

TY “TURBO” KNIGHT: STEAMPUNK VARIANT

OMNIBUS TRILOGY

BY

Maxwell Hoffman

TY “TURBO” KNIGHT: STEAMPUNK VARIANT BOOK 1

WILD WHITE RHINO

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Part One

Prologue

Brasstania!

#

Welcome to the strange steam punk world known as Brasstania! It's an Earth similar like the regular Earth but with an Earth where bats evolved alongside humans to become more anthropomorphic. This version of Ty "Turbo" Knight is very much like the original. Though there is no time travel involved he resides with his family: Marian, the mother; Excel, father; Dave and Dee his older siblings.

#

"Good morning family!" said Ty as he emerged from his room.

#

Tyler had managed to create this version of Glitchy using steamed powered technology. Glitchy was pleased to always be by Tyler's side as he did his best trying to fit in.

#

"Meow!" cried Glitchy.

#

"Aw, it's so cute of Glitchy" said Excel.

#

Excel worked in the mayor's office as part of the office staff. Mayor Coyote Bitterboots had always maintained control over the mayor's office thanks to Jonathan Lockhart his loyal assistant. Excel would often report to Jonathan as his direct supervisor. Marian worked at the

local college as a professor's aide, she would watch over Dave and Dee as they attended college. For Tyler, it was his first day venturing out in the grand wilderness.

#

Heading Out

#

Tyler's neighbors were a mixture of humans and anthropomorphic bats. Among his neighbors were the Lennox family — Reginald and his daughter Charlotte. These versions of them had always lived by the Knight family. Reginald was the grounds keeper around the mayor's garden.

#

"Greetings Master Tyler!" laughed Reginald.

#

Reginald was always the friendlier one in the household. His faithful calico cat — Gwendolyn was there always ready to greet them as he passed by their house.

#

"Morning Reginald" said Ty.

#

"Are you finally going to go on that wilderness adventure?" asked Reginald, "I heard there are savage beast about."

#

"Don't you worry, I will be fine, just gotta head to the blacksmith first" said Ty.

#

Glitchy was always aware of his surroundings as he spotted Gwendolyn. The two cats admired each other from afar. As for Charlotte she was busy studying inside of her home. She didn't

seem to care that much about adventuring outside. She wanted to play it safe which was always a problem in Brasstania.

#

“Uh, no matter what I do, I can’t concentrate!” cried Charlotte.

#

Charlotte was annoyed with all of the noise pollution around Rift City, she could barely focus.

#

Reginald’s Idea

#

Reginald soon strolled back into his home, he could hear how his daughter wasn’t happy.

#

“Say, I know what dear” said Reginald, “why don’t you go out with Tyler to the wilderness with his steamed powered cat?”

#

“Are you kidding out there?” asked Charlotte, “That’s worse!”

#

“What could be possibly any different from being cooped up inside here?” asked Reginald.

#

“Everything” said Charlotte.

#

Charlotte just wanted a normal day, but none of that was happening at all. She sighed, feeling she would have to be with Tyler for the moment.

#

“Fine, I’ll head on out” sighed Charlotte.

#

Charlotte wasn’t happy, she soon packed some supplies and grabbed a backpack before heading out. She soon joined up with Tyler as she headed out of the house.

#

“So, you decided to come with me?” asked Ty.

#

“Yea, got nothing better to do” sighed Charlotte.

#

Charlotte was reluctant going on the adventure with Tyler. She didn’t know what to expect. But that was the beauty of it all. The trio soon arrived where Saker the Blacksmith was operating. Saker was by himself, always minding his own business. He was pleased to see Tyler and Charlotte.

#

Saker the Blacksmith

#

Saker had the knowledge and knowhow, how to create steamed powered weapons. He could tell that Tyler and Charlotte would need a few.

#

“Going to take sometime, so give me a second” said Saker.

#

Saker was more stoic when it came to visitors, he took some metal clips and soon grabbed some iron and began to melt it.

#

“It’s going to take at least two hours for me to make it” said Saker, “you might want to sit at the coffee shop next door while you wait.”

#

“Will do” said Ty.

#

Ty and Charlotte soon headed towards the coffee shop with Glitchy. The coffee shop itself was owned by Radu the Coffee Shop Bot. Radu was also powered by steam just like Glitchy was. He was always pleased to see customers lining up.

#

“Waiting for Saker to create weapons for you before your big adventure in the wilderness?” asked Radu.

#

“You bet” said Ty, “just average cup of coffees for the both of us.”

#

“Two cups of coffees coming right up!” laughed Radu.

#

Radu headed over towards the coffee machine — it too was also steamed powered. He then charged it up and surely enough coffee poured on out. He handed the cups over to both Tyler and Charlotte.

Chapter One

Waiting for Saker

#

As Tyler, Charlotte and Glitchy waited — Tyler’s other neighbors from the Shadow clan soon arrived. Dex “Dexter” Shadow, his father Dex “Razer” Shadow (sometimes referred as Dexter Senior); and his wife Camille an anthropomorphic bat with their human-bat hybrid daughter Nyx “Nya” Shadow. Dexter’s father worked for Mayor Coyote as his top inventor for Rift City. He and the Knight family had always been on good terms.

#

“Well, well, well look who flew in from the coop” laughed Radu.

#

Radu greeted them and was ready to serve up the usual steamed powered coffee.

#

“What brings you to my little coffee joint?” asked Radu.

#

“I’m throwing a meeting with the mayor within an hour, need a container for coffee to be brewed” said Dexter Senior.

#

“Coming right up” said Radu.

#

Radu soon began to brew the coffee, Dexter was curious to know why Tyler and Charlotte were heading out together. There were plenty of strange, wild creatures roaming about Brasstania.

Many of them were deadly wild animals.

#

“Tell me Tyler, why are you really out?” asked Dex as he pulled up a chair.

#

Tyler then showed Dex a diagram of the white carnivorous rhinoceros. It was a rare beast that was said to roam the plains of the local canyon area.

#

The White Rhino

#

Dex gazed at the diagram of the white rhino, it's vicious teeth were displayed. This wasn't like the regular white rhinos that once roamed Earth freely. But rather this was a more dangerous breed — one that would actively hunt its prey while using its sharp horn to defend itself.

#

“I'm waiting on Saker to produce me some weapons which will be ready within a few hours” said Ty.

#

“I wish you the best of luck, such a dreadful creature to run into” said Dex.

#

Charlotte on the other hand opposed hunting down wildlife, even if they were dangerous. She had no idea that was what Tyler was after.

#

“I would have never agreed to go with you if it was about that” said Charlotte.

#

“Well, you never bothered to ask” said Ty.

#

Tyler knew he needed more of the steam powered weapons if he wanted to survive this one. The white rhinos were not the only dangerous creatures that had evolved into vicious monsters on the planet. There were so many droves of creatures out there in the untamed wild. For the other members of the Shadow clan, they sat down after receiving their coffee cups from Radu.

#

The Shadow Clan

#

For the rest of the Shadow clan, Dexter went to the same school that Tyler went to — Coyote Bitterboots Primary Institute. Mostly every institute was named after Rift City’s long term mayor. Rift City operated more like a city state, for which Dexter Senior’s wife — Camille was part of the main legislature branch.

#

“It’s so nice to take a break from writing so many bills” sighed Camille.

#

Camille was a little somewhat elitist around those who were not anthropomorphic bats like herself. Despite marrying Dexter Senior. Dexter Senior didn’t seem to mind it at all, her job paid just as much money as his own advisory job to the mayor. So he couldn’t complain that much.

#

“We’ll head back home afterwards” said Dexter Senior.

#

Tyler and Charlotte glared afar from where they were, they didn't bother too much about what the Shadow clan really did. They still had their own affairs to care to.

#

"I'm not so sure it will be safe even with those steam powered weapons" said Charlotte.

#

"Please, I can handle anything the wildlife can throw at us" said Ty.

#

Tyler felt confident — a bit too confident when it came to such topics.

#

Weapons Ready!

#

Saker soon sent a text message to Tyler on his steamed powered cellphone.

#

"Your weapons are ready" said Saker in the text message.

#

Tyler and Charlotte soon got up with Glitchy following them. As they strolled towards the blacksmith, there were at least four set of weapons for Tyler and Charlotte to acquire. At least two steamed powered pistols and two crossbows.

#

"You have plenty of ammunition for your journey" said Saker.

#

Tyler soon paid Saker with gold coins — quite a large sum.

#

“Here you go” said Ty.

#

“Thank you very much, see you soon” said Saker.

#

Admired the shiny gold coins, he soon headed towards the safe and placed the coins there. Tyler and Charlotte soon checked out their new weapons. Glitchy examined them so eagerly and excited.

#

“Come on, let’s head towards the gate to the city” said Ty.

#

Ty and Charlotte soon took off with Glitchy, the trio trekked through their neighborhood until they arrived at the gates. There the main gate guard was another steamed powered bot like Radu but was known as Epistor. Epistor was very strict when it came to outsiders and even those who ventured outside alike. He wanted to keep the city safe from danger.

Chapter Two

Epistor's Inspection

#

Epistor soon glared at Tyler and Charlotte, his robotic eyes and scanner continued to examine them. He could tell that they had all the necessary paperwork already filled out.

#

“I must say, going after those vicious white rhinos, you better be careful” said Epistor.

#

Epistor soon pulled open the gates — the gates slowly began to open towards the wilderness before them.

#

“Come on, let's move!” cried Ty.

#

Charlotte soon followed with Glitchy right behind them. As they traveled across the road there was another outpost up ahead. The outpost was headed by the Ruslan brothers — Horace and Hank. The two brothers always kept a watchful lookout for any wild creatures that would roam too close or possible invading armies. Not that there were that many.

#

“Ah, Tyler Knight so glad to see you” said Hank.

#

Both Horace and Hank greeted Tyler and Charlotte. They gave them more supplies before they could head on off.

#

“Let’s hope you two don’t get hurt out there” said Horace.

#

“Don’t worry, we’ll be careful” said Ty.

#

Tyler, Charlotte and Glitchy soon headed off. They knew the wilderness was filled with danger aside from wild creatures — there was the usual bandits that were out there who could surprise them at any given moment.

#

Brasstania Wilderness

#

The wilderness of Brasstania was quite lush, teeming with life. Tyler and Charlotte were amazed with their surroundings. Even peeked Glitchy’s interest with some of the wildlife. A few strange rabbits began to hop around as they grazed around eating grass.

#

“Look, bunnies!” cried Charlotte.

#

Charlotte couldn’t escape how cute they were, but Tyler felt they were too much of an easy target.

#

“Come on, let’s move” said Ty.

#

The birds around Brasstania were very similar with those found on Earth — except with a slight

difference. Most of them were more colorful with the colors on their feathers reflecting from the sunlight. A few of them in the distance flew away from the forest. Tyler knew there was a great beast there.

#

“I think we might know where the white rhino could reside” said Ty.

#

Charlotte swallowed as she began to follow Tyler with Glitchy close behind. The trio headed towards the forest near the plains. Once there — it was an entire different world. They could hear the roar of the vicious white rhino in the distance. No doubt it was a male marking its territory. The trio were all so cautious in approaching it.

#

White Rhino Territory

#

The white rhino had just slain a bear with its mighty horn. The bear was already deceased. No doubt the bear didn't like competition from the white rhino. The carnivorous white rhino then began to eat its meal.

#

“It's, magnificent” whispered Charlotte.

#

“We have to be very careful” whispered Ty.

#

Tyler and Charlotte began to slowly pace themselves getting closer and closer to the white rhino. They could see how deadly it was as it dined on its meal. Where there could be one of them,

they knew there had to be more lurking about.

#

“This one looks like an alpha male” said Ty.

#

Tyler took out his crossbow, he was hoping to injure the animal and bring it back to Rift City for the Shadow clan to study it further before keeping its horn as a trophy. The white rhino didn’t noticed them at first — until Tyler accidentally stepped on a leaf that was on the ground. It made a crunching sound alerting their presence. The white rhino perked up its ears and began to scan the area. It’s redish eyes scanned the forest hoping to sense any possible threats.

#

No Sudden Moves

#

Tyler and Charlotte both paused, they knew the white rhino could sense that they were there.

#

“Stay where you are, I’ll handle this” said Ty.

#

Tyler soon pressed a button on his steamed powered suit hoping it would protect him as he got closer. Tyler could see that the white rhino wasn’t messing around. Soon before Tyler realized it — the white rhino turned around. Its glowing redish eyes gazed upon him with quite fury and rage. It then led out a roar!

#

“RUN!” cried Ty.

#

Tyler and Charlotte ran further into the forest with Glitchy following them. The white rhino soon gave chase — its appetite wasn't fully satisfied yet.

#

“I wish they were really plant eaters!” cried Charlotte.

#

The two soon stumbled down a hill as they tripped, Glitchy followed them doing his best trying to avoid the white rhino. The white rhino soon realized it wasn't in its territory if it trekked down the hill. It soon gazed at the two humans before heading off. No doubt it was disgusted by their presence.

#

“That was close” said Charlotte as she got up and dusted herself off.

#

Tyler knew they had to apprehend that white rhino at all costs.

Chapter Three

Strategies

#

Both Tyler and Charlotte knew they had to outsmart the white rhino. Glitchy scanned the grassy plains where the white rhino was on. It continued to graze at the deceased bear that it had hunted.

#

“How the heck are we going to get close enough to shoot it?” asked Charlotte.

#

Tyler soon looked around and noticed a few strange sleeping flowers.

#

“Get a cloth to create a mask, I know what we can do” said Tyler.

#

Tyler soon created masks from some clothes, they headed towards the sleeping flowers and began to pick each one.

#

“Attaching them to our arrows, are you sure that will work?” asked Charlotte.

#

“Putting that white rhino to sleep would be enough we just have to make sure to get close enough” said Ty.

#

Tyler and Charlotte soon trekked up the small hill with Glitchy following them behind. The trio

were closing in on the white rhino. The white rhino still wasn't aware of their presence thinking that it had won the last fight. But as Tyler soon shot one of his arrows from his crossbow — it managed to hit the white rhino while it was grazing on the deceased bear.

#

Stumbling White Rhino

#

The white rhino realized it was shot by Tyler, it attempted to charge but instead began to feel quite wobbly.

#

“Looks like it's working!” laughed Ty.

#

The carnivorous white rhino tried to charge, but as it did all it did was fall to the ground the moment it tried to reach Tyler and Charlotte.

#

“I don't believe it, we did it!” cried Charlotte.

#

Now the next problem was bringing back the white rhino to Rift City.

#

“Get some bamboo wood, Glitchy is going to help us by being a platform to carry the beast back to the city” said Ty.

#

Tyler and Charlotte soon began to grab some bamboo wood nearby and also grab a few veins.

They created a platform where they were both able to lift the white rhino onto it. Glitchy could

be able to carry the heavy platform, despite the weight Glitchy was able to manage.

#

“MEOW!” cried Glitchy.

#

“I know, I know but we’ll get home soon” said Ty.

#

Using the steamed powered suit, Tyler was able to lift up the white rhino onto the platform.

Charlotte tied it down so that it couldn’t escape.

#

Heading Home

#

It would take them at least the rest of the evening to get back home. Darkness was falling upon them, Tyler and Charlotte used their light source from their steam punk suits. Glitchy also was an additional light source.

#

“We should move carefully” said Ty.

#

However, they were not the only ones in the forest — Madame Johanna LaRouche Dubious, a former resident of Rift City had been kicked out — banned by Mayor Coyote Bitterboots in the past for her past antics over causing trouble. She spotted the trio leaving the forest with the white rhino as their captive.

#

“Impressive, I wonder if I can steal its horn and make a quick buck out of it” laughed Johanna.

#

Johanna continued to follow the trio as they were arriving on the plains heading towards Rift City. She knew she had to be careful with every step. Soon Tyler and Charlotte reached the outpost where the Ruslan brothers were waiting.

#

“Ah, you caught a white rhino, nice job” said Hank.

#

“Yes, we’ll let you in, just don’t try to wake everyone” said Horace.

#

The Ruslan brothers soon allowed the trio back inside, there was a pen where they could store the white rhino near Saker’s blacksmith shop.

#

#

Into the Pen

#

The white rhino’s platform was loaded into the pen by Glitchy, it was quite heavy duty work with such a heavy animal. Once inside the pen, Glitchy was the one who began to use some scissors to free the white rhino. The pen itself was well gated — electric fence and metal steal.

#

“Meow” said Glitchy.

#

Glitchy zoomed towards the entrance of the pen ready to head back home. Tyler was relieved everything went according to plan.

#

“Glad we’re all safe, now everyone can take a look at this beast tomorrow” said Ty.

#

Tyler and Charlotte headed back to their respective homes. Tyler inside his home. His parents — Excel and Marian were already fast asleep along with his older siblings Dave and Dee. Tyler soon took a quick shower and then headed to bed. Likewise with Charlotte — Reginald also was fast asleep.

#

“Glad this is all over” sighed Charlotte.

#

Charlotte couldn’t believe the white rhino still was fast asleep after being hit with a sleeping flower by one of the arrows from Tyler’s crossbow. She then took a shower and headed off to bed. Meanwhile for Johanna she knew she had to sneak back inside the city if she wanted to take that horn for herself.

Part Two

Chapter Four

Sneaking Inside

#

The only one who was up on alert was Epistor, he allowed Tyler and Charlotte to pass with the white rhino. He could tell that nothing was getting past him.

#

“That white rhino doesn’t look so tough” laughed Epistor.

#

Epistor, the robotic guard continued on his role guarding the entrance of the city. Johanna soon climbed up the walls of the city, she knew she had to be sneaky and careful around Epistor. As she managed to make it to the top of the wall, Epistor was too focused on the white rhino as it was waking up in captivity.

#

“Oh, the white rhino is up” laughed Epistor.

#

A meat troff was placed outside by Saker for the white rhino to enjoy. The meat was reasonable for the white rhino as it strolled right on by. Epistor had never seen such a beast before. The robotic guard only knew the city as its home.

#

“My, you are quite a big creature” said Epistor.

#

Epistor continued to gaze upon the white rhino eating from the troff. Johanna soon was able to slip right through leaping over the wall and landing firmly on the ground.

#

The Large Pen Area

#

The pen area was going to be harder than Johanna thought, she knew she would have to disable the electric fence first before doing anything else.

#

“Uh, I’m never getting over that thing” said Johanna.

#

Johanna then knew she would have to sabotage the power station. She would have to creep around the Shadow clan’s residence. Dexter Senior had been responsible for creating many of the power generators for the city. It was because of his inventions that made his family very well off.

#

“Just have to not wake the bat members of the family” said Johanna.

#

Johanna knew that the anthropomorphic bats of the city had a better understanding in sniffing out intruders like her. Their sonar detection also enabled them to detect any possible intruders. Nyx and Camille were fast asleep in their homes. They were the only members of the family that had such powers. Johanna knew she had to be extra careful — one wrong move and she would be exposed.

#

“Gotta keep up the pace” thought Johanna.

#

Johanna soon spotted one power station that was near the house — this must be it she thought.

#

Another Security System!

#

Johanna soon realized the power station was more complicated than it appeared to be. She noticed a computer console with a code that she must enter.

#

“Great, nothing is ever simple in this world” sighed Johanna.

#

It was best for her to try to find a hiding place when the morning would come about. As she ducked around some trash, she managed to make herself a shelter. It was crude but it would due for the time being. As morning soon came — Tyler was the first one to wake up. He soon headed towards his parents’ room and got them up.

#

“What is it dear?” asked Marian.

#

“Charlotte and I caught ourselves a white rhino!” cried Ty.

#

“Really?” asked Excel.

#

Excel and Marian soon got ready — Dave and Dee were alerted over the news of the white rhino

being caught. It was a celebration for the family that it was brought home to Rift City. As for the white rhino, it knew it couldn't break free at all from the electric fence that it was placed in. It could see crowds forming around the pen watching it observe them.

#

White Rhino in Rift City!

#

Mayor Coyote Bitterboots was among the members of the crowd — he had to take time off to see what all the fuss was all about. He pushed himself through the crowd — Bitterboots was an anthropomorphic bat similar to Nyx and Camille. He could sense this was a white rhino.

#

“One side, coming through” said Mayor Coyote.

#

Mayor Coyote's right-hand man Jonathan Lockhart was also present. His presence drew boos and jeers from the citizens feeling that he was controlling the mayor.

#

“I am not sure I am wanted here” whispered Jonathan.

#

“None sense” said Mayor Coyote, “this is a grand day that we get to see the white rhino for ourselves.”

#

Mayor Coyote and Jonathan soon paused once they reached the pen's entrance. Tyler was just getting up for the day ready to greet the crowd with his family. There were nothing but cheers from the crowd in contrast to Jonathan's mere presence.

#

“You must all be so proud of your son for capturing this carnivorous white rhino” said Jonathan.

#

“I couldn’t have done it without Charlotte’s help” said Ty.

#

Charlotte and Reginald soon emerged from the crowd, Reginald was in awe of the size of the white rhino.

#

Impressed Reginald

#

Reginald was very much impressed with the size of the white rhino. He knew the beast was rather dangerous for him to get a closer look.

#

“Is it possible I can get a permit to go inside?” asked Reginald.

#

“I don’t know” said Mayor Coyote, “it looks pretty angry.”

#

The white rhino huffed as it began to pace around the pen. Seeing so many people made it quite nervous. The guards soon arrived and began to disperse the crowd.

#

“Alright, nothing to see here” said one of the guards.

#

The crowd soon dispersed — members of the crowd were all disappointed that they didn’t get a

closer look at the white rhino.

#

“Shame, we can’t just go over and see for it ourselves” said a male anthropomorphic bat citizen.

#

“Yea, I know what you mean” said another female anthropomorphic bat citizen, “the mayor is rather being stingy with this.”

#

The mayor was relieved the crowd had left, Mayor Coyote wanted to put Tyler and Charlotte temporarily in charge of the white rhino — at least before its ivory could be used for other purposes.

#

“There are just so many white rhinos like these roaming around in the wild” said Mayor Coyote, “so very hard to catch.”

#

The white rhino was the top of the food chain when it came to predators, unlike their Earth counterparts they were vicious hunters.

Chapter Five

Mayor Inspects White Rhino

#

Mayor Coyote was careless and incompetent as they could be when it came to politicians. He demanded to be let into the pen by the guards much even against Jonathan's own advice.

#

"Sir, I really don't think you should step inside that pen with that white rhino" said Jonathan.

#

"Nonsense, Jonathan I know what I am doing" said Mayor Coyote.

#

The mayor soon turned towards Tyler and Charlotte who were still present with their families.

#

"I'm going to need some assistance in case if anything goes wrong" said Mayor Coyote.

#

"Uh, sure mayor anything" said Ty.

#

"Good, then you two wouldn't mind following me inside the pen since you two have weapons" said Mayor Coyote.

#

Charlotte swallowed as she and Tyler both agreed to follow the mayor inside. The guards soon headed towards the gate of the pen and allowed the mayor, Tyler and Charlotte to walk right through. Tyler was nervous, he knew the white rhino wouldn't be pleased at all.

#

“Just what is he trying to do with it?” whispered Charlotte.

#

“Don’t know, but we’ll soon find out” said Ty.

#

The mayor gazed at the magnificent white rhino from afar, he could see himself literally riding on its back.

#

Mayor’s Motives

#

The mayor wanted Rift City to become the most powerful city state in the main continent of Zyndarra Rift City wasn’t the main power house on the continent — Quinta was instead. The mayor could see himself taming not just one, but many white rhinos just like it roaming around and terrorizing the other city states around him. Tyler and Charlotte were not so certain the white rhino could be tamed, they could see how angry it was.

#

“I think we should head back it looks like it’s going to charge” said Ty.

#

“Nonsense, I need to get a closer look” said Mayor Coyote.

#

The mayor no doubt was ignoring Tyler’s concerns, everyone else was watching with dread seeing the mayor heading towards the white rhino. The white rhino snarled as it saw the mayor, it could tell that the mayor was a major figure in the city itself.

#

“Come on, come on, I’m just here to ride you” said Mayor Coyote.

#

The mayor was able to fly using his wings propelling himself on top of the white rhino.

#

“See, you have all nothing to fear, I feel perfectly safe” said Mayor Coyote.

#

However, the white rhino was having none of it.

#

Wild White Rhino!

#

The white rhino soon began to act erratically, as soon as the mayor got on its back. It began to gallop like a bull, hoping to kick the mayor off. The mayor held onto with his dear life.

#

“Whoa there!” cried Mayor Coyote.

#

Jonathan couldn’t look, he could see himself getting a new job if anything were to happen with the mayor. Tyler and Charlotte knew they had to come to the mayor’s rescue.

#

“The white rhino is out of control!” cried Charlotte.

#

“We have to stop it!” added Ty.

#

Tyler and Charlotte soon took out their crossbows again, lucky for them they still had those sleeping flowers to use as ammunition. Tyler soon loaded his crossbow and fired hitting the white rhino causing it to go fast asleep.

#

“Hey, I was just getting a hang of this?!” cried Mayor Coyote.

#

The mayor grumbled as he got off, he could tell not everyone in the audience approved of him getting onto the white rhino. Johanna who was still in her hiding place in her shelter witnessed it all from afar. She couldn’t believe how much of a threat those white rhinos were.

#

Leaving the Pen

#

The mayor was in disgust with Tyler and Charlotte intervening like that. He soon emerged as angry as ever.

#

“Uh, I’m going to have to rely on the Shadow clan and Saker for this operation from now on you two are dismissed” said Mayor Coyote.

#

No doubt they were disappointed with the mayor’s disapproval of just trying to make sure he was safe. Even Jonathan could see how reckless the mayor was in his venture trying to tame the white rhinos.

#

“You’re going along with this?” asked Charlotte to Jonathan.

#

“I have no choice, I’m his main adviser, I have to say yes” sighed Jonathan.

#

This was much to the disappointment of Excel, Marian and Reginald who witnessed every reckless step the mayor initiated with the white rhino. They could see that the white rhino deserved better than this.

#

“Let’s just head back home” said Marian, “we’ll figure out what we can do for a job for you later Tyler.”

#

Tyler sighed as he headed back home with his parents, likewise with Charlotte as she followed Reginald.

#

“You know, you did a bang up job in helping Tyler out with that white rhino” said Reginald.

#

Reginald was certain he would find a job for his daughter.

#

Mayor Arrives at Shadow Residence

#

Dexter Senior had been expecting the mayor to show up sooner rather than later. He could tell that the mayor was ticked off with the “rescue” from trying to tame the white rhino.

#

“So, mayor what brings you to my humble home?” asked Dexter Senior as he sat down on the

sofa with a cup of tea.

#

“I need you to work on some sort of mind control helmet, but for white rhinos only” said Mayor Coyote, “we need to make sure those white rhinos will be on our side.”

#

“Say no more mayor, I will come up with a diagram within a few hours, my daughter Nyx will be involved with the project” said Dexter Senior.

#

“Excellent, she’ll work closely with Saker who will mass produce the mind control helmet with his blacksmith shop” said Mayor Coyote.

#

“Sounds like a plan, I’ll get to it” said Dexter Senior.

#

Dexter Senior soon headed downstairs with his cup of tea in hand. His wife Camille was busy with the city’s budget going over the mayor’s proposal. She couldn’t believe the sort of spending materials he was trying to use for the mind control helmet.

Chapter Six

Project Mind Control Helmet

#

Dexter Senior went to work right away, he favored his daughter Nyx over his son Dex for this project. As he began to create a diagram of the mind control helmet, he soon headed upstairs to Nyx's room. Nyx was busy still studying her engineering classes when her father emerge with the diagram.

#

"I got a project for you to work on, but only the prototype, Saker is going to mass produce the final project for the mayor" said Dexter Senior.

#

Dexter Senior soon showed Nyx the diagram on a table.

#

"Hmm, impressive I think I can handle this" said Nyx, "just give me a few hours and I'll have the first prototype of it in the morning."

#

Nyx went to work as her father headed out — for Dex he felt more like an outcast to his family. He never inherited the bat powers that Nyx had from her mother. Dex spent most of his time at Radu's coffee shop he was even jealous of Tyler and Charlotte who caught a white rhino.

#

"So, Dex, what brings you to my humble coffee shop?" asked Radu.

#

Dex sadly lowered his head to Radu the Steamed Powered Bot, he could tell that Dex was facing some sort of depression.

#

Killing Time

#

Dex just wanted to spend time by himself instead of being bothered by Radu.

#

“Just let me be, I’m just here for coffee” said Dex.

#

“Someone’s in a cranky mood” said Radu, “what’d it be the usual or something special to brighten up that mood of yours?”

#

“Just the usual” said Dex.

#

Radu sighed feeling that Dex was at a loss, he had very few friends to look up to, as a way to motivate him. As Radu made the coffee, he soon handed over the mug.

#

“Enjoy your coffee” said Radu.

#

Dex soon took the coffee and headed over towards a table nearby. He sat there calmly sipping the coffee. A few moments later — Fai Yong, Jonathan’s assistant from the mayor’s office arrived. She wanted to get away from the office after seeing how miserable Jonathan spoke of the mayor’s reckless behavior with the white rhino.

#

“It’s not everyday I get to see someone from the mayor’s office at my coffee shop, what can I do for you?” asked Radu.

#

“Hmm, I’ll try something special” said Fai, “how about the steamed powered mocha?”

#

“One steamed powered mocha coffee, coming right up” said Radu.

#

Radu soon went to work making her coffee drink.

#

Fun for Radu

#

Radu always enjoyed it more when the customers ordered more interesting drinks — it kept his spirit up. He soon turned on the coffee machine, and then began to mix up the spices around him. He could tell there was a small crowd of customers humans and anthropomorphic bats alike gathering near the counter.

#

“One moment, I’ll be getting to your orders, I’m just finishing this up for this lovely lady” said Radu.

#

Radu soon continued to make the steamed powered mocha drink and soon handed it over to Fai.

#

“Enjoy your drink” said Radu.

#

“I will” said Fai.

#

Fai soon strolled over to a table near Dex, she had seen Dex around Rift City before but never introduced herself properly.

#

“I’m Fai Yong, Jonathan Lockhart’s assistant, you must be Dex Shadow” said Fai.

#

Dex gazed up after sipping some more of his coffee. He heard of the commotion over the white rhino and how the mayor wanted to control it.

#

“You think the mayor is off his rocker this time?” asked Dex.

#

“Nonsense, the mayor knows what he’s doing we need to show some force around Zyndarra.

#

Dex’s Second Thoughts

#

Dexter wasn’t so certain at all from what he had heard happened moments ago. The mayor’s reckless attempt to tame the vicious white rhino would surely and utterly fail.

#

“The mayor is a bit over his head with this one” said Dex, “every other city state will see us as a laughing stalk. Even the Quintian Empire.”

#

The Quintian Empire was the main power house around the continent of Zyndarra where other city states and clans had to pay tribute to the capital. Dex assumed that once the mayor would fail, the Quintian Empire could easily move in, even without firing one shot. Fai understood this as well, but she had to keep her mask on for the mayor.

#

“Look, everyone is doing their best to assure the mayor that things will work out in the end” said Fai.

#

Dex still wasn't so sure, he sipped his coffee one more time before leaving the coffee shop. Fai was rather disappointed that Dex didn't want to chat. She could see how much of an introvert he was in contrast to Tyler and Charlotte. As for the mayor, he had returned to his office with his faithful associate Jonathan Lockhart.

Chapter Seven

Careless Mayor

#

The mayor was rather careless with his expedition for a white rhino, unaware of how dangerous it was even while in captivity. Fai who had gotten back from the coffee shop could see how distraught Jonathan was in handling the mayor. The mayor wouldn't dare take no for an answer.

#

"What do you mean the white rhino is dangerous, we must show the Empire of Quinta whose boss!" said Mayor Coyote.

#

"But they'll just send in their tax collectors to tax money from us" sighed Jonathan.

#

"I don't care, a white rhino will show us the edge" said Mayor Coyote.

#

Mayor Coyote was furious that his own trusted adviser Jonathan Lockhart disagreed with him. He soon slammed the door — he was hopeful that Dex "Razor" Shadow's daughter Nyx would be finished with the mind control helmet for the white rhino very soon. As he sat in his office, he decided to call up his old rival from Quinta — Opal Islewink, the leader of the Empire of Quinta.

#

"A white rhino you say, captured by your champions?" asked Opal.

#

“You know it” replied Mayor Coyote, “some of my finest scientists are working on a mind control helmet.”

#

Opal was intrigued a few of his tax collectors were with him eavesdropping on the phone conversation.

#

Quinta Capital

#

The Quinta was the capital of the continent of Zyndarra, Mayor Opal Islewink, an anthropomorphic bat just like Mayor Coyote Bitterboots had crowned himself as “emperor” of his empire. He had such a vast wealth thanks to his team of tax collectors who were more of his enforcers around the empire. They were seeking to expand through Rift City which was on the edge of their influence. Among Emperor Opal’s trusted tax collectors were Lou Blanc; Tiye Botros and Oriel the Steamed Powered Bot a more powerful model than Radu’s steamed powered bot version.

#

“This is rather interesting, my old rival thinks he can outsmart us by controlling the wildlife of Brasstania that’s impossible!” cried Emperor Opal.

#

“I know it is boss” said Lou, “we tried capturing one ourselves a few years ago but the creature got away.”

#

“And more likely that will happen with Rift City, I can’t wait to see the look on my rival’s face

when that happens” laughed Emperor Opal.

#

The Emperor soon was preparing an airship to head towards Rift City — it was the fastest way for travel for the wealthy individuals such as himself.

#

#

The Airship

#

Emperor Opal headed out from his office being greeted by steamed powered robo guards. The robo guards escorted the emperor to his airship which was docked at a local barracks overseeing the entire city of Quinta. Quinta was quite wealthy from all the taxes that Emperor Opal had collected — he sought out more income through Rift City especially with its main scientists.

#

“Come, let’s head on off and see this white rhino for ourselves!” laughed Emperor Opal.

#

The anthropomorphic bat soon headed towards the main captain’s area of the ship. He loved steering the airships himself. The steamed powered robot who was in charge allowed the emperor to take a spin on the wheel.

#

“This is going to be so much fun!” laughed Emperor Opal.

#

His trio of tax collectors sat in the lower deck of the airship as the airship took off.

#

“We should be there within a day” said Emperor Opal over the inner comm.

#

The airship soon takes off with everyone on board — Rift City was going to get a visit from the Emperor of Quinta! Meanwhile for Johanna she was doing her best trying to study the beast from afar.

#

Weakness Around the Pen

#

Johanna took a few steps towards the pen, she could see the beast was still active and about. It galloped around the pen trying to search for a weak point.

#

“Mmm, maybe I can help it” thought Johanna.

#

Johanna soon began to taunt the beast, she knew Saker would be too busy with other assignments for customers at his blacksmith shop to keep a close eye out.

#

“You want a piece of me?” asked Johanna.

#

Johanna soon stuck out her tongue at the white rhino which only angered it even further. It then began to charge towards her only to be shocked by the electric fence that was around the pen.

#

“Hmm, I just need to try this a few more times and the electric fence should go down completely” laughed Johanna.

#

Johanna continued with her mockery to the white rhino, and the white rhino again charged towards her. She ducked out of the way and the white rhino ends up hitting the electric fence again. The shock was no doubt purposely trying to overpower the power generator for the fence itself. Her plan was so far working.

Part Three

Chapter Eight

Commotion Around the Pen

#

The white rhino soon picked itself up and charged again at Johanna, but she kept on running away causing the white rhino to keep on hitting the electric fence. It was still quite a shocking experience for the white rhino who let out a scream that no human nor bat wanted to hear. Dex “Dexter” Shadow overheard the cry and soon came running towards the white rhino’s aid.

Johanna ducked around some bushes hoping to hide from him.

#

“What’s wrong boy, is someone harassing you?” asked Dex.

#

Dex was treating the white rhino more like a pet, rather than a prize in contrast to what Mayor Coyote wanted. The white rhino, if it could show emotion would be crying right now. Dex clearly could see it in distress. He then sensed some movement around the bushes.

#

“Don’t worry, I will get whoever is mistreating you” said Dex.

#

Dex soon lunged towards the bushes and tackled Johanna. Johanna couldn’t believe how easy it was for her to be caught like this. Radu the Steamed Powered robot noticed the commotion and decided to assist Dex.

#

“What’s the trouble?” asked Radu.

#

Dex was doing his best trying to restrain Johanna, but she kept on struggling.

#

Apprehending Johanna

#

Radu always had a spare of handcuffs ready for for anything since he ran the city’s local coffee shop. He placed handcuffs over Johanna’s wrists.

#

“Sorry to do this to you, but you were bothering the white rhino” said Radu.

#

Radu could clearly see that Johanna wanted to get the white rhino’s horn to poachers.

#

“I would have gotten away with it” said Johanna.

#

Dex soon helped Johanna up.

#

“Don’t worry, I will take her to the gate guard Epistor, he’ll know what to do with her” laughed Radu.

#

Johanna was soon handed over to Radu, and soon she found herself being escorted towards the exit of Rift City.

#

“You know, that was very clever of you trying to sneak back like that” laughed Radu, “it’s too bad you refused my position to be my assistant for my coffee shop. You’d have redeemed yourself in the public eye.”

#

“I don’t care about your stupid coffee” said Johanna.

#

Radu shook his head as he arrived at the gate of Rift City.

#

“And what do we have here?” asked Epistor.

#

“An intruder” laughed Radu.

#

“The Ruslan brothers will know what to do with her” said Epistor.

#

Epistor soon took over and brought her outside to the outpost.

#

Punishing the Outcast

#

Epistor soon arrived at the outpost with Johanna as his prisoner. The Ruslan brothers Horace and Hank immediately noticed her.

#

“We’ll handle things from here” said Hank.

#

“Thank you gentlemen” said Epistor.

#

Epistor soon headed back doing guard duties for the city. Horace and Hank took a look at Johanna, they knew she would have to work in the fields before reclaiming her freedom.

#

“Too bad that you could have just taken a job in Rift City” sighed Horace, “now the only job suitable for you is working in the fields.”

#

The Ruslan brothers then escorted her to a local farmer — Mado Nzinga. Mado was the local farmer for Rift City who would often farm his crops with steamed powered inventions. He used steamed powered robots for most of his labor, but would often receive fugitives like Johanna by the Ruslan brothers.

#

“Glad you brought someone to work on my farm” laughed Mado, “it’s no fun to just talking with robots.”

#

“Well, Ms. Johanna here tried to frighten the white rhino that Tyler and Charlotte caught the other day” said Hank.

#

“I will make sure she’ll get to work right away” said Mado.

#

Mado soon gave Johanna a tour of the farm and what her tasks would be doing.

#

Johanna's Tasks

#

Johanna's tasks ranged from being very simple to more complicated. She would have to feed the wild pigs that Mado used to farm. The pigs were too wild to be kept in a pen and instead they got to roam around wider field.

#

"What the heck, these pigs are just as worse as the white rhino!" cried Johanna.

#

"Maybe you should have not taunted the white rhino" replied Mado.

#

Mado watched as she fed the pigs their combination of meat and fruit. The pigs of Brasstania were omnivorous and almost would eat nearly everything in sight if they could. One large pig soon emerged as the top alpha as it began to dine on the meat and fruit before it.

#

"Disgusting animals" thought Johanna.

#

"Wait until you get a load of the machines I use" laughed Mado.

#

Mado soon showed Johanna the steamed powered machines — no doubt they were all inventions made by Dexter "Razer" Shadow. They all had his trademark logo on them.

#

"The Shadow clan have supplied me with these inventions" said Mado, "I didn't know what I would do without them."

#

Mado soon demonstrated Johanna how to operate some of the machines.

Chapter Nine

Arrival of Emperor Opal

#

After showing Johanna a demonstration of a machine that could plant crops — Johanna attempted to give it a shot. The controls were hard for her to figure out, but Mado showed her how to operate them.

#

“Shouldn’t be that too complicated” said Mado.

#

Mado provided Johanna with an instruction book. But the moment Johanna started the engine of the machine — the airship that Emperor Opal was flying on was heading towards Rift City. Mado paused for a moment to gaze at the airship and all its glory.

#

“That’s Emperor Opal’s ship!” cried Mado.

#

“Emperor who?” asked Johanna.

#

“He’s responsible for collecting taxes from various city states like Rift City” said Mado, “he must be here to see the white rhino!”

#

The commotion from the airship began to wake people up from their slumber. Emperor Opal knew how to make an entrance. Charlotte was the first one to get up seeing the sight of the

airship as she peeked out a window.

#

“Great, he’s here” sighed Charlotte.

#

Charlotte wasn’t impressed with Emperor Opal or his empire. Lucky Rift City never had a war with them at all.

#

Emperor Opal Makes Landfall

#

The airship purposely hovered over Mayor Coyote Bitterboot’s office — it was a way to annoy his rival of his presence. Mayor Coyote who was up during the evening heard the loud airship.

#

“Uh, he does this on purpose!” cried Mayor Coyote.

#

The mayor soon heads out from his office still tired from the previous day. Jonathan had rested a few hours but only just a few. Fai had gone home for the evening but no doubt was now up because of the emperor’s arrival.

#

“Just be on your toes with this fellow” said Mayor Coyote, “I know he is a backstabber.”

#

“I’ll be aware of my surroundings sir” said Jonathan.

#

Both the mayor and Jonathan emerged from the office with Emperor Opal using a ladder to get

down from the airship. The emperor's trusted tax collectors — Lou, Tiye and Oriel soon followed.

#

“So where is this infamous white rhino your champion Tyler Knight caught?” asked Emperor Opal, “I want to see it!”

#

“Well, there was an incident caused by an outcast that had injured the white rhino” said Mayor Coyote.

#

No doubt the mayor was referring to the recent arrest of Johanna LaRouche Dubious.

#

Bickering Emperor

#

The emperor was in no mood for waiting, he wanted to see the white rhino now.

#

“I demand you bring me to the white rhino” said Emperor Opal.

#

“I will see what I can do” said Mayor Coyote.

#

The mayor sighed as he and Jonathan headed off towards the white rhino's pen. In the meantime, the emperor noticed Radu's coffee shop and decided to take a break. He along with his three tax collectors soon emerged through the entrance.

#

“Emperor Opal, I didn’t expect to see you at my humble coffee shop” said Radu.

#

“Do you have a discount for emperors?” asked Emperor Opal.

#

Radu knew it was best to always listen to Emperor Opal, even if it was a ridiculous demand.

#

“I’ll see what I can do, what it would be?” asked Radu.

#

“Your finest coffee, we’re kind of tired from all of the traveling” said Emperor Opal.

#

“Do you want anything special?” asked Radu.

#

“Make it a mocha” replied Emperor Opal.

#

“Same for all of us” added Lou.

#

“Four mochas, coming right up” said Radu.

#

Radu decided it was best not to charge them anything feeling they were from the Empire of Quinta.

#

Free Coffee

#

The emperor and his tax collecting henchmen got their free drinks from Radu. It was out of courtesy that Radu didn't want to face their wrath at all. The emperor and his henchmen sat down in one of the largest tables waiting for the mayor's assessment over the white rhino. Soon Tyler emerged from the entrance of the coffee shop. The emperor recognized him immediately.

#

"Ah yes, Master Tyler Knight" said Emperor Opal.

#

Tyler also heard the airship roar right into Rift City, and did his best trying to be polite.

#

"You must be the champion who caught the white rhino, I have heard so much about you" said Emperor Opal.

#

"Yea, boss wants to add the white rhino to his growing army" said Lou.

#

"Don't give anything away" whispered Emperor Opal.

#

The other two tax collectors knew to keep silent over such sensitive matters.

#

"Won't you join us?" asked Emperor Opal.

#

Tyler swallowed — he knew he couldn't say no.

#

"I'll get my coffee first" said Ty.

#

“Yes, you do that” said Emperor Opal.

#

Oriel soon pulled up a chair for Tyler to sit on, the emperor was intrigued to know more about Tyler’s own skills. He felt Tyler would fit perfectly within his army.

Chapter Ten

Emperor's Offer

#

Tyler couldn't refuse to say no to Emperor Opal, knowing how powerful the Empire of Quinta really was. As he sat down with his fellow tax collectors, the emperor was confident that Tyler would join becoming a member of his army.

#

"How would you like to work through the ranks of my military?" asked Emperor Opal, "You look like the strapping young man we need to boost the morale of the military. Even if you start from let's say a scout level."

#

Tyler thought about it, he would have to move from Rift City and start a new life in Quinta, the capital of Zyndarra.

#

"Sounds like a tempting offer, I must consult my family with it first before I make the final decision" said Ty.

#

"That sounds reasonable" replied Emperor Opal, "perhaps you can demonstrate how you caught the white rhino that the mayor is trying to impress me would also be an added bonus."

#

The emperor knew his former rival Mayor Coyote was a reckless fool who would dare ruin his own advantages against him. Getting Tyler to get the white rhino to be tamed under the

emperor's command would be more than suitable.

#

Tyler's Thoughts

#

Tyler sat down for several more minutes trying to think about what the emperor had stated. The other tax collectors beside Tyler — Lou, Tiye and Oriel were all more than happy to chime in.

#

“You should sign up” said Lou, “there are so many benefits being part of the Empire of Quinta.”

#

“Yep, we could use someone as smart as you on our team” said Tiye.

#

“I don't know, I will have to still think this over with my family” said Ty.

#

“Take your time, we'll be here the rest of the month” said Emperor Opal.

#

Tyler soon headed off with his coffee cup in hand, so many thoughts were racing through his head. He arrived home where his father Excel greeted him.

#

“Why the serious face son?” asked Excel.

#

“The Emperor offered me to join his military for the Empire of Quinta” said Ty.

#

Excel gasped in shock with this revelation, he knew the Empire of Quinta's military were a

prestigious members of high society around the Zyndarrian continent.

#

“I better tell your mother about this, we’ll discuss this over lunch” said Excel.

#

Tyler decided to rest on the sofa, he knew this wasn’t over by a long shot with the emperor.

#

Resting Tyler

#

Tyler rested on the sofa, word of the emperor’s suggestion in joining his military reached all ears of his family members. His older siblings Dee and Dave entered the living room. Tyler opened his eyes seeing them.

#

“Bro, can’t believe Emperor Opal himself wanted you to join his military” laughed Dave, “that’s pretty bold of him.”

#

“Yea, I guess I should accept the offer but I could use some help” said Ty, “I didn’t catch the white rhino alone. Charlotte assisted me.”

#

“True” said Dee, “she did help you. It would be only fair for the emperor to accept the both of you into his military.”

#

“That also means you will have to defend those dreadful tax collectors” added Dave, “everyone hates them!”

#

“I know, but he states I will have to work from the lower ranks so that won’t be my objective”
said Ty.

#

Tyler suspected he would receive the entry rank of being a scout for the military instead of being part of the main foot soldiers. His older siblings knew they had to be supportive of his new possible venture. It was finally lunch time, and Tyler could discuss matters even further with his parents.

#

Supportive of Tyler

#

Tyler headed towards the main dinning room area of the house where Marian had made sandwiches for everyone. A plate of at least a dozen were laid in the center of the table.

#

“Eat up” said Marian.

#

Marian took one sandwich and sat down in her usual chair. Everyone could see that Tyler was going to be doing great things in Quinta, the capital of Zyndarra.

#

“You must be so pleased that the emperor has selected you” said Marian.

#

“It’s not everyday you get the emperor of Quinta on your side” said Excel.

#

“That means I will have to move, leave Rift City” said Ty.

#

Rift City was the only world Tyler had known throughout his entire life on Brasstania. He couldn't believe with the sort of luck he had. As he continued to eat his lunch, he would have to speak with Charlotte over this pretty soon. No doubt that he wouldn't be the only one selected to move to Quinta. After lunch was finished, he soon headed over to speak to Charlotte at her place. Reginald welcomed in Tyler, he was having his usual cup of tea with his daughter.

Epilogue

Matter of the White Rhino

#

Charlotte knew the emperor wouldn't turn her down, since she did assist with apprehending the white rhino.

#

"We have to make sure the Shadow clan moves forward with controlling the white rhino" said Ty.

#

"I hope nothing goes wrong" said Charlotte.

#

Deep down, Charlotte had second thoughts brewing inside of her. Ever since bringing the white rhino safely into Rift City. Though Johanna LaRouche Dubious was apprehended by Dex, the white rhino itself was still not tamable. She had heard similar stories of how even soldiers from the Empire of Quinta tried to impress the emperor themselves with taming a white rhino only to end in failure.

#

"Well, we'll just have to be on our best behavior and make sure the white rhino cooperates" said Charlotte.

#

Tyler continued to sit with the Lennox clan for the rest of the afternoon. The scene soon switches over to Dexter Senior's laboratory in the basement. His daughter Nyx was busy

working on the mind control helmet. She wanted to try it out first on the white rhino before giving it to Saker to mass produce it with his blacksmith shop.

#

The Mind Control Helmet

#

Dexter Senior arrived at his basement to inspect the finish project by his daughter Nyx. The helmet was large enough to fit on the white rhino.

#

“Ah, very good design dear you did a bang up job” said Dexter Senior.

#

“Yes father, I will demonstrate to the emperor tomorrow morning” said Nyx.

#

Dexter Senior smiled at his daughter, he could see that she could be promoted to be part of the Emperor’s science team for the Empire of Quinta. Rift City would be in good standing with the emperor and even his dreadful tax collectors.

#

“I will let Mayor Coyote know about the progress in person” said Dexter Senior.

#

Dexter Senior headed off, Nyx continued to gaze at her finished project before her. She was so much filled with pride. She knew she would have to get Tyler to be mindful over the helmet when he would try to show the emperor how to tame the white rhino. As for the white rhino it sat in its pen unable to find a way out. Johanna no longer taunted it since she was being punished by Mado.

#

Lonely White Rhino

#

Though the white rhino was known to be vicious — it still desired freedom. The pen that it was being kept in was jail and it knew it'd soon receive worse fate if the plans from the humans and anthropomorphic bats were to succeed. Dexter Senior emerged from his house and saw the pen. He glanced at the white rhino from afar.

#

“We have big plans for you my white rhino friend, you may not see it as important to you but it will make all the more sense” said Dexter Senior.

#

Dexter Senior then takes off towards the mayor's place. The white rhino gazes around hoping to search for an escape route. Would the white rhino try something once the mind control helmet is put to use? Find out in the next exciting book!

* * *

TY “TURBO” KNIGHT: STEAMPUNK VARIANT BOOK 2

TAMING THE WHITE RHINO

by

Maxwell Hoffman

Part One

Prologue

The Mayor's Office

#

Dex “Razer” Shadow (Dexter Senior) had arrived at Mayor Coyote Bitterboots office.

The mayor was no doubt nervous for tomorrow on what’d transpire. He wanted to show off his former rival Emperor Opal Islewink over taming the white rhino. He was uncertain on what the future might hold. His faithful adviser Jonathan Lockhart was just outside the office penciling in Dexter Senior’s name onto the roster.

#

“The mayor is just going over his feelings on how tomorrow will transpire” said Jonathan.

#

“Understandable, we all get nervous sometimes” said Dexter Senior.

#

Dexter Senior waited in the lobby area on the sofa, near him was Ms. Fai Yong, Jonathan’s main assistant and also fellow assistant to the mayor. She was busy going over the paperwork for the mass production of the mind control helmet — an order by the mayor to Saker the local blacksmith. The mayor finally emerged from his office still rather nervous for tomorrow.

#

“Dexter Senior, welcome” said Mayor Coyote.

#

The anthropomorphic bat invited Dexter Senior into the main office area. He headed towards the office and the door closed on them both. Dexter Senior then sat down in a chair that was pulled up just for him.

#

Concerns for Tomorrow

#

Dexter Senior could tell how nervous the mayor was, he was a wreck.

#

“Something the matter mayor?” asked Dexter Senior.

#

The mayor was well aware of how soldiers from the Empire of Quinta attempted to apprehend white rhinos but all had failed. He sat down in his seat doing his best trying to gather his thoughts and personal feelings over the matter.

#

“Emperor Opal expects everything to go well, if I screw up I could go to the mines for this!” cried Mayor Coyote.

#

“That is very dreadful, we wouldn’t want that to happen to you sir” said Dexter Senior, “I have faith in the genius of my daughter Nyx. Master Tyler Knight, since he apprehended the white rhino it should be only fair for him to tame the beast.”

#

“Yea, you’re right” replied Mayor Coyote, “but it’s so complicated how these beasts behave.

One minute they try to snack on you, the other they're pretending to be all cuddly!"

#

"Tell me about it" replied Dexter Senior.

#

Dexter Senior continued for the next few moments trying to calm down the mayor. The mayor eventually felt more confident that Ty "Turbo" Knight could tame the beast.

#

Sleeping Tyler

#

But as the mayor and Dexter Senior continued to discuss matters of the white rhino, Ty "Turbo" Knight was already heading off to bed. He wanted to get up very early so that he could assist Mayor Coyote Bitterboots and the emperor on taming the white rhino. His faithful loyal steamed powered cat — Glitchy had his own smaller bed next to Tyler's.

#

"Let's get some sleep Glitchy, we have a big day ahead of us" said Ty.

#

"Meow" replied Glitchy.

#

The rest of the household were still up — Marian was still worried for Tyler's own safety. She peeked out of the window and gazed at the pen that housed the white rhino. She could see how vicious it was as it snarled the moment she spotted it.

#

“Dear me, it is quite a brute” said Marian.

#

“Which is all the more reason why we should be supportive of Tyler trying to tame it” said Excel.

#

“What if he doesn’t, what if something were to go wrong with the mind control helmet?” asked Marian.

#

“Dear, hush” said Excel as he tried to calm her down, “Tyler will do fine. He is a resourceful young man.”

#

Marian wasn’t so sure wild beasts like the white rhino were known to be rather not tamable.

#

The Mighty Beast Itself

#

The white rhino still felt it wanted freedom — it couldn’t just charge at the fence. It would be shocked if it did. It continued to pace back and forth patiently waiting until morning. It ate whatever meat was placed in the troughs by Radu. Radu the steamed powered robot would assist Rift City in filling the troughs with meat.

#

“Ew, I can’t believe you would eat this stuff” said Radu.

#

The white rhino headed over towards the trough and began to eat the meat before it. It was

pleased that it had its fair share of filling. But still the pen itself was more like a prison to the white rhino — it wanted freedom and it was going to get freedom at any given cost.

As for Radu, he continued to observe the white rhino from a distance.

#

“Glad I’m not trying to tame you” laughed Radu, “poor Tyler has it way in over his head with this one.”

#

Radu could see trouble coming as the white rhino continued to pace around the pen. He headed back to his coffee shop to close up for the rest of the evening.

Chapter One

Large Crowd Gathering

#

The Ruslan brothers — Horace and Hank along with a few other soldiers did their best to maintain the crowd. The crowd were all eager to witness how the Shadow Clan would unleash its latest invention in terms of controlling the white rhino. Nyx “Nya” Shadow, Dexter Senior’s daughter was nervous. She was carrying her helmet as she and her mother Camille were heading towards the pen with Dex.

#

“Everyone is anticipating that this will work” said Nyx.

#

“I know everyone seems to be pressuring you” said Camille, “but just do your best. Your brother Dex will be helping Tyler and Charlotte Lennox secure the white rhino.”

#

The crowd was a mixture of bats, humans and steamed powered robots. They were all eager to see what’d happen with the white rhino within the pen. Radu had already setup his own coffee stand and was handing out coffee at a very discounted price.

#

“Get your coffee here, now at a very low price!” laughed Radu.

#

Tyler arrived at Radu’s coffee stand, Radu was excited that everyone was going to see how the white rhino was going to be finally put under control.

#

Exciting Day!

#

Radu was excited for the day, only because he wasn't the one who wasn't going to tame the vicious white rhino.

#

"Glad that you made it, you know this could trigger memories from the Emperor over his past failures in getting a white rhino himself but if you pull it off, you could be promoted into his military for sure" said Radu.

#

"I'm not so sure if I'm ready to leave Rift City, I have so much going on for me" said Ty.

#

"What do you mean, you have more opportunities if you were to live in Quinta instead of Rift City" continued Radu, "I can go on, and on, but I can't. You got an white rhino to tame."

#

Tyler was handed a free coffee on the house by Radu. Tyler sadly accepted the free coffee and headed towards the pen. There Mayor Coyote Bitterboots was there with Jonathan Lockhart and Jonathan's faithful assistant Ms. Fai Yong.

#

"Are you excited today my boy?" asked Mayor Coyote.

#

"I'm not so sure that white rhino is tamable" said Ty.

#

“Nonsense” replied Mayor Coyote, “we can do anything with the wilderness. Even conquer it.”

#

Tyler wasn’t so certain — the white rhino huffed as it saw the large crowd forming — though a generator was powering the electric fence Tyler knew anything could go wrong.

#

All Counted For

#

Emperor Opal Islewink and his tax collector enforcers: Lou Blanc; Tiye Botros and Oriel the Steamed Powered Robot arrived followed by the Shadow Clan: Dexter Senior, Dex, Camille and Nyx. Charlotte and her father Reginald were also present.

#

“Everyone seems like they’re here” said Emperor Opal, “Reginald be a good grounds keeper and open the pen for us.”

#

“Coming right up Emperor” replied Reginald.

#

Reginald had the keys to the pen, he was cautious as he stepped towards the gate. Once he opened the gate, Tyler, Nyx, Dex and Charlotte headed inside. Tyler’s family watched within the crowd. They were no doubt concerned for Tyler’s safety.

#

“Oh, I hope he’s able to tame that beast” said Excel, “if not we’re all done for.”

#

“Lucky we have an emergency plan if the white rhino does break free” said Dee.

#

“Yea, we’ve been training for this” added Dave.

#

Saker the blacksmith on the other hand, was passing out weapons for the crowd. The weapons were mostly melee weapons that he had crafted for such a possible event if the white rhino did break free.

#

“Get your free weapons!” decried Saker.

#

Members of the crowd didn’t seem to mind Saker’s approach feeling they needed to protect themselves.

#

Difficult White Rhino

#

Meanwhile within the pen: Tyler, Charlotte, Dex and Nyx were all nervous. Nyx needed at least Charlotte and her brother Dex to provide the white rhino as a diversion. Tyler would be the one placing the helmet on top of the head of the white rhino.

#

“I’ll be the one to do it” said Ty.

#

Nyx cautiously handed over the helmet to Tyler, as for the white rhino it noticed Tyler with the strange helmet. The commotion from the crowd made the white rhino a little

more difficult to control.

#

“Hey, look at me!” cried Charlotte.

#

Charlotte was doing her best to get the white rhino to pay attention to her. It turned around and noticed her. Reginald couldn’t watch as the white rhino huffed as if it were ready to charge. But before it could — Dex tossed some dirt over the white rhino’s eyes.

#

“No, over here!” cried Dex.

#

Dex and Charlotte would trade turns in distracting the white rhino providing Tyler the change he needed. Tyler’s faithful steamed powered cat Glitchy watched among the crowd.

#

“Meow!” cried Glitchy.

#

“You’re right, the white rhino is very dangerous” said Excel.

#

The Knight family were hopeful Tyler would make it out of this one.

Chapter Two

Moment of Truth

#

The white rhino continued to be confused between the taunting from Dex and Charlotte. Nyx couldn't watch, fearing for Tyler's safety. However, Tyler was able to mount the white rhino. Now all he had to do was place on the mind control helmet.

#

"I made it!" cried Ty.

#

The beast didn't seem to enjoy it one bit — the white rhino then began to ride like a rodeo bull trying to get Tyler off of its back. Tyler held onto the white rhino thanks to his steamed powered suit's gloves. The grip on the thick skin of the white rhino was pretty tight.

#

"Whoa there!" cried Ty.

#

Tyler held onto the white rhino's back with dear life. Marian nearly fainted seeing her son on the white rhino. But Emperor Opal and Mayor Coyote were in awe with Tyler's presence.

#

"I don't believe it, he's going to actually tame the white rhino!" thought Emperor Opal.

#

“Yes, that’s how Rift City does it!” thought Mayor Coyote.

#

Tyler cautiously moved up the white rhino’s back inching towards the white rhino’s head. He was able to place the helmet right on the white rhino’s head just as it was able to fling him off its back.

#

Hard Landing

#

Tyler fell quite hard on the ground, he couldn’t believe he had done it — placing the mind control helmet on the white rhino. Now all that needed to be done was the mind control helmet to actually calm down the white rhino itself.

#

“Give it a few moments, the helmet should kick right in” said Dexter Senior.

#

Dexter Senior aimed to calm the crowd who were terrified that anything could go wrong. They had their melee weapons ready, and even Saker had a pair of melee weapons himself. He was also nervous.

#

“Come on, work” said Saker.

#

The mind control helmet was solar/luna generated. It took merely just a few seconds for it to turn on. The white rhino paused its violent behavior and instead became more docile instead.

The crowd burst out with cheers knowing that the white rhino had been tamed. Nyx along with

Dex and Charlotte then helped up Tyler from the ground.

#

“Did it work?” asked Ty.

#

Tyler was still somewhat dizzy from that experience being tossed around like a rag doll by the white rhino. It was safe enough for Reginald to allow the Emperor and his men come out to inspect the beast for themselves.

#

Inspecting the White Rhino

#

Emperor Opal and his tax collecting enforcers took turns inspecting the white rhino. Reginald was fearful the helmet could fail at any given moment. But Dexter Senior assured him otherwise.

#

“That helmet is going to stay on that beast for a very long time” said Dexter Senior.

#

“I do hope you’re right about that” said Reginald, “it was such an ordeal for Master Tyler Knight to place it onto it.”

#

The Emperor and his men continued to inspect the white rhino now that it was behaving quite nicely.

#

“Ah yes, we’ll have this white rhino head towards Quinta within a week” said Emperor

Opal, “I will provide the airship that will transport it to the capital.”

#

“Very good, how much are you willing for the mass production of those helmets?” asked Mayor Coyote.

#

“Oh, I don’t know perhaps at least a thousand each” replied Emperor Opal, “Rift City will be exempt for the time being from any taxation from the Empire of Quinta so long as it produces me that mind control helmet for more white rhinos like it in my army!”

#

The emperor was making it very clear — the white rhino was being used as a power play on the continent of Zyndarra.

#

Tyler is Okay

#

Ty “Turbo” Knight emerged a hero to Rift City for taming the white rhino. Still being lifted up by Dex, Charlotte and Nyx; Marian and Excel then took over in helping up their son.

#

“We’re so proud of you that you were able to place that mind control helmet on the white rhino” said Marian.

#

“We were prepared in case if anything went wrong” said Dee.

#

“And Saker gave us cool melee weapons if the white rhino did break free from its pen” laughed

Dee.

#

“I just want to rest, I’ll talk to the emperor about the Quinta stuff later” said Ty.

#

Marian and Excel escorted their son home with Dee, Dave and Glitchy.

#

“Meow!” cried Glitchy.

#

“Yea, Glitchy was worried about you too” added Dave.

#

“Glad everything is all over it’s all uphill from here” said Ty.

#

The crowd then began to disperse once the white rhino event was over. Everyone was both pleased and relieved that nothing went wrong. Mado Nzinga and Johanna LaRouche Dubious were both present among the crowd.

#

“Now Johanna, don’t you dare try anything against that white rhino” said Mado.

#

Mado knew he had to still keep an eye on her, she was still going to cause trouble if she could pull it off.

Chapter Three

Knight Family Rests

#

The Knight family for the most part rested for most of the day. Tyler especially as he headed towards his bedroom. He could see so much change was going to happen very soon. Glitchy knew something was up, the steamed powered robot cat did his best to cheer up his master.

#

“Meow!” cried Glitchy.

#

“I know the emperor would want me to move from Rift City to Quinta, but I’m not so sure if I’m ready for the job” said Ty, “capturing the white rhino alone and then taming it was such an ordeal.”

#

“Meow” said Glitchy.

#

“Benefits, that’s what Radu stated to me” said Ty.

#

“Meow” said Glitchy.

#

“Glad you’d support me if I made the decision to move” said Ty.

#

Glitchy knew that he would be left behind in Rift City with the rest of the Knight family. As for

the Shadow Clan, Dexter Senior was already celebrating the success of his mind control helmet with the white rhino. He had decorations all over the Shadow Clan residence.

#

“I can’t believe it’s finally happened, the emperor could appoint me to be a possible science adviser” said Dexter Senior.

#

Dexter Senior had high hopes that would happen — however the emperor had made no such promises to the Shadow Clan.

#

Speculative Camille

#

Camille wasn’t so sure that it would be Dexter Senior to be selected if a member of the Shadow Clan were to leave for Quinta. Rather she suspected her daughter Nyx instead.

#

“Dear, I think you’re celebrating a bit too early” said Camille.

#

“What do you mean by that?” asked Dexter Senior, “The white rhino wouldn’t have been tamed without my invention!”

#

“I know, but it was really your daughter who managed to design it, sure you came up with the diagram for her but she did the most part” said Camille, “why don’t you train your daughter first to draw up diagrams in case if you’re not the one who’s selected?”

#

Dexter Senior was disappointed, he knew the emperor made no such remarks about appointing him.

#

“Fine, I’ll go speak with her” sighed Dexter Senior.

#

Dexter Senior was no doubt disappointed — he headed upstairs to Nyx’s room. There Nyx was just doing her best to rest from her ordeal in helping Tyler tame the white rhino.

#

“Everything okay?” asked Dexter Senior.

#

Nyx allowed her father to walk inside, he could see how tired she was as everyone else was around Rift City.

#

Feeling Tired

#

Nyx just wanted to rest and relax instead of celebrating taming the white rhino. She knew it was important to please Emperor Opal.

#

“Let’s just be happy that the white rhino didn’t cause a rampage” said Nyx, “that’s all I am grateful for.”

#

“Yea, about the Emperor, he might ask you to move to Quinta since you were the one who created the mind control helmet” said Dexter Senior.

#

“You mean me leaving Rift City?” asked Nyx.

#

“Think of it as a form of growth for you” said Dexter Senior, “I know the emperor could have selected me as an adviser but that discussion never came up. Even if I did the diagram for the helmet.”

#

“I don’t know how to do diagrams, I just know how to make whatever they say” said Nyx.

#

“Let me show you how it’s done” said Dexter Senior.

#

Dexter Senior then crafted up a simple diagram of an easier steamed powered alarm clock. He showed his daughter how to draw up the diagram on the blueprint.

#

“Sounds easy enough” said Nyx.

#

Nyx did her best trying to copy her father’s handiwork before her.

#

Near Exact Copy

#

Nyx followed her father’s advice and constructed the diagram of the steamed powered alarm clock. It would take her at least twenty minutes to make an exact copy of it as how

the diagram stated.

#

“Very good” said Dexter Senior, “if the emperor were to call you up to head to Quinta, I would fully support you.”

#

“Thank you father” said Nyx.

#

Nyx was relieved that her father might be jealous of her, but he wasn’t. As for the emperor he was done inspecting the white rhino. He headed back into Radu’s coffee shop to rest with his tax collector enforcers. The trio of enforcers had already received their free coffee as the emperor stepped in.

#

“We got you a table Emperor” said Oriel.

#

“Very good, I will get my free coffee from Radu” said Emperor Opal.

#

Radu was pleased that nothing bad had happened to the white rhino as the mind control helmet was placed on it. The entire event was already in Rift City’s main newspaper. With members of the crowd being the witnesses to the event. The emperor retrieved his free coffee from Radu and sat down with his tax collector enforcers.

Part Two

Chapter Four

Matter of the Knight and Shadow Clan

#

The emperor knew big changes were going to happen for Rift City. Ty “Turbo” Knight would likely join the ranks of the military of the Empire of Quinta while Nyx “Nya” Shadow could become an engineer working for the military. Those were on the emperor’s mind as he sat down.

#

“I think Tyler and Nyx will make fine additions to my military” said Emperor Opal, “we could use humans and bats who think outside the box.”

#

“Wouldn’t that mean some jealousy among some members?” asked Lou.

#

“All of that will be sorted out once they see their skills in action” replied Emperor Opal, “plus I am hoping that they can show off any rival powers in the region.”

#

The emperor had high hopes that the white rhino would be used to promote the military might of the Empire of Quinta throughout the Zyndarra region. There was still the matter of the warring orc tribes who could pose a possible threat to stability in the entire region. The orcs were often considered as barbarians of the wilderness. They knew everything

about the wilderness of Brasstania and could tame the wildlife without the need of steamed powered inventions.

#

Pesky Orcs

#

The emperor had every right to believe the orcs could counter anything that was steamed powered. In fact, there were at least two orc scouts among the wilderness of Brasstania heading towards Rift City — Qaq Mossmaw and Yagnar Bigkiller. Their tribe was further away from Rift City but they had heard over the rumors of a captive white rhino that was supposedly tamed by Ty “Turbo” Knight and the Shadow Clan. The scene switches to the forest near Rift City.

#

“Uh, I don’t like heading towards those dwellings with those bats and humans” said Qaq.

#

“I know what you mean, but we have to do this for our tribe” replied Yagnar.

#

The orcs behaved more like the indigenous people on Earth, they were often humbled when defeated or had to make strategic retreats. Their scouts were some of the best in Brasstania.

#

“Great, we’ve made it to their outpost” said Yagnar.

#

Both Qaq and Yagnar reported to Chief Mug Yellbone. The tribal chief had heard of the

white rhino being held captive and was intrigued about it. As the two orcs began to creep around the outpost the Ruslan brothers — Horace and Hank were unaware of their presence.

#

Unaware of the Orcs

#

The Ruslan brothers sat and relaxed after the white rhino event they were unaware of the approaching orc scouts. Neither of them suspected a thing.

#

“Glad that nightmare is over” said Horace, “I was a little worried back there that Tyler wouldn’t make it.”

#

“And also I was prepared to take down the white rhino myself” laughed Hank.

#

“Good thing that never happened” added Horace.

#

“Yep, it was a good thing that never happened” replied Hank.

#

The two Ruslan brothers sat in their chairs as the orc scouts managed to sneak pass them. The orc scouts crawled until they reached the city gates. They had to get through Epistor the steamed powered robot guarding the gate — nothing was getting pass it.

#

“How are we going to get pass him?” asked Qaq.

#

Yagnar then had an idea — he noticed Mado's farm nearby.

#

“The farm, it must have some extra clothes that we can use as a disguise” said Yagnar.

#

The two orcs strolled over towards the farm, Johanna was too busy plowing the crops to notice them. She was still struggling hoping to show some form of redemption.

#

Johanna's Struggles

#

Johanna continued to struggle with the steamed powered plow machine. She couldn't believe how crazy the contraption was to her. Mado was observing her on the porch sipping some lemonade he had made himself. He was unaware of the two orc scouts who were sneaking around the farmhouse.

#

“That's right Johanna, keep at it” said Mado, “I will report your activities to the Ruslan brothers who will in turn report to Mayor Coyote.”

#

Johanna continued to struggle trying to just turn on the plow machine — it finally was turned on. But as she tried to push it — the machine went too far.

#

“How do you stop this crazy thing!” cried Johanna.

#

Johanna desperately tried to turn it off — her episode provided some comic relief for

Mado who was rather bored with not one setting of entertainment in sight aside from how the white rhino was controlled by Tyler earlier in the day.

#

“Finally!” cried Johanna.

#

Johanna was able to pull a lever on the steamed powered plow machine forcing it to a complete halt.

#

“Aw, I wanted to see you crash” sighed Mado.

#

Meanwhile for Qaq and Yagnar, they headed into the back area of the farmhouse.

#

Farmer Disguises

#

Lucky for the two orc scouts, there was a few set of clothes lying in a pile that Johanna had yet to take inside. They tried on some of the clothes and finally found a pair each where they could fool the locals into thinking they were reformed orcs.

#

“Ah, these farmer clothes fit!” laughed Qaq.

#

“I know what you’re thinking Qaq” laughed Yagnar, “though they’re kind of small on me.”

#

“Let’s see if we can fool the steamed powered robot guard back at the gate” said Qaq.

#

The two orc scouts then headed off, they passed the outpost where the Ruslan brothers were stationed and arrived at the main gate to Rift City. There Epistor was on the other end ready to inspect the two humanoids before him.

#

“State your business!” bellowed Epistor through a speaker.

#

“Uh, we’re reformed orc farmers who are willing to praise the emperor” said Qaq.

#

“Yes, we’re just reformed orc farmers” replied Yagnar.

#

Epistor bought their alibi and allowed them to enter Rift City. The two orc scouts then had a major culture shock — they couldn’t believe the sort of structures they were witnessing before them nor the airships flying about.

Chapter Five

Main Objective

#

The main objective had hand was right in front of the two orc scouts — the white rhino. They could see how more docile of a creature it had become since the helmet had been placed on it. Yagnar especially was distraught seeing it in this condition.

#

“No, no, no, I won’t stand for this!” cried Yagnar, “This is a grave injustice to such a beautiful creature!”

#

“But we can’t just go inside, there’s an electric fence” said Qaq.

#

Qaq could see the power station not far from the pen were the white rhino was being kept. Yagnar wanted to do something now for the white rhino instead of being held captive like this.

#

“We shouldn’t do anything for now” whispered Qaq, “there will be too many witnesses.”

#

Qaq was right, Yagnar gazed around — human and bat alike the citizens of Rift City would know it was them.

#

“We have to wait until the evening arrives” said Yagnar.

#

Qaq agreed, they headed towards the coffee shop — there they noticed the emperor sitting with his tax collector enforcers. Emperor Opal noticed the two supposedly reformed orcs before him. He wanted to hear their opinions over the white rhino's captivity.

#

Supposedly Reformed Orcs

#

The disguises for the two orc scouts had worked so far, they hadn't been spotted as wrongdoers at least not yet.

#

"You two reformed orcs, what are your thoughts on the white rhino's recent transformation?" asked Emperor Opal.

#

This was a test for Yagnar, he had his firm beliefs that all wild animals regardless of how vicious they were deserved to stay in the wild. Qaq wasn't so sure, even his fellow orc tribal members often rounded up wild beasts so that they could feast upon them later.

#

"Well, I for one am very impressed that the white rhino has come under your control" said Qaq.

#

"Thank the Shadow Clan for most of their part in creating the mind control helmet, I intend to promote Dexter Senior's daughter Nyx as chief engineer of my military" replied Emperor Opal.

#

Yagnar gasped with such shock, he knew he couldn't express his strong opinion now.

#

"I wish you the best of luck in taking care of this magnificent beast" said Yagnar.

#

Qaq was perplexed, he knew only moments ago Yagnar expressed a strong opinion in setting the same said beast free.

#

Knowing What They're Up Against

#

It was smart of Yagnar to change his tune around the emperor, knowing that the rest of the military from the Empire of Quinta will be here at any moment. The two orcs then strolled to the counter — it wasn't so often that Radu had seen orcs before.

#

"You two are not from around here judging by the clothing I think you're farmers from a neighboring town" said Radu.

#

"Uh, that's right we are reformed orcs from a neighboring town" said Qaq.

#

"What's the town's name?" asked Radu.

#

"Uh, Yellbone" replied Yagnar.

#

That was the best the two orc scouts could really do — use the surname of their chief as the fake town that they were from.

#

“Glad to see you two are here, you’re in for a such a treat that white rhino is going to be taken to Quinta, the capital of Zyndarra very soon” replied Radu, “give it at least a day.”

#

Radu was right on the mark, a large airship was heading towards Rift City. It was under the emperor’s direct orders that they were going to pick up the white rhino.

#

Shocking Development

#

Yagnar and Qaq were both in disbelief over this shocking news from Radu. Not even the emperor had made it public yet. The emperor had already told Radu what was going to transpire in the coming days.

#

“I think we need to change our approach” whispered Qaq, “we can’t just demand the white rhino be set free.”

#

“Yes, you’re right” sighed Yagnar, “things just got a little more complicated.”

#

The two orcs sat down a few feet away from the emperor and his tax collector enforcers. Oriel was more suspicious of the two orcs before them, it was strange how the emperor mentioned how pesky the orc tribes were.

#

“You don’t think those two could be spies?” suggested Oriel.

#

“None sense, they’re just reformed orc farmers” said Lou.

#

Oriel wasn’t so certain as he glanced a little closer at them, as they sat and sipped their coffee together. The emperor knew he would have to meet with the Shadow Clan and Ty “Turbo” Knight.

#

“I know what we can do, we’ll have an evening picnic together near the white rhino’s pen” said Emperor Opal.

#

The emperor had thought of everything and was prepared to deliver the news.

#

The Emperor’s Picnic Plan

#

The emperor assigned his tax collector enforcers — Lou, Tiye and Oriel to do the job in letting the Shadow Clan and even the Knight family know that they were welcomed for a picnic near the white rhino pen. It was a daunting task, but it needed to be done.

#

“Don’t worry boss, you can count on us” said Tiye.

#

The trio of tax collector enforcers then got up from the table and headed off. The emperor

decided to also invite the mayor, Jonathan and Fai to the picnic gathering. The orc scouts knew they had to stick around, but not get too close to the action. As the emperor got up from his table he then headed out of the coffee shop.

#

“Ah yes, such freedom after being in that stuffy coffee shop” laughed Emperor Opal.

#

The emperor arrived at the mayor’s office, as he strolled inside he was greeted by Fai.

#

“Is the mayor available, I would like to invite him, you and Jonathan to a picnic this evening near the white rhino pen, I will provide the meals for everyone” said Emperor Opal.

#

“I will let the mayor know that you are here” said Fai.

#

Fai then got up and headed towards the mayor’s office.

Chapter Six

Emperor's Invitation

#

Fai headed towards the mayor's office where Jonathan and the mayor were currently meeting.

#

"Sorry to disrupt you but the emperor wants to invite us to a picnic this evening" said Fai.

#

"Really?" asked Mayor Coyote, "Certainly. Tell him I will be out in a moment with Jonathan."

#

Fai headed back to her desk where the emperor was waiting.

#

"They'll be out shortly" replied Fai as she sat back down.

#

The emperor was pleased — it took a few more minutes for the meeting between Jonathan and Mayor Coyote to wrap right up. The two then strolled out of the mayor's office and into the main area of the office building.

#

"Ah, Mayor Coyote and Jonathan I would love for you two along with the lovely Fai Yong to attend this evening's picnic with the Shadow Clan and the Knight family" replied Emperor Opal.

#

The emperor was being rather generous in showing off his rival on what true leadership was.

The mayor accepted the offer along with Jonathan and Fai.

#

“Splendid, see you when the evening arrives” said Emperor Opal.

#

Meanwhile for the emperor’s tax collectors — Oriel was at the Knight residence to deliver the invitation.

#

Inviting the Knight Family

#

Marian was the one who answered the door, she could see how large Oriel was, as the robotic steamed powered tax collector had to bend his head to get inside the house.

#

“I am here to invite you to a picnic organized by Emperor Opal” said Oriel.

#

Marian knew it had to be something about Tyler moving to Quinta. She was already gathering her emotions.

#

“I will let everyone else know” said Marian.

#

“Thank you, and I hope to see you there” said Oriel.

#

Oriel then was allowed to head out. As for Lou and Tiye, they did the same with the Shadow Clan. Camille was the one who answered the door.

#

“The Emperor requests the Shadow Clan to attend a picnic with the Knight family this evening” replied Lou.

#

“It would be a great honor” replied Camille.

#

Camille was thrilled that they were going to dine with the emperor — it wasn’t so often you’d get this sort of invitation. Oriel, Lou and Tiye were exhausted from their deed. They sat down near the pen where the white rhino was located waiting for the emperor. They were hopeful the emperor’s plan would move forward.

#

Setting Everything Up

#

The emperor had already went to the marketplace to gather some of the food. More likely they were going to have simple sandwiches for everyone. He also provided a few blankets to be laid about.

#

“Ah yes, everything is setup” laughed Emperor Opal

#

The emperor was pleased to see that the mayor, Fai and Jonathan were arriving first.

#

“Everyone is here and accounted for” said Mayor Coyote.

#

“We don’t eat until everyone arrives” said Emperor Opal.

#

The emperor was being firm with his former rival on his manners. The Knight family arrived first with Glitchy included.

#

“Meow” said Glitchy.

#

“Yes, it’s a nice change that we get to finally relax” said Excel.

#

The Knight family sat down on one of the blankets — the Shadow Clan then arrived with every member sitting on the other blank beside the emperor.

#

“Great, everyone accounted for?” asked Emperor Opal.

#

The emperor then displayed the sandwiches before everyone — at least four dozen sandwiches enough for all.

#

“Dig in” said Emperor Opal.

#

The emperor wanted to wait before he would make the big announcement. He could see excitement on everyone’s faces feeling this was an important gathering.

#

The Emperor’s Announcement

#

The emperor cleared his throat as everyone finally took a nibble here and there of their meal.

#

“I’m so glad that I have this young man Tyler Knight here to have apprehended the white rhino” said Emperor Opal, “I would like to make an announcement. I am promoting Tyler to become a scout within my military. He will be trained by some of Quinta’s finest minds!”

#

But that wasn’t all, the emperor then turned to the Shadow Clan family.

#

“As for the Shadow Clan, I am excited to announce that Nyx will be promoted to my chief engineer!” said Emperor Opal.

#

Camille, Dexter Senior and even Dex were all pleased with it. Dex wasn’t jealous at all he was just relieved he got to stay in Rift City.

#

“You mean I am moving?” asked Ty.

#

“Yes, you will move when the white rhino boards the airship within a few days” said Emperor Opal.

#

Tyler couldn’t believe it — this was perhaps his last few moments in Rift City.

#

“But I would feel safer if you got Charlotte to come along with me” said Ty, “I couldn’t have caught the white rhino without her.”

#

The emperor sighed, he knew he could only take one young person for now.

Chapter Seven

Disappointing for Tyler

#

The emperor knew that Tyler wouldn't like the answer at all — if Charlotte wanted to come she would have to be part of Quinta's main science academy. The science academy was where Nyx would and Tyler would both be staying at.

#

“Your friend Charlotte, as much as she helped you capture the white rhino cannot be promoted just yet” said Emperor Opal, “she would have to sign up like everyone else to be part of the science division of the military.”

#

Tyler was disappointed with this news, he would have to say his goodbyes to those in Rift City first. As everyone ate their meals in content with the news, Tyler's future wasn't so certain anymore. Everyone then packed up and headed off to their respective dwellings. For the emperor he and his men were allowed to stay near the main barracks that Epistor was stationed around.

#

“Ah yes, emperor this will be your temporary refuge for the time being until you return home” said Epistor.

#

Epistor gave the emperor and his tax collector enforcers a short tour before showing them their beds.

#

“Ah yes, finally some shut eye the airship shall arrive tomorrow and we shall begin loading the white rhino onto it” said Emperor Opal.

#

The emperor had nothing more than dreams of power for the rest of Brasstania with such a vast technology at his hands.

#

Not an Evil Emperor

#

The emperor began to have a vivid dream of conquering not just all of Zyndarra, but the rest of the other four continents of Brasstania. He could see the flag of the Empire of Quinta on not just all over Zyndarra, but also on other continents such as Velkareth, a mostly high mountain, volcanic continent; Thalmyra, a tropical continent with coral reefs; Myrradon, a rain forest continent; and Norlundr, a southern pole continent.

#

“I am the ruler of the world!” laughed Emperor Opal in the dream.

#

The emperor imagined himself in a tower in the capital of Quinta overseeing everything. He had so much wealth thanks to the mind control helmet that the Shadow Clan had given to him. He couldn’t believe that all of Brasstania saw him as the leader. The dream was so wonderful, powerful and vivid. He could envision happening in real life.

#

“Ah yes, that was such a nice dream” said Emperor Opal as he woke up.

#

The emperor was still at Epistor's barracks getting up for the following day. He heard the roar of the large airship coming in to pick up the white rhino.

#

Airship's Arrival

#

The airship was larger than the emperor's own airship. He didn't seem to mind it at all since it was meant for the white rhino. A large enough cargo hold for a pen to be setup. It felt like Christmas to the emperor as he got up his tax collector enforcers.

#

"EVERYONE, WAKE UP, WAKE UP EVERYONE THE AIRSHIP IS HERE!" cried Emperor Opal.

#

Lou, Tiye and Oriel were still tired from the picnic from the previous evening that they had with the Knight and Shadow Clan. All the social mingling was meant to exhaust them.

#

"Uh, getting up sir" sighed Lou.

#

Lou got out of his bed and stretched. He could see excitement on the emperor's face.

#

"The white rhino will be mine, and so will all of Brasstania!" laughed Emperor Opal.

#

"Great, more people to boss around" sighed Lou.

#

It was the same sort of attitude with Tiye and Oriel — they knew more tax collector enforcers were going to be needed for such a daunting task. Epistor was ready to greet them as they emerged to the mess hall of the barracks. Epistor knew how to make the finest meals especially fit for an emperor.

#

A Good Morning!

#

The emperor had a Can Do attitude on his face as he greeted Epistor. Epistor was pleased that they were up.

#

“It’s nice that the airship has arrived there are a few soldiers waiting near the pen I’ll get your breakfast ready then you go and greet them” said Epistor.

#

“That would be wonderful” said Emperor Opal

#

The emperor then headed towards a table and ate his meal rather quickly. The other tax collector enforcers did their best to enjoy their meal. They were homesick for Quinta, and were pleased that Ty “Turbo” Knight would soon join them.

#

“I hope you’re right about the newcomer boss” said Lou.

#

“Don’t worry, I’m sure I am” replied Emperor Opal.

#

The emperor was confident, perhaps too confident about Ty “Turbo” Knight. Tyler on his end heard the airship. He knew it would be his last few moments in Rift City.

#

“Glitchy, I don’t know if I can take you but I wish you the best of luck with everyone here” said Ty.

#

Glitchy was sad to see Tyler go, he knew something was up.

#

“Meow” sighed Glitchy.

#

“Yea, I will miss you too” said Ty.

#

Tyler then headed out to the main dining area where his family gathered one last time.

Part Three

Chapter Eight

A Full Breakfast

#

Marian was going to make sure Tyler's final moments in Rift City were going to be a wonderful time. Tyler had a sad look on his face as he sat down for his possible final meal with his family.

#

"Cheer up sweetie, things will improve" said Marian, "you'll gain new experiences."

#

"Yea, think of this as your next adventure we'll help Reginald get Charlotte through the science academy so that she could be with you" said Excel.

#

"Thanks" said Ty.

#

"Yea, you're going to be on a lifetime adventure" laughed Dave.

#

"We always wanted to travel out of Rift City, but we're always tied down here" said Dee.

#

"We'll take good care of Glitchy for you while you're gone" added Dave.

#

“Eat up dear, you’ll need it” said Marian.

#

It was a full plate of bacon, eggs, and sausage for Tyler to enjoy. One last meal before saying his goodbyes. As Tyler ate his meal in peace with his family, he was prepared for his emotional goodbyes. After finishing his meal, he cleaned up his plate as he placed it in the sink in the kitchen. He then took one last look before heading out.

#

Saying Goodbye

#

Tyler headed towards the Lennox residence first — he knew Charlotte would miss him the most. As he rang the doorbell, Reginald was the one who answered.

#

“Master Tyler, one last time before taking off to Quinta?” asked Reginald.

#

“Sadly yes” replied Ty.

#

Tyler was sadden as he lowered his head, Reginald could see the emperor had big plans for him. Charlotte was in the living room having her cup of tea.

#

“Tyler, great to see you one last time” said Charlotte.

#

Charlotte gave Tyler a warm hug. She was pleased to see him.

#

“My parents say they can help your father register you for the science academy where me and Nyx are going to stay” said Ty.

#

“That’s great, but I won’t be able to visit until the fall” said Charlotte.

#

Tyler and Charlotte sat down together. He had some tea with her and chatted for at least an hour. He then headed off towards Saker’s blacksmith shop. He was going to miss working with Saker and all of the steamed powered weapons he would create for his adventures.

#

“Saker?” asked Ty as he rang the doorbell on his shop.

#

Saker then answered, he also had a sad face on himself.

#

One Big Hug

#

Saker responded by giving Tyler one big hug. It was a bear-style hug that was nearly crushing Tyler. But Tyler was grateful for all the time that Saker was present.

#

“I will miss being with you” said Saker.

#

“Same here buddy” said Ty.

#

Saker then let’s Tyler go.

#

“I have to say goodbye to Radu, Epistor, Mado and the Ruslan brothers” said Ty.

#

“Yes, you go and do that” said Saker.

#

Saker smiled as Tyler headed off. Tyler gazed back one more time at Saker’s own blacksmith shop. The airship’s soldiers were waiting for the emperor. They were divided on what to do with the white rhino now that it was under their control.

#

“Great, there’s going to be more of them who’s going to clean up after them?” asked one of the soldiers.

#

“Beats me, lucky the newcomers will” laughed one of the soldiers.

#

Tyler continued to trek towards the coffee shop where Radu was just opening up for business for the day.

#

“What can I do for you Tyler?” asked Radu.

#

“Here to say goodbye, this is perhaps my last day here” sighed Ty.

#

Radu was sad to see Tyler go, he was grateful that Tyler got to say his goodbye.

#

A Warm Hug

#

Much like Saker, Radu also gave a warm hug. Tyler could feel the warmth of the steamed powered bot.

#

“I am glad that you were one of my finest customers” said Radu, “there’s never going to be anyone like you here ever again.”

#

“I know, I will come visit” said Ty, “likely during the winter celebrations.”

#

“Yea, I hope they let you” said Radu, “or I will have to come and visit you over there in Quinta!”

#

Radu laughed as both of them spoke for at least an hour. Tyler then headed out of the coffee shop. He then headed towards the main gate to Rift City where Epistor was waiting standing guard.

#

“Epistor, it’s been a pleasure working with you I have come to say my goodbye to you” said Ty.

#

Epistor had a strong stoic manner, but decided to give him a warm hug.

#

“I will miss you too” said Epistor, “you might want to say goodbye to the Ruslan brothers and Mado next.”

#

“I will” said Ty.

#

Tyler smiled at Epistor before heading off. As the gates opened, Tyler headed towards the outpost where the Ruslan brothers were stationed.

Chapter Nine

Goodbye to the Ruslan Brothers

#

Horace and Hank knew this day was coming, they both gave Tyler a warm hug goodbye.

#

“I know goodbyes are very hard” sighed Horace.

#

“Yea, they are, but don’t worry I will try to visit whenever I can” said Ty.

#

“Yes, you’ll do just that” added Hank, “Mado might need a goodbye hug as well.”

#

“Don’t worry, I got this” said Ty.

#

Tyler then strolled off towards the farm where Mado was still watching over Johanna doing her plowing activities. Mado had a good laugh here and there, but the laughter soon came to a halt once Tyler arrived.

#

“What’s the matter Tyler?” asked Mado.

#

“I’m here to say my goodbye, I will pack up and head off on the airship to Quinta after the white rhino is loaded on” said Ty.

#

Mado was disappointed, he knew this day was coming.

#

“Let’s have some lemonade together first” said Mado.

#

Tyler agreed, they sat and drank lemonade together for at least an hour. It was enough time to spend with Mado. Tyler then headed off, he didn’t have to say his goodbye to Johanna he knew she would find her way around to Quinta soon enough.

#

Begin Packing

#

Tyler then headed back to his home, then to his room. There he began to pack his belongings. He took whatever supplies and clothing he would need along the journey. He knew it wouldn’t be an easy one but he was ready for it.

#

“Well Glitchy, this is it, I’m going to head off once that white rhino is loaded onto the airship” said Ty.

#

Glitchy was sad, the steamed powered robotic cat knew it couldn’t just come to Quinta with him.

#

“Meow” said Glitchy.

#

Glitchy responded by rubbing against his legs before letting Tyler leave. Tyler headed

towards the pen where the soldiers brought in a large wagon where they could store the white rhino. Since the white rhino wasn't wild anymore it was easier for them to do the job.

#

"We'll have a pen setup in the cargo area" said one of the soldiers.

#

The emperor then greeted Tyler, he was pleased to see how ready Tyler was for his next big adventure. The two orc scouts knew they had to oversee the operation before reporting back to their chief. It would be vital for them to get a glimpse on what the Empire of Quinta was plotting next.

#

Loading the White Rhino

#

The white rhino wasn't its stubborn self anymore as it was escorted towards the large wagon. The wagon was pulled by some horses by a soldier, he could see the horses would no doubt struggle with the white rhino due to its weight.

#

"This might take sometime" said the soldier on the wagon to the emperor.

#

"That's fine, I got all the time in the world" said Emperor Opal.

#

The emperor and Tyler watched as the wagon moved towards a bridge laid out for the larger airship. The emperor was going to go back on the airship he had arrived on instead of being with Tyler and Nyx. The Shadow Clan then arrived, Tyler didn't have to say goodbye to them that

much since he would likely see them more often in Quinta.

#

“Ah, Tyler it’s nice to see you” said Dexter Senior, “how are your family and friends feeling about your departure to Quinta?”

#

“They’ve accepted it” replied Ty, “and I am going to take off on my next adventure.”

#

“Ah, very good” replied Dexter Senior, “I have already enrolled Dex into the Science Academy. So you’ll see him with his sister there.”

#

The Shadow Clan had everything planned out for Nyx and Dex.

#

The Large Airship

#

The soldier controlling the wagon was able to steer up the bridge towards the airship.

Nyx and Tyler were allowed to use the bridge to get on board.

#

“Goodbye father” said Nyx as she gave her father a hug.

#

Dexter Senior was proud of his daughter, how far she had come. As they said their goodbyes, Tyler and Nyx headed on the bridge. They could see how long it was.

#

“Just take your time” whispered Nyx.

#

Tyler said nothing as he waved to everyone below. When they finally arrived on the airship deck, they could see a pen was being setup.

#

“This is where you’ll be both staying” said the soldier, “we’ll setup the pen while you both get to watch and observe the white rhino.”

#

Tyler gazed at the white rhino, for some reason, Tyler felt sorry for the white rhino. He had all of that work cutout for him in capturing the white rhino only to be used by Emperor Opal.

#

“It looks, sad?” said Ty.

#

“What do you mean by that?” asked Nyx.

#

“I mean just look at it” said Ty.

#

Tyler was feeling regrets, or perhaps he was just imaging the white rhino’s sadness.

Chapter Ten

Taking Off to Quinta!

#

The large airship took off first, before the emperor's airship. The emperor wanted to follow the large airship so that he could inspect it. Tyler and Nyx could both feel the airship taking off as they held on. Nyx blushed as Tyler held onto her.

#

"Sorry" said Nyx.

#

"Uh, same here" said Ty.

#

Some coats were setup for the soldiers, Tyler and Nyx. They were going to stay in the cargo hold where the white rhino was going to be temporarily stationed.

#

"Ah yes, the ship has finally taken off, now once we're in the clouds, we'll be set sailing home" laughed one of the soldiers.

#

The soldiers celebrated this achievement, the white rhino was confused over the celebration unsure what to do. The mind control helmet was working its charm, calming down the white rhino. As the large airship was out of Rift City's airspace, the emperor and his trio of tax collector enforcers got onto their airship.

#

“And now it’s our turn!” laughed Emperor Opal.

#

The emperor then started the airship’s engines and began to take off. The trio tax collectors found seats for themselves to enjoy the show.

#

Emperor Follows

#

The emperor wanted to make sure the larger airship would arrive at Quinta safe and sound. He could tell that everything was secured.

#

“You sure everyone in Quinta will get use to the white rhino?” asked Lou.

#

“Yes, I am sure about it, my plan is full proof to takeover Brasstania” said Emperor Opal, “we’ll be the most powerful empire in the entire world!”

#

This was going to Emperor Opal’s head no doubt — Saker back in Rift City would mass produce the mind control helmets as planned. Other blacksmiths across different city states would do the same for the Empire of Quinta. But there were some doubts in all of this, Tiye felt there could be a power hungry mayor much like the emperor who would turn against him. He had every right to suspect it.

#

“I know we should support the emperor, but I see a flaw in this” whispered Tiye.

#

Tiye was being serious, even Oriel and Lou all agreed with this assessment. War could breakout if such inventions were to fall into the wrong hands. Instead of the Empire of Quinta, there could be a dozen or so empires sprouting up.

#

Through the Clouds

#

The airships continued to soar through the skies of Brasstania. The emperor could see everything that Zyndarra had to offer.

#

“I can’t wait to rule them all!” laughed Emperor Opal.

#

The emperor had conquest on his mind, instead of strategy. He wasn’t thinking clearly on who might abuse the Shadow Clan’s powerful mind control helmet. The white rhino was the prize for now. As for Tyler and Nyx, they both rested on their coats.

#

“Uh, just when are we going to get there?” asked Nyx.

#

Nyx felt more like a backseat passenger, but the problem was the captain was up on the main deck of the ship. They were stuck in the cargo area with the white rhino. The white rhino paced back and forth on the cargo area. The stomps by the rhino wasn’t soothing at all — all uneven and annoying to Nyx.

#

“I think the beast might be nervous as well” said Nyx.

#

“What makes you say that?” asked Ty.

#

“The way it’s moving” said Nyx.

#

Nyx could tell that the white rhino wanted more room, the cargo area was too tight of a place.

#

Nervous White Rhino

#

The white rhino, despite the mind control helmet was quite nervous. It’s pacing was uneven as it moved about in its pen. Though it couldn’t get out, it knew it had reached its end. Tyler and Nyx knew they couldn’t just free the white rhino at all. They would surely get in trouble with the emperor.

#

“We’ll just have to wait and see what happens when we arrive in Quinta” said Nyx.

#

“I sadly agree” sighed Ty.

#

The white rhino continued to pace in an uneven manner around its pen. It had plenty of food but the meat-eating rhino wanted a wider pen than this. It attempted to charge, but the movement of the airship prevented the white rhino from charging.

#

“I think we’re here” said Nyx.

#

Nyx then looked out of the window — surely enough there was Quinta in all of its glory.

The tallest building was no doubt Emperor Opal's main castle. They could see a large pen area meant for the white rhino — it would have more freedom there.

#

“I guess this is it, we're going to be the emperor's trophies” sighed Ty.

#

The large airship was the first to dock, then the emperor's airship.

Epilogue

Vivid Quinta

#

It was a stark contrast from Rift City, Quinta was quite a large place to be. So many shops and places for tourists. Emperor Opal's airship docked at the castle. He soon emerged feeling quite victorious!

#

"Ha, finally home sweet home!" laughed Emperor Opal.

#

"Glad we're back boss" said Oriel.

#

"Yea, about time" said Lou.

#

The trio of tax collectors still had their doubts about their boss' plan for global domination. But they were open minded to what he had to say.

#

"I'm going to meet up with the rest of the guards" laughed Emperor Opal.

#

The emperor then rushed out heading towards the docking area where the larger airship was stationed. There at least a dozen or so soldiers were ready. They didn't know what to expect from the white rhino. They all had similar experiences trying to apprehend onen only to fail in the end.

#

“Here it is boys” said one of the soldiers.

#

The bridge soon was lowered, Tyler and Nyx emerged first.

#

“Ah yes, Tyler Knight and Nyx Shadow, heard so much about you” said the soldier greeting them, “welcome to Quinta!”

#

The soldiers were pretty hospitable towards them, the emperor then met up with Tyler and Nyx as they had their belongings.

#

Getting the White Rhino Ready

#

The soldiers inside the cargo area of the larger airship were the ones to clean up after the white rhino. They brought out a large wagon driven by horses. The soldier at the wagon was well prepared for this.

#

“Let’s hope the white rhino cooperates with us” said the soldier at the wagon.

#

The other soldiers began to shoo the white rhino onto the wagon, as the wagon closed its doors, the white rhino felt trapped. In an unfamiliar environment, it would be difficult for it to adjust. The white rhino could see how different Quinta was from Rift City once the wagon emerged from the bridge area of the cargo hold.

#

“Ah yes, the white rhino at least!” laughed Emperor Opal.

#

The emperor was relieved to see that it was a safe journey home. He knew that Tyler and Nyx would need sometime to get themselves adjusted to their new lives. Tyler and Nyx knew this would be hard for them, but they would get used to it.

#

“I will have my faithful tax collectors show you to your quarters” said Emperor Opal.

#

Oriel, Lou and Tiye knew they had to obey the emperor, what other choice did they have?

#

Showing Tyler and Nyx Around

#

The trio of tax collectors gave Tyler and Nyx a short tour of the castle. They would be temporarily staying in the guest rooms before heading off to the science academy in the morning.

#

“You’ll be staying here” said Lou.

#

“Yes, when the morning arrives we’ll take you to the science academy” said Oriel “we promise it’s a better setting to you.”

#

Tyler and Nyx would enjoy that. As they began to sleep for the evening, they were hopeful to adjust to their new lives. Would they? Find out in the next exciting book!

* * *

TY “TURBO” KNIGHT: STEAMPUNK VARIANT BOOK 3

WHITE RHINO FREEDOM

by

Maxwell Hoffman

Part One

Prologue

Already Homesick

#

It wasn't even one day and Ty "Turbo" Knight and Nyx "Nya" Shadow were both homesick. They both had trouble sleeping in their new quarters in the castle. Xuedur, the steamed powered butler bot that was loyal to Emperor Opal Islewink was tasked in getting them up. Xuedur calmly headed up to Tyler's room and politely knocked on the door.

#

"Sorry to bother you like this, but Master Opal wants you up and ready for the day" said Xuedur.

#

The steamed powered bot headed inside, Tyler was just waking up.

#

"Uh, had trouble sleeping" said Ty.

#

"Dear me, you're not ill are you?" asked Xuedur.

#

"No" replied Ty, "just homesick."

#

"Let's see if we can get you adjusted to your new setting, I'll get Nyx up" laughed

Xuedur.

#

The steamed powered bot headed over to Nyx's room, Nyx was already up and dressed. Though she still was somewhat homesick like Tyler.

#

“Up Miss Nyx?” asked Xuedur.

#

“Where are the other three?” asked Nyx.

#

Nyx was referring to Lou Blanc; Tiye Botros and Oriel the Steamed Powered tax collecting enforcer.

#

“Ah, yes those three are waiting for you in the mess hall” said Xuedur.

#

The robotic butler got Tyler up, Nyx assisted the butler in making sure Tyler would be awake and aware of his surroundings.

#

The Mess Hall

#

Tyler was dressed, ready for the day as he and Nyx headed downstairs with Xuedur to the mess hall. There was Emperor Opal Islewink with his three enforcers. They were enjoying their breakfast — as for Oriel he was enjoying some melted nails.

#

“Ah, there are my trophies!” laughed Emperor Opal.

#

The emperor had two chairs ready for them, Tyler and Nyx were not use to this setting at all.

#

“It’d get some use to, but hopefully you’ll enjoy the comforts of life” said Emperor Opal.

#

Opal ate his breakfast — French toast the steam punk way. Tyler couldn’t believe the sort of meals he was receiving — they were not like the ones from home.

#

“Eat up, you’re going to need it” said Emperor Opal.

#

Tyler and Nyx ate their meals, they did their best to behave around the emperor and his men. The other soldiers also dined in at the mess hall, a combination of humans and bats. Some orc spies were among them, these were really reformed orcs who worked for the emperor. They kept tabs on the tribes around the kingdom. Tyler and Nyx then finished their meals, they were ready to be shown to the Science Academy.

#

The Science Academy

#

After breakfast was over, Lou, Tiye and Oriel headed off with Tyler and Nyx following them. They had their belongings with them already.

#

“Here is the Science Academy” said Lou, “it’s the weekend, so they’re closed for now. But we’ll show you to your new quarters.”

#

The Science Academy’s quarters were a little cramped — both Nyx and Tyler would have to share a room together. Tyler would likely be gone most of the time on scouting missions for the Quinta military giving Nyx some breathing room. Madame Nelly Blackdash emerged, she was the head of the Science Academy. She had heard of how the Shadow Clan assisted in taming the white rhino.

#

“Ah yes, Ms. Nyx I have been expecting you” said Madame Nelly.

#

Madame Nelly, like Nyx was a human-bat hybrid. She had more bat features such as bigger wings. She was thrilled to meet with Nyx.

#

“And I see this is Tyler Knight” said Madame Nelly, “welcome to the Science Academy.

Though you will probably be doing missions for the Empire of Quinta.”

#

Tyler sighed, he knew he didn’t have any moments rest as he placed down his belongings.

#

Quinta Military

#

After Tyler placed his belongings in the Science Academy, he was escorted by Lou, Tiye and Oriel to the main military barracks. Though Tyler wouldn’t be staying in the barracks he would

be receiving his scouting missions here. The main commander of the barracks — Commander Connak Eveningfall. Eveningfall was an anthropomorphic bat just like the emperor he had respected Ty “Turbo” Knight since he heard his antics with the white rhino.

#

“Well done cadet, capturing the white rhino for the Empire of Quinta!” laughed Commander Connak.

#

Tyler was welcomed with open arms by Commander Connak. He was a nonsense military commander and was ready to place Tyler in line.

#

“I see the emperor wants you to start out as a scout, well we have a few scouting missions for you to undertake” said Commander Connak.

#

“Uh, sure, I can do anything” said Ty.

#

“Good, then I want you to have the first mission of trying to infiltrate an orc tribe, apparently they sent some scouts to your former home Rift City” said Commander Connak, “I would like for you to gather information on them, and report back.”

#

“Yes sir, I will do it sir” said Ty.

#

Tyler was pleased to finally get out on his first mission.

Chapter One

Orc Spymistress

#

Tyler was then introduced by Commander Connak to Madame Bula Giantdoom. Madame Bula was one of the reformed orcs who adapted to the steamed powered lifestyle over her indigenous background. She has speculated that the orc tribe led by Mug Yellbone might have spied upon Tyler back when he was in Rift City. Tyler was shown to her quarters in the military barracks.

#

“Ah, you must be Tyler Knight, it’s great to see someone who apprehended the notorious white rhino among our ranks” said Madame Bula.

#

Tyler did his best to be polite to Madame Bula, not making any sort of comments about her facial looks. The other orcs around her all admired her for her beauty and did their best trying to go on missions with her. One such orc was known as Ealm Ironheart. He was on the same rank level as Tyler being a scout.

#

“Please Madame Bula, I would love to go on a mission with you” said Ealm.

#

“Ealm, please, I am speaking with my human and bat counterparts” said Madame Bula.

#

Madame Bula then had an idea, she figured out Ealm could be useful in infiltrating the local orc tribe that Yellbone controlled.

#

Madame Bula's Task

#

Madame Bula had a second heart for Ealm, as she asked him to stay with Tyler.

Commander Connak could see she was going to deliver a mission to them.

#

“I’ll leave you three alone, hope Tyler is just as successful with this mission as he was with the white rhino” laughed Commander Connak.

#

Tyler was still worried for the white rhino, but the mission at hand was more important.

#

“Ealm, this is Tyler Knight he is the human from Rift City who apprehended the white rhino” said Madame Bula.

#

“Please to meet you” said Ealm.

#

Ealm had quite a strong grip when it came to a handshake, nearly crushing Tyler’s hand in the process. Tyler did his best being polite to his orc counterpart.

#

“There is a tribe known as the Yellbone tribe that has controlled much of the region in between Rift City and Quinta, I want you and Ealm to infiltrate their territory and see what they know about the white rhino” said Madame Bula.

#

Tyler agreed to go with Ealm on the mission, they headed towards the armory where the soldier in charge handed them their weapons and armor.

#

Heading Off on Foot

#

Both Ealm and Tyler headed off on foot, seeing that if they were riding on a horse the orcs would immediately see that as a threat.

#

“Now just follow my lead, I have done this hundreds of times” said Ealm.

#

Tyler trusted his orc counterpart as he allowed Ealm to lead the way. The sun was beating down upon them, lucky Tyler had his own steamed powered hat.

#

“You might want to put that away when we get to the tribal territory” said Ealm, “the orcs don’t like steamed powered gadgets at all.”

#

Tyler sighed, he knew he had to listen to his new friend. As they continued onward, their journey took at least two hours before Ealm halted Tyler from moving forward.

#

“Sssh, we’re in orc territory” whispered Ealm, “we’re going to have to crawl from here.”

#

Ealm and Tyler then began to get on their knees and crawl on the tall grass. The grass provided them cover from any orcs who were on patrol. A few orc warriors were on patrol, they knew

about the previous mission from Qaq Mossmaw and Yagnar Bigkiller on infiltrating Rift City.

#

Rumors on the White Rhino

#

Ealm and Tyler were still among the tall grass as they began to listen in on the two orc warriors before them.

#

“Chief Yellbone wants to find that strange helmet that controlled the white rhino” said one of the orc warriors, “he’s interested in stealing it and selling it on the black market.”

#

“Yes, there are plenty of rival city states that would LOVE to control wild beasts like the white rhino or worse” laughed the other orc warrior.

#

Tyler gasped at the thought — Nyx would be in trouble if that were to happen back in Quinta.

#

“They’re after the helmet that controls the white rhino” whispered Tyler.

#

“I know, it sounds depressing” whispered Ealm.

#

The two orc warriors then went about their patrol, Ealm wanted to get closer towards the tents where the orc tribal members were. Perhaps trying to get a confession from one of

the infiltrators Ealm would have gathered more information. Tyler followed Ealm's movement through the tall grass, they did their best to avoid the other orc warriors who were on patrol.

Eventually they made it to the tribal village there Tyler was intrigued with how there was a lack of any steamed powered device in sight.

Chapter Two

No Steam Devices

#

The indigenous orcs hated steamed powered devices, Chief Yellbone had issued a ban on all sorts of steamed powered inventions to be used by his tribal members. Tyler managed to put away his steamed powered hat, feeling it would give him away.

#

“Just follow me” whispered Ealm.

#

Ealm did his best trying to creep around the tribal area — they could see the main tent up ahead where Chief Mug Yellbone stayed. Qaq and Yagnar were just around the corner minding their own business. Qaq and Yagnar admired the chief’s bold new plan in stealing the mind control helmet and getting it off the white rhino.

#

“The white rhino deserves to be free, and the Empire of Quinta needs to be taught a lesson” whispered Qaq.

#

“I agree, it’s not right for them to keep such a beautiful creature locked up” laughed Yagnar.

#

“Yea, once we go into Quinta within a few days, we’ll make sure that device is removed then deliver it back to the chief” said Qaq.

#

Neither Qaq nor Yagnar cared if other beasts were going to be used for such technology. Chief Mug Yellbone was hopeful to create a power vacuum within the continent of Zyndarra as an end result to the empire's madness.

#

Nearly Spotted

#

Ealm managed to pull Tyler away, the moment Qaq and Yagnar walked by. The two orcs nearly spotted Tyler with his signature spiky blonde hair.

#

"They know you from Rift City, it would be wise that you stayed low" said Ealm.

#

"Uh, thanks for reminding me" sighed Ty.

#

Both Ealm and Tyler knew they had to get out of the tribal area and report back to Madame Bula over what they had found. As they headed out, they crawled on their knees and headed through the tall grass. The orc warriors like before couldn't see them at all as they ventured further.

Once they made it, it was safe when Ealm stood up.

#

"That was close, we have to get back to Madame Bula" said Ealm.

#

Ealm and Tyler then headed off, it would take them until the late afternoon to get back from their mission. Tyler arrived back at the military barracks all exhausted. They didn't have to use their

weapons for this mission.

#

“You made it” said Madame Bula, “what did you learn about the indigenous orcs?”

#

“They’re going to try to steal the mind control helmet and sell it to a rival city state leader” said Ty.

#

Madame Bula gasped at such a thought, she knew it wasn’t wise for Emperor Opal to tamper with mother nature in terms of controlling it — other power hungry leaders in the region would also want a taste of it too.

#

Thanking Tyler

#

Madame Bula wanted to thank Tyler for his efforts, without him they wouldn’t have known if the indigenous orcs were going to infiltrate Quinta.

#

“Thanks to you, we’ll add more soldiers to be on patrol around the new pen that is housing the white rhino” said Madame Bula.

#

Tyler was grateful, he was given permission to leave the barracks. As Tyler headed off, he then spotted a coffee shop that reminded him of Radu’s coffee shop from back home. The coffee shop was managed by Bulak Bonejeer, a reformed orc who embraced the steamed powered way of life. Bulak, like Ealm and Madame Bula didn’t seem to like

their former indigenous life.

#

“Welcome, welcome to Bulak’s Coffee Shop!” laughed Bulak.

#

The orc was rather friendly towards non-orcs, in contrast to his indigenous counterparts. Tyler was given a free cup of coffee by Bulak.

#

“Here you go, on the house” laughed Bulak.

#

“Uh, thanks” said Ty.

#

Bulak recognized Tyler from the reports from Rift City over his capture of the white rhino.

Tyler understood the white rhino was miserable but the way the indigenous orcs wanted to free it drew the line.

#

Getting to Know a Local Hero

#

Bulak had a chair pulled up to the counter where Tyler could sit down and spend some quality time with Quinta’s local coffee shop. Tyler knew it would be sometime before he would have to arrive back at the Science Academy.

#

“Is Quinta treating you alright hero?” asked Bulak.

#

“Uh, yes I guess” replied Ty, “interesting how everything is more, uh what’s the word I’m looking for fancy.”

#

“Only because Emperor Opal wants the best for every citizen” said Bulak.

#

Ealm then arrived at the coffee shop, the orc scout wanted to have sometime to relax.

#

“Ah, Ealm glad to see you” said Bulak, “pull up a chair to the counter.”

#

Ealm was pleased that he just got to have a slice of life after showing Tyler his first mission with the Empire of Quinta’s military.

#

“I must say, those other indigenous orcs really want that strange helmet” said Ealm.

#

Ealm took a sip of his coffee which was in a large mug made for an orc. Tyler spent a good hour getting to know Bulak and his coffee shop. He even showed a wall of previous scouts and spies alike that the Empire of Quinta had hired over the years.

Chapter Three

Heading Back to the Science Academy

#

Tyler was thankful for encountering the coffee shop managed by Bulak, he then headed back towards the Science Academy. As he arrived, he headed down a few more hallways before reaching his quarters. There he fell right on his pillow head first.

#

“Uh, so tiresome” sighed Ty.

#

Nyx was still busy in the laboratory working on the latest project that Emperor Opal wanted. Tyler began to rest. He couldn’t imagine his new life being so exhausting. Nyx herself was doing her best trying to adjust to her new life. She was busy looking at the diagram she had created for the emperor. The emperor wanted new pistols for his military — something simple that she could do.

#

“I hope I’m doing this right” thought Nyx.

#

Nyx then began to create the first prototype pistol for the emperor. The head of the Science Academy — Madame Nelly was impressed with Nyx’s crafting skills.

#

“My word, I do hope the soldiers would be able to see this as a weapon” said Madame Nelly.

#

“Don’t worry, they’ll figure it out once I show them a demonstration of it” said Nyx.

#

Nyx had the prototype of the steamed powered pistol ready to be used in combat.

#

Showing Off Commander Connak

#

Commander Connak arrived in the evening to see the demonstration first hand. Tyler was up after taking a short nap. He headed towards the demonstration area of the Academy with a few soldiers observing. Nyx showed off the new pistol model to the soldiers.

#

“That will come quite handy in combat” laughed one of the soldiers.

#

“Uh, the new pistol looks too much like a fashion statement” remarked another soldier.

#

“Just give it a chance” said a third.

#

A dummy was then displayed as the target, Commander Connak, Tyler and the others were quite intrigued to see what’d happen next. Nyx aimed the pistol carefully and it went off — BANG! The pistol was fired and the dummy was knocked backwards with such force. The pistol was an upgrade from their usual steamed powered pistols that they were always used to.

#

“Hmm, maybe that new contraption is useful after all” said the second soldier.

#

Commander Connak was pleased as he wanted to inspect the new pistol himself.

#

“May I see it?” asked Commander Connak.

#

“Sure” said Nyx, “just be careful with it.”

#

The anthropomorphic bat commander took a look at the pistol, he could smell how fresh it was since it was first fired.

#

Commander Demonstrates the Pistol

#

Commander Connak decided it was best for him to show a second demonstration just to be safe. He gazed and marveled at the pistol’s looks. He could see this was going to be quite different arsenal altogether.

#

“Put up the dummy” said Commander Connak.

#

Nyx headed over and then propped up the dummy, she stood back a few feet away. Commander Connak aimed carefully — BANG the dummy fell to the ground even harder than the last time.

#

“Amazing, this pistol is stronger than the other ones we already have well done Nyx” said

Commander Connak.

#

Nyx was pleased that the commander liked her new pistol design. Even the soldiers were warming up to it. For the rest of the evening, Tyler spent time with Nyx in the mess hall of the Science Academy. Emperor Opal and his trio of tax collector enforcers — Lou, Tiye and Oriel went to check up on them to see how they were doing.

#

“Ah, how are you liking your first full day in Quinta?” asked Emperor Opal.

#

“Fine your royal highness” said Ty.

#

“Very much sir” said Nyx.

#

The emperor was pleased, he was grateful for Tyler to be with Ealm on that mission to scout out the orc tribe.

#

The White Rhino Issue

#

As everyone sat down in the mess hall, there was still the discussion over what to do with the white rhino. It was still a target for the orcs, and especially the mind control helmet that Nyx had constructed with her father’s help back in Rift City.

#

“Your father Dexter Senior would be disappointed if that device was ever stolen” said

Emperor Opal, “it was a good thing that Tyler went on that scouting mission with Ealm to discover that the orcs were plotting to steal the device.”

#

“Dear me, I could never imagine such a device falling into the wrong hands” said Nyx.

#

The tax collector enforcers ate in silence at the mess hall — Tiye knew especially that the device was a toy that man nor bat shouldn’t be playing with at all. The orcs would steal and sell it to the highest bidder so that another more sinister power hungry ruler would do worse things with it.

Tyler sat and ate with the emperor and everyone else at the mess hall. When their meals were finished, the emperor and his enforcers headed off. They were going to inspect the white rhino while Nyx and Tyler got to rest for the evening.

Part Two

Chapter Four

Inspecting the White Rhino

#

Among those within the ranks of the Empire of Quinta who were overseeing the white rhino — during the evening shifts was Captain Patrick Jones. Captain Patrick had been in the military service for over five years — he had seen so much action on the front lines. Emperor Opal and his trio of tax collectors strolled towards the more secured area of the castle where Captain Patrick was stationed. The white rhino pen was just a few feet away.

#

“The pen is secured Emperor Opal” said Captain Patrick.

#

“Excellent, you must be the evening shift, who’s in the morning?” asked Emperor Opal.

#

“Captain Lexi Long sir” replied Captain Patrick.

#

“Very good, I hope that you and Captain Lexi will do a bang up job in defending the white rhino, rumor has it that the orcs are preparing to infiltrate Quinta within the next few days” said Emperor Opal, “so be prepared.”

#

“Don’t worry sir, you can count on me” said Captain Patrick.

#

Emperor Opal was pleased to see a soldier on the front lines ready to defend the white rhino. It was no longer Tyler’s tasks anymore, but Tyler was still worried for the safety of those around him.

#

First Evening

#

While the emperor inspected the white rhino — Tyler and Nyx got comfortable together the first night in their new beds. It was cramped but they had to get used to being around each other.

#

“Why doesn’t your brother Dex have any of the same hybrid features as you?” asked Ty.

#

“Ah yes, my brother has always been jealous not having more bat-like features he is way too human more like you” said Nyx.

#

“Your parents worried about you?” asked Ty.

#

“Not much, what about yours?” asked Nyx.

#

“Can’t tell, my mother and father, and older siblings all supported me” sighed Ty, “I wished Charlotte could have come along.”

#

Tyler missed being around Charlotte Lennox, he couldn't believe she would have to go through the longer process if she wanted to get into the Science Academy. As Tyler and Nyx both rested, they had a peaceful sleep. For the emperor, he and his enforcers headed back into the castle after observing the white rhino.

#

"Does the white rhino seem calmer to you?" asked Tiye to Lou and Oriel.

#

"Yes, the white rhino does seem to have a cooler head around Quinta than in Rift City" said Oriel.

#

Oriel noticed the difference with the white rhino's behavior, even with the mind control helmet still attached to its head.

#

Scouting Around Quinta

#

As the evening hours continued to creep on by, Qaq and Yagnar arrived at Quinta. They knew the white rhino was in the castle area being well guarded.

#

"Hmm, this place is heavily guarded" said Qaq.

#

Qaq could see many soldiers were on patrol, it was as if they were expecting intruders of some sort.

#

“I think those reformed orcs spied upon us” whispered Yagnar.

#

Yagnar detested the reformed orcs — he considered them to be traitors to their indigenous heritage.

#

“What do you think we must do?” asked Qaq.

#

“Seek out the more vulnerable ones, see if they could tell us anything about the white rhino and the mind control helmet device” said Yagnar.

#

Qaq and Yagnar managed to sneak inside Quinta, dodging the patrols of the soldiers as they ducked around various corners of the city. They eventually made it to Bulak’s coffee shop.

#

“Ew, a reformed orc” sighed Yagnar.

#

“Want to kidnap him?” asked Qaq.

#

The two orc spies were going to try to threaten Bulak, but Bulak was well prepared for this. As Bulak was closing up his coffee shop he spotted the two fellow orcs.

#

Closed for Now

#

Bulak didn't have anytime to spend with travelers as he was closing up shop. He spotted the two unfamiliar orcs before him.

#

"What can I do for you two, if it's coffee you'll have to wait until morning" said Bulak.

#

"Traitor!" bellowed Yagnar, "Siding with the steamed powered culture like this!"

#

"Excuse me?" asked Bulak, "Are you two lost?"

#

Bulak didn't want to fight them, but he would if he had to. Qaq reluctantly went along with Yagnar in berating Bulak.

#

"Yea, you're a traitor to your own kind" added Qaq.

#

Bulak was at first confused, then enraged over those comments.

#

"I think you two better leave before I call upon the authorities" said Bulak.

#

But as Bulak was about to turn around, Yagnar lunged from him behind and the two orcs began to tackle poor Bulak. Bulak did his best, he slugged Qaq right in the face and gave Yagnar a headbutt.

#

“See how you like that” said Bulak.

#

Bulak was able to walk away from it and headed inside his coffee shop shutting the door tight.

#

“Well, that went better than expected” sighed Qaq.

#

Qaq and Yagnar did their best after that incident to be more careful, they could tell they had to head towards the castle.

#

Infiltrating the Castle

#

Qaq and Yagnar arrived at the castle, they could see it was crawling with soldiers everywhere. Captain Patrick was doing his best to keep his men and women on their toes.

#

“Keep your eyes peeled, there are reports of possible orc intruders about” said Captain Patrick.

#

The commotion could be heard all the way to the Science Academy since it was close by the castle. Tyler couldn’t sleep as he woke up. He sensed danger was afoot. Nyx on the other hand, was fast asleep.

#

“Just taking some precaution” said Ty to himself.

#

Tyler began to creep out of the quarters, as he passed a few soldiers who were on patrol he spotted two strange shadows lurking around the castle. They looked more like orcs lurking about.

#

“It has to be those orc spies” thought Ty.

#

Tyler knew them from Rift City, he thought they looked out of place formerly disguised as reformed orc farmers. Qaq and Yagnar slipped through the castle passing Captain Patrick and the other soldiers. They then arrived at the pen where the white rhino was located.

#

“I say since we’re here we mine as well grab the device now” said Yagnar.

#

Qaq wasn’t so sure, Chief Yellbone wouldn’t be pleased if they failed.

Chapter Five

Qaq's Second Thoughts

#

Qaq had second thoughts of the entire operation, even sneaking in when Chief Yellbone only wanted them to do it a few days later.

#

“Maybe we should head back while we still can” said Qaq.

#

“We’re not going to chicken out on this one” said Yagnar.

#

Yagnar wasn’t afraid of the electric fence, he could tolerate being electrocuted by the fence. As he began to climb the fence, he could take the pain. Qaq watched as he gazed upon his fellow orc. Much to Qaq’s surprise — it didn’t alert the guards around them.

Yagnar landed right in the pen where the white rhino was more docile thanks to the mind control helmet.

#

“Ah yes, that pesky contraption, let’s get that device off of your head and you can finally be free” said Yagnar.

#

Yagnar’s own brand of militancy clouded his judgment, he wanted to see the white rhino to be free — not the chief’s grander plan in selling the same helmet to rival city state powers. The white rhino was docile enough for anyone to just climb up on top of it. But

as Yagnar did — Tyler spotted him. Thankfully Captain Patrick recognized Tyler and came to his aide as they spotted the two orc spies.

#

Spotting Yagnar

#

Qaq really wanted nothing to do with this, he could see how reckless Yagnar had become.

#

“HEY YOU!” cried Ty.

#

Yagnar gazed around and noticed Tyler — his signature spiky blonde hair and his steamed powered gear which he detested.

#

“You steamed powered freaks think all alike, you want nothing more than control of Brasstania’s wildlife, but I’ll show you!” bellowed Yagnar.

#

Everyone, including Qaq begged Yagnar not to pull off the mind control helmet. But Yagnar refused to listen, with his own strength he was able to yank off the helmet from the white rhino.

But the moment the helmet came right on off, the white rhino became enraged. Perhaps, even more so than it did when it was first captured by Tyler and Charlotte back in Rift City! It led out a terrible roar — a roar that even woke up Emperor Opal who was high above in the top room of the castle.

#

“What the heck was that?!” cried Emperor Opal.

#

Then something sank in the emperor — it was the roar of the white rhino — someone had removed the mind control helmet by force! The white rhino back in the pen began to gallop around with Yagnar riding on its back. The orc holding onto the mind control helmet with his dear life.

#

Instant Regret!

#

Yagnar instantly regretted his militant behavior in removing the mind control helmet from the white rhino. The white rhino rode around the pen for at least three laps before kicking off the orc from its back. Yagnar fell quite hard to the ground.

#

“ORC DOWN!” cried Qaq.

#

Captain Patrick and the soldiers did their best trying to disable the electric fence. Tyler knew he had to get inside the pen to save Yagnar’s life. Yagnar picked himself up, he was still holding the mind control helmet in his hand. The white rhino then angrily glared at the mind control helmet, it was the source of its rage.

#

“ROARR!!” cried the white rhino.

#

The white rhino wanted to eat up the device so that it would never be able to be used on any beast ever again. Yagnar screamed as he ran, he did his best trying to out run the

white rhino.

#

“HELP ME!” cried Yagnar.

#

The orc did his best trying to run, but the white rhino was catching up. Captain Patrick and the soldiers were able to deactivate the electric fence enabling Tyler and Qaq to move into the pen.

#

Distracting the White Rhino

#

Tyler grabbed a rock and threw it at the white rhino, the white rhino then turned around and noticed Tyler — the young man who had apprehended it before in Rift City. It snarled at Tyler but it was still focused on the main objective — the mind control helmet.

#

“It’s still after me, that didn’t work!” cried Yagnar.

#

Yagnar felt more cartoonish as he tried to outrun the white rhino, his behavior before brought instant karma. Some of the soldiers couldn’t help but to laugh at the poor orc, but Qaq managed to push Yagnar right out of the way. Qaq grabbed the white rhino by its horn.

#

“Beast, I will not let you harm my friend!” bellowed Qaq.

#

The orc was strong enough to hold the white rhino in place, soldiers then moved in and began to get electric whips. The electric whips were necessary prevent the beast from reacting.

#

“I’m doing my best to hold the beast!” cried Qaq.

#

Emperor Opal and his trio of enforces arrived at the scene. Oriel, being the strongest of them all headed over towards the pen to assist Qaq holding the white rhino.

#

Shocked Emperor

#

Emperor Opal was no doubt in great shock, he couldn’t believe that the orcs were early in their infiltration scheme and it had backfired upon them. He was at least grateful that one of them being Qaq was now on their side.

#

“I’m destroying this contraption!” cried Yagnar.

#

Yagnar saw his chance and made a run for it.

#

“Stop him, stop him!” cried Emperor Opal.

#

Yagnar knew he had to smash the mind control helmet, even though he understood he would be in trouble with Chief Yellbone, he didn’t want any other city state leader to have such power. Lou and Tiye rushed trying to stop the orc from escaping, Yagnar was strong enough to push away some of the soldiers who were blocking his path.

#

“Nothing can stop me!” cried Yagnar.

#

The shouting and fighting by Yagnar woke up Nyx, she then noticed Tyler wasn't at his bed at all. He was out there with the others trying to calm down the white rhino. Nyx headed out doing her best trying to assist with the situation. She then came face to face with Yagnar the orc holding her invention.

Chapter Six

Knocking Yagnar Out

#

Yagnar couldn't believe he ran into the main inventor or at least someone who assisted in creating the mind control helmet. Nyx was enraged seeing her own invention treated so carelessly like this.

#

"THAT'S MINE INVENTION!" bellowed Nyx.

#

With one swing to her fist, she ends up punching Yagnar out cold right in the face. The orc then collapses to the ground with the mind control helmet still in his hand. Nyx then takes it from him as Lou and Tiye arrive trying to assist her.

#

"Don't worry, I got this" said Nyx.

#

Soldiers then came to arrest Yagnar as he was regaining consciousness. As for Qaq and Oriel, they were able to subdue the white rhino in a more secured pen. Qaq was relieved that everyone around him welcomed his assistance.

#

"I'm glad to see that you are leaning to becoming a reformed orc" said Emperor Opal.

#

"Thank you sir" said Qaq, "just doing my part."

#

Qaq knew that Chief Yellbone wouldn't be happy that he had switched sides just like that. But it was due to Yagnar's own militant behavior with obsessing in freeing the white rhino.

#

Emperor's Tough Decision

#

The emperor knew he had screwed up by bringing in this chaos to Quinta, he could see that it was a mistake in having the white rhino held in captivity. Such power from that mind control helmet that the Shadow Clan had formerly created for him on his behalf. The emperor glanced at how sad the white rhino was in its new more secured cage more cramped up than usual.

#

"Sir, are you okay?" asked Oriel.

#

"I'm fine, give me a day and I'll make a decision on this" sighed Emperor Opal.

#

The emperor felt remorseful for his actions. He looked around him, everyone was exhausted just trying to keep the white rhino at bay in its new secured location. Even Tyler was exhausted.

#

"That was even more work than getting him in the first place" sighed Ty.

#

Tyler needed some rest after this ordeal, everyone did. Captain Patrick and his soldiers stayed behind with the rest of his men. The emperor headed back inside the castle to reassess his issue with the white rhino. He really didn't want to give it up — but since it caused this much

commotion he would have no choice but to.

#

Hard Decisions

#

The emperor and his trio of faithful tax collector enforcers were relieved that things had calmed down with the white rhino being held at bay. The emperor was grateful for Tyler's quick thinking and the change of heart from Qaq the orc. The emperor headed towards his throne and sat for a few moments thinking on what to do next.

#

"I think you three were hiding your own opinions from me on if the white rhino was ever happy" said Emperor Opal.

#

"I'm sorry, but we didn't want to upset you" said Tiye.

#

"Yes, we were only being good loyal supporters in not saying a word" said Lou.

#

"I have made up my mind tomorrow morning I am going to set the white rhino free, perhaps it's for the best" said Emperor Opal, "it would be otherwise a major curse on my kingdom if I were to have the white rhino stay."

#

It was a wise decision that the emperor was changing his mind. He then got up from his throne and headed up towards the main bedroom. As for everyone else, they had finally received some peace and quiet.

#

Yagnar in Jail

#

Yagnar finally woke up, this time finding himself alone in a prison cell. Madame Bula paid a visit from the barracks. She was a reformed orc much like Bulak was. She had received a report from Bulak on how he was assaulted by two orcs who fit Yagnar and Qaq's description. She wasn't thrilled at all with how they were approaching steamed powered culture.

#

"That was quite a hit on the head" said Madame Bula as she arrived.

#

A few soldiers were watching the two, Madame Bula could see that Yagnar was somewhat remorseful. He was only doing the right thing for the white rhino.

#

"At first, it was about Chief Yellbone's plans to capture the mind control helmet device" sighed Yagnar, "he wanted to sell it to rival city state leaders who were unhappy with the Empire of Quinta."

#

"You saved the Empire of Quinta a lot of trouble by causing this commotion" said Madame Bula, "perhaps if you switched to our side, we can show you that you can live a happier life with steamed powered devices."

#

Yagnar wasn't so sure, he had only known of his indigenous life throughout his entire life.

Chapter Seven

Second Thoughts for Yagnar

#

Yagnar thought about how Qaq switched sides just like that because of his brand of militancy. The orc regretted his actions the moment the white rhino turned its anger towards him.

#

“I’m sorry for what I did, I was only trying to protect Brasstania’s wildlife from exploitation” said Yagnar.

#

“I know you were, but your recklessness caused so much destruction and chaos” said Madame Bula, “I think you need a day to think about your actions. Then I’ll return and see if you’re ready.”

#

“Fine” sighed Yagnar.

#

Yagnar sat in his cell as Madame Bula left, she gazed at the lone orc sitting in his cell. She felt sorry for him that he had to be this way. As for Qaq, he was living in the military barracks now. Having a new life, he was making friends with Ealm very fast.

#

“I can’t believe that was you and that Tyler kid” laughed Qaq.

#

“Yea, I showed him the ropes of infiltrating the tribal area” added Ealm.

#

Ealm and Qaq were becoming the best of friends already. The two orcs were pleased that they could see eye to eye with each other.

#

Qaq's New Life

#

Qaq's life had changed so drastically since switching sides. No longer would he be reporting to Chief Mug Yellbone anymore, but instead to the Empire of Quinta's military. Commander Connak was pleased to see another reformed orc among its ranks.

#

“Welcome aboard, you will be doing many missions with Master Tyler Knight when he wakes up in the morning tomorrow” said Commander Connak.

#

Qaq welcomed the change, he couldn't believe how terrible of a life he formerly had always being a follower of Yagnar. But Yagnar was having second thoughts as well. Madame Bula then returned from visiting Yagnar back to the military barracks.

#

“Gives Yagnar a day or two, he'll come to his senses and join your ranks” said Madame Bula.

#

“Thank you, thank you for giving me and Yagnar another chance” said Qaq.

#

Qaq couldn't wait to be reunited with his friend Yagnar. As morning came — Captain Lexi

Long headed out with an announcement in the main town square of Quinta. Everyone had gathered around her as she read out the message.

#

“By the decree of Emperor Opal Islewink, there will be a ceremony releasing the white rhino back into the wild!” said Captain Lexi.

#

Everyone gasped — the emperor had worked so hard in bringing the white rhino — the cause the two orcs caused must have changed his mind about the entire ordeal.

#

Much Buzz

#

The ceremony was going to be held around noon time near Quinta’s main gate. Tyler along with Nyx were invited to the event. They couldn’t believe that the emperor had changed his mind. When they first arrived, they thought he was nothing more than a power hungry anthropomorphic bat emperor.

#

“I must say, the emperor certainly has changed his ways” said Nyx.

#

“Yea, perhaps it’s for the best” said Ty.

#

Tyler headed off to the military barracks preparing to do whatever tasks Commander Connak wanted him to do. As he arrived, he met up with Ealm and Qaq, Tyler was pleased to see Qaq among the ranks of a reformed orc instead of working for Chief

Yellbone.

#

“It must feel pretty strange that you’re now on our side” said Ty.

#

“Yea it does” said Qaq, “for the first time in a long time, I slept so soundly.”

#

“Yea, his snores are oddly very soothing” laughed Ealm.

#

The trio headed over to where Madame Bula and Commander Connak were located. Both military leaders were more focused of the upcoming event that was going to be held at noon instead of an average mission.

#

Preparing for the Emperor’s Event

#

The event was more important than any mission for the time being. There was a diagram that Commander Connak had laid out.

#

“This event, you are all going to provide the emperor with additional security” said Commander Connak, “we’re not going to fool around here since we’re dealing with freeing the white rhino.”

#

Tyler was relieved that the white rhino was going to receive its freedom. As they glanced at the diagram, they could see the setup near the main gate. The emperor would be there along with his trusted enforcers.

#

“It’s a very simple setup, and I hope nothing will go wrong” said Commander Connak.

#

“Don’t worry sir, we’ll make sure everything will be safe and sound” said Ty.

#

“Excellent, I knew I can count on you” said Commander Connak.

#

After they were dismissed, they headed over towards the main gate of Quinta where things were already being setup. Nyx along with Madame Nelly were overseeing the setup of the event.

#

“So good to see you” said Madame Nelly.

#

Madame Nelly instructed Tyler, Qaq and Ealm where to be stationed at for additional security with the soldiers.

Part Three

Chapter Eight

Main Event

#

Emperor Opal arrived with his trio of enforcers — aside them Captains Patrick and Lexi pushed a large cage where the white rhino was being kept. The cage was very cramped for the white rhino — but it was necessary.

#

“Glad to see that the white rhino is going to regain its freedom” said Nyx.

#

“Yea, it’s about time” said Ty.

#

Emperor Opal then sat on what appeared to be a makeshift version of his throne.

#

“Captains, you may release the white rhino” said Emperor Opal.

#

Captains Patrick and Lexi were nervous, they didn’t know if the white rhino would cause a rampage within the city walls of Quinta. But the emperor felt confident, once the gate swung wide open the white rhino would just scamper right on out and leave them. They pushed the cage a little closer towards the gate. The soldiers at the gate then began to pull a lever that swung the gate wide open.

#

“Release the white rhino!” bellowed Emperor Opal.

#

Captains Patrick and Lexi nervously approached the cage, the white rhino snarled and huffed at them. It’s teeth were shown to be pretty sharp and deadly.

#

Moment of Truth

#

Slowly, but surely the two captains managed to use the keys to unlock the cage and open it. The cage slowly opened with the white rhino managing to get out. The white rhino huffed as it gazed around the audience. Everyone gasped, fearing the white rhino would seek retribution. But much like how the emperor anticipated — the white rhino noticed the gate was wide open.

#

“Go on, you’re free!” cried Emperor Opal.

#

The emperor wanted the white rhino to leave feeling it would be more of a burden to keep it locked away as part of his military. The white rhino gazed at the emperor, it huffed about one more time before turning towards the gate.

#

“It’s leaving, it’s leaving!” cried Emperor Opal.

#

The emperor was happy for the first time in his entire life — a major burden was finally lifted. The white rhino began to scamper towards the gate. The white rhino continued heading off towards the horizon.

#

“It’s over” said Emperor Opal.

#

The emperor was all but exhausted from his ordeal, but even more was Tyler who had done all the work only to also feel sorry for the beast.

#

Happy for the White Rhino

#

Everyone there was happy that the white rhino had regained its freedom. The white rhino was meant to be the beast that it was — to frolic freely in the wilderness of Brasstania. It continued to gallop away from Quinta until it reached the forest near Rift City where Tyler formerly found it.

#

“It’s gone, it’s gone, it’s gone!” laughed Emperor Opal.

#

The emperor couldn’t stop laughing at this, though how serious it was. All that hard work for what? To let the beast go free? It was a joke to the emperor. Even the other people around him began to join in on the laughter.

#

“I guess that is pretty funny, all that hard work and letting it go off free!” laughed Lou.

#

The emperor declared the day to be White Rhino Day where freedom would be celebrated. The emperor was too much in a chuckle mood to say anything as his soldiers

began to pack up the event. Tyler felt remorse for his part in getting the white rhino in the first place. He would have to seek out permission first from Commander Connak if he wanted to see the white rhino.

#

Cleaning Up

#

The entire event placed all of Quinta in a very good mood. Despite the emperor's former reckless behavior in bringing in the white rhino in the first place — they were all relieved that the emperor declared it as a holiday. Bulak had cleaned himself up after being formerly bruised up by Qaq and Yagnar. He had forgiven Qaq after hearing how he switched sides to support Emperor Opal. Qaq along with Tyler were the first ones lining up for his coffee shop.

#

“I hope we'll all behave today” said Bulak.

#

“Oh, best behavior” said Qaq.

#

Bulak smiled and allowed Tyler and Qaq to head inside. Bulak could see how much change that Qaq went through. He had his fellow orc sit down at the counter. Tyler decided to take a small table this time as the two orcs chatted away.

#

“So, Yagnar is in jail still thinking about what he did” said Bulak.

#

“Yea, sorry about roughing you up back there yesterday evening” sighed Qaq.

#

“All is forgiven, now you can be pictured on the wall of adventurers” said Bulak.

#

Bulak had a camera ready as he took photos of Qaq and Tyler, he placed them on the wall.

Chapter Nine

Winding Down

#

After a stop at Bulak's coffee shop, Tyler headed off to rest at the Science Academy for the rest of the day. He would head towards the military barracks in the morning. As he arrived, Nyx had the mind control helmet on her pillow. She didn't know what to do with this contraption.

#

"This is too dangerous to be kept around" said Nyx.

#

"But it's your first invention" said Ty.

#

"Not really, my father created it, I think it's best if I destroyed it so that it won't ever fall into the wrong hands" said Nyx.

#

Tyler sighed, he knew Nyx was doing the right thing. Tyler then headed towards his bunk bed and began to rest for the evening. As for Nyx, she grabbed the pistol she had created earlier. She was going to destroy the mind control helmet that had caused so much pain. She headed out to the back area of the Science Academy. She didn't seem to care if she was going to get in trouble for this.

#

"This has to be destroyed" thought Nyx.

#

Nyx placed the mind control helmet on a stump, she then took out the pistol she created.

#

Destroying the Mind Control Helmet

#

Nyx held her breathe as she let out a sigh. She aimed carefully using the pistol she created targeting the mind control helmet.

#

“Forgive me father, I know in my heart you will be hurting for what I am about to do” thought Nyx.

#

With the pull of the trigger of the pistol — the bullet went flying — BOOM! The mind control helmet was destroyed in one instant blast from the bullet from her pistol. Nyx smiled as she headed over glaring at the pieces of the mind control helmet on the ground.

#

“Perhaps I can create something else with these parts” thought Nyx.

#

Nyx took away the parts of the mind control helmet, she was going to make more useful steamed powered items than what they formerly once were. Madame Nelly heard the blast, she knew that Nyx regretted creating the mind control helmet.

#

“It’s done” said Nyx.

#

Nyx displayed Madame Nelly the parts of the mind control helmet before her.

#

“I want to create something more useful than what they formerly were” said Nyx.

#

“I understand, you have my full permission and the Science Academy backing you” said Madame Nelly.

#

Nyx smiled, she then took the parts into the laboratory to create something new with them.

#

Making Something New

#

Nyx had become very much like her father Dexter “Razer” Shadow (Dexter Senior) back home in Rift City. She would spend the rest of the evening hours coming up with new diagrams of various household inventions. Ranging from alarm cloaks to blow dryers. These household items would be more useful than a mind control device.

#

“Time to get to work” said Nyx.

#

Nyx spent the rest of the evening working in the laboratory — each new steamed powered invention took her at least an hour to create. By the time it was morning — she had created at least four new inventions — a new alarm clock; a blow dryer; a vacuum cleaner; and a trash compactor. She felt exhausted, but was pleased. Tyler woke up — he was well rested since his ordeal with the white rhino.

#

“Ah, another day in Quinta” said Ty.

#

Tyler could hear Nyx coming out of the laboratory area of the Science Academy.

#

“What do you have there?” asked Ty.

#

“New household devices that I created formerly from the mind control helmet” said Nyx.

#

“Wow, all those in just a few short hours?” asked Ty.

#

“Yep, and I am going to show Madame Nelly” said Nyx.

#

Nyx headed off, as for Tyler he headed off towards the mess hall for breakfast.

#

Showing Madame Nelly

#

Madame Nelly was just getting up prepared to head to the mess hall when she encountered Nyx with her household devices.

#

“It’s kind of early, can’t this wait after breakfast?” asked Madame Nelly.

#

“Fine” sighed Nyx.

#

Nyx joined Madame Nelly, as they headed towards the mess hall. Tyler already had a seat eating his breakfast as Madame Nelly and Nyx walked right in. Nyx placed her boxes of supplies near Tyler hoping he would watch it. As they grabbed their meals from the cafeteria, they headed towards the table where Tyler was.

#

“Your father would probably be not happy about the mind control helmet being destroyed but I sense you did the right thing” said Madame Nelly.

#

“I’m glad you see it this way” said Nyx.

#

After Tyler finished his breakfast, he headed off towards the military barracks. While Nyx began to show off Madame Nelly the household steamed powered items she had made from the parts from the mind control device. Madame Nelly was impressed with each one.

#

“Oh, the emperor would love anyone of these items in his castle” said Madame Nelly.

#

As for Tyler, he headed towards the military barracks where he was greeted by Madame Bula and Commander Connak.

Chapter Ten

Wanting to Visit the White Rhino

#

Tyler desperately wanted to visit the white rhino, he wanted to apologize to the beast for taking it in from Rift City. Commander Connak could see this was important to him.

#

“Well, I don’t see the harm in this, you can use your time to search the surrounding area for any possible spies or intruders” said Commander Connak.

#

“Will do” said Ty.

#

Tyler didn’t have to bring an orc this time since this was a solo mission. As he grabbed his supplies he then headed out. Ealm and Qaq wished Tyler luck as he was leaving the military barracks. He headed out from the main gate of Quinta, he then traveled the main road where he last spotted the white rhino.

#

“Now if I were the white rhino, where would I be heading off to?” thought Ty.

#

Tyler then noticed the forest up ahead — that was the same forest where he formerly apprehended the white rhino with Charlotte a few weeks earlier. Tyler raced over towards the forest, he hadn’t had a care in the world — he just wanted to see the white rhino one more time.

#

White Rhino in the Forest

#

The white rhino was in its element again, it was happy that it got to be free without causing so much carnage. The white rhino had already slain another bear that was in its territory. The two beasts had fought each other, but the bear had sadly lost its life.

#

“There it is” thought Ty.

#

Tyler knew he had to approach the white rhino with caution as he saw it grazing on the deceased bear. He couldn’t believe the vicious animal nearly cost Emperor Opal if something much worse had happened. Tyler cautiously stepped towards the white rhino as it continued to graze upon the deceased bear. It felt more at home rather than being trapped in a pen with an electric fence.

#

“Careful, I’m not going to harm you this time” said Ty.

#

The white rhino huffed as it spotted Tyler making his move. But it saw no weapon on Tyler’s hand this time.

#

“Easy, I’m not going to harm you” said Ty.

#

The white rhino huffed again, snarling as a warning sign to Tyler to back away. Tyler did — it was enough for the white rhino to not pursue him for the time being.

#

Observing the White Rhino

#

Despite how vicious the white rhino was when it came to carnivorous beasts — it was pretty calm once you left it alone. The beast continued to graze on the deceased bear that it fought against. Just like how Tyler and Charlotte found it before. Tyler was relieved the white rhino wasn't going to charge at him.

#

“Phew, glad I won't be hunting you anymore” said Ty.

#

Tyler looked at the white rhino one last time before making his trek back to Quinta. He knew he would be on another infiltration mission of some sort. He gazed back one more time to the white rhino. The white rhino continued to mind its own business as it ate the deceased bear.

#

“Good luck out there my friend” said Ty.

#

Tyler smiled at the beast before leaving, as Tyler began to trek out he was pleased he made this visit. It was just as a way to make sure the white rhino would be okay on its own. The white rhino continued to graze among the deceased bear. Tyler then was able to leave the forest. He could see the gates of Quinta before him.

#

Arriving Back in Quinta

#

Tyler arrived back in Quinta after a short visit in the forest. He was pleased that the white rhino was doing fine. Captain Lexi Long greeted Tyler at the gate.

#

“Coming back from a mission?” asked Captain Lexi.

#

“Something like that” said Ty.

#

Captain Lexi knew it was about the white rhino — yesterday was a very emotional event letting the white rhino finally achieve its freedom again without anyone causing any trouble. Tyler then headed over to Bulak’s coffee shop. The orc was pleased to see Tyler again.

#

“Great to see you, why the long face?” asked Bulak.

#

The orc could see this had something to do with the white rhino recently freed. Tyler responded by smiling at the orc.

#

“Just seeing a friend that the friend is safe” said Ty.

#

Bulak knew it had to be the white rhino — earning the respect of the white rhino by leaving it alone was the best decision Tyler could make. The emperor should have thought about that but it took chaos to make the emperor realize that. Bulak then brought out a free coffee on the house for Tyler to celebrate.

Epilogue

Quiet Time

#

Tyler had finally some quiet time for himself as he sat at the bar with Bulak. The two chatted about the various adventures they both had. Bulak formerly was involved with Chief Mug Yellbone's tribe. He like Qaq and Yagnar hated steamed powered technology until he was given a second chance by Madame Bula.

#

"I must say, we've both have come a very long way" said Bulak.

#

"Yes, we have" said Ty.

#

Tyler sipped his coffee — the coffee shop wasn't Radu the Steamed Powered Bot. He wondered what was Radu doing in Rift City. As Tyler continued to spend time with Bulak — the scene switches to Radu's Coffee Shop. It was quiet since Nyx and Tyler had left Rift City. So much silence in the coffee shop as the steamed powered bot continued to clean up.

#

"Things are just not the same without him!" cried Radu.

#

Radu was disappointed with Tyler's departure — it affected him more than the others. Everyone else was living their normal lives without Tyler and Nyx. Even Dex "Dexter"

Shadow appearing here and now at the coffee shop couldn't fill the void anymore. Radu knew he would have to take a trip to Quinta if he wanted to see his friend.

#

Writing to Tyler

#

Radu sat at the counter of his coffee shop, he knew writing Tyler a letter would pass the time. As the customers poured in, he continued to write. He did his best to come up sort of words he was trying to say. He had missed Tyler the most — with the exception of Glitchy the steamed powered cat who waited by his bedside knowing that he couldn't travel to Quinta.

#

“Dear Tyler, everyone here in Rift City misses you. But I miss you the most. I plan on visiting you very soon. I hope this letter reaches you” said Radu as he wrote everything down with a pen and paper.

#

Radu gazed at his letter — he was proud of the message that he wrote. He then placed it in an envelope and placed the right stamp amount on it. The mail carrier was always a steamed powered bot similar like Radu who would deliver the message.

#

“See that this message reaches Tyler Knight in Quinta” said Radu.

#

“Will do my best” said the mail carrier bot.

#

As the mail carrier took off, the scene switches to Tyler resting on his bed gazing up in the

ceiling.

#

Fast Delivery!

#

The mail system in Brasstania was pretty speedy for what they were — since steamed powered bots mostly ran it. Tyler continued to rest — until Nyx alerted him over a letter he received from Radu.

#

“Tyler, it’s a letter from Radu!” cried Nyx.

#

Nyx handed him the letter. Tyler read the letter — a tear developed in Tyler’s eyes. He had missed seeing his friend as well.

#

“I hope he will be able to visit soon” said Ty.

#

“Yea, I’m sure he will, we’ll be ready when he does” said Nyx.

#

Nyx gave Tyler a warm hug, hoping that time would heal all wounds from being apart from his family and friends. It would serve as a reminder that Tyler’s work would be in Quinta for most of his life. He would have his family and friends come during the winter holidays. Well — this is the end for now.

* * *