

Chapter 4

Zaxvo trudged wearily towards the TrueToa Fortress, Gradis Aesdar. Suddenly, he tripped over a fallen staff. The Pawzert's cold blue eyes flashed open, and it nodded towards the lone Pawzert hovering above the tired Toa. The hovering Pawzert shot an energy pulse straight at a Toa Zaxvo.

"Zaxvo! Watch out!" Vaya barked. Zaxvo glanced around and quickly brought up the Gold's now energy-less body up as a shield. The pulse bolt collided with the Pawzert's chest plate, and the Pawzert rose up from the ground, anticipating the coming fight.

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Vaya ran, anxiously dodging the tired TrueToa slowly making their way to the fortress. "Takuma!" He called, addressing one of the only Toa Nuva surviving. "Zaxvo's in trouble! Some pawzert shot a pulse bolt and it revived a gold, and what are we gonna do?"

"Whoa there. Slow down. What's going on?" That was Takuma Nuva. Taking a deep breath, Vaya quickly related to Takuma Nuva what had happened.

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Zaxvo ducked, breathing hard. He brought his short mace up, aiming to catch the pawzert in the chest, but failed. The Pawzert blocked the mace with his crossed daggers. The hovering pawzert took one glance at the battle and quickly rose up into the sky. *He's scared*, Zaxvo deduced hopefully. Zaxvo spared not a second thought on the hovering one, and focused on the gold pawzert standing in front of him. That was a mistake. *I need some room to use my bident*, Zaxvo strategized. He head butted the pawzert, then dropped to the ground and spun in a neat circle, tripping the Pawzert. The gold pawzert shakily rose to his feet, then glanced around and suddenly dropped to ground. Zaxvo stood, wondering what happened.

"To your left!" Someone called. That person saved his life. Zaxvo glanced to his left and saw the flying pawzert streaking towards him. The Pawzert's eyes gleamed. Wham! The pawzert hit Zaxvo with a thud, Zaxvo's mace flying. The Yellow Toa Nuva who had just landed caught it.

"Hey, thanks!" He said.

"This isn't a time for joking, Takuma!" Vaya yelled. Zaxvo charged up his hand with an electrical energy vortex and grabbed the Pawzert's throat. The Pawzert shook for a minute, and then laid still, his power drained into Zaxvo. Zaxvo stopped the vortex and lifted the Pawzert's body off him.

"Thanks Takuma," He said, smiling. "For-"

"Hey, no problem!" Takuma replied

"-doing nothing but catch a mace that's seen more action than you have." Zaxvo finished sarcastically. Vaya's eyes widened.

"Zaxvo, behind you!" Zaxvo turned to look, and a beam of laser streaked over his shoulder. The laser hit the pawzert in the arm, leaving a smoking hole. The

Pawzert took one glance at the whole, turned, and ran. Takuma raised his hand, readying another blast. Zaxvo forced Takuma's arm down.

"Let him go, Takuma. Show some mercy."

"Fine, just let me do this." Without waiting for an answer, Takuma activated his mask and leaped towards the Pawzert. "Hey you!" He called. The Pawzert turned.

"Foolish Toa. Don't you realize I could easily rip your purple eyes out of their sockets in a flash?" The Pawzert threatened.

"No, you can't. I'm wearing a mask, remember?" Takuma countered. "No you can't, 'cause if brains were dynamite, you wouldn't have enough to blow your nose!"

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"That's what he wanted to do?" Zaxvo was amazed.

"I don't believe it!" Like Zaxvo, Vaya was shocked. "I guess his ego wouldn't let him let the pawzert leave without taunting him.

"Wow! Good looks and smart moves! Oh wait, that's me!" Takuma bragged.

"Ha, ha. Very funny Takuma. Let's get back to Gradis Aesdar." Zaxvo said sarcastically.

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"What happened to me?" Hozil wondered out loud. He had just woken up, and all he remembered was a loud explosion, a bright flash in front of him and searing pain in his left elbow. He looked around, seeing the calming green walls of Gradis Caesar's infirmary. "What happened?" He repeated, dazed. The door opened, and a Toa wearing the telltale white cloak of a doctor walked in.

"Do you remember anything?" The doctor asked, his voice soothing and calm.

"Just a flash, an explosion, and a lot of pain," Hozil replied. The doctor nodded.

"Pain, eh? That's to be expected."

"Why would pain be expected?" Hozil wondered.

"Hozil, I don't know how to say this to you. Honestly, I'm amazed you haven't noticed." The doctor sounded grave.

"What would I have noticed? I don't understand. What happened?" Hozil asked, confused. The doctor smiled sadly, and pointed to Hozil's left arm. Hozil glanced at his left arm, and realized it had been severed from the elbow. The last thing he said before passing out was "What happened to me?"