gonna be a walk in the park. I've seen what there capable of...

Cyrus: When is the attack taking place....?

Shadow: In 7 days...

Then Tails ran towards us and told us that there was someone trying to contact him on the radio. When we got to his workshop, we heard that there was a lot of shooting and explosions. We could hardly hear him, but he asked for help. Or, screaming for help really... He said something about Mystic Ruins and the transmission cuts off...

Blain: This is it... You guys wanted some action...? Now's your chance... The war against the Red Faction has started....

To be continued...

10 - Chapter 10... The great crusade...

Since Flash got here, the mood was a bit tense. Not because of Flash, but for the planned attack on Angel Island. Everyone was forced to participate, except for Tails, Amy and Cream. The rest however, are meant to fight along...

Five days passed by slowly. Day in, day out, Tails received numerous radio messages of incoming attack of the Red Faction. In the passed few days, Flash managed to settle in. We consider him as one of us now, but... He can never take Tyrone's place... No one can...

Tonight, we're heading out towards the Rendezvous Point near a small town called Unity Station. It's a minor victory for the Freedom Fighters after taking it over from the Red Faction...

On the evening of day 5, I saw Shadow sitting... I decided to join him...

Blain: 'Sup Shadow.

Shadow: Hey.

Blain: You know... I was wondering.

Shadow: What is it?

Blain: You never told me how you did it...

Shadow: Did what?

Blain: Well, those explosions you caused, and disappearing...

Shadow: You mean this...?

Shadow pulled out a blue emerald. It was pretty actually. He grasped the emerald firmly and it starting glowing. And then all of a sudden, he disappeared... Few seconds after that, he appears next to me on the other side...

Blain: What the frack...

Shadow: It's Chaos Control... One is able to travel through time and space...

Blain: How did you learned it...?

Shadow: I didn't... It's a power I got integrated with me when I was created...

Blain: Created? By who?

Shadow: Dr. Robotnik... Gerald Robotnik...

Blain: The tyrant...?

Shadow: No... The scientist... Gerald Robotnik is the grandfather...

Blain: So... If I'm created... You think I'll be able to do that...?

Shadow: You're an Ultimate Lifeform..?

Blain: Yeah... We were always told that we are. That we're the legacy of his Grandfathers heritage...

Shadow: I'll show you...

Blain: What? Shadow: Hold on to me.

I saw the emerald glowing again, and... I felt weird all of a sudden. I saw the others walking, but they slowed down and came to a complete stop, while they're in a walking motion. Shadow got up, and I followed him...

Shadow: Chaos Control allows you to stop time and space. It looks like time is continuing normally for us, but in the real world, its nothing more but a second...

Blain: Sweet... So, how long does it take...?

Shadow: Not long.

I saw everyone getting back slowly... Then it was back to normal again...

Blain: That was... Awkward...

Shadow: You'll get used to it...

I saw Flash standing near the table, discussing tactics with Cyrus and Jasco. Flash pulled a prank on him... He lifted his index finger, then a spark and he touched Jacso's fur. Static electricity... Jasco's fur got puffy and static... Flash and Cyrus laughed there @\$\$es off...

Shadow: Heh, Flash never changes...

Blain: He has powers...?

Shadow: Yeah. Electric... Could generate up to 400.000 volts...

Blain: How did he get it...?

Shadow: I don't know... Some say he's born with it, others say he licked a spark plug... Who knows, really?

Blain: Heh...

Shadow: ... You're rather interested in powers are you...?

Blain: Why you ask...?

Shadow: Why do you keep asking about powers...?

He had a point though... I was curious about those powers. Sonic who could run fracking fast, Shadow, who can disappear and travel time and space, and a whole bunch of others. I wanted to

know why we don't have powers...

Blain: How come you guys have powers but not us...?

Shadow: Powers... It's a relative understanding...

Blain: What do you mean by that...?

Shadow: Take a look at Jasco. He's not created like you guys. He's seen the war through the eyes of the common man and as a soldier. Watching his friends get shot, families being rounded up, separated from his loved ones. Yet still he manage to live on after all he's been through.

Blain: How'd you know Jasco isn't created...?

Shadow: I know a lot...

Blain: Right... So, you're saying that Jasco has the courage to live on...?

Shadow: Blain... The definition of courage is to hold on to fear for just a few more minutes... You must know that by now...

I looked at Shadow but... He was right. He looked back at me with a piercing look in my eyes... I've never admitted it, but... When we're going to battle, I'm always nervous... Afraid of the outcome. My left hand is shaking a bit when I'm nervous...

Shadow: Powers doesn't always have to physical... The powers you guys have is here... Right there in your hearts... Fighting for a cause that's worth to protect... I know, I've been there.

Blain: How'd you know all that stuff...?

Shadow hesitated...

Shadow: Someone... Someone said that to me once...

Then Flash called me. I look up and saw that they went back to discussing the tactics again.

Blain: I gotta go, they need me over there.

Shadow: Good luck...

I looked at Shadow and smiled, but... He didn't smiled back... He looked at me as if he was telling me something, but I couldn't make anything of it... So I left him and went to the others.

Shadow: FUBAR...

Blain: What is it?

Flash: We've managed to work out a strategy here.

Blain: What's the plan?

Cyrus: The first battalion strikes the right flank of the beach. It's not that heavily guarded. The first battalion contains the ones who are still rookies or don't have any combat experience. The second battalion assaults the middle of the beach along with the third battalion. Their job is to open up this section so the others can pass through. After the first wave, the remaining forces join us with armoured vehicles. We've already contacted other leaders, and preparing captured vehicles for the assault. However, the fourth battalion will get the toughest section of the beach. It contains the experienced troops, that have already been in action. The three of us are the leaders.

Blain: How much vehicles?

Cyrus: We've got 15 Battlewalkers, 28 tanks, 9 gunships, 6 APC's and 13 airtransports

Blain: That's quite a lot...

Cyrus: Yeah...

Jasco: It's getting dark guys... We need to tell the others and get moving to the Rendezvous point...

We called everybody together... Everyone got together...

Blain: Guys listen up... The moment of truth... What we're about to do, is something that has never been done before. It's quite risky too, but if everything works with us, we can call it a day. Once we're out there, there's no turning back. So whoever doesn't want to go, say it now. This is the last chance you get...

I looked at the small crowd. Everyone was looking at each other with a rather nervous look. No one said anything...

Sonic: I'm not stepping back this time... Too long we've been suffering under Robotnik's regime, and now that he's finally defeated, we're still not free... Naah, I'm not stepping back... Let's finish this once and for all...

Everyone looked at Sonic... I could see that deep down inside, everyone agreed with him...

Flash: Then it's settled... Pack your bags guys... We'll leave in one hour...

Everyone looked at each other and headed back to their huts, packing their stuff... The three of us went to the hut to take our weapons and gear up. After we're done, we came outside with our weapons. At that point I saw Tails's workshop opening up. We heard stomping sounds and saw the battlemaster coming out. The top hatch opened up and we saw Tails sitting there. He came towards us.

Tails: Fully loaded and ready to go guys. She's all yours!

Jasco: Thanks Tails...

Tails: Before you go, I got something for you guys...

Tails pulled out 3 small gadgets...

Cyrus: What is it...?

Tails: IPS, or... Instant Personal Shield.

Tails pushed a button and the gadget opened up. It's a small force field...

Tails: When you're under fire, put this down, get in a prone position and push the button. It can shield you against enemy fire, but it's not effective when you're taking fire from a vehicle.

Jasco: Thanks Tails, this'll come in handy...

Tails: No problem... Oh and eeh... Blain?

Blain: Yeah?

Tails: Take this...

Tails tossed a bag of clips... It was for my weapon, the Scar-11...

Tails: The Tungsten core ammo you've requested...

I looked at Tails and smiled at him...

Blain: Thanks buddy... You've been really helpful since we got here...

Tails: No worries! And eeh... Be careful out there guys...

Cyrus: Will do...

Everyone gathered around in the centre of the village. The kids, Tails, Amy and Cream, stand to the side of the crowd... This is it... The first large scale assault on the Red Faction is about to

begin...

Flash: Ok, listen up people! The Walker leads the way! Stay behind it at all times! Once we're at the rendezvous point, you'll be split up, judging on either the experience you got, or the powers you have! It's all coming down in 2 days!

Jasco: Last chance! If anyone has second thoughts about this, then say it now!

We looked around, nobody said anything...

Blain: Then let's kick some @\$\$....

Cyrus and me got in the battlewalker while the others are standing behind us. Everyone prepared to leave. Before I got in, I saw Tala was about to walk away but Jasco stops her... And there sitting down...

Jasco: Tala...?

Tala: Yeah?

Jasco: You sure about this...?

Tala: We don't have any options Jasco... You know that...

Jasco: Well... It's just that...

Tala: What?

Jasco: I don't wanna lose you again Tala...

Tala: You've never lost me... Don't you think I was happy when I saw you again...?

Jasco: ... You greeted me with a bullet in the @\$\$....

Tala: I told you to get out of the way...

Jasco: Thing is... All these times... When I was alone out there, I always thought about you... Wondering if I could see you again... If you're still alive... And well... It feels weird...

Tala: What feels weird...?

Jasco: All these years, we got separated... Now that we see each other again, we carry on like nothing ever happened...

Tala: It feels weird for me too Jasco...

Jasco: Still... I was hoping that... We're gonna be together one day...

Everyone looks at the couple... They didn't noticed we listened... Cyrus couldn't resist...

Cyrus: OK!! ON THREE GUYS!! WE ALL GO AAAAAAAAAAAAAWW!!!!

All: AAAAAAAAAAAWW!!!!

Jasco: Damn it Cyrus...

Tala: Don't mind them...

Tala gives a hug to Jasco, while she puts her head on his chest and stroke his fur... He placed a hand on her head and caresses her dark purple hair... He smiled...

Within the hour we left Knothole to Unity Station. A small town located close to the sea. After a day travelling without much trouble on the way, we reached the town in the evening. We saw how much creatures there were, divided up in different battalions.

Cyrus, Jasco and me are leading the fourth battalion... The toughest section on the beach... Flash, Tala, Shadow and Rouge are with the second and third battalion, where Flash leads the third battalion and Tala the second. The other ones, Sonic, Knuckles and the rest got divided in the first battalion...

We saw the arsenal we got... Like Cyrus said, we got 15 Battlewalkers, 28 tanks, 9 gunships, 6 APC's and 13 airtransports to back us up while we're assaulting the beaches...

We saw Angel Island in the distance... It was beautiful really... The way the nightsky lighted the island up... Something that would be expected in storybooks... I took a closer look and could see fire... I took a more closer look and realized it wasn't ordinary fire...

Blain: Son of a dog... They know it...

Then suddenly...

Hedgehog: INCOMING ARTILLERY!!

Once I heard that, I didn't think twice... I yelled to Cyrus and Jasco to take cover... Not long after that, artillery fire rained down on us. We saw creatures getting launched up in the air, dead ones, live ones... Shortly after that, the whistle blows for the first wave to attack the beaches. We couldn't wait for tomorrow now... The three of us ran like hell to reach the amphibious APC along with 30 others... The APC's took off the beaches and were heading for the island. We

didn't know how the others we're doing, and I could see that Jasco is looking very worried... I looked down and saw my left hand shaking...

To be continued...

11 - Chapter 11... Defeated victory...

As I looked down at my left hand shaking, we could hear artillery fire exploding on the shores and in the water. I looked outside the porthole and saw the other APC's next to us. I looked back at the shore and saw that the artillery fire wasn't focused on the shores anymore, but on the APC's trying to board the island. Gunships flew over us, bombarding the shores and beaches, striking on the artillery barrage. Lots of gunships got gunned down...

Hedgehog: fracking hell... This is fracking suicide...

I looked down at my left hand again... The more closer we got, the more it shakes... Then the driver of the APC blew his whistle...

Driver: THIRTY SECONDS!! Blain: Guys, listen up. Portside, with me. Starboard, with him. The five guys in the back, you follow him. Head for the beaches, and take cover. Don't stop on the beaches but keep moving.

Cyrus: Moment of truth Blain... Blain: Damn right it is... Jasco: Hoo-ah...?
All: HOO-AH!!! Jasco: Then lets go kick some @\$\$.

We slapped our fists at each other and looked at the others.

Driver: PREPAAAAAAAAARE FOR LANDING!! CLEAR THE RAMP!!
Blain: You know what to do. Then do it.

The APC stopped on the beach. We could hear bullets ricocheted off the APC's hull... I looked at my left hand again and it shakes like hell... Then the ramp dropped down, and we all ran outside to storm the beaches... The guys who got out first got shot down immediately by Battlewalkers defending the top of the dunes. We ran like hell to some obstacles on the beach. They were meant to tear up the APC's at high tide. But, it was ebb tide. Lucky for us, we could hide behind it, but it was a longer way for us, practically suicide to get to the shingle. The three of us hid behind some obstacles. I looked back and saw the APC's returning to mainland. At that point, I thought what the hell we're doing here... I saw people get blown up by mines, perforated by machineguns. The firing of the Battlewalkers on the dunes made an ear deafening sound. I looked to my left and a mine exploded just a few meters from us... I couldn't hear for a while. I didn't see Jasco and Cyrus, but instead, there was a hedgehog screaming at me...

Hedgehog: I SAID, WHAT THE FRACK ARE WE GONNA DO NOW SIR?!!

Blain: ALL WE CAN DO HERE IS DIE!!!! KEEP YOUR @\$@ MOVING!! GO GO GO!!!

I looked back and saw the APC's again, dropping off a lot of guys, then turned around again. I got up, and ran like hell to the next obstacle. The Battlewalkers on top stand still and fired on the incoming guys. One of them got taken out by a gunship, but it got gunned down and crashed... I saw the shingle a few hundred meters in front. I ran like hell again to reach the shingle and jumped down behind an obstacle. Cyrus and Jasco were there along with a few guys who were with us in the APC...

Jasco: WHERE THE FRACK DID YOU GO?!!

Blain: THE ENGINEER IS DEAD!! HE JUST BLEW UP NEXT TO ME!!!

Cyrus: CONTACT THEM AND TELL THEM WE NEED SOME GODDAMN BATTLEWALKER SUPPORT!!!

I looked to my right and saw a hedgehog with a radio. I told him to contact mainland... Yelling is more like it...

Hedgehog: NO SIR!! THEY CANT SEND IT YET!! THOSE ARTILLERY BARRAGES NEEDS TO BE TAKEN OUT FIRST!!!

Hedgehog: HEADS UP GUYS!! EXPLOSIVES COMING THROUGH!!

Hedgehog: EXPLOSIVES!!! CLEAR THE SHINGLE!!

Hedgehog: FIRE IN THE HOLE!!!

Jasco: KEEP YOUR HEAD DOWN!! FIRE IN THE HOLE!!

We buried ourselves in the sand and covered our heads. Not long after that, loud explosions were heard and we got an entrance... I turned to the radio guy again, but he was dead... Shot in the head... I tried picking up the radio...

Blain: SIX-TWO, THIS IS SIX-FOUR!! DELTA IS OPEN!! DO YOU COPY?!!

Nothing... The radio was dead... It got shot to pieces but I didn't realized it...

Blain: DAMN IT!!

Cyrus: BLAIN!! KEEP YOUR @\$@ MOVING!!

We ran over the shingle and dropped down in a trench, following the way to the dunes. We took cover behind a concrete bunker. One battlewalker saw us and fired at us. A chunk of concrete got blown out of the wall...

Blain HOLD YOUR POSITIONS!! STAY IN COVER!!

I peeked around the corner and some more Red Faction rebels taking position on the beach with stationary weapons...

Blain: TWO T-39 BOGATYRS ARE DEFENDING THOSE BUNKERS!! WE GOTTA GO UP THERE, AND TAKE OUT THOSE BOGATYRS!! CYRUS!! JASCO!! YOU'RE UP!! HEAD FOR THAT TRENCH OVER THERE!!

Cyrus and Jasco prepares an EMP grenade...

Blain: COVERING FIRE!!!

Jasco and Cyrus ran to the trench while the rest gives suppressive fire. Few Red Faction rebels got shot down while the Battlewalkers were too busy firing at the incoming waves of creatures.

Blain: GO!! GO!! GET MOVING!!

Cyrus and Jasco threw an EMP grenade. One battlewalker died down, but the other one is still shooting. It aimed at us...

Cyrus: GET MOVING!!! GOOOOOOO!!!

The three of us ran like hell to reach the top of the dunes. Once we took cover behind a small hill, I looked back at the trench and saw the others climbing up the dune. They got annihilated by the cannon fire... One waited for the Bogatyr to focus on the beaches again and then ran up. He suddenly got shot by a rebel and fell down... Jasco saw that and pulled him over...

Hedgehog: AAAAAAH!!

Jasco: GIMME ME A HAND HERE!! PUT SOME PRESSURE ON IT!!

Cyrus pressed his hands on his wounds while Jasco got out some bandages and morphine...

Jasco: WE'VE MANAGED TO STOP THE BLEEDING!! YOU'LL BE FINE MATE!!

Then I heard something ricocheted... And I saw Jasco getting pissed and throws the bandages on the ground... Then I looked at the hedgehog and he got hit in the head... A puddle of dark red blood came out...

Jasco: GODDAMN IT!! SON OF A dog!! GIVE US A frackING CHANCE HERE!!

Cyrus: JASCO!! LETS GO!!

Cyrus and I threw a grenade. The ones who survived the explosions got shot down by us. Jasco threw an EMP grenade to shut down the other battlewalker. Two guys opened the top and I shot them down... Well, blow them apart is more likely because of the ammo Tails gave... Gotta love that little guy... Other people are coming through our passage. They ran to the other Battlewalkers, opened up the hatch, and either threw a grenade in it, or just shot through the hatch, it didn't matter. They were taken out...

The 3 of us breached one of the bunkers, and threw some grenades in it. We took cover and heard loud explosions from within the bunkers. Blazing fireballs came out of the door... I saw rebels running and screaming while there on fire...

Meanwhile...

Tala: FOURTH AND SECOND BUNKERS BREACHED!!

Flash: DON'T SHOOT!!! LET THOSE BASTARDS BURN!!

All of us cleared the remaining bunkers by setting it on fire. The rebel forces are pulling back and got scattered in trenches on solid ground a few meters before us. The three of us advanced as more people got up the dunes. The rebels however, are setting up stationary weapons to wipe us out... Few moments later, machine guns rattled over the plains, gunning down a lot of people. We took cover behind a wall, and Jasco threw a grenade and ran towards the trenches along with the others. I looked at Cyrus, and he was very pale. He reached out for a bottle of water, and opened it. He was shaking severely. He drinks a little, he coughed up and spits out blood. He just fell down not long after that... I saw that he was hit in his stomach...

Blain: Oh frack... JASCO!!!!

I looked for Jasco but I couldn't find him... I saw more and more people getting down the trenches. I picked up Cyrus and carried him over my shoulders, then ran through the trenches while screaming for Jasco...

I finally found him hiding behind some crates while others are advancing through the trenches...

Jasco: I THOUGHT YOU'D STICK WITH US!!

Blain: WE CANT!! CYRUS IS WOUNDED!!

Then Jasco noticed that I was carrying Cyrus. I put him down, while I support his head on my knees and Jasco took out some bandages and punched some morphine in him... Cyrus was still awake though... We saw a tear running down his cheek...

Cyrus: I'm sorry man...

Blain: You've got nothing to be sorry about Cyrus. You did great.

Cyrus: You... You ok Jasco...?

Jasco: I'm doing good buddy...

Cyrus: Are the... The... APC's here...?

Blain: There on there way Cyrus... There coming. You just gotta hold on for a little longer... Can you do that...?

Cyrus: Yeah... Yeah I can... It's nothing man... It's nothing...

At that moment, I noticed the firing died down...

Gunships and airtransports flew above us. I stood up and saw the Battlewalkers wading through the waters. The cockpits are just barely visible. I didn't know those things are capable of that... I turned back to Jasco and Cyrus... Jasco had a sad look on his face... I looked down at Cyrus who didn't respond... He had his eyes open and I knew he was dead...

Jasco: F.U.B.A.R. Blain...

Blain: Yeah... F.U.B.A.R...

Jasco picked him up and carried him over his shoulders. The three of us went to the top of the dunes and we saw the devastation... The beaches were scattered with dead bodies... We looked over to the left and saw the same really... We didn't even know how the others were doing... I looked at the horizon and saw the sun coming up...

Blain: How was it Jasco...?

Jasco: What...?

Blain: This world... Before the war took place...

Jasco: You cant even imagine Blain... It changed a lot over the years... Everyone changed... I got changed... Sometimes I wonder if I've changed so much my friends would even recognize me, whenever it is that I get back to them. And how I'll ever be able to tell them about days like today. If there still alive... Nothing is certain in this world Blain...

Blain: Tell me something... How was your youth...?

Jasco: *sighs* Well... When I think of my youth... I... I think of something specific. I think of my, my dads hammock in the backyard or my mother pruning the rosebushes in a pair of my dads old work gloves... Home... Define home, because it's all gone now... Still, deep inside me is my home... I just know that every man I kill, the farther away from home I feel... But... If that earns me the right to get back home, well then, then that's my mission...

I suddenly remembered Shadow and what he said to me... And he's right... Jasco had seen to many...

I looked at Jasco and he walks off with Cyrus in his hands... I turned around and saw the survivors cheering and holding there weapons up in the air, as a convoy of Red Faction rebels surrender... Which wasn't that much... There being aimed at, and were forced to kneel with there hands on there heads. I saw that through the cheering and celebrating, Jasco walked ahead with Cyrus, not showing anything... I ran up to Jasco and I saw him shedding a tear... At that point, I couldn't hold myself either...

To be continued...

12 - Chapter 12... Apotheosis...

What Jasco told me last night... It made me think. For him, it was a never ending loop. He said that, his home was deep inside of him... And... With each man he killed, he felt farther away from home... But if that earns his right to get back home, then that's his mission... With other words, it's a never ending loop...

That day... The lives of 31.343 creatures were lost during the assault on Angel Island... As Jasco holds Cyrus and I stood there, a convoy of Red Faction rebels taken prisoners were walking passed us... Some of them were kids... By the looks of it, some are not older then fourteen...

As the others prepared for setting up the bases on Angel Island, retaking sources of the Red Faction, we buried Cyrus on top of a hill, under a willow tree. As time passed by, we stood there...

Evening broke... Food is handed out to everyone who cant stand up. Others however, have to stand in line... Then suddenly, we heard a familiar voice... I turned around and I saw Flash...

Flash: Excuse me, hedgehog coming through!

Hedgehog: There's a line you know...

Flash: I know...

Hedgehog: This isn't the end of the line...

Flash: ... I know...

He fills his plate with food... He looked at the hedgehog, winked at him and made a trigger squeezing motion with his finger. The hedgehog looked rather baffled...

Tala: Come on, leave him alone. The poor bastard hasn't eaten a few days.

So after we got... "served", we joined Tala and Flash...

Blain: See you guys are still alive.

Flash: Well lookie here!

As Flash and I talked, Jasco went up to Tala... Standing in front of her.

Jasco: Hey... Great to see you Tala...

Tala: You're blocking my view...

Jasco: Good to see you too...

Jasco sits down next to her... They see the large beach with the moon shining, lighting up the hundreds of thousand bodies scattered throughout the beach.

Tala; You know, it's kinda funny... Beautiful beach, beautiful moon... Would almost make a great place to spend your holidays...

Jasco: Yeah... Almost...

Tala: You know where the others are...?

Jasco: No... I was wondering the same thing.

Tala: Where's Cyrus...?

Jasco: He didn't make it...

After a while, I saw Jasco standing up and walked away.

Blain: Where you going?

Jasco: To look for the others. Your coming with me?

Blain: Sure.

We've been spending a long time finding the others. We did find them, alive and well. We went to a more quiet location and sat down. Not long after that, everyone falls asleep...

We didn't get much sleep though. The things we saw that day were rather horrifying, and no one could sleep properly. I only slept for 2 hours... At that point, I didn't think it would help me to fall asleep...

Tala: The trick to falling asleep is trying to stay awake.

Blain: What do you mean?

Tala: Well, when my mother... She used to work late through the night... Sleep through the day. So the only time we'd ever get to talk about anything is when she'd get home. So what I... What I used to do, I used to lie in my bed and try to stay awake as long as I could, but it never worked because... because

the harder I'd try, the faster I'd fall asleep.

Jasco: Heh... Yeah well, that wouldn't have mattered in my house. My mom... She would have come home, shook me awake, talked to me 'til dawn. I swear that woman was never too tired to talk...

Tala: Only thing is, sometimes she'd come home early, and I'd pretend to be asleep...

Blain: Who? Your mom...?

Tala: Yeah... She'd stand in the doorway looking at me... and I'd just keep my eyes shut. And I knew she just wanted to find out about my day. That she came home early... Just to talk to me. And I still wouldn't move... I'd still pretend to just be asleep. I don't know why I did that...

Then there was a long silence...

Blain: What would you do if you had the lead Jasco...?

Jasco: Put on a cape, get super powers, fight crime and call myself Awesome Wolf...

Blain: Right...

Jasco: You could be my sidekick... Suggestion Boy...

Blain: That's not what I meant...

Jasco: I'm sorry, but let's say you weren't a Sergeant, or maybe I was a Major. What would you say then? What would you think of our missions...?

Blain: Well in that case, I'd say this is an excellent mission, sir, with an extremely valuable objective, sir. Worthy of my best efforts, sir. Moreover, I feel heartfelt sorrow for all the lives lost and I'm willing to lay down the lives of me and my men, especially you, Jasco, to claim back freedom.

Jasco: If your mother heard you saying that, she'd be very upset...

Blain: I thought you were my mother Jasco...

Jasco: Ok fine, but just because you don't have a mother!

Heh... Jasco laughs and sucker punched me. Not long after that, Tala fell asleep. It stayed quiet between Jasco and me and not long after that, he fell asleep too... I just stared at the white moon... I felt my eye lids were getting heavier and I fell asleep...

I had a dream that night... I was dreaming that I was running through a completely destroyed city holding a girl in my arms. I just kept on running while I heard bullets whizzing by me. I suddenly felt a sharp pain in chest and I fell down... I looked at my hands and saw that blood was on it. And the girl was dead. A bullet went right through my chest and hit her in the head. I tried standing up but I fell down again. Then Jasco ran towards me and picked me up... He was saying something, but I couldn't hear it... I felt weaker and suddenly saw nothing but darkness... At that point, I was gone... I couldn't feel anything... Hear anything... See anything... Its like you know your there, but you cant do anything. Trying to move your legs, your arms, turning your head, blinking your

eyes... Nothing... It was just one big black space where I was immobilized... A scary thought really... Everything felt so real...

I suddenly woke up and scared the hell out of me when I saw Jasco's face right in front of me...

Blain: WHOA!!

Jasco: Dude, you ok?

Blain: Damn!! What the frack?!

Jasco: You don't look to good Blain, your all sweaty.

Blain: No I'm fine.

Jasco: You sure...?

Blain: ...Yeah.

I walked away to the others but I could see Jasco looking after me while he still stands there...

Nothing happened in the past hours. Well, not something interesting. Few hours later, a guy walked towards us...

Hedgehog: Which one of you is Jasco and Blain?

Jasco/Blain: We are.

Hedgehog: Former members of the RRTS?

Blain: Yes sir.

Hedgehog: Follow me.

We followed the guy to a tent... He closed the canvas and puts on a light and shines on a map on the table.

Hedgehog: What I'm about to tell you is highly confidential. You understand that what you hear here, stays here.

Jasco: Yes sir...

Hedgehog: Good. Thirteen hours ago, a reconnaissance squad was send out to Station Square to capture vital checkpoints of the city. However, things weren't going as planned. Two are confirmed dead, one is taken as a prisoner, and the others are lost. We've lost every form of communication with them. We want you to go down there and extract them.

Blain: How many men...?

Hedgehog: ... Four of them...

Jasco: Atleast one of them is confirmed alive...

Blain: So... Who's coming along...?

Hedgehog: You're allowed to be accompanied by 4 others. Remember, inform your guys on a need to know base.

Blain: Yes sir.

Jasco: When do we leave?

Hedgehog: Tonight at 22:00 hours

Jasco: Right-o sir.

Hedgehog: Dismissed.

After that, we went out of the tent...

Blain: Right-o sir...?

Jasco: Yeah...

Blain: Ooooookay...

Jasco: We need guys...

Blain: ... A navigator...

Jasco: Tala is a sniper...

Blain: Flash is assault...

Jasco: We still need the navigator... And another sniper...

We searched the remaining battalions. We found the leader of a battalion who could borrow us a sniper... He introduced him to us.

Blain: I heard your one of the best.

Hedgehog: Well, sir, seems to me, God gave me a special gift, fashioned in me a fine instrument of warfare.

Then the leader took me apart...

Hedgehog: Look eeh... This guy is fracked up. Really... Highly religious after he saw torn up limbs and the many onslaughts in Westopolis 3 years ago. It marked him for life. He believes in God and that He helped him through the years. You sure wanna take this guy...?

Blain: He's a sniper...?

Hedgehog: Yeah.

Blain: A good one?

Hedgehog: One hell of a sniper sir.

Blain: Then what's the problem?

Hedgehog: Just a warning sir.

I went back to the others...

Blain: You, come with us.

Hedgehog: Yes sir.

Jasco: What's your name?

Hedgehog: Talon sir.

Blain: Sounds familiar aint it...?

Jasco: ... Yeah...

So after a while, he went with us. We were searching for a navigator. Someone who could read maps and determent our location. I mean, we could read maps, but just basic stuff. So we needed one... And eventually found one. We entered a tent and we saw some guys sitting there. I asked for a navigator and one told me we could find a guy named Upham in the next tent. So we went to pay the lad a visit... As soon as we entered, a guy jumps up and salutes...

Jasco: What the frack is he doing...

Blain: No idea...

Jasco: Right... You're Upham?

Upham: Yes sir!

Blain: You got assigned to us now. Pack your gear.

Upham: But... Sir...?

Blain: Yes?

Upham: I.. eh.. I never went to the field... Sir...

Blain: Ever held a rifle...?

Upham: Yes sir.

Blain: Ever killed somebody...?

Upham: No sir.

Blain: Good, me neither.

Jasco chuckles loudly behind me... I turned around and he looked at me, then walked out of the tent, and he just laughs his @\$ off...

Upham: Eehm.. Eh... Can I take my sketchbook with me sir?

Blain: ... Go ahead...

The guy runs around while he accidently bumps into a table and things just fall on the ground. He looks very nervous...

Blain: Take your time Upham...

After he packed his gear, we went back to Tala and Flash and informed them of what we're about to do. Flash and Tala agreed to go with us. After we said to Sonic and the rest that we're leaving, they said there going home, back to Knothole... So after that, we went off. We got dropped off on mainland and set out to Station Square. We all walked on the grass plains... I asked Upham to locate our position. He salutes and figured out our position. And we walked again...

Upham: So eeh... Jasco right...?

Jasco: Drop dead Upham... And another thing, whenever you salute the Sergeant you make him an open target for the Rebels so don't do it, especially when I'm standing near him!

Upham: Right...

Blain: Careful you don't step in the bullshoot Upham... Jasco's full of shoot!

Upham: So eeh... Where did the sergeant got bootcamp...?

Jasco: Sergeant didn't got bootcamp. He got assembled out of body parts of dead soldiers.

Blain: AKA the RRTS...

Upham: You guys...?

Blain: Yup... Created... Jasco isn't. They just scoop up a pile of shoot and made a statue of a wolf. A spark of electricity and he was born...

Jasco: That's not funny Blain...

Blain: Well, was worth a shot...

Tala: So why are we doing this anyway?

Upham: "Theirs is not to reason why, theirs is but to do or die."

Jasco: La-la-la-la-la-la-la-la. What the frack is that supposed to mean?

Flash: What Upham is trying to say... Is that we just have to follow orders, be careful and that we can go home in one piece...

Blain: What's the saying? "If God's on our side, who the hell could be on theirs?"

Talon: "If God is for us, who could be against us?"

Blain: Right, what did I say?

Tala: ... Why the hell are we quoting people...?

Blain: No fracking clue...

To be continued...

13 - Chapter 13... Deus Ex Machina...

We kept on walking towards Station Square... Dawn broke... We walked on the country side and saw some pigs running a long...

Flash: Who's hungry?

Blain: Wait a sec...

Tala: What?

Blain: Something aint right...

Jasco: What is it?

Blain: Remember that guy that told us about the Titans...?

Jasco: Yeah...

Blain: He said that there was a Titan on the way to Angel Island... We never saw one...

Jasco: Well... Look over there...

Jasco looked to his left, then Flash, and everyone else looked... We saw a wrecked Titan in the distance, completely destroyed... We went to it and saw that there was no survivors. People got incinerated and saw some a lot of dead creatures...

Tala: This isn't the work of the Freedom Fighters...

Jasco: Then who shot it down?

Tala: I don't know...

Blain: Come on, keep moving.

As the day passed, dark clouds filled the sky, and it started to rain heavily with thunderstorms... We reached Station Square around noon. I heard my PDA bleeping and pulled it out. It was a warning that snipers were on the look out...

Jasco: We need to split up...

Blain: Right... Tala, you go with Jasco, Upham, go with Talon, Flash, you come along with me.

After that, we split up... We got scattered towards the city... Something tells me that this isn't right... We didn't see anybody on the way... I looked down at my left hand and saw it shaking again...

Flash: Wassup?

Blain: ... Nothing... Lets go.

Talon: Wait...

Upham: What is it...?

Talon: Get down, stay in cover.

Talon and Upham hided in a building on the first floor. He saw something in the streets a few hundred meters away... He gets up his scope and saw a few guys. Then suddenly, he sees a strange creature running and gets shot by a sniper...

Talon: I wouldn't go out there Upham. This sniper got talent.

Upham: Who was it?

Talon: Someone we didn't know...

Talon loads up his sniper rifle and got in position...

Talon: Blessed be the Lord, my strength, which teaches my hands to war, and my fingers to fight. *fires rifle*

Upham: Nice one Talon...

Talon: My goodness, and my fortress; my high tower, and my deliverer; my shield, and he in whom I trust; who subdueth my people under me. *fires rifle*

Talon: O my God, I trust in thee: let me not be ashamed, let not mine enemies triumph over me... *fires rifle*

Talon: Be not that far from me, for trouble is near... Haste Thee to help me. *fires rifle*

Then suddenly, Talon heard footsteps coming towards them...

Upham: So eeh... You're an orphan...?

Talon: Ssh...

Upham: It's ok really... My parents died in the civil war too you know and-

Talon pushed Upham against the wall and muffled his mouth...

Talon: Every time you open your goddamn mouth, you give away our position...

Talon looks as if he was pissed off, but holds his anger... He took out his combat knife, turned his left arm which had a lot of scars of crosses and carved a cross in his arms to the point that it bleeds...

Talon: I used the name of the Lord in vain...

The 2 of them turned around as they heard footsteps on the stairs... Then suddenly it stopped... Talon gestured to Upham to give him his weapon... In the doorway, they see a shadow of a human... Talon cautiously armed the weapon and shot at the wall. They heard something falling and a puddle of dark red blood flows and could be seen in the doorway... There was an eerie silence...

Upham: You think he's dead...?

Talon: Upham, shut the frack up-

At that point, the guy shot through the wall and hit Talon in his shoulder. He then ran through the door. He kicked Talon down and pulled out his combat knife... He jumps on Talon and he tries to resist that a knife is stabbed in his chest... Upham crawls away to the stairs and is too petrified to do anything... Talon is now down while the rebel tries to stab him. Talon holds him back and bit his hand. The rebel screamed of pain, but didn't let go. Talon tries to push his hands back, but the human is stronger...

Talon: Upham!!!

Rebel: He aint coming back!!

Talon: UPHAM!!!

Rebel: Close your eyes...

Talon: What are you doing?!! NO NO!! GET THE frack AWAY!!!

The rebel pushed the knife slowly into Talon's chest, as he gasps for air and coughed out blood...

Rebel: Sssh...

He then twisted the knife and Talon was dead... The rebel stands up, and walked out of the room. On the stairs, he sees Upham sobbing. He looked at Upham, grabbed his bullet proof vest and wiped his knife and hand clean... Upham looks at him with a petrified look. The rebel looked at him and got out of the building... And Upham just stared at Talon's body...

Meanwhile...

Flash: Where the hell are we suppose to look?! This is like finding a needle in a stack of needles!

Blain: I just got a message. Its two more blocks. We're almost there!

Flash: Watch it! Your left!

Blain: What?!

Then Flash shot some rebels down to my left close to my ear... Which was rather ear deafening...

Blain: Damn it! Don't do that!!

Flash: Here comes some more!!

Blain: DAMN IT!!!

After the remaining rebels got shot...

Flash: Blain?! You ok?

Blain: Yeah! I can hear fracking bells ringing!

Then suddenly, we got shot at... I didn't hear it, but Flash pulled me in cover...

Flash: Stay here...

Blain: What?!!

Jasco: Hey, is that Blain?

Tala: I think so...

Jasco: Blain?! Flash?!

Flash: It's Jasco!

Jasco: We almost killed you!! Get over here! Flash: frack you!! You get over here!!

After Jasco and Tala joined us, I received another message on my PDA. It said that there are some reinforcements on the way with an unarmed APC to extract the prisoners. Seems that there were more prisoners out there...

Blain: Now they tell!!!

Jasco: What's wrong with him?

Flash: Oh... He's deaf, my fault.

After it was safe to move on, we headed to the building where the prisoners were kept. We barged in and shot some guys... And there was a mother with 2 kids... And an old lady... The old lady picked up a weapon...

Flash: Don't do it lady...

Then Jasco just shot her...

Jasco: Hesitating can get you killed...

After that, Tala and Jasco ran outside again to place a beacon...

Flash and I ran upstairs and looked for others, but no one was there. We kicked in a door and found three hedgehogs being tied up... According to the dog tags they worn, they were called Thunder, Ice and Magneto...

Thunder: Where's the rescue squad?!

Flash: ... We're it...

We cut the ropes and got back out. Tala gestured to us that there was a sniper somewhere. We heard a shot, nearly hitting Flash...

Flash: Holy shoot!

Blain: GET GOING!! GO GO!!

We ran towards them and hid behind a wall... At that point, I got my hearing again...

Blain: Did you placed the beacon?!

Tala: Yeah! The APC should be here any minute!

Jasco: We cant move! There's a sniper hiding somewhere!

Tala: You guys go ahead!! I'll take care of him! Stay in cover and get to the extraction point!

We all took baby steps at a time... Hiding each time whenever it could. Tala stayed behind to look for the sniper. I looked behind where Jasco was at. Tala was about to run away until Jasco stopped her and pulled her over. He kissed her...

Jasco: Get back safe...

Tala: Will do...

She kissed him again, smiled at him, and ran off to reposition herself... Then Jasco ran back towards us...

Six hours later, it was in the middle of the night... The heavy rain was still coming out of the dark grey clouds... We were still in the same spot where we hid and got soaked... No word of Tala yet... Few hours before, I got the message the APC was delayed due to heavy resistance on the east side of the city... We just gotta hold on for a little bit longer... Flash and Jasco were discussing something...

Flash: In the forest, the wolf lives for three years and the donkey for nine.

Jasco: ... So? Maybe where you came from, but... It doesn't make any sense to me...

Flash: The donkey lives longer because he's more useful. A wolf isn't... Jasco: There aren't any donkeys in the forest... You just made that up.

Then suddenly...

Magneto: WATCH YOUR SIX!!

We all responded and aimed our weapons at a dark figure that stumbles towards us... And suddenly we saw it... It was Upham... Looking very pale... He had red eyes, like he was crying a lot, and had blood on his vest... He was shot in his leg... And he just fell down... Jasco took him in cover and took care of him... Not long after that... We all fell asleep in the cold rain...

Meanwhile... Tala kept up all night to locate the sniper... But didn't find him... The last sighting of him was a few hours ago... It was a reflection of a window...

Then suddenly, she felt a gun against her head...

Rebel: ... Bang...

Tala: You got me... Make it quick...

Rebel: ... No... I'm gonna try luring your friends out... With your help...

Tala: Right...

Rebel: You see... When your having a dual between another sniper... He doesn't know you exist, but at that moment you're closer to him than anyone else on earth. You see his face through the sign. You see whether he shaved or not. You can see whether he's married if he's got a wedding ring. It's not like firing at a distant shape. It's not just a figure... It's a man's face. Those faces don't go away. They come back and they get replaced by more faces... So... What I suggest is to drop your weapons and follow me... Your face will be replaced with another face...

When I woke up... It was still raining... I looked at Upham and he was still pale, his eyes still red... He was shaking...

Blain: You ok Upham...?

Upham: H-He... He killed Talon s-sir...

Then Flash and the others woke up...

Flash: Morning sunshine...

Jasco: Pssh...

There was an eerie silence in the city... Flash peeked over the wall to look if there were threats... I looked at him and saw his eyes growing with a frightened look... He snatched my binoculars and gazed at the distance... He then gasped...

Flash: Oh God...

Blain: What's wrong?

I turned around and peeked over the wall... I saw something in the distance, but couldn't see it very clear... Flash gave me the binoculars and I looked through them... What I saw was rather horrifying...

Jasco: What? What is it?

Jasco peeked too... He took out his binoculars and stared... I looked at Jasco and his eyes got bigger and bigger... What we saw was... Tala was hanged on a balcony... She had a sign around her neck... That said... "Keep your eyes open"... At that point... Jasco went berserk... We all dove on him...

Blain: Jasco no!!!

Jasco: NO!! GET OFF ME!! GET OFF ME!!!

Flash: This is what he wants Jasco!!

Jasco: LET GO OFF ME!!!

Blain: No!! He'll kill you!! He'll kill you and then I'll run after you and he'll kill me too!! This is what he wants!!! I'll get him. I promise I'll get him. I'll get his rifle for you! I promise Jasco...

As though as Jasco may seem, he looked at me with soggy eyes... I placed a hand on his shoulder and he just sobs heavily... I looked back and saw the others looking at Jasco with a sad look... Nobody said anything...

To be continued...

14 - Chapter 14... Shadows of death...

Jasco was on the edge of having a mental breakdown... He didn't said anything, but he stared into blank space...

As the heavy rain still pours on us, we were looking for a way to get out. Since there are still snipers, we couldn't move... In the distance, we heard more gunfire and explosions. This whole deal started to escalate...

Flash: The APC is not coming back...

Magneto: What...? Flash: Look... They forgot about us...

Blain: Oh shoot...

We saw an APC driving away in the distance...

Flash: Look eeh... We can either stay here and die... Or get the hell out of here...

Blain: Got a plan...?

Flash: Doing the same thing the sniper did... Hold something up.

Blain: Magneto, gimme your backpack.

Magneto: Great, now we gotta surrender our backpacks...

Blain: You got a problem with that?

Magneto: No sir, I'm just saying that this is a waste of valuable military resources...

He gave me his backpack and I smiled at him... Flash took his weapon and got in a prone position a few meters away from us. I hold up the backpack and a shot was heard. It went right through the backpack... After that, Flash spotted the sniper and fired...

Flash: All clear!!

Blain: Go!! Go!!

We ran towards the building when the sniper was at and got up the 11th floor. We found the sniper still alive, but he was hit in his throat and struggling holding his hands against his throats...

Blain: Eeew... That looks nasty... Nice shot Flash...

Flash: Why thank you... ^^

I looked back at the sniper and Jasco was bashing him in his face over and over again... The guy died but he still keeps on bashing his face... The rest of us tried to get Tala up and pulled her on the balcony... As she is put down, something got dropped out of her pockets... It was a pendant... Jasco saw that and picked it up. He opened it and saw a picture of him... He stared at it for a while...

Blain: Jasco... We gotta go...

Jasco: I'm not doing this anymore...

Blain: What...?

Jasco: Forget about that military bullshoot and the RRTS Blain... We're not working for Robotnik anymore... So why would we fight someone else's war...? It doesn't make any sense...

Blain: We're too deeply involved to step back now... We cant go back... All we can do now is look to the future and not the past...

Jasco: Its because I died a long time ago in the past...

I smacked Jasco on the head...

Jasco: Ouch!! Why the hell was that for!?

Blain: Pain is a good thing wolf boy...

Jasco: What...?

Blain: It lets you know your still alive...

I looked at Jasco and he sighed... He puts the pendant in his pockets and carried Tala... I was the last one to get out of the building. As I got out of it, they all stand in line awaiting the next order... I looked at Jasco and remembered something...

Blain: Listen up... We're gonna get Talon, Take his dogtags and keep hold of it...

Flash: Got it...

Blain: No one gets left behind...

We eventually got Talon's body... Upham got his dogtags...

Many hours later, we were walking through the cover of darkness, with the rain still pouring on us... The firefights died down... Then suddenly, Ice says to stop...

Ice: Wait a sec... Get down...

Blain: What is it?

Ice: Give me your binoculars...

So I gave him my binoculars...

Ice: Bunkers up ahead, armed with machine guns.

Ice gave me the binoculars back and I looked through them. We needed to get past them...

Blain: Right, listen up. Jasco, you stay here.

Jasco: What?! But-

Blain: No fracking butts with me... Who's gonna look after you when your dead...

Jasco: ...

Blain: Flash, go up the right...

Upham: How about if I go to the left sir? Blain: With the way you run? Hell no...

Upham: ... How about if I go up the middle sir...? Blain: How about you shut the hell up?!

Flash: What the hell is wrong with you...?

Blain: Nothing... Prepare a smoke screen...

Everyone grabbed a smoke grenade and threw it on the streets. After they exploded, a thick smoke screen filled the air and we ran towards the bunkers. Not long after that, we heard gunfire. We took out the machineguns and after the smoke cleared up, we saw Upham lying face down on the street... Flash yelled for Jasco and he ran towards... But Upham was dead... Thunder, Ice and Magneto searched the bunkers came out with a rebel alive...

Blain: Let him go...

All: What?!

Flash: All he's gonna do is find the rest of his friends!! And claim another life!

Blain: I said let him go...

So they let him go...

Blain: Get your gear... Let's go...

Everyone packed there gear... But Flash stays put...

Jasco: You heard him... Gear up. The sergeant gave you an order.

Flash: Yeah, like the one he gave to take out those bunkers!! That was a real victory, wasn't it?!!

Flash walked over to me, and pushed me...

Jasco: You're going way out of line Flash!

Flash: Yes sir, that was one hell of a call coming to take these bunkers!! But hell, we only lost one of our guys going for it!! That's right, I hope the Sergeant is real fracking happy knowing that his life is a little bit more important than two of our guys!

I looked at Flash, and he looks rather pissed at me... He pushed me again... I grabbed my gun and aimed it at his head...

Flash: What...? Your gonna shoot? Right, you wouldn't kill the fracking rebel and now your gonna shoot me?!

Blain: He's better then you...

Flash: You may be higher in rank, but your too fracking reckless Blain!! Forget about the military bullshoot!! This isn't the fracking RRTS!! You put us all in danger and for what?!!

Everyone else is standing on Flash's side, except for Jasco...

Jasco: You know... Before the war started, I was a mechanic... an electrician... in this little town called Adley, 200 miles from Station Square... Back home, I tell people what I do for a living and they think well, now that figures. But over here, it's a big, a big mystery. So, I guess I've changed some...

Everyone including me were a bit baffled...

Flash: An electrician...?

Jasco: Yes...

Flash: Well I don't need any...

Jasco: I know that... But... The point is... I know I said that I don't wanna do this anymore... Deep inside, if you look to the future... I know one day I'm gonna be an electrician again...

Flash: Because you want your old life back...?

Jasco: No... Because when the war ends, I'm out of a job...

All: Ah...

Jasco: So... That's one of the positive things that lies ahead for me in the future... So... Blain...?

Blain: Yeah?

Jasco: Snap the frack out of it of whatever is wrong with you... Seriously...

I looked at Jasco, and I could see he meant it... All of them started to walk away... I grabbed my backpack and weapons and followed them...

Few hours later, we were still walking through the destroyed city... Nobody said anything... Jasco carried Tala while Flash carried Upham... I was still walking behind the crew...

Jasco: I was thinking...

Flash: What?

Jasco: When the war ends... I'm setting up my own electrical company...

Flash: Heh...

Jasco: Care to join...? I could use someone like you...

Flash: **sarcastically** Yeah sure...

Jasco: Got a curriculum vitae?

Flash: A what...?

Jasco: List of jobs what you did in the past...

Flash: Eehm... I killed a few people... Blew up some buildings...

Jasco: That'll do... Your hired...

Flash laughs as Jasco gave a weak smile... Suddenly, we heard stomping sounds...

Thunder: What's that...?

Flash: Just the thunder...

Thunder: I got a bad feeling about this...

Flash: When was the last time you felt good about something...?

Then Magneto turned around...

Magneto: BATTLEWALKER HEADING OUR WAY!! GET GOING!! GO!! GO!!

Then I turned around... And saw the battlewalker in the distance... And some rebels... I tried running away but I was chased down by those rebels... I ran as fast as I could and saw the others running in front of me... Then all of a sudden it happened... I felt a very sharp pain in my chest and fell down... I put my hand on the place where I felt the pain and I looked at my hand... I saw dark red blood on it and my hand is shaking... I tried crawling but I couldn't feel my legs... Then slowly... my vision became weaker, my hearing became weaker... I saw a figure running towards me and I could vaguely see that it was Flash... He yelled something but... I couldn't hear it... He picked me up and ran...

Flash: Don't do this to me Blain!!

Flash suddenly tripped... I don't know what caused it, but he suddenly dropped me...

Blain: ... Go... Leave... me...

Flash: NOBODY GETS LEFT BEHIND!!!

Blain: GO... Let me... do something useful...

I suddenly heard something bouncing... Flash yanked off my dogtags and I could hear him say "Thanks"... He had tears in his eyes and ran off... Not long after that, I heard a vague explosion and the whole world seemed to be turned upside down... And I landed on my back... I think I saw my left arm a few meters away from me... A rebel came standing near me... That was the last thing I remembered... After that, I felt numb... I couldn't move anything... I had my eyes still open but I couldn't see... It was all pitch black... I died...

Rebel: He's dead sir!

Rebel2: Get the others...

Jasco: Flash!? Where the hell is Blain?!

Flash: He didn't make it!!

Jasco: WHAT?!!

Thunder: WE HAVE TO GO!! NOW!!

Jasco, Flash, Thunder, Ice and Magneto ran through the city while being chased by the battlewalker. Then suddenly, the battlewalker died down...

Flash: How the hell is that possible?!

Jasco: Who threw the EMP grenade?!

Flash: IT DOESN'T MATTER NOW!! GO!!

They reached outside the city and saw reinforcements waiting for them. Once they reached it, they all collapse down... Flash looked at Jasco and gave him Blain's dogtags...

Flash: I'm sorry Jasco... I tried saving him...

Meanwhile... A person stands next to Blain...

???: How ironic... Get him inside. Don't forget his left arm.

To be continued...

15 - Chapter 15... Redeemer...

“Vital signs are looking normal...”

That was the first thing I heard... It sounded like a robot... I couldn't move for a while, but I started to get back feeling in my legs. Although I could feel my right arm a bit, my left one felt almost numb... I felt very cold, and still couldn't see... My hearing became more clear and I heard someone entering the room...

???: That's gonna leave a few scars Blain...

Blain: Ro... Robotnik...?

Robotnik: Indeed...

Blain: But... How...?

Robotnik: I'm not a complete idiot you know... After the fall of Robotropolis, I decided to step back for a while...

Blain: But...

Robotnik: You actually died Blain... That's not something I would expect from an RRTS Member... Good thing I was around...

Blain: Thanks...

Robotnik: Don't thank me yet... You see... We've been watching you for a while now... I simply loved the way you guys blew up the rebel's titan, and... Oh yeah! The assault on Angel Island! To bad Cyrus kicked the bucket, but hey! Things like that happen! But... I scratched your back... Now its time for you to scratch my back...

How the hell could he know about the Titan...? And the Angel Island assault...? I tried opening my eyes, but everything was really blurry... And it hurts... I closed them again...

Robotnik: So... Here's the deal... In the 3 months you've been away, the Red Factions numbers decreased dramatically. Mostly because of the Freedom Fighters, but we did some attacks too... Well, secretly of course. We wouldn't want to blow our cover...

Then I suddenly remembered the Titan shot down when we were on the way to Station Square...

Robotnik: You still with me?

Blain: ... Yeah...

Robotnik: Good. So... Mystic Ruins fell in the hands of the Freedom Fighters. Now that the Red Faction defeat is immanent, I'll take back my place... So, re-join the RRTS with other lifeforms. And work for me again...

Blain: But... I cant... Jasco... And... The others-

Robotnik: Everyone thinks your dead Blain! Or better yet... Everyone is dead...

Blain: What...?

Robotnik: Yes! Everyone! I even have proof!

I tried sitting up but it hurts like hell. I heard something rattling and a file was being played... I heard everyone screaming and shots were fired... Somehow... That didn't convinced me... I tried opening my eyes again. I could this time, but... with trouble. I could hardly keep them open... I saw I was on a table... Not strapped or anything...

Robotnik: And if that's not convincing you...

I heard a door opening and... Shadow walked through...? I turned my head slowly and looked at him... He looks a bit shocked...

Robotnik: Shadow here was the one that sold them out! At least someone that came to his senses!

I looked with disbelief at Shadow... He just stood there and looked at me...

Blain: You... asshole...

Robotnik: Shadow, could you leave for a second...? Blain and I need some discussing to do...

So Shadow left...

Blain: Your fracking insane...

Robotnik: Well such potty mouth! That's not very nice saying that to someone who brought you back to life!

Robotnik stood up, and walked towards me. I looked at him and he taps on my left arm... It hurts so much I screamed of pain...

Robotnik: Nanobot Technology Blain... Bare that in mind. Your heart is currently being powered by

Chaos Drive, which isn't gonna last forever. I'd say 2 days. Don't do something stupid like escaping, because you'd be dead within 2 days... I'm not intending to bring you back to life every time so, please remember that... In the meantime... Think about my offer...

He started to walk out of the door...

Blain: How'd you do it...?

Robotnik: Do what?

Blain: Bring me back to life...?

Robotnik: Blain... It's Nanobot Technology... Who says your alive...?

After that... He left... Everyone was dead... I was dead... It all seemed like a dream, but... It wasn't... Being dead for three months...? Shadow that betrayed us all...? With all those thoughts running through my head, I fell asleep...

Somehow, I woke up... Everything was pitch black... And everything still hurts like hell and couldn't move a limb... I could see through a small window that it was night time... I suddenly felt a hand on my left arm... And it hurts so much I screamed in pain...

Shadow: Whoa!! Easy, take it easy... I'm sorry...

Blain: You... You betrayed us...

Shadow: Its good to see your still there Blain...

Blain: Cut the bullshoot... I know that-

Shadow: Listen to me Blain... Robotnik is lying. Everyone is still alive. Jasco, Flash, and everyone else. They participated in the assault to bring down Mystic Ruins. And they succeeded. Robotnik is lying so that you would join his side again.

Blain: Why the hell is this happening...

Shadow: Everyone thought you died 3 months ago... Few weeks after that, we found out that Robotnik had his base somewhere near the deserts. I decided to infiltrate and pretend I'm on his side to gain valuable information. So far, Robotnik still thinks that I'm his side, but its all a diversion to bring him down.

Blain: Do they know I'm still alive...?

Shadow: Not yet. I'm gonna contact them and tell them your alive. We'll get you out of here. Just hang on for a little while...

Blain: I'll try...

Shadow: Bare in mind Blain... This is very risky. If this goes wrong, we're all fracked. To increase your

survival chances, join his side... After its all set, we're gonna bust you out.

Blain: Why...? Why would you do it...?

Shadow: ... Because no one gets left behind...

After that, he left again... I tried closing my eyes but I just couldn't get some sleep.

Meanwhile...

Shadow: Rouge, it's me.

Rouge: Go ahead...

Shadow: Seems one of us is still alive. Contact the others and gather at Knothole.

Rouge: Sure, but... Who is it?

Shadow: I cant talk now, I'll see you tomorrow.

I don't know how long I've been wondering. The pain of my left arm... It's just too much really. Then just all of a sudden, I saw the image of my arm... Lying in a puddle of dark red blood... I actually got scared there... If I'd be wearing pants, I would shoot in them... Seriously... Then everything else came by... The things we went through... I saw a lot of dead bodies, my friends being shot, brutal riots in the beginning of the war... For the dead people, the war is over. Not for me... I fell back asleep with a tear running down my cheek... And... Crying was the last thing I would do... What the hell happened to me...?

Few hours later, I woke up... I looked to my left and saw that Robotnik was sitting there...

Robotnik: It's about time you woke up... Geez... Had a good sleep?

Blain: No... Robotnik: Well good... I'm not being funded to purchase comfortable beds. So anyway, how you doing?

Blain: What the frack does it look like...

Robotnik: Blain... You may not realize this... but... You're dieing on the inside... You're seriously in need of medical treatment and I'm the only one who could supply you with that.

Blain: You're blackmailing me...? Working for you in exchange for life...?

Robotnik: No... No I don't suppose it is... Call it... "Claiming back property"...

Blain: Right... Why the hell does everything hurt so much...

Robotnik: Well you see... Eeh... How do I put it...? Your arm was blown off... It looks like your normal arm but... It's not. It's a bionic one. Metal. Your nerve system is connected with it. Each time you lift your arm, the CPU picks up electrical signals from your brain. However, your body isn't used to it yet. And then yes, it hurts like hell.

Blain: Why didn't you just let me die...?

Robotnik: It's because I need you! I admit it!

Blain: Then why did you let the others die... Tyrone... Cyrus...?

Robotnik: It's because I didn't need them back then... Now that the Red Faction is losing... I could use someone like you...

Blain: I'm dieing right now... I only got one more day to live...

Robotnik: Well... Working conditions demands that an employee should live longer then a few days. So here's the deal... Work for me, and you get a fully charged Chaos Drive...

Blain: How long is that gonna last...

Robotnik: Around 70 years or something...

Blain: How do I know I can trust you...

Robotnik: Look in the mirror... Then tell me if you can trust me. After all, I'm the one who brought you back...

I suddenly got an idea...

Robotnik: So... What's it gonna be...?

I looked at him and grinned...

Blain: I'm in...

Robotnik: There's a good lad... We're starting tomorrow...

He stands up and walks out of the room... I couldn't help myself grinning while he walked out...

That night, Shadow came back...

Shadow: How you doing?

Blain: Could be better... You know... Robotnik placed a Chaos Drive in me. It's only gonna last for one more day, then I'm dead again...

Shadow: Really...? Blain: Yeah... But, I told him I'm gonna work for him. He's gonna place a permanent Chaos Drive in me... This was all a threat so that I would make up my mind sooner... He actually thinks he can threaten me with that...

Shadow: Right... Everything is set. Rouge gathered the others to come up with a plan. I go to Knothole tonight...

Blain: Don't get caught...

Shadow: I wont...

Shadow got out of the room... After the doors closed, it was total silence... I could hear my own breathing getting louder by every breath... I'm getting crazy for just lying here and not being able to move a muscle... There's a bright side... Tomorrow its gonna be the beginning of the end... With that in mind, I fell asleep...

Meanwhile... Shadow used Chaos Control to get back to Knothole... He walks to the centre of the village where everyone waits...

Jasco: What's happening...?

Amy: Not something bad is it...?

Shadow: Guys... Sit down...

Flash: So what is it...?

Shadow: Blain is kept being alive by Robotnik...

Jasco: What?!!

Flash: He's still alive...? But...

Shadow: Yeah. However, his condition is still critical. He cant use his limbs yet. And what makes it worse, he's got a Chaos Drive inside of him. The Chaos Drive only works for one more day. Then its lights out for him.

Flash: So... What are we gonna do...?

Shadow: Blain agreed to switch sides in exchange for a fully charged Chaos Drive. But in reality, he's still on our side. I don't know if he can use his limbs after he got the fully charged Chaos Drive, but chances are small. So it's not without risk.

Amy: You ok Jasco...?

Jasco: I cant believe it... That blue bastard is still alive...

Shadow: But, we're running out of time... We'd better plan something right away because tomorrow, he's gonna have his Chaos Drive. Robotnik is gonna find out sooner or later, so we have to act quickly.

Jasco: Flash, let's go... We got some planning to do...

To be continued...

16 - Chapter 16... Depredation...

Dawn broke... Robotnik placed a new Chaos Drive... Few hours later... I woke up... It still hurts... Nothing seemed changed...

Robotnik: It will only take effect after a few days...

Blain: Right...

Robotnik: Welcome back... Blain...

Robotnik gave me a hand and grinned... Somehow I didn't trust it...

Robotnik: Time to learn how to use your body again...

I tried moving my left and right arms... But I could move it... Well, not without pain... Suddenly, a droid approaches Robotnik and told him Shadow was outside with prisoners... The door opened up and I saw Flash and Jasco walking through with their hands on their heads escorted by droids and Shadow... They looked at me but they didn't show any emotions... Yet... Their eyes told a lot...

Robotnik: Jasco... Long time no see... Wassup...?

Jasco: Well not much...

Robotnik: Aren't you glad to see your buddy alive...?

Jasco didn't respond on that... But, he looked at me and smiled...

Robotnik: Take them to cellblock E...

So they turned around and left... I know what they were about to do, so... I stayed silent...

Robotnik: Ok, ok... Maybe I lied about everyone being dead and all...

Meanwhile... Shadow, Flash and Jasco are walking through the corridors escorted by 4 droids...

Flash: An old bear is walking through the granny lane...

Jasco: But it's nothing more than a window washer...

Shadow: What the hell are you talking about...

Flash: Well... You know... Them...

Shadow: Who...?

Jasco: "Them" ...

Jasco nodded his head towards the droids...

Shadow: Right... Get down...

Flash/Jasco: What?

Shadow suddenly pulled out his Chaos Emerald and did a Chaos Blast... The droids got wiped out... Flash and Jasco were baffled...

Shadow: Sorry...

Flash: Dude, your chest fluff is smoking...

So after Jasco danced around to put out his chest fluff...

Jasco: Get the stuff!!

Shadow: Chaos control...

Not long after that, Shadow came back with 2 pistols...

Jasco: Pssh... You call this a gun...?

Shadow: It's the only thing I could find...

Flash: Shut up and get going...

The door opened up and Jasco and Flash came in aiming guns at Robotnik... Shadow just stood there tossing his emerald up and down and grinning...

Jasco: Peekaboo...

Flash: Hey, we make a good team Jasco...

Shadow: Ahem...

Flash: Yeah you too...

Shadow: ^-^

Robotnik: Ah well... Was worth trying...

Robotnik called for droids... As soon as they arrive, Shadow destroyed them all... After that... Robotnik gives in... Jasco cuffed him on a chair while Flash keeps aiming at him... Jasco picked me up carefully...

Blain: OW! Easy! Damn!

Jasco: Sorry...

The four of us stood near Shadow and he did Chaos Control...

Meanwhile... A droid went to Robotnik...

Robotnik: Get me off!

Droid: Sir. Shouldn't we chase them down?

Robotnik: No... I knew he would do something like this... Let them go...

We arrived a few miles from Knothole... The last bit was on foot... Jasco carried me the whole way... It still hurts though...

Jasco: Its great to have back mate...

Blain: Heh... I missed you guys...

Flash: Aw... Group hug...

Jasco: ... No...

Blain: I would have expected more from you guys though...

Jasco: What?

Blain: Yeah... That there was actually shooting involved...

Flash: Well hey, we tried planning the whole thing...

Blain: So... Why would you go through this trouble when Shadow alone could get me out...?

Flash: Don't ask me... I didn't plan it..

Jasco: ... Sure, blame it on me...

Flash: And I quote... "Hey Flash! Let's pretend we're prisoners escorted by Shadow! After we destroyed the threats, Shadow can Chaos Control back to get weapons and bust Blain out!"

I saw Shadow walking on the left of us rolling his eyes... It actually made me laugh but... That hurts too... But doesn't matter though... I'm back...

Flash: Well, I'll leave you 2 turtledoves alone... Shadow could use some company...

Shadow: *sarcastically* Oh yes lets!
Flash: Whats wrong with you...
Shadow: Something bothers me...
Flash: What is it?
Shadow: Don't you think it went all to easy...?
Flash: Too easy...

Jasco couldn't stop telling me how much he missed me... But... As he kept on talking, I felt weaker again... I started to breath heavily... At some point, Jasco looked at me...

Jasco: Dude, you ok...?
Blain: N-No...
Jasco: Oh frack...

Jasco started to run to the village... The running motions of him hurt so much, and I yelled of the pain I felt...

Flash: What the frack? Shadow: What? Flash: Jasco is running off!

We arrived at the village...

Jasco: Blain...? Can you try standing...
Blain: Maybe...

I tried standing... I could stand for short amount of time... After that, I just collapsed like a fracking ragdoll... My vision became blurry...

Blain: Ch-... Chaos... D-drive.... Robotnik fracked... me...
Jasco: shoot!! TAILS!!
Blain: He... He didn't... replaced it...

I heard Tails running out...

Jasco: Tails, listen up! Do you have a fully charged Chaos Drive?!
Tails: What? Jasco: DO YOU, OR DO NOT HAVE A FULLY CHARGED CHAOS DRIVE?!!
Tails: Eehm... Yeah, I might have!
Jasco: Ok, listen carefully!! Get to your workshop and make some room!
Tails: Right!

I couldn't see nothing but darkness. I felt that Jasco picked me up again...

Blain: What are you gonna do...? What's happening...

Jasco didn't respond to me. He got somewhere and placed me on a table...

Flash: What's going on?

Jasco: Flash, get my medic equipment.

Flash: What?

Jasco: Now...

Tails: Eeh... What can I do...?

Jasco: Right... Listen up little buddy... You know a lot of mechanics right?

Tails: Well... I guess...

Jasco: Blain's heart is powered by a Chaos Drive. I know how to do the improvised surgery, but I know nothing of those Chaos Drives. You need to guide me through.

Tails: Eeh...

Jasco: Tails, I'm not gonna lose him again!! Please...

Tails nodded nervously. Then Flash ran back with the equipment...

Jasco stuffed my mouth with a thick piece of cloth...

Jasco: Bite it, it will ease the pain.

Jasco put on some gloves and took a scalpel...

Jasco: This is gonna hurt Blain...

I felt a sharp pain in my chest as it slowly went down... The pain was rather unbearable and I could feel blood flowing over my body... Jasco then puts his fingers inside and felt the Chaos Drive inside of me... The pain was so extreme I yelled it out and got unconscious...

I don't know for how long I was away... I opened my eyes and... Well, I didn't had much pain anymore... Except for my left arm and my chest though... I opened my eyes and saw Jasco sitting there...

Blain: ... Am I dead?

Jasco: Almost...

Blain: Hehehe...

I sat up on the table. At first, I was dizzy, but got away slowly...

Jasco: Does it hurt?

Blain: Not as much...

Jasco: Take your time...

I sat there for a while, then tried standing up. Again, I was dizzy... I fell down but Jasco caught me...

Jasco: That was a close one Blain...

Blain: Heh... Yeah...

Jasco: Don't do that again... Or I'll kick your @\$\$....

Jasco hugged me tightly like a teddy bear or something... It still hurts, but... Not that much anymore...

I suddenly remembered something... I looked around the room and saw Tails entering... I said nothing though... I went to the mirror that was on the wall... A bit wobbly, but Jasco saw what I was gonna do and holds my hand as I tried walking...

As I stood in front the mirror, I saw myself... Covered in scratches, and 2 large scars... One across my left eye and one on my chest... I touched the scar on my left eye and stroke it... It was rather messy, so I guess it was caused by shrapnel or something...

I saw that my torso was wrapped with bloodstained bandages... I looked down on my left hand and saw my glove was torn apart. I felt nervous, but my hand wasn't shaking... I looked at Jasco and took out his combat knife...

Jasco: Blain...? What are you doing...?

Blain: I always thought my left arm felt weird...

I firmly grasped his combat knife and cut my left arm open ... It hurts, but not that much... Jasco looked baffled and Tails hurled and looked the other way... A stream of blood came out, but not that much... Somehow, it didn't hurt but it looked like flesh. I poked on it and could feel it moving. I pushed it aside and there it was... The bionic arm... I looked at it with disbelief and then back to the mirror... At that point... Something snapped inside me... I bashed the mirror to pieces with my fists and although the movements hurt, I just continued bashing at it...

Jasco: CALM DOWN!! GET A HOLD OF YOURSELF!!

I turned around and faced Jasco and Tails...

Blain: frack YOU!!! frack YOU!!!!

Jasco grabbed and picked me up, but again... That hurts like hell...

Blain: AAH!! GODDAMN IT!! SON OF A dog!!! LEMME GO!! LEMME GO FOR frackS SAKE!!!!

And... He let me down again... I tried punching Jasco but fell down... I looked at him and he looked back... He shakes his head and walked out of the room with Tails...

Tails: ... You ok Jasco...?

Jasco: ... Yeah...

I saw them walking away... Then... Everything just floated up... All the emotions... Everything felt so weird... I was down on the ground crying my eyes out...

I don't know how long I've been down there... As soon as I got the feeling back in my arms, I tried crawling over to the table and pulled myself up... Again, with a lot of pain and effort and sat on it... I just stared through the small window looking at the night sky... Shortly after that, I heard a door opening up... I looked at the doorway and saw Amy walking through with some food...

Amy: I thought you might be hungry...

Blain: No, not really... Thanks...

She puts it on the table and I saw she was looking at my arm...

Amy: I've heard what happened... I'm so sorry for you Blain...

Blain: *sighs*

Amy: Can I have a look at your arm...?

I swung my arm right in front of Amy's face... I kept looking at the night sky without saying anything...

Amy: Does it hurt when I touch it...?

Blain: No... It's all synthetically...

I looked at her while she poked my arm and felt the metal... She looks a bit baffled...

Amy: Is it... real...?

Blain: What the hell does it look like...?

Amy: I'm sorry... It's just that-

Blain: Get out... Leave me alone...

She still looked at my arm baffled... I looked her in the eyes...

Blain: ... frack off...

After that, she looks a bit scared at me... And then she left... I saw the plate and drink she brought... Some... Bread with stuff on it... And icetea... Hmm... Icetea... I drank it... And was wondering what the frack happened to me...

To be continued...

17 - Chapter 17... Avenger...

As I sat on the table thinking, I noticed Jasco's knife. I picked it up and tried tossing it up and down with my left arm. I dropped it a few times, but I was getting back the feeling. I picked it up again and threw the knife against the wall with my left arm, which got stuck in the woodwork. I saw how deep it was and I was rather baffled that I could throw it with such a large amount of force... I'm not that strong but... I'm beginning to think that this aint so bad after all...

Flash: You ok?

Jasco: I don't know...

Flash: Look, give him a while. It's weird for him too you know. He doesn't have a notion of time and everything. Maybe he just needs-

Jasco: Maybe it was a mistake to bring him back...

Flash: Why?

Jasco: You didn't see the way he reacted when he saw himself. *sighs* He even tried punching me. Why the hell did he wanted to punch me?

Flash: Maybe he didn't want to come back either. He was dying but you got him back... He needs some time to get used to things again. It's not easy for him you know...

Jasco: Yeah... But... Neither is for me.

Flash: Talk to him...

Jasco: Well I tried...

Flash slaps Jasco.

Flash: Then try again!!

I kept staring at the knife being stuck in the woodwork... I suddenly heard a door opening and saw Jasco coming in the room...

Jasco: How you doing?

Blain: Look...

Jasco: What?

Blain: Your knife...

Jasco saw the knife sticking out of the woodwork. He walked up to it and tried pulling the knife

out, but he couldn't get it out. Jasco pushed one foot against the wall and pulled it with all his strength until the knife gives in.

Jasco: How the hell did you do it...?

Blain: I threw it...

Jasco: Show me...

Jasco gave me the knife again. I tossed it up and down with my left hand and threw it with all my strength. It hurts, but the knife got stuck in the wall again... It got even deeper...

Jasco: ... Whoa...

Blain: I know...

Jasco: Listen, Blain... Eeh... I'm not very at this so... I wanna say I'm sorry...

Blain: Well... I should be sorry... I'm sorry Jasco, but... Everything is just so weird you know...

Jasco: Did it really hurt that much...?

Blain: ... Like hell... But somehow, I can see a bright side in this though...

Jasco: Can you walk...?

Blain: Maybe...

I let myself down from the table gently and Jasco supported me. We were walking outside of the room and out of the building. And I felt the warm sun on my face. I smiled and Jasco saw that...

Jasco: I missed ya man...

Blain: Don't get too emotional...

I looked at him and smiled, and he smiled back... I didn't tell how much I've missed them though... But he knows... He knows... As we got to the centre of the village, the others are standing there and are looking at me...

Jasco: He's back guys... Our trigger happy hedgehog is back...

I looked around and saw a new face... A black hedgehog with 2 holsters attached to each leg. He had a band around his arms stated he was from the D-VaS assassination squad... Right next to him was a girl... A hedgehog... Maybe a few years older than me... She was dark purple with cyan frills... But I wasn't interested in her though, I wanted to know who the guy was...

Blain: Who's the new guy...?

Jasco: We picked him up while you were away. His name is Zero.

Blain: What's with the D-VaS logo?

Jasco: Ex D-VaS...

Blain: You mean-

Jasco: Yup...

Blain: Whoa...

I looked behind and saw that Flash was standing there the whole time...

Flash: What's D-VaS?

Blain: You never heard of them...?

Flash: ... No...

Jasco: D-VaS was a small group of covered ops trained in the highest military standards, specializing working behind enemy lines.

Flash: For who? Jasco: For anyone who paid the right prize. A band of mercenaries working for the highest bidder...

Blain: We need a word with him...

Jasco: Don't you wanna eat something first?

Blain: Yeah sure...

I looked around and saw everyone still staring at me... I looked down and saw the bloodstained bandage wrapped around my torso. So we ate something, and after that, Jasco replaced the bandage. As he was replacing it, I stared at the wound...

Jasco: It'll heal, it wont leave scars.

Blain: Thanks Jasco...

Jasco: Anytime man...

After he was done replacing the bandage, he suddenly remembered something because of his looks. He gets up, walked to a closet, and got a big metal case. He walked back and opened it... In there was a pair of new black gloves. Like the ones I wear... My dogtags and my weapon... The SCAR-11... My sidearm, combat knife and my bullet proof vest... A flashbang grenade was still in the pockets... My buckles and holsters... Haven't worn that in a while...

Jasco: Last time you've worn the vest was at the riots...

I picked up the vest and put it on... I looked at the other stuff and put on the dogtags again, clipped the buckles and attached the holsters to it... I looked at the weapons... Then back at Jasco...

Jasco: What are you looking at me for? Come on, take it...

I grabbed my sidearm and pulled out the clip... Nine rounds was in it... I cocked it and put it in the holster... I looked at the combat knife, wiped it and placed it in the ankle holster. And I grabbed the SCAR-11... I looked at it and pulled out the clip. Twenty-three rounds were still in it... I pressed the fingerprint analyzer...

A.I female voice: RRTS Special Ops clearance verified. Handle ID: Reaper.

Jasco: After you got carried away, we came back to look for you. We couldn't find you. The only thing we saw was a puddle of blood and your weapon...

I rammed the clip back inside and pulled the bolt on top...

Jasco: Hoo-ah?

Blain: Hoo-ah...

The following days I began to train again. Jasco and Flash became my personal coaches Hell, they worn me out. I had to run, jump, crawl and prone through an improvised obstacle course and it was timed. Each time I didn't get back within the limited amount of time, I had to run 5 laps around the village. It still hurts, but, it doesn't hurt that much as it used to be. But hey, slowly but steady I got back again...

One night, I was outside. I just had a cold shower and I was sitting outside near the small lake. Then Flash came sitting next to me. I looked straight ahead...

Blain: 'Sup...?

Flash: How you been?

Blain: Well good... Tired, but good.

Flash: Yeah... You're still wet...

Blain: Couldn't find any towels...

Flash: Then shake yourself dry!

Blain: Yeah but- Wait... Whats that...? Flash: Where?

Blain: Up there...

I saw something falling in the distant black night sky, leaving a trail of fire and smoke. And it seemed to go very slow... Maybe its just because it was so far away... I didn't know what the hell

that was...

Flash: A shooting star!

Blain: What?

Flash: Make a wish!

Blain: ...

Flash: Make a wish damn it!

Tails: That's not a shooting star...

We turned around and saw everyone standing behind us...

Blain: Then what is it...?

Tails: It's a nuke...

Flash: What...?

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No one said anything... It was awfully silent... As we watched the trail getting lower and lower to the horizon, a big flash filled the entire air. For a few seconds, it looked like it was day... Few minutes after that, we heard an ear deafening noise...

Tails: Run...

Sonic: What is it Tails...?

Tails: I said run!! GO NOW!! GO, GO!!

No one hesitated after Tails freaked out. Jasco and I ran back to get our gear. Everyone ran towards his workshop and after we all got inside, Tails lowered the pulley to his underground workshop and we got out. We ran into the underground hangar and Tails opened another door, which leads to a bunker. Shortly after Tails sealed the door, we could hear a lot of noise... And, about half an hour later it suddenly stopped... And it was awfully silent again... Tails decided to stay inside for the night...

But... The next morning... No singing birds... Just that silence again... We all looked at each other then looked to Tails... Tails opened up the heavy doors we stepped outside... And... We were all baffled of how it looks... Everyone steps out slowly out of the bunker... The underground hangar was annihilated and I looked up... No sunny, light blue sky, but black and grey clouds filled with a dark red aurora... We walked out of it and saw the devastation... Knothole got wiped off... The forests were gone... Nothing more then open plains with tree roots... We looked at the others and didn't say anything... Everything was just... Gone... Tails ran back to the bunker...

Zero: The last desperate attempt...

Jasco: What?

Zero: Robotnik... He got 4 more nukes in a desperate attempt to win the war...

Flash: Four more...? But... He'd kill us all...

Zero: Exactly...

Then Tails ran back... Looking a bit frightened...

Blain: What is it...?

Tails: Several areas got nuked too! I just received a message from some survivors!

Jasco: How many?

Tails: Two more areas...

Blain: And the survivors...?

Tails: A few hedgehogs and some rebels...

Flash: Then what the hell are we suppose to do now?!

Blain: Taking down his factories...

Flash: How?! We don't have the weapons!

I looked at Tails... He didn't get it...

Tails: What you looking at me for...?

Blain: Robotnik's factories are CAM and CAD... There guarded by droids. You need to hack in the system and shut it down...

Tails: I see...

Flash: What's CAM and CAD...?

Tails: Computer Aided Manufacturing and Computer Aided Design. Everything works through an automated procedure.

Zero: Yeah. If that shuts down, Robotnik cannot create droids anymore. Or... Anything else really...

Tails: But...

Jasco: Don't be scared. We're here to protect you...

Flash: I'm in...

Zero: Me too...

Jasco: Tails...?

Everyone looked at Tails... He was nervous and hesitated...

Tails: Eeh... Yeah... I'm in...

Jasco: So... Blain... One more battle like the old times...?

Blain: You think I'm ready for it...?

Jasco: frack yeah...

Blain: Then I'm in...

Jasco: Tails, contact the others that we need more manpower.

Tails: Right! I'm off!

Flash: I don't know about you guys... But... This is gonna be the largest battle ever... Even larger then the assault of Angel Island...

Jasco: It's also gonna be the last one...

Flash: What makes you think that?

Jasco: Because I say so...

After a while, Tails came back...

Tails: It's over...

Jasco: What? Tails: The Red Faction got annihilated... It's over... They lost...

Blain: Then it's just between us and Robotnik...

To be continued...

18 - Chapter 18... Beginning of the end...

As we stood there, looking at the devastated wasteland, we were thinking of what to do... Tails managed to contact some of the survivors and we would meet them at Robotropolis trying to discuss some tactics. But it doesn't look to good for us... I felt nervous, but calm at the same time... I don't know what it was... I shoulder my weapon and looked at the others...

Jasco: What are you doing? Blain: We cant stay here. Look at this mess... Gear up, we're heading for Robotropolis.

So we did... We packed whatever was left, which wasn't much. I called Tails and told him to get his stuff. He ran to the bunker and came out with a laptop, some uplink cables and some other stuff...

Tails: I'm not sure about this...

Blain: We'll keep an eye on you.

After that, I walked away and looked back. Everyone hesitated except for Jasco, Flash and Zero. I cant blame them. Seeing we got very low firepower and even less vehicles, makes it seem that no one will get out alive out of this one. Hell... We moved through the devastated plains...

Blain: Whatever happened to Thunder, Ice and Magneto?

Flash: They got send back home.

Blain: Why didn't they stay with us? Flash: Orders from above. They were needed somewhere else.

Blain: ... Right...

Few hours later... We were still on our way to Robotropolis... Seeing it was still a long way, I decided to have a talk with Zero...

Blain: So, where did they found you?

Zero: ... Behind a desk...

Blain: Hehe...

Zero: No seriously. I was put out of commission. I made coffee during the Mystic Ruins assault...

Blain: Seriously? Zero: Yeah.

Blain: Why?

Zero: Well... Eeh... Truth be told, we got snitched.

Blain: By who? Zero: I still don't know. We got ambushed and I manage to escape. I'm the only survivor of the team.

Blain: I heard you were a mercenary.

Zero: Yeah. Well, I was. You know, making a quick buck. We even did some bounty hunting.

Blain: I see...

I noticed his two holsters carrying 2 big pistols. I've never seen those...

Blain: What's that your wearing?

Zero: Ah, this?

He pulls out his pistols and gave one to me. It felt a bit heavy.

Zero: Custom made nickel-plated .357 Desert Eagles.

Blain: I've never seen those...

Zero: Well yeah. They date back at the times where guns couldn't talk.

He looked at my weapon and I knew what he meant. I laughed.

Blain: Where'd you get those?

Zero: I got them from a friend a long time ago. As a gift...

I looked at it and pulled out the clip... Big @\$@ bullets were in it...

Blain: I bet it would blow someone's head off at close range...

Zero: Yeah, something like that.

Blain: Remind me that I have to get those.

Zero: No problem...

Many hours later... We reached a small city. The whole city got annihilated. As we were walking through the city, a lot of dead bodies could be seen. The stench of death filled the air as it slowly started to rain. I looked up at the skies and there was still those dark grey clouds with a bit of a dark red aurora in it... Probably caused by those nukes...

Jasco: So... Let me get this straight... Dog's bollocks are good, where bollocks is bad?

Flash: Yup...

Jasco: Dogs bollocks!

I was still looking at the skies when I suddenly heard the others yelling. I looked at Jasco and Flash and saw them aiming their weapons at something. I looked too and saw some rebels. They took cover and so did we. Now long after that, we heard the stomping sounds of a battlewalker...

Flash: Oh bollocks...

Jasco: Your bollocks? Flash: No just bollocks...

Jasco: Dog's bollocks? Flash: No, just plain fracking bollocks...

Jasco: No dog involved?! Flash: No! Just plain fracking bollocks!!

Then all of a sudden...

???: Come on out! It's ok!

Flash: What...?

Jasco peeked to see what was going on. He then smiled and told us to get up. We got up and walked towards them. A hedgehog sticks her head through the hatch... It's a girl... Dark brown with golden locks... Heh, she seemed pretty. I kept staring at her when suddenly Flash poked me...

Flash: Need a bucket Romeo? *chuckles*

We walked ahead and saw a few other hedgehogs... And 3 more rebels... Somehow, they weren't fighting... Jasco started talking to one of the hedgehogs and after he's done, he walked back to me...

Jasco: Look... Eeh...

Blain: Wait... What's going on?

Jasco: These guys are working together. Since the rest of the Red Faction got annihilated, they teamed up to survive.

Blain: I don't fracking believe this...

Jasco: What? Blain: Look! Just look around! Look at where this led too! The total annihilation of every thing?!

Rebel: Hey... frack you, you guys weren't actually welcoming us too...

And those rebels started walking towards us...

Rebel: You think it was fun for us? Living in a shoot hole? Not everyone agreed to do so!

I could see the others looking.. Well, kinda hesitating... Although I had my opinion ready, the others didn't... They seem to be ok with it...

Blain: Jasco... Look at me! I SAID LOOK AT ME DAMN IT!!

Jasco looked at...

Blain: Look what those bastards did to us Jasco! To me!!

I was starting to loose it. I mean, we've been fighting them for a long time and all of a sudden we need to team up with them? frack no... One rebel had a deformed nose and his left middlefinger. He looked kinda familiar but I cant place him. He walked up to Jasco...

Rebel: Look what you guys did to me... You hear me doging about it? I don't fracking think so.

Jasco: What the hell are you talking about? Rebel: Yeah, That's right... You'd probably not remembering it...

All of a sudden he spits in Jasco's face...

Rebel: Maybe that will give you a reason to remember...

He wipes it off and is about to punch the rebel... He didn't punch him, because of the confident look he has. But his eyes betrayed that he was scared... Jasco pushed him and poked Flash...

Jasco: Heh... Chicken bollocks...

Flash: *chuckles*

Rebel: What? You want some?

Flash: I'll bet your momma does...

Rebel: Hey! frack you!!

???: Hey!! Cool it!!

Everyone looked at the girl...

???: Look... It doesn't matter now who started first. All we know now is that we all get killed if we don't do something quick about it. And to be honest, we need all the help we can get. And if it means that we need to work together with our enemies, then so be it! It's time to put an end to it! To stop the slaughtering!

Blain: The Red Faction killed millions like us. That's not slaughtering, that's genocide...

Rebel: Define "like us"...

Blain: What the hell are you talking about?

Rebel: You got those stripe patterns on your head. The others don't have that, so why do you? That black one has it too. You wanna know why?

He walked up to me and taps on my vest...

Rebel: It's because your created. So don't act like your one of them. Your still the RRTS and created by Robotnik. Your not one of them... If you ask me, your nothing more then a hypocrite asshole trying to squeeze in somewhere for protection and not to get killed...

Well that was kinda harsh was it...? Considering that I actually died before made me lose my mind... I jumped on the guy and punched him. Not long after that, the other rebels ran towards me. At that point, Flash, Jasco, and Zero ran too and it was a big fight. It didn't lasted for long, because Amy shouted...

Amy: Stop it!! Don't you see?! She has a point! We need to put an end to this! Let's put our differences away and let the past be the past... If we want to make it out alive, then we better need to work together...

Everyone thought for a while...

Rebel: ... The pink thing is right...

Amy: *glares at rebel*

It stayed quiet for a while...

Jasco: Yeah... Let's end this... I've had enough...

Blain: But... They killed everyone we'd ever care for...

Jasco: That's why I want it to end. I don't wanna lose another one...

I looked at the others and they were standing at Jasco's side... Even the rebel who agreed with

Amy... The other rebels are looking at him a bit baffled... I looked at Jasco and all the others. I shoulder my weapon and walked off...

Rebel: You want to leave? You want to go off and fight the war by yourself? All right, all right... I won't stop you... Good luck.

I looked down, closed my eyes and sighed. I turned around... The other rebels are looking at each other and joined them too. The rebel who agreed with Amy sat down, grabbed a cigarette out of his pockets and lights it up... I walked back to them...

Jasco: Well good...

Blain: Does the Red Faction know this...? Rebel: Yeah... There assembling troops now...

Flash: Heh, sweet...

Rebel: So... What's the plan...?

We told them we were heading to Robotropolis for the final battle. It's practically suicide, but hell, it might be as well over...

We kept on walking for hours again until we saw Robotropolis in the distance. The rain got heavier. I looked up and still saw the dark red aurora in the skies. It was actually a beautiful sight with the rain...

As we were walking over a hill, we could see a couple of thousand creatures like us. We joined them... The kids got safe somewhere...

Not long after that, we saw a few thousand rebels arriving from the east. Five gunships flew above us while four Battlewalkers were escorting the troops. The Red Faction and Freedom Fighters merged together as the GLA... The Global Liberation Army... All of the troops including us took position at the open plains, standing in a 10x10 line... A guy of the Red Faction stepped forward to give a speech to the troops... We all looked at Jasco... Seeing he's the oldest one... He sighed and walked towards the guy. I looked towards the city and saw something coming towards us in large numbers...

Rebel: Soldiers of the Global Liberation Army!! From now on!! It is either victory!! Or death!! The outcome, isn't sure!! But if you suddenly see forests with happy woodland creatures picking up daisies!!

Don't bother!! You're already dead!!

Jasco: We got a reason to do this!! This, is for freedom!! We're gonna make them taste the sun!! And kiss the motherfracking rainbow!!

Rebel: So!! GO!! Fight for freedom!! And die with honour!! WE WILL DIE ON OUR FEET THEN TO LIVE ON OUR KNEES!!

Jasco: CAN I GET A HOO-AH?!!

Then, suddenly, thousands of soldiers yelled hoo-ah...

Rebel: IMPERIAL DROID ARMY APPROACHING!!

We looked ahead and saw the droid army approaching... Thousands of them... They all stopped in a single row... a couple of hundred meter before us...

Droid: Halt.

The tension was unbearable... No one talked, no one made a noise... The only thing I could hear was the rain pouring down on us... I tightened my left glove and blinked a few times... I was fracking nervous...

To be continued...

19 - Chapter 19... What goes around comes around...

It wasn't that long that we've been standing there. Just a couple of minutes, but it seemed like hours. The rebel next to me lighted up a cigarette again...

Rebel: I hate Mondays...

He looked at me and offered a smoke... As always, I couldn't resist and I lighted it up...

Rebel: Death smiles at us... All we can do is smile back...

We all looked ahead and the droid army didn't moved an inch. This eerie silence came back. All I heard was the rain... I took puffs from my cigarette and noticed it died out... Then, as everything seemed to go in slow motion... I saw the rebel lifting up his fist...

Rebel: PRESEEEEEEEEEEEEEENT!! ARMS!!

At that point everyone raised there weapons... I looked up to the sky and fell the rain on my face... I'd hate to admit it, but... I was frackng nervous and almost pissed my pants if I had any... Jasco looked at me and smiled for some reason... At that point I looked back at the rebel... He made a go gesture... And all hell broke loose... Everyone was shouting and yelling, and running through the chaos as bullets rained down. Jasco, Flash, Zero and me ran towards the droid army. All of a sudden, I tripped over a dead body, and almost got squished by a battlewalker. Just in a nick of time I managed to get up and get out of the way. I lost sight of the others...

As we got further into the frontline, lots of dead bodies were scattered throughout the plains. The gunships managed to take out most of the droids, but they got shot down as reinforcements arrived. Then we saw it... Probably the most feared weapon ever to be seen... SCUD launchers... A vehicle that is armed with a missile. A Very big missile... It got fired and landed on the east side , wiping off the forces that were there. But there was no time stopping seeing an artillery battery was being prepared... We had to take those in... In a hurry, I just gathered some rebels and told them about the artillery barrage. Well, screaming is more like it because of the noise... We ran towards it, taking out everything on the way... As soon as we reached it, we saw some tanks... Not ours... They had a little flame burning at the end of the barrel... I knew those weren't ordinary tanks... Those were flamethrower tanks... They lay down a wall of fire as people and creatures got barbequed, screaming... I've seen a lot of things over the years, but not anything like

this... As the battlewalkers took care of the flamethrower tanks, another thread was pushing forwards...

Rebel: OVERLORD APPROACHING!! KEEP YOUR HEAD DOWN!!!

I turned around and saw immediately what an Overlord was... A big @\$ tank, with two massive cannons mounted on each side... I stared at it for a short time, until I got pulled away by one of the rebels. It fired his cannons and made an ear deafening noise. After it cleared up, I saw that the flamethrower tanks for annihilated by the battlewalkers. Four of them plummeted to the earth once they got blown up by the Overlord. As the remaining troops ran towards the Overlord to take it over, we ran towards the artillery battery, and managed to take it over. Seeing that was secured, the other forces could go through. I grabbed my binoculars and saw that more droids arrived in the distance...

Blain: Oh shoot...

Rebel: What? Blain: Reinforcements from the north. Prepare the artillery barrage.

Rebel: Yes sir!

Blain: We gotta get hold of Robotropolis otherwise we have to fill thousands of bodybags tomorrow...

The rebel rounded up some guys and paired up. Two man took place behind one of the four artillery barrage. I looked back and checked if they were ready. They all confirmed they were ready. I took out my binoculars and looked in the distance. The binoculars gave the range and the coordinates. Heh, even binoculars were high-tech these days...

Blain: Coordinates! 34 longitude! 27 nort-north west!! 45-2-14!!

Rebel: Roger, shot over.

At that point, I looked back and saw the four massive artillery going up all at the same time. Once they got into position, they fired one by one. Twelve shells in total... I looked back through my binoculars and saw the 12 white trail smokes getting closer to there position... I saw the impacts of it, and a few seconds later, I heard the explosions. After it cleared up, I saw the wrecks of the droids... At that point, I turned around and saw the Overlord heading our way, with a few rebels sitting on top of it. They moved into the direction where the droids came from... We ran off towards them, with still no signs of the others. I heard I got a message on my PDA. I check it, and it said that Tails went out on his own to the rendezvous point... That was not part of the plan...

Blain: Goddamn it...

Rebel: What is it?

Blain: You, you and you, follow me.

I checked my PDA and tried to locate Jasco. He was in a bunker, a few miles from here... The four of us ran towards it but on the way, we saw Tails...

Blain: Tails?! WHAT THE HELL DO YOU THINK YOUR DOING?!!

Tails: What?!

Blain: THIS ISNT PART OF THE PLAN!! YOU WERE SUPPOSE TO STAY PUT!!

Tails: Jasco contacted me and said that I had to move to this location!

Blain: What?!

He opens up his laptop and showed me the message. The ID code was the same one Jasco used on his PDA, so it was from him... Something went wrong... I felt nervous again...

Blain: shoot...

Rebel: What? Blain: It's a fracking ambush...

Tails: So what do we do now?!

Blain: ... They probably got caught or something... We need to check it out. Let the others know where we are.

The rebel made contact and told our position. After that, we ran towards the location pinpointed on the PDA... As soon as we reached it, we only saw a steel door located in a hill. We tried opening it, but it was locked. One of the rebels placed an explosive on the door and it got breached. We all entered the door one by one, with Tails right behind me... The door leads to a stair. As we lowered down the stairs, it became more dark. I turned on my flashlights... There was something eerie about this base... The atmosphere, its so... silent... As we reached down, I told one of the rebel to look for threats while we covered the other areas... Everything seemed clear but we could hear the other rebel screaming. I looked back and saw he got pulled over by something, and heard some bone cracking... And then it went silent again...

Rebel: Holy shoot... Did you see that...

Blain: Yeah... Tails... Stick close to me... Tails...?

I looked back and saw that Tails was petrified... He stared with wide eyes at the location where the rebel stood...

Blain: Check your ammo...

Rebel: I'm good...

Blain: Let's go... Tails, stay with us.

We slowly moved closer to the place where the rebel stood... The closer we got, the more

nervous I felt... It was still dark, so we couldn't see anything... I gestured to stop and I peeked around the corner... I shined my flashlights in the hallway and I could see blood spatters on the wall...

Blain: What the hell...

Rebel: Look... eeh...

Blain: Hey...

Rebel: What? Blain: No fear...

Rebel: Oh yeah... Right...

I told him that, but... I was scared too... We looked both ways and entered the hallway... I suddenly felt something dripping on my arm. I looked up and saw blood dripping down from the ceiling. I looked back, and all of a sudden I heard screaming. I looked behind me and saw the rebel was caught by something, bashing him against the walls and ceiling... I didn't hesitate and shot immediately on it... As I aimed on it, I saw what it was...

Blain: Holy shoot...

It was a large droid... Not anything like the ones Robotnik builds as his army... This one... I don't know how to describe it... Very large, but he didn't have weapons... Although that's what I thought... As I shot him, he looked at and let go of the rebel. Instead, he grabbed me by the left arm and did the same thing he did with the rebel. Tossing me around like a ragdoll... Damn that hurts... I took a blow on the head and I felt very dizzy... Some of my equipment fell down as I was being tossed around... But he didn't stop. I saw that Tails ran over to pick up something. He got an EMP grenade...

Blain: THROW IT TAILS!! DO IT!!!

He turned over to Tails and dropped me... At that point, Tails threw the grenade and the droid died down and fell on the ground... I could see Tails hesitate to walk over to me, but after a while, he runs towards me... I felt very dizzy and disoriented...

Tails: You ok...?

I looked down on my left arm and saw it was damaged... Whatever it was, it was very strong... My head hurts like hell and I felt that I got a small hole in it, bleeding... I felt my nose and it was also bleeding. Tails helped me to get up... I picked up my PDA and saw we were near the place where Jasco was...

Blain: Let's go... It's not far...

We walked along the hallway and opened a door. And there they were... Robotnik interrogating Jasco, Flash and Zero... All beaten up, chained down on some kind of platform. Jasco looked the worst... I pulled out my sidearm and shot Robotnik in the leg... He yelled and fell down...

Blain: How you been Robotnik...?

Robotnik: You traitor...

I aimed at Robotnik while Tails released the others...

Blain: You guys ok?

Flash: I got the wind knocked out of me, but I'm fine.

Jasco: I'm good...

Blain: How about you Zero?

Zero: Good, good...

I grabbed my radio...

Blain: Six-One, this is Six-Four, go to UHF secure. I've got some good news.

Rebel: What is it?

Blain: Robotnik apprehended, pack your bags boys, war's over...

I looked at Robotnik. The once mighty dictator is now nothing more than a sad, pathetic case, seeing him down on his knees... I saw a pack of smokes... I didn't know Robotnik smoked... I grabbed one...

Blain: You mind...?

Robotnik: You were perfect Blain... The Ultimate Lifeform... How...?

Blain: ... You shouldn't have given me a free will... We're not like droids...

Flash: Price of technology...

I tossed Flash my sidearm while I carry Jasco. I saw that he had trouble keeping his balance... Flash puts the gun against his back and told him to move. As Robotnik stood up and walked with his, he managed to slam down a button on one of the consoles. Flash pistol-whipped him and we continued walking...

Robotnik: Hey... Before we go outside, I want you to see my latest additions to the Imperial Droid Army...

Zero: Will you shut the hell up...

Robotnik: No! It's right around the corner...

He was right. Just around the corner was a massive steel door. Flash holds the gun against Robotnik's head while he punched down some numbers... The door opened up... What we saw was a bit shocking... We only saw a few of them...

Robotnik: Say hello to my newest additions... The Koenig DDR-333 series...

Robotnik punched down another button, this time, the hole hangar was illuminated... What we saw was the droids were the same as the droid that attacked me... But now that there were hundreds of them...

Robotnik: Attention Koenig Units!!

At that point, every droid responded... They probably had voice recognition...

Blain: Shut him up for fracks sake!!

Robotnik: AH!! So!! You've encountered one!

Blain: Yeah... Not very welcoming...

Robotnik: Then you know what they're capable of...

Robotnik was just about to talk to them again until Flash punched him on the head and closed the doors...

Flash: Oh Bollocks...

Jasco: Heh... Your bollocks...?

Flash: ... You never learn do you...?

Jasco: Nope...

Blain: fracking hell, we need to get out of here...

As we ran upstairs, I contacted the artillery team that we needed artillery fire...

Rebel: We took quite some blows sir, but we've got the initiative!

Blain: Standby with the artillery fire.

Rebel: Roger.

As we reached on top of the stairs, Zero wanted Robotnik to walk out first, Flash however, got another idea...

Flash: Right, on your knees.

Robotnik: What?

Flash: I said on your knees!!

Flash shot Robotnik in his other leg, making him fell down. Flash pulled out handcuffs and chained him on the banisters. I've never seen Flash doing something like this...

Flash: ... Saves us ammo... Bring on the artillery fire...

Robotnik: Y-You cant do that to me!

He looked at me...

Robotnik: Tell them Blain!! I BROUGHT YOU BACK TO LIFE!! I CREATED YOU!!!

I flicked my cigarette against him and smiled, after that, we started to walk away...

Robotnik: Oh well... Doesn't matter... The Koenings got activated and know there orders...

Blain: What...?

Robotnik: Heehee...

Zero: Come on, we need to go!! Now!!

Robotnik: Tootles... Say hi to Epsilon 939 for me!

After that, he started laughing... We ran up as fast as we could and kicked the door open. After everyone got out, we closed the door and I yelled for the artillery fire... We ran away to safer grounds. In the mean time, the survivors arrived to back us up...

Few minutes after that, it rained down artillery fire... There's no way Robotnik could have survived that... After the smoke got cleared up and saw the devastation, the rebels and creatures cheered... Not long after that... We saw the massive doors of hangar opening. The Koenig droids walked out... About two hundred of them... They formed a line, and grabbed there weapons installed on the back, everything simultaneously...

Blain: We're fracked...

Zero: We've just lost the initiative...

To be continued...

20 - Chapter 20... My dearest Jasco...

This is it... The last battle was about to begin... And it was still raining... We still got a few hundred forces left, still, we still need to give everything we got. Ammo is running low on most of the forces... The battlewalkers and the gunships were shot down...

Blain: Tails...

Tails: Yes? Blain: Listen up. Take some rebels to protect you and take out the powerplants. Find the command center to shut these things down. Hurry up, we cant hold them forever.

Tails: Eehm...

Blain: Go, now.

I gestured to some rebels that they had to go along with Tails. After they've left, I looked at the small bunch of armed droids. Those really weren't the same droids Robotnik used to build. They looked... very advanced... I looked back and saw Tails running away with the rebels. Flash poked me and smiled at me, while I sighed... At that point, all hell broke loose once again... The Overlord tank came in action but was taken out very fast... As we ran for cover, I suddenly remembered the 4 ammo clips Tails gave me once... With the Tungsten core ammo... I dove behind a rock, opened my backpack and hurt bullets ricocheting off the rocks. Only 1 clip left. I armed it and set it on single fire... And shot them one by one...

Tails: It's right this way!

Tails ran ahead while the 2 other rebels are seeing him running away... The other one sees Tails waving that it's the other building... He also gestures that a few droids are there...

Rebel: Now he's saying the target building is actually a couple blocks down on his left. But he says if he's seen outside of it, he'll be shot.

Rebel 2: I'll fracking shoot him a couple blocks down! Tell him I want his skinny @\$\$ parked in front of the goddamn building!!

Rebel: We're suppose to look after him sir.

Rebel 2: I don't give a shoot... Allies or no allies, he's still a creature. Is he sure this time?

Rebel: He sounds scared shootless sir...

Rebel 2: Good, that's always a good sign..

The rebels followed Tails... The three of them hides in the tall grass. As the rebels stood up to take care of the droids, they got shot down... Tails scared the hell out of him and started to run away. He turns around and saw that a few of them got taken out... He turns around to run away again but all of a sudden he sees someone familiar...

Tails: Shadow!

Shadow: Stay here.

Shadow walked towards the droids and made a fist. A dark red energy aurora filled his fist and punched one of the droids. As he saw in a blink of an eye that the other droids aimed at him, he snapped his fingers and stopped time. Then all of a sudden, Tails sees that the 4 remaining droids got annihilated...

Tails: Whoa...

Shadow: Weren't you suppose to be doing something?

Tails: Oh yeah! Follow me!

We had a hard time fighting off these droids...

Blain: Why aren't you shooting?!

Flash: We're not being shot at yet!!

Blain: How can you tell?!!

Flash: A hiss means it's close! A snap means-

At that point, bullets were whizzing by and ricocheted...

Flash: Now they're shooting at us!

Blain: Jasco!? How you doing?!

Jasco: We're running low here!!

Zero: Same here!!

Flash: We need to pull back!!

Jasco: He's right Blain!!

Flash: You got us this far!! You did good today!! Now you gotta start thinking about getting us the frack out of here!!

Tails: This is it, open those doors Shadow...

Shadow destroyed the massive steel doors... As there walking inside, a large mainframe computer is seen. Tails unpacks his bags and gets out his laptop. He connects it with the mainframe...

Tails: Laptop deployed, link establishing.

Shadow: Hurry up...

The droids started to advance in our position. We had to pull back, there was not other option. As we pulled back towards the city, the droids scattered around in pairs of 2... This was something never seen before, these things got smarter... I lost sight of Zero and Flash, while Jasco is right behind me. We took cover in an ally... I peeked around the corner to see if it was clear... I suddenly got that nervous feeling again...

Blain: Its clear. I go first, cover me...

Jasco: I'm almost dry...

Blain: Get over it... You ready?

Jasco: Are you? Blain: ... Yeah...

Jasco: Go, I got ya covered...

I sprinted to the other side of the street and took cover behind some rubble and looked for threats. I looked at Jasco and made the go gesture. I turned around and saw him running towards... At that point, shots were heard... I turned around and saw Jasco down...

Blain: Oh frack...

I hesitated to go to him... I saw his that his chest was bloody... He closed his eyes, lifted his head and looked at me... At that point I didn't care if I could die again. I ran to him as fast as I could and was almost shot down... I pulled him back in the alley and hid behind a wall... He was breathing heavily...

Jasco: Ta-take this...

He reached out to his chest pockets and pulled out a letter...

Jasco: Co-copy it, co-copy it and save it for me.... It's a le-letter from my dad... It's g-got blood on it man... It's the only thing I ha-have left...

Blain: You can do it yourself Jasco, please be quiet...

Without thinking, I put the letter in my pocket. Shortly after that, I heard the droids were passing by...

Tails: Almost there!

Shadow: Well hurry up!!

Tails: I'm trying!!

Shadow: People are dying out there Tails!!

Tails: OK... Ok... Remember this code. It gives access to the command centre...

Shadow: Hurry up!!!

Tails: Ok, first digit... eeh... 4!

Shadow: ...

Tails: Eeh, 6, 8, 1, 0, 0, W, R, 4... S, N...

Shadow: Well?! Tails: It's still decoding!!

Shadow: *sighs*

Tails: 4, 4, Z, X.

Shadow: And...?

Tails: It's done uploading! Go!

Tails and Shadow ran towards a door...

Tails: Give me the digits!

Shadow: Eeh... 68100WR4SN44ZX.

Tails punches the numbers in... The door opened and saw the control panel with a few computers. Tails hooks his laptop up to one of them...

Tails: Ok... UAV is online and transmitting... Uplink established...

Shadow: Can you get in?

Tails: Hold on...

Shadow: Well?

Tails: No! The data is decoded! I cant! Its protected with a PHP script, blocking all incoming TCP/IP addresses!! It's...

Shadow: ... Which means...?

Tails: Password protected...

Shadow: Hack it...

We couldn't stay in the alley. I carried Jasco over my shoulders, which meant I had to leave my

weapons. Walking went slow because Jasco was tall and heavy for someone of my size... At that point, we're being shot at...

Blain: frack!!

Flash: Blain!! Is that you?!

Blain: Flash?!! Come here!! Gimme a hand!!

At that point, Flash and Zero came out of the other side of the street... Flash saw what happened with Jasco...

Flash: Damn...

At that point, Zero got a message...

Zero: Artillery is firing on our position. We need to get moving, now.

Blain: Come on! Gimme a hand!!

As we carried Jasco, we saw an APC heading our way. It's ours. There pulling away from the city because of the artillery fire... They saw us and pulled over.

Blain: We got a wounded! Let him in!!

Driver: Hey, you guys in the back, make some room!!

We opened up the backdoors and Jasco got put on a stretcher. We were hoping to hitch a ride too... At that point, droids were heading our way...

Driver: There's no more room! Get on top!!

Flash: ON TOP?!! ARE YOU frackING INSANE?!! THESE THINGS ARE frackING BULLET MAGNETS!!!

The doors closed, and the APC waited for us so that we could take cover behind it. Then it drove off, and we ran along with it while bullets ricocheted off the hull... I looked back and saw that those Koenig droids died down... Tails did it... He took out the command centre...

We could see in the skies that the familiar white smoke trails of the artillery was fired... The APC drove faster, which left us behind... The 3 of us tried to keep, but we just couldn't... As we zigzag through streets, jumping over obstacles and dead bodies, the first explosion was heard... We kept on running until we saw the others... The droids that were following us got annihilated by our troops...

The 3 of us just fell down in exhaustion and Flash pulled out a water bottle. He drinks a lot, the passes it around to Zero and me. Flash looked at me and smiled, and I looked at Zero, and he smiled too... They were looking towards the city and as I looked, I saw the artillery raining down on the city. I sighed and closed my eyes...

After sitting for a while, I saw the APC turning our way and stopped. I stood up, walked towards it and opened the doors. And there was Jasco... I jumped inside the APC and closed the doors...

Blain: We did it Jasco... The Imperial Droid Army got wiped out... We've won the war... It's finally over... And now we're free... Thanks for everything...

After looking at him for a while, I zipped up the body bag...

Blain: I'll be seeing you again mate... But... Not yet... Just not yet...

After a while... I got out of the APC and saw Shadow standing there... He looked at me and smiled... Something I've never seen him do that... Tails was there too... At that point, I took a weapon from one of the Rebels. Flash looked at me...

Flash: What are you doing?

Blain: I'm going back in... Only the Koenig droids got taken out. Our guys are still out there...

Flash: But...

Blain: Every time I get back, Sonic, or Amy ask me, "Hey Blain, why do you do it? Why? Your addicted to war or something?" You know what I say? I won't say a goddamn word. Why? They don't understand. They don't understand why I do it. They don't understand that it's about the men next to you, and that's it. That's all it is... Because... Nobody gets left behind...

Flash looked at me a bit baffled... I took some rebels and looked for the very few remaining droids and rescued some survivors...

I don't know how long I've been in the APC. I just sat there, looking at him while memories popped up from my friends... I'm not feeling guilty... Instead, I'm happy for him... He's with Tala and the others now, his mom, his dad... Something I never had... Still, I'm the only one left now... And to be honest... I'm scared really... Scared of what the future holds in store for me... For us... Will this ever happen again? Well... I don't know... The war is over now, but the war has ended for those that died... The things that happened to me are something that marked me for life. Now that the war is truly over, I don't know how I will handle it... Still, I'm not someone who keeps doging about the past. It's something you have to accept and walk on to the future, never to look back. But sometimes, looking back can be a good thing. Like you've walked a thousand mile and you look back and think, "whoa, I've been through that"... Each journey begins with a step... And today... I took my first step... Trying to live a normal life for once in my life...

The following days, Flash, Zero and I stayed with Sonic and the others. We helped to build a new small village located near the sea and stayed for a while. Flash was building something too, but he didn't want to tell that at first...

Zero left a few days ago, without any notification. He left a letter explaining he had to go... He left a Desert Eagle on the table saying that was for me... And that he thanked us for everything we did... Thunder, Ice and Magneto got separated from us ever since we've rescued them. But, there still alive and are opening a cocktail bar on Angel Island...

Then one morning, while I was outside lying in the sand and gazing at the skies, Flash came sitting next to me, carrying a backpack...

Flash: So... What are you gonna do now?

Blain: I don't know, I guess I'm out of a job now... What are you gonna do?

Flash: I'm gonna do something that I've always wanted to do... You know, exploring things and stuff. I never got the chance to visit the planet...

Blain: Like a globetrotter?

Flash: Yup... I used to have some books about the planet... I always wanted to visit...

Blain: So what's stopping you then...?

Flash: Nothing really... It's just that... Well... We've been through a lot and all, and...

Blain: Heh... I'm not stopping you... But... I'm still wondering...

Flash: What is it?

Blain: You know my story... Where I came from, what I did in the past and present... Maybe even the future..

Flash: You want to know where I come from...?

Blain: Well yeah...

Flash: Heh... No... No, I'll keep that story to myself... You wouldn't believe me...

I looked at Flash a bit baffled. He looked back and smiled.

Flash: You wanna know what I did the past couple of weeks?

Blain: ... Yeah sure...

We both got up, walking along the beach. He build a raft...

Blain: Eehm... You took 4 weeks just to build a raft...?

Flash: Well hey, it's sea worthy...

Blain: So your leaving this place...?

Flash: Yup... Already said my goodbyes to the others...

He opened his backpack and took out an old hat... He puts it on, flicks it and winked at me...

Flash: Later mate...

Blain: Heh, take care of yourself man...

Flash: You too... I'll see you some day...

We slapped our fists against each other. After that, Flash dragged his raft towards the sea as I was still looking at him. He gets in the water and walked until the current was strong enough to take him away... He waved at me and I waved back, with a fairly weak smile on my face... I could hear him cheering on the small raft and singing, until the sound faded away and the raft was nothing more then a small dot in the horizon... I turned around and saw Shadow standing behind me...

That night, I was sitting outside again, in the tall grass gazing at the stars. Somehow I thought about Jasco and all the others who passed away over the years, and why I was still alive. I suddenly remembered Jasco giving the letter to me. I pulled out the letter out of my pocket. I was

still wearing the vest... I don't know why I did that... I grabbed a piece of paper and a pen... I unfolded the letter... And I saw the date... The letter was 23 years old... I looked up to the sky and saw a shooting star... I smiled and I started to copy the letter on the new piece of paper...

"My dearest Jasco..."

The end...

21 - FAQ, Funfacts and Outtakes!

FAQ, Funfacts and Outtakes!

FAQ

#1: How old was Jasco? Since he wasn't created and already lived a life before the war?

Jasco's true age is 32. At the age of 8, his parents got captured before the riots started. A year later, he received a letter from his father, but shortly after that, his parents died in one of those death camps. At the age of 10, he met Tala and they stayed together ever since. He was 15 when the first riots broke out and joined the Red Faction to become what he is today.

**#2: There's some confusion... Did the war lasted 17 years or did the riots only took 6 years?!
GAAH!!! I'M CONFUSED!!!**

Robotnik was someone who used every person on the planet as a slave. As a result of that, riots were taking place, getting more violent with each year. The riots lasted for 11 years until everything escalated in a full blown guerrilla war. The full blown war lasted for 6 years.

#3: What's FUBAR? I've seen it a couple of times...

FUBAR means fracked Up Beyond All Recognition. A term that is used to a point where nothing can get any worse...

#4 What does Deus Ex Machina means...?

Deus Ex Machina is Latin, literally meaning that a plot ends with a illogical end. For example, making someone wake up and realize it was all a dream, or an angel suddenly appears to solve all problems. It originated with Greek and Roman theatre, when a machine would lower actors playing a god or gods on stage to resolve a hopeless situation. The phrase is often translated as "god from the machine". The machine referred to in the phrase is the crane device employed in the task.

If you have more questions, let me know.

*****Fun Facts*****

Lots of the vehicles described in the story are based on the vehicles of the game Battlefield 2142. It's a futuristic game, and seeing that Mobius was set in the future because of Robotnik's technology, I thought it would fit in nicely. ^-^

This is the longest story I ever did. I wanted it to be something special and serious. Seeing Blain's new design was a lot more serious.

The scars that Blain has are the same scars I have. I also got a large scar under my eye and on my chest... So, he's mostly based on me. From the outside and on the inside.

The part where Blain gets his arm blown off, is an idea that I had in the previous story explaining his past... Compared to this story, the old one was complete bullshoot... ^^

*****Outtakes*****

Ok, this stuff has been taken out for several reasons.

1: It was too random to put in the story seeing this was a serious story...

2: ...

Here it goes...

Rebel: Now who was guarding the doors?!!

Rebel2: It was all George!!!

Rebel3: The hell it was!! I was guarding the windows!!!

Rebel2: Who gives a shoot about the windows?!!!

Rebel: Will somebody fracking chase them!!!

Rebel2: We're on break! Let Stephan get to chase them!

Rebel: STEPHAN IS DEAD!!!!

Rebel3: I don't care, he's fracking fast!

Flash: Blain... Let me tell you something what a good friend told me once...

Blain: What is it...?

Flash: Look, Blain... Everything the light touches is our kingdom...

Blain: What the hell are you talking about?! O_o

Flash: ... I saw it in a movie once...

Robotnik is playing with his Halo action figures again... shoot, he needs to grow up...

Robotnik: I am Master Chief! Fear me you stupid aliens!!

Blain: DOCTOR!!!!

Robotnik jumps up frightened, and throws away his action figures...

Robotnik: I SWEAR BLAIN!!! I DIDN'T PLAY WITH YOUR ACTION FIGURES!!!!

Blain': It's me...

Robotnik: Oh... What do you want...?

Robotnik: Yes... Now go away, I've got some important scheming to do!! Mwuahaha!!

He picks up the action figures again... T_T

Eggman: OMG Master Chief!! you will never destroy our Halo armada!!!

Blain: *Sigh...*

And eeh... That's it folks... I'm actually kinda sad that its ended, because I had a lot of fun writing it... I hoped you enjoyed the story as much as I loved writing it... Peace out!!

MrGimp