

STAR RACER

written by

From Space

STAR RACER: CHAPTER ONE

MINOL CITY, A FUTURISTIC CITY IN THE RISOLXR STAR SYSTEM, THE PLANET IS KNOWN FOR ITS RAPID EVOLUTION AND ADVANCEMENTS IN TECHNOLOGY TO COMBAT INTERPLANETARY THREAT. THE RISOLXR STAR SYSTEM IS CONNECTED TO AN INTERPLANETARY GALAXY NETWORK THAT TRACES BACK 3.5 BILLION YEARS.

The Racer is in his cruiser, driving around Minol City. The night is dark, but the city lights shine above him. The radio is on and he begins to scroll through the stations.

RADIO ANNOUNCEMENT
(Alien Language...)

SPORTS BROADCASTER
With three laps to go it's...

SINGER
Let's see deeper tonight...

NEWCASTER
And, tonight at eleven we will
have the story...

Waiting at a red light, The Racer stops scrolling as he finds a suitable music station, Zalmank Rock. The light turns green and he pulls away. Coming up to the next intersection he sees a large gathering of people. He lowers his window and pulls up next to someone.

THE THE RACER
What's going on here?

STREET RACE FAN
Street racing.

The crowd looks on. Two cars are lined up, a bright colored six-wheel cruiser and a rusted muscle car rev their engines. The flag drops and the two cruisers speed off. Neck and neck, the cruisers dash through the straightaway. The bright green cruiser begins to pull ahead with only a few meters to go. At the last moment, the muscle car accelerates past the cruiser, passing the finish line and winning by the slightest of margins.

The crowd celebrates the victor as the driver of the muscle car goes to collect the purse. 100K diamond credits. Another race is set to begin. This time, five cars ready their spots at the starting line.

STREET RACE FAN (CONT'D)

Hey, you got a nice car! You should try to race sometime?

THE RACER

You think? How about now?

The Racer slowly pulls up to the line with the rest of the cars. Jeering comes from the crowd. The bookkeeper collecting the bets approaches his cruiser.

BOOKKEEPER

Sorry, pal, this is a private race, and it costs 20k diamond credits to enter.

The Racer hands over a card to the bookkeeper, who swipes it through a small machine. Much to the surprise of the bookkeeper, the machine blinks greens as the diamond credit transaction went through.

BOOKKEEPER (CONT'D)

Who are you?!

THE THE RACER

Does it matter?

The window of the cruiser closes. Put off, the bookkeeper returns to the center of the field.

BOOKKEEPER

Racers, start your engines! This is a circuit race, around the power station, into the promenade, and back through the hills, to right here. Five... I mean, six racers. 120 thousand diamond credits on the line.

The participants rev their engines waiting for the flag to drop. The Racer is peering at the flag intently. The moment it falls, the cars speed off, tires screeching as they make way through the power station.

A small, red, turbo engine windracer takes the early lead. Behind, a circular orbiter hovers behind. The Racer finds himself in the middle of the pack as the blinding lights of the power grid glare in front of them. The Racer glances into his rear view mirror and sees the cars in pursuit. An explosion lights up the rear view behind him. Leaving the destruction is a sole rider on an armored one wheel cycle. The Racer grips the steering wheel and speeds up.

THE RACER

So, it's that kind of race.

The trailing cars catch up to the cruiser. The Racer maneuvers to keep the cars behind him, trying to focus on the road ahead at the same time. They enter the traffic-ridden area of the promenade. The four cars still in play are weaving in and out of a stream of vehicles. The windracer and orbiter take to the low sky to avoid the trouble. The tailing cycle rams the vehicle in the back, sending The Racer's cruiser spinning.

The Racer manages to keep control of the car as he falls to fourth. The four cars manage to escape the promenade unscathed and head for the hills. Closing the gap, he approaches the cycle. The armored vehicle whips in front of the cruiser but miscalculates the move, allowing The Racer to get in front. The Racer presses a button on the center console, dropping a tire strip from the under carriage, shredding the cycle's tires, ejecting him from the vehicle.

It is the final stretch of the race, the three remaining cars reach the hills. The winding terrain causes the aerial cruisers to slow their speed, leaving a window for The Racer to close the lead. The remaining cruisers are neck and neck as they weave to the finish line. The windracer still in the lead, looks in their rear view, seeing his advantage falling by the second. He gets desperate.

WINDRACER

Take that!

The windracer drops a gluey substance from their vehicle, pinning the orbiter down in its place. The Racer turns his wheel sharply, barely avoiding the glued orbiter.

Two competitors remain heading into the final 100m, the finish line in sight. The lights and the noise of the crowd getting brighter and louder as they inch closer. Hovering and picking up speed the windracer eyes the finish line. Suddenly, the cruiser appears below, accelerating to the finish line by half a length.

The Racer peels out into victory lane as the crowd goes wild.

BOOKKEEPER

Wh..what... are you some sort of
hustler? A professional? That's
cheating!

THE RACER

A hustler, yes. Professional, no.

The Racer speeds over the bookkeeper's foot. He writhes in pain and tosses the card holding the diamond credits up in the air. The Racer pops his car into reverse, the card falls perfectly into his hand. His window closes, the radio clicks on, and the muffled sound is heard blaring from the fleeting cruise speeding from the scene.

The moons looked painted in the night sky. The Racer is driving through the city when his phone rings. He picks up without saying a word, the voice on the other end begins to speak.

VOICE

You got a job...

The Racer listens to the message and hangs up. He pulls a sharp u-turn and speeds into the night. After a short drive, he pulls up behind an abandoned warehouse. There is a large truck sitting under a street light. The Racer stows his cruiser in a hidden area and approaches the truck. When he enters, there is a small note with an address.

The Racer gets in and turns on the truck. Driving, he browses the radio channels, while searching, a noise comes from the trailer of the truck. Almost as if the cargo is moving.

THE RACER

What is in there? This truck is massive.

The noise continues, sounding more intentional than before. The Racer pulls the truck over. The sounds of banging stop, sparking more curiosity.

THE RACER (CONT'D)

(To himself)

What the hell is back there?

He exits the truck, and looks to the back of the trailer. He sees nothing. Walking over, he puts his ear to the trailer door, but hears nothing. Unlocking the door, suddenly, he's hit in the chest, forcing him to the ground. Screams are heard, and a being emerges from the truck. Before he can get far, THE Racer pulls out a phaze blaster, and points it at the unfamiliar being.

THE RACER (CONT'D)

Take another step, and I'll blast you.

BEING

(Frantically speaking
an alien language)

The being waves his hands.

THE RACER

What're you saying? I am not familiar with that language.

BEING

Don't shoot! We are peaceful, we have been abducted!

THE RACER

We?

The Racer looks behind the tall, slender, one-eyed being, and sees a truck full of others of his kind in the back of the truck.

BEING

Please, please, you must help us.

He takes a step toward The Racer, who in return, sends a phaze blast past the being's head, and beyond the trailer of the truck, slicing through a Protella Tree, into the night sky, stopping him in his tracks.

THE RACER

Don't. Move.

The Racer maneuvers around the being, shutting the door to the trailer and locking the door.

THE RACER (CONT'D)

Come with me.

Still pointing the phaze blaster at the being, he directs him to move to the cab of the truck, and gets into the passenger seat. The Racer returns to the driver's seat, and closes the door behind him. He lets out a large sigh. Turns on the truck and begins to drive again.

BEING

(Speaking unknown language)

The Racer looks at him blankly.

BEING (CONT'D)

Where are you taking us?!

The Racer subtly points to the note on the dashboard containing the address he was given. The universal being reads the note.

BEING (CONT'D)

You must stop, they are going to
kill us. Do you know what you are
doing?!

Once again, the racer points the phaze blaster at the being.

THE RACER

Quiet.

BEING

You don't know what you're doing.
We will suffer immolation at
best.

THE RACER

At worst?

BEING

They will extract our blood for
the crystalline material we are
born with, some of the most rare
elements in the galaxy. We have
been kidnapped in mass. It is
genocide.

The Racer continues driving, keeping the phaze blaster
pointed at the being. The two sit quietly as they navigate
the city. The GPS sounds off.

GPS

In 50km, keep right.

The Racer speeds up the truck.

GPS (CONT'D)

In 25km, keep right.

The speed of the car continues to increase.

GPS (CONT'D)

In 10km, keep right.

The being pleads desperately.

BEING

Please, you can...

The Racer turns on the radio. Music blares loudly.

GPS

Keep right, now.

The Racer pushes his foot further down onto the accelerator, and speeds to the left of the median. The being gasps.

GPS (CONT'D)

Turn around. Turn around. Turn...

The Racer sends a phaze blast to the GPS, frying the unit. The cell phone rings, he ignores it. Suddenly, the radio changes from music to a voice.

VOICE

You fool, where are you going?
You think you can run from me...

The Racer changes the radio back to music.

THE RACER

Hold on.

Along the starway, two cruisers pull up behind the truck. The Racer sees them from the side window.

THE RACER (CONT'D)

This truck is made of organic
Marxell matter.

BEING

What does that mean?

THE THE RACER

It mean it's strong. Put on your
seatbelt.

The being obliges. The Racer slams on the brake, one of the cruisers slam into the back of the trailer sending it into a firey blaze. The other veers off, losing control and burning out into a deep, dark valley. Another cruiser catches up alongside of the truck, the passenger side window rolls down, and a henchmen with a phaze blaster begins to shoot the side of the trailer. The henchmen speeds up to truck driver's side window. Just as the henchmen goes to pull the trigger of a phaze blaster, The Racer careens the truck into the cruiser sending it spinning out of control.

BEING

Who is doing this? Who was that
voice? Where are you taking us?

THE RACER

You're asking a lot of questions
right now.

BEING

Here comes two more cruisers.

Another two cruisers pull alongside the truck. One of the henchmen manage to climb onto the back of the trailer. He begins to try and unlock the door.

BEING (CONT'D)

They're on us.

The Racer begins swaying the truck sending the henchmen flying, but the truck loses traction and spins out. The Racer tries to kick the truck back into gear, the last cruiser is closing in on them.

BEING (CONT'D)

Hurry!

The truck shifts into drive, The Racer floors the accelerator directly at the other cruiser. The two vehicles charge, neither prepared to yield. He grips the wheel.

THE RACER

Hold tight.

The truck smashes into the cruiser, leaving a wake of the shredded vehicle behind them.

THE RACER (CONT'D)

Are you OK?

The being is shook, but otherwise alright.

THE RACER (CONT'D)

Tell me where to take you.

The Racer brings the group of stranded beings to a safe area outside of the city.

THE RACER (CONT'D)

I better get out of here, it won't be long before they come looking for their truck.

BEING

Thank you for helping us.

The Racer enters the truck and drives off.

Meanwhile, back in the city limits, a surviving henchmen makes his way back to the bosses lair.

BOSS

What do you mean he got away?!

HENCHMEN

I'm sorry, boss, I...

The boss sends a phaze blaster to the henchmen, and redirects his attention to another goon in the room.

BOSS

Put a bounty out. 1m diamond credits for his head.

End.

STAR RACER: CHAPTER TWO

The Racer is at the edge of the city, trying to return home. He knows by not finishing the job he was hired for, his safety is at risk.

THE RACER

I have to lose this truck, or
they will keep following the GPS.

The Racer dumps the truck into a molten lake, melting the precious metal in seconds. The Racer checks his watch to locate the cruiser. Activating the retrieve mode, he realizes the distance is too far.

THE RACER (CONT'D)

(Sighs)

He begins walking the road back to the cruiser; he has a few kilometers ahead of him. It was the deep hours of the night, the moons set high in the sky providing light for him in-between the occasional vehicle to pass by him on the starway. He checks his watch again. Another cruiser pulls alongside him. The Racer readies his phaze blaster. The window rolls down and the driver sees the molten lake behind him in the background.

DRIVER

You know that thing is deadly,
right?

THE RACER

You don't say?

The Racer grips the blaster.

DRIVER

Why don't I give you a ride? It's
hours till light.

He thinks for a moment. The trek would be a lot faster with a ride. He thinks about phazing him, but as The Racer approaches the passenger side to take the seat, the driver turns on the radio station, playing groovy fryth-jazz, a favorite of his. Climbing in, he closes the door behind him.

DRIVER (CONT'D)

Hope you don't mind music.

The Racer gestures, and the driver turns up the volume of the music. They drive along the starway, the driver begins to make conversation with The Racer.

DRIVER (CONT'D)

So, where you going anyway?

The Racer does not answer, and instead he continues to stare straight ahead of him.

DRIVER (CONT'D)

What.. What were you doing out there tonight?

Still no answer. The driver had used a mystic sonic spell, putting The Racer in a deep hypnotic trance.

DRIVER (CONT'D)

(To himself)

Perfect.

The Racer is imprisoned by the spell as the car continues on the starway. Suddenly, a cell phone rings, startling the driver and breaking the sonic spell releasing The Racer from the hypnosis. He quickly checks his surroundings. The driver pulls the car over to the side and silences the phone.

THE RACER

Where are you taking me? How long have we been driving for?

DRIVER

Relax, relax, I have to stop off at the fuel station. Calm down, friend. Can I get you anything from inside?

THE RACER

I think I will just walk from here.

DRIVER

Nonsense. Stay here, I will only be a minute.

The driver exits the door and begins to fill his vehicle with astrofuel. His cell phone rings again. He wanders a few feet away from the vehicle as he answers the phone.

DRIVER (CONT'D)
(Whispering, loudly)
You almost blew it, you idiot!
What do you want?

VOICE ON OTHER LINE
Where is he?

DRIVER
I was bringing him right to you
before your unwelcomed call.

VOICE
(Trying to be calm)
Just bring him to me. I will
transfer the diamond credits to
you now.

DRIVER
About that. You seem pretty
eager, and let me tell you, I
have seen this guy! It wasn't
easy for me to capture him. You
should be scared.

VOICE
Excuse me?

DRIVER
Yeah, and thanks for the 1m
credits, it just hit. But, I want
2m.

VOICE
Are...are you extorting me?

DRIVER
You sound so surprised, isn't
extortion a hobby of yours?

The Racer is in the car waiting, he is listening to the phone call using a special radio device.

THE RACER
I have to get out of here.

While the phone conversation continues, The Racer quietly exits the car and begins to sneak away.

VOICE

(Presses button on
phone)

I don't have time for this.

DRIVER

What?

The driver hears a a beeping from the phone.

DRIVER (CONT'D)

Hello? Do you want this guy or
not?

The beeping continues.

DRIVER (CONT'D)

Hel...

The beeping speeds up, what sounds like a dead connection is actually a sophisticated weapon. A bomb sent through the telephone connection reaches the drivers phone blasting him several meters in the air and causing a massive explosion at the fuel station. The force of thermal pressure throws the escaping racer, sending him tumbling.

The shaken Racer tries to stand up as the sounds of sirens and the smell of smokey fumes fill the air. He makes it back to his feet.

THE RACER

(Dusting off a
flaming piece of
jacket)

I've got to get out here.

He checks his watch to see his location now, to his surprise he is closer than suspected. He tries retrieval mode again. No luck.

THE RACER (CONT'D)

What is the point of this
feature?

Frustrated, he continues to press the button on the watch.

WATCH-INTERFACE

RETRIEVAL MODE ACTIVATED.

The Racer sighs in relief.

THE RACER

Let's see how this works.

The Racer looks at his watch. He notices it is almost time for the moons to set. When he looks down from his watch, his cruiser is in front of him.

THE RACER (CONT'D)

Okay, that feature is worth it.

He gets into the cruiser and begins to drive.

THE RACER (CONT'D)

This guy's not gonna quit. I'm going to have to leave the city for awhile.

Navigating fast through the city, he sees two suspicious cars begin to tail him. He activates the vehicle's communication device.

KAVELKAD

Hello?

THE RACER

Kad, I need you to prepare a spaceship. As soon as possible.

KAVELKAD

I can have one ready in...

THE RACER

I am on my way.

The vehicles tailing The Racer make a move to take him out. The Racer picks up his speed. He turns on the radio, a classic piece from a legendary robotic composer plays. The henchmen close their distance to the cruiser. They pull up on both sides of him, ready to make their move. The Racer presses a button on the steering wheel. A teleporation portal beams from the cruiser's front headlights, he sends the vehicle into hyper-speed and through the window. The henchmen miss the cruiser, crashing into each other in a fiery blaze.

The racer comes from the other end of the portal, arriving a short distance from the the rocket station. He quietly rolls up.

KAVELKAD

I couldn't possibly have a rocket ready in that time, you are something else. I...

THE RACER

I know, I know, but I've got to leave now. Whatever you've got is fine.

KAVELKAD

Hey, what's going on? I haven't spoken to you in months, and now you are star-hopping?

THE RACER

The less you know the better.

KAVELKAD

Are you kidding?

The Racer stares at the station master.

KAVELKAD (CONT'D)

Ok, OK. Well, if you are serious about this. I have something for you. Mid-size ship. Should have room for your cruiser, but I don't know where you're planning to go.

THE RACER

I appreciate this.

Kavelkad helps The Racer load the cruiser and some other gear onto the rocket.

KAVELKAD

Be safe.

THE RACER

I will. I will be back.

KAVELKAD

You better, that is my ship!

The Racer enters the spaceship, starts the engine and begins to leave Minol City. Kavelkad is on the runway watching him go. He pulls the ship up high into the night sky as the moonset and the darkness dissipate. He sends the ship into warp-speed, leaving the star system and traveling into the vastness of space.

End.

STAR RACER: CHAPTER THREE

Kav watches as the ship takes off into space. The massive quad thermal nuclear engine rocket was built with his own hands, like all of the ships at the launchpad. The StarHopper X2 was one of his first, and one of his favorites. He watched as the ship traveled into space, getting smaller and smaller ascending into the sky. Barely visible now, Kavelkad takes out a telescope, zooming in on the rocket right as it hits hyper-speed. He watches the rocket until it is no longer visible. He turns around and is met with a phaze blaster pointed at him.

HUNTER

Where is he going?

KAVELKAD

I dont know what you are talking about, and you don't know who you're pointing that blaster at.

Kavelkad raises his arms in surrender.

HUNTER

Why are you protecting him?

KAVELKAD

I operate a launchpad, I meet lots of beings.

THE HUNTER

I will give you one more chance, where is he?

KAVELKAD

He's in deep space at this point, how will you even-

Kavelkad makes a move for the phaze blaster in his belt, but is outmaneuvered. The hunter fires the blaster, sending a freeze-ray over Kavelkad, leaving him frozen solid.

HUNTER

As you wish.

The hunter looks around the station. He readies one of the several spaceships that is in the bay. He sits in the cockpit of the rocket, starts the engine, and lifts off of Minol City. Once in the skies, he releases a chemical, allowing him to see the thermal trail of The Racer's path.

The Racer is traveling deep space at hyper-speeds, listening to the radio.

THE RACER

Again? All of the universe, and the radio still plays the same 6 songs.

The Racer tries to navigate to another station. As he is cruising, he witnesses a rare event: a stellar collision. Though light-years away, the brightness of the shining light and heat briefly blind his view.

THE RACER (CONT'D)

Woah. Far out.

The phenomenon will continue for billions of years, but the speed of the rocketship leaves the brilliant sight in the rearview in seconds.

THE RACER (CONT'D)

Well, where to next?

The Racer slows the ship, gliding along the gravitational pull of nearby planets, a technique allowing him to travel far distances and save precious fuels. He pulls out a map of the galactic universe. He scans it, considering a star system he can visit where he can lay low for awhile. As he is surveying, the two-way radio begins to murmur. The Racer turns up the volume.

KAVELKAD

(Shivering)

D...D..Danger! Danger!

THE RACER

Did you run out of hot water, Kav?

KAVELKAD

(Shivering)

A hunter... is after you...

THE RACER

Kavelkad, I am in deep space, listening to one of those Utem Jazz Recordings you left in the...

In an instant, a blastbeam flies by the ship, going off into the infinite depths of space.

THE RACER (CONT'D)

Kav, I have to go.

The Racer uses a magnified rear-view mirror to see an oncoming ship, light-years away, but coming up quick.

THE RACER (CONT'D)

Time to get out of here.

The Racer turns up the music and initiates hyper-speed mode, only to find the thrusters are still charging up. Another blastbeam flies by The Racer's ship.

THE RACER (CONT'D)

That's not good.

The impending ship approaches, and the hunter readies another beamblast. It fires from the cannon of the ship, slightly missing The Racer's ship.

HUNTER

Poor engineering. This ship is ancient.

He readies another blastbeam and misses again.

HUNTER

I haven't the time for this.

The hunter brings the ship alongside the StarHopper X2.

THE RACER

What is he doing?! He will kill us both!

The hunter tries to crash their ship into The Racer. With a quick maneuver, The Racer is able to dodge it.

THE RACER (CONT'D)

This guy is crazy.

Suddenly, the hunter's ship zooms past the StarHopper X2, and out of sight. The Racer looks to see if the hyper-speed is almost at full charge.

THE RACER (CONT'D)

A few more seconds.

Still traveling through space, The Racer sees an object in front of him, it is the hunter outside of his ship; a high-technology suit is keeping them alive. As the StarHopper X2 passes, the Hunter launches themselves from the ship and onto the exterior of The Racer's ship with an audible thud.

THE RACER (CONT'D)

(Confused)

Did he just?

All at once, explosions fill the sky, The Racer sees the flashing glow of the sacrificed spaceship. Kav's hard work, blown to pieces.

THE RACER (CONT'D)

That's rude.

The sound of thuds continue, as the hunter tries to reach the hatch of the StarHopper X2. The Racer readies his blaster as he hears his enemy right outside the hatch. Suddenly, the ship's interface sounds off.

INTERFACE

Hyper-Speed Ready.

The Racer gets into the cockpit, puts on his seatbelt, and grips the controls. He presses the hyper-speed button, sending the hunter flying off the spacecraft, and floating into the vastness of space.

The StarHopper X2 travels lightyears away at incredible speeds until the hyper-speed thrusters lose charge. He takes his map out to see that he is in a star system that he has never heard of before. He circles various planets around the dual star system. The ship's interface sounds off again.

INTERFACE (CONT'D)

FUEL NECESSARY.

The Racer is hovering above the seventh planet from this particular star. The atmosphere looks welcoming enough to land, as it is not too hot, but the ship does pick up intense weather patterns. Fuel levels continue to drop.

THE RACER

This will have to do.

He enters the inner atmosphere of the planet, turns up the radio and prepares for landing...

Meanwhile, in deep space the hunter is floating in a spacesuit attached with individual rocket cylinders, allowing for survival in dire situations. He pulls out a small device. BEEP. BEEP. BEEP. A small screen shows the location of the StarHopper X2 due to a small tracking device placed by The Hunter. He reads the screen...

HUNTER

Planet DOOM.

End.

STAR RACER: CHAPTER FOUR

The Racer narrowly escapes the assassin sent by Fejj Zebos to kill him. Fejj Zebos, is the evil technolord of Minol City and hired him to complete a job. Crossing Fejj is something few think of in Minol City, most regret it, swiftly meeting their ultimate fate.

He prepares for landing, at a rocket station located on Planet DOOM. He had never been there before, but according to legend, the local star is close to collapsing on itself. The changes have brought extreme weather including blistering heat and violent storms. Due to the hostile changes, many have fled the planet, becoming displaced, searching for refuge in nearby galaxies. The ones that remain are fiercely adaptable.

THE RACER

Who was that? I have never seen equipment like that. I wonder if Kavelkad is okay?

He tries to radio back to Minol City, but can't seem to find a connection. He continues until the static clears and he hears a voice.

THE RACER (CONT'D)

Kav? Kav is that you!?

VOICE ON RADIO

(Indistinct Language)

The Racer has trouble understanding the language being used. The voice continues, but he is unable to communicate with whoever is on the other side of the connection.

THE RACER

(To himself)

I am going to need find fuel if I am going to get out of here.

He exits the ship and begins to walk around the rocket station. At the station are many kinds of beings that The Racer has never come across before. He approaches a group of beings talking.

THE RACER (CONT'D)

Hey there, love your suit, really sleek. You fellas have a map... by chance? Or, point me toward the fuel station?

The group of three rocket pilots just stare back at him.

THE RACER (CONT'D)

This language barrier might be a problem.

The Racer surveys the rocket station for a moment while he tries to get a better grasp of his surroundings. He sees a poster on a wall and gravitates towards it. It has a familiar feeling to it. He approaches.

THE RACER (CONT'D)

This looks like a racing announcement.

He examines it further. After studying the poster for a moment. The Racer points his watch at an area of the poster, scanning the information an address populates.

THE RACER (CONT'D)

Got it.

He utilizes a GPS device to help him navigate to the location that was identified. The Racer heads back to his cruiser before leaving the rocket station.

He follows the GPS directions for awhile, he comes to a hilly area, the roads are slick in the elevated location. The Racer brings his cruiser around a bend and sees a small gathering of similarly looking beings gathered around. He pauses, and tries to be stealthy to observe the situation, but the beings can sense someone is around. They are conversing and settling terms of the race, but suddenly they pause. One of the beings speaks.

RACE OVERSEER

Who is there? I know someone is out there.

The Racer remains hidden out of sight.

RACE OVERSEER (CONT'D)

You're not from around here are you?

The Racer pulls to the crowd of beings.

THE RACER

Does it matter?

RACE OVERSEER

That depends. Why are you here?

THE RACER

To race.

The overseer pauses, and eyes up the racer then looks at the cruiser. He uses an ocular examination and sees that the cruiser has specialized tools.

RACER OVERSEER

Sorry, no tricks or gimmicks here. Pure racing.

Another competitor chimes in,

COMPETITOR 1

None of that, he's not allowed!

COMPETITOR 2

You're just scared of a little competition.

COMPETITOR 3

He can't race without cheating that's why he has those gadgets to begin with.

THE RACER

I'll disable the tech Board. No tricks, just racing.

The race overseer considers the offer.

RACER OVERSEER

Fine. 200K daimond credits.

The other competitors grin in the background. As they ready their vehicules.

THE RACER

The poster I saw, it said 75.

RACER OVERSEER

The racer looks at his funds, and sees he has just enough available.

THE RACER

(To himself)

I can win this.

Reluctantly, he transfers the credits.

RACER OVERSEER

The first cruiser to the bottom
of the mountain collects the
winnings.

The racer pulls up along side of the other cruisers. They all have their eyes on him, then they focus on the overseer. He readies the flag. The racer turns on a radio station. It sounds like a neptuian synth soul. He turns it louder. The flag drops.

The cruisers speed off, six cars, swerving and curving through a steep mountain pass. The Racer falls behind early and is blocked off by the other cars from making a pass.

THE RACER

They're blocking me out!

The leader of the race reaches the mountains peak and peers quickly in the rearview, his lead is significant. The others climb the mountain trying to close the gap. The racer reaches the top close behind, but still in last place. On the otherside of the peak is a widen straight-away.

THE RACER (CONT'D)

This is my chance.

The Racers cruiser picks up speed, with music blaring in the background, he goes to make his move, he slips past the two tailing cruisers and into 4th place. The downhill straight-away is an advantage for him. The gap continues to close as he passes the 3rd and 2nd place cars. He closes in the leader of the pack. He looks up and can see the overseer waving the flag at the finish line. He makes one last push, he comes along side of the leader, tailgating his vehicle. But the leader leaves no opportunity to pass as the flag drops. The racer has lost. The remaining cruisers file in behind.

WINNER

(To The Racer)

Nice try, perhaps you needed your
tricks after all.

The overseerer transfers the diamond credits, and the celebration begins. Though, The Racer is not interested in joining the festivities. Just as he is leaving, a being appears from the shadows.

SHADOWBEING

(To The Racer)

You. You drive well.

THE RACER

Thanks...Who or what are you?

SHADOWBEING

We are, Shadorah.

THE RACER

We?

The shadowbeing dissipates in thin air, only to reappear, this time multiplying himself and surrounding the racer.

THE RACER (CONT'D)

Oh.

Shadorah returns to a singular form.

THE RACER (CONT'D)

Well, clearly I didn't drive well enough.

SHADOWBEING

Yes, but you showed bravery.

THE RACER

It's just racing.

SHADOWBEING

You had little chance to win, these are the most prestigious street racers around. But, they are not brave. They knew the circumstances. You did not.

THE RACER

Thanks... but I needed to win. I need..

SHADOWBEING

You need diamond credits. That is why I am here, I want to hire you.

THE RACER

You... need a driver?

SHADOWBEING

No. I need bravery.

The shadowbeing receives a puzzled look from The Racer. They look behind them to the peak of a mountain, dark clouds hang high above it. Lightning can be seen accompanied with roars of thunder.

SHADOWBEING (CONT'D)

At the peak of the mountain, on the south facing wall, there was a meteor impact. Since, many strange occurrences have been reported. The meteor brought destruction, but it also brought the Kris Jewel from the far reaches of the galaxy.

THE RACER

Kris Jewel?

SHADOWBEING

A most precious, mystical, and powerful mineral. Retrieve this for me, and I will reward you handsomely with diamond credits.

The Racer hesitates for a moment while he eyes up the mountain in the distance.

THE RACER

Fine. I'll do it. But it will cost you 200K credits.

SHADOWBEING

Return here with the Kris Jewel, before the star rises.

In an instant, a transfer is wired to The Racers account. He looks at his watch to see the increase of not only the 200K, but an extra 100k.

THE RACER

(Still puzzled)

Who are you again?

He looks up to see the shadowbeing has vanished.

The Racer gets into his cruiser and begins his journey to the mountain top. He gets to the base of the mountain and can feel the strong winds whipping around the body of the cruiser. Dark clouds and fog prevent him from seeing the peak.

THE RACER (CONT'D)

Here goes nothing.

Ascending, the roads become slick with a thin layer of ice as he climbs higher and higher. The Racer is driving steadily, he deploys special tires to increase his grip on the road, adapting to the changing conditions.

The temperatures on the mountain drop quickly, The Racer is facing freezing conditions as he elevates. Rain falling down freezes, turning into icicles on the cruiser. Then, a screeching howl fills the air.

THE RACER (CONT'D)

What was that?

The howls continue, but The Racer tries to ignore them, as he sees he is nearly at the top.

At the peak, the snowy weather creates low visibility, The Racer can barely see through his windshield.

THE RACER

I'll have to walk from here.

The Racer exits the cruiser and begins the trek. The extreme weather causes The Racer's body temperature to drop immediately. Icicles drip from his jacket. He taps his watch, as he becomes nearly frozen solid. In moments, the activated heat sensors melt off the ice and the briefly frozen racer is freed, and able to continue forward. Only meters in front of him, there appears to be something on the ground. The Racer runs over to see a driver, frozen solid.

THE RACER (CONT'D)

What the- He looks around, trying to scan the area through the wind and snow. The Racer can see the faint blinking light of another car. He runs over, but trips over a log. He gets up, shakes the snow off his jacket and looks at the log below him. But it isn't a log at all, just another frozen driver. This one is holding something in his hands. The racer examines.

THE RACER (CONT'D)

(Curiously)

It looks... like some sort of... explosive charge.

The Racer pries the charge from the frozen driver's hands and continues on. He reaches the edge of the crater impact and begins to dig through the snow, searching for the surface of the mountain. The racer takes the explosive charge and plants it. He sets off the detonator and runs to a safe spot. A few seconds go by before an explosion blasts the side of the mountain, sending rock and Kris Jewel into the sky. The Racer quickly begins to collect the glowing jewels. The iridescent coloring almost hypnotic. As he piles the jewels into his bag, the sound of a piercing growl fills the sky. An avalanche begins to storm down the mountainside.

THE RACER (CONT'D)

I got to get out of here.

Suddenly, a dragon-like creature made of rock, springs into the sky. Hovering above the mountain peak it begins to shriek. The creature scans the mountain to see who or what made the explosion. High in the sky, it spots The Racer.

THE RACER (CONT'D)

(Looking up)

Oh sh-- The creature swoops down looking to make a small meal out of The Racer. He begins to run, stumbling as he navigates the snowy terrain. He gets back to the cruiser and notices that the other car is now gone. But he doesn't have time to stop and think, the dragon is closing in.

The Racer gets into the cruiser, slamming the door shut. He turns on the ignition, just in time as the creature crashes into the side of the cruiser. Sending the car spinning. The knock disorients The Racer. He grips the gearstick sending the cruiser into drive, speeding down the mountain. The wintry conditions make the escape even harder. He flips a switch for brighter lights when suddenly he must slam onto his breaks. He has caught up to the car that was at the peak with him. The Racer pulls along side him.

THE RACER (CONT'D)

That must be the other driver. I wonder how he- The Racer is distracted when he looks in the rear view mirror to see the giant dragon like beast still chasing after him.

THE RACER (CONT'D)

This guy really hates being woken up.

The Racer is neck and neck with the other driver now. He lowers his window and begins to shout to the other driver.

THE RACER (CONT'D)

Don't try anything funny now! We both can survive this. You need to slow down, your tires aren't going to hold up on the slick surface.

The nervous driver ignores the advice of The racer and picks up his speed, but as he pulls ahead he loses control slamming into the snowbank off the side of the road. The Racer continues ahead, in his rear-view mirror he sees the dragon like creature engulf the spun out car in flames, leaving the driver immolated.

The Racer takes a deep breath as he escapes the danger. Once at the base of the mountain, he realizes it will be dusk soon.

THE RACER (CONT'D)

I have to hurry.

He speeds over to rendezvous with the shadowbeing. He pulls up and exits his car, but the shadowbeing is nowhere to be found.

THE RACER (CONT'D)

Where is this guy?

The Racer turns around to see the shadowbeing.

THE RACER (CONT'D)

I guess that's your thing huh?

SHADOWBEING

I sense you have the Kris Jewel.

The Racer exchanges the bag to the shadowbeing.

THE RACER

And.. Where the hell did you send me? How many others have you sent up there to die?

SHADOWBEING

Many claim to understand the power of the mountain, but few do, not even me. But the Kris Jewel is most valuable. It contains the building blocks of life. Not only on this planet, but for millions of planets across galaxies.

THE RACER

Why do you need it?

SHADOWBEING

I just told you why. Now, unless you plan on retrieving more...

Another transfer comes through, 150k diamond credits wired to The Racer.

THE RACER

No no no. I am not going back up there. You realize there are dead drivers up there right?

SHADOWBEING

As you wish. Keep the credits, as a symbol of my gratitude.

In an instant the shadowbeing disappears with the Kris Jewel. The Racer breathes a small sigh of relief knowing he has survived an interesting night. Walking back to his cruiser he scans the area to see if anyone else is around. The area is clear. The Racer pops open the trunk of his car, where a bag of the highly valued Kris Jewel shines in his eyes.

End.

STAR RACER: CHAPTER FIVE

The Racer is walking to his cruiser. He looks back to see the strange planet he is on. He looks back at the mountaintop. You can still see the storm high above the peak.

THE RACER

This place sure is spooky.

Thunder and lightning fill the sky. A sudden roar from the distance has him pick up his pace. He uses his watch to see the cruiser only a few hundred meters away. As he approaches, he can see a carjacker trying to enter the crusier.

THE RACER (CONT'D)

Hey! Hey!!

He begins to run toward the carjacker, the noise stirs the thief, and they begin to run. The Racer sprints past the cruiser continuning after the carjacker.

THE RACER (CONT'D)

(To himself)

They must've seen the Kris Jewel.

He continues to chase, but is losing his ground to the enduring carjacker. Suddenly, right before The Racer's eyes, the accelerating carjacker transforms into a spacecruiser, fleeing at high speeds.

THE RACER (CONT'D)

What the f- The Racer stands shocked and confused as to what he just saw, having trouble believing his own eyes.

Inside the spacecruiser, a voice is heard from inside the fleeting car.

VOICE

(Furiously)

"Why are you running away! Kill him!!"

In an instant, the vehicle stops, turns around, and readies its weapon systems, as now the the once fleeing vehicle begins to hone in on The Racer. The still stunned racer sees this unfold in front of him. He sprints back to the cruiser. With the armored vehicle closing in, he gets in just in time, as a phaze beam ricochets off the driver's window. He turns on his vehicle and speeds away. More phaze beams blast into the side of The Racer's cruiser.

THE RACER

I gotta get back to the rocket station.

The Racer checks the GPS to see he is a long way from where he needs to be. He scans the map quickly and sees an upcoming tunnel. He picks up his speed and makes his way to the entrance.

THE RACER (CONT'D)

I will lose them in there.

The Racer turns off the cruiser's headlights and turns on a sonar system helping him navigate the dark tunnel. The mapping reveals an intricate maze like cavern. He finds a secluded area and pulls the cruiser to the side.

THE RACER (CONT'D)

Activate stealth mode.

The cruiser initiates stealth mode, the engine becomes silent, an advanced cloaking system makes the cruiser nearly impossible to see.

THE RACER (CONT'D)

Let's see if we can learn a little more about our friend here.

Soon after, the armored vehicle barrels into the cavern. Though The Racer can hear the vehicle, he cannot see it, but it does appear on the cruisers radar. As the vehicle navigates the tight, rocky terrain it pauses, out of The Racers vision, but still on the radar.

THE RACER (CONT'D)

It... stopped?

The Racer is able to catch a glimpse of the vehicle from the corner of his side mirror.

THE RACER (CONT'D)

What is it doing?

He watches as the once armored vehicle begins to transform its shape into a small winged machine, more capable of navigating the cavern.

THE RACER (CONT'D)

(To the cruiser's
interface)

Activate record mode. Prep for
electronic image analysis.

The cruiser begins capturing images of the machine flying through the cavern. The sonar pings as the machine grows closer and closer to the cruiser.

THE RACER (CONT'D)

What the hell- 40 meters.. 30
meters.. 15 meters.. 10 meters..

The winged machine approaches the cruiser. Bright lights are activated, but all that can be seen is a mirror like reflection of the machine as it hovers.

THE RACER (CONT'D)

Let's see how this goes.

The Racer sends an EMP net from the cruiser, trapping the winged machine, and paralyzing its electrical capabilities, it comes crashing to the floor of the cavern. Its internal reset system is activated briefly, only to be shut down by the power of the EMP netting. The Racer waits a moment, before deactivating stealth mode, and exiting the cruiser. He walks over to the disabled machine, and picks up the net he has trapped it in. Using the headlights on the cruiser for light, he closely examines what exactly he has in his hands.

THE RACER (CONT'D)

I have never seen technology like
this.

The Racer tosses the trap into the trunk of the cruiser.

THE RACER (CONT'D)

I will examine this, but for now
I must get out of here.

He re-enters the cruiser, turns on the radio and begins to navigate to the exit of the strange cave system. His plan worked, he was able to evade his newfound enemy, but he wasn't safe yet. He programs the cruiser's GPS and exits the cavern.

After a short drive, he reaches the Planet DOOM Rocket Station. He pull the cruiser in and is stopped by an attendant.

ATTENDANT

How can I help you, friend?

THE RACER

Hi, I need to take that ship over there out of here as soon as possible.

ATTENDANT

Why the rush?

THE RACER

Oh.. I just..kind of hate this planet.

The attendant pauses for a moment.

ATTENDANT

Yeah, I get that. This sure is a strange place. We have a few rockets to blast before you, but I can put you on the queue. About 3 ahead of you.

THE RACER

That's fine.

ATTENDANT

120K diamond, please.

Not thrilled with the price, but staying mindful to keep a low profile, The Racer pays the fee and pulls through. He parks the cruiser into the rocket ship. He exits and closes the cargo's garage door. Once closed, he double checks over his shoulder to make sure nothing is around, and opens the trunk of the cruiser. In it is the disabled tech machine and the bag of Kris Jewel.

THE RACER

There is a lot to unpack here.

He picks up the Kris Jewel, bringing it to a safe vault in the cargo area.

THE RACER (CONT'D)

Let's keep you there until I figure out what exactly you are.

He reaches back into the trunk of the car, lifting the disabled tech machine from the EMP net.

THE RACER (CONT'D)
Let's see where you came from.

The Racer travels to the main cabin of the ship.

THE RACER (CONT'D)
It's too quiet in here.

He turns on the radio, and brings the tech machine into a small laboratory. He places the device into a scanning chamber to be further analyzed. The Racer closes the chamber door, and activates the testing sequence.

Meanwhile, singing to himself, The Racer prepares the ship for take off. He heads to the ship's navigation center. There he pulls up a 4D model of the galactic system he is in. He turns up the music, and begins to study.

THE RACER (CONT'D)
Let's see... how do we get back to Minol City from here, I have to get this Kris Jewel back to Kavelkad, he will know what to do with it.

The music briefly pauses as a sound begins to beep and a voice comes over the system's sound system.

VOICE
ANALYSIS COMPLETE.

The Racer heads back to the data lab. He sits down, and removes the tech device from the scanning chamber. A small printout report is produced from the analysis. The Racer begins to read.

THE RACER
What??

The Racer is confused at first, but continues reading.

THE RACER (CONT'D)
FejjTech? All the way out here?
How?

He pauses and thinks.

THE RACER (CONT'D)
That man holds a grudge.

Suddenly, the door to laboratory swings open, The Racer spins his chair and points his phaze blaster. The station attendant is standing in the door.

ATTENDANT

(Screams!)

Don't shoot, please!

THE RACER

What- Why are you in here?! Get out.

He exits the room, and The Racer follow him out of the laboratory.

THE RACER (CONT'D)

I almost phased you through the wall. Would you have enjoyed that? Explain yourself..

The attendant begins to explain himself, but is drowned out by the volume of the music in the ship.

ATTENDANT

I... I ... Could.. You lower the music...

THE RACER

Right, right.

The music pauses.

THE RACER (CONT'D)

Explain yourself...

ATTENDANT

We called you from the ship entrance, but you didn't answer.

The Racer, accepting of the answer, lowers the blaster.

THE RACER

(Jokingly)

Good music though, right?

The attendant, still visibly shaken from nearly being obliterated.

ATTENDANT

Very good... friend.

THE RACER

So.. anything else?

ATTENDANT

Your ship is due for takeoff
next, please bring it to the
runway.

THE RACER

Already! Fine, fine, let's go.

He begins the music again and heads to the cockpit of the
rocket ship as the attendant scurries off the ship.

THE RACER (CONT'D)

What a strange being.

He settles in to the cockpit, and readys the ship for take
off. He pulls the ship onto the runway and waits for the
signal for take off.

THE RACER (CONT'D)

What should I listen to.

The Racer scrolls through the radio channels while waiting.
The signal comes in, and it is time for The Racer to take off
but he doesn't move yet.

THE RACER (CONT'D)

(To himself)

Wait, wait I have to get a good
song.

A nice jazz rock fusion begins playing from the radio.

THE RACER (CONT'D)

This'll do.

The Racer receives the signal and he begins takeoff. As he
reaches the peak of his ascent, the station crew radios in.

CREW

Ready for hyperspeed.

Suddenly, a loud bang is heard from the entrance of the
cockpit. The iron doors are peeled away, The Racer turns.

THE RACER

You...

Standing there, was mysterious carjacker that he had previously seen at his cruiser. He pulls his phaze blaster from the holster and aims it directly at the shape shifting machine type being. Then he watches as the machine produces a 3D hologram projecting from its eyes.

FEJJ

Well, well well. I bet it is nice to see me again.

THE RACER

Fejj..

FEJJ

You have no idea who you crossed, or what you cost me when you freed those beings.

The Racer continues to point the phaze blaster steady.

FEJJ (CONT'D)

And now, it will cost you your life.

Suddenly, the machine charges at The Racer. He send a phaze blast that whirls past the machine. It tackles The Racer as they tumble to the floor of the cockpit wrestling. The machine stands up, picks up The Racer and tosses him out of the cockpit. He smashes into supplies on the rocket and crashes to the ground. The relentless machine walks over, standing over him. It kicks The Racer before picking him up again, and throwing him across the room.

MACHINE

I have to kill you now.

The tech machine prepares to eliminate The Racer, but just before it can load its power charge, The Racer fires a phaze blast, throwing the tech machine back, it lands in the bathroom of the ship, the tech machine quickly gets up, and recovers. Thinking fast, The Racer sends another blast at the entry latch, closing the door. He sends a final blast, melting the lock, trapping the tech machine inside.

The Racer pauses and readies another blast, unsure if the makeshift trap will hold. The machine tries to escape, banging and thrashing repeatedly at the door, trying to break through. Its efforts are futile, and after a few moments the banging stops. The Racer breathes a quick sign of relief before hearing the ships communication sounds off again.

VOICE

Entering Hyperspeed in
5...4...3...

The Racer rushes back to the cockpit and straps himself into the pilot's chair just in time. The ship hits hyperspeed, preparing to hit light-speed.

Meanwhile, Fejj taps back into the locked away tech machine and scans the area.

FEJJ

You let him trap you!? There is
only one use for you now.

Fejj remotely transforms the tech machine into a small, round explosive. A timer begins to countdown. 3...2...1...A bomb explodes inside the ship, causing an exterior breach.

THE RACER

What was that?!

The ships alarms begin to blare.

VOICE

WARNING. WARNING. WARNING.
Critical Damaged Assessed.

The blast throws off the ships navigational course through the intergalactic starway. The Racer is no longer on the trajectory to Minol City, but he has bigger problems. The engines begin to fail, he reads the ships feedback system.

THE RACER

Damn! There is no way I will have
enough time to fix this.

The alarms continue to blare as ship spirals fast. He looks through the cockpit window and sees the blast has created a tear right through the ship's exterior. Supplies and tools fly out of the gaping hole.

THE RACER (CONT'D)

I will never make it to the
escape pod.

The Racer sits back into the pilot's chair. He takes a deep breath and grips the control columns and attempts to level the ship. His sense of directions is completely lost.

VOICE

TOTAL ENGINE FAILURE.

THE RACER

Initiate emergency landing
sequence.

VOICE

Initiated. Landing coordinates
found. Landing in...

The Racer closes his eyes in preparation for the worst. He turns up the volume to the radio, drowning out the sound of the intercom system. He straps in tight and braces for a crash landing.

VOICE (CONT'D)

EVO4.0

End.

STAR RACER: CHAPTER SIX

It was an otherwise quiet night on planet Evo4.0. Large moons sat in the sky, illuminating a group of Dragtriadon feeding on the open grasslands. One stops and watches a fiery stream gleam across the sky overhead. Several seconds later a boom occurs from the impact, sending flying creatures from the tree canopies. The Racer's ship crash lands, sliding into the open area of the plains, the ship is wrecked. Smoke rises and the radio plays as The Racer lay injured in the cockpit of the ship.

The small fires from the crashed ship burn off over several hours. As the time passes, herds of animals hear the music and come to examine the wreckage. Most don't get too close before continuing to wander off.

A day and night pass, the smoke from the wreckage has nearly burned off. As light begins to fill the plain, a herd of nomads pass by the crash site.

PATH

Quick! Cog, go see if there is anything in there.

Cog scurries over to the the wreckage, the others in the group follow behind him. They examine the metal body of the ship, unfamiliar with the material. Cog is unable to get through the door.

PATH (CONT'D)

Mossom, you're up pal.

A large plant based creature stands up and towers over the others. It walks over to the and tears off the front door. The Racer spills out of the ship falling to the floor. Damaged, but not terribly.

ILLIDAE

Back up, don't hurt him!

The others back off, circling The Racer from a distance.

Shaken, he eventually gets to his feet. He looks up to see strange and unfamiliar begins around him. Confused, he screams before passing out again, falling to the floor. A smaller nomad scurries over and chomps The Racers helmet, unsuccessfully. Mossom picks up The Racer, having him hover over 15 feet high.

ILLIDAE (CONT'D)

Put him down. He seems hurt and lost, he needs help.

MULBER

And tell me why that is our problem?

ILLIDAE

You're just hungry, and if you eat him I will make sure it is your last meal.

MULBER

With all due respect, if you don't give me a better reason, I am going to eat him.

ILLIDAE

Mulber! He is incapacitated, this isn't a hunt. This is.. Just... sad.

MULBER

Look, I don't know know about you but look at this ship. When is the last time you seen materials like this, on this planet. What if he was sent here. You know, to kill us!

ILLIDAE

Or, maybe, like you, he was sent here to die...

Mulber concedes for the time being. Illidae gestures to Mossom to pick up the still fainted Racer.

ILLIDAE (CONT'D)

Let's get back to camp.

MULBER

We can't pretend like this material isn't Fejjtech.

ILLIDAE

(Looking back at the wreckage)

It is useless now.

MULBER

Sorry Illi, but I don't think you understand how serious this could be. What if he has a tracker on him, we can't bring him to camp.

ILLIDAE

If you're are so worried about him being here then stay back and fix this ship so that he can leave.

MULBER

Fix this? Are you serious?!

ILLIDAE

You said you are the best right?

Mulber grinds his teeth and bites his toungue.

ILLIDAE (CONT'D)

Mossom, lets go.

Mossom picks up The Racer and slings him over his shoulder. On it, mushrooms grow alongside other vegetation as the being walks. Path, Cog, and the rodent follow along as they all head back to the camp. Mulber stays behind looking at the wreckage.

MULBER

(Aloud to himself)

The first boats to cross the seas never used metal, why not the skies!

They arrive at camp, hours pass before The Racer wakes up. He sits up, and sees himself in a small tent. He gathers himself, still a little confused, and cautiously exits the tent. He sees a fire and the others sat around a makeshift campsite. Illidae immediately approaches him.

ILLIDAE

Are you feeling better?

THE RACER

Uh, yes. I guess, I should be thanking you then, for rescuing me?

PATH

Soup is ready, let's eat!

It is just before sunset, Illidae gestures to The Racer to come join the others who are sitting on stone seats getting ready to eat. The Racer observes Mossom raise his left arm out in front of him only to watch a stone seat emerge from the ground. He gestures to Mossom and sits with the rest of them the fire. A bowl of soup is passed to The Racer.

THE RACER

Thank you. I can't remember the
last time I had something to eat.

They all begin to eat in a bit of awkward silence. The Racer looks around cautiously before trying the soup. He lifts his helmet just enough to have a taste. The curiosity of the group gets the best of them.

PATH

So, are you from around here?

The Racer is taken back by the question and wants to remain coy.

THE RACER

(Looking at the
visible differences
he has amongst the
group)

Uh no, I'm not.

MULBER

Where are you from?

THE RACER

I... It's... It's just hard to
remember things right now. I am
still a little fuzzy from the
crash.

PATH

Well by the looks of the hunk of
metal you crashed here in, I
would say you are definitely not
from around here

COG

Technologically speaking, you
must be from somewhere pretty
advanced.

MULBER

Not necessarily advanced, but...
far away certainly.

The Racer takes note of Mulber's tone, and understands his hesitation toward him because the feeling is mutual, though more subtly from The Racer.

ILLIDAE

Let him rest, he has just woken
up from a crash.

THE RACER

Are you all from here?

OMNI

Ha.. Nobody is from here. We were
all sent here.

ILLIDAE

We were all sent here for one
reason or another by the same
man. Fejj Zebos.

MULBER

That bastard.

The Racers ears perk up at the sound of the name, but still
acts coy.

ILLIDAE

I was sent here nearly 10 years ago. Before sending me here to, EV04.0, I was living in Minol City. That's where he created me. His goal at the time was to create a creature that could use the power of flight to travel faster than time, breaking the construct as we know it. Through experimentation and testing I became one of the fastest beings he ever created, but I wasn't fast enough. As I grew into adulthood the chances of my success shrunk and shrunk. Then I fell pregnant, and had my daughter. Fejj was enraged when he learned of why I was unable to undergo any more experiments. Out of spite, when the baby came, he cast me here. Keeping my daughter with him on Minol City. I woke up one morning on this planet. It was Mossom whom I first met. What I thought would be a good tree to find some shelter in turned out to be him. Soon after I met Omni, Mulber, Path, and Cog.

The giant tree like being looks to Illidae and gently nods his head with a smile.

ILLIDAE (CONT'D)

And we've been keeping an eye on each other ever since. We don't even know how long Mossom has been here.

THE RACER

And... it was all Fejj?

The individuals of the group all shake their heads.

THE RACER (CONT'D)

Why here?

MULBER

You've heard of earth right?

THE RACER

Sure, of course.

MULBER

Well, Fejj tried to create his own planet and used earth as the blue print. And continues to. Only when he isn't happy with the outcome of one of his creations he casts it away and starts fresh.

The Racer still trying to piece everything he has learned together, decided to open up to the group.

THE RACER

When I was young, I lived on a meteor that traveled through space. The elders were able to read the skies and predict our trajectory. Our clan had survived for centuries. A traveler visited us, speaking of a planet soaring through space out of orbit, heading right toward us. Through our telescopes the elders were able to find and confirm the travelers bad news. The traveler offered to rescue the youngest generation of us, to help keep the bloodline going. It almost tore our tribe apart, reluctantly the elders agreed to stay with the meteorite, and send the children to safety. Only, once we left the star system, we were stowed away in compartments, packed so tight you couldn't sit. We traveled through space for what felt like forever, I think this was to disorient our sense of place in the universe. He knew we would be able to read the skies. It was then that I realized what would happen. It didn't matter where we landed, we were now slaves to the traveler. All I can remember when we landed was bright bright lights coming from the city skies.

MULBER

So you're a run away slave?

THE RACER

No. Actually, when we landed, a being ambushed the traveler, and helped set us free. After that, I was on my own. And I had been in Minol City ever since...

ILLIDAE

(Putting the pieces together...)

Fejj...

THE RACER

Yeah. Fejj.

MULBER

You know Fejj?

THE RACER

I know of him yea.

MULBER

I knew it, Illidae. Omni kill this man where he stands.

The Racer jumps up.

ILLIDAE

Stop!

Illidae jumps up as well halting the comotion.

ILLIDAE (CONT'D)

Sit down and listen or leave but you will not kill this being.

The others are on edge, unhappily that comply with Illidae's request and concede and fall back, retruining OT their seats

ILLIDAE (CONT'D)

If you know Fejj like we know Fejj, then you know he is an evil, evil being. If that is true, sit, finish your soup. Otherwise, now is your chance to walk away freely.

The Racer now looks visibly stirred.

THE RACER

Listen, if Fejj finds out I am here then you will all be in danger. There is a bounty out for my head and...

He places his bowl down and readies to leave.

MULBER

Wait just one second. If you're not working for Fejj then what is this...

Mulber reveals the safe box containing the Kris Jewel that was left on The Racers ship.

THE RACER

Where did you...

Suddenly, the group is ambushed by a rival clan. Dozens of chimp-like beings begin to swarm the camp. They throw lit torches spreading flames everywhere. A group of them jump onto Mossom. He picks up and throws one of the Marsupikoo, sending them flying, only to be attacked by two more. The group of nomads begin to fight back. Omni uses his telekentic powers to uproot the stone stools and throw them at the attackers with his mind. The Racer is tackled by a number of them, as he tries to fight them.

Eventually, The Racer wrestles off the Marsupikoo's and gets to his feet. He runs into the tent where he was resting in. He gets a hold of his phaze blaster and runs back out to the group as he begins firing at the attacking Marsupikoo. He blasts two that were pinning down Illidae. She gets up and is free to use her wings again. The Racer looks over to see a Marsupikoo examining the case holding the Kris Jewel.

THE RACER (CONT'D)

Stop him!

Mulber chases after the being but narrowly misses him as the Marsupikoo jukes by him. The racer fires a phaze blast that grazes Mulber, but is a direct hit on the devilish scavenger. Mulber dusts himself off and assesses the damage.

MULBER

You almost killed me.

THE RACER

Unlikely.

MULBER

Illidae, don't tell me you didn't see that.

Illidae takes a deep breath as the rest of the scavengers run from the campsite. She looks around to see the place has been trashed.

The group begin to clean up the ravaged campsite as the light peers over the horizon. The Racer exits the tent, with the Kris jewel safely in hand.

OMNI

(Pointing to The Racer)

He's leaving!

THE RACER

Listen... It isn't safe for any of you as long as I and this mineral is around. Fejj won't stop until he finds me. I can't have you caught up in this. Nobody else needs to get hurt.

COG

Where are you going?

THE RACER

Back to Minol City. If he is looking for me, then I why not just go to him.

MULBER

Great idea, Einstein, just what Fejj needs, more Kris Jewel.

THE RACER

He doesn't know I have it. Look I don't have time to argue. It will only be a matter of time before the next assassin or hit squad is sent to kill me. And I need to repair the ship. But thank you. Thank you for the hospitality.

The Racer shakes the hand of Mulber and waves to the others, as he walks to the edge of the ridge he looks out to see his ship in the plains, fully repaired.

THE RACER (CONT'D)

But... How?

MULBER

Just because they are natural materials doesn't make them weak.

The Racer shakes Mulber's hand again, pulling him in for a hug.

THE RACER

I... can't thank you enough.

MULBER

Yeah, yeah, just remember to give me credit when you land back on your fancy rock of a planet.

Illidae watches as The Racer walks off. She feels antsy and anxious.

ILLIDAE

Wait!

She runs over to Mossom and Mulber and the rest of the group.

ILLIDAE (CONT'D)

I'm sorry... But.. I need to go with him.

COG

What about us?

OMNI

Hush.

Omni sends a harsh look to Cog.

OMNI (CONT'D)

She said she must go. We will carry on.

Illidae nods to Omni. Mossom lets out a slight cry. He will miss her. She approaches him.

ILLIDAE

Don't be sad, big guy. I will come back. You keep an eye on things while I'm gone.

She hugs him and the rest of the group before fluttering off to catch up to The Racer. He looks over his shoulder to see her behind him.

ILLIDAE (CONT'D)

I need a ride.

THE RACER

You want to go back to Minol
City?

Illidae walks beyond him and into the ship like she is on a
mission.

ILLIDAE

Of course.

End.

STAR RACER: CHAPTER SEVEN

The Racer and Illidae wave goodbye to the rest of the nomadic crew and board the makeshift ship that Mulber was able to assemble. Once on board, the first action they take is to secure the Kris Jewel in a safety box in the stowaway of the ship.

ILLIDAE

It'll be safe in here. Mulber knows what we are transporting.

THE RACER

That's good. I hardly understand what we are transporting.

Illidae closes the box and secures the locks.

ILLIDAE

Well, are we going to sit here looking at each other or are we going to go to Minol City?

THE RACER

(Gesturing towards
the door)

After you...

They make their way to the main cockpit and take their seats.

THE RACER (CONT'D)

Alright, let me take a look at the navigator, not sure what Mulber was able to whip up in such a short time.

ILLIDAE

I think it will be just fine.

THE RACER

The seats are comfier than I expected.

Illidae gives a smirk. The Racer punches in the coordinates for Minol City.

THE RACER (CONT'D)

(Pointing to the map)

Okay... here. This jump point will bring us back to the Risolxr System. That's where Minol City is located.

ILLIDAE

Not too long I hope.

THE RACER

It's a bit of a trip, looks like the nearby jump point is out of service, we'll have to go to the next, but shouldn't be too long. You ready?

ILLIDAE

Ready.

The Racer turns on the thrusters and begins to slowly ascend from the ground. He carefully studies the level meters of his fuel and compression systems. He attempts the radio. Heavy static pours through the speakers. The Racer tunes the dial until he hits a clear station. He finds an uptempo tune for the soundtrack of his trip.

THE RACER

Now we're ready.

Ascending still, the ship soars to the jump point.

THE RACER (CONT'D)

It shouldn't take too long to get there, a few hundred kilometers out.

The two sit in silence, Illidae watches with an attentive gaze at the dark vast space around her.

THE RACER (CONT'D)

I was surprised you'd leave your crew back there. Seems like you had a pretty good thing going.

Illidae remains silent as she watches out the windows.

THE RACER (CONT'D)

Well, I should warn you, its much different than EVO4.0

ILLIDAE

I know this... I'm from Minol City

THE RACER

You were born there?

ILLIDAE

No.. not quite born. I was
created.

The Racer peers over to Illidae, her eyes still focused on
the deep space in front of her.

ILLIDAE (CONT'D)

I was created by Fejj... in part
with the Kris Jewel.

THE RACER

The Kris Jewel? What the hell are
we carrying on this ship? What
have I been carrying?!

ILLIDAE

The Kris Jewel is one of the most
rare and powerful resources known
in the galaxy.

ILLIDAE (CONT'D)

It was first used by Fejj as an
energy resource to run his
various machines and
technologies, he used his
telescopic tools to learn the
patterns of the metoer showers
that carry the Kris Jewel deep in
their rocks.

ILLIDAE (CONT'D)

Through the process of analyzing
the chemical components and
synthesizing the Kris Jewel, Fejj
was able to use the minerals to
reproduce genetic copies of
beings. Against their will. He
first used this on a small scale,
experimentally. Then on a larger
scale to help run his enterprise.
The same enterprise that turned
into an empire. He won't stop at
any cost, because who could stop
him? He will always want more.

THE RACER

I.. I have so many quest..

Something catches The Racer's eye.

THE RACER (CONT'D)

What was that?

ILLIDAE

What was what?

A ping rings off on the radar, then another, and again.

ILLIDAE (CONT'D)

Ships?

Illidae peers intently outside the window.

ILLIDAE (CONT'D)

I don't see any...

Suddenly, a thud hits the outside of the ship, then another.

THE RACER

Pirates. Secure the door!

ILLIDAE

Pirates?! How? Why?

THE RACER

Space Pirates!

THE RACER (CONT'D)

They must be able to sense or track the jewel.

Illidae whips open the cockpit door and rushes to the exit.

ILLIDAE

(Yelling back to The Racer)

They've latched onto the outside of the cabin!

THE RACER

I'm going to try and shake them. Hold on to something.

Illidae grabs hold of a railing. The Racer begins maneuvering the ship back and forth trying to shake the pirates off the exterior. Two pirate ships follow close behind. The movement sends the cargo and supplies flying around the ship causing Illidae to dodge a socket wrench coming for her head.

The Racer settles the ship but the pirates manage to hang on. They focus on making their way to the entry point. A ping hits the radar, The Racer first looks at the screen, then out into the deep space ahead of him.

He can hardly believe his eyes as a massive star begins to warp the space around it. The star and its local planetary system are rapidly dragged around until swallowed whole. Gone completely.

THE RACER (CONT'D)

(To himself)

A black hole...

Illidae runs back toward the cockpit.

ILLIDAE

It didn't work they're coming in.

THE RACER

Buy me some time, secure the door. And, hold on to something.

Illidae looks up to see the local planet systems in the distance being pulled in by the force of the black hole. The Racer navigates the ship straight towards it.

ILLIDAE

What the hell are you doing?

THE RACER

Trust me.

The pirates are almost through the door. The Racer speeds towards the black hole. Before long he can feel the gravitational force begin to pull the ship.

THE RACER (CONT'D)

(To himself)

Not yet...

He knows that if he were to get too close the force will be too strong and the ship will be pulled in along side everything else in a miles radius. The pirate ships are right behind him, keeping the pressure on his tail. They're so focused that they don't see the potential danger in front of them.

Getting closer to the center of the black hole, it drags them in faster and faster. Suddenly, The Racer takes the controls, making an abrupt 180 degree turn. The following pirate ships fly by before attempting their own turns. The force from the turn sends more things flying, including Illidae.

THE RACER (CONT'D)

(Yelling to Illidae)

Hold on to something!

Illidae fights back one final pirate who has breached the main cabin, she deesperatly grasps onto a safety railing. The Racer hits the forward thrusters and engages lightspeed. The pirate ships behind lose control, getting absorbed into the ethers of the black hole. While Illidae and The Racer barely escape its grasp they jump into hyper-drive. In mere seconds they travel at the speed of light uncontrollably, passing through a jump point.

The ship exits lightspeed mode and Illidae has barely had time to return to her chair. She looks out the windows of the ship to her surroundings.

ILLIDAE

Where... where are we?

THE RACER

Good question.

The Racer tinkers with the navigation system. It reads "No Signal".

ILLIDAE

This doesn't look like... space?

THE RACER

No.. no, it doesn't.

ILLIDAE

There... what's that?

They look in the distance at a large planet, but much different than either are used to. The Racer flies closer. It's a bright, colorful land, with obscure, shifting landscapes.

ILLIDAE (CONT'D)

Did we die?

The Racer is just as puzzled, but not used to having company on his adventures.

THE RACER

No. Not dead. Let's go check it out.

ILLIDAE

Why? We aren't supposed to be in candyland you said we were going to Minol City.

THE RACER

Why? Because I don't see any where else to go.

As they bring the ship in closer for landing, curious beings begin to gather around.

ILLIDAE

This... seems weird.

THE RACER

Stay sharp, I don't get many friendly welcomes.

Illidae goes to exit the ship.

THE RACER (CONT'D)

Wait.

THE RACER (CONT'D)

Here, take this.

The Racer hands her a phaze blaster.

ILLIDAE

Oh please, like I need that.

The exit hatch slowly lifts as the pair brace themselves for whatever is to come next.

The beings surround the two of them, surprisingly, in a friendly way. They speak fast, in a high pitched tone. The Racer can't understand them.

THE RACER

Are you getting any of this?

ILLIDAE

Nothing.

The excited beings scurry around them, leading them inland.

THE RACER

I guess we're going this way.

ILLIDAE

You better have a plan for us
before I decide to make a plan
for me.

THE RACER

Just follow my lead.

ILLIDAE

I'm waiting to see a lead to
follow...

They comply with the beings wishes and travel inland with them. As they travel, they notice just how different the landscape is to them. Colors, shapes, and rock formations sprawl across the planet. They can see tall structures reaching toward the stars in the distance. Eventually, they arrive at the foot of a building. The Racer, Illidae, and a couple dozen of the beings, step onto a platform. It's an elevator of sorts, without anything to hold onto or brace themselves on, the platform rapidly ascends. When they arrive at the top, two beings are waiting.

SOOTH 1

Welcome, we were expecting you.

SOOTH 2

We are so happy to have you.
Come, come rest. It must have
been quite the journey...

Apprehensively, The Racer and Illidae take a seat.

ILLIDAE

Who are you?! And what do you
mean you were expecting us?

THE RACER

(Whispering to
Illidae)

So much for taking my lead...

SOOTH 1

I'm sure you have many questions.

SOOTH 2

Luckily, we have many answers.

ILLIDAE

Great...For starters... Who or what are you?

SOOTH 2

We are glad you asked.

SOOTH 1

We are the sooth. The rulers of this land, past, present, and future.

SOOTH 1 (CONT'D)

For centuries our kind have overseen, provided for, and guided the beings here to live a prosperous life.

SOOTH 2

Years ago, the beings came from the high trees, they were starved for nutrients.

SOOTH 1

Our ancestors predicted of a massive following. And they were right... we are the chosen ones after all.

SOOTH 1 (CONT'D)

It was up to us to see what was to come next. We relocated to the edge of the cosmic shore and built out empire.

SOOTH 2

The algorithm, speaks to us.

THE RACER

(Interrupting)

I'm not sure we even care about all that. We are just looking to get back to Minol City. Do you know it?

SOOTH 2

(Taken back)

Why of course, boy. We know all.

ILLIDAE

Then you'll let us know how to get back so we can be on our way?

SOOTH 1

What is the rush to return, my
dear, is your fate not as clear
to you as it is to I?

THE RACER

What are you talking about?

SOOTH 1

Why don't I just show you.

The sooth motions The Racer to place his hands on an orb. The surrounding beings begin to coo loudly, in excitement. A few moments pass before a smoky projection fills the room. The sooth narrates the misfortune that plays out in front of them.

SOOTH 1 (CONT'D)

It's becoming clearer now. Yes. I
can see. You will return to Minol
City... You..You seek revenge,
but the fight, you will lose, and
the beat of your heart will leave
you.

The Racer lifts his hands from the orb as the smoke dissipates into the sky.

ILLIDAE

You're lying!

SOOTH 2

(With Hubris)

Hmmm. Lying no. Incorrect, I'm
afraid so my, brother.

Taking advantage of the moment to one up his fellow leader, the sooth invites Illidae up. Taking her hands, he places them onto the orb. The smoke rises revealing another vision of the future.

SOOTH 2 (CONT'D)

You will return to Minol City,
and you will find the revenge you
seek, and you will seek your
reward, only for it to be
stripped of you. Captured
forever, the mistress will live
alone in silence with her
choices.

ILLIDAE

Mistr-

THE RACER
(To the Sooth)

Enough!

The Racer pulls Illidae from the orb. He pulls out his phaze blaster, slowly walking away from the sooth and their audience.

THE RACER (CONT'D)

We are getting out of here. If you don't want to help us get back to Minol City we will figure it out ourselves.

SOOTH 1

You are mistaken. We seek to help you arrive to your destiny.

The Sooths use their telekinetic ability to pass a scribe to The Racer.

THE RACER

What am I supposed to do with this?

SOOTH 1

A map, it will lead you where you seek.

SOOTH 2

You have been blessed by the greatness of those who see all! Go now...

Impatient, The Racer and Illidae don't stick around for the end of the preaching. They head back to their ship. Surprised, the small creatures still following them.

ILLIDAE

What the hell was that about?!

And you... you didn't even say anything, thanks a lot.

THE RACER

What are you talking about?

ILLIDAE

Mistress? Or did you feel like a tough guy...

THE RACER

They think we're married, that's a good thing.

ILLIDAE

Mind filling me in, because I have not once...

THE RACER

It means they were full of shit.

ILLIDAE

How did they know everything else about us then?

THE RACER

I can't say for sure, it must be the bounty. Fejj will stop at nothing at this point, he wants to make a point.

Back at the tower, the Sooth talk about the encounter.

SOOTH 1

Why would you temper with our fortunes? You ruined it! If they don't believe their destinies, however will they live out their prophecy of death.

SOOTH 2

If only your interpretation was more believable... I would not have had to step in.

SOOTH 1

The information was misleading! Fejj mentioned a degenerate errand boy- nothing of that other creature.

SOOTH 2

Surely, we've lost the bounty now.

SOOTH 1

Don't be so sure, WE are the ones that sent them back to Fejj to be destroyed.

SOOTH 2

Then the payout would be ours!

SOOTH 1

And then who would be right?!

Both of them laugh manically. Though The Racer questioned the information he received, he was back on his way to the source of the storm.

The Racer and Illidae return back to the ship. The engine starts as they prepare for lift off. The Racer opens up the scribe, a small model of the local star cluster pops up, a GPS navigates the route. All systems are go.

THE RACER

Your turn to pick the music.

Illidae, looking out the window back at the bizarre village, doesn't hear him.

THE RACER (CONT'D)

What's wrong?

ILLIDAE

It's just.. What if they were right? What if we are seeking revenge, is it worth dying over?

THE RACER

Don't let them get in your head, stay focused.

ILLIDAE

What if they were right?

THE RACER

Then I'll make sure it's me...
Strap in.

Illidae buckles in. Tapping her arm rest, her nerves are apparent. The Racer pauses and observes.

ILLIDAE

What are you waiting for, let's get out of this place. It gives me the creeps.

THE RACER
 (Gestures towards the
 radio with a head
 nod)

ILLIDAE

Ugh, I am sick of you.

Illidae turns on the radio, tuning the dials. A station comes in crystal clear. The synthesizers playing rise in unison with the ship. The Racer readies for take off. Illidae settles in. The music lulls her to sleep before they reach the jump point. The Racer looks over and sees her seat belt was never buckled. He reaches over and secures the belt, careful not to wake her. They reach the jump point. The Racer activates hyperdrive, entering light speed. Through the jump they return to the Risolxr System, with Minol City not much further to go.

The Racer lands the ship at his familiar friend's hub.

THE RACER
 (Through the radio)
 You got room for one more.

KAVELKAD
 If I'll be damned. I didn't
 expect to see you again. Of
 course, Hanger 3 come in quick
 now, I don't want anyone knowing
 I'm harboring a fugitive.

THE RACER
 Then don't announce it over
 airwaves.

The Racer brings the ship into Hanger 3. He safely arrives back to Minol City. Illidae is still asleep in the seat next to him.

THE RACER (CONT'D)
 (Gently, nudging his
 co-pilot)
 Hey, wake up we're here.

Illidae stirs from her sleep slightly alarmed.

THE RACER (CONT'D)
 Hey, hey.. It's just me.

She gathers her bearings. And unclips her seat belt.

THE RACER (CONT'D)

I'm going to head to the cargo,
unload. Grab your stuff and I
will meet you outside. You don't
have to worry, it's safe here.

Illidae nods her head. Carrying the safe box containing the
Kris Jewel, he calls out to her.

THE RACER (CONT'D)

What the heck should we do with
this?

The Racer walks back up the ramp to the main cabin.

KAVELKAD

Should we do with what?

The Racer stands there puzzled.

KAVELKAD (CONT'D)

Surprised to see me? Who do you
think brought you in?

THE RACER

I... I just can't believe how old
looking you've gotten.

KAVELKAD

Oh, that's nice. Real nice. Least
I don't hide behind a mask. You
must look like a real ogre.

His friend grabs a bag and exits the ship. The Racer laughs
it off and continues behind, he does a double take to make
sure the ship is empty. Illidae is nowhere to be found.

End.

STAR RACER: CHAPTER EIGHT

The Racer exits the ship hanger. Despite everything going on, he is still aware that there is a bounty out for his head. Something that he must keep in mind back in Minol City. Illidae has left and he begins a reclusive trip, down to the Warehouse District, where his safe house is located.

When he arrives, he enters carefully, just in case someone were there waiting for him. He peeks his head around the corner. He is met not with a foe, but a mess. A huge mess. He looks around at the ransacked space. Tables, chair, and everything in-between toppled over. A bashed up stereo system smokes in the background playing white noise.

THE RACER

(To himself)

C'mon... not the stereo.

The Racer gives the system a good kick, and fidgets with the knobs. Music begins to play.

THE RACER (CONT'D)

Still got it.

He blows the smoke away from the remains of the burning embers. He removes the back panel from one of the standing speakers on either side of the stereo system. In the back of the speaker he removes a small safe lock box. He brings it over to a table. He flips the table right side up and places the lock box onto it along side the lock box containing the Kris Jewel. He unlocks his safe and pulls out a black card loaded with credits, not much, but enough to hold him over in the interim. Some rare rubies, gems, jewels, and a few identification cards. He packs up and looks back at the safe house one last time.

He exits the warehouse district and catches the nearby high speed tram. He boards the tram careful to keep a low profile. He takes a seat and not before long notices he is getting some extended looks and stares. The Racer tenses up, though tries to portray a calm exterior. A being rises from his seat. They're so tall that they must duck as they move about the tram cabin. He walks straight for The Racer. The Racer tightens his grasp on the concealed phaze blaster hiding on his hip.

STRANGER

You dropped this.

He leans over and picks something up before handing it to The Racer. Looking down he sees his black card. It must have fallen from his pocket.

THE RACER

(Apologetically)

Oh, thank you, thank you so much.

The large, omninious, ultimately friendly being walks back to his seat as the tram continues along.

The Racer takes a deep breath and collects his nerve. Being wanted, traversing galaxies, it begins to take a toll on the soul. He realizes how exhausted he is and takes a moment to close his eyes.

P.A. SYSTEM

NEXT STOP, SHIPYARDS.

The sound of the P.A. system stirs The Racer from his short siesta and he exits the tram.

The reflection of the moons off the water creates the only light in an otherwise pitch black night. He makes his way into the shipyards and weaves through an endless maze of shipping containers. After several minutes of weaving, but never seeming to be lost, The Racer walks up to a container and punches in a numerical code on a lock. A few moments pass before a door rises. Unveiled behind the door is a sizable garage filled with cruisers and electric bikes, alongside other vehicles and gadgets. The Racer installs new plates onto a cruiser, and adds other details to both keep a low profile and his identity concealed.

He enters the cruiser, turns on the radio and settles in before exiting the shipping container. The door closes tightly behind him as he leaves. He tunes the radio until he finds something to his liking.

SPORTS

Here we are at the start of the second half, the Android Army is up 14-7. The Martians ready to kick off from the center of..

Switching stations...

NEWSCAST

It's ten minutes to midnight here in Minol City...

He turns onto the Starway and heads north. He looks up to see Minol in his rearview mirror. The clock reads 2:45am in the morning and the cruiser is still driving north, winding up roads and through mountains. A different radio station is on now, a much calmer sound. Despite the long drive, mentally The Racer stays focused and fights off any signs of fatigue.

The first signs of light creep up from the horizon, The Racer is no longer on the starway, but a desolate road engulfed by trees scraping the skies. The Racer pulls off into a long narrow driveway. Eventually, he sees a small cabin. He pulls up and stops the car. He exits and someones opens the door of the cabin.

ASTRO

Now.. do you know what time it is?

Astro is holding a very large phaze blaster.

THE RACER

Easy now... You wouldn't know what to do with that thing.

Astro recognizes the voice and squints his eyes.

ASTRO

Is that you? What brings you all the way up here? I thought you forgot about me.

THE RACER

(With a smile)

Trust me. I try.

Astro lowers his weapon and The Racer approaches.

ASTRO

Come in, I guess it's time I made breakfast anyway.

They enter the cabin.

ASTRO (CONT'D)

Well, get to it. You must be in some type of danger.

THE RACER

What makes you say that?

ASTRO

You wouldn't be here otherwise.
You drove all this way - for
what, to say 'hey'? They still
have phones you know, ones you
don't have to toss away after one
call.

THE RACER

(Conceding)

I'll show you...

He brings his friend to the back of the cruiser and lifts up
the trunk. The Racer enters a combination into the lock box,
he opens the door revealing the sizable amount of Kris Jewel.

ASTRO

Jumpin' Jupiter, where did you
come across this?

THE RACER

It's kind of a long story. But..
I need you to hold on to it for
me.

ASTRO

Me? No, I don't want nothing to
do with that. Are you crazy? Do
you even know what that is? The
big guy would have you killed if
you were caught with this.

THE RACER

Well.. it wouldn't be the only
reason he's got, I guess.

ASTRO

Oh hell, is that what this is
about? You got yourself tied up
with that goon?

THE RACER

I told you.. it's a long story.
I...

ASTRO

No, I don't need to know. The
less I know the better.

ASTRO (CONT'D)

Help me get this into the bunker then. And make sure that lock stays shut, I don't need any science experiments up in my part of the sphere.

The Racer carries the lockbox into the cabin and down into a security bunker.

ASTRO (CONT'D)

Here, put it in the corner there. It will be there for you to pick up. Which will be soon, I hope.

THE RACER

I hope so, too!

ASTRO

So, where you off to, then?

THE RACER

I'm not sure.

ASTRO

For how long?

THE RACER

I'm not sure.

ASTRO

Can I tell you a story?

The Racer nods.

ASTRO (CONT'D)

When you were a child, fears of our destruction grew amongst the tribe, propaganda of a great demise had spread like wildfire. When a supposed savior came in with a plan and solution there was few skeptics, because most people thought they were being told the truth, and that they could be saved. However, some, including your father and mother, believed that it was best to see it through, not to run to something easier, but to face what is difficult.. To move the immovable.

THE RACER

And they were killed for it.

ASTRO

Says who?

THE RACER

What are you talking about?

ASTRO

When Fejj came all those years ago. He... he invented the threat we all feared. He played the role of plague and savior, as a way of peacefully capturing a generation of beings.

THE RACER

So... my family??

ASTRO

As far as I believe... the comet still soars in the night sky. Our people, navigating the way.

Abruptly, The Racer leaves the cabin. His friend follows behind.

ASTRO (CONT'D)

And now, where you off to in such a hurry?

THE RACER

To defeat Fejj Zebos.

His friend pauses for a moment.

ASTRO

Just wait here a second.

He disappears into the cabin. The Racer anxiously waits in the cruiser. He is antsy and having trouble sitting still. The Racer starts the engine of the cruiser, turning on the radio. Deep in thought, he doesn't scroll through the stations as typically. An advertisement plays from the low volume of the radio speakers.

NEWSCAST

....And the Grand Prix is due to start just 14 moonlights from now.... The sponsors of this years tournament.. Fejjtech...

Astro reappears from the cabin doors.

ASTRO

Here take this, it may come in
handy.

He tosses a small vile, containing an extract of the Kris
Jewel.

THE RACER

The Jewel? I don't know how to
control this.

ASTRO

That is why I only gave you a
little.

The Racer secures the vile into the cruiser. His friend gives
him a nod.

ASTRO (CONT'D)

Make sure it's not too long before
I see you again.

The Racer nods his head and puts the cruiser into gear. The
noise of the radio station seeps through as he rolls up the
windows. He turns the cruiser and rolls down the driveway,
starting his journey back to Minol City.

End.

STAR RACER: CHAPTER NINE

The Racer begins his journey back to Minol City with laser focus, but still in need of developing a plan. Weaving through the other cruisers and auto-trucks, The Racer makes his way closer to the city. He makes sure to keep his distance from the auto-trucks as he doesn't trust their Fejjtech AI systems. Unexpectedly, another cruiser begins to tail The Racer.

THE RACER

(To himself)

This guy has plenty of space!
What's he doing?

An abrupt maneuver is made by the tailing cruiser but instead of pulling ahead, they pull alongside The Racer's cruiser. He looks out to his right, but cannot see through the blacked out windows. He lowers his speed, but the cruiser does the same. To focus, he lowers the music from the radio as he's alarmed by the behavior of the other driver. In an instant, the adjacent cruiser speeds off ahead.

THE RACER (CONT'D)

What was that about?

The Racer switches the radio to a signal that will allow him to hear local outgoing radio communications from a small radius. He turns up the volume. After a few moments, a spotty signal comes through.

RADIO VOICE

I can confirm...it was him...
...definitely boss... Send them
in...

The signal goes out once the other cruiser is out of range. The Racer picks up speed and is ready to get back to the city where he can lay low. In the rear view he sees more auto-trucks behind him.

THE RACER

Not these things again.

He increases his speed to keep his distance, but one accelerates past the cruiser and cuts into his lane. He decelerates and looks to switch lanes when a second auto-truck pulls alongside of him, blocking him in. The Racer sees a third auto-truck racing in when suddenly bullets begin to ricochet of the back of his cruiser.

THE RACER (CONT'D)

Fejj...

The cruiser's bulletproof exterior keeps him safe, but the incoming auto-truck will plow straight through if he doesn't think fast.

THE RACER (CONT'D)

I really don't have time for this.

He clicks a button on his dashboard, revealing two front-end cannons on either side of the vehicle. He presses another button and the cannons fire at the auto-truck ahead of him, shredding through the truck. The Racer speeds through with the remaining two tailing behind. Thinking on his feet, instead of a picking a lane on the starway, he drives between the two, dead center. It scrambles the AI and sends the autotrucks into one another. The Racer escapes with a fiery explosion in his rear view mirror.

THE RACER (CONT'D)

So much for intelligence...

After the narrow escape, The Racer looks ahead to see the suns rising, and the Minol City skyline in view.

The Racer exits the starway for Minol City and is greeted by a massive billboard announcing the Grand Prix that will take place just days from now. A race that he had originally planned to compete in.

THE RACER (CONT'D)

(To himself)

So much for that. I can't race now, not with this target on my back. If Fejj knew I was racing, he would have me killed, no doubt.

He gets back to Minol City and devises a plan. He calls someone for some help.

THE RACER (CONT'D)

Hey.. I need you to meet me at the lab.

TEVZ

You mean the cave? For what?

THE RACER

I have a project for us.

The Racer is back at his shop in the shipyards, when he enters there is someone already there in the dark, the only light glowing from an array of computer screens behind some desks.

TEVZ

What are we working on?

THE RACER

You'll see.

The Racer walks over to a cruiser and hits a button to a lift. The cruiser raises and he begins to work underneath the body of the cruiser. The pair work through the day and night. Eventually, they look at a clock and mentally calculate how long they have been working.

The Racer takes a wrench and tightens the last bolt needing attention.

TEVZ

Time to test it?

THE RACER

No time, the Grand Prix is only a few hours away.

The Racer puts on his jacket and prepares to leave the shipyards.

TEVS

Then where you going now?

THE RACER

To register. Just make sure to follow the plan, the cruiser needs to be there right in time for the green light, no sooner.

TEVZ

Got it.

Later that day the Grand Prix is set to begin.

ZORG

Hello everyone, and welcome to the 49th annual Minol City Grand Prix, I am Zorg Crizdell, your host this evening, alongside me is Dorp Pell. Dorp, tell us more about what we have to look forward to tonight.

DORP

Great to be here, Zorg! We are all excited for today's race, it's the final race of the Minol City Racing League and tonight's purse is the biggest of the season. These racers are going to bring their best tonight, Zorg.

ZORG

Dynamite! Tell us more about tonight's course, Dorp.

DORP

Today's iconic course was developed by our Sponsor, and Fejjtech's own, Fejj Zebos. The course was built only a year ago, replacing the legendary Racing Stadia, which was known for some of the best races this star system has ever seen.

ZORG

The competitors will race around and through the center of Minol City, and Fejj will hope to create that same legacy the Stadia once held.

ZORG (CONT'D)

It looks like we are ready to get started, let's take a look down at the course as we get set to...

DORP

Sorry to interrupt, Zorg, but Im getting some news here, a last minute competitor has joined the competition.

ZORG

Another racer! Dorp, tell us more!

DORP

I'm hearing, the contestant is a racer called... St.. Star Racer. Apparently, this is his first race coming in with a record of 0 wins, 0 racers. The driver will be in.... A.... An XX Phantom Cruiser. Wow Zorg, that cruiser is nothing to scoff at.

ZORG

Well.. this could be a case of someones mid-life crisis or we may have a new racer in town, Dorp. And now, a moment from our sponsors from Fejjtech.

The broadcast cuts to a commercial.

Up in Fejjtower looking down over the racecourse, Fejj and his cronies oversee the Grand Prix. He sits in a chair glaring out the window at the spectacle below him.

FEJJ

Well boys, another Grand Prix set to start. Look at all we've made. Money. Money. Money.

His crew laugh alongside him, they relax in the lush lounge Fejj has set up for them. The food and beverage flow in excess, screens surrounding the room all broadcasting the race.

FEJJ (CONT'D)

Wait... Wait.. What was that? Another competitor? Who let this happen?

CRONIE

What's the difference? It's all fixed anyway, ain't it? That's just another entry fee in our pocket.

Fejj turns to the screen to see the XX Phantom Cruiser pulling up behind the rest of the competitors. A graphic below displays the name "Star Racer". Fejj grips his glass so tight that it shatters.

CRONIE (CONT'D)

What gives, boss?

FEJJ

Get me a phone.

Fejj mumbling to himself, becomes irate as he dials a number.

FEJJ (CONT'D)

I can't believe this guy, this
guy wants to die today, huh. Of
all days!

FEJJ (CONT'D)

Hello!!

A voice murmurs on the other end.

FEJJ (CONT'D)

I don't care! You tell every
single one of those racers, that
I want that STAR RACER, DEAD!
Triple the bounty!!

He slams the phone down.

The race is about to begin, the 21 cars are lined up at the start waiting for the green light. The engines from the group of cruisers buzz. One by one, the communications come in from their teams, the competitors once focused on the course ahead of them, shift their eyes to their rear view mirrors, at the XX Phantom Cruiser. With the whole city watching, the flag drops and competitors dash from the gates. For Fejj, once a celebration, the Grand Prix has become more personal.

Meanwhile, The Racer stealthily reaches the bottom of Fejj Tower. With Fejj's whole team thinking that he is participating in the Grand Prix, no one suspects him to be walking around the tower. He walks through the front door and past security with ease, all their attention pinned to the broadcasting of the race. The Racer reaches an elevator bank, there is a map. He begins to scan when communications come through his headset.

TEVZ

Are you in?

THE RACER

Getting there. how's it going out
on the course?

TEVZ

It's a bloodbath, they are ALL after the phantom, two cruisers barely made it past the 20 meter mark before trying to take it out... I dodged them of course.

THE RACER

Don't celebrate yet, I need you to last the whole race, if they get to the phantom, my cover will be blown.

TEVZ

Copy, that.

The sounds of people coming alert The Racer, an elevator going up arrives and he enters. He rushes to pick a floor in an effort for the doors to close quickly behind him. He does a double take and sees just how many floors there are in the massive tower.

THE RACER

(To himself)

This has to be overcompensation for something, right?

The doors of the elevator open up to the casino floor. The Racer steps out into the room of sounds, lights, colors, and questionable decisions.

THE RACER (CONT'D)

I think I'll fit in here.

The Racer walks through the crowded casino, observing the bettors and their company. Everyone is out for the big event, celebrities, athletes, politicians. The money is flowing alongside plenty of elixirs. After scanning the room, he finds a table and sits down. He exchanges a handful of gems for some casino chips.

CARD DEALER

Three card poker, ante up to play.

The Racer plays a hand. The dealer places his cards in front of him. The Racer bets.

CARD DEALER (CONT'D)

A straight, well done.

He collects his winnings and plays the next hand. The dealer lays out three more cards. The Racer bets.

CARD DEALER (CONT'D)

Flush, you win again.

THE RACER

Just dumb luck.

The Racer wins again and is feeling a bit looser than when he first got to the tower.

CARD DEALER

I don't think I have seen you play here before, you just visting town?

THE RACER

Yeah, you could say that, I don't plan to stay long. BAM!

The Racer wins another big pot. His winnings streak gains the attention of the casino bosses over watching the table. They keep their eyes on The Racer and other players at the table. An accompanying player chimes in.

THE RACER (CONT'D)

But I wanted to come and see how the better half lives, you know?

CARD PLAYER

Better half?

THE RACER

Yeah, I have a cousin, works for Fejj, should be here any moment actually or maybe there's another casino Fejj is at...

CARD DEALER

You won't find Fejj here, he is up in the penthouse, I was supposed to deal there today, but...

A another gambler interrupts...

BEING

Where you from then...

THE RACER

Uhh.. I'm.. From... EvO4.0

BEING

That garbagedump? Ha! Wow, look
what the trashman brought in.

The other patrons laugh at his expense. But the response
prompts the card dealer to ask a question.

CARD DEALER

Not many visitors come through
here from EVO4.0...

The card dealer turns to notify his bosses of something
strange, but when he turns back The Racer, and his winnings
are gone.

Stuffing his pockets with chips, The Racer makes a swift
exit.

THE RACER

(To himself)

Damn it, I said too much.

He looks over his shoulder to see a group of large casino
goons coming toward him. He dashes into a sea of people
playing games and watching the Grand Prix. The Racer loses
the guards and slips into a stairwell.

Through his communication device, he contacts his friend.

THE RACER (CONT'D)

You there?

TEVZ

Holy Black Hole, man! These dudes
are seriously trying to end you.
We aren't even halfway through
and half the competition has
blown their engines trying to
take you out. How's it going on
your end?

THE RACER

Yeah, about the same... Listen, I
need you to buy me more time. I
found the location I need to go
to.

TEVZ

I'll do my best, but I don't know
how much longer this will last.

Back on the track, the Grand Prix is well underway. Many competitors have fallen out of the race due to failed attempts at trying to take out the XX Phantom Cruiser. The remote handling by his friend in the shipyards is working to plan, for now. All eyes are on the Grand Prix while The Racer navigates Fejjetower.

THE RACER

Alright, keep in touch.

TEVZ

Copy, That.

The Racer climbs a flight of stairs before opening the door. As he exits, he collides with another being, falling to the floor. He's a bit dazed. Gathering his feet he looks up.

THE RACER

Illidae?! What are you doing here?!

Illidae brushes her self off.

ILLIDAE

There is no time to explain, follow me.

THE RACER

Are you here you kill Fejj Zebos?

ILLIDAE

Are YOU here to kill Fejj Zebos?

THE RACER

Yes...

ILLIDAE

Only if I have to... Let's go...

THE RACER

Fejj is in the penthouse, we have to go up.

Illidae is already well on her way, ignoring the statement from The Racer. Reluctantly he follows her.

THE RACER (CONT'D)

Where are we going?

ILLIDAE

Can you stop asking me so many questions, I am clearly in the middle of something.

The two of them pass a pair of security guards in their travels. But quickly continue on. The suspecting guards radio in.

GUARD 1

Uh.. Boss, I think we have something you might want to take a look at.

FEJJ

Shut up, you fools! I am busy!!

Fejj slams the phone down, cursing as he watches the XX Phantom Crusier glide through the track of the Grand Prix.

Illidae pauses to look at a map before going around a corner.

ILLIDAE

We're close, come on.

The two continue through the sprawling tower until they reach a large regal door, unique to the others in the tower.

ILLIDAE (CONT'D)

This is it.

She opens the door and walks into a sadistic masquerade of a museum. A collection of thousands of beings. Various beings from different times and places through out the cosmos. Together, they walk through witnessing the neglected beings in cramped cages.

THE RACER

What the F-

ILLIDAE

Follow me!

Illidae walks down a corridor before stopping at an intersection, The Racer makes sure to stay close behind her. He turns to see a small cage and walks towards it, he is almost stunned to believe what he sees. A being in front of him cowers. Illidae looks over The Racers shoulder and into the cage. The connection is instant.

ILLIDAE (CONT'D)

Anil!

It's Illidae's daughter. She's not well.

ILLIDAE (CONT'D)

We have to help her!

The Racer picks the lock of the cage housing Anil, she trembles to the floor. An alarm sounds off.

ILLIDAE (CONT'D)

She is too weak, she won't make it out of here.

The Racer takes out a vile and hands it to Illidae.

THE RACER

Here.. I think this should help...

The Racer hands her the vile of Kris Jewel. She takes it and Anil is barely able to swallow the extracted jewel. Suddenly, overhead an announcement comes on the speakers. The facility is going into a lockdown. The cephalod security see the trio from a distance and begin to track them down.

THE RACER (CONT'D)

You have to get out of here now!

ILLIDAE

No, we won't leave you!

THE RACER

Illidae, you have to go, you have to. For her..

Illidae picks up Anil and hides as The Racer causes a diversion gaining the attention of the guards. He looks up and sees an exit at the other end of the hall. He begins to run. Two guards chase him. Looking behind him for a moment to see the gap he had, he is hit with a force that knocks him to the ground, he looks up to see a third guard hovering over him. One swift blow from the guards knocks The Racer out.

From afar, Illidae watches from a safe, hidden distance. The guards scoop up The Racer and exit the museum. She begins to look for an exit, she finds a small supply closet. She briefly looks for an exit with no luck. Before closing the door something catches her eye. It's an electric supply. She switches the breaker, turning off the electrical current. An alarm sounds, and after a few moments, each cage holding a being becomes unlocked. One by one, they realize their moment of opportunity and escape the cages. Thousands of species begin to stampede through the museum, destroying the interior until overflowing out of the exit. Illidae filters behind the stampede and is able to get herself and Anil out of there.

The Racer wakes up, still a bit stunned, he looks around his environment. Trying to gain his sense back, he realizes he has been pinned to a wall, inside of Fejj's office. Fejj is sitting at his desk conducting business when he looks up to see The Racer stirring.

FEJJ

Finally, you're up! I thought the guards may have killed ya. And while that would have been quite fine with me, it's certainly not as fun as this is going to be.

The Racer struggles to break free of his constraints.

FEJJ (CONT'D)

Not so slick now are ya?

Fejj grabs a phaze blaster off his desk and approaches The Racer. He loads it up and aims down the sights.

THE RACER

Don't you want to know who you're killing? Don't you want to take off the mask.

FEJJ

Ha! I don't need to take off the crappy helmet. I know exactly who you are... Komet! You think just because you escaped meant I didn't know where you were? What you were doing? Why do you think I offered you the gig back when in the first place. I.. as always, have been trying to help you.

THE RACER

Liar!

FEJJ

You're alive because of me!
Because of everything I have
built. But like most, you are
blind. You are ungrateful...

THE RACER

STOP! You're a monster! Keeping
beings captive, forcing births,
picking and choosing who comes
and goes based on what genetic
value they have to you.

Fejj cuts him off.

FEJJ

A monster? Ha! Look around you,
Kometsen. I have built a
sprawling city. The beings, are
happy, they thrive under my
control. You see if it wasn't me,
it would have been someone else,
and before you know it, it'll all
be predetermined by the
algorithm. I took the opportunity
that anyone would have!

He aims back down his sights.

FEJJ (CONT'D)

Now, I'm going to go back and
watch the finish of Grand Prix.
Too bad you couldn't this year...

Fejj is about to pull the trigger when suddenly, a stampede of beings comes bursting through the door, without a moment to dodge the rush, the swarm of large beings trample the room, crushing Fejj in their path. They continue blasting through the glass windows panes and falling onto the track of the on-going Grand Prix. The cruisers scramble to dodge the dazed beings, some the size of dinosaurs. The newly freed beings are out in the outside world for the first time. Panicked, the stampede continues on the track and eventually into the city, as they scatter off in fear.

DORP

What in the galaxy is that, Zorg!

The Grand Prix has erupted into chaos with injured beings, crashed cruisers, and general confusion among the crowds.

ZORG

I'm not sure I can believe my eyes!

DORP

And you do have 12 eyes, so that's saying something.

ZORG

It appears there are some... some beings that have gotten onto the track, maybe too many elixirs. Folks, the race has been paused, when we have more information, we will be sure to pass it along. But for now, how about another message from our gracious sponsor, FEJJTECH!

The broadcast cuts to commercial.

Upstairs, The Racer is able to wriggle himself free of his constraints, he falls to the floor, landing on his feet.

TEVZ

Dude....

THE RACER

You heard all that?

TEVZ

Uh... yeah? I'm also seeing it, there are beings everywhere!

THE RACER

We'll talk about it later, now is not a great time.

TEVZ

Wait! ...Did we do it?

THE RACER

(With a sigh)

Yeah, we did it.

The Racer gets to the exit of the destroyed room, he is careful as he looks for a way out. He finds a clear path and a fire escape to exit the tower. He gets to a motobike he had hidden nearby and heads back to the shipyard.

Two weeks later...

RADIO BROADCASTER

...And now it's been 14 days since the Great Grand Prix debacle. It was on that day that we had learned that president and CEO of FejjTech Enterprises, our elected leader, had been conducting scientific experiments on beings against their will. Now, we know stock prices for Fejjtech have dropped drastically in the last few weeks, but Fejj Zebos has already denied any chances of him stepping down as CEO, my question for you is, should we be thanking Fejj about his commitment to helping Minol City prosper?

RADIO PERSONALITY

Are you kidding? Fejj Zebos has a right to do what he wants with his business! Fejj Zebos keeps us safe!

RADIO PERSONALITY 2

Yes, I would have to agree, the beings need a leader like Fejj, the stocks will rise. Beings will be grateful...

Unable to stand one more moment, The Racer changes the station from the mind-numbing news to some music. A calm, steady tune. He turns up the volume and continues his drive. He reaches his friend's cabin outside the city.

ASTRO

Wow, you came back.

THE RACER

Don't get used to it...

The two chat for a moment. After all he had been through over that last few months, navigating space, meeting new beings, learning about his family, almost being killed, The Racer was ready for a time of calm and steady. Even after Fejj was exposed his grip on power was too much for any real change to happen. The sun rose the next day, and the day after, and before you know it, it was like nothing really ever happened at all.

ASTRO

Alright, I can hold on to it. But if you don't come back soon I'm going to sell it. Get me a sweet ride like you got.

THE RACER

Ha, maybe you should!

The Racer heads back toward the city, it's time he moved on from Minol City, at least until it cools off a bit. The beings may have forgotten the events of the Grand Prix, but Fejj's crew certainly won't. He gets to the launch station and sees his friend.

KAVELKAD

Ship's all ready, friend!

THE RACER

Thanks, I appreciate it, but did...

ILLIDAE

Hey there!

Illidae and her daughter climb up onto the deck of the ship.

THE RACER

Glad you got my message.

ILLIDAE

Us, too.

KAVELKAD

So where y'all off to?

ILLIDAE

EVO4.0. Home.

Illidae hugs Anil and heads into the ship, readying for take off.

KAVELKAD

And you, what's your plan?

THE RACER

Bring them home. And then...

KAVELKAD

And then?!

THE RACER

The galaxy is mine to explore.

KAVELKAD

Ha! You got it in you, kid,
you're young. But will I ever see
you again?

THE RACER

Of course, I'm borrowing your
ship, remember?

The two hug, and The Racer heads for the cockpit. The Racer, Illidae, and Anil are in their seats and ready for takeoff. The Racer turns on the engine and begins to hover. Kavelkad sits on the launch pad seeing them off. The Racer turns on the radio, surfing the channels, but can't quite settle on a station.

ANIL

Why aren't we moving?

ILLIDAE

(With a sigh)

It's his thing...

The Racer lands on something he likes, a psychedelic sound, filled with harmony and hope.

THE RACER

Ready?

ILLIDAE & ANIL

Ready!!

The ship takes off, flying into the dark night sky.

The End.

