Chapter 18

Zordo landed in front of the building. Unlike most buildings in the Source, this one did not exceed one-story. It was attached to the side of another building. After doing some research, the Green had learned the technical name for it was called a “garage.”

His presence alerted another. A beast who slept on the side of the building lifted its head. It yawned and shook its head as it examined the man who had approached it. Zordo held still for a minute. The creature was a stirkfur, one of the most dangerous animals in Wig-Or-Log. These creatures, though scarce, were notorious.

The creature approached Zordo. It stood right in front of him and then sat. It’s tongue stuck out, its tail wagged. The creature was happy to see its friend again.

“Greetings, Stirky.” He reached down and pet the creature. “You’ve been good while I was gone.”

The stirkfur did not respond, but simply circled the man. Zordo petted Stirky for a few more seconds before proceeding to enter the garage from the side door.

“I’d love to get you some kind of identification, boy. You look just like every other stirkfur out there.”

Zordo turned on the lights. Each row on the ceiling lit up one by one. The building had no windows. Unlike the location of the recruits, he didn’t have to worry about Discretes seeing the light from the outside. In fact, when he was here, Zordo didn’t let himself worry about anything.

“Have you been visiting the others?” He asked Stirky. “I imagine Savvi would enjoy a visit.”

The stirkfur scratched behind his left ear and continued to enter. Zordo doubted it had visited anyone. It wasn’t that the creature was incapable of doing so. Stirkfurs were already tougher and faster than humans. Stirky, however had exceeded the normal conditions of a stirkfur. He’d been trained with the Seconds to be even better. If he wanted to, the stirkfur could travel clear across Underground in three days, something only a Discrete had the speed and endurance to accomplish.

The problem wasn’t “could he?” but rather “would he?” Stirky belonged to the Seconds and loved them all. When they had found him as a puppy, it was Savvi who insisted they take him in and who played with him the most; it was Decson who fed him and made sure he stayed healthy, yet for some reason Sturky had always found the most comfort in Zordo.

“You ready to get to work?”

Stirky yawned.

“Lazy.”

Zordo pulled out his Display and pulled up a file on it, showing it to Stirky.

“Do you see this? I finished the calculations. Savvi agrees with my conclusion.”

Stirky sniffed the device. It smelled like the man who was holding it.

“We’re one step closer, boy.”

Chapter 18 finish

Chapter 19

“Alright you troublemakers, pipe down.” Nora said addressing the students. “I know how much you love learning how to cook and care for yourselves…”

“As much as we love tripping and falling!” Ralph shouted. The usually crowd of snickers and laughs followed.

“Well prepare for a lot of hurting, Ralph. Today we’ve got a special guest with us. That’s your cue, hun!”

Decson walked through the door and stood before the group of teenagers.

“Hello everyone, I am Decson, general of the Department of Medicine.”

“Geeze.” Henry whispered to Ryan. “When is Vatti gonna come visit?”

“One discipline you learn to pick up when you practice medicine is how to read people. I don’t need all that to tell that you all don’t seem to interested in my department. Isn’t that right?”

Decson glared directly at Henry who flinched. He had forgotten that she was a Second. She had probably heard what he said.

“It seems that Zordo has gotten you all focused on the excitement of fighting and technology.”

“I like to fight!” Zayle screamed.

“They like tech!” Ralph added, pointing to team the Techs.

Decson puckered her lips to one side of her mouth.

“Rather cheerful. Were you guys really trained by Zordo?” She said under her breath.

“Well, its actually not a hindrance. My department isn’t for everyone, but before I dismiss you all, lets see if maybe one of you…”

At that moment, a loud snore was let out into the air.

“Terri!” Terra shireked. “Terri, wake up!”

The eldest of the Siblings suddenly shot his head up.

“Wha…?”

“Terri, are you kidding me!? You fall asleep during a general’s visit!?”

Terri sat up slowly and scratched his beard.

“Not my fault, Terra. I fall asleep when I’m sleepy. And what can I say? I’m sleepy. You want me to go against nature?”

Terra stood up and put her hands on her arms. “I WANT you to sleep at night instead of staying up doing… whatever it was you were doing.” She turned to Decson and smiled nervously.

“On behalf of our team, I apologize for my brother’s rude behavior.”

Decson’s lips once again went to the side as she spoke under her breath.

“What have you been doing here, Zordo.” Her voice rose so that everyone can hear her.

“Well… why don’t we try waking you all up. What do you all do for fun around here?”

“Synchronize!”

“Sync-Ball!”

“Synchronize!”

“We play Synchronize!”

“Sync… gah, you beat me to it!”

“Well, I guess that settles that. How about we all go play some Synchronize?”

The excitement that came from everyone almost overwhelmed Decson.

“You have no idea what you’ve unleashed.” Nora said. “These kids love playing Sync-Ball more than breathing.”

“We have to keep them focused if I’m going to see their true potential.” Decson said. She let out a smile. “Besides, look how happy they are.”

“My job isn’t to keep them happy, it’s to keep them learned and focused. Speaking of which…” Nora raised her voiced to screaming levels. “If you all want to play Sync, you better go and get your outfits!”

“Outfits?” Decson asked.

“Sync-Ball requires anyone playing to wear special outfits. The students have two pairs each. Whenever they damage em, Chrys and I have to work together to make new ones.”

“Hmm… do you have any spare ones?”

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“I’m not sure I like this.” Ryan said, emerging from his room with his Sync-outfit on.

“What’s not to like?” Henry said. He and Portia were waiting in the hall for their friend. “Instead of all that boring stuff Nora makes us do, we get to play Sync-Ball. If there was ever a chance to show off, this is it.”

“Hey, no one likes playing Sync more than I do, but what is the general planning? If this were Vatti, I’d understand, she’d want to see our combat skills. But what does playing a sport have to do with medicine?”

“Who cares?” Henry said. “Whatever the test is, we’ll pass it with flying colors.”

“But what…”

“Ryan, buddy, trust me. You’re thinking about this way too much. All you have to is what you do best.”

“Henry has a point, Ryan. All we know at this point is that we’re supposed to play Synchronize. Maybe we’ll see the reason why, but for now we just need to focus on what we do know. So get your head in the game mister.”

“Please do.” Tsudo said. She was coming down the hall along with Napp and Carol. “If everything goes well, the general will let our teams compete against each other. Playing against you won’t be much fun if you’re not on you’re A-game, Ryan.”

“Playing with you is never any fun, Tsudo. I only do it because it benefits the team.”

“And in the end, that’s all that matters. We’re not here to have fun, we’re here to get better. Which means if it weren’t for my team, you guys would have no reason to be here. You’re welcome.”

Tsudo and her group pushed passed the team 6.

“See you on the court!” Carol called back.

Chapter 19 End