**Chapter 99**

“Breath. Breath. Breath!” is what Baas kept thinking to himself. The ex-Orange was trying to follow his own advice. Trying doesn’t always work in Baas’ case. It’s not that breathing was usually a difficult task for him, but facing down three extremely powerful Golds while sitting next to a pile of dead Oranges made not breathing seem like the better idea. The three pairs of eyes were staring directly at Baas didn’t help either. The teenager wasn’t sure who to be more afraid of. The blood thirsty looking Dolg with a new shade of red spattered across his outfit, the stern looking Zordo whom he knew he couldn’t defeat no matter the odds, or the creepy Magatha who... actually he wasn’t really scared of her as much as he was creeped out. Still, he didn’t want to fight any of the three right now. Run, duck, hide, all these options were the most tempting to him, but he knew those actions too would most likely end with him being killed. It seemed like the safest option would be to sit and not provoke the enemies.

“Looks like we’ve got one more corpse to make before moving on.” Dolg said licking his lips. Well so much for the “safest option.” Magatha took out her long sword. That had to be the shiniest sword Baas had ever seen.

“Wait.” Zordo said stopping his teammate. “Killing him would not be in our best interest.”

A glimmer of hope!

“What are you talking about?” Dolg said. “He’s an Orange, we’re Golds, since when is killing the enemy... especially Oranges, not in our best interest?”

“Zordo believes Baas to be a great asset.” Magatha said with a grin. She put her sword back, allowing Baas to sigh with relief.

“I merely meant that Baas was last seen with Atsuma.” Zordo corrected. “Given that, he may prove useful to us later alive. He was with their team, he may know vital information that can lead us to them and/or defeat them. That is why we came here, is it not, Dolg?”

“Don’t treat me like a child. I came up with the plan.”

Baas was seeing more and more opportunities for him to get out of this alive. Still, he wasn’t seeing happy endings. What did Zordo mean to use him for? Whatever it was, at least the teenager could be sure he would be alive.

“Actually Zordo, there’s seems to be a problem with your plan.” Magatha said grinning more. She reached down and forcibly grabbed Baas by his left bicep. “Seems your favorite little Orange has been a very bad boy. Last I checked, black was not the new orange.”

That couldn’t have been good for Baas.

“A black band warrants his use to Oranges useless, not to mention it makes him a criminal.” Magatha raised her sword once again. “Well, rules are rules.” Her sword quickly made its way to Baas’ throat.

“NO!” Zordo let out a shout that stopped Magatha in her tracks. Her sword an inch away from Baas’ throat. She looked at Zordo through the side of her eyes, pondering what he would say next, knowing he would say something next.

“What is with you, Zordo?” Dolg asked. “Putting all this fuss over some kid? Magatha’s right, he’s got no value anymore.”

“He may be more valuable than you think.” Zordo voice was low, and show a slight hint of anger. “His black band does not warrant his connections here. He may not be able to get in and out, but his knowledge and connections to Atsuma still exist. Do you want to lose that?”

Dolg sighed through his nose.

“I thought not.” Zordo turned to Magatha. “The boy lives.”

Magatha shrugged.

“It’s fine with me.” She released Baas and her sword made it back to her side. “I got what I wanted from this.” She stared at Zordo who glared back with a look that wasn’t as pleasant.

Baas’ heart was racing. Death, life, it was all being decided by how useful he could be to killing others. He couldn’t believe the situation he was in. He looked around for something, anything to help him get out of this.

...

And then he saw something.

After a couple of seconds, Zordo turned to Dolg.

“The first part is complete, Dolg. Now how would you have us proceed?”

“Me? After that big fuss you made about making use of the kid, I figure you had some master plan.”

“I was merely making suggestions.”

“Sure was a very interesting way of showing it.” Magatha grinned.

“Your observations are continuing to annoy me.”

“The great Zordo annoyed? There’s no surprise in that. However, your reactions are completely out of character.”

“Will you two stop your usual weirdness?” Dolg said. “We’ve got a job to do. Zordo, if you don’t know the next move than we should just proceed into the base.”

“Not wise. The entire point of back-up was to have them distract the base. Unless you wish to proceed without them? That would risk less lives, but would most likely end in failure. Waiting would be the best way to accomplish our task.”

“Well why did you ask me what to do if you knew?”

“I wanted to put my thoughts and compare them to yours. It is your plan after all, and I wanted to make sure we were on the same page.”

Though his words did not say it, Dolg couldn’t help but feel that Zordo was insulting him. It wasn’t the first time he felt this feeling either, only this time he was getting sick and tired of it.

“Excuse me.” An unexpected voice came out. The three turned to the Orange. He was sitting toward the edge of the trail with his legs folded rocking back and forth. “You guys don’t seem very organized in this plan of yours.”

“What?” Dolg said.

“Well, I’m just saying. You guys come here in the base with... three people? And you honestly expect to accomplish something.”

Dolg began to step forward, but Zordo’s arm stopped him.

“Don’t. He comes from Orange, remember? They thrive off of making their enemies angry.”

“See, that’s what I’m talking about.” Baas continued. “I mean, who’s in charge here?”

“I am.” Dolg said. He took another step forward, but Zordo’s arm continued to keep him in place.

“Well, it’s kind of hard to tell. You say something, then Zordo disagrees and the group does something else. Then Magatha pushes to do things just because Zordo doesn’t like it.”

“Ooh, he got me there.” Magatha grinned.

“It seems that there’s no real leader among these Leaders.”

“Alright you little runt.” Dolg stomped forward, passed the force of Zordo’s arm.

“Where do you get off thinking you can talk to Great Ones like that?”

Dolg continued to make his way toward Baas. Zordo put his hand over his face in frustration. Magatha simply shrugged, however, her eyes caught a glimpse of something in the distance.

“Why I bet you’re too stupid to know what a Great One is...”

“Dolg! Look out!” Magatha shouted.

Dolg turned toward Magatha. The wrong way. In the distance, now that Dolg was toward the edge of the cliff and turned away, Pandora could get off a clear shot. She unleashed the arrow from her Stirkfur. Magatha and Zordo made their way as fast as they could to Dolg, but they were not faster than the arrow. It came at amazing speed, aimed right for a kill spot.

\*shoulf\*

Dolg stood there in a terror state. In front of him there was an arrow. Its target had been his head. But it was stopped in mid-air.

Baas’ chest moved up and down. Part from the speed and part from the anticipation. It took himself a moment to realize what happened. His hand had caught the arrow meant for Dolg.

“Oops.” Was all he let out before he bolted behind the rock the way he came. A couple a seconds passed before the Golds realized what happened. Dolg took a breath, then he ran after his prey followed by Magatha and Zordo.

**Chapter 99 End**