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ONE-SHOT



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FROM THE  
WAR-RAVAGED  
WORLD OF  
NU EARTH...  
MONSTERS  
ARE BORN

GORDON  
RENNIE

# JAEGER

SIMON  
COLEBY







AN IZBRISAN SHANTY CAMP,  
ODESSA BINARY INDUSTRIAL  
WORLD, INNER RODINA SYSTEMS:

I CHASE HIM, THROUGH THE  
FALLING SMELTER ASH AND POOLS OF  
MERCURY FROM THE RUN-OFF FROM  
THE GRAND PATRIOT MUNITIONS PLANT.

I SHOUT OUT THE STANDARD WARNING  
BEFORE I FIRE, MY VOICE MUFFLED BY THE  
CHEM-MASK I'M WEARING, MY WORDS  
DROWNED OUT BY THE INCESSANT ROAR OF  
TROOP-CARRIER SHUTTLES LIFTING OFF  
FROM THE NEARBY MUSTERING GROUNDS.




NEVERTHELESS,  
THE LEGALITIES MUST  
BE OBSERVED.



STILL, I THINK I PROBABLY FINALLY  
HIT SOMETHING PAINFUL INSIDE IT...

NOT THAT I'M  
SURE THE THING  
I'M CHASING STILL  
UNDERSTANDS  
THE BASICS OF  
HUMAN SPEECH.



...BECAUSE, FOR THE  
FIRST TIME SINCE I  
SAW IT TWIST OPEN  
THE SKULL OF THAT  
SPEKTZOI TROOPER,  
I SEE IT GET **ANGRY**  
AT SOMETHING.





KAPITEN...?

NOT NOW, KLAUR.



YOU ARE IN TROUBLE?

YOU REMEMBER NU KARTHAGE, THE NIGHT BEFORE THE HANNIBAR OFFENSIVE?

UNFORTUNATELY, YES.



SOMETHING ON THAT SCALE, THEN.



LAS-BATON. A RIDICULOUS WEAPON, AND THE SUPPOSED MARK OF A TRUE OFFICER.

MARK OF A TRUE IDIOT. WAVE IT AROUND ON A BATTLEFIELD AND SEE HOW QUICKLY THE ENEMY SNIPERS FIND YOU.



BUT THIS WILL NOT BE THE FIRST TIME IT'S SAVED MY LIFE.



KLAUR?

YES, KAPITEN?





WE HAVE  
COMPANY.

NOT  
FRIENDLY,  
I THINK.



KAPITEN-INSPECTOR  
ATALIA JAEGIR,  
NORDLAND STATE  
SECURITY POLICE.

LOWER  
YOUR WEAPONS.  
I'M CONDUCTING  
AN INVESTIGATION  
ON BEHALF OF THE  
OFFICE OF PUBLIC  
TRUTH.





"OFFICE OF PUBLIC TRUTH"? TRAITORS WHO STAB THEIR OWN KIND IN THE BACK, YOU MEAN.

WE ALL SERVE RODINA AS BEST WE CAN, COMRADE.

I ROOT OUT **WAR CRIMINALS** WHO BLACKEN THE NAME OF THE GREATER NORDLAND ARMED FORCES, WHILE YOU AND YOUR MEN APPARENTLY GUARD SLAGHEAPS AND SCRAPYARDS.



YOU DARE--

**NU KARTHAGE. NU EARTH. PAESCHENKOV.** YOU HAVE SERVED AND BLED IN THESE **WARZONES**, LIEUTENANT? THE KAPITEN-INSPECTOR HERE HAS.



**COLONEL-INSPECTOR NERRIA, OFFICE OF GENETIC PURITY.** YES, THAT'S RIGHT, LIEUTENANT--

THE **STRIGOI-HUNTERS** ARE HERE. YOU AND YOUR MEN CAN NO DOUBT BE DELIGHTED TO CONSIDER YOURSELVES DISMISSED. MY BUSINESS IS WITH KAPITEN JAEGRIR.



YOU ARE RUNNING AN OFFICIAL INVESTIGATION, KAPITEN?

A FUGITIVE HUNT, COLONEL. THREE DESERTERS FROM THE NAGAN LEGIONS. POSSIBLE MATERIAL WITNESSES TO A **WAR ATROCITY INCIDENT** MY TEAM ARE INVESTIGATING.

A NOTORIOUS BOLT-HOLE FOR SUCH TYPES, THESE OUTCAST CAMPS...



"...AND YET, RATHER THAN A FEW PIECES OF RUNAWAY RAPIST AND MURDERER NAGAN TRASH, YOUR SEARCH FLUSHED OUT **MY QUARRY** INSTEAD."





THE *STRIGOI* GENETIC TAINT, A GIFT FROM OUR SOUTHER ENEMIES, YOU'VE SEEN SUCH A THING BEFORE?

TWICE ON NI KARTHAGE, AND ONCE ABOARD A TROOP SHIP IN SHIFT-TRANSIT.

ALL GOOD SOLDIERS FROM RENOWNED MILITARY-CASTE FAMILIES.



AS IS THIS ONE. YOU DID WELL TO BRING IT DOWN.



I WAS LUCKY, THAT'S ALL.

THEN I WISH FOUR OF MY OWN TEAM, INCLUDING MY SECOND-IN-COMMAND THAT YOU SAW THIS ONE KILL, HAD SIMILAR LUCK.

WE COULD USE MORE OF SUCH LUCK IN THE OFFICE OF GENETIC PURITY--AND IT APPEARS WE NOW HAVE FOUR EMPTY BERTHS TO FILL.



I'M HAPPY WHERE I AM, SIR. I BELIEVE THE WORK I CONDUCT AT THE O.P.T. TO BE VITAL TO THE FUTURE OF NORDLAND.

I ONCE SERVED ALONGSIDE ONE OF OUR ALIEN ALLIES WHO ENJOYED *BATHING* IN THEIR OWN *FILTH*.

I IMAGINE TRYING TO BRING OUR GLORIOUS MILITARY TO TASK FOR ITS FREQUENT LAPSES IN *CIVILISED CONDUCT* MUST FEEL SOMETHING LIKE THAT.



I SERVED UNDER YOUR *FATHER*, YOU KNOW. IN THE EARLY DAYS ON NI EARTH, WHEN YOU COULD STILL BREATHE THE AIR WITHOUT HAVING YOUR LUNGS DISSOLVE INTO BLOODY FROTH.



AND NOW YOU'RE GOING TO TELL ME HE WAS A GREAT MAN AND A TRUE HERO OF NORDLAND.



ACTUALLY, I THOUGHT HE WAS A *BLOODY-HANDED SAVAGE* WHOSE ELEVATION TO THE HIGHEST RANK'S SPOKE MUCH ABOUT ALL THAT IS WRONG WITH THIS WAR AND THE WAY WE FIGHT IT.



I AM SENDING YOU A *FILE*, ATALIA JREGIR. READ IT, AND THEN I THINK WE WILL TALK AGAIN...