

Chapter One

A malevolent figure walked into a laboratory. He passed the vials of glowing liquid connected to computers that showed the helix of the DNA. He crossed a glass passageway where strange roars could be heard. He crossed into a miniature forest contained in walls of a vanadium chrome alloy. Lit with large spot lights, the lab made his golden skull mask and his golden skull belt glitter.

As he entered, he thought about what the scientists had done here: they created an everlasting artificial sun, created cures for every disease in existence that was now mass-produced through the world, an endless water pumped from other planets, and the greatest achievement yet, an endless youth. What he was going to see today was almost as mind - blowing. He couldn't wait. He felt the same exhilaration as one might feel about seeing all the planets align in front of the sun at the same time or being at the top of an amusement park's biggest ride.

Inside a pit of the laboratory were many hybrid dinosaurs. They were all different: some flew, some swam, some walked, but all were both created by his loyal Skull Corps, a large company that had millions of offices around the globe known for being the world's best investment company, and a hodgepodge of vaguely reptilian parts stuck together. However, they all seemed to treat the Golden Skull as their equal, and *that*, the Golden Skull liked.

"What is this?" said the Golden Skull. The forest looked... different. He tried to place his mind on what was wrong. He looked at the forest and made mental notes about the landscape. The grass was normal; the sky was the same shade of blue. He looked at the trees, but wait, some of the trees looked like tall cacti blowing around. He then realized it was a tail with spikes on it! He walked around the bush and he saw something that made him gaze in wonder. A nest of ten eggs!

"I'm hungry," said an odd-looking dinosaur. Rim had a muscular reptilian body. His teeth were long and at the end of his face was a broad snout. His body bore long arms with three claws each that could easily grab a human. His back plate, made of bony square segments, could block hard blows easily. Its tail was a good weapon with two spikes on both ends. And if he was too scared to get close to an opponent, there

were three nostrils on either side of its head which constantly spewed smoke. He thought of himself as a well armored tank that could beat anything that opposed him. It rainbowed from a dark red to a pale blue. A slightly bigger version of him replied, "Rim, you're always hungry." Rim responded by spewing dark smoke out of his nostrils. Suddenly a small metal cubby opened up and spewed out hunks of red meat. Rim charged over and ate as much as he could but the bigger hybrids barely let him. That was how it went every day.

If I was bigger, those brutes would never push past me. Rim thought this bitterly. He thought of why he was the runt of the brood. Although he was naturally skinny, he was much scrawnier and smaller than he should be. He never got to eat his fill. There were just too many bigger dinosaurs. He thought, *If only they were twenty!* Then they would be chasing after the females and he could have some peace and quiet at feeding time. But that was not going to be soon as he was only seven and the brutes now fourteen.

He walked to a small pile of leaves exhausted. He fell asleep for about an hour, when he was awoken by a harsh grating noise. When he woke up, he saw that everybody else was awaking too. Everybody walked carefully up to the hole in the ceiling. They could see a thick four-pronged claw supported by a system of metal wires. The metal claw poked out and swung at him. He tried to run but he was cornered and the metal claw grabbed him. He roared but he was too high now for any dinosaurs to catch him if they tried. He swung up and into the hole in the ceiling. There was nowhere to go. Everything went dark.

The Golden Skull looked at Rim inside a dome. He smiled and said in a cold robotic voice, "Commence Phase Two."

Rim awoke in a cold white dome. He felt a cold presence on his back. He looked at the floor and saw two long cylinders attached to his back one on either side held by the bars. He also noticed there were two semi-transparent orange lenses where covering his eyes. He stared at the orange lenses and looked more closely at those strange things making his eyes water and itch Rim growled and tried to shake them off his eyes. He looked at it once, twice, and then he shut his eyes for about a minute. The lenses were still there so he tried to ignore them. He then looked

more closely at the dome he was in. He could see no opening that he could go through. He noticed if he looked at one spot and lowered his head a flash of light would appear from the cylinders and where the light from the cylinder made contact, a scorch mark would appear. He shot at the same time again and again eventually an indentation big enough for him to go through broke.

“That wretched lizard! I give the most powerful weapon in this side of this stupid planet and uses against me while destroying my priceless equipment? He will vaporize into dust for this!” Outside of the dome, the Golden Skull walked around his room. His plan had gone wrong. He was supposed to go to the dinosaur while it was confused and scared to gain its trust. Now it was in the condor that led to the reservation which it would escape into. However, the Golden Skull still had his army of the little speedy skull bots and big, bulky skullys—all made of reinforced titanium—that served as body guards. Being ruler of the world did have its perks.

Chapter Two

Rim continued down the condor and saw a room. Inside a large robotic black ball with a golden skull in the middle had rolled in. Suddenly Skully eyes lit up with a demonic red glow and started to expel steam. The machinery inside of it whirred and clicked as it then grew four metal tentacles, two of which had sharp claws and two with pads to walk on. Skully’s eyes glowed red as it looked around the room searching for Rim. It spotted him and said “Skully sees you!” and charged into the room.

Rim dodged Skully but he got a gash on the side of his flank. He shot lasers (What he thought was just light) from the cylinders at the Skully and every time hit the laser blasted part of Skully off. Skully charged as Skully leaked lava and just as Skully was about to slash of his head, he shot into the skull. “Found your weak spot” said Rim. Skully blew up.

Rim continued down the condor and saw an open plain. If he left he would be leaving everything he knew. “Can I do it?” He asked himself. Can I leave the comfort and safety of my home? Can I leave all

the things I know and love? Can I leave safety and ordinance?"

Suddenly twenty smaller Skullys appeared but these ones had a one claw and a cylinder in another in which they shot lasers from and charged at him. He ran after a second's hesitation and charged into the plain like he had done so many times in the forest for meat.

He stopped when he reached a large crack in the ground but it was too big to leap over. A large white ball floated across the length of the crack and Rim leaped to catch the floating white orb but missed. He fell into the crack.

When he awoke he saw a Pteranodon flapping around him. It said "Good, you're awake, what's your name?"

"Rim"

"My name is Petra."

"Why did you save me?" Rim wondered out loud

Petra looked like a bird except she had a longer beak. She had the body of a bat covered with skin and short fur, not long feathers and a sort of spike at the end of his head. He thought she looked pretty weird, until he thought about how weird he must look to the winged creature.

The cannon on his back's two long cylinders glowed in a faint red light and occasionally the insides shone a faint blue. The insides looked like a jet turbine but in the middle, there was a hole that had the main concentration of the blue light.

Rim noticed the strange light that was illuminating the cannons and said, "Hey where is that light coming from?"

"I don't know where it's coming from."

"Should we go investigate?"

"It could be dangerous!!!"

"Don't be a fool, we'll be fine."

"Ok, but if we get captured I am blaming you."

"Fair."

They walked across a wet passage way, Rim leading with Petra waddling behind clumsily. "Why are you waking like that?" asked Rim.

"I'm used to flying" said Petra

"Well please try to hurry up, we're almost there and no offense but you are sort of slow."

"Hey, you wouldn't say that if you could see me fly!"

Rim wondered what flying felt like as well as what the harsh grating sound was, occasionally changing to a high pitched whining sound.

The sound and light grew harsher and there they saw a menacing sight: a gigantic red-hot drill was boring through the ground, occasionally stopping making a high pitched whining sound that hurt their ears. They looked at each other wondering what this huge drill was for.

As soon as they were back in the cavern, they started to say what they thought the drill was for. Rim thought it was to look for something in the ground but Petra thought it was to create a big cavern to have people in.

“It is definitely to look for something because that there is oil in the ground and the humans want the oil. I know because in one of the caves I used to sleep in we dug a little and we found a little oil. The humans went berserk and pumped all the oil out into crates.”

Rim said, “Well there are lots of humans because there is not enough space in their current cities so they will try to make a new one underground.”

“That’s not true; before I fell here I saw that there was lots of empty space.”

“That’s because the land you saw was owned by Thomas, a wild life lover. He persuaded the Golden Skull to let him keep it as long as he gave him tribute every year so the Golden Skull can’t build anything there.”

“So what happens if the Golden Skull just decides to take the land back?”

“He would have to give Thomas all of his money generated from the lands as part of the contract.”

As they were bickering, they failed to notice the three Skullys grouping silently at the entrance of the cavern until they attacked. Petra took to the air as Rim shot billowing clouds of smoke from his nostrils. “What are you doing? I can’t see a thing.” Petra squawked.

“I’m doing the only thing I can do” The back of Rims mouth started to glow and heat up and then he shot a burst of lava. It melted a Skully and Petra thought, “If he can do it, I CAN TO!!!” Instead of the

lava blast that Rim did, he shot a tornado of fire that melted all but one Skelly. Rim although exhausted, bit as hard as he could on the last one and it split in half. It said in a robotic voice, “we must drill to the center of the earth!” and was silenced by the lasers of Rims cannons. The pair looked at each other and shrunk in fear as they realized what just happened. “I believe the Golden Skull has found me.”

Chapter Three

Eventually they made their way out of the cavern. As soon as they were out, they walked to the south, with Petra sitting on Rim. Finally Petra asked why he was being hunted by the Golden Skull. Rim started to speak of his journey. “When I was young I was taken into a white dome and they put this thing on me.” Rim then gestured to the cannons on his back. “I got out and now he is trying to catch me again.” Petra thought of how similar this was to his story. Petra said after deep thought, “Just like me, with the cannons.” They trudged until they reached a village. There Rim had a shock. His friend, Red, was in a glass dome! Petra said, “Do you know him?”

“Yes, he is my best friend!”

“We’re going to rescue him then.”

They sneaked around the village and they saw a clear path to the dome. Red was pacing and roaring while a crowd of people looked on. He felt his anger rising and the smoke building up in his nostrils. He saw Petra distracting all the guards and then he shot a burst of lava. The blast hit the dead center of the dome. The blast almost hit the crowd but last second he changed the direction. Red rushed out seeing him, and they talked.

“Where did you get all your weapons?” exclaimed Red goggling at Rim.

“No time to explain, let’s get out of here.”

“Wait, how do I know you are actually Rim and not one of the fake robots that caught me in the first place?”

“Come on, we don’t have time for this nonsense!”

“Not until you answers this riddle correctly as the Rim I know loved riddles.”

“Fine, but make it quick, we’re being hunted down.”

“I was created, yet I create, I look like a ladder but I can’t be climbed, and if you remove me, you shall die. Be careful with your choice, for I am the one who creates your voice.”

“Hmmm, very tricky, but the answer is DNA, it fills all of the categories for your riddle plus that’s the one of the only riddles you know.”

Red finally looked satisfied that Rim was not a robot so they headed to a nearby cave.

Petra joined them out of the city and they rejoiced at the union.

As they were walking they slowly grew hungrier. Eventually they split up to look for food and they found none. Suddenly they found a village with people in it. They silently looked at one another, and the plan sprang into action. Petra swooped down savagely pecking at people and as they fled, Rim and Red raided the livestock. Soon after Rim and Red gave the signal, they all ran and ate at a nearby cave. They all were drowsy after the raid on the village so they fell asleep.

The Golden Skull looked at all the damage caused by Rims gang. He looked at the scientists’ walled around the lava splotch on the floor. “Well?” he boomed “How can insolent dinosaurs, ever shoot fire?” “We don’t know sir” said a scientist in a hazard suit. “They appear to have gained a few unintended side effects because of the missing DNA that the scientist replaced with the bombarding beetles.” The Golden Skull looked at the large glob of lava on the floor realizing what he was truly going against.

Rim remembered being in the cave the last time he was awake. So why was the floor so cold? His eyes snapped open. He was in a large metal dome with a menacing looking hybrid. Its body was like his except more longer and skinnier, and it had a large spine on its back. Its snout was long and its claws were at least one foot long! He froze, wondering where his cannon were. He urgently looked around, and saw his friends beside him. The monster then lunged at him but hit an invisible barrier. Red got out of his crouching position. Suddenly a grand voice sounded: “Ladies and gentlemen, today we give you a three versus one battle. The three new comers are going to get an official name if they can beat the current dominator, Spike!!!” Wild applause echoed

through the dome and the audience could be seen by the dinosaurs inside. He then said, "Run". They tore across the arena and smashed their way across the wall which actually was very hard, but then the invisible barrier was lowered and Spike charged after them and yelled at them. The three friends broke through wall after wall and soon they reached the outer most barriers. This would require their secret weapon. Petra shot a tornado of fire at the wall and they escaped through the melted part of the wall. Spike lunged out and caught Red in his hooked teeth. Red collapsed but Rim swung his tail and Spike fell off with a new gash in his flank. He shouted, "Stop I'm on your side!!!" Rim looked doubtfully at the gasping dinosaur. "You seemed to be trying to kill us, not help us."

"Well, I had to keep my disguise up or they would suspect something. So I had to look like I was trying to kill you but I actually want to help you. I went under cover for your parents (who are alive and well) to tell you that I can help bust your parents out and save the planet from collapsing." said Spike.

"Well" said Petra "You can trust him, let him stay here or KILLING HIM BECAUSE HE KILLED MY DAD!!!"

Chapter Four

"Wait a moment, he killed your dad?" Rim said.

"I would never do such a thing!" protested Spike

"Then who was that ring champion that was pitted against my father and won?" squawked Petra. "Who else killed my father but the legendary Spike? You killed him and you know it.

Spike looked guilty and said, "Well he actually attacked first and I can show you how to avenge his death, by using a type of weapon that is on the paradise on an island known as the silver skull island.

Red said, "Well, all in favor of going to silver Skull Island raises your claw in the air."

Soon they were swimming in a warm ocean heading to a small island in the middle of the sea of peace. They soon reached the island. It was a glorious island with silver sand and warm skies. A robot rolled over and said, "Welcome, Golden Skull." Spike whispered to the three, "The

robot is broken so it thinks that everyone is the Golden Skull.” The robot then said, “I will await your orders.” The three shook of all of the cold water and they rested in the nearby sunny cave. They caught fish in the river and they soon were warm and drowsy. Then the sun set into the nearby hill. The group of adventurers then slept in the sand confident that no one would find them. Spike volunteered to take the night watch. Petra kept waking up in a cold sweat keep on remembering that her father’s killer was watching over them.

Soon she heard a soft pattering, much too heavy for a lizard or any other native creature. She peeked out of the cave and saw with her own eyes the killer Spike walking into a narrow passage way and then he turned a right and he vanished!

She blinked and then realized it was an optical illusion. The wall was actually in front of the rest of the cave, giving the appearance that he was walking through a wall. She followed through the hidden slot in the real wall and slid down a chute. She maneuvered carefully and each wing almost hitting the sides of the chute. She saw Spike sliding down and jumping into the chamber. She knew something was suspicious so she turned back and flew as fast as she could to Rim.

Somehow, Spike had somehow got there quicker than her. Spike had just finished saying “So you see there are many advantages of living on the island as opposed to the instance of rushing in to the dreaded Golden Skull’s drill.” They all looked up as Petra flapped and landed on the sand next to them. Petra said, “We need to leave now, he set up a trap.” while glaring at Spike. Spike looked at them and said, “I would never do such a thing,” but he was cut short by the robot, now saying, “The trap is sprung, now thanks to Spike, we will punish you!!!” “We should leave now.” said Rim. They ran and then the island collapsed into the water and they held on to a rock and then the island had submerged.

Chapter Five

They swam near the coast, thankful that the whirlpool caused by the sinking island had not pulled them in to an uncertain fate. They rested on the coast where the cliffs sheltered them from unwanted eyes. They sat there; chests’ heaving for the trip back to the main land was very

burdened by the current of the whirl pool. They eventually got enough energy to talk. Red slept in a shady corner as the two friends conferred. “We should go attack now as we already are delayed by the island.” said Rim.

“No, we should make a plan first on how to attack.”

“That’s fair enough.”

“So I think while I scout, you should be prepared to launch an attack.”

“No thank you, I don’t want to waste my time pacing on a ledge waiting for you to come back. You know how impatient I am.”

“Well what other plan do you have?”

Since you can fly, you could drop me off in the base and you can join me and together we bust everything up.”

“Umm, you weigh about five times more than me and if I have to carry Red too, that would be more of a crash than a landing.”

“Well what about that?”

Petra looked around to see what Rim had gestured at. He then saw a giant golden blimp crawling its way down to a nearby cliff.

Chapter Six

The Golden Skull looked dumb founded at the picture of the Supply blimp. He burst out laughing. “Look at these dim witted dinosaurs all grouped together! It the evacuation chamber no less! Well, this will be an interesting. Tell the blimp to flush out the stowaways.

One second Rim was on the blimp and the next he bulleted through the air and was free falling he roared in fright and went into a horrifying spin. Petra was caught off guard but she soon recovered from free falling. She plunged into a dive and caught the two giant dinosaurs and struggled to direct them to the ground safely but those gunshots echoed through the sky. Petra was forced hide behind a giant golden skull hovering in the air and crashed into the central floor. Rim looked up dazed from the fall. Rim saw the drill on a screen. He looked around and saw a red button. He also saw the Golden Skull and a huge army of robots standing between him and the red button which he knew was important by the way they were all standing protectively in front of it. He saw his friends’

unconscious from the heavy fall and knew he had to fight the Golden Skull alone.

The Golden Skull started to talk. "I am the richest one on this planet. You are a weak undergrown lizard. And after I get the iron from the center of the earth, I will be even richer. And the only thing that stands in my way is an undergrowth lizard that is alone." Rim talked through clenched teeth. "I know I am small. However, small things can make towers topple." The Golden Skull flinched but recovered. Rim hopped for a better response but now he knew what made him anxious. "Take me down if you can. You stand alone against the most numerous armies in existence with the best technology and you only have, oh, ten minutes before my drill reaches the center of the earth." said the Golden Skull. Rim replied "Gladly".

He charged but Skullys blocked his path. He swiped at them with his tail. The whole first row fell over and Rim jumped. He lunged at the button but a Skully attacked his unconscious friends. He attacked the Skully but the Skully jumped on him. He pain almost made Rim blackout. He shook it off and pushed a table that knocked down a swarm of Skull Bots. He kept on battling in this manner for five agonizing minutes as the drill slowly got closer to the core of the earth. However, for every one he killed, ten more appeared and soon he was over whelmed by the sheer number of robots attacking him. The Golden Skull looked triumphantly looked at Rim struggling under the pile of robots massing on him. "Let him see me face to face" commanded the Golden Skull. The robots parted enough that Rim could glare at the victorious man standing right in front of him.

"You really thought that you could stop me from getting what I wanted? I am the most powerful being that has ever existed on earth and you are my creation. I will drain this planet from all its resources and move to the next one." The Golden Skull gloated over his victory but he looked around and saw Rims friends standing defiantly behind the pile. All of the robots got off and charged at them. The Golden Skull was shouting angrily at the robots. "Don't get them; they are not important, get back on

him!!!” But it was too late; Rim got up and shot a blast of lava at the Golden Skull. The red streak of molten rock arced through the air and landed on the floating platform the Golden Skull was on. Rim said, “I could have killed you there you know. Be thankful” He shouted and the platform lurched and dropped him and the control panel. He hit the red button and hidden speakers blared out an alarm. The Golden Skull took out a pistol and aimed it at Rim. The bullet bounced off of Rims armor and hit the Golden Skulls leg. The Golden Skulls lair collapsed and the dome underneath it all opened. The earth was saved and the dinosaurs where free. They streamed out never looking back, and the picture of the drill showed the drill melting. The Golden Skull shook his fist at the heavens and shouted a stream of curses. The building collapsed on fire streaming to the ground, with Rim and the Golden Skull in it.

Chapter Seven

Rim awoke in a small cave. He poked his head out and saw a multitude of all types of dinosaurs outside. When they saw him, they all broke into roars. He was aware that Red and Petra where at the front, as well as his parents. He smiled and looked at all the vast combinations on the platform below him. They all walked up to him congratulating him. He shrank in fear as the huge dinosaurs crowded around him congratulating him in their own way. He thanked them all and then saw his friends approaching. He walked up to them and they greeted each other. Petra said, “Your plan actually worked better than I thought it would, I thought we would be discovered and thrown out!”

“Well, that actually did happen.” said Red

“Well, sooner than it actually happened.” Said Petra

“Did you see me make that shot?” shouted Red over the other dinosaurs that were now partying on the lakes shore.

“What shot?” asked Rim and Petra at the same time.

Red proudly exclaimed, “I shot some lava that melted the ceiling of the building that we were in and the result was that we rolled out just in time!”

“Now we can all shoot fire? That is a huge improvement!” Petra exclaimed.

“What happened to the Golden Skull?” asked Rim.

“We don’t know but for now we should just relax and party!!!!” shouted Red. They all forgot about their troubles and played until the following night and day was over.

Chapter Eight

Rim looked at the ruins of the science lab. The people had fled with everything leaving the place completely to the dinosaurs. He gathered all the hybrids around and said “The humans have fled! The land is now ours to live in. from now on, we will not hurt any living thing unless for food, and we will live in our paradise. This will be our new age, one where we are free from any grip or cage; we are now our own dinosaur.” His speech was met with a loud clamor. All the dinosaurs roared, stomped, or flapped their wings. Red and Petra walked up to him.

“That was a nice speech you made there!” congratulated Red.

“Where did you learn to do all of this fancy speaking?” asked Petra.

“Well” said Rim, pink with embarrassment. “I just stated what I thought what would happen and what I think should be our goals.”

“Well, those are some good goals.”

Years later his new mate, Clisp, peaked out of the cave. She saw Rim and walked up to him. “Well,” she said in a bright voice that had attracted Rim in the first place, “I have some good news for you!” Rim followed and what he saw was amazing, a nest of ten eggs.

The End

Heroes never truly die for they are preserved in the things they have done.
-Andrew Cho 2004-?