

Living Regrets

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Submitted: June 11, 2005

Updated: July 5, 2005

Dib's living a nightmare and one filled with sorrow and regret. Is there anything he can do to change the past or will he learn some things are better left alone. Perhaps there is a way for him to find peace....

Provided by Fanart Central.

http://www.fanart-central.net/stories/user/toxic_dreamer/15771/Living-Regrets

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1 - thinking of the past

ch.1

Dib sat at the kitchen table swirling his spoon in his cereal and looking down at it blankly. His eyes blood shot from tears and body weak from lack of food and sleep he stared down at his dinner with no intention of eating. Gaz walked in making herself a bowl of cereal and sitting in front of Dib she stared over at him, irritated.

"you need to get over it, dib" gaz said "this is starting to get pathetic not to mention your seriously beginning to tick me off"

Dib didn't respond in fact he hardly acknowledge that gaz was even in the same room as him.

"you really are pathetic" gaz said "you spoil my appetite"

with that she picked up her bowl of cereal and made her way towards the door once she reached it she turned and looked back at Dib

"sometimes you just have to accept the things you can't change" she said "like me having you for a brother"

Dib stopped stirring his spoon and looked up at Gaz but she didn't wait around for him to say anything and walked out of the room. Dib waited a moment sighed and got up from the table walking into the living room. Gaz sat on the couch eating her cereal and watching tv.

"gaz" dib said his voice low and tired "I..."

"be quiet Dib" gaz interrupted rudely "i'm trying to watch TV"

"i....i'm sorry" dib said softly almost as if he were apologizing for so much more than just interrupting her show. Gaz hadn't heard him and if she had she didn't care.

Dib walked slowly up the stairs to his room falling onto his bed and planting his face in his pillow. For the past month or so he had stayed in his room a lot drowning in his sorrow with only his regrets.

'how can i just accept it' dib thought 'how can i live with myself after what i've done' he turned to lay on his back looking up at the ceiling his walls were bare, hardly any signs that dib was interested in anything especially the paranormal. His walls were blank but papers layed scatter around his room, a mess of folders and documents none of which seemed important to him anymore.

'how can i make things better' dib thought 'i've caused so much pain, i've done nothing worth being proud of.....nothing'

Dib was tired but he couldn't sleep everytime he tried he was plagued by horrible nightmares and would wake up in a cold sweat. He didn't need to sleep for nightmares to come though, for him everyday seemed to be a living nightmare one which would never end.

Dib swallowed hard his throat was soar though he hadn't talked much lately and his eyes burned from

being awake so long. he felt slightly nauseous but knew it was probably because he hadn't eaten and he wanted nothing more than to drift into a dreamless sleep.

'I can't stay here any longer' he told himself 'if time won't heal these wounds then distance will have to'

Dib got up he didn't feel like bringing anything with him except what little money he carried. He wasn't sure where he would go or what he would do, all he knew was that he wanted to get away. He was only 16 and probably wouldn't get far, he wouldn't have a place to stay, and would run out of money but the logic of the situation didn't matter to him he only wanted to get away.

Dib walked down stairs Gaz was still watching TV but had finished her cereal some time ago. Dib walked past her towards the door opened it and then looked back at her

"Gaz" Dib said

"What is it" Gaz asked sounding annoyed and not bothering to look over in his direction

"I just.. wanted to say that I..." Dib hesitated for a moment trying to put the words together in his mind "I don't regret having you as a sister"

Gaz looked up at him questioningly "Ooookay" she said slowly "What are you up to"

Dib let out a sigh "I'm just sorry I'm such a burden on you" he said turning to walk out the door

"Hay Dib" Gaz yelled getting his attention "Don't be so dramatic"

Dib smiled weakly at his sister's response "Bye Gaz" he said

"Whatever" Gaz said turning her attention back to the TV screen "I'll see ya later" and with that Dib walked out the door.

It was getting dark but a dim light still shone through the windows of one very weird house in a small neighborhood not far from where Dib lived. Dib himself had been staring at the house for an hour or so now just staring and thinking.

'How could it have gone so far' Dib thought to himself 'How could I have let it go so far'

There was a loud crack of thunder that startled Dib momentarily, it was going to rain soon but he didn't care. His mind was fixated on the house and to the events that had led up to where he was now

"It started out like any other day" Dib thought 'How was I to know it would end so horribly'

It was a typical morning Dib had spied Zim waiting for the bell to ring outside the HI SKOOL. He was looking over some of his latest plans with a smile of accomplishment, of course Dib didn't need to wonder what it was about he had figured Zim's plan out the night before

"Hay Zim" Dib yelled "I know what your up to and it won't work"

"Pathetic earthling" Zim replied "my plans are fool-proof there is nothing you can do"

"That's what you think Zim" Dib said "you just wait 'til school's out"

"Oh I'll wait 'til schools out all right" Zim said "after which you will know the true meaning of superior being"

dib sighed 'i know what he meant by superior being' he thought to himself 'and to be honest theres no such thing' Dib looked to the ground where a single flower had began to bloom in front of Zims yard.'it's wrong to think that your life is worth more than someone elses....we are all equal' dib thought 'you were my equal Zim'

skool was out and before Dib knew it he was chasing zim down the street both of them calling the other names as they went. Suddenly they came to an alley it was deserted and so Zim turned to face dib one on one. There was a struggle a long yet pety fight on the concrete ground. Dib pushed zim off and both got to thier feet zim staring at dib with pure hatred.

"soon You will suffer the wrath of the irken army" zim said "i shall destroy all you know and love dib-beast"

"why you..." dib began

"thats not all dib" zim said smiling evilly "when the armada arrives you and the rest of your kind will be destroyed and those that aren't will be made slaves to the irken empire"

Dib felt rage boil up inside him never had zim come right out and told him such things before and he could hardly stand it.

"why did you have to push me" Dib said to himself instantly feeling guilty for blaming zim. there was another crack of thunder but this time Dib didn't flinch.

Dib reached for the laser gun on his side and brought it up to where it was aimed at zims heart.Zim quickly replaced his fearfull look with a cocky smile

"you don't have what it takes" zim said

dib didn't answer his face stern and serious rage stil flowing through him. Zim quickly took note of this his fearfull expressing returning he turned in slight panic to run.

Dib began to give chase at first close behind but soon zims spider legs emerged and he began to run faster.Dib's mind was racing 'this is it' he thought to himself firing the gun at zim.

Zim screamed in pain almost before it seemed the laser even hit him. He stumbled before falling to the ground flat on his face. Dib rushed over a since of pride in him hearing zim whimper. The enjoyment Dib was getting out of his enemys crys ended quickly as he pushed zim over on his back.

'I didn't think I'd...' dibs train of thought stopped memories still flooding through his mind

2 - for the last time

-----ch.2

Zims eyes were closed tightly in pain his hands pressed against his wound. dark purple boold was coming from the area where a human heart would normally be found. Dib looked in horror and surprize at zim, he had know idea the laser would have hit so hard. He had fired at zim from behind 'had it gone right through'.

Zim looked up at dib first with a hurt expression like it had all been a game and dib had broken the rules. It didn't take long for zim to find himself again, replacing the sad and betrayed look on his face with anger. Dib didn't know what to do he got down on his knees beside zim

"zim I...." dib begain "i didn't mean to.."

"spare me your excuses... stink beast" zim said his voice cracking at the end

"here let me..." dib began reaching his hand towards zims wound only to have it smacked away

"dont you dare...touch me" zim spat at him

"i'm just trying to help" dib said reaching towards zim again

"i don't need your help" zim said trying to scoot himself away from dib "this is all your fault"

zim seemed to lose all stength trying to move away from dib and fell back down on his back breathing heavily. Zim was exhausted and weak and with each passing secound it continued to get worse his strength completely leaving him.

it started raining....thundering and lightening....but dib just stood there as if frozen in time. "i'm so sorry" he said warily tears begining to wail up in his eyes "i'm so sorry"

"no" dib said quietly to himself while scooting over towards zim again "this wasn't suppose to happen" zim looked up at dib, his eyes half open. Dib could tell zim was losing strength fast but there was nothing he could do even if he were to cover the wound now it would be to late.

zim stared at dib for what seemed like an eternity. Dib seemed to be in a panic he was scared andsad. Zim couldn't quiet grasp why 'isn't this what that dib-human wanted'.

"I don'tinderstand" zim managed to say his voice small and weak

dib looked down at zim's confusion "your my friend zim" dib said almost without realizing it

'you were my friend zim' dib thought to himself 'my only friend...and i didn't even know' tears now running down his face the warmth of them making the coldness of the outside even more noticable though for the moment Dib seemed not to notice

'friend' zim thought ...had he heard dib right or was his mind begining to go along with his strength. Zim seemed to block out everything but this thought until he felt more pressure on his wound. Zim looked

down where dib now had his hands placed over it. Zim then looked to Dib his vision slightly blurry but he could make out that dib....his worst enemy...was crying.

"we have to stop the bleeding" dib said his voice a little shakey as was the rest of his body

Zim understood now....he was dieing and dib was trying to save him...part of him didn't know why...but his mind was begining to get cloudy and at the time that didn't matter. It was no use zim knew he was going to die now and there was nothing he or Dib could do about it. Dib closed his eyes trying to hold back tears then he felt zims hand grab his wrist. Dib looked down at Zim for this somewhat confused him, Zim was niether pulling his hand away or holding it in place.

Zim felt numb his mind was beging to go now too and he knew he didn't have much time left. He couldn't seem to remember his mission or that he was letting his leaders down those thoughts had faded but this moment still remained.

"zim....." dib question noticing zims grip getting weaker and his eyes begining to close. Zim had heard him though and gave dib a small smile

"looks like you win Dib" zim said his eyes falling shut and his hand releasing dibs wrist and falling to the ground. It was over and Zim was gone

Dib began to shake whether it was the rain that was pouring down or these memories that haunted him he suddenly felt very cold. Ever since that day Dib had been plagued by guilt that he can't seem to overcome and that no one could understand. After zim died no one other than dib seemed to notice, everyone at school assumed he had moved away or just didn't care.

Dib was soaked he knew he really shouldn't be out in the rain but his health hadn't been something he concerned himself with lately. Dib looked to the house again for some reason he was compelled to walk into the yard and up to the door. he turned the knob and before he knew it he was in zims living room, the tv was on mute and no one was around.

Aside from the light sound of rain outside, the house was silent and this bothered Dib. No security alarms no 'intruder alert' all the houses defenses seemed to have been shut down. before Dib knew it he found himself searching for the intrance to zims lab and It didn't take long for him to find it.

All this time Dib had avoided ever going near the house it brought back to many memories even of the times Dib had gotten in. Some had been sucessful such as when he stole data from zims computer but other times it had only gotten him in trouble. He was going down in the base again but this time....for the last time.

3 - ch.3

-----ch.3

Dib looked around everything was as he had remember except.....it didn't feel the same.Each time Dib had managed to get in before he remembered staring in awe and amazement at it all but this time he felt empty.

Dib had thought he wanted to get away from this place but what he really wanted was to forget.He wanted to forget all about zim but he knew no matter where he was he would always remember.He had tried to forget, he had gotten rid of everything.....all his research all his plans but he couldn't get rid of his guilt or his memories of Zim.

"you were wrong zim" dib said to himself "you said i won but you were wrong" tears began to build up in his eyes again but he didn't want to cry 'you're the one who won zim' dib thought to himself 'in the end you got the beter of me'.Dib had managed to stop himself from crying and oddly enough gave a brief smile 'atleast you got out' dib thought to himself 'you don't have to suffer in this world anymore'

Dib looked up to a nearby counter on it layed various tools but the only thing that sparked Dibs interest was the laser gun.He walked slowly up to the counter and grabbed the gun starring down at it 'perhaps the only way i can find peace is in death' dib thought

dib gripped the gun tightly pulling up to his head his hands trembling.He closed his eyes tightly he needed only to pull the trigger and it would all be over.Suddenly a voice echoed in the back of his head 'you don't have what it takes' it said.this scared dib slightly doubting his next move 'this is it' dib thought to himself he put his hand over the trigger and....

"HI THERE" a high pitched voice said from behind

"aaahhhh" dib screamed startled he jumped back dropping the gun on the floor in front of him

Dib looked over and there stood Gir smiling and waving happily.

"G..GIR" dib managed to say still in shock

Gir nodded anxiously at dib then giggles.'gir' dib thought.... he had completely forgotten about the little guy....had he been down here this whole time.

"gir" dib said slightly confused "what have you been doing here"

"oh i'm wait'n for master to come home" he answered cheerfully

Hearing this hurt Dib, how could he possible explain to Gir what had happened and even if he tried Gir might not understand or even worse he would.

"gir I...."

"oooowwww" gir said seeming amazed and picking up the gun"what's this"

"gir don't touch that" dib yelled.

Gir wasn't listening though he turned around and fired a shot hitting one of the smaller computers "uh oh" gir said at this time dib snatched the gun away from him

"this is very dangerous" dib explained "don't every touch it"

gir could see dib was upset with him and so he began to cry "u gonna tell master on me" he asked

thats all it took for the angry look dib was giving him to change to guilt again."no" dib sighed

"yah" Gir cheered "u wanna play with me"

"I...I can't" dib said "I..."

"your it" Gir said tagging Dib and running off.

Dib let out a sigh set down the gun and gave chase

"Gir come back here" dib yelled "I need to talk to....." suddenly dib tripped landing hard on his face he looked back. there was a very large portal, above it a screen floated displaying the words "space time object replacement portal-discontinued"

Dib remembered this, Zim had tried to use it to destroy him in the past once by replacing various objects with rubber piggies. Suddenly a smile crept across dibs face "maybe i can fix this machine so it can send me into the past" he said outloud

"tacos" gir yelled running up next to dib.

"gir i have an idea" dib said "if it works zim should be home in no time"

"yah" gir cheered "masters com'in home"

"i'll I have to do is go into the past and stop myself before..." suddenly dib stopped and glanced over at Gir "before anything bad happens" he finished

Dib smiled 'this is great' he thought to himself 'maybe there really is a way to change the past'.Dib worked for hours transforming the portal into a time travel machine which only required a few alterations

"ok Gir" dib said "this is very important so pay attention"

"tacos tacos tacos" gir sang

dib sighed "do you want to see zim again or not"

"yes sir" gir said saluting him

"well then i need you to watch this monitor" dib said "if for any reason it seems i am in some kind of trouble i need u to press this button" dib pointed to a large red button next to the portal

"ok" gir replied cheerfully "do do do doody do" he began singing.

Dib sighed agin

"i've set this on a time limit just in case" dib said "after 30 mins the portal will automatically reopen so i can return" dib looked down at gir who was obviously not listen

"looks like i'm talking to myself again" dib said "oh well"

dib typed the date and time into the computer and an image displayed on screen.It was dib and zim fighting in the ally

"this is it" dib said to himself taking in a deep breath he jumped through the portal

4 - what really happened

ch.4

Dib found himself being thrown to the ground as the portal open a rip in the fabric of time and dropped him hard on the ground. Dib looked around at first concerned if it had worked or not but soon zims yells could be heard in the distance

"soon You will suffer the wrath of the irken army"

dib glanced down the street hiding behind the bushes that aligned the sidewalk 'what now' he asked himself had he been in such a hurry that he had no real plan. yes he had to stop himself but he couldn't be seen, the consequences of that could be disasterous. 'of course' dib thought the solution was quiet simple 'all i need to do is make sure i miss' dib smiled 'all that would take is a quick trip'

before he knew it zim cam running past him his spider legs immediately emerging, startled at first dib regained himself to put his simply plan into action. his past self running by the gun aimed at zim and ready to fire, dib leaned his foot out from behind the bush to trip himself

at first it had seemed like it had worked as his past self stumble and fell to the ground the gun landing in front of him but just as dib was about to congratulate himself that same terrifying scream he had heard from zim the day came back.

It shook him so to hear this scream again and to know it wasn't just another nightmare, his eyes darted in zims direct seeing he had fallen just as before on his face.

His past self quickly got up running towards zim dib followed along side hidden in the bushes. past dib turned zim over on his back looking down at zim surprized and confused . "what..." past dib hesitated "what... happened"

dib was asking himself the same thing he had seen it himself it couldn't have been him that had shot zim. Suddenly that thought clicked 'it wasn't me' he thought to himself his eyes darted around to scan the area ahead. hidden in the shadows behind bushes near the far end dib could make out a figure who took off running. Dib glanced down again at zim and himself though it was barely any different than he had remembered

"zim I..." past dib began "i don't know what happened"

zim glared up at him eyes even dimmer than dib had remembered his voice so much weaker than it had originally been before. his past self placed his hand over zims wound

'i can't watch this again' dib thought to himself 'i can't relive this memory again' dib darted up running in the direction of the figure he had seen. past dib didn't notice to be absorbed in that terrifying moment to be aware of anything else.

dib had gone far enough away from the two by now and closer to the figure who ran faster at being chased

"hay stop it" dib yelled "come back here" dib turned the corner after the figure tackling him to the ground. Dib was immediately thrown off and rapidly looked up at him. Dib felt numb as he saw the face of the fugure before him 'this doesn't make any sense' he told himself 'how can this be'

dib stood up coming eye to eye with the person who was responsible for zims death. Dib was shocked he let it pass through him quickly though raising a questioning eye brow, the person in front of him imitating his every expression

"who....who are u" dib asked though he truly knew the answer

the figure before him relaxed his face a bit still seeming slightly confused but answering dib

non-the-less "i'm you" he said "from the future"

-----*to the readers:ok this is where it get kinda confusing but try to follow me on this one.....atleast....i think i know what i'm talking about*-----

"that can't be" dib spat at him bringing forth as much logic as he could "i'm from the future"the dib in front of him raised an eye brow momentarily but a look of realization filled his face and he sighed "we can't both be from the future" dib said "unless we came back at different times"

"no it's not that we're from different times in the future" the other dib explained "where from different futures different realities all together"

"what" dib questioned briefly

"i should have for seen something like this" the other dib said mainly talking to himself "altering the past is a difficult thing" suddenly dib pulled himself away from confusion "why are u here" he demanded to know "why would....kill zim"

"dib please try and understand" the other dib asked almost pleading "what i've done here is for the best" "for the best" dib repeated shocked and outraged "how can u say that when every moment from this moment on in my life has been a living nightmare"

the other dib looked sympathetic to him "i'm sorry dib" he said "i wish it didn't have to be this way but there's so much you don't know"

"and what could that possible be" dib demanded to know "what reason could u have for coming back here to kill zim" suddenly it was like the question came back to him in his headhe was basically talking to himself here anyway....surely there was an explanation for why his other self had done this...one that was atleast worthy in the other dibs eyes

dib sighed "explain it to me"

"it's true" the other dib said "if today had gone unaltered by my presence here then zim would have not been killed today"

"then why" dib asked sadly almost pleading for an answer

"understand that things got much worse after this in my time" dib said sadly "the worst you could ever imagine"

"are you saying..." dib hesitated for a moment "zim actually took over the earth"

"no" the other dib answered plainly "things would get worse ...yes...but mainly just for zim"

"why" dib asked again "what happens thats worse than this"

the other dib looked away for a moment his eyes blinked as if holding back tears and a haunting memory

"tell me" dib urged though he kept his voice low

the other dib glanced up at him allowing his thoughts to take him back to what had happened hoping that his alternate future counterpart would understand and trying to give him the basics

"it was a lie" he said "all of it"

"a lie" dib repeated slightly confused

"zims mission" dib said looking down not making eye contact "his leaders had lied and betrayed him"

"but why" dib asked almost annoyed at this constant response

"he was never an invader not really" dib said "nothing but a joke to his leaders and all of his people and they just had to let him know"

"they told him" dib asked

"they did more than that" dib said "they crushed him....shattered all his hope for admiration and respect....took away his pride....and finally"

"what" dib asked

"they killed him"

5 - the things you can not change

ch.5 the things you can't change

since i'm kinda worried u might get the two dibs confused.....the dib who we've been following since the beging is in blue

dib stepped back startled at this new information as his other self seem to become angry with the thought

"and they showed no mercy on zim for being irken" he yelled "to them he was no different than any other life form they'd killed infact they even enjoyed seeing him suffer more"

"how do u know" dib asked catiously

"i was there" he said with a sigh "i had gotten into zims base that day and so witnessed the whole thing"

"why didn't u stop them " dib yelled

"i tried" the other dib answered "at first i was affraid at exposing myself but I could no longer watch them torture him like that"

"what about zim" dib asked "didn't he try to fight,try and get away"

"no" dib answered sadly "he was....he was devistatedeven after all the shocks and beatings he took off the tallests.... even after i managed to stop one of thier final assaults cutting my face in the process...he...he still"

dib watched as he was about to see himself cry, the other dib turned his face away from him momentairly revealing a light scar across his face from the incident.

"he still had nothing left" the other dib finshed having officially surpressed his tears for the moment "at the very momnet of learning the truth.. zim....zim truely wanted to die"

this time dib could see it tears they had formed and were now running down his face as he recalled more of that days events

"i tried to help him but it was no use he had sustained to much injury and had no desire to live" dib said "i begged him to hold on, that i could save him but at the moment he didn't understand" there was a pause as he continued

"he told me that part of him had known all along but never wanted to accept it....that part of himbelieved that some how for once in his life someone had exspected something great of him" dib paused "he told me he was blind and stupid to have believed that and that he deserved to die here like

this"

'no'dib thought to himself lost in his other self's memories as well

"i tried to tell him he was wrong" the other dib said his tears leaving him for a moment "but i wasn't sure he could even hear me anymore"

"he told me that...that he knew someday someone would get the beter of him but....."

"but what" dib asked looking up

"but he had hoped it would be me"

slowly the look of sadness on Dibs face about hearing this faded into angry "so you came back here to kill him" dib yelled

"I had to"

"a MERCY killing" dib yelled "how could you do that to HIM"

"BECAUSE" the other dib snapped back "he's my friend" this took dib by surprise momentarily leaving him speechless

the other dibs expression softened "i gave him what he wanted....what he deserved" he said "to die with honor"

"there had to be another way" dib said quickly "why couldn't you just save him"

"don't you get it dib" the other dib yelled "it wouldn't matter if i saved him if he had no desire to live"

"but..."

"but what dib" he continued "I knew that eventually the truth would destroy him and in worse ways than you can imagine"

"it's not fair" dib said feeling tears in his eyes

"this isn't my first intrusion into the past dib" the other dib said "believe me when i say that this is a last resort"

dib looked up "so you did try and save him"

"yes" the other didb said wearily "each attempt at saving him lead to worse results"

"like what" dib asked immediately regretting it

"he...he would force me into killing himor blow up his house killing himself...or..." the other dib quivered a bit living so many memories he had created....painfull ones

"please stop" dib asked softly "i don't want to hear anymore"

the other dib looked up at him "i didn't do this for myself dib" he said "this was for zim...it'sit's better this way"

suddenly guilt entered Dib.... was he only doing this for himself....maybe he just didn't want to feel guilty anymore....was it never about zim.....had it all been for him

"then...." dib hesitated "then...there's nothing i can do"

"i couldn't save him" the other dib said downing his head "noone could"

"i think i understand" dib said "still ...i wish that....that."

"i know" the other dib interrupted putting a hand on his sholder and giving him a weak smile "me too"

suddenly two seperate time portals opened up there beside the two"guess it's time for us go" the other dib said giving dib a weak smile "guess i'll see you in the future"

"take a good look" dib said his smile fading "i am your future"

the other dib entered his portal first leaving dib alone momentarily.he had lost zim againbut this time he knew why....still there was a sadness around him that would forever linger though....now he had accepted it.

He sighed"i guess there are some things you just can't change" he let a tear fall down his face "goodbye zim"