

2014 MCC Creative Writing Contest

Fiction Category

Honorable Mention: Excerpt from “*The Kastron Virus: Uprising*,” by Matthew Meier

Jason grimaced as he looked at the battlefield around him. With the exception of Stuart,

blat, however, sent him diving for cover.

“It’s not like you’ve never shown fear, Jason!” Alice snapped as she rocketed over Jason’s head on her armor, “You have no right to give him this kind of crap. He has pentaphobia.”

As Jason looked around the battlefield, he saw a movement. Out of the corner of his eye,

Jason felt his blood boil in rage. He fired several more shots from the weapon, and watched as his foe dodged them all. As he dodged, Karnk pulled out his own energy pistol, and fired once, knocking the energy gun out of Jason's hand.

"Use your powers." Karnk taunted, "If you want to have a slight chance at beating me, I suggest you try that."

"You wanna see power!" Mason snapped, "I'll show you a power!"

Triggering his ability of darkness, Mason created a dark claw of shadow energy, and sent it flying at Karnk. Anticipating the attack, the Teazonian nimbly dodged the shadow claw, and threw one of his daggers at Mason, sticking him in his armored shoulder. To Jason's shock, the blade went through the armor, causing Mason to stagger back, gripping his shoulder in pain.

"These daggers are made of Baltanite." Karnk snickered as Mason tore the weapon from his shoulder, "That is what your armor is made of, right? Ordinarily, it's basically unbreakable, but when matched against weapons made of the same metal, it can be damaged."

"How about you shut up and fight?" Jason snapped as he triggered his power, encasing his fists in blocks of solid ice.

"This will be over faster than I thought." Karnk chuckled. "You pathetic humans actually thought you stood a chance. How sad."

Enraged, Jason charged at Karnk, unleashing his power of ice at his enemy in the form of sharp, knife-like icicles. Mason and Alice assisted in the assault, by throwing shadow blasts, and firing energy rounds at the Teazonian.

Stuart stood back and watched. He was terrified of combat, his safety, and the planet. He wanted to help, but was too frightened to move. All he could do was stand by and watch his comrades. For a moment, Jason seemed to gain the upper hand on the Teazonian, but then his luck took a turn for the worse. As Jason prepared to slam Karnk with a powerful ice blast, his power failed him, only spraying the Teazonian with a soft icy mist.

"Oh, shit!" Jason snapped as Karnk grabbed Jason by the jaw, and threw him to the ground. As Jason struggled to escape, Karnk reached down, and tore several components from Jason's armor. One of them was his jetpack.

"Oh, was that important?" Karn

“Speak up human!” Karnk snapped as he grabbed another dagger, “What will you do now?”

Stuart picked up his head as Karnk threw the dagger. With astounding speed, he extended his hand, causing the ball of incineration energy to grow larger. Allowing his anger to guide him, Stuart fired a blast at the impending dagger, turning it to dust before Karnk’s startled eyes as the young hero locked his eyes on him.

“I’ll kill you!”

Stuart triggered his jetpack, launching himself directly at Karnk as he fired multiple blasts of incineration energy at his girlfriend’s killer. Karnk managed to dodge Stuart’s attack, and succeeded in stabbing his leg as he flew past him, but even he knew he had to take this opponent down, and fast. Karnk grabbed several daggers, and threw them at Stuart. Three of the daggers embedded their blades in Stuart’s shoulder and hip, but the enraged hero pushed on, charging again and again at Alice’s killer. Karnk managed to dodge more of Stuart’s relentless charges, but it was only a matter of time before the boy scored a hit on him.

Fearful for his own safety, Karnk pulled out an energy pistol, and fired rapidly at Stuart as he charged again. Blinded by tears, Stuart didn’t bother to dodge the energy blasts. He just flew right into them, the blasts scorching his armor, shattering half of his visor, and cutting his head in several places, but he did not slow down. With tremendous force, Stuart slammed head first into Karnk’s midsection, shattering several of his ribs, and knocking him down. As the Teazonian desperately tried to scramble to his feet, Stuart landed next to him, looking down at him through his shattered, and blood-stained visor. Karnk, knowing he was beaten, looked up at Stuart in fear.

“Please!” he begged, “Spare me! I did you no harm!”

Stuart retracted what remained of his shattered, blood-stained visor, revealing his eyes, blazing with vengeance, as they overflowed with tears. In the center of Stuart’s hand, a glowing ball of red incineration energy appeared.

“You’ve caused me more pain than you’ll ever know.” Stuart said in a furious sob. Karnk tried to get back up, but a kick from Stuart sent him sprawling again. He looked up pleadingly as Stuart threw the red ball of energy at him. The instant it made contact with him, the energy began to eat away at his body, slowly transforming the Teazonian into a pile of dust. All Karnk could do was scream in agony as his entire body faded from existence, and his ashes scattered in the calm breeze. Alice had been avenged.

“She gave her life for you.” Jason said as he limped closer, “We can make a grave for her after this is over.”

Stuart, between sobs, said something quietly, but neither Jason nor Mason could understand what he had said.

“I’m sorry,” Jason said, “what?”

An earsplitting crash caused the two wounded heroes to jump back. A aura of dark red energy appeared around Stuart as he stood up, and looked at his allies, the red aura, and blood soaked features, giving his watering eyes a frightening appearance.

“I’m gonna kill them!” Stuart sobbed darkly as he triggered his jetpack, rocketing himself up towards the Teazonian warships. Mason tried to go after him, but a sharp pain in his shoulder caused him to stop.