

AVARIAVS
(Sample Pages)

Written by

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FADE IN:

INT. EV'S MANSION - PENTHOUSE - SUNSET

We see DYTHOR CHRAST, a handsome (if boyish) man in his late 20's. He stands in a luxurious foyer, his back to the camera, looking through a WINDOW at the CITY SKYLINE. He stands still, almost contemplative, except for his foot TAPPING impatiently against the floor. An older model of the SERVO personal assistant floats on screen and to Dythor's side. The TAPPING stops.

DYTHOR
(without turning)
What?

SERVO
Sire, some of your brigands are downstairs. They insist upon speaking to you, despite my subtle references to their odor.

DYTHOR
Agents? What are they doing here?
They know better.

SERVO
I didn't have the nasal constitution to inquire further, My Liege. You may ask them yourself once they've bathed more effectively.

DYTHOR
Where are they?

SERVO
The elevator.

DYTHOR
(to himself)
Idiots.

Dythor spins on his heel and brushes past Servo, towards the hallway. Servo scrambles after him.

GO TO GAMEPLAY:

INT. EV'S MANSION - HALLWAY

As the player rounds the corner we see EV, an Eoni wearing a superbly decorated exosuit.

Ev is constructing an unsettling STATUE. The sculpture looks like melted BODIES, desperately trying to push themselves out of the mass of bloody limbs and flesh that's engulfing them, sucking them in. Dythor and Servo approach:

DYTHOR

Is that the new piece?

EV

(without looking away)

Mmhmm.

SERVO

It's...

(beat)

I can't find a polite word for "demented".

Ev looks up from their work to glance at Servo, but only briefly.

EV

That's because you're buggy garbage. Demented it may be, but it's also critically acclaimed. I haven't even finished it and it's already won two awards.

SERVO

How intensely preposterous. Congratulations.

DYTHOR

(to Servo)

Settle down.

(to Ev)

HEL agents are downstairs, Ev. I need the room.

Ev stops working at the word HEL. They turn to Dythor, then pause, before relenting.

EV

(sighs)

Very well. The room is yours, despite it actually being mine. Servo, come. Help me gather more materials.

Servo looks to Dythor for permission - and Dythor nods.

SERVO

(to Ev)

With forced enthusiasm, Master.

Ev sets down their tools and walks away, with Servo trailing behind. Dythor continues on down the hall, giving the statue little more than a glance on his way past. He doesn't notice, but one of the statue's many HANDS moves.

GO TO GAMEPLAY:

INT. EV'S MANSION - HALLWAY

Dythor approaches the ELEVATOR, but, with a DING, it opens before he arrives. He stops, surprised, as the doors slide back to reveal two HEL AGENTS.

DYTHOR

What the hell are you doing, coming up here?! You'll blow Ev's cove-

HEL AGENT 1

(interrupting)
That's him!

The HEL agents attack.

GO TO GAMEPLAY:

INT. EV'S MANSION - HALLWAY

The battle is over, and the two HEL AGENTS lie dead on the floor. The elevator doors close with a soft DING. Dythor stands quiet, staring down at them, fists clenched. Ev and Servo round the corner.

EV

(to Servo)
...just confused because you don't understand the principles of form you off-brand heap of garba-

They see the bodies and stop in their tracks.

EV (CONT'D)

Dythor, why are there corpses bleeding into my overpriced carpet?

DYTHOR

(without looking away)
My own agents... they attacked me.

EV

(dryly)
On my rug. Phenomenal.
(MORE)

EV (CONT'D)

Well, glass half full: I was starting to run out of supplies.

SERVO

(to Ev, muttered)

That statue is made out of people?

EV

(to Servo, muttered back)

Technically, they stopped being "people" around noonish.

DYTHOR

More of them will be coming. They knew me - they knew who I was. They'll know that two of them won't be enough to kill me.

SERVO

The three of us should wait and engage them in fisticuffs as they emerge from the elevator, Your Lordliness; their numbers will be limited.

EV

I think you mean the two of you. I'll be moral support.

Dythor turns back to Ev.

DYTHOR

You're just going to stand there and watch?

EV

I agreed to smuggle you inside the city, not tidy up your adorable little power struggles. Though I will assist you with the bodies, if they're...

(beat)

...available.

DING. The elevators doors are open again. Three HEL agents are about to step about, but they see the bodies of their comrades. They freeze in place as Dythor walks towards them, fists clenched.

EV (CONT'D)
 (calling after him)
 Try not to ruin their faces! I'll
 need those!

GO TO GAMEPLAY:

INT. EV'S MANSION - HALLWAY

There are five HEL CORPSES now. Dythor and Servo loom over them, but Ev hovers a ways back. Abruptly, Servo jumps (flies slightly higher) and emits a harsh BEEPING sound.

SERVO
 Sensors are showing more agents
 entering the premises, Your
 Worshipness. They're currently in
 the gardens.

DYTHOR
 More of them? What the hell is
 going on?

EV
 Let's head downstairs and ask,
 shall we?

DYTHOR
Now you're helping us?

Ev strides past him, towards the elevator.

EV
 (coyly)
 I might have conditions.

DYTHOR
 (sighs)
 Yes, you can have the bodies when
 we're done.

EV
 Lovely.

DING. The doors open, and Ev holds out a hand to keep them from shutting.

EV (CONT'D)
 Coming?

The group makes their way inside the elevator, and the DOORS shut with a...

CUT TO:

EXT. EV'S MANSION - GARDENS - SUNSET

DING. The doors open, and for a moment, we see only Dythor, Ev, and Servo. Then the CAMERA pulls back to reveal a CROWD of nearly thirty HEL AGENTS. They've turned to face the now-open elevator and the three victims inside of it. There is a moment of stunned silence as the ramifications register - to Dythor's party, and to the agents as well.

EV

Oh, dear.

The HEL agents begin surrounding the elevator doors, cautious but menacing; they're cornering a dangerous animal.

DYTHOR

(whispering)

Ev, do you have it on you?

It takes Ev a moment to understand what Dythor is talking about.

EV

You can't be serious. We've done zero testing.

DYTHOR

Give me the vial, Ev.

The HEL agents are closing in... so Ev roots around in the pocket of his exosuit.

EV

Fine. Just don't snap at me if you grow scales or something.

Ev hands a vial of a clear, SHIMMERING LIQUID to Dythor, who immediately pops the cap and drinks it in one gulp. Dythor steps out of the elevator, into the gardens, letting the HEL agents surround him.

DYTHOR

(over his shoulder to Ev)

Stand back you two.

Dythor's body begins to GLOW.

EV
 (to themselves)
 Don't worry. I intend to.

GO TO GAMEPLAY:

EXT. EV'S MANSION - GARDENS - SUNSET

The GLOW fades from Dythor's body and he nearly collapses into the slushy PILE OF CORPSES - all that remains of the HEL agents. Dythor manages to stay upright, but he's clearly exhausted.

EV
 That was... thorough.

DYTHOR
 Search them.

Dythor remains slouched over, breathing heavy, while Servo and Ev begin to look through the corpses. We focus in on Dythor as he wipes a sheen of sweat from his forehead, and then:

EV
 I found something. A note.

Ev approaches Dythor and holds out a stained SHEET OF PAPER.

EV (CONT'D)
 Here. You read it. It's all sticky.

[OPEN LORE FILE: Assassin's Note]

SERVO
 "Runar" as in *Elder Runar*? Dim of him to sign it. You'd think he'd be versed in proper assassination etiquette.

EV
 Awww. You're his first.

Dythor gives Ev a long, black glare.

EV (CONT'D)
Spectacular jokes aside, the fact that Runar has sniffed out your partnership with me is disconcerting. He'll need to be dealt with.

Dythor looks back to the sheet of paper.

DYTHOR
 (referencing the note)
 "Wear the uniforms". Runar wanted
 it to look like my own agents
 killed me.

Dythor thinks for a moment.

DYTHOR (CONT'D)
 Servo, find Arisa and bring her
 here.

SERVO
 Immediately, My King And Highest
 God.

Servo jets off screen.

EV
 (muttered)
 That thing really needs to calm
 down.

DYTHOR
 We're going to kill Runar. Tonight.
 Before he realizes his men failed.

EV
Tonight? You're just going to walk
 into his own party and murder him?
 That's... bold, I suppose is the
 kind word for it.

DYTHOR
 We were always going to kill him,
 Ev. I'm just moving up the
 timetable.

EV
 ...Well, I do have a few hours
 before my materials start to
 decompose. And I am moderately
 entertained.
 (Ev considers it)
 Very well. When Arisa arrives,
 we'll improvise a mid-gala murder.
 How deliciously tawdry.

Dythor glances back to the PILE OF CORPSES as we...

FADE TO:

EXT. ELDER RUNAR'S MANOR - NIGHT - ESTABLISHING

Beautiful MUSIC hovers in the air. A CROWD of well-dressed Humes and Eoni swarm around the entrance to the manor, talking, laughing, slowly working their way through a line of SECURITY GUARDS and into the manor.

EXT. ELDER RUNAR'S MANOR - NIGHT

ARISA - an elegant Hume woman in an elaborate gown - waves Dythor, Ev, and Servo over to her. Once they are close enough to talk in relative privacy:

ARISA

I think I can get us inside, but nearly all of the council members are attending the gala. Security will be tight.

DYTHOR

Our cover?

ARISA

Just guests - staff has been booked for months. Unfortunately, that means our resident sociopath will have to come with us.

EV

I heart you too, Arisa.

ARISA

(to Ev)
Shut up.

DYTHOR

It won't start rumors that Ev showed up to the Festival Gala with a group of Humes?

ARISA

We don't have a choice. We have no invitation, so we'll need to leverage Ev's fame. Once we're inside, I need to grease a few palms to make sure no one remembers us. I'll meet up with you afterwards, Darling.

DYTHOR

Understood.

Dythor gives Arisa a KISS on the cheek.

DYTHOR (CONT'D)
Thank you, Arisa. Good luck.

Arisa smiles slides into the rest of the crowd, disappearing from view.

DYTHOR (CONT'D)
Ev, Servo, lay low until we spot Runar.

EV
Me? Low?

DYTHOR
As low as you get.

GO TO GAMEPLAY:

INT. ELDER RUNAR'S MANOR - FOYER

Quite a distance ahead of the player, on an ELEVATED PLATFORM of the room, stands ELDER RUNAR - an Eoni surrounded by multiple BODYGUARDS. A SWARM of people mill about between Dythor and Runar, blocking the way.

EV
That's Runar, down at the end of the hall.

DYTHOR
Right. Follow me, but keep a low profile until we get close.

Dythor manages a few steps through the crowd, but:

EONI GUARD 1
Pardon me, Sir. May I see your invitation.

DYTHOR
Left it at home. Excuse me.

EONI GUARD 1
Sir, unless you can produce an invitation, I'll need you to come with me.

DYTHOR
You really should move out of my way.

The guard steps forward threateningly.

EONI GUARD 1
Sir, I need to see your hand-

The guard places a hand on Dythor's wrist, and Dythor snaps forward to attack.

GO TO GAMEPLAY:

INT. ELDER RUNAR'S MANOR - NIGHT

The room - and the hundreds of people in it - are SILENT. An Eoni CORPSE is on the floor. The WHISPERS start...

PARTYGOER 1
What's going on? What happened?

PARTYGOER 2
...is he dead?

PARTYGOER 3
Did that Hume just kill an officer?

The crowd backs away from Dythor while Servo and Ev slide up to him, wary.

SERVO
(whispering)
Your Eminence, you mentioned lying low, correct? Was that sarcasm? Because sometimes I struggle-

Unbeknownst to his allies, Dythor reaches into his pocket...

EV
(whispering/interrupting)
Admire his impulse control later, Servo. We need an idea. Preferably one that's better than-

Dythor's hand emerges from his coat - and in it is a small vial of SHIMMERING LIQUID.

SERVO
My Liege? Is that-

EV
Have you lost your mind?! Don't-

Dythor drinks the vial and GLOWING MANA erupts from his body - three times as strong as before. The force of it throws the PARTY GUESTS against the WALL, splattering them with its force.

Dythor begins to walk forwards towards RUNAR, who watches calmly, his face hidden behind his exosuit helmet. RUNAR'S BODYGUARDS rush forward through the SCREAMING GUESTS.

GO TO GAMEPLAY:

INT. ELDER RUNAR'S MANOR

The GLOW around Dythor finally fades. The WALLS are red with BLOOD, and no one stands alive except Elder Runar, Dythor, and Ev and Servo (who remain a safe distance away). Silence. Dythor and Runar lock eyes for a dangerous moment - and then we hear a DOOR SLAM.

ARISA (O.S.)
What fresh hell is this?!

Arisa strides on screen to confront Dythor - with absolutely zero qualms about shouting directly into his face.

ARISA (CONT'D)
What happened?! What dumbass, alpha-male stunt did you just pull?!

Dythor blushes and looks away.

DYTHOR
There was a... complication.

ARISA
Darling, I'm looking at wallpaper made from heads of state. Complication is not the word. Do you have any idea how much money it'll take to clean this up before someone figures out the entire council is missing?

DYTHOR
(strained)
Can we have this discussion after we kill Runar, please?

Beat. She considers it.

ARISA
Fine. But we are not done. The second his head hits the floor, you're grabbing a squeegee.

Arisa lets Dythor walk past her, up to Elder Runar, who has been waiting patiently.

RUNAR

Dythor Chrast, I assume? Few other Humes are bold enough for such a massacre. And in my own home, no less.

DYTHOR

Just returning the favor.

Runar's helmeted head seems to tilt the slightest bit.

RUNAR

Excuse me?

DYTHOR

The assassins you sent. They're dead.

Beat.

RUNAR

...The assassins I sent.
Fascinating.

Runar FLOATS, lifting himself gently off the platform and down to battle Dythor.

RUNAR (CONT'D)

Regardless, I cannot allow you to walk away after such base slaughter. You must be judged.

DYTHOR

Come on, then. Judge me.

GO TO GAMEPLAY:

INT. ELDER RUNAR'S MANOR

Elder Runar is dead on the ground. For a long moment, Dythor, Arisa, Ev, and Servo are silent. They look around themselves at the CARNAGE - dozens, if not hundreds, of BODIES lie all around the room. The walls are dripping.

EV

...In our own defense, this party was terrible way before everyone died.

ARISA

Runar sounded surprised that you were attacked, don't you think, Dythor?

Dythor doesn't answer. He's turned around, facing away from the camera, and he doesn't move.

ARISA (CONT'D)
 ...Dythor, exactly what proof did you find that the assassination order came from Runar?

Dythor doesn't answer.

ARISA (CONT'D)
 Darling, are you all right?

DYTHOR
 ...I'm fine. I-

Dythor falls to his knees, clutching his head. He SCREAMS.

ARISA
 Dythor?!

EV
 Having a bad reaction, are we? Not to be ungracious, but I told you we haven't tested it.

Arisa spins on Ev.

ARISA
 Tested... tested the serum?! He took it?

EV
 Twice.

DYTHOR
 I taste blood. It hurts.

Dythor begins to glow again, but the edges of the energy are different - jagged. Arisa steps towards him.

ARISA
 Dythor, wh-

EV
 No! Back away from him!

Dythor spins on Arisa - he attacks, mindless.

GO TO GAMEPLAY:

INT. ELDER RUNAR'S MANOR

Dythor lies on the ground, face down. The others over nearby him.

ARISA
...Is he alive?

Servo, cautiously, hovers closer.

SERVO
I'm picking up a pulse. Faint, but there.

Arisa heaves a relieved sigh - Ev has no reaction.

ARISA
Thank goodness. What happened? Is he going to be all right?

EV
I'm not sure what happened, but the serum itself isn't toxic. He should be fine.

(beat)
Which is bit of a shame, actually. He would have made a wonderful mantelpiece.

CUT TO: