



## Chapter 5: "The End of Academy Life"

Another two months came and went as the twins plan began to build momentum. Given their outstanding performance in combat and Kelli's personal vouching for them, the twins and Milly had been granted an early graduation from the academy. Using the various toys they had been given by their actual employers they managed to ace the final exams and were promptly assigned to Sergeant David Christopher's squad for further assessment in real combat. The tear in dimensional space was under constant observance by a large battalion sent from another one of Aavaria's battlefronts.

The night before leaving the academy's dormitories to move into their new rooms they all headed to Revaria's Maestro to enjoy a celebratory meal. Mike, John, Rick, Kelli, Milly, Sammy and Pari all sat down at a large U shaped table dedicated by the restaurant exclusively for Rick. From left to right they filed into the little booth with Pari being on one outer seat followed by John, Milly, Kelli, Mike, Sammy and Rick on the right outer seat.

"Welcome back Rick!" said the cheerful hostess Jenny upon seeing their best customer. "Going to leave some for your friends and our other customers tonight, right?"

Rick rubbed his chin thoughtfully, "That depends on what the special dinner and desert are tonight. Guess I'll go light and only take six helping of the main course tonight and about five of whatever those little green biscuit looking things are over by the kitchen door."

"Uh... those are sponges the busboy's use to clean the tables," Jenny said slightly confused wondering if Rick was serious or not.

"Oh, maybe only two of them then. They probably have lots of carb's," Rick added.

After they all placed their orders and Jenny left, John flicked his drinks straw wrapper at Rick. "Man, can't you even try to behave like a normal human?"

The straw wrapper froze in midair in front of Rick then vanished in a poof of smoke. "I don't want to end up with love handles though," Rick whined. "You humans can't imagine how hard it is to burn off several hundred pounds of food a day."

Milly tilted her head in thought for a second before leaning over the table towards Rick a bit. "Umm, Rick, I know I really don't know all the details about what you are and stuff, but where do you actually put all the stuff you eat? I mean it's just kinda weird seeing you eat a restaurant out of stock and yet never goto the bathroom."

"Since I don't actually have internal organs or systems like all of you matter just gets broken down into it's base components and packed into my being. Kinda like a black hole core made of food I guess."

After hearing Rick's crude explanation, Kelli then asked, "Given that you say you're older than this entire universe or so if you were to eat several hundred pounds of food a day without ever, ummm, doing your business your mass would be enough to make stars orbit and collapse around you. We'd be crushed by unimaginable gravity that even light itself couldn't escape."

John and Mike both rolled their eyes as a mischievous grin formed on Rick's face. "Let's just say I don't have the right to say any 'Yo mamma's so fat' jokes."

After their meals were served and Rick had finished his first three dinners, John began to

explain their next battle plan. “Okay people, stupid chat aside there's going to be lots of work to do shortly. That planar god who sent those corny centaur robot things here should be gearing up for another wave anytime now. We need to use every one of these attacks to prove ourselves more capable to advance ranks faster. The faster we advance, the faster Aavaria's will grant us more divine power and the more divine power they grant us the shorter Kalim'Tur's lifespan gets.”

“But John, if you got Aavaria's divine power, wouldn't she know that you're not really one of her creations?” asked Milly.

Mike dismisses her concerns with a wave. “Pfff, we just toss the creation and varian drives given to us into Smushy and Paragon's storage trunks. We just need Aavaria to grant them to us so we can remove more restrictions on the jets without raising questions. Smushy and Paragon were specially built for this mission so they already have all the tools necessary, it's just that we can't let our existence be discovered while stopping these stupid gods or our mission fails. So we gotta play nice and take our time working our way up the ranks from the ground.”

Kelli nodded understandingly. “Well, if you can stop this war I'll do whatever I can to help. If you can prove yourselves in a few significant missions I'm sure they'll grant us permission to become a small strike force with just the four of us. With Rick providing extra firepower from behind the scenes this shouldn't be hard. I'm still having a kinda hard comprehending all of this though. I can see Rick, Sammy and Pari fighting against those gods but aren't you two just regular humans?”

John shook his head at Kelli. “It's true that we are human, we've had plenty of time to train and evolve about as far as a human being can possibly go. While we're still not quite strong enough to fight on par with most gods, but that's why we were given Pari and Sammy.”

“Not to sound rude or anything, but couldn't they have just sent Pari and Sammy to begin with?” Kelli asked.

“I'm sure our creators have their reasons,” Pari answered. “John and Mike haven't lived this long for nothing after all. Please have faith in them and us.”

Rick finished dumping his sixth plate of food down his throat then pointed a finger at John. “Those two evil humans were sent because of their purposes and nothing else. With the exception of monsters such as myself who have no reason to exist, all other things created have a purpose. Pari and Sammy are frighteningly powerful beings but they don't have a purpose like the twin monkeys there. That's all there is to it. Now then, enough talk about work and let's get some dessert.”

“Uhg, every time these talks start I get more and more confused,” Milly complained. “Guess I'll order something with lots of chocolate. At least I can understand that.”

After dessert the twins dropped Kelli off at her place and headed for home. Milly tagged along with them out of worry about Pari and John being left alone together. Rick was snacking on a handful of various candy bars as they approached the twins dorm which had construction warning signs all over the place. Rick was about to open a portal to skip the visitor's pass check at the entrance when they all heard the sound of lots of dozens of footsteps drawing closer. The six of them saw a group of twenty or more students approaching from around both sides of the dormitory building. Mike smiled a bit when he saw that Kraus seemed to be the ring leader.

“Glad I managed to catch you two before you left for the military.” Kraus' words oozed with loathing and he had jealousy written all over his face as he spoke. “I won't stand for it! There's no way two scrub humans could advance like that when I'm stuck doing classwork! To make matters even worse even that damn scrawny waldian female there advanced too.”

John folded his arms across his chest and grinned. “Come on now Kraus, if you were really that much better than us you wouldn't need twenty other people with you to come talk to us. And for the record, Milly's figure is perfectly fine.”

“To be honest Kraus, I was going to kinda miss you too. I don't meet an arrogant prick who I enjoy beating up daily very often,” Mike taunted. “You sure you all want to spend a few nights in the

dorm's infirmary?"

The large group of students behind Kraus growled at the taunt. Kraus' eyes narrowed and his clenched fists trembled in rage.

Rick raised his right hand as a sign of peace. "For the record, I'm a food lover and not a fighter. Even though it's not very likely to happen, I too hope you beat John and Mike senseless. So if you'll excuse me." Rick began to turn around but saw the mob behind him closing in on him. Rick's shoulders slumped down as he sighed. "Yet another mess you two damn humans have gotten me into."

Kraus pointed his finger at Mike and yelled, "Kick their asses!" at the top of his lungs.

John, Mike and Sammy dove into the thick of the group while Rick, Pari and Milly hung back. Within moments the only one left standing of the mob of students was Kraus. Mike stood before him staring him square in the eyes with a confident smile still on his face.

"Just you and me now Kraus. Man to man, one on one. I hope you're realizing how stupid this whole plan of yours was. Trying to pick a fight with us just because of your bruised pride as a provasapien." Mike stood up straight with his fists in front of him.

Kraus grinded his teeth back and forth while staring at Mike's eyes. "No damn way! I won't accept it! There's no way you lowly humans can be superior!"

Kraus charged Mike in an attempt to tackle him. Mike swung his left hand out nimbly and caught Kraus' right arm twisting it. With his right hand, Mike rammed his open palm upwards into Kraus' chin jerking his head back on his neck and making a loud cracking sound. With one more motion, Mike spun to his left and bent over pulled Kraus' twisted arm down with him. This pulled the stunned Kraus upwards and flipped him over Mike's shoulder and brought him careening into the ground with bone shattering impact. Mike let go of Kraus' twisted and broken right arm, stood up and dusted himself off.

"Provasapien or not, you ain't getting up from that anytime soon you loser piece of shit," Mike said and then spit on Kraus for added insult. "I feel good now. Like I can leave this place without having any loose ends to tie up."

John let out a long sigh as he glanced back and forth at the beaten mob of students. "Hey Rick, can you clean this up some? It'll make a nasty delay having to explain all this. See if you can find out why nobody else is around too and fix that as well if ya can."

"Rick do this, Rick do that," Rick mumbled to himself as he shuffled off to clean up the mess.

Rick returned to the twins dorm room fifteen minutes later to see them all loafing in front of the TV. John looked up at Rick as he emerged from his portal carrying four bags of snacks.

"If you're bringing back food, I guess everything is okay out there?" John asked.

"Yeah, I cleaned them up and got rid of those fake construction warning signs we saw on the way in to keep people away." Rick dug through his bags of snacks and began tossing out bags of chips to everyone.

As they all sat down to watch an action movie on TV, Mike noticed that Franky had apparently snuck out from somewhere and was reaching for a bag of chips next to Milly. "It's that possessed bag of chips again! Holy shit, he's going for the bag of chips!"

Milly looked down at him and shrugged. "So what if he wants a bag of chips?"

"That makes him a damn cannibal!" Mike yelled. "Rick you've gone to far with that abomination!"