Chapter 101

“‘Why don’t you just go ask him yourself?’” Vatti mimicked. “Don’t give morons ideas! They have no idea how they work.”

Henry sat up on the bed. He didn’t really want to get into a serious conversation with Vatti, especially with her yelling so much, but his body was tired of laying down.

“Do you honestly think he left us? I mean, you’d have to be a complete idiot to forget that quickly.”

Vatti crossed her arms and closed her eyes in anger. “Clearly you don’t know Baas. The boy can fight, but thinking is not his strong point.”

“But he’s supposed to be a Discrete. That Diablo guy said their minds work on a higher level.”

Vatti let air escape through her teeth. “I told you that pajama wearing ninja doesn’t know what he’s talking about. I’ve been with Baas his whole life. He’s no closer to being a Discrete than I am being a Green.”

Vatti kicked the bars that were holding her prisoner.

“Geeze, not only did he leave us but he did it in a place where everyone’s trying to kill us.”

“Maybe he left because his best friend wouldn’t shut up.”

He said it lowly, but the sound still made it’s way to Vatti’s ears. Faster than Henry knew to react, a fist came straight for his arm.

“OW!”

“Do NOT test me little boy. It’s your fault for suggesting he leave in the first place!”

Henry grasped his arm in pain.

“That’s no reason to hit me!”

Vatti was about to respond, but then she heard voices coming down the hall.

“Geeze, why do we have to do this job?”

“…”

“I know, but it just seems so... beneath us.”

A woman in lots of pink entered the room. She was doing all the talking. Vatti immediately decided she didn’t like her. Behind the pink lady was a serious, but silent woman who looked rather young and fit. She might’ve been bearable.

“Seriously, Eltin thinks just because he’s a Commander now, he can treat us like this?”

The serious lady gave the one in pink a look of disapproval.

“Can’t you just let me complain? I’ve had a long day. My Atsuma turned black band, we had to fight those annoying Golds, and now Eltin’s having us babysit.”

“What did you say?” Vatti asked in desperation. “Did you say Atsuma was black banded?”

“You’re the prisoners?” Acol sucked her teeth. “What could be so valuable about you?”

Altea reached out her arm, but it was too late. Acol got close enough that Vatti’s arms could reach her top through the bars... and one did. Vatti grabbed Acol and pulled her fast towards herself not thinking about nor caring about Acol’s forehead which hit the bars hard.

“What happened to the boy that was with Atsuma!?! What happened to Baas!?! I’m supposed to go with him!”

Acol opened her eyes in anger.

“Why you...” Her hand went up to attack, but was grabbed. Altea stared at Acol for a couple of seconds. Acol ground her teeth before accepting

“I know.” Acol said. She grabbed Vatti’s arm, and forced it off of her. “Geeze, you’re always treating me like a child.”

Altea pulled out the chair away from the table.

“No. We can do our jobs just fine from outside. I certainly don’t want to stay in here.”

“Wait!” Vatti called. “Come back here you berry ballerina! Tell me what happened!”

The two left without a word.

“Gee, you certainly showed her.”

Vatti went up to the cave wall and hit it with the bottom of her fist.

“Baas, you moron. Why did you leave me here? If I die because you were too stupid to tell them I’m not an enemy, I’m gonna kill you.”

“Die?” Henry said outloud. “Didn’t think about that.”

He stood up and walked over to the bars of the cell. He pushed his arm through, trying desperately to reach the chair. After a couple of seconds, Vatti took notice.

“What are you doing?”

“I have this thing about dying. I don’t like to do it.”

“So you’re trying to reach for the chair? How’s that gonna help?”

“Shh.” Henry said. His voice then got real quiet. “See the key?”

Vatti looked up at the table where the key was sitting.

“It’s sitting on the edge.” Henry continued. “If I can get the chair, I can use it to reach that key.”

Vatti wanted to say something against the plan, but it actually had a chance of succeeding.

“Move.” She said pushing the black band. “Finally... you do... something useful.” Her arms were longer, allowing her to just reach the edge of the chair and bring it toward her.

“Got it.”

“Give it here.”

“So you can mess things up? No way.”

The blue began to reach for the table, holding onto the head of the chair and reaching out with the leg.

“Vatti...”

“Hush, I almost got it.”

The table shook and shook until the key finally felt to the ground.

“Yes!” Vatti whispered.

Henry facepalmed himself.

“Now... if I can... just... drag it over.”

As she spoke, Vatti tried to use the leg of the chair to pull the key toward her; however, it proved difficult as the key seemed to dance around the leg.

“Stupid key. It’s doing that on purpose.”

“Vatti, can I just make a suggestion?”

“What!?”

“Try using the legs as the handle.”

Vatti stopped. She turned the chair so that she was holding the legs. The head of the chair was able to easily slide the key over to the cell. As she picked up the key, the Blue glared at Henry who let out a simple smirk.

“Don’t think this lets you off the hook. It’s still your fault we’re in this mess.”

The two turned the key and made their way out of the cell. They were tempted to hurry, but the voice ahead slowed them.

“Sh.” Vatti gestured.

“I know.” Henry whispered back.

They crept through the tunnel towards where the voice was coming from.

“Can you believe those Golds.” Acol spoke loudly. “I mean I’ve seen a lot stupid things in this world, but to just be standing outside our base? And that one group that attacked Atsuma and the others, they were the worst. You beat that Zordo guy like he was nothing. And once he fell, the girl was so worried about him she couldn’t even fight anymore. If they couldn’t beat us, what made them think they stood a chance against Atsuma?”

Altea simply shrugged. Suddenly, she turned her head and looked inside. Vatti and Henry quickly hid back inside where they came from.

“What’s the matter?” Acol asked. She looked inside. “Did you see something?”

Altea stared inside for a second more. Then, she wrapped her arms around herself and began shivering. Her glance turned away from the prison room.

“It is a little chilly out here. Those two aren’t going anywhere.”

The two walked away from the prison room. Vatti let out a breath of relief.

“Well, thank goodness for that.” She whispered. Before the two came back, she quickly made her way out of the building with Henry following closely behind her. They snuck across the opposite way that they saw their two women leave.

“Where is everyone?” Henry asked. “Did they all go on a mission or something?”

“People don’t go on missions at night, it’s too dangerous.”

“Why?”

“Because, smart one, it’s dark. Anyone could do anything.”

“But if no one goes out at night, wouldn’t that mean zero chance of someone else doing something?”

Vatti stopped walking and sighed.

“I wouldn’t expect a black band to understand war tactics, especially one who’s never been to the Center. Now stop asking stupid questions, we’ve got to figure out how to get out of here.”

“Nobody’s up. Why don’t we just walk out?”

Vatti put her hand to her forehead.

“For once, can’t I get teamed up with someone competence?” she said under her breath. After, Vatti began speaking aloud.

“They headed North. With the sun set, I can’t tell which way that is. If we leave through the southern exit, we’ll be heading the wrong way. Not to mention, getting out of here without being seen will be difficult enough. Atsuma was telling everyone we were prisoners, but that won’t work with us just wandering around. These are Oranges, they don’t take prisoners.”

“Aw man!” Henry sat down and let out a sigh of exhaustion. “Why did I ever agree to rescue Baas? My life was just fine before I met you guys.”

“Would you have rather been with your people when the Discretes killed them?”

Henry grew silent.

“Didn’t think so. Don’t be so panicky, there’s got to be a way out of here.”

“There is.” A dark voice came from behind the two. Henry quickly got up from fear and ran behind Vatti. Vatti put herself in a fighting stance, although there was no weapon in her hands. Before them stood a figure dressed in all black, a white skull on the mask he wore.

“Oh boy, it’s you again.” Vatti said.

“Diablo?” Henry asked. “Don’t scare me like that!”

“Hush boy.” Diablo said harshly. “I can get us out of here, but not if the entire base hears us.”

“What are you doing here, Diablo?” Vatti asked sternly.

“The same thing I’ve been doing for the past several months. Tracking Baas. I imagine that you would like to make it out of here alive and reunite with him.”

Vatti felt a glimmer of hope appear, but the shade of doubt was overcoming it.

“You want to help us escape this base? Why? I thought you weren’t going to help Atsuma and Baas find their Commander.”

Vatti kept her eyes focused on the masked man, knowing that he would do something deceptive. Even still, the man in black vanished before her eyes. Her hand reached for her sword which wasn’t there, but it wasn’t relevant as Diablo’s hand was already on top of her shoulder. Vatti quickly shook the feeling away and moved from Diablo who was now behind her. Henry, followed, though he barely was able to keep up with what happened.

“You seem to forget that I’ve been spying on Baas for months; that includes the time he spent with you. If death was something I wanted from you, I would have it by now.”

Vatti gritted her teeth and glared; she understood what Diablo meant. He was faster than Vatti, and she never knew when he was around unless he spoke. Still, there was something about his attitude that she didn’t like. He didn’t have to be so smug about everything.

“Whether you except my help is up to you, but as I said, my wish is not to have you dead. I did not offer my help to Atsuma before because you all were not on a certain path to death yet. But now the Oranges are black-banded, and have abandoned you. Without Atsuma to vouch for you or Baas to accept you, the chances of you surviving here in Orange are dimming. Even if you should escape, you, Henry, have no where to go and you, Vatti, will most certainly search for Baas. The safest option would be to come with me. I am heading towards Baas anyway.”

“You know the way out of this place?” Henry pondered.

“In my line of work, you know a lot of things.”

“I don’t care about your line of work.” Vatti said harshly. She paused for a moment, forcing herself to swallow her pride. “But... if you can get me to Baas, I’ll follow you.”

“And you?” Diablo turned to Henry.

“Me?”

Vatti rolled her eyes. “Who do you think he’s talking to? Yes, he’s coming too.”

“What is your decision Henry?” Diablo said, ignoring Vatti.

Henry balled up his fist, realizing the seriousness of the question. “I’ll follow you. I’ll do anything to avenge my family.”

Chapter 101 End