



*ILLUSTRATIONS AND STORY BY ANDREI BARBĂ & TUDOR MOLDOVAN*

**ASSIST**  
Innovative Minds



## CHAPTER 1

*'MANY MANY MILLENIAS AGO, LIFE WAS PRIMORDIAL ON THE TRANQUILL PLANET OF AYWIN. ENTIRE FAMILIES OF ANCIENT ANIMALS DWELLED EVERYWHERE, FROM THE CALM SHORES TO THE SNOWY MOUNTAIN TOPS. AMONG THE CREATURES THAT LIVED IN THAT TIME, WERE THE MIGHTY SABERS, THE MOST AGILE ANIMALS OF THE VAST FORESTS AND RICH PLAINS. THEY WERE CUNNING HUNTERS, OFTEN LIVED IN GROUPS AND PREFERRED THE DENSE FORESTS AS THEIR HOMES, BECAUSE THERE THEY COULD EASILY AMBUSH THEIR UNSUSPECTING PREY.*





THE LEGEND SAYS THAT 2 CUBS WERE BORN BY THE QUEEN OF SABERS...BOTH HEALTHY AND WITH BEATIFULL FUR--ONE GOLDEN AND THE OTHER HAD A DARK GREEN TINTED FUR, BOTH OF THESE COLORS WERE VERY RARE FOR THEIR KIND, AND ALL BORN WITH THEM WERE CONSIDERED SPECIAL AND THOUGHT TO BE AN OMEN OF CHANGE, AS TIME PASSED, THE TWO BROTHERS GREW AND SLOWLY STARTED TO FORM INDIVIDUAL TRAITS, THE GOLDEN ONE ALWAYS TRIED TO BE AROUND OTHER CUBS, HAD A PROUD POSE AND LIKED THE ATTENTION OF OTHERS, THE SECOND CUB LIKED TO WALK AROUND ALONE IN THE FORESTS, GAZE AT THE NIGHT SKY, BUT HE WAS ALSO QUICK TO ACCEPT ANY CHALLENGES FROM ANYONE, INCLUDING HIS MORE CONFIDENT BROTHER,



FOR A WHILE, ALL WAS GOOD IN THE LANDS OF EYWIN, THEN, ON A PEACEFULL CLEAR NIGHT, IT HAPPENED...THE EVENT THAT WILL SHAPE THE ERAS TO COME AND THE INHABITANTS OF THE PLANET FOREVER, RISING HIGHER THAN ANYTHING ELSE ON THE SURFACE OF THE LAND, WAS A VOLCANO SO BIG, CREATURES WOULD HAVE TO WALK FOR WEEKS TO CIRCLE IT ONE SINGLE TIME, ANIMALS ALWAYS TOUGHT OF IT AS JUST A BIG MOUNTAIN, AND SET THEIR DEMS AND LAIRS IN THE FORESTS AROUND IT, BECAUSE IT WAS ALWAYS WARMER DURING THE COLD SEASONS, IN THAT NIGHT, THAT GROUND STARTED SHAKING AND SMOKE CAME OUT ATOP THE MOUNTAIN, SUDDENLY, A BIG PART OF IT'S TOP SHATTERED AND BURNING LAVA WAS FLYING IN ALL DIRECTIONS, SETTING EVERYTHING IT TOUCHED ON FIRE,







THE GREEN CUB WAS, AS USUAL, STARGAZING WHEN THIS ALL BEGAN. HE WAS SCARED, FAR FROM HOME AND SOON TO BE SURROUNDED BY FLAMES IF HE DIDN'T START MOVING. SOON ENOUGH, THE YOUNG SABER'S SURVIVAL INSTINCTS TOOK CONTROL OF HIM AND HE WAS NOW RUNNING TOWARDS THE SAFER LOOKING PLAINS. THE NIGHT WAS LONG AND EXHAUSTING, BUT THE FIRE AND THE GROUND SHAKING DIDN'T STOP. DAYS TURNED INTO WEEKS AND SOON THE CUB, NOW FINDING HIMSELF IN AREAS HE NEVER SAW BEFORE, COULDN'T DISTINGUISH DAY FROM NIGHT ANYMORE. A LAYER OF ASH WAS NOW COVERING EVERYTHING AND CREATURES BEGAN TO LOSE THEIR LIVES TO THE THICK AIR AND TAINTED WATERS. THE CATAclySMIC EVENT HAS MADE THE PLANET A VERY HARSH PLACE TO LIVE, AND SOON SURVIVING CREATURES BEGAN TO GROUP AROUND THE ONES THAT WERE STRONG AND POWERFULL, OR JUST STAY IN GROUPS THAT WORKED TOGETHER FOR THE SAME GOAL. THE GREEN CUB FOUND HIMSELF IN A GROUP LEAD BY A FEARED SABER. FOR SOME TIME, THEY URVIVED AS A UNITED PRIDE, MOVING FROM PLACE TO PLACE, FROM FOREST TO FOREST, AND THE LANDSCAPE KEPT GETTING WORSE. THE PROUD GOLDEN CUB SURVIVED THE EVENT ALSO, AND HE TOO WAS NOW PART OF THE SAME PRIDE. THE TWO BROTHERS GREW UP THERE, BUT COULDN'T BE MORE DIFFERENT. ONE FOUGHT HIS WAY TROUGHT THE RANKS WITHIN THE GROUP, WHILE THE OTHER WAS MORE THOUGHTFULL TO HIS BAREN SURROUNDINGS AND FELT BAD FOR HUNTING OTHER CREATURES. THE HUNTING GROUNDS KEPT SHRINKING AND THE -NOW OLD- LEADER OF THE SABERS WAS WEAKER BY THE DAY. WHEN HE FINALLY MET HIS END, THE PROUD SABER BROTHER EASILY IMPOSED HIMSELF AS THE NEW ALPHA-MALE, AND LEAD HIS GROUP INTO ATTACKING OTHER SABERS, FOR FOOD AND BETTER HUNTING GROUNDS. THE LONE SABER WAS DISAPPOINTED AND DISGUSTED BY THE IDEA OF ATTACKING HIS OWN KIND, SO HE WASTED NO TIME AND LEFT THE GROUP, ALONG WITH A FEW OTHERS.





SOON, EVERY FOREST AND PLAIN WAS A BATTLEGROUND BETWEEN DIFFERENT PRIDES, ENGAGED IN A SAVAGE BATTLE FOR TERRITORIES AND SURVIVAL. THOSE WHO REFUSED TO FIGHT WERE EATEN BY THEIR OWN KIN, THAT IF THEY WOULDN'T ESCAPE BEFOREHAND, IN THE ZONES CONSIDERED DEAD AND WITHOUT CREATURES TO HUNT, THE GREEN TAINTED SABER'S ROYAL BLOODLINE STARTED TO GROW VISIBLE, AND SOON, HE WAS LEADING A GROUP OF ANIMALS THAT LEFT THE PRIDES INTO ONE OF THE DEAD ZONES.



THEY HAVE SUFFERED FROM HUNGER AND THIRST FOR A LONG TIME, HUNTING ONLY WHAT WAS NECESSARY IN THE ALREADY SCARCE FOREST, OCCASIONALLY SNEAKING OUT OF THE DEAD ZONE HOPING TO MAYBE FIND FOOD ON THE DANGEROUS HUNTING GROUNDS. THEIR LEADER BECAME WISE AND RESPECTED, AND IN HIS OWN LONELINESS, HE KEPT HOPING FOR A BETTER FUTURE, OFTEN GAZING AT THE FOGGY ASHEN SKY, MISSING THE NIGHTS OF HIS CHILDHOOD.



MANY HAVE PERISHED, BUT NEVER STRUCK DOWN BY THEIR OWN KIN. OVER THE YEARS, NEW GENERATIONS OF SABERS STARTED TO ADAPT TO THIS HARSH ENVIRONMENT- THEY WERE NOW BETTER CLIMBERS, BECAUSE AIR WAS FRESHER UP IN THE TREES, AND THEY ALSO STARTED TO EAT OTHER THINGS BESIDES MEAT FROM HUNTED CRITTERS. THE LANDS WERE HEALING THEMSELVES, BUT PAINFULL SLOW. ENTIRE GENERATIONS OF SABERS WERE BORN AND DIED IN THAT FOREST, EACH ADDING SOMETHING NEW TO THE EVOLUTION OF THE SPECIES.



HUNDREDS OF YEARS TURNED INTO MILLENIAS, AND COUNTLESS FOLLOWED, NURTURING AND EVOLVING THE IDEA OF A LONELY SABER TRYING TO SURVIVE IN AN UNFORGIVING WORLD. "

-AND THIS IS HOW THE NOBLE ORCS WERE BORN, MY SWEET BOY. THAT'S THE REASON WHY WE HAVE SUCH STRONG BONDS WITH WOLVES, BECAUSE THEY ARE LIKE US, DESCENDANTS OF THE GREAT ' LONELY SABER'!

-WOAH!?! AGAIN MOTHER, PLEEEAAASE! TELL ME THE STORY AGAIN!

-TOMORROW NIGHT RALUKU, TOMORROW NIGHT! NOW YOU SLEEP WELL...

