

# **Kill the Sun**

## **Chapter 21: Target**

As soon as the rats fell on him and attacked him, Nick gritted his teeth in fury.

They had an unspoken agreement!

"You'll regret this!" Nick shouted.

This was different from the Nightmare.

The Parasite only had a limited number of rats, and Nick could cause real damage to the Parasite by killing them.

However, the rats could also cause real damage to Nick. After all, they were real.

Five rats immediately jumped on Nick.

Nick's right hand grabbed one of them and squeezed.

CRKSH!

The rat was squeezed into a thin sock of wet meat.

At the same time, Nick's left hand turned into a fist and punched a second rat.

BOOM!

The rat shot into the distance and hit the water over 50 meters away from Nick, skipping twice on the surface.

However, the other three rats reached Nick and immediately bit into his body.

One of them bit his right biceps, and the other two bit his chest.

At the same time, Nick saw several more rats coming out from the water around him.

Nick gritted his teeth in pain and hatred.

Nick grabbed one of the rats and pulled.

CRKSH!

The rat's body was torn off, but the head remained stuck in Nick's biceps.

BANG!

Another rat was turned into paste by another one of Nick's punches.

The last one let go and dove into the water while the other rats came closer.

Just a second later, three more rats were jumping at Nick.

Nick released several more attacks, but the rats just kept going after him without pause.

Even more, the rats even started to attack him from below the surface.

Nick's rage grew as he kept tearing the rats into pieces.

It was never-ending!

Some seconds later, Nick had already killed over 15 rats.

Yet, they just kept on coming!

The Parasite really went all in!

'I would already be dead without my ability!'

And then, Nick's eyes widened.

'My ability?'

Nick stopped resisting the rats.

'My ability shouldn't be working right now.'

'Yet, I am tearing these rats apart like they are paper.'

'My ability is still active!'

'This can only mean one thing.'

The realization had positive and negative aspects to it.

On one hand, Nick wasn't being attacked by the real Parasite, which meant that he had not actually been injured.

But on the other hand, Nick had spun around so many times during the battle that he didn't even know which direction he was facing.

In the end, Nick could only grit his teeth as he took one of the tubes from his thigh and broke it.

CRKSH!

All the rats vanished as Nick was swallowed by light.

Just now, Nick had been in the "street" of the sewers, but as soon as the light appeared around him, Nick saw that he was still about two meters away from the real street.

Nick had still been in the darkness.

'The Nightmare had made it seem like I had already reached the end when I actually hadn't.'

Nick immediately swam over to the street, which wasn't difficult with only two meters between him and it.

Now, Nick was actually back in the street of light.

'The Nightmare can even create illusions of light,' Nick thought with anxiety and fear.

'This is not something I can compete with.'

Nick looked back at the dark domain he had just left behind.

'At least I'm out now.'

The next moment, he looked around the sewers.

There were over a hundred similarly big domains.

Nick had gone through hell and had used two Arclights after going just through one of them.

'This is beyond my level.'

Silence.

Nick had been down here for several hours now, and he had become quite familiar with the sewers.

But in the end, he had to leave without any gains.

Even worse, Nick had even used two Arclights.

'Guess I'm going to become an Inspector now.'

'It's probably not a bad job.'

'I get to leave the Dregs, and I can probably also get a normal home.'

'Maybe I can even build a family.'

Yet, no matter how enticing the position as an Inspector seemed to Nick, he still felt regret.

For a while, Nick just looked at the ceiling of the sewers.

This would be his last excursion as a Zephyx Extractor.

Wyntor had already used up all the money he had access to.

He had bet everything on Nick.

Sadly, Nick would only disappoint him.

Silence.

Nick just watched the ceiling in silence.

A bird flew past him.

Suddenly, Nick's eyes widened.

A bird?

Nick's eyes immediately locked onto the bird as it entered a black domain representing a block of houses.

Just now, Nick had been set on giving up.

But now, he was hesitating again.

'A bird!'

'That must have been the Dreamer!'

Nick's heart rate rose rapidly as adrenaline shot through his body.

'After hours, its old target must have woken up or died, and it had to go to a new one!'

Nick's eyes locked onto the black domain where the Dreamer had to be in right now.

There were no toilets in this block, and the block was about fifty by fifty meters.

In the center of the block was the ruin of a stony tower, which supported the block of houses above it in the middle.

As Nick looked at the domain, images of what had happened to him earlier reappeared in his mind.

Pain, deceit, horror, death.

Nick was finally free!

He could finally leave the sewers!

He no longer needed to go through the darkness again!

But the Dreamer was right there!

Just once more!

Just one more time!

But what if he didn't succeed?

He might be risking his life for nothing.

After all, the Dreamer was obviously at the ceiling of the sewers.

Nick would need to swim for about twenty meters in pure darkness, climb ten meters of the structure, and then catch the Dreamer.

And he had to do that all in pure silence so that the Dreamer wouldn't notice him and in the Nightmare's illusionary hell.

He couldn't even use the last Arclight since that would immediately draw the Dreamer's focus to Nick, which would deactivate his ability.

At that point, Nick wouldn't be any stronger than a normal human.

In such a state, the Dreamer could probably just kill Nick without relying on the Nightmare or the environment.

If the Dreamer noticed him, he would die.

No matter how Nick thought about it...

It was impossible.

## **Chapter 22: The Climb**

It was impossible.

No matter how long he thought about it.

It was just impossible.

Yet, Nick just couldn't stop getting excited.

He wanted to do it.

He wanted to try it!

...

But he would likely die...

Nick clenched his fists.

'I know it's a shit idea.'

'I know I will most likely die.'

'But I have to give it a go!'

'I just have to give it a shot!'

'Otherwise, I will never become happy!'

Nick took a deep breath.

Then, Nick silently swam over to the black domain.

Nick tried his best to move as silently as possible as he moved in a circle around the domain.

He poked his head into the darkness and looked at the ceiling from different angles.

Since Nick now knew what the Dreamer looked like, he could search a larger area of the ceiling.

However, even after searching for over 15 minutes near the edge, Nick still couldn't find the Dreamer.

'This means it has to be at the center.'

'It's probably even sitting on a part of the broken tower.'

The tower in the middle had several holes in it and a very uneven surface. Half of it had collapsed, while the other half supported the block of houses above it.

The Dreamer had to either be in one of the higher windows or on top of one of the two walls leading up to the ceiling.

Nick took a deep breath and looked for a good way upward.

'I have to move silently. This means I can't just jump from wall to wall.'

'I have to climb constantly and consistently.'

After a bit of looking around, Nick found a fitting spot.

'I can only climb the small windows at the tall front of the ruin. I think the tower is just one big spiral staircase in the middle, but I doubt that the spiral staircase is still intact.'

'I could attempt to walk up the staircase, but the Nightmare's illusions won't allow me to actually see where I'm going, and if I'm not careful, I might actually fall through a broken or missing step.'

'That would alert the Dreamer to my location.'

Nick just looked at the broken tower.

It was so enticing.

He could just use the stairs.

Nick sighed.

Nick couldn't trust his eyes in the darkness, and since he couldn't inspect the staircase from here, he couldn't risk climbing it.

He had to navigate blindly, and he preferred taking the difficult route he could see instead of the potentially easy route that he couldn't see.

'Luckily, there are quite a lot of windows.'

'Right to left for about three windows. Jump to the top right to grab the lowest one of the next floor of stairs and climb another three.'

'After that, two more windows will be above me and one more window above those.'

'There's a small chance that the Dreamer is in the two lower ones but a relatively high one that it's in the highest one.'

Nick went over this plan a couple more times.



And finally, he was done.

The plan was set.

Nick slowly swam to his starting position, which was facing the highest part of the ruined tower.

Silence.

Nick couldn't see the Dreamer right now, but he knew that it was there.

He knew that the likelihood of death was very high, but he had to do it.

Nick took a deep breath as he closed his eyes.

Silence.

Seconds passed.

Nick's eyes shot open, and he swam forward.

As soon as Nick entered the darkness, he closed his eyes again.

Then, he suddenly submerged!

Swimming on the surface was way too loud, which was why Nick decided to move forward while being about a meter below the surface.

Almost immediately, Nick felt several small fish glide across his body.

It was like Nick had been submerged in a thick vat of small fish.

The bodies of the fish disoriented Nick's senses, and he couldn't even feel the liquid around him anymore.

Was he swimming forward or downward?

He had already lost all sense of direction.

'The only thing I can rely on is my muscle memory!'

'As long as I order my body to continue swimming forward, no matter what, I will reach the tower!'

However, just two seconds later, Nick felt things around him change.

The mouths of the fish opened, and they started to tear into his body.

Right now, Nick was surrounded by a pile of swimming maws with terrifying teeth.

They were tearing at Nick's muscles, bones, and tendons.

The pain was horrible.

Nick's body kept shaking, but he just kept moving forward.

'This isn't real! This isn't real! This isn't real!'

'The pain isn't real!'

'It isn't real!'

Nevertheless, Nick felt like a dark void of hopelessness had opened in his chest.

'Just continue!'

Nick's flesh and blood were scattering across his surroundings.

He was dying!

But he continued!

He had to continue!

BANG!

Suddenly, Nick hit something solid!

'Did I reach it?!'

But then, Nick found an issue.

Was this actually the end?

Or was this another illusion by the Nightmare?

At this moment, Nick's emotions were going crazy.

Was he?

Wasn't he?!

In a state of panic, Nick did the first thing that came to his mind.

BANG!

Nick rammed his face against the wall!

Nick immediately felt his eyes water as his nose broke in several places.

'This feels real!'

The Nightmare's illusions were terrifyingly accurate, but when Nick compared the Nightmare's sense of pain with actual pain, there was something different.

Yes, the pain the Nightmare created was real, but there were some accompanying sensations missing.

For example, Nick had felt his entire head and mind vibrate when he had headbutted the wall.

Additionally, Nick had felt like he was about to lose consciousness for just a moment.

While the pain was the same, these sensations didn't exist when the Nightmare created an illusion.

'Luckily, the ruin is massive. The Dreamer shouldn't have felt that vibration.'

The next moment, Nick surfaced and grabbed the wall in front of him with his hands.

'I have to find the first window!'

In Nick's mind, he was rubbing against a huge wall as he desperately tried to find an invisible hole in it.

'Where is it?!'

'There!'

Nick felt something and pulled himself up with one arm.

'This proves that my ability is still active, which means the Dreamer hasn't noticed me yet!'

CRKSH!

The hole Nick had put his hand into suddenly sprouted teeth and was grinding it into a meaty paste.

Nick's eyes became bloodshot beneath his eyelids as he tried to ignore the pain.

After pulling himself up, Nick moved his hand to the left and jumped.

He knew where the window should be, but he didn't know where it was exactly.

CRK!

Nick's hand entered a hole, but his fingers hit the other side of the window, splitting the nails of two of his fingers.

Nick just gritted his teeth as he grabbed the window with his hand.

The fact that he could stop his jump with one hand meant that the Dreamer still hadn't noticed him!

The next moment, the wall seemed to split open, and Nick felt like he was falling through it.

'It's not real!'

Nick moved his bleeding fingertips to the left side and felt the scratching feeling traveling over his body.

He was still in the window!

Even though Nick felt like he was falling into a never-ending abyss of pain, he jumped once more to the left.

CRK!

One of Nick's nails exploded off his body as it hit the wall of the window again.

But when Nick felt that he could still pull himself upward with one arm, he became more excited.

'I'm doing it!'

Nick hadn't opened his eyes yet.

He had done all of this blind.

'Now, for the most difficult jump!'

After amending his plan a bit, Nick decided to jump to the second window in the second row.

The jump was a bit higher vertically but not as long horizontally.

Nick's knees bent down, and he gathered all his power.

The next moment, Nick jumped upward.

In Nick's illusory reality, he felt like he was jumping upward hundreds of meters.

It was impossible to tell how high he had actually jumped.

Nick felt the wall in front of him rapidly move as he desperately tried to find the window.

Fear and terror reached new heights.

CRACK!

When Nick felt the tips of the fingers of his left arm getting crushed, he felt elated.

The window!

Nick fell a bit, but he managed to grab the bottom of the window with both of his hands.

By now, Nick's left hand had become severely injured, with a couple of broken bones and destroyed nails.

He pulled himself into the window easily, which meant the Dreamer hadn't noticed him yet.

He was so close!

Nick quickly jumped to the left again as razors appeared on the wall in front of him, cutting his chest into pieces.

CRACK!

Nick felt the impact of his broken bones rubbing against each other and grabbed the window.

After pulling himself into the window, Nick's excitement reached new heights.

He was so close!

He could do it!

Instead of jumping towards the next window, Nick grabbed the last tube of Arclight.

The next moment, Nick opened his eyes.

A red hellscape of flesh and blades encompassed his reality.

Everything was being consumed by the Nightmare.

However, Nick's eyes only looked forward with determination.

Then, he threw the tube of Arclight upwards with all of his power.

BANG!

The tube broke, and the Arclight exploded at the ceiling of the dark domain.

For an instant, all the darkness vanished as a shining star seemingly appeared in the dark sky.

The hellscape vanished, and Nick found himself in the third window of the second row.

However, Nick's eyes immediately moved across the ruins above him.

'There!'

In the highest window, Nick saw a black owl with black eyes.

It was quite big, over half a meter tall.

At this moment, the owl was looking at the Arclight shining on the ceiling.

This was why Nick had thrown the Arclight instead of breaking it directly.

The Dreamer's attention would remain fully on the Arclight, and Nick would get a bit of time to reach the Dreamer with his ability.

As long as he managed to grab it without it noticing him, he could break several of its bones, turning it almost helpless!

When Nick saw his target, his eyes narrowed, and he immediately jumped upward with all of his power.

Nick easily and quickly grabbed the window directly above him, but instead of pulling himself into the window, Nick continued.

The Dreamer was now paying attention to its surroundings, and pulling into the window would take too long.

Because of that, Nick immediately pulled himself upward and threw himself at the Dreamer.

The Dreamer was still looking at the Arclight.

Nick was only a meter away from the Dreamer!

But then, he noticed that his jump hadn't been strong enough, and he found himself dropping.

Nick gritted his teeth and rammed his feet into the broken stone of the tower.

Some of his toes broke, but Nick managed to create a hole in the wall, making a foothold.

Naturally, that was extremely loud, and the Dreamer's head turned towards Nick.

But Nick had already jumped again.

Nick was flying at the Dreamer.

The Dreamer was turning to Nick.

Nick's hand came closer.

And then...

Their eyes met.

Nick managed to grab the wing of the Dreamer.

He pulled with all of his strength.

The Dreamer pulled its wing upward.

CRKSH!

Nick tore out a couple of feathers.

His ability no longer worked.

He didn't have enough strength to break the wing.

Nick's expression turned into shock and horror as he felt himself fall.

The Dreamer's black eyes looked into Nick's eyes.

'No!'

## **Chapter 23: Run!**

'No!'



'I was so close!'

Nick's ability no longer worked, which meant he was only a bit stronger than an average human right now.

At this moment, Nick was falling from about eight meters of height into a pool of toxic waste with several sharp pieces of metal.

While Nick's ability was working, this wasn't an issue.

But now...

Nick's thoughts stopped.

Time seemed to freeze.

And then, time resumed as the Dreamer got further and further away from Nick.

SPLASH!

Nick hit the liquid shoulder first.

CRKSH! CRKSH!

Several pieces of metal created cuts in Nick's skin, and he started to bleed.

On top of that, Nick's destroyed fingers also came into contact with the toxic liquid.

In an instant, Nick felt like his body was being drowned in acid.

The force of the fall also made it difficult for Nick to move, but his adrenaline pushed him to immediately go to the surface.

As soon as Nick broke the surface again, he took a deep breath.

But then, Nick saw the owl just a meter in front of him, its claws stretched towards Nick.

The Dreamer was attacking, and without his ability, Nick was helpless!

BANG!

Nick immediately pulled his head down into the water, and the next moment, two long claws tore through the water above him.

The Dreamer was not going to flee.

No, it was going to kill Nick!

Nick immediately dove further and further down, several pieces of metal scraping his skin.

But then, Nick suddenly accelerated, and he stopped getting injured.

Nick had reached a depth where the light couldn't reach him, which meant that the Dreamer couldn't see him anymore.

Nick's ability activated again.

'I have to flee!' Nick thought. 'As long as it pays attention to me, I can't fight it!'

After coming to a decision, he immediately shot towards the direction of the sewer's exit.

But then, a huge black eye opened in front of Nick, and he became paralyzed.

Nick's thoughts stopped as he looked at the terrifying black eye.

The next moment, a maw filled with teeth opened in front of him and swallowed him.

Nick felt his body getting torn apart, but then he realized that this wasn't real.

Since he was now in a place with no light, the Nightmare's influence had returned.

'The Dreamer above.'

'The Nightmare below.'

'I can't move like this! The Nightmare could lead me in any random direction!'

'I have to surface to assess the direction I'm facing!'

Nick gnashed his teeth and shot upward.

The eyes and maws around him slowly vanished.

The Arclight was still active, and it illuminated the surroundings.

Shortly before Nick broke the surface, he suddenly felt the acid of the liquid become stronger.

This meant the Dreamer was seeing him.

Nick broke past the surface and took a breath as he quickly looked around.

'There!'

Nick found the way he had to go towards and immediately dove into the water again.

CRRRSH!

Nick clenched his teeth even more as he felt a big gash opening up on his back.

Just now, the Dreamer had created three huge gashes as it tore Nick's skin and a bit of muscle apart.

This was a Specter, not a random bird!

If it got hold of Nick, it could probably stab one of its claws through his entire torso!

A normal human couldn't possibly fight something like this.

As Nick descended, the intensity of the acid subsided.

He closed his eyes and immediately started to swim forward.

A moment later, the heat of the water rose sharply, and it felt like Nick was swimming through a boiling pot of oil!

Nick's entire body turned red, and he wanted to do nothing but scream in pain.

He was burning!

He was dying!

'It's not real!'

'It's not real!'

'It's not real!'

BANG!

Suddenly, Nick's right hand hit something solid, and Nick's head quickly followed.

'A house?! Now?!'

Nick had hit one of the ruins.

He had to quickly make a decision.

Immediately, he shot up.

The house wasn't that tall, and there was still about a meter between its ceiling and the surface.

At this moment, Nick felt a bit of light, but his ability hadn't deactivated yet.

This meant that the Dreamer hadn't seen him.

Nick swam forward in silence, his chest almost sliding against the house's roof.

Suddenly, the water started to severely burn him again, and Nick's body shook.

His ability had deactivated!

At that moment, a plan formed in Nick's mind, and he slowly spun onto his back.

Nick was betting on the fact that the Dreamer could see him but not perfectly see him.

Right now, since Nick was still about a meter below the surface, the Dreamer could probably only see a vague silhouette or shadow.

Meanwhile, the Dreamer was illuminated by the light behind it, allowing Nick to perfectly see it.

At this moment, the Dreamer was diving towards him with its outstretched claws.

Nick's anxiety reached new heights.

The Dreamer reached him.

BANG!

Nick shoved himself to the side as the Dreamer's claws reached into the water.

Due to Nick's depth, the Dreamer also had to fully enter the liquid, slowing it down significantly.

The Dreamer's claws barely passed by Nick, and Nick immediately grabbed them with his two hands.

The Dreamer's wings flapped to get out of the liquid again, and Nick felt himself getting pulled up.

Splash!

The two of them left the liquid behind, the Dreamer pulling Nick into the sky.

Right now, the Dreamer didn't have the luxury to look at Nick, but Nick's ability still didn't reactivate.

Hearing and feeling someone also counted as perceiving someone.

After gaining a couple of meters, the Dreamer looked at Nick, and its beak opened.

But by now, Nick had repositioned himself.

He had pulled himself upward and had angled his body.

And then...

BANG!

Nick kicked the Dreamer's head!

While the Dreamer was much more powerful than Nick without his ability, a kick to the head still hurt quite a lot.

At the same time, Nick let go of the Dreamer's claws and threw himself towards the exit of the sewers.

His kick and the force of the jump completely disoriented the Dreamer, and it fell into the water a couple of meters away.

However, it wasn't significantly injured, and Nick was sure that it would return to flying above him in a matter of seconds.

'Only about 200 meters or so left to the exit! I refuse to believe that it will follow me to the surface!'

Nick immediately swam forward, and since the Dreamer was still in the water, his ability had reactivated, and he swam with all of his power.

Splash!

Some seconds later, Nick heard the loud sound of something leaving the water about 30 meters behind him.

Five seconds after the sound, Nick's ability deactivated again.

Nick gritted his teeth and dove into the water.

More scratches appeared across his body.

BANG!

But the Dreamer's attack missed, and Nick's ability reactivated.

Sadly, just moments later, an army of maws tore at Nick's body again, and Nick felt like he was swimming downward instead of forward.

Yet, Nick just kept swimming.

He ignored the pain.

He ignored the horrors.

BANG!

Then, Nick hit something solid again.

'This is that one house I investigated!'

'I'm just about 50 meters away from the exit!'

By now, Nick's lungs were screaming at him to surface.

'I have to run across it!'

Nick surfaced again.

However, his ability deactivated before he even breached the surface!

The Dreamer wasn't stupid.

It had seen where Nick had swam towards, and it was constantly looking in that direction.

Nevertheless, Nick rapidly moved forward as he did his best to run in waist-high water.

He turned back to look at where the Dreamer was.

The next moment, he saw the Dreamer dive towards him.

Nick couldn't evade!

There were still several meters left!

The Dreamer would get him!

## **Chapter 24: Struggle**

Nick readied himself.

He had to do something!

At that moment, Nick's back began to burn, or at least, it felt like it.

Light appeared around Nick.

And then, something shocking happened.

The Dreamer's eyes burst into flames!

"SCREEEEEE!"

The Dreamer screeched, and it did its best to stop its dive.

Nick had no idea what was happening.

"Nick!" someone shouted between coughs.

Nick looked back.

Wyntor!

Wyntor was standing just behind him, his expensive suit drenched in sewer water!

At this moment, a bright fire was burning around Wyntor, and his eyes had turned completely white.

"Get it!" Wyntor shouted before heaving and looking away from Nick.

Immediately, Nick felt his ability become active again.

When the Dreamer's eyes had caught fire, its sight had been robbed from it, which meant that it couldn't perceive Nick anymore!

Nick immediately turned towards the Dreamer, which was about to pass about two meters above him.

Rage appeared in Nick's eyes.

BANG!

Nick jumped with all of his power, the water around him exploding.

And then, he punched.

CRACK!



Nick's fist hit the center of the Dreamer's chest, and Nick swore he felt something break!

And this time, it was not one of his bones!

The Dreamer's body spun in the air, and its flapping became very disorderly.

Nick landed first, and he immediately rushed toward the place where the Dreamer would land.

Splash!

The Dreamer hit the water, and Nick jumped on it.

BANG!

Nick kicked one of the Dreamer's wings, easily breaking it.

The next moment, Nick grabbed the Dreamer's thick neck with both of his arms and squeezed.

Nick's ability deactivated again, but that didn't matter.

Squeezing someone's neck didn't need a huge difference in power.

Right now, Nick and the Dreamer were tumbling in the horrible liquid of the sewers as he tried to strangle it.

Yet, some seconds later, the Dreamer's head spun by 180°.

'Right, it's a fucking owl!' Nick thought in horror.

The Dreamer's beak opened as it tried to tear Nick's neck apart.

Nick quickly let go of the Dreamer's neck.

His left arm pushed the Dreamer away from his neck as his right arm shot towards its head.

The next moment, the Dreamer just saw two fingers become bigger and bigger in its vision.

CRKSH!

The Dreamer screeched as Nick's fingers crushed its eyes.

The Dreamer's screech was cut off as the liquid from the sewers entered its throat.

Nick gnashed his teeth in rage as his two fingers dug deep into the Dreamer's eye sockets.

Nick's thumb grabbed the bottom of the Dreamer's beak, and he grabbed it with all of his power.

The next moment, Nick wrestled with the Dreamer awkwardly until he eventually managed to get behind its back with his fingers still in its eye sockets.

Splash!

A splash appeared beside Nick, and Wyntor appeared beside Nick.

"Keep it like this!" Wyntor shouted.

By now, Nick's legs had also grabbed the Dreamer's body, and he was doing his best not to drown in the sewers.

The Dreamer was still flailing around in panic, and Nick had to do everything in his power to keep it suppressed.

The next moment, Wyntor took out some kind of flexible metallic cable and wrapped it around the Dreamer's neck.

The cable quickly started to shine red, and the Dreamer's struggles intensified.

However, Nick kept it stable.

After around ten seconds, the Dreamer's struggles became weaker, and half a minute later, it completely stopped moving.

"Can I let go?" Nick asked.

"You, huuurgh, can," Wyntor said with a heave.

Nick slowly took his hand out of the Dreamer's eye sockets but still kept hold of the Dreamer.

"Put it in the sack on the shore," Wyntor said quickly before he had to leave again.

Nick nodded and pulled the Dreamer towards the exit.

About a minute later, Nick reached the exit of the sewers, and he pulled the Dreamer onto the land.

Now, Nick could actually take a good look at the Dreamer.

Its chest was caved in.

Both of its wings were broken, the second one having gotten broken in the scuffle.

Black blood was flowing out of its empty eyes.

One of its legs was bent at an unnatural angle.

Many feathers were missing.

Luckily, this was a Specter.

These wounds were not enough to kill a Specter, and it would recover within a week at most.

Nick took a deep breath.

And then, pain assaulted him.

Two of Nick's fingernails were missing on his left hand.

Three of Nick's fingers were broken.

Nick had several cuts on his body.

He had three huge gashes going across his back.

Nick even felt some intense pain coming from his ribs.

He guessed they had gotten bruised or broken during the scuffle in the water.

And to top it all off, his nose was also broken.

Nick was in a world of pain, and he also knew that the wounds were bound to get horribly infected since they had all been washed quite thoroughly in the disgusting liquid of the sewers.

He only hoped that Wyntor had some way to help him recover.

Nick knew if he had to rely on the medicine available in the Dregs, he would die.

His ability gave him some resistance to infections and poisons, but he wasn't sure if that was enough in this case.

"Huuuuurgh!"

Nick heard Wyntor heave as he came out of the sewers.

Nick turned to Wyntor and looked at him.

Right now, Wyntor was on his knees and hands as he coughed and heaved like he was about to die.

'He wasn't able to follow me into the sewers earlier, but when he saw me in danger, he actually jumped in.'

Nick's trust in Wyntor reached new heights.

Wyntor, the fancy heir of the Melfion family, a guy that constantly wiped his hands whenever he touched anything even slightly dirty, had jumped into the sewers to save him.

'Maybe he isn't as stuck up as I had initially thought.'

'When it comes down to it, he is actually trustworthy.'

Nick took a deep breath.

Right now, he felt elated.

The risk had paid off!

He had done it!

"Wyntor," Nick said.

Nick only heard another heave.

"We did it!"

## Chapter 25: Walking Back

It took Wyntor a while to recover, but eventually, he managed to stop puking his heart out.

While Wyntor had been puking, Nick had shoved the Dreamer into the sack they had brought with them.

The sack was just a normal sack.

When Wyntor stood up and saw the sack, all his unhappiness and disgust seemed to vanish.

A Specter!

They had a Specter in their grasp!

They actually had one!

Then, Wyntor saw Nick, and he had to take a deep breath.

Nick looked really worn out.

Blood was flowing from several parts of his body, and Wyntor already knew that all these wounds would get infected very soon.

"Are you okay?" Wyntor asked.

"Do I look like I'm okay?" Nick asked.

Wyntor winced, but Nick just laughed.

"Relax, I'm okay. I'm just joking," Nick said.

Wyntor sighed. "You look really messed up, you know."

"I know," Nick answered. "So, got anything that I can use to deal with these wounds? I kind of don't want to die, you know?"

Wyntor just nodded. "We can visit a hospital in the Outer City. Since we now have a Specter, the money is going to flow in soon. Additionally, I need you to be at your best."

"After all, you are the Chief Extractor, which means that you not only have to work with the Dreamer but also find out how to work with it."

"Every Specter is unique, and every Specter needs to be treated differently to get the most Zephyx out of them."

Nick just nodded before he grabbed the sack with the Dreamer.

A moment later, Nick noticed how light the sack actually was with surprise.

"Huh, that's lighter than expected," Nick said.

"Specters have a lot of power, but they are using Zephyx converted from Prephyx as their main source of power," Wyntor explained. "Specters are actually pretty light. They are not made of a lot of Zephyx, but the Zephyx is so potent that they still manage to unleash incredible powers."

"That tall bird probably barely weighs five kilos."

Nick nodded.

The next moment, he slung the sack over his shoulders.

The cable that Wyntor had put around the Dreamer was something that Nick had already heard about.

It was a Zephyx Blocker, something that was used to stop the flow of Zephyx.

At this moment, the Zephyx Blocker was using up its stored energy to stop the Dreamer's Zephyx from flowing.

Since this was the lowest grade, it would only work for about five hours when put on a level one Specter.

This meant that Wyntor and Nick had to deliver the Dreamer to their headquarters within the next five hours, but that was plenty of time.

Wyntor and Nick walked out of the entrance to the sewers and emerged in an abandoned part of the Dregs.

Wyntor immediately took a deep breath of the Dregs.

He had never imagined that he would one day find the air in the Dregs to be refreshing and enjoyable.

As the two of them walked through the Dregs, they saw all the people look at them with disgust while avoiding them.

These two smelled absolutely abhorrent, even by the Dregs' standards.

However, the two of them didn't pay a lot of attention to the onlookers.

They were far too excited about finally having caught their first Specter.

After about half an hour, they finally left the densest part of the Dregs behind, and they entered the outskirts.

The streets transitioned from being made of rusty metal into being made of polished metal, and the houses also started to become more uniform and orderly.

Naturally, the people on the streets also seemed more well-dressed, and their reactions to the two of them were even more disgusted.

"Stop!"

The two stopped as their brows furrowed.

The next moment, two people wearing black combat uniforms walked up to them. The two men looked with disgust at them while they were holding their noses.

"People like you are not welcome here! Leave the Outer City, or we'll make you!" one of them shouted.

Naturally, the two of them were city guards, and it was part of their duty to keep the Outer City clean from unsavory people.

Two people stinking of piss and shit could be seen as unsavory.

Wyntor put his hand in this pocket.

One of the two guards narrowed his eyes and shot forward, grabbing Wyntor's arm before he could get it back out of his pocket.

The guard thought that Wyntor was about to pull a weapon on them.

"Stop resisting!" the guard shouted as he pulled Wyntor's arm violently out of his pocket.

CRK!

The next moment, Wyntor's wrist seemed to give, and it extended a bit further than it should.

His wrist had been dislocated by the guard.

While Wyntor had an ability from a Specter, he was not an athletic person, while the guards were very athletic and strong.

Wyntor gritted his teeth as the guard pulled his arm to the side to lock it behind his back.

The next moment, the guard wrestled Wyntor to the ground.

While all of this was happening, Nick locked eyes with the other guard.

Then, Nick looked down for a small moment before looking at the guard again.

Naturally, the guard realized that Nick had essentially told him to look down.

The guard glanced down, and he saw a small card, which had just fallen out of Wyntor's hand.

The guard furrowed his brows as he looked at Nick, who only stared back without saying anything.

In the end, the second guard kneeled down to retrieve the card.

After looking at the card, the guard's face turned white in horror as he looked at Wyntor, who was held on the ground by the other guard.



The second guard immediately jumped over to the first guard and pulled him off. "James, stop!"

The first guard shoved the second guard away with annoyance. "What's your problem?!" he shouted.

The second guard shoved the card into the first guard's hands with urgency.

The second guard looked at the card with annoyance.

But then, his eyes widened, and he turned to look at the person below him with terror.

At this moment, Wyntor glared at the guard with venom.

The guard froze.

In his hand, the guard currently held a Residency Card for the highest floor of the Inner City, and the name on the card was Wyntor Melfion.

Naturally, the guards knew exactly who they were currently looking at.