

Redonn

By Tyler Hess

Introduction

The story of searching for peace among chaos in the galaxy. Decades ago war broke out as the Zishen forced their will upon the galaxy. Enslaving many and capturing others destroying whole planets and enslaving populations just to turn a profit on the galactic market. The useless planet Redonn fell prey to this galactic tyrant just to be set as an example for others. This is the story of those who survived.

Chapter 1 - Prelude

Planet Redonn - Galactic Year 6021

Cell and Tag sat quietly in Cell's room playing with their building blocks. Cell and Tag were only nicknames for these two young Redonnians. They were brothers two years apart and considered inseparable by many. Being the best of friends, Tag and Cell always competed trying to outdo each other. Tag was older so he was bigger and stronger than Cell, but being only six the two year difference was huge. Tag and Cell looked a lot alike. Some people even called Cell a mini Tag. They both had dusty brown hair. Like all Redonnians, the boys had a brown hue to their skin. Many said that the Redonnians looked like Cajaites that had been left out to long in the sun. The people of Caja liked looking pasty white, but the Redonnians liked their dark skin just as much.

“Cell, I bet I can build a taller tower than you.”
challenged Tag to his younger brother playfully.

“Your on.” came Cell’s quick reply. Tag might be taller, faster, and stronger, but Cell had a chance with mental challenges.

“Ok, to make it even, you get all the square blocks and I’ll take all the rectangular blocks.” Tag ventured. Tag knew that there were more square blocks but they dwarfed in size to the rectangular blocks.

“You had the rectangular blocks last time,” Cell replied remembering his crippling defeat.

“Yeah, your right.” said Tag, “We’ll split them then, half and half. Ok?”

“Sounds good,” Cell replied.

“Ok, one for me, One for you,” Tag said as he counted the blocks.

Once the blocks were split they separated to their building locations. Cell walked across the Rug towards his bed. He stopped for a moment to fix one of his pillows that had fallen out of place. Cell liked things to be in order. Tag headed for his favorite building spot right outside of Cell’s walk-in closet. He would use his view of Cell’s closet to chid Cell about his many different outfits and how they were arranged by color. Tag had just as many outfits, but would rather wear a comfortable robe most of the time. He wore robes in admiration of the soldiers who

sometimes wandered along the streets of his peaceful planet. The brothers quickly took all their blocks their chosen building locations. The challenge began. Tag quickly constructed a sturdy tower, starting out thicker and going to a fine point.

Cell, glimpsing over his competitions tower and chuckled nearly knocking his master piece to the floor. One wrong move and Cell's tower would fall. Tag hearing Cell's chuckles turned to see a thin spire reaching over Cell's head. Cell, holding his last block between his pointer and thumb, laughed, "I think you need more blocks." He cocked his arm ready to throw.

Tag's disapproving scream was drowned in the sea of sound coming from outside. The ground shook and Cell dropped his remaining block as both towers fell towards the ground. The noise of falling blocks was concealed by the sounds of war outside. Tag ran to the window to investigate this new noise. Cell started to cry.

Sev the boys' sister appeared in the doorway. She was sixteen and had dirty blond hair. She was wearing her favorite dress made of fine Caloakian linen. It was dark green and had green strips running down it's length. This dress only made Sev look taller. At nearly two meters she was the tallest in the family and by far the oldest.

“You two ok?” Sev wailed above the noise, “Let’s go!” Sev ran into the room, scooping her four year old brother into her arms. Feeling the safety of her grasp he stopped crying. Sev grabbed Tag’s hand catching a quick view of the palace lawn now cratered with bombshells and littered with the palace guards who had already given their lives to protect her and her family.

Sev ran out of the room carrying Cell and dragging Tag by the hand. Tag bounced behind her as a kite that just can’t catch the wind. She ran down the hall passing painting upon painting. She had loved to stare at these paintings but she must leave them now. Sev ran around the corner seeing a palace guard ahead.

“Down here.” yelled a guard as he directed them to an escape route.

“Where’s Daddy?” wailed Tag as Sev dragged him through the opening.

“I’ll seal it behind you,”the guard instructed, “Run, so the invaders don’t catch you. Your father will meet you at the end of the escape ally. He will come out the ally next to yours. Now go!”

Sev ran down the dirt tunnel full speed. “Come on keep up.” she urgently said as she dragged her little brother in the dirt along behind her.

“I’m only six. I can’t run this fast” Tag panted between gasps of air and trying to stay on his feet.

“Where’s Mommy and Daddy?” inquired Cell worriedly.

“Daddy is right up here.” Sev said as she pointed up the stairs they had finally gotten to, “Cell, I can’t carry you up these stairs. You’ll have to climb them.”

“Ok,” Cell replied patiently as he started to climb the stairs on his own.

They quickly reached the top of the stairs and removed the hatch releasing them from the stagnant musty air of their escape route. They climbed out what looked like an ordinary sewer hole to reveal an old ally. Trash cans littered the ally walls. A stray taji tried to conceal itself behind a bag of garbage. Trash spilling from the cans carpeted the floor. As Sev hoisted Tag up into the ally a matted black taji with red beady eyes stared at them for a second, then took off around the corner with a whip of its small tail. All that could be heard was the patter of the taji’s two scaled feet as it ran through puddles in the street.

“Here taji taji,” Tag began to whisper.

“No! Quiet.” Sev said assailing him and covering his mouth. Then whispering in his ear said, “Quiet hun, there are bad men

around. That taji was dirty, you wouldn't want to play with it anyways."

Sev reached down and pulled Cell out of the hole. Then uttered a warning to her brothers, "Careful boys, there are bad men around. Be quiet and don't touch anything."

Their little party walked slowly towards the mouth of the ally. They must be in the slums thought Sev as she looked around. The road looked to be made of dirt and rather thin. She looked down at her feet only to realize she didn't want to know what she was walking in. Her feet were slowly sinking into the mud. Sev continued to walk down the filthy ally. Trying to avoid stepping on trash or crunching the wey bones that some taji had left lying there. Choosing to step on a seemingly safe piece of paper Sev tried to tread quietly. As her weight shifted down onto the paper she squealed as her foot sank ankle deep into a puddle of murky water. Sev heard the shuffling of feet coming towards the ally, Sev froze stiff. She held her breath and as she slowly lifted her head to see who was coming. A cloaked figure suddenly rounded the corner. His hood obscured his face lighting only the thin smile that crept across his face.

"We don't have any money. Leave us alone." Sev pleaded with the hooded man.

“Do you want me to leave you here?” said the man as he removed the hood revealing his face to his children.

“Dad!” squealed Tag dashing into his fathers arms.

“Ok, Sev I’ll take Tagell here. You take Marcel, ok?” the Prince said to his daughter, “We must run. I’ve got a pod over this way.”

“How far?” asked Sev.

“Only a few blocks.” the Prince replied, “We’ll have to dodge in and out of these allies along the way.”

The Prince took off for an ally twenty meters diagonal across the street. Sev followed seconds behind her father. Sev had to dodge around a flipped pod.

The glass dome that encased the passengers was shattered. The side access hatch was mangled from an explosion. It still look as though the passengers inside had made it safely out.

Sev was so busy looking at the pod, she planted her foot in a mud hole. As she tried to loosen her foot from the mud she lost her shoe. She watched for a second as mud filled her now empty shoe, before escaping into the ally.

Following her father through the ally, Sev suddenly became aware of the noise a few blocks ahead. Sev and her father

ran across another barren street and paused in the ally behind two trash cans.

“Ok, your doing great Sev,” said the Prince as he caught his breath. “But it sounds like the fighting is getting close so we gotta run.”

“Yeah I’m good, but I lost my shoe going around a pod back there.” Sev panted revealing her bleeding foot to her father, “I’ll be ok though.”

The fighting seemed to get closer every second. Suddenly a Zishen wing flew overhead.

“Ok, there on us. We’ll need to run the rest of the way. It’s just up this ally and two buildings to the right. The building will be gray with white windows. It has been disguised as a candy shop ever since we thought they might come after us. Run into the building, behind the counter there is a door to the back room. Through that door and down the hall, there is a launch station there with a pod waiting for us.” the Prince instructed. “Good luck, and remember I love you,” were his last words to his daughter as he dashed down the ally and across the street. Sev followed after him. Down the ally they went. Sev’s foot slide in the mud, but she stumbled forward. When she reached the end of the ally her dad was gone. She looked down the street to the right. Soldiers were

charging their way. She looked back at the buildings. They were all grey and they all had broken windows. Then she saw it a sign that read candy. She dashed across the street jumping over a fallen light. Reaching the doorway of the candy shop, she felt the safety of this decaying building. Boards meant for repairs laid strewn across the floor. As did the contents of what looked to be the barrels of candy. The noise of the battle was deafening. She ran around the counter trying not to slip on the hard candy ment for children to suck on. She reached the doorway and ran five steps down the hallway. Sev tripped as her foot landed on a nail falling face first among the boards. She screamed as she fell, but no one heard her over the sound of a bomb that took out the roof. Sev grabbed Cell shoving him under her as splinters rained down from the sky. Sev looked up in time to see her father climb into their pod. His head turned in horror and watched the building cave in.

The guard grabbed the Prince's arm saying, "It's to late we must go." Then the guard shoved the screaming Prince into the pod and closed the door. The pod launched as the building fell around it.

When a chilling silence had fallen over the battle field, a small voice could be heard sobbing. Survivors of Redonn were few. Most of the orphans were sent to distant planets never to

remember the sweet smell of Redonn. Never to walk among it's mountains or see it's beautiful orange landscapes. Never to know the truth of their heritage. The rest were enslaved by their captures.