

Eposical

A Novel by

John T. Buckley

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Chapter 1

Meafed Can't Rationalize the Baratok

“Don't say it 'til it's said or we'll all end up in Terious!” thundered Meafed Kornblash as he thrust the heel of his white staff into the marble floor tearing a large hole.

Meafed had an extraordinarily high and long head, with 3 distinct rows that started in his eye sockets. The middle row or crest extended 2 inches beyond his white and blue eyebrows and was slightly rounded. His actual eye openings were very small and looked only like slits and gave him the appearance of always being deep in thought. This was only true a third of the time considering he was usually preoccupied with studying the people in front of him. Meafed was 7'5" feet tall and had a paper thin frame with catcher mitt hands and snow shoe feet. He had a nose that was wide at the top, but got gradually thinner as it neared the pointy tip. His mouth was always sucked in slightly and he always wore a black satin knee length jacket. He also always wore a white scarf and black satin silky sneakers that had extra cushion for his high arches. And around each wrist was a Femen medication bracelet, which was tan in color and released pain medication for his sore back all day long

“Meafed, don't be impulsive these new Breask that we've discovered will never be known to the Kaa or those pompous Vindijans. To put it plainly it is ours and it is air to everyone else,” said Peastro sternly as he sat in his golden hovering throne.

They were talking in the Hall of Triumphs, which had Peastro's throne and several thick area rugs and not much else. Except for several living paintings of all of Peastro's triumphs including his victory over the Vindijan Line and his family's victory dinner. On the side walls there were 3 Kmon vortexes (which were used to transport people or items instantly to different predetermined locations). The far wall has a hexagon shaped window that looks out over the Menes River. The Menes River has dark red water

due to gas pockets beneath its riverbed. The only animals that live in it are Boran Trapagators, which are gold in color and also have red eyes. They are also 30 feet in length.

There is also a small room next to the ceiling that has a pair of green couches and a black leather table with a pair of Copik sticks on a white plate in the center.

Copik sticks are red and have gold tips and are used as a fun game because when you pointed them at another person their body heat caused a stream of low intensity laser bursts to fire at them. They did no more than tickle the person's skin.

Peastro has on a dark blue silk suit, with a pair of light brown sandals. He also has on a white light halo (known as a Tomsek) that increases the speed of his neural pathways by 300 percent. His face is clean shaven, but for a triangle goatee that has a silver diamond studded ball on the end of it that pulses every 4 seconds. The ball is a Moresap ball that emits a mild electric charge to keep people from getting too close. He also has on a pair of Denven sunglasses, which are tinted light green and float half an inch in front of his eyes and use the brains electric charge as a magnet and repellant simultaneously.

“This is not idle concern, if the Kaa find out you're hiding this from them it will sadden their hearts and empty their souls. For Builder's sake give them a portion of the Breask,” pleads Meafed as he paces back and forth and shakes his hands violently.

“No,” said Peastro nonchalantly with a smirk.

“Ahh you are vexing me, my mind is on fire with the possible failure of this. I am old without a young man's power of persuasion. Please don't do this terrible thing I beg you,” begs Meafed in exasperation as he got down on the carpet and sighed.

Peastro sat still and relaxed for several seconds then said, “Good, then it's settled. The next thing we have to dive into is how do we keep the remaining hostile Vindijans from stirring up mischief?” asks Peastro then he stands up and steps over Meafed and starts to hover 20 feet above the floor.

“The Vindijan’s are a shell of their former selves. No one looks at them as anything more than buffoons. A Vindijan uprising is as likely as a snow flake dancing on the T sun,” says Meafed snidely as he lets out a bellowing laugh.

“This is true,” said Peastro as a smile flashed across his face and then he said sternly,” but we shouldn’t be careless they still posses great powers and more and more of them are being born with the T sun’s new strength. It is something I will keep secure in my conscious mind.”

“As you should, Pre Ma, and as will I. It is only a trifle we still outnumber them and they don’t have the weapons to stir more than a cup of stew. You and I both know that if they get close to being a viable threat we will know long before they reason with war,” said Meafed then he started levitating above the floor as he put his hands behind his head.

“That is a certainty, Meafed, and would be a momentous occasion for a party to crush them once again in battle. Wouldn’t it?” asked Peastro as he gently spun in the air and hit the walls with balls of fire (using the Mormo technique).

“Indeed, their egos are so fragile and yet so prideful they would enjoy the kiss of shame. It would require a party on an even larger scale. Ya know something so lavish, it would shame them back into their *you can’t hurt me shells*,” said Meafed snidely as he started shooting small bursts of fire from the palm of his hands.

In burst a Nofane (which was a domesticated black haired beast) it has an almost completely round head and oval golden eyes. Its mouth is square and has a half moon of white teeth. It has no tail and its feet are flat and round like thick pancakes. Nofane’s are extremely smart for an animal and have learned to speak like people, but in very brief sentences. The Nofane walks over to the spot beneath Peastro and says in a emotionless voice,” It is feared and we would know. That you are not here with us. Your son does miss. Your bride needs kisses. How long will you be?”

“Please tell my beautiful wife Culby and my powerful son Yerpo Lle that Sras needs tending and I will be back as soon as the Builder sees fit. Also, I love them and miss them every moment and will ride a lightning bolt home,” said Peastro honestly and then said sarcastically,” and tell them remember the Line or it’s their souls.”

The Nofane smiles and nods and says,” Done, I be leaving.”

The Nofane hurries out of the room. Peastro and Meafed levitate up to a small room next to the ceiling and then Peastro wrote that he wanted 2 pounds of Vin and some Pent, as well as some Nehe pop. Then he threw the crumpled piece of paper through the blue vortex and said,” We’ll hunger no more.”

“As is our right,” said Meafed coldly then he picked up 2 Copik sticks and smiled at Peastro.

“Easy, Old Man, let us sit first before we commence our mental and physical attack upon one another,” said Peastro slyly then he walked over to the window.

Meafed sighs and then walks over and stands beside Peastro. They stand there and are each lost in their thoughts. Peastro’s thoughts are of Yerpo Lle and specifically how he would feel when he ruled over all he could see. Then he wondered if someday he would stand in this very spot with a friend at his side and think of his father and know his many aches. And also give him the same leeway in remembrance that he could now give his own father.

Meafed looks out over the Menes River and feels enthralled with its enormity and the beauty of the many homes and ships that are flying briskly across the river’s surface. Then his thoughts turn to his sick wife Deidi and how he wished she would have the strength to outlast the Enopta outbreak.

Enopta is an extremely contagious disease that latched onto the spinal cord and began to grow in large clusters in between the vertebra. Once it was there it would harden making any type of bending impossible. Within a few weeks people found it impossible to move their torso at all or even their neck in

any direction. In some cases the disease was found to be treatable with an industrial solvent, but it had the potential to poison a person as well and it was called Mayrom 89.

Peastro looked over at Meafed and could see the concern on his face and then asked, "Is it Deidi?"

"Yes...always when the laughter fades. I just can't get beyond the Baratok of it all," said Meafed sadly as he started to tremble and his eyes welled up.

Baratok is an expression that means literally to be devastated because of an unlucky turn of events. The name Baratok comes from the name of a king-in the book of Yealik-who had his entire family perish because he left a cigar burning in an ashtray as he went off to war. When he slammed the door behind him after a fight with his wife Bambel it caused the ashtray-and the still lit cigar-to fall to the floor. It quickly set the rug on fire and caused the whole castle to burn to the ground. When he returned he found that his wife Bambel and their 4 sons were killed in the blaze.

"Here's what I know, Meafed, and I know it from experience...sometimes the worst of it comes along and catches you between the eyes. But, there's always another T sun and every decision the Builder makes is part of his labored over plan for us to become our greater selves," said Peastro then he gently grabbed Meafed's wrist and said softly, "the Builder has eternity to orchestrate our paths to divinity. What is a hard time for you now will only be a fleck of dust in the painting of your life."

"I...I would never question it, but I feel I'm about to fall into a giant ravine and I...I can't escape the terror and the shame of being so afraid," said Meafed as he wept.

"Think of it not," said Peastro warmly as he embraced Meafed and then said, "even if you were to fall the Builder would catch you and no harm would befall you. What I know is the true nonchalance of that and I know it for certain."

Meafed nodded, dried his tears with a small burst of flames from his fingertips and turned to look out the window. As he did he felt a chill go down his spine as he saw a missile heading straight for the castle

window. He grabbed hold of Peastro and shattered the window with his fist as the 2 dove out the window. They were just 2 seconds before the missile went through the window exploded. The blast singed Peastro's feet as well as Meafed's. The two fell like anvils towards the Menes River below propelled by the added speed of the blast.

Peastro suddenly realized that the impact on the river's surface would kill them both for certain. Meafed on the other hand was too filled with terror to think rationally. Peastro saw this and started hitting him with his fists and was able to snap him out of it. The 2 tried to levitate using all of their powers but the speed of the fall was still dragging them down. With 10 feet left to go Peastro was able to stop himself but Meafed was not, and pierced the river's surface disappearing beneath it. Peastro saw this and watched and waited hoping Meafed would appear. Seconds passed and still no Meafed and then Peastro heard, "You're not rid of me yet my young Hool Nugget."

It was Meafed levitating beside him soaked from head to toe, with a pair of gold knives in his hand. Peastro looked at him, smiled and asked, "Are those my missing carving knives?"

"They are indeed they have your crest right here. I found them glimmering on a large rock near the bottom," said Meafed as he showed Peastro the black ivory handle with his crest and likeness on it.

"That Yerpo Lle is a liar and a master of treachery and I couldn't be prouder," said Peastro as he took the knives from Meafed and then said, "Well I know for certain that these will end up beneath Yerpo Lle's morning breakfast plate. And I'll be certain to not know how they got there when he looks at me."

"Turn about and all he should be overjoyed at the scenario," said Meafed as he spun to dry off his clothes.

Peastro started to get wet as he did so he floated up above him. Meafed stopped and looked up to see Peastro with his arms crossed and his brow furrowed just smiling slightly as he floated up to him.

Peastro asked,” This attack has me confounded and a little disappointed. Obviously it was the Vindijan’s because the Kaa are more than a little bit happy with their new lives. But, I suspect when this matter is looked into the evidence will point to either a Kaa or an accidental discharge of one of our troops. Which begs 2 questions?”

“Yes?”

“Who could and would devise such an elaborate plan? And secondly are the Vindijan’s stronger than we think because they know that I would figure this out at some point. The question now is how long were they banking on it, because if we knew that we would know at which point they were prepared to go to battle if their assassination attempt was unsuccessful,” said Peastro firmly as he looked at the horizon.

“That’s not hard to discern, just think about the time our standard investigation would have taken and there’s your answer,” said Meafed plainly then he kicked his heels together.

“True, but we also have to factor in the series of lies and deceptions they would use to prolong the investigation. And remember they’re Vindijan’s so they would have had obstacles at every stage of the investigation that would have ranged from small to large,” said Peastro with a smirk.

“An investigation of this kind would take a few weeks, but with the Vindijan’s treachery it could stretch out over several months,” said Meafed then he looked down at the Menes River.

“I just had a thought and it is pristine. What if it is a Kaa behind this and they want us to over think the situation and blame a Vindijan. When in fact there is some Kaa mastermind behind it all who’s got himself a group of probably Kaa and Vindijan’s, that he used to carry this out,” said Peastro as he put his hand on Meafed’s shoulder and asked softly,” Where does the book of Yealik tell us the king’s assassin will hide?”

“Just beneath the seat of his throne,” said Meafed as his eyes grew wide.

Peastro looked at him intently then said boldly, "I hide a thousand years in the outline of a tree. The key to this situation is we have to actually proceed like we were going to publicly investigate the situation. Then privately we'll conduct a second investigation unbeknownst to anyone."

"It is beyond perfection, it is far easier to catch someone who isn't escaping. But nonetheless satisfying when you do," said Meafed snidely as he opened his soaked pack of Tut cigarettes and saw that they were dry and let out a sigh.

Peastro and Meafed made their way to Plushi Chateau. When they arrived Peastro told General Ruebluff to hold a press conference. He also briefed him on the situation, but was careful not to tell him that he secretly suspected a Kaa of the assassination attempt-as he wanted his emotions to reflect the sincerity. Peastro watched the press conference from behind a two-sided glass wall that looked like paisley wallpaper on the opposite side. He was keenly watching the Comapen (which are the 17 heads of the Kaa newspapers as well as the Kidefest, who are the 8 heads of the Vindijan newspapers) as they sat in 3 descending rows of floating chairs in the Royal Press Room. He took in each of their reactions to the idea of it being Vindijan and they started acting out after General Ruebluff spoke.

The Kidefest side of the room instantly became aggressive and started cursing and letting out anger filled tirades saying, "How dare you," and, "This isn't fair we would never do such a thing." While that was happening most of the Comapen looked chocked and taken aback, but one of them-Trapevel Wakes-had a slight half smile creep over his face then he caught himself and it disappeared instantly. Peastro saw this and instantly said to himself softly, "You are in error, kind Sir. Where did that lovely joy disappear too?"

Then he sent a Lila to Parther Lieso (his head of security) that he needed a half dozen Humpacca's for a simple training exercise and that they should meet him in the hangar bay.

Trapevel Wakes had red skin and dark purple hair that has 50 layers of triangles as its shape. His eyes are purple as well, but have hexagonal Iris'. His nose is like a staircase without the stairs and he has

a large growling mouth that never fully closes. He is 5'8" 200 pounds of killing muscle. He is wearing a white silk shirt and white Pemavon cotton trousers. He also has on a diamond encrusted necklace that has the names of all 9 men he had killed written on it. On his feet are 4 strips of black leather sewn into his skin to look like sandals.

Peastro took one last look at Trapevel then made for the hangar bay. He could see Meafed coming down the corridor towards him smoking a Messon leaf cigar.

"Where are heading in such haste?" asked Meafed as he met Peastro.

"To skin some Hools, you hungry?" replied Peastro as he winked.

"Famished, a Hool steak can give me another 5 years of this heaven of Sras. But why not a bit of desert as well?" asked Meafed as he walked beside Peastro.

"Your favorite?" asked Peastro with the flare of a magician.

"Boiled beating hearts on a pike, what a glorious day for sustenance. But why are we heading for the hangar bay?" asked Meafed then he took a drag off his Messon leaf cigar.

"We'll have to catch this dinner, if we are to dine," said Peastro boldly as he walked into the hangar bay.

The half dozen Humpacca's Peastro had asked for were standing in a line in front of Trident Souce 3 with their hands in their pockets.

"There's a part of me that wishes half of what you say is true, but there's also a part of me that cherishes the lies. We're not really going hunting Hool's are we?" asked Meafed with a smirk.

"We are in a way, but these Hools aren't much for eating. I've got a way to find our would be assassin and he is Trapevel Wakes," said Peastro as he boarded Trident Souce 3.

“Trapevel, from Comapen I dated his younger sister for 8 months,” said Meafed in disbelief as he followed Peastro.

“How was she?” asked Peastro as he sat down in the pilot seat.

“A bit of a stiff, but she made a salted Vin that kept my mind in a forgiving mood. I take it things will be getting a bit hurray,” said Meafed implying a question as he sat down in the other pilot seat.

“Hence the Humpacca’s, but don’t give it a thought we can battle our way out of most things,” said Peastro pride brimming as he stretched out his fingers.

“Most, yes, but Trapevel is a former assassin and a current whole lot of trouble,” said Meafed then he took a drag from his cigar and asked, “fine then it is fine, but how do we find this Trapevel’s ship from the numerous others in the sky?”

Peastro flew Trident Souce 3 out of the hangar bay and saw hundreds of small and large ships flying in the sky and said sternly, “The Comapen all have the same yellow Spizto insignia on their sides and roof. And since we know that all of them, *but Trapavel* will sit and sip Borco wine in the Kinstomp lounge to last T sun...alls’ we have to do is wait here at the exit point for the Press and he’ll be here before too long.”

The Spizto is a winged yellow fish that has but one eye and a furry tail.

“And here he is now,” said Meafed as he pointed to a sleek black ship he saw exiting the Press hangar bay.

The ship had the Spizto insignia on it and it looked like a race car-with 4 large jet engines on either side. It also has a tinted black windshield that has a centralized blue pulse that starts in all 4 corners and shoots towards the center of the window every few seconds.

Peastro fired a spread of micro honing devices (known as Spruckers) at Trapevel's ship and said boldly, "We can't lose him now so let's just wait here for a minute then we'll follow."

"I can't believe the ease at which we just pulled that off. It looks as though he's heading towards the countryside," said Meafed as he looked at Trapevel's ship direction-that was being relayed by the Spruckers.

"I love it out there the glory of the Builder's paintbrush always gives me inspiration. Who knows maybe their visiting one of our friends," said Peastro with a look at Meafed.

Meafed let out a laugh from his gravely throat and then set down his cigar. Peastro thrust them forward and they followed Trapevel. Trident Souce 3 weaved in and out of the many ships at tremendous speed. A small grocery ship nudged Peastro and he said, "Easy, Son, we've got places to get too."

They flew for many miles and then as they got out of the city-and into the countryside-the traffic thinned out dramatically. Then they came to a point where there were few homes or estates at all-just an endless forest and several small ponds.

"This looks oddly familiar, but I can't say why. It's almost like it's a fuzzy memory from my childhood," said Peastro as he furrowed his brow.

"Maybe your late father took you here as a boy and you stored it in your subconscious until now," said Meafed as he looked at the endless forest.

"That could be true, but still I just have an eerie feeling. It's almost like....," said Peastro quietly then his eyes opened wide as they came over a small hill and saw a large castle in the distance.

"I didn't know there were any castles in this area. What a sight to behold," said Meafed as he looked at the castle and fumbled for his cigar.

The castle was immense and cut into the side of a mountain. It has a half mile long courtyard and garden as well as a deck that leads up to a large circular front-that has hundreds of star shaped windows. There are also 4 large moving terraces the swing from one set of doors and windows to the next. There is a long golden escalator that went from the ground floor to a small house on the top. There are three 200 foot high statues of Cushpom Jentau.

Cushpom Jentau was a famous magician who had the ability to stop his heart dead and continue talking for 20 minutes (it was called the Terious kissing maneuver). He was also famous for what became known as the," Ten year sleep." Where he vanished completely for a decade then reappeared at a political banquet with hair down to his ankles and acted as if he'd been asleep the whole time.

The statue of Cushpom depicted him fighting himself as it was well known that he had grappled with self doubt, depression, and years of paranoia.

As Trident Souce 3 got closer Peastro spotted Trapevel's ship parked beneath one of the Cushpom statues legs. Peastro steered the ship in low and towards Trapevel's ship as he turned off all the lights.

"As far as I can tell we haven't been detected and there doesn't appear to be any guards posted. What I suggest is that we keep our voices as quiet as we can after we land, ya know as we enter the castle. Now I don't need to tell you what to do if the Hool nugget hits us first. Needless to say there will be a bit of bloodshed this evening," said Peastro sternly as he pressed a button on the consul and a Goalla Gun came up from out of the floor.

He handed it to Meafed and said," Take this and remember to aim for their torso."

"Understood, but what will you be using for a weapon?" asked Meafed as he took the Goalla gun.

Peastro pressed a black button on the consul and a Petiffee-with 2 barrels and a dozen small missiles attached to its sides-rose up from the floor. He grabbed it in his right hand, smiled and said snidely," Every day needs a new mind to corrupt and today I'll be doing the honors."

“I think we enjoy these things far too much, but let’s face it these are the moments, dinner parties just don’t cut it,” said Meafed boldly with a hearty laugh.

“Wars are for winning,” said Peastro coldly then he stood up as he and Meafed made their way to ship’s exit.

The Humpacca’s were there already and armed to the teeth. The ship landed and the Humpacca’s went out first and secured the area. They were followed by Peastro and Meafed who then led the way up the golden escalator in a crouched attack position.

When they got to the top there was a small brick home that had several lighted rooms-with a small group of people talking and having a few drinks inside. The Humpacca’s went around the left side of the house and Meafed and Peastro went around the right.

The People inside were all Kaa and Peastro didn’t recognize any of them as he looked through the window. Peastro put a sound amplifier into his left ear so that he could hear their conversations inside.

“He’ll be dead in a week, like all good tyrant’s he’s got to know what his fate is,” said Terripal Uck in a dry tone as she smiled inside the brick home.

Terripal Uck is 6’2” and is a thin framed strawberry blonde woman-with glowing green eyes and red skin. She is wearing a white silk mini-shirt and white lace heels.

“A week, that Idiot hasn’t got 3 days left on Sras Oblique. I’m just mad I won’t be the one that kills him,” said Moresha Blipa snidely and she took a sip of Borco wine.

Moresha Blipa is 5’9” and very athletic. She has on a flowing red dress and black 4 inch heels. Her hair is seal black with purple highlights and her eyes are yellow with black specs.

Terripal laughed and then said,” Can you believe he was dumb enough to think it was the Vindijan’s. His ego has set his fate in marble and rightfully so.”

“Peastro is just the kind of fool to think he’s immortal. And the funniest part is that while he’s trying to figure out who tried to kill him, we’ll try a 2nd and 3rd time *or as many as it takes* to end his worthless life!” said Moresha plainly then she finished her glass of wine.

Terripal leaned in close and said, “If he had any idea that his own people were behind it and we were going to take power upon his death. I mean granted it’s only a small group of wealthy Kaa, but still think of the shock he would feel. Builder help him.”

“Well we’re sure as Terious not going too,” said Moresha quickly then she started to chortle.

Peastro looked over at Meafed, nodded and said quietly, “I’ve heard enough, let’s check the back of the house.”

Meafed nodded and then they moved slowly past the windows in a crouched position. They went around the back of the house and Peastro peeked around the corner and saw Trapevel-and a man with his back to Peastro-sitting in 2 deck chairs at a black leather table. Peastro put his hand on Meafed’s chest and held him back as he listened to their conversation.

“What is important now is not we failed in killing Peastro...but that we still have our anonymity. We’ll take another direct assault at him with either laser fire or explosives and if that isn’t successful we’ll use poison. The poison route is a hard one to walk down because of his personal chef, but he has a young Son that could be taken and used as leverage,” said Trapevel plainly as he looked at the night sky.

“That’s good to hear you thinking in those terms, because that is exactly what it will take to eventually take him out. If we had known what a tyrant he would become we would have been aggressive sooner. And when he’s dead I’ll take control and we’ll do away with the remaining Vindijan’s. Then Sras Oblique will be the rightful home of the Kaa. I just wish Peastro could have looked his old friend Z in the eye once more, I would have loved for us to have had that chance,” said Z snidely and then he pulled a small robot from his pocket and set it on the table.

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