

Adam Zero in The Hunted ©
By
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Chapter 1

"You're dead, Zero."
The aliens four eyes watched Adam. The green of his skin reflected the neon lights of the run down bars in the otherwise dank city streets of Agamemnon. The creature held his laser pistol level with Adam's stomach, he waved his clawed hand towards the long dark alleyway beside them.

Zero stepped in followed quickly by his captor. He pressed the gun into Adam's back and moved him further down the street away from prying eyes.

"How'd you find me?" Adam asked his mind racing wondering if Kitana or Cyrus had also been captured.

"No questions Earther." The alien slapped him gruffly in the back of the head. His captor snatched a communications device from its belt it and clicked a button activating the device.

"I got him." He said.

"Where are you?" A voice answered.

"In the alley across from The Blue Swan club."

"I'll be there in five clicks." The voice responded.

Adam's eyes roamed across the alley looking for anything he could use to his advantage. Debris and refuse lay strewn about cover in grime while small puddles of dank water dotted the street.

Adam could see himself staring back through those vile waters his ink black hair cut shaved close to his head. His dark blue vest stood out against the black clothes underneath. His holster holding his laser cannon snapped closed.

Adam's mind raced he had to find a way out. He couldn't allow himself to be captured. He needed a plan and quick.

"So how much you getting for me?" Adam asked.

"I said shut up earther."

"Just curious how much I'm worth is all."

"More then we've been paid for any other bounty. Your valuable earther being the last of your kind. They'll probably want to stuff and mount you in some museum." He chuckled.

"That's after they finish testing you and finding out why you survived when all the humans died from that plague. Those scientists

are anxious to get their hands on a real live human."

Adam stopped walking as a grin spread across his face.

"I didn't say stop." The alien grumbled.

"You said enough." Adam turned slowly around.

"I don't know what you mean Earther but you better move or I'll burn a hole right through you." He said jabbing the gun towards Adam.

"You said they want me alive."

A swear escaped his lips as he realized his mistake but the alien was already to late. Adam leapt forward driving his boot into the creature's stomach. The extraterrestrial stumbled backwards as Adam moved in. Raising its gun, Adam whipped his leg around and kicked it from the creature's hand.

The alien yelled in frustration and swung wildly its large hands crashed into Adam's face sending spit and blood flying from his mouth. The two stepped back and circled one another.

Adam toyed with the idea of using his laser cannon but he new he needed this alien alive and able to talk.

The bounty hunter moved in throwing punches. Adam reacted swiftly blocking the first but felt the next connect hard with his

shoulder. He turned himself closer to his opponent to take away his reach advantage and brought a knee up hard and fast into his midsection. An alien curse escaped the creature's lips as he pulled back and threw a punch straight at Adam's head.

Adam Zero ducked and let the punch sail passed his head, twisting his arm he threw all his weight upward. His fist landed with a deafening crack on his attackers jaw. The alien stumbled backward while Adam followed after. He continued his assault his hands reigning down blows in combinations. Green blood flowed freely from the alien's oblong shaped head.

A low thud echoed down the alleyway as Adam slammed the creature in one of its many eyes. Falling backwards it drop to the ground a low moan escaping its fanged mouth as it landed in a crumpled heap.

Adam hovered above the creature his chest heaving as he tried to regain his breath. He snatched the edge of his bloody gloves and yanked them off dropping them on his unconscious opponent. He quickly unsnapped one of the many pockets on his belt and pulled out a fresh pair of gloves. He tugged them over his long

fingers and secured the strap around his wrist.

He concentrated on a calming technique one of his instructors had taught him. His mind cleared and he swiftly brought his breathing and heart rate under control. Looking around the alley he saw the alien's pistol lying in a pile of garbage. He scooped it up and yanked out the power cartridge. The power meter glowed full and he slapped it back into the weapon with his palm. He knew if he hadn't been swift enough to disarm the creature he would be the one on the ground.

He knelt next to the creature and surveyed the damage he had caused. Blood pooled in its eyes and its fanged mouth exhaled in short harsh breaths. He moved rapidly rummaging through the many pockets of the bounty hunters clothes and belt. He pulled out extra energy clips and placed them in his own vest. Yanking out a piece of paper he unfolded it and saw his own picture staring back at him.

The wanted poster was several months old, declaring in bright red type that he was the most wanted fugitive in the galaxy. A bounty of one hundred million Aureas was the reward for his capture alive, less than half of that if he was dead. A list of crimes covered one entire side

of the page. Scribbled at the bottom of the page was a note. *Luna platform three.*

Adam pressed the gun against the eye he had damaged and pushed. A guttural yell poured from the alien.

"How many more in your crew?" Adam asked.

"You'll never make it off world earther." The creature hissed.

Adam turned the weapon and slapped the creature in the mouth drawing even more blood.

"How many?"

The bounty hunter smiled and spit a spray of green blood at Adam.

Adam shifted the gun and squeezed the trigger. Bright blue light ripped from the gun and the alien's eviscerated ear fell to the ground in charred and smoking pieces.

"How many?"

"Two." It responded.

"Where's your ship docked?"

"Juno landing area section twelve."

"How'd you track me?"

"We got your friend Cyrus." The alien smiled his cracked teeth covered in blood.

Footfalls echoed down the alleyway. Adam turned to see the outline of another alien running toward them.

"Said you wouldn't make it off world." The creature laughed. Adam pressed the trigger

tearing a hole through the chest of the alien letting it slump dead on the ground.

He spun about and lunged forward racing down the refuse strewn street. The footfalls behind him stopped only for a brief moment and then were loudly on him once again.

Adam pulled open a pouch on his belt and yanked out a small device snapping it unto the tip of his weapon. He could feel the vibration as a laser blast shot past him, the heat of it warming his ear with a near miss.

He pointed the weapon in the air and fired. Four protruding hooks snapped out as it flew into the air, a thin cable whizzing behind it. A thud echoed from high above as the grapple found purchase in the darkness. Adam clicked the trigger once again and he soared into the air. The cable yanked him forward as it recoiled into the weapon.

Air exploded from his lungs as the alien crashed against him. Its shoulder pressed deeply into his already injured ribs. Its clawed hands wrapped firmly around his chest squeezing the air from him as they disappeared in to the waiting darkness.

