



BATTLE
FOR
AUDURA

BOOK ONE

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SAMPLE

Dedicated to My Nieces and Nephews

SAMPLE

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Varks and Cateens

The universe is an ever expanding entity. People who inhabit different planets in the galaxies are not aware of the vast galaxies and the people that they have yet to encounter. The thirst for knowledge, of knowing if someone is out there is found in all beings, but it is the technological and physical limitations that cannot allow them to peek into the vast dark horizon.

From the beginning of time, it has been observed that every species that is found in the universe fights for its dominance over other species. Hailing from the same planet and having similar features does not matter. If you are not one of them, you must be under them.

Planets have been colonized and the resources belonging to the inhabitants of the people living on that planet have been usurped by races with a higher power and better technology. It is the survival of the fittest. For millennia, creatures have been evolving on planets into more superior life forms and gaining the understanding of the universe and themselves.

The intricate solar systems of the numerous galaxies have developed over time. It takes patience and suffering to turn into something great one day. A planet might have started off as an asteroid roaming freely in space. A force in the form of another asteroid or gravity acts upon the flying rock to deviate from its path, and that is when the formation of a planet begins.

A vicious rotation starts that causes the asteroid to create a gravitational force around itself while being pulled by the gravitational force of another planet or star, it is balanced perfectly. It starts to accumulate mass as other rocks of comparatively lesser mass start to stick around the asteroid and taking shape of a structure that can be easily hung in the intricate balance of the planets.

When a planet finally comes to rest and becomes less vicious than it was before, it allows different elements to react in peace. This is how life forms come into creation and thus begins the survival of the fittest. A cycle begins where the life forms learn to survive and adapt to the environment available to them.

Eyes develop to help them see predators better, legs develop so that they can get out of the liquid based existence and start a new life; a life that they never knew existed. They take onto the vast land under the sun and learn everything they can in the process.

One life form evolves into the other and uses its former species as food until they evolve and use the ones that were left behind as fodder.

Where there is life, there is violence and the constant competition to become better and stronger. It is the harsh truth of the universe with which every species must live and better themselves or be done with.

There is a race in the universe that has been thriving on these principles. This race believes in the constant domination and in case of insubordination, annihilation of the rest of the species. This is what their forefathers have been feeding them all their lives.

This ideology of superiority is accepted by everyone readily. Since species are built on the idea of survival, this ideology sticks to them and thinking otherwise may not be an option. An open mindedness is lost when constant propaganda bombards the brain with stories of great things

that the past leaders have done and how they brought a primitive race to justice when they refused to cooperate with the great ideology of your people.

This is what the Varks and the Cateens thrive on. This is what makes them think that they are the true rulers of the universe. This ideology has made them the most technologically advanced race in the universe but they have lost regard for other life forms on the way.

Somewhere in the unknown sector of the universe, the planets dance and spin together to create a beautiful show. There is no need for music to enjoy this beautifully choreographed movement of the celestial structures. Everything is peaceful.

“FIRE!”

A ship casts a large Laser beam onto another one just a light year away from the sector. The peace of the universe is disturbed by the constantly flashing lights striking the metal exteriors of the large ships. The metal debris litters the path as the two ships make their way towards one of the planets.

“Captain! We’ve experienced a critical hit, our shields are down.”

An officer stood up from his piloting seat and yelled as he came running towards the captain who was sitting in his chair in front of the screen that showed the huge attackers in front of him. The control room had too much going on. There were constant alarms, warning of critical danger and men shouting out orders to different parts of the ship.

Maneuvering, defending and attacking happening all at once. The captain sat quietly in his chair while the officer waited for an order anxiously. The Cateenians were down to their last breath.

The Varks’ vessel was advancing towards them. The ships almost had similar designs to that of the Cateenians. The similar control room sat the captain with a smile on his face. “Yes, cower and die, today we’ll see who the dominant one is on the planet.”

In the Cateenian ship, the alarms kept reminding the crew and captain of their doom. The officer was still standing by the captain’s side and watched in horror as the Varks’ vessel advanced towards them with might.

“...Captain?”

“Shift all the power of the engines to the core reactor!”

The officer was a bit shaken by the order.

“...But sir, I really think we should save the power for a hyper jump.”

The captain stood up and held the officer by the collar of his uniform.

“You dare question my orders, you coward? If you defy my orders, I will have you beheaded before dying. We are not cowards and we will not run away from this fight. We will die fighting for Cateenians and Lord Turac! IS THAT CLEAR?”

The officer gulped nervously and saluted his captain who was still holding him in his grip. He ran back to his station and forwarded the orders.

“All sources to core reactor.”

The orders echoed through the communication systems of the ship. The crew in every part of the ship froze and searched for the voice that was giving out the orders. They looked at the speakers with longing eyes and wished the order could be taken back. A few seconds passed and everyone accepted their fate.

The engines were shut off and all the power that was used in running the ship was diverted except for the communications sector. The ship was dark and the only thing emitting light was the overloaded core reactor. An uncomfortable silence befell the ship.

The captain of the Varks observed as the lights on the ship went down and the engines were cut off. He realized that the Cateenians had accepted their impending doom. He pressed a button on the side arm of his chair which accessed the radio frequency of the Cateenian ship.

“Well, since I see you’ve given up, I will be generous enough to grant you one last wish.”

The Vark captain gloated as he readied the weapons to fire at the ship.

“My last wish is to see your body implode and you traveling in pieces across the universe.”

The Cateenian captain replied with pride.

“Suit yourself.”

The Vark captain ordered the weapons to discharge.

A beam of light left the ship’s guns and hit the Cateenian ship for one last time.

The ship exploded and the over energized core reacted. A mushroom cloud of bright glowing light shone over the area and started spreading in all directions.

The unsuspecting Vark ship had started their celebrations as they did not foresee what the Cateenian captain had done. The Varks tried to do a hyper jump but it was in vain as they did not have enough time. The cloud devoured the ship and took the lives of all Varks on board. The ship’s debris floated in space along with the remains of the crew. The Cateenian captain got his wish.

It was a dark end to another battle between the Varks and the Cateens. The long running rivalry between the two empires seemed never ending. Inhabiting the same planet and belonging to the same race, the two empires fought each other for dominance over the other. Millenniums had passed and with time, the hatred of the two empires for each other seemed to grow at a dangerous rate.

The technologies of both the empires were quite similar. For centuries, both the empires had created and stole technology from each other. The Varks and the Cateens were experts at espionage, which is why their technological advances were never a secret from each other. They had huge armadas of ships that were able to travel to any part of the universe and extract and transport resources effectively. For offense, they had the highest quality laser guns and cannons.

It is said that the Varks once used their laser weapons against a battalion of the planet they were taking over. In a matter of seconds, every soldier's body was split in half. The laser cut through them with such speed that they realized it after their bodies started falling apart.

The Varks and Cateens possessed another weapon that was also a great resource to them. The empires were able to create androids possessing progressive artificial intelligence where the prime droids that were created, learned from observing their masters, and now they had learned enough to carry out any task effectively.

Their long running battles and constant struggle for dominance was all started centuries ago when the Metal named Sirillium was discovered. The precious metal was the power to the whole universe. Whoever possessed the most Sirillium could be declared King.

Sirillium's discovery showed that the metal had immense strength once it was smelted but the ore never weighed that much, thus making the transportation and excavation easy. All the products of warfare crafted by both the empires had Sirillium as the main raw material.

The metal had a lot of demand in the universe as well. The market of Sirillium was spread light-years across and since the Varks and Cateens possessed most of it, they could ask for the price that they desired. This competition and control for the market was another reason that the Varks and the Cateens were at each other's necks.

The Cateenian ship was on its way to a new planet to excavate the new recently discovered sources of Sirillium on one of the planets in this sector. They were intercepted by the Vark ship and both were destroyed in the process.

The unsuspecting planet that would have been conquered by the Cateenians is Audura. The planet is remarkably beautiful. It is covered with lush green vegetation with colorful sprouting flowers in between and mountains rising high and reaching for the cloudy skies. An intertwined system of rivers and streams provides ample water to the tribes of different Audurians living there.

The planet along with the Audurians is inhabited by many other animals and creatures which help complete the circle of life on the planet. Large creatures like the Allota, a ferocious four eyed reptile that is a threat to the Audurians, but they have learned to defend themselves well against the creature. There are also large birds like the Araks that some Audurian tribes keep as pets to facilitate them in their hunting ventures. With a wingspan larger than 14 feet, the birds can easily stay in the sky for long and mark out prey for their masters. Among the other creatures include the Gulu, which is a wild boar with large Antlers and the mighty Tulut, a ferocious cat that has large canines and is a dangerous predator but if trained, can become the best of companions.

Azullo



Audura was populated by tribes of Audurian living together in small villages. The villages had their own customs and beliefs, but they were all united by the belief of Regoon watching over all of them. Every tribe was led by a chieftain that overlooked the affairs of the people and was the leader of the hunting pack.

Life on Audura was peaceful. Nature was the guiding force for all. The people took what they needed and the concept of greed was considered a prime sin. The teachings of the old always had words of Regoon embedded in them. The transcendent light had always guided its people by embracing the truth that they were living a temporary life in this world. The aim of every Audurian was to live the life on this planet and then join their ancestors for eternal peace and guidance for themselves and others.

Audurians were quite dominant physically as their average height went up to 7 feet. They had a specific way of hunting. Before going out, the hunters all gathered around in a circle and thanked Regoon for the opportunity for providing for the family. The hunters would go out in the forest afterwards and once they had got their prey, they would say a prayer that would help the soul of the hunted beast into the other world.

One of the oldest villages on Audura was Azullo. Being the oldest, Audurians respected the values of Azullo as they had learned everything from the first dwellers of Audura. The knowledge of the people of Azullo exceeded everyone else's and their priests were some of the best healers. There were people that came from far away villages to have their loved ones healed by Azullian priests.

Azullian priests had the blessing of Regoon as the first priest on all of Audura was from Azullo. Regoon had a special bond with the people of Azullo. Although the blessings of Regoon were for all Audurians, Azullo was situated in a place that was the creation of Regoon and that gave more spiritual power.

Azullo was led by Tzumo, an old man who was very wise and had the skills of a young warrior. He was respected by all the Audurians as he was one of the best hunters. Tzumo had a loving wife Legra who had supported him in all his affairs. Legra was a wise woman and was a key person when it came to making decisions for the betterment of the village.

She gifted Tzumo with a daughter who they named Eillek. Eillek, like her mother, was a wise woman and understood the customs of her people very well. Gifted with a very bright mind, Legra and Eillek were very close and discussed the issues that needed to be addressed regarding Azullo.

When Eillek turned 19, Legra was pregnant with another child. Tzumo prayed to Regoon to bless him with a son, which made Eillek feel unwanted. Tzumo loved his daughter very much, but his desire for a son always distanced her from him. Eillek was a strong girl and wanted to learn the customs of hunting so she could assist her father on hunting quests, but according to Audurian customs, the hunting was always left to the men while women were in the village preparing for the men to return.

Legra gave birth to a baby boy and the village rejoiced as the new prince arrived. When Eillek took her baby brother in her arms for the first time, she couldn't stop the tears from streaming down her face. She could not have been happier seeing those emerald eyes stare back at her. She put her finger in the baby's palm and he grabbed it with all his might. Eillek's happiness made her forget about her own sorrows and she made it her life's goal to help bring up the new family member by teaching him everything that he needed to know about the customs of their people.

The new boy was named Kewu which translated to "the desired son." The birth of his son breathed new life into the old Tzumo. He was determined more than ever to teach all the hunting and warrior methods to his son himself. It was as if Regoon himself blessed Tzumo with the new youth. Tzumo was so determined that after the birth of Kewu, he hunted two wild boars alone. Hunting one boar normally required a whole pack of hunters but Tzumo wanted to prove to himself that he could raise the child and teach him the ways of the old in this age.

Young Kewu was strong. Since childhood, he showed signs of being a truly gifted warrior. Kewu's archery training began when he was 5. Tzumo gifted him a bow crafted from the wood of the tree that he had planted himself when he was 14. The bow was perfect for little Kewu. It was designed to fit his little hands so he could handle it with ease. The first challenge that Kewu faced was stringing the bow himself.

The process took a week but finally young Kewu had strung a strong bow. Tzumo made sure that he taught his son every step of doing things as he would be the chief of the tribe one day and he would have to guide people the way Tzumo was guiding him right now.

Kewu shot his first arrow and got very disappointed. The arrow went past the target and into the woods. When Tzumo saw the disappointment on Kewu's face, he explained to him how his arrow was still near the target and the first arrow that Tzumo had shot was so far off that he thought he could never become an archer.

Tzumo taught his son the importance of learning a skill gradually. They trained everyday and Kewu's aim kept improving until one day every time, Kewu would shoot an arrow, it would pierce the targeted right through the centre.

With the improving of Kewu's aim with the bow and arrow, it was time to introduce him to the traditional Audurian weapon, the spear. For centuries the Audurians had been using spears to hunt their prey and defend themselves. Kewu had waited eagerly for the day when he would be able to use the spear. He had seen his father and the pack go on hunts carrying spears with them.

Kewu was determined to learn the ways of handling the spear as he had always wanted to accompany his father on hunting trips, but Tzumo had always said that he would, once he was ready.

The spear training was more difficult than archery. It required great balance and a focused mind. His initial throws would cause the spear to bend too much as it went through the air and fall flat on the ground. But Kewu didn't give up as he would run up to the flat fallen spear, pick it up and throw it again. Eventually, after months of practice, Kewu's spear started to go straight towards the target, but he still had to practice his aim.

Eillek used to watch Kewu train everyday and after each training session, she would take him home and prepare his favorite meal. She was also the one who kept on urging him to get better and not give up. Kewu always felt safe with Eillek. He could share anything with her without a problem and she loved that she was his confidant.

Kewu's training paid off and by the age of 12, his spears traveled large distances and pierced right through the target. He was also taught close combat which included how to defend himself and how to attack something when at close range. Kewu learned the art of spin attacks with the spear for which he was assigned to Jafaar, the leader of the village hunting pack.

Although Tzumo was the leader of the pack and a great hunter, Jafaar had an amazing chemistry with the pack and thus was appointed leader by Tzumo himself. Jafaar was an excellent spear handler. He had mastered the art of a spin attack and was happy to teach young Kewu. Kewu's training seemed never ending. From one weapon to the other and from one technique to the other, it was exhausting for the boy but he never showed it. He kept on accepting every challenge that was thrown at him.

In Audurian tradition, the transition of a boy into manhood is marked by the completion of fourteen years of his life. Kewu had trained hard for thirteen years and his fourteenth birthday was just weeks away. Tzumo decided to sit down with his son and explain to him everything there was to know about the transition ceremony.

Father and son both sat under the tree that Tzumo had planted in his house.

"Father, I have had a question for some time and wanted to ask you since we are not training right now."

Tzumo turned to his son with a smile.