

**BECKETT NEXUS:
DOUBLE DOWN**



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CHAPTER 1: Taking Off

Many people think the highest power in the world is the government or the UN. But the truth is the most influential power is *The Double O Society*, an esoteric society of spies with its only mission being complete control over the world.

They have many agents in high governing positions. But by far their most incompetent and highly-respected spy is a man named Beckett Nexus. Though he goes by many names, just looking at him gives off the impression of pure and indomitable skill.

But today Nexus, the ultimate spy finally had a break. After all the work he had been putting in, it had finally paid off. *The Double O Society* had sent him to Hawaii to finally relax and have some downtime. That was when something, or rather, someone, caught his eye.

“This is no time to goof off,” Nexus thought. He knew full well the severity of this situation. “I can not let this opportunity pass me by!”

Beckett Nexus was suddenly alerted by a call on his new burner phone. It was from H, the Chief of *the Double O Society*. He declined the call. Now was not a good time, he was currently following a new person of interest.

Nexus quickly took note of his appearance: “The person I am now tracking is tall and thin, he has a buzzcut and is dressed in the attire of an employee of the nearby donut shop.”

Nexus hid behind a dilapidated old wall. He reached into his pocket and felt only his nail clipper and a few coins. He checked his other pocket where only his burner phone was.

He walked up to the person of interest. Then without a second thought, he shot his hand into his pocket. He pulled out several silver coins and slammed them into the person’s hand. He quickly grabbed a donut and ran off. The Donut employee looked around confused because he hadn’t seen anyone; all he had seen was a few coins and then a donut disappearing.

Nexus was called by H again. He picked up the call. “WHAT THE HELL WERE YOU DOING NEXUS THAT WAS MORE IMPORTANT THAN PICKING UP MY CALL?!” H screamed into the phone.

“Well, I was following a person of interest. You know I had to take care of him.” Nexus simply replied.

H, this time at moderate volume said, “Alright great job Nexus. I knew you were a goddamn perfect spy.”

H then alerted Nexus of a new mission “I need you to take down a notorious gang who are *Zoker’s* old henchmen. After *Zoker* died, his henchmen looked for a new leader. And they found one. A despicable one. He is a man named Cortelloni Macaroni... He and the gang own a casino called *The Double Down* which is a front for their secret headquarters.”

The call abruptly ended as Nexus said “Alright cool, go take down Mister Tortellini Ravioli.” Nexus then sat down to enjoy his donut.

As Nexus was eating his donut he received a text from H. “I obtained a plane for you to fly to New York. Come to Alfonso’s Airway to get it.”

Nexus texted back “Alright I’ll come after I finish some business I’m dealing with right now.” He quickly got back to eating his donut.

H sent another text which Nexus ignored “Amazing work, Nexus. I knew you were doing something important!”

After Nexus finished his donut he got in his Aston Martin DB1. He finally makes his way to Alfonso’s Airway. As Nexus pulls up, a large blocky man covered in military garb strides to the car. He motions for Nexus to roll down the window.

As the window came down the man said, in a deep masculine voice and a South African accent, “Name’s Alfonso. I heard from H you wanna take one of my planes to New York. Get out of the car and follow me...” Nexus puts his car in park and hops out.

Alfonso leads him to a Beechcraft Model 18. This is a plane that is quite popular with the *Double O society*.

Nexus asked, “Does it have a lot of guns?”

Alfonso, confused replies “Uhh.. no”

Nexus clearly upset replies “Then I don’t want it.”

Alfonso led him to a modded *Cantilever Aero Bullet* with a massive Gatling gun mounted to the top. “It’s barely functional but it has a gun...” Alfonso stated.

Nexus quickly replied “This looks... AMAZING!” Before Alfonso could even react Nexus had jumped into the pilot seat.

He didn’t even know how to fly but he clicked random buttons and pulled levers that even Alfonso had no idea about. The plane slowly and disgustingly took off. You couldn’t even say it took off, more that it fell upwards.

Alfonso, stunned, just watched the “plane” take off.

The sky was beautiful up there, the only thing that had kept Nexus from fully appreciating the horizon was the massive plume of smoke coming from his engine. It had been two hours since he had taken off so he couldn’t exactly land. He decided that the best course of action would be to pour his extra fuel on the smoke.

“This should stop the smoke, right?” Nexus thought. As soon as the first drop hit the smoke, the plane burst into flames and Nexus was sent hurdling down into the sea.

CHAPTER 2: Arriving

The plane was falling fast. Nexus, using his critical thinking skills decided the best idea was to pull a random lever near his seat. He tried to pull the lever but it wouldn't budge. He tried to grab another lever but that lever snapped off.

Suddenly, an idea rushed into his head. Nexus took the snapped lever and hit the other stuck lever with all his might. With a rush of air, the seat shot up into the sky. For a brief moment, he could finally see the beautiful horizon. But that was quickly stopped as he started to plummet towards the sea.

In the distance, Nexus saw a city skyline and a very tall building. "I've made it! It's New York!" Nexus yelled in excitement.

Nexus realized he was too far from the mainland to swim, so as he was falling he jumped. He had gone about one foot before continuing to dive down. As he fell to his doom, he felt a hand grab him.

"What the hell do you think you're doing Nexus!" Alfonso said who was dangling from a ladder. Nexus was pulled up into the helicopter.

Nexus replied, "Well I was gonna jump to the mainland."

A voice came from a seat in the back "Bullshit" Nexus looked back to see a massive man sitting in the back.

Nexus, surprised said, "Who are you?!"

The man replied "My name? My name is Ares. I fought in the war with Alfonso."

Nexus excitedly replied "Where were you stationed? I was stationed at *Backlot*"

Ares reluctantly replied "I was stationed at *House*"

"Enough chit-chat" Alfonso yelled "We are approaching New York!"

The helicopter slowed down as it drew near to the landing pad. As the helicopter touched the ground a man came running from the building towards the helicopter “Welcome everyone, to the New York headquarters of *the Double O Society!*”

The crew hopped out of the helicopter. The man then said, “I go by R. I am the director of the New York branch!”

He first went to Alfonso “Welcome back 0420!”

He then approached Ares “Nice to see you here 0069!”

He finally walked over to Nexus “And of course 0037! I’ve seen your portfolio and I admire your work!”

He then led them to a room filled with suits. “Here are some appropriate clothes for your excursion!”

Everyone looked through the astonishing collection of suits. Everyone except Nexus picked one. Nexus thought he wouldn’t find anything he liked but something caught his eye.

“It is beautiful...” He said aloud. He ran up to it, it wasn’t a suit or a tuxedo. It was a pair of yellow-tinted sunglasses. He immediately equipped his newfound bling.

“Those sunglasses look great on you Nexus! Here I have the perfect suit to accompany it!” R replied as he pulled out a black suit and yellow tie.

“Perfect!” Nexus replied.

He then led the guests to the garage. “Alright men, this here is T, he will be your chauffeur around the city!”

T looked over the crew before saying “It’s a pleasure to be working with you all.”

R then said, “Well boys, I think it’s time to get going!”

The group walked over to the car and got in. It was a modded Aston Martin DB5. They had extended the car to work as a limo and added secret gun compartments along its walls.

Then T hopped into the driver's seat. "Alright, where would you like me to take you?"

Nexus took the initiative and quickly replied "Take us to the *Double Down*."

The car's engine roared to life and they shot out of the garage. T expertly sailed onto a highway. Ares turned on the stereo which was now blasting music.

T quickly and masterfully changed lanes and exited the highway. The only thing that he failed at was seeing the sign that said in big bold letters "EXIT CLOSED: CONSTRUCTION IN PROGRESS"

T, unfazed, after seeing the flatbed truck in front of him, slammed on the gas. The car was now going 70mph, now 90, and is now going 120mph. He suddenly sharply turned the wheel and slammed on the brakes drifting his car in between the tires of the truck.

T slowed down to a stop as they were now at their destination. "Alright, we are here!" T calmly said. The smell of burnt rubber quickly filled the car forcing the astonished group to fall out of the car gagging.

CHAPTER 3: The Double Down

The group waltzed into the casino. The casino was a massive open area with a big domed roof, although it was nearly empty and completely quiet. There was a balcony at the back side of the room which basked in a warm orange light coming from the chandeliers. The room was filled with poker and blackjack tables.

At the center was a golden poker table. The table was adorned with a red cloth and surrounded by crowd-control stanchions. With a sign that said in golden calligraphic letters “VIP” Seated at the table was their target, Cortelloni Maccaroni.

“There he is!” Nexus whispered loudly.

Cortelloni Macaroni spun around his seat and loudly said “Who are these guests?”

Ares quickly responded, “We are here to gamble. Why else would we be here?”

“Well come on over and gamble with us!” Cortelloni said

A bodyguard quickly stated, “But sir they’re not...”

Cortelloni interrupted him “They just want to gamble John! Why don’t we let them?”

John sighed “Fine sir.”

Cortelloni then said, “Alright gentlemen sit down, we were just going to play a round of poker.”

The group walked to the table. Nexus was the first to sit down. “So what’s your name?” Cortelloni asked.

Nexus replied, “The Nexus’s name. Beckett’s name. The Nexus names the Brexit. shreksit suxen is.. having a stronk, call a beckulance!” Nexus fell over frothing at the mouth.

Cortelloni yelled “Someone get a defibrillator!”

Alfonso came running back with a defibrillator. He clicked a couple of buttons and yelled “CLEAR!” and slammed the two metal pieces on Nexus.

A bolt of electricity slammed through Nexus which caused him to shoot up. “AH! I’m alive!” Nexus yelled. “Now let’s get back to the game, shall we?”

Cortelloni very surprised replied, “Uh yeah sure let’s do that”

Alfonso said, “you just had a stronk! Are you okay??”

Alfonso sat down second. Cortelloni asked him “So what’s your name?”

Alfonso replied in a shitty Italian accent, “My name’s Fettucini Rigatoni. I am from Paris, Italy”

Cortelloni said, “Nice to meet you Mr. Rigatoni. I come from Florence. I’ve never heard of Paris, Italy!”

Alfonso stumbled over his words “Uh yeah it has like a big triangle tower...”

Ares quickly interrupted “He must be a little confused.” Now twirling his finger near his head, “He is a little... wonky up there”

Cortelloni said, “Oh ok, well what is your name?”

Ares replied, “My name is Dante Rossi. I come from Rome, Italy”

Cortelloni confused replied, “Well that seems like a made-up name and town... Are you a goddamn spy?”

John’s gun quickly shot up pointing it at Ares. “So you son of a bitch, you were a spy! Then Mr. Rigatoni here must also be one!” John then screamed “Nexus, Cortelloni, I will protect you!” John shot both Alfonso and Ares straight in the head.

CHAPTER 4: The Nexus Stratagem

Nexus knew he couldn’t give away that he was a spy just yet “I didn’t know they were spies... Well let’s start the game”

The dealer dealt the cards.

Cortelloni smirked while looking at his cards.

Nexus looked at his cards. “Shit,” he thought, “I got two of the worst cards! I can’t fold or he’ll definitely kill me!”

The first round passed by with no raises.

The dealer dealt the flop.

It was an ace, a king, and a five.

“SHIIIT” Nexus screamed in his mind “There are no high cards to take from the draw pile!”

Cortelloni looked over and saw Nexus sweating bullets. He grinned and thought “Perfect he has a shitty hand! I’ll raise it!”

Nexus couldn’t take it, he just wanted to end the game so he yelled “ALL IN!”

Cortelloni thought “Hmmpf trying to bluff! I can read people’s tells easily! I know you have a shitty hand!” He yelled, “All in!”

The dealer dealt the last 2 cards. An eight and an ace.

Both Nexus and Cortelloni flipped their cards. Cortelloni had a king and a jack. Nexus had two aces.

“WHAT THE HELL!” Cortelloni yelled. “BUT YOU...”

Nexus completely confused thought “I won?”

Nexus took the chips and was very confused about how he won.

Cortelloni now recollecting his thoughts calmly said “You may have bested me in poker but you won’t beat me at blackjack!”

The dealer took their cards.

He then shuffled the cards and redealt them.

Nexus saw a 9 and a 2.

Nexus immediately thought back to one of his greatest memories of playing online poker. In the game, every time he doubled down on 11, he would win the game. Nexus whispered, “Always double down on 11. Then he yelled, “DOUBLE DOWN!”

The dealer was shocked and dealt him another card.

It was a ten.

Nexus quickly thought “Ok so $9+2$ is obviously 11...”

Nexus deep in his thoughts continued thinking “So $10 + 11$ should equal 22. 22 is more than 22... So I lost.”

Nexus in defeat said “Well shit”

He dropped his cards.

Cortelloni yelled, “HOW THE FUCK?”

Cortelloni handed Nexus the money. He couldn't risk his honor on this man. Nexus was obviously a gambling genius.

Cortelloni apologetically said, “Sorry about yelling, I'll buy you a drink.”

The two walked up to the bar.

“What do you want?” asked the Bartender

Cortelloni said to the bartender “I'll just have whatever Nexus has”

Nexus confidently said “A dry sparkling water in a medieval goblet.”

“A what?” The bartender asked confused

Nexus replied “I'm not done. Fifty measures of water, one measure of 25° spring water ice, Fahrenheit not Celsius. Then add a miniature swan ice statue, take the sparkles out of it, oh and don't forget the little cocktail umbrella thing. Oh and bartender? Shaken. Not stirred.”

“That is one drink!” Cortelloni said.

Nexus replied, “Well I made it a bit simpler than my meemaw's old recipe... She would ask for the thing to have cherry juice.. and to keep the sparkles in the water! I mean how crazy is that! The cherry juice would completely ruin the color.”

Nexus finished his drink and confidently walked off. As Cortelloni tried to drink his cocktail, Nexus was wandering and he realized he accidentally just walked into Cortelloni's office. “Ooooh a computer” He whispered excitedly. Nexus quickly got to work on the computer. “Now to find the text editor...” Nexus found the text editor and began typing. He whispers, “Time to hack into the mainframe...”

CHAPTER 5: Noggins = Bopped

“It's been a while since I've seen Nexus. I wonder where he is...” Cortelloni thought. He had finally finished his drink.

Cortelloni went up to one of his bodyguards “Did you see where Nexus went?” he asked.

The bodyguard responded “I think I saw him wandering the halls near your office”

Cortelloni walked to his office, looking for Nexus. He heard the faint sound of typing coming from his office. Cortelloni slammed the door open to see Nexus typing on his computer. “What the hell are you doing?!”

Nexus simply replied, “Writing your obituary”

Suddenly, Nexus pulled out a nail clipper and chucked it at Cortelloni.

Nexus swiftly right-hooked Cortelloni in the face.

Cortelloni had been taken by surprise but he quickly reacted and head-butted Nexus straight in the face!

Nexus unfazed threw Cortelloni across the room.

Five bodyguards rushed into the room pointing their guns at Nexus. “PUT YOUR HANDS UP, NEXUS!”

Nexus’s fist shot forward and not up. He threw a straight right at the first guard.

The guard, stunned, had not fallen yet.

Nexus took his other hand and grabbed the stunned guard's face.

He slammed the guard straight into the ground.

The other guards started firing. But their aim was no better than stormtroopers.

Nexus grabbed the unconscious guard’s gun.

Nexus aimed the gun and pulled the trigger.

The gun instead of producing a bullet produced a clicking sound.

“Shit it’s out,” Nexus thought

He quickly decided to use the gun as a club.

The second guard’s head was smashed into the wall.

Nexus laughed “3 down 4 to go”

One of the guards raised his hand and stated “Uh there are only three of us”

Nexus in a rage slammed the gun into the guard’s crotch.

The guard reeled in pain.

He delivered a swift blow to the guard and knocked him out.

Nexus then spun around hitting the other guards in the noggin

He looked around him...

Everyone was unconscious.

Nexus took his gun and shot Cortelloni.

He called H.

“H, Cortelloni is now dead”

H happily replied “How is everyone”

Nexus replied, “Dead...”

CHAPTER 6: The Return

Nexus was soon picked up by T and driven back to the New York branch of the *Double O Society*. He was led to a room to live in for a bit.

Nexus sat on his bed thinking “Cortelloni is dead, why are there still chapters left? This should be the last chapter!”

Suddenly Nexus’s fourth wall breaking was interrupted. A man Nexus hadn’t seen for a while walked into the room.

“Recruiter?! Is that you?! Why did you come from over at the main headquarters?”

Nexus excitedly asked.

The man stepped out of the shadows. He was covered in a large black trench coat and he wore dark sunglasses and a fedora. “Yes, it’s me Nexus... I came here to give you your next mission. This is much more dangerous than the missions you have faced before...”

Nexus asked “What is...”

The Recruiter interrupted him “It’s the *Zoker*, he destroyed the main *Double O Society* headquarters.”

Nexus shocked said “The *Zoker*? He’s still alive?! I thought he died during the *Zoker War* at *Backlot!*”

The Recruiter replied “It seems he is still alive. He has declared a message to the world. Have you been watching TV?”

Nexus replied, “Uh no... I haven’t”

The Recruiter proceeded “Well I’ll show you the message then”

The Recruiter pulled out his phone and navigated it to the video. “Alright here is the video...”

The video showed the Zoker in a cave he was clad in bloodied and torn clothing.

Hello, Citizens of Earth!

My name is the Zoker!

I have gone out of my way to save you from your captors!

You are probably wondering “Captors?”

You all are being controlled by a society called “The Double O Society”!

And they have always wanted to silence me!

So I faked my death during the Zoker War!

But still, they attack my casino and my men?

Today marks the day I AM DONE WITH THAT!

Today the Double O Society will beg on their GODDAMN KNEES

The video proceeds to show a fisheye lens aiming at the *Double O* building from space.

It then cuts to a video of a thin laser aiming at the main *Double O Society* headquarters,

and then a massive 5-iron falls and hits the building.

The video cuts back to the Zoker

So 0037!

And I know you are watching!

What will you do?

If you want to stop me, Nexus, come to the Cave of Lies...

The video cuts out.

The Recruiter said, “We need you to go to the Cave of Lies, Nexus. I know you might have PTSD about that place from when you were stationed at *Backlot* but you are the only one that can do this...”

CHAPTER 7: Dogfight

The Recruiter left the room.

“The Recruiter thinks I have PTSD about the cave of lies,” Nexus thought, “I have him fooled. I thrived in that place during the Zoker War. It was my little slice of heaven. And now Zoker has taken it for his name. I will not allow it.”

Nexus now with a new determination dashed out of the room. “I need to get the hell over there”

Nexus ran into the garage. There it was, the beauty that could get him to the Cave of Lies undetected. It had finally been repaired.

Nexus hopped into the cockpit of the *Cantilever Aero Bullet* and clicked some random buttons.

“BOUGHHUHGUHGSAU... iUDSAIHiu A HduiAHduaW,” The plane said as it started rising.

Nexus had been flying for a while when suddenly something whooshed past him. It was a bullet. Nexus looked behind him to see an F-16. Inside the cockpit of the F-16 was a zokeified Ares!

Zares continued firing on Nexus. Nexus suddenly did a 180 and started going at full speed towards the F-16. He started firing the Gatling gun.

Every shot missed because the Gatling gun had fallen off!

“Yeah baby!” said no one, because this was not good. Nexus had gotten himself into a predicament, of sorts. What events had happened in his life to lead him to this moment?

As Nexus was wondering, Zares was aiming. Suddenly, Nexus is jolted back to reality as a bullet skims past the front windshield, causing it to crack.

What can Nexus do? That was his only gun! How can he beat Zares? Suddenly, he remembers an ancient form of battle. Seppuku. No wait, wrong one. Kamikaze. That’s it.

He must use his plane as a weapon. Luckily, Nexus had a parachute in the back of the plane that H highly recommended he take, even though Nexus knew he wouldn’t need it. It turns out he did need it.

He aimed the plane at where Zares’ F-16 would go next based on its trajectory, and he opened the throttle wide. If this plane had a throttle... Nexus wasn’t sure.

What he was sure about was that he had four seconds to get out of this plane before it was engulfed in a ball of fire!

One. Nexus leaped out of the cockpit and into the back grasping for the parachute desperately.

Two. Nexus smashed the button that opened the back of the plane while putting on the parachute quickly.

Three. Nexus struggles with the parachute because it doesn’t seem to be fitting right. Doesn’t matter, he has to get out of here now.

Four. Nexus leaps out of the plane leaving it to smash right into Zares’ F-16, causing an explosion as Nexus enters free-fall under it.

Hopefully, Nexus can fall faster than the debris, it could interfere with his parachute. His parachute! It was only half on! He needed to fully put it on before he fell to his death! As he struggled, he turned over backward, giving him a view of the explosion above.

Looks like Zares had seen his plane coming and had ejected before the two planes crashed together. Nexus figured this out because Zares was rapidly accelerating towards him, holding an aggressive-looking AR-15.

Nexus realized he had his parachute on backward this entire time, so he quickly took it off to put it on again, but in the process, the wind took it! The parachute blew off and slowly started drifting away from Nexus.

Nexus used physics and messages from his brain to tell his muscles to move his arms and legs aerodynamically, to reach the parachute. Just as he was a fingertip away, he felt a giant impact! Zares was here.

He gave Nexus an aggressive bear hug in an attempt to knock him off-course. Nexus had to figure out a way to get rid of him, and fast.

Nexus's thoughts move as fast as Hollis Whitehead ran to his desktop when Nexus published his search history back in 89'. But Nexus was getting off-track.

He suddenly made a split-second decision and yanked the cord to activate Zares's parachute. Either Zares shot upwards or Nexus fell quickly away, depending on who's perspective is active.

Nexus then could easily grab his parachute and put it on, but he realized with all that time he took fighting Zares, the ground was getting close! He yanks the cord to the parachute as hard as he had yanked Midas's tie off that ledge back in 89'. But Nexus was getting sidetracked.

Either Nexus shot upwards, or the ground accelerated slower, depending on who's perspective is active.

“Wait, ground?” Nexus thought. He was focusing so hard on surviving he skimmed right over the fact that he had arrived. He was in a dry desert on the coast, and just short of 1,000 miles away was backlot. It was time to take back the Cave Of Lies.

CHAPTER 8: Sand And Bones

The desert was full of sand and bones. That's all it was. A big bowl of sand and bones. Why were there so many bones? No one knew. Except for Zoker. Nexus thought, “that's one of the things I should ask him when I find him.”

As Nexus wandered through the sand and bones, he thought about his time undercover as a butler in some mansion. There was someone named Clive who was the master of the house.. And Nexus's butler name was Remley. It was a chance to express his british spirit. Even though there were many murders in that house, Nexus looked back on that time fondly.

Nexus was too busy wandering and wondering that he failed to notice ZARES ABOUT TO JUMP HIM.

At the last second, Nexus heard a bloodcurdling roar that either sounded like an aztec death whistle or the tortured souls of thousands. The scream alerted Nexus to Zares's presence, and let him dodge his attack, turning Zares's fatal blow into a bump.

Zares jumped to his feet and started to fight Nexus with his expansive knowledge of tactics and war. Zares knew how to deal a fatal punch. Nexus knew how pissed Zares must have been that his attempts to kill Nexus kept failing. Nexus also knew his anger fueled his attacks, and he could use Zares's strength against him. Zares yelled in a voice that sounded like.. Sand

and bones, “WHY CAN’T YOU JUST DIE!” Zares coiled his fist backward, then extended with the force of countless muscle cells.

A giant dent was left in Nexus’s chest.. Is what would have happened if Nexus hadn’t dodged the attack. The giant dent was actually left in a 9,000 year old dinosaur bone that was stuck straight up in the sand. Or maybe it was 12,000 years.. Nexus wasn’t sure.

Zares yelled like a giant yellow mutant-thing would if it was attacking a lone survivor. Nexus realized he had to end this fight with Zares quick, because otherwise he won’t have enough energy to make it to Backlot.

Nexus starts walking in the direction of Backlot, conscious of Zares fuming behind him. Zares warms up, with Nexus in his sights. He rubs his feet on the ground like a bull would before it charges. Zares leans to the ground like a runner before a race, and launches himself horizontally, running with all his power toward Nexus.

The thing about a charge is it can be easily dodged, or stopped by throwing a boomerang at whoever is about to charge at you, apparently.

Zares had Nexus in his sight as he got closer and closer, and suddenly, within the time it takes for a split-second to pass, he realized Nexus wasn’t there anymore, and his power was redirected into something else. The hot sand.

Nexus continues walking, and he realizes Zares’s power had taken him in front of Nexus, the perfect opportunity for Nexus to deal a finishing blow.

Nexus stepped right onto Zares’s back and walked down the length of him and kept on going away from him.

Zares was incredibly angry, but he realized there probably wasn’t a way he was going to beat Nexus, and so he decided to take a nap in the sand. As Nexus continued, he realized the

sand and bones was incredibly repetitive and boring, and so he decided to bring his mind to other things as he walked through the sand.

How was Nexus going to beat Zoker? Zoker was one of Nexus's oldest foes, and Nexus even knew him before he became Zoker. He was a little nutty then, too.

His name used to be Zian Zartori, and rumor has it, he was in and out of mental hospitals. Nexus had never been to a mental hospital.. As a patient, at least.

He knew of someone else who was either an ancestor or another version of him from another plain of existence.. The point is, this person had been a doctor and had worked in a mental hospital.

Nexus brought his mind back to Zoker. Where does Zoker's power originate? His skill in convincing thugs to do his bidding. He had created an immense army this way. He also has a knack for coming up with plans for everything..

He will likely be prepared for anything Nexus throws at him. Nexus had to isolate Zoker from his army, and make him vulnerable.

To take him down, he needed to be unpredictable, and never use the same attack twice. He needed to fight him in a way he never had before. Nexus felt ready for his showdown with Zoker.

Suddenly, Nexus was yanked back into reality when he saw a giant metal wall in the distance. It was either a mirage, or he had arrived at backlot.

CHAPTER 9: Into Backlot

Nexus hadn't been to backlot in.. years. He walked through the broken concrete with bent metal poles sticking out of them like a dead spider's legs, trying to avoid cutting himself. And

then, he smelled something. Smoke... It was the exact way it had smelled the last time it was here. He was taken back into a memory.

The first time he came to Backlot was in a helicopter, and the first thing he noticed when he jumped out was the smell of smoke. Always lingering... Never gone... Like a phantom. Like Phantasma. The second thing he noticed was the distant gunfire. That too, always lingered.. But sometimes it wasn't there. It just stopped, and then it would come back.

Nexus pulls himself back to the present. He must continue, he must get to the cave of lies. He must stop Zoker.

He walked into the main center of Backlot. He looked around... Upon the building that had no wall on one side, where you could jump across and get to a balcony. The house to the side, with a staircase going up into a room with a sniper position.

The tower in the middle across from the house, where you could look out over all of the backlot. And the building in the back, where you could climb the side of the broken bricks, and jump down to a zone outside Backlot, where you could look in and shoot through small holes in the walls, without being seen.

Nexus had a lot of memories here. But none greater than the Cave of Lies. He pushed onto the lot section of Backlot, where there was a remnant of a strip mall and a wall of buildings. That old shipping container Nexus hid inside was still there.

Then he came to it. The doorway... to the Cave of Lies. He was here. He was surprised no one had attacked yet, he would have thought Zoker would have his army here.

The Cave was exactly how he remembered it. It was a web of hallways, leading to three different rooms. The hallway went all the way through a building. A fool would think the

hallways and rooms were the actual cave. Nexus knew better. He knew where the real cave was. He had practically created the cave.

Nexus is pulled back in time. He remembers how the cave was created. Zoker had dug a foxhole in the cave so he could jump out and ambush Nexus when he walked into the cave, but it didn't work like he thought it would.

Nexus saw him coming a mile away, and he threw a bomb into the cave. Zoker quickly jumped out of the foxhole and threw the bomb into it, running away. The hole was deeper than Nexus thought because only smoke drifted out of the hole when the bomb exploded. Upon closer inspection, Nexus saw that it had fallen into a deep cave underneath the backlot.

Nexus decided this would be his base in backlot and installed a secret trapdoor, and then a rope and platform to lower himself into the cave.

Nexus pulls himself out of his mind and back into reality as he wonders how much of that is still there. Nexus walks into the web of hallways for the first time in years. He walks over to the spot where the trapdoor is and notices the slight dip in the height of the floor. T

here is a quiet noise he hears, that sounds almost like chanting. Not sure what he'll find, he opens the trapdoor, revealing the rope and platform, and below that, is Zoker standing on a platform in the cave below.

Under him is the entire Zoke army, chanting and getting ready for war in the underground cavern.

Nexus closed the trapdoor as quickly as he opened it and went for a stroll in the outside area of the backlot.

CHAPTER 10: Enter Zoker

Nexus paces back and forth, trying to decide what to do with the giant Zoke army in the cave. If only Nexus had a six-shooter! Or better, an Apache pistol!

Nexus had to think of something quick. He emptied his pockets. Some coins, some lint, a nuclear reactor, a pen, a nailclipper, and a... "WAIT A NAIL CLIPPER?!?!?" Nexus thought. "MY TRAINING WITH JACK CANDLE IS ALL COMING BACK!"

Nexus grabbed the nailclipper. He also needed a power source. He grabbed the handheld nuclear reactor and attached it to the nailclipper. On the side of the nailclipper he wrote the words "HOT FINGER".

He jumped down into the middle of the Zoked up army. He pointed the nailclipper and said two words "NEXUS BLAST!".

The nail clipper's two metal sides touched. This created a massive ball of pure heat and energy. It blasted forward at the speed of sound.

The blast sent Nexus flying backwards. Nexus hit a wall causing dust and debris to shoot everywhere around him.

The dust cleared and Nexus saw the result of his actions. Every single Zoker footsoldier was dead. He had done it!

Nexus sat down relieved he had taken care of them. Now he could rest. Then Nexus heard it.

The sound of scraping. Metal against metal. That could only be one thing. The five iron. The noise echoed through the room, and seemed to echo through Nexus's very essence, chilling him to the spine.

Then he heard it, Zoker's laugh, "Hee Hee Hee Haw!" as Nexus looked deeper into the darkness, he saw two little points of light, and as they got brighter, the rest of his face was revealed, too.

First the reflections in his eyes. Nexus felt a feeling of being watched by a terrible soul. Then, the smile. The smile was exactly how Nexus remembered it.

Zoker walked out of the shadows, into the light, and pointed his five-iron at Nexus, saying: "It's Zokin' Time." then, Zoker let out an "AUURRHH!" as he jumped in the air and prepared to fall downwards, striking at Nexus with the sharpened edge of the five-iron.

Nexus barely blocked it with his nail clipper. This sent a massive amount of heat through the five iron.

Zoker jumped back in surprise. Still with that stupid grin. "So Nexus you decided to come! And with such a powerful weapon! I will pry it out of your dying hands!"

Nexus simply replied "Nexus fucking blast" Suddenly the burst of energy came again. This time he held it down longer.

The blast sent a shockwave immediately shooting them both back.

Zoker tried to get up but he couldn't. He coughed up blood. "So you think you have beaten me?" Zoker stated, "HOW ABOUT THIS!" Zoker picked up a green syringe and stabbed himself with it.

His body coursed with energy. He coughed up even more blood. His right pointer finger started changing. It became more green, more insect-like.

"This is the power of the INSECTS TOUCH!" Zoker yelled. He tapped his five iron with his pointer finger.

The five iron began to change. It became green and much much larger.

He grabbed the five iron. He dashed towards Nexus.

Nexus thought to himself “What the heck?! That’s so cool!”

Zoker pulled his five iron back. Preparing for a devastating strike. He swung his five iron. He felt a swoosh of air and then nothing. He missed.

Zoker whipped his head around looking for Nexus. Then he saw it. Nexus held the insect’s touch syringe in his hand. Then Nexus taped it to his nail clipper.

Zoker ran to Nexus yelling “WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU DOING?!?!?”

Nexus simply replied “It’s Nexus’n time” Suddenly his nail clipper Nexussed all over the place.

Zoker couldn’t dodge it. He was forced to run away. “WHAT THE HELL IS THAT?!?”

He looked behind him “Great he isn’t following me!” Zoker thought. Then he looked in front of him. He was immediately flabbergasted when he saw Nexus’s face.

Nexus then said “NEXUS BLAST!” Suddenly a white light flooded Zoker’s eyes. “Is this the end?” Zoker thought before immediately being disintegrated.

Nexus made his way back. He had done it! He had killed the Zoker!

When he got back he immediately went to the workstation to work on his newest invention “the Nexus Touch” a combination of the insect’s touch and the hot finger.

He needed to create something the real Zoker wouldn’t be able to stand up against. That’s right the real Zoker. What he killed was just a shitty copy. Even he could make a better copy...

Maybe he will...

TO BE CONTINUED...