

## Raven pass.

The shining glare from the small computer screen that was attached just above the drone's spherical tracking device where a small corner of its monitor was covered in a protective plastic that kept it sparkling from the reflection of Sinar's light. Whilst the rest of the drone was covered in a thick cloud of Dust. A old withered finger tip scoured across the screen, followed by a quick gush of air that lifted the dust around the drone and seeped into the thin rough grey facial hair that covered Rusty's jaw line. He brushed his chin and looked up into the distance where Raven pass awaited him, where he would finally catch the hunter he was tracking for almost six weeks now. His lips white and cracked, peeled apart as he whispered into the drone's voice command speaker. "Find Her, before Sinar goes down" his words were soft and deep. He spoke to the drone like it had a soul. The drone scanned for a face and sent pictures to its monitor, from the thousands of them the drone had taken of since Rusty's and Ren's cat and mouse game had began.

Rusty's expression on his face was enough for the drone to begin its missions. He tipped his old felt hat towards its sparkling green orbs that twinkling beneath its monitor. His Hat was stretched and falling apart. More than forty years had past since he acquired it. The Hat was a symbolic to the Hunt. He had to force it upon his head just one more time only for the sake of his family. His Retirement didn't last long and before he knew it the hat was back on his head the Queen appeared with a offer, no bounty hunter on Bathos could refuse.

His eyes glanced over the desert terrain, he knew the man that would help him find Ren, was deep in an under ground bunker that not many people even knew existed. A smirk formed on his face, the drone rushed to find there target. He admitted to himself that she was good, very good actually. Rusty had hunted dozens of Cyborgs before but not like this one. She had something special not, only did her body enhancements make her incredibly strong and quick, she had a mind of a hunter, she knew how to survive, when to attack and most of all when to stay hidden, something she must have learn't from an early age. Rusty knew that who ever her trainer was, he taught her well. He flicked the Red, pale sand off his boots, as he strolled towards the cave enclosed city, that connected Moon lit city, to the Anson desert.

A old fat man sat at the entrance of Raven pass near a moth eaten sign stood just above him welcoming traveller's to the City. He wore black boots that were peeling apart, Rusty could see rough cotton socks sticking out of the cracked leather, which were stretched up to his ankles. Brown shorts and a pink netted tank top with Sinar-blade glasses shaped like curved sixes covered his eyes from the heat rays that stretched over the land. He did not have much hair on his head and he held a metal book in his hand. Bending forward in his deck chair as he saw Rusty coming closer. "Well well well..... a Member of the wild watcher's in the flesh, you know back in two thousand two hundred and seventy you were the most feared gang in the south of Che. Oh I remember how just two of you escaped." He laughed putting his fat fingers over his large mouth. "Well I should not say escaped, more like sided with the devil goddess Amber and became her slave....." his words were cold, and blunt he prompted a response hopefully an aggressive one, but found no reply at all. Rusty, tipped his hat, and tried to cover his face. "Well, its true I'm well travelled. But I sit at the city gates, not because I'm homeless. I may look homeless but oh no, don't let this rugged appearance fool you old hunter I know what you need and everything comes at a price....." he seemed to hiss the words like a snake looking to make quick credits. Rusty had past him and got a few feet away. "A seven C five drone, they pretty but in a city that has many caves cracks and hotel's that are basically one big rock with many room's they will be scanning for days and days before they find who you looking for. But even before that, the pulser will be released into the atmosphere rendering your drone's useless unless of course Coffee approves it.....and you don't have much time to find Mr Coffee.....or perhaps, you like his other name, the black death...." he chuckled as he knew his words would bring Rusty to a halt. Rusty turned around and walked towards the fat man. "Oh well and Oh the price when people are crude, is raised its better to speak nicely and smile this is the only discount I will ever offer you, though well yes Im hardly giving discount because people take me, for a filthy fat bastard sitting at Raven pass, begging and asking for scarps, Im no beggar Oh not me,

just a kind hearted man with secrets..... many secrets” he burped as a smirk formed on his face. Rusty was standing right in front of him. “How much....” his voice was unemotional with a hint of annoyance in his tone. “whatchu wanna know....” the fat man squeezed the words out of his mouth. “You know what I want to know you fat fuck.....everyone is a fortune teller in Raven’s pass, isn’t that what you sick freaks worship? The god of the raven’s” Rusty stared at him in rage. “La la la Language my former wild watcher you a long way from home in a dangerous , place.” He knew the threat would hold no ground on Rusty, he had survived just about everything that was thrown at him his rough skin and , worn out attire were testimony to that fact. Rusty gave him a blank stare. Hoping that he would make the man feel uncomfortable. Everyone in Bathos just wanted to survive, he knew he was at the entrance of the gate for a purpose . Probably to avoid the other jackal’s and hyena’s who wanted a piece of the very small pie. “You name a price , you point me in the direction I need to go , I pay Im happy, you happy and the world keeps turning how does that sound .” A swift wind suddenly fills the air , Rusty can hear his eardrums vibrate as the large engines from the bone spaceship’s pass over there heads, approaching Raven pass. With black banner’s and Skulls tainted in red all over them . “So they go through Raven pass as well..... that’s sad.” Water splashed out onto the sand. “Have a sip , seeing your lips pale as a winters day is making me hungry and Usually when I get hungry , I cant talk” he raised the flask closer to Rusty’s lips. “Go on, its not poison.....look” he took a huge gulp of it . Rusty could see his fat neck bounce up before it sagged back down again. He handed the flask over , almost dropping in the air . Rusty, hesitated before drinking the whole bottle as fast as he could , water splashed down his mouth and dripped onto his waistcoat trickling on to his shirt. “Well Wild watcher , it seems you forgot to build your strength before the hunt.....” He put his flask back into his backpack not waiting for Rusty to reply he continued. “Well well there is a very important story you can hear, about a ancient poison used long ago in Bathos—“ The fat man was cut off. “Spare me , just point me where I need to go not trying to make friends.....” Rusty did not mince any words as he spoke them fiercely.

The fat man took out one of his boneshard pistol , and held it in his opened palms . “Beautiful isn’t it . The ability to shoot out , small chunks of Bone deep into the body, it was said to be a cursed weapon. Hard to find . But my favourite wild watcher knowing your enemy , is a important part of the hunt. I can first tell you about Coffee.....and perhaps the hunter you seek.....for a fee of course.” Rusty never used Raven pass to travel , it was full of Fortune tellers , soothsayers and necromancers . If he avoid this one , he would have to deal with a thousand more before he could find his prey. “Five hundred credit’s, not a single penny more , and since this seems like your occupation it will not be hard to find you. If things go wrong....” he smiled at the large man , looking at all the meat he had on his body, he would take a little bit of pleasure torturing him flaying his skin off as he mourned in agony. But time was not on his side. The Queens patience was bound to run out sooner rather than later. “ Seven hundred and you can keep the bone shard pistol , there isn’t many bullets left, I would say around six.....” Rusty pulled a sour face, he didn’t want to show weakness but maybe this man had exactly what he need . Inputting the amount in his monitor sending over the credits instantly . “Now talk before I blow your fat head off your ugly caterpillar neck.” his tone was icily and dark. “Well my my , you got a mouth on you . I suppose you need it , dealing with the criminals and whore’s you usually converse with.....” he sighed heavily . “First I will tell you about Coffee than I will begin to tell you about the white witch.....” Rusty put his hands up and clapped them frantically in the air. “So the fat slop really can read mind’s, I am beginning to like Raven pass already,” His face mocked the fat man , who ignored him and continue. “I have been paid , so I will fulfil my duty—“

“You better or you will wish you were never born , now if you don't start talking I am going to cut open your throat .” He pulled out his gun a GS50 and pointed it at the fat man’s head holding the gun at angle. A sudden shock followed by a playful smile. It was not the first time a gun was raised to the fat man’s face. “Coffee is located in a old bunker , hidden between two large building’s , in the far east of Raven pass . His lair is heavily guarded by the black raven’s you can see them all over the city. Long black robes that drag onto the red soil beneath them, they are fully equipped , so be careful of them they have immunity from the Pharos soldiers , for obvious reasons.” he coughed hard clearing his throat. “ Coffee was once a very small fish in a very large fish tank filled with shark’s..... working for the cruelest Veel drug pushers in Bathos. Fearless in his trade even had the guts too talk down to the Reaper. Don't ask me how he got the name Reaper, because that’s a story for another day.....” Rusty looked around him . “You got another one of those

chairs seems like we going to be here for a while.....” He bend down under his chair . “I thought you would never ask.” a small drone activated folding itself out in a rectangular fashion . A cushion popped up in the centre of the drone. “Nice haven't seen one of these before.” The drone's legs spread deep into the sand as Rusty sat on it . “ The Viadook Clan used to rule Raven pass many years ago . They beat all the surrounding clan in the area with a simple method. Stygian noxious plant a rare flower that grows in the west murky swarms of the Clan of Seto . In the stem of the flower a black liquid can be extracted which is the most lethal poison known to man . Not only can it kill men , but the legendary Zectus as well.....Im sure I don't know have to tell you about those horrid beasts the Zectus.” Rusty could see the sweat dripping from his greasy thin hair. “Sinar is burning my socks off.”

More travellers approached Raven passes entrance . Rusty watched the fat man's body language he avoids them like a plague . The fat man carefully observes there attire, Dark brown robes, with more holes than cloth in them. “The clan left a book in one of the libraries , which Coffee has acquired . Soon three of the biggest king pin's mysteriously died. Bloody nose was first to go , days later Reaper fell. He even wiped out Nagan who was in charge of the drugs being fed to the cannibals in Oregan city.” The fat man spoke the word's like they where obvious . That it was something Rusty should have know. “You know what I think.....” Rusty gave the fat man a unwelcoming stare. “Coffee knows I was coming. His scouts where every before I even researched the city. There eyes gave them away and being in packs no very stealthy if you ask me.” Rusty held his gaze he did not blink . The moment he ignored the other traveller's on the road , and the scouts that had been watching him and probably Ren for the past two days before coming anywhere near Raven pass was a clear indication that Coffee was looking out for himself. “My My astonishing . If I may say the least, you really are a hunter worthy of the trade. I would give all the gold in Daghos pass to watch the showdown between you and the white witch, that will be a spectacle. Pity, with your attitude wanting to kill all the messengers that come your way. That will never happen” he pushed himself up from the chair , spreading his arms wide open . Rusty slowly pushed his chrome pistol into the lairs of fat flesh that seemed to engulf one another . He licked his fat lips . “You kill me , Coffee kills you .” he laughed in Rusty face, making sure he saw all his mechanical teeth. “You Wild watcher , used to be fast. Oh you used to be quick but just like mother earth which is calling you back into the soil , you cannot out run all the hunters in Raven pass.....But I'm willing to be killed and hopefully my ghost will wait for you on the banks of the Abyss..” he chewed on his bottom lip . “Do it!” he seemed to mumble the words as he closed his eyes tightly shut ” Rusty looked at Raven's pass he really needed this man's help. His daughters smile flashed into his mind , and he slowly pulled the gun out of the thick layers of flesh the man had. “Take me too him.....” the words came out in a whisper. “Coffee wont let you know where his bunker is , you don't get it, Do you, I was sent here to see if your intention's were good, which by the looks of it they seem to be rather hostile .No outsiders will ever get to see Coffee, so he sent me instead. Of course for the information you want from Coffee you will be billed separately.” Rusty raised his pistol to his head again . “So what the fuck did I just pay your fat arse seven hundred credits for?!” his tone had raised , as he gripped the handle of his gun firmly . The fat man , stuck his tongue out and moved his shoulders in a rotating motion. “Look down at your crotch....” Rusty stepped back giving some distance between himself and this stranger. As he looked down tilting his head slightly , a bullet was fired , hitting the top of his hat, knocking it to the ground . Rusty , crouched down and pulled out two pistols scanning the area trying to find his attacker . “Wow well well, Neon-bullet is good. I didn't believe it!” The Fat man clapped his hands and cheered loudly “I never thought he could make that shot , I thought your head was going to explode like a soggy tomato damn his good , do you feel the rush ! well now.....do you?” He seemed to dance around on one spot , his body already breaking into a sweat with him just moving ever so slightly. Rusty look at him dumbstruck. He could feel his heart pounding in his chest. His tongue moved around his mouth , and to the edges of his lips. He needed to spread the little saliva he had . He could feel the blood rush out of his toes all the way up to his head. The fat man enjoyed the looked on Rusty's face for the first time he looked timid like a mouse. “My my Coffee would never send me here without any protection . He pointed towards the city. A cruiser was seen in the distance hovering above the red sand , coming towards them at a very fast pace. “Either you come with us or well , perhaps the Neon bullet takes your head off , the choice is your's.” The fat man licked his lips. Watching the cruiser closely , maybe it had food in it , to wet the fat man's appetite. “Not much

of a choice.” Rusty looked at the fat man and back at the cruiser which he could see coming closer. “My my you always have a choice , you either do a job for Coffee and get your reward; the location of Ren or you can head west , and never come to Raven’s pass again.” The fat man gestured as the cruiser stopped right near Rusty. He bend the tip of his hat. “Again not much of a choice” jumping into the cruiser . The fat man , smiled at the driver that acknowledged him slammed the door’s shut after Rusty entered the cruiser sped towards the city.

Rusty tried to see where this sniper Neon bullet was but it was impossible the desert looked like one big mirage. It was one City that he had not visited in Bathos , and Coffee was one drug lord he never came into contact with . He understood why he was stripped with fear. The city had many face’s , cyborgs where everywhere taverns bars brothel’s and markets filled the sinful land . Prostitutes where marked with white powder covering there faces on most street corners. They would linger hoping for any vehicle to hover up next to them. Sin was rampant in Raven Pass, they had monthly Hogas races that would cover nearly all of the road’s. It brought traveller’s from all over Bathos to watch them. Violence filled with speed and mainly death . Every year many people in the public would die , as the Hogas either trampled them or they were killed with the strong chemical drug Veel that was sold through out the event. This boosted the online rating for the show even higher. The fat man opened up a big rug sack that was beside him and took out a digital clip board. “Here you go.....” The fat man handed it to Rusty. He was not expecting it , but his eyes quickly became glued to the Screen as he read.

File Number 702: Subject Ren Aka White witch.

Real Name : Ren Amori

Alias: White Witch

Father: Rueben Dinapoli

Mother: Deceased “Unknown

Blood Type “O”

Date Of Birth: 18/07/2174

Place of Birth: Sera.

Body Type “Fit Cyborg ”

Relatives: Unknown

Affiliation: Unknown

Base of Operations: N/A lone Hunter.

Mission: Kill Queen Amber ?

Motives: N\A

Mech enhancements: Zero

Citizenship: Sera

Marital Status: None

Occupation: Bounty Hunter

Gender: Female

Height : 5ft 7

Weight: Unknown

Hair: brown

End of File Subject 702

Chronicles of Coffee.

“Bullshit” Rusty remarked. “Where did you get all of this , and if Coffee works for the Queen , looking at this you have been tracking her through Bathos..... you even know where she is now. Traitors!”

The fat man laughed and pulled a faced at Rusty. Knowing that he was safe and there was nothing Rusty could do about it . “Oh the document is one hundred percent spot on , Well well an enemy of the Queen is a friend of Coffee. Coffee would like it very much that the white witch succeed’s against the Queen.....I don’t know how you could find that surprising.” Rusty burnt with rage at his reply. “Where is the Loyal—“ The fat man interrupted immediately. “Loyalty what Loyalty do you speak off, the Queen cares about Pharos only, where the rest of us , sit beneath her table and scramble for the scraps she throws at us. Don’t be so self-righteous we are all used as pawn’s

and the moment she doesn't need us she will throw us into the fire to burn. The people want Ren to succeed and many will aid her on whatever quest she is trying to achieve. When they see her they see hope. They see a better future. She has quite the cult following If I might add." the cruiser stopped and the Fat man got out. He was standing near a building that had a huge clock on top of it. His fat fingers, brushed against the bricks which looked like they were rotting away. "Here is where Fate will test us all....." Rusty kept his eyes on the digital clipboard the name Zero jumped out at him. If Ren escaped that would be his next lead. "A race is being held today at noon the bookies have the champion to win, his name is Aturgo Chotti, they call him the lightening child." he paused looking at the Old Withered Clock tower. "Here have a good look at the boy you will kill" Rusty's monitor vibrated "I don't get it, why me.....I mean there is one hundred way's to kill this kid, and no one will even a bat a eye lid. Or care." Rusty looked annoyed. The fat man, turned around ignoring him. "So long....." Rusty could see the people in the main street up ahead, He didn't have much time to make a choice. "Wait!" he looked down at his monitor the Boy looked no more than fifteen, blonde hair, with white streaks of highlights in them. A cheeky smile on his face, With two girls holding on to each of his shoulders. "I have killed kids before, many in fact. Fine a deal's a deal I blow this kids head off, you give me Ren how do you know she wont leave the city?" Rusty stared at the Rifle, it was a long time since he had pulled the trigger from so far away. He preferred knife's and bullets up close and personal straight into their chest where he could see the blood escape from there body. A sour grimacing appeared on the Fat man face. "You are getting old, and wondering off like a stray dog....." he pointed in his face. "The race is at noon" he pointed toward's, a window over looking a bridge in the distance. "There will be spectators watching from above. Time the shot so it looks like someone on the bridge took it. After its done we will send you the location of Ren, you free to leave the equipment we will have someone clean up the scene." he locked eyes with Rusty, who unwillingly met his gaze. "Well I hoping there is just two more deaths on my list than- "

"Than nothing" The fat man cut him off. "You were a killer since nine years old, and how old are you now. Ninety? maybe a hundred. You will be killing people till the day you die. My my you are the scum of Bathos but you know, we all have a purpose....." Rusty chewed on his top lip hearing the words. "Fat boy, I have no problem killing three people before I stop. The race, I will be on time.....what happens if you rider doesn't win?" Rusty wanted to know how hard the job was. "Well well I don't think you care, get prepared you only have one hour left...." He gave out a sinister giggle. "Just an hour before you meet with destiny"

"Before you leave..." Rusty paused before he spoke the words. He didn't want the man to know that he knew nothing about Ren. He didn't care for reports or brief's he just wanted to get the job done. Thinking back about it now it was unprofessional of him. He wondered if he was still a professional in his old age he had become slower and not as witty as he once was. He retired he was tired of this life. "This White witch, her name and her incredible bounty what did she do to become so notorious....." The fat man froze as he heard the words. "Your seriously asking me about the White witch?" Rusty nodded his head lifting up his cheek with a smirk. "Im paying you. So I want to know everything you know about her and no more bullshit!". Heat radiated from Sinar upon them. "Well I guess that is what retirement is all about The clear blue sky the birds singing in the morning, three meals a day with your loved one's. Ah yes people go to find Nirvana in the mountains but many return to the hell of reality this wasteland has to offer." The fat man words could not be more true. "Ren only started appearing on Tv, radio and just about every social networking site you could imagine. When the Blue Ghost returned to Bathos, and did a ritual killing on the Great tree Checoudious cutting the heads off Pharos bounty hunters, and hanging them upside down. Painting a very vivid picture at the scene." Rusty was astonished to hear it. "Is the white witch worthy of us?" the fat man twisted his tongue in his mouth letting the words sink in before he began. "The letters where in a ancient tongue of Verconese- the Planet closet to Bathos. The Zectus Kings dreamed to travel there, but the prophecies say that only humans can survive the atmosphere in Verconese- this brought the attention of the Queen." the Fat man pulled out his deck chair. He could not stand for long his legs seemed to give in. "You know the famous words." the Fat man prompted Rusty to say the words with him in Unison. "No Queen of ours, but only a pawn....." Rusty whispered them. The Fat man said the words as loud as he could. "It was hidden from the public for years" This brought the spotlight on Ren and since that day....." Rusty pointed at the clock. "Yes, time. We all running out of that, She went on to escape many Pharos Hunters after that. Travelling to the East of Elkron, she killed the famous Cult

leader . Malvus. Of course that brought Chaos in the East as they are still fighting for a new leader.” She went on to stop the Drug trafficking trade From Negan in Oregon pass. Many females have now formed a party called R.E.N Im guessing you don't know what that stands for's.” He could hear the people cheering in the city center- getting Ready for the Hogas racers. “Renegade Earthborn Newlancer's growing in the North at a rapid rate. Mainly comprised of women they are using Ren's symbol as their fight against the Queen. Which made her even more popular. But then she went on to do something remarkable. First they called it a death god which rose out of the swamps of Sep valley, the first non human entity to be created by man himself . Was Born , many names they had given it . Death , Dark spirit , Septhis , Dark Reaper, Iron demon, Son of Nerco thousands of names the people gave him. His fight was not against Humans , not even towards the Zectus that hid in the shadows but he provoked the gods in air the Victus themselves . The Queen sent her best hunters the Viper Squad and even got to the point that the champion of Pharos . Vortex himself was sent to kill this dark eternity but when he got there. Ren had some how possessed it to protect her and fled. It is now her Guardian.....” Rusty's monitor began to flash in his eyes , pulled away from the Fat man's gaze and stared at the screen attached to his arm. That brought only misery. His appearance change his skin turned bright red . Rusty pulled open the metal door that shielded him from the building's up ahead. “I didn't get your name...” the words came out Crude and bitter.”

“My name is not important” the fat man had an ugly smile that appeared on his face.

“Your right.....” Rusty mumbled. He raised his gun and shot the fat man directly in the throat . As bullets thumped against the metal door protecting Rusty. He quickly slammed the titanium door shut and fisted the door in Anger. Looking at his Monitor in horror. It Showed the final recording the drone had taken before it was destroyed. Ren had shot down Both of his drones . Her Location was just outside of Raven pass. Coffee was using Rusty to do his dirty work with no intention of helping the veteran hunter.

Ren had avoided the Old Hunter again.....

But for how long could she keep running.

Short Story End.