Chapter 39 : The Great Escape

Baas ran through the crowd as fast as he could. It was difficult. Every second some other grey band was getting in his way. Any accident he made would only be followed by a quick apology as he continued to run through the street. The only comfort these people gave him was that every person that got in his way was another person Brute’s guys had to go through as well. Even though he was curious as to how close they were behind him, Baas dared not look back to see. Not only did he need his eyes facing forward to make sure he didn’t run into people, but there was some rule that you weren’t suppose to look back while being chased. Baas didn’t know why, but it was suppose to be bad.

From what he could hear, though, the guys seemed pretty far behind. He was probably far enough that the massive crowd kept him from being easily seen. This was his chance to lose them. Baas made a hard left into an ally. He could come out from the other side and then do that several times. They’d never be able to catch…

Baas could not continue his thoughts. Or rather, it seemed unnecessary to do so. His plan to exit out of the other side was a failure as there was no other side to the ally. It led to a dead end. The only thing in the ally was a piece of abandoned rope and some barrels used to store things. Baas began to wonder what was in them. Perhaps something the people in the nearby building used. That would make the most sense, but why would they store it in the ally instead of the…

“Did anyone see where he went?”

“I saw him go in that ally.”

Baas made a quick turn around. He’d need another escape plan. He should have known there would be no exit here. The buildings in the grey territory were too close together for there to have been a…

A realization came into Baas’ brain. He looked up. The buildings were indeed close together. So close, in fact, that if Baas got up there, he could easily travel any where he wanted to in the territory as well as get a good view from above. It was a good idea, but how would he do it? The walls weren’t very high, but still he wouldn’t be able to jump up and grab the roof. Even if he climbed on the barrels and jumped, he wouldn’t be able to grab the edge and pull himself up. He’d be able to make it with a wall jump, but there was no way he would be able to dig his feet into the cement that the walls were made out of. If they were somehow made out of wood, he’d be able to get enough friction to make the jump.

“That one over there?”

“Yeah. I’m pretty sure it was that one.”

Baas began to feel the pressure. He would have to hurry if he didn’t want to face Brute and his gang’s wrath.

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“So you’re sure you haven’t seen anything?” Pandora asked the elderly lady wearing a grey band.

“That’s right.” She responded back. “Orange bands are rare here, so if I had seen any, I would have remembered.”

“I see.” Pandora said depressed. “Well, thank you.”

And with that, the elder lady left Pandora.

Before she could do anything else, Koroko approached her shaking his head.

“I take it you didn’t find anything either.” She concluded.

“Nothing.” Koroko said upset. He then sat on the ground depressed. “Nobody’s seen a trace of Vee. And all the sleeping places closed down.”

“All of them?” Pandora asked shocked.

“I asked around. They said the sleeping places closed awhile ago because the only people who used them were colored bands. And since we don’t have to trade for anything that’s here, people who ran them were barely making a living.”

Koroko let out a depressing sigh. He then kicked a rock that was near his foot.

“See, this is why I hate this place. These stupid grey territories aren’t good for anything.”

“No.” Pandora corrected, “You hate this place because every time you come here, there’s no one to fight.”

“Don’t correct me.” Koroko said. “I meant what I said.”

Pandora raised an eyebrow.

“Must you argue with everything someone says to you?”

Koroko let out a smile.

“Everything some says? No. Everything you say? Yes. It’s a good substitution for when I can’t fight in a real battle.”

Pandora blew air from her mouth. Once upon a time she would have continued to argue, but she knew Koroko well enough to just let him continue. He didn’t though. Cause at that moment, Sheina approached both him and Pandora holding a pile of hoods. She had been rushing for some reason.

“Koroko! Pandora!” She called out to them.

“What is it?” Pandora asked when Sheina approached.

“It’s Baas.” She said exasperated.

“’Oh great.’” Koroko said sarcastically. “He’s loose.”

“Actually,” Sheina corrected, “It’s worse than that.”

“Worse than that hyperactive teenager causing havoc in a peaceful territory?” Koroko asked. He then smiled. “Well, give us the details.”

There was hope for his day yet.

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Brute turned the corner to see the back of the one whom had embarrassed him. His evil smiled returned to his face. His group was right behind him. Now they had Baas trapped. Baas had his back turned toward the group, but they could easily tell who he was. His white outfit and orange band stood out among anyone else in the territory.

“We’ve got you now.” Brute called out to him. Baas turned his head around.

“Oh yeah?” He said with a smile. He then turned his body all the way around. In his hand was his short sword, but it was different. There was a rope tied onto the blade. Brute also noticed that on the other end of the rope was a wooden circle. A barrel lid. Baas no doubt got it from one of the barrels behind him. Brute smiled. He’d figured out Baas’ plan.

“Do you really think that will help you?” Brute asked Baas as the group approached him. “Just because you’ve made a fancy weapon doesn’t mean you can take us all. Plus, you still can’t fight us. Unless you want to break the rules of Wig.”

Baas made a confused look. Fancy weapon? What was Brute talking about. Baas then looked at his sword. Ooooooohhhh, that was what Brute meant. Baas then let out a simple grin toward Brute.

“I guess you’re right. This thing will be useless in a fight with you guys.”

Baas then tightened his grip on the weapon. Then, as best as he could, he threw the contraption of a sword soaring into the air.

The group’s eyes followed as his sword flew up.

“You’re an even bigger moron than I thought.” Brute said smiling. He then took his gaze off the sword in the air and back to his prey. “So I take it you’ve given up?”

Baas smirked back at Brute.

“Not exactly.”

Baas then turned around and ran toward the back of the ally. Brute’s group was about to charge when Baas did something unexpected. With his left foot, Baas jumped and kicked off one of the barrels that was sitting there. The trick caused him to jump toward one of the walls of the ally.

Brute was confused. Was this kid trying to perform some trick or was he just trying to scare Brute? Either way it didn’t matter. Once Baas hit the wall he was headed toward, he would have no where to go. He would still be trapped.

Brute and his ganged watched as Baas got closer and closer to the wall. Soon they would see an impact and Baas would be back on the ground. Suddenly, out of nowhere, something swung in between Baas’ leading foot and the stone wall. It was a wooden circle tied to a rope. The lid to the barrel! When Baas threw his sword in the air, no one had watched it come down. But Baas knew. He intentionally threw his sword so that it would land on the roof, causing the wooden lid tied to it to swing along the wall. Doing so, Baas pressed his foot against the wooden lid. The lid pressed up against the wall and Baas had the friction he needed to jump up farther. Reaching with all his might, Baas grabbed on to the edge of the roof. He couldn’t relax yet though, as he tried to pull himself up, Baas remembered that his actions had caused the lid to pull his short sword down. He quickly turned to catch it just before it was out of his reach. Succeeding, Baas threw the sword back onto the roof. He then pulled hard to yank himself up.

Finally he had done it. Baas was on the roof. He looked out into the distance. Because the buildings were all the same size, Baas could see all the way to the edge of the territory from all directions. He took a short time to marvel at the sight, after which he searched for his sword. There it was, right where he threw it. Pulling the rope off it quickly, he went back over to look down at Brute and his gang.

“Here you go.” Baas said throwing down the rope and the lid. “If you still want to use those weapons on me, I suggest you hurry up and get up here. Try doing the same trick I did.” Baas smiled wide at the fellows below knowing full well they couldn’t do what he just did. He then turned to continue his escape. As he made his way, he noticed the color of the sky. It was lighter. He could actually see some sunlight among the grey clouds. It seemed that today wasn’t going to be as bad as he thought.

Back on the ground, Brute and his group were in awe. Brute quickly snapped himself out of it, however, and began giving orders.

“Quickly, move! We have to get that kid!”

“But Brute,” the one with the ax complained, “we can’t get on the roof like that.”

Brute turned around and slapped the one who spoke.

“I know that you idiot! I meant follow him on the ground! He may be up high but he has to come down some time, and when he does, we’ll be there waiting.”

“Are you sure that’s a good idea?” One of the two with a long sword asked. “I mean, did you see what he just did? No way could I ever in my life jump onto a roof like that. His timing and aim are incredible. If he can do that, imagine what he can do in a fight.”

Brute thought about hitting this one too, but decided against it. Instead he just smiled evilly as he spoke.

“That’s just it, he can’t fight us. Not if he wants to obey the rules of Wig. If we can get him cornered he’ll have to take his hits like a man.”

“But he’s not a man Brute.” The other one with the long sword spoke “He’s just some kid. I know we’re tired of the colored bands taking advantage of us, but usually those are adult Golds. This is a kid Orange and he looks like he’s just trying to have some fun.”

“I’m not letting that stop me!” Brute raged. He then began to exit the ally. “That ‘kid’ as you called him made a fool of me… of all of you... in front of everyone in the territory. He’s just like the rest of them, thinking that just because he was trained in the Center that he’s better than us. Well it’s time to prove once and for all that he’s not. It’s time to show him, show them all, that Greys are people too.”

Brute gave his group one last look.

“Now stop complaining and let’s go!”

Chapter 39 End.