

Chapter 5: The G.O.A.T

Zaphaeus woke up in a shock as he fell off his bed straight into a collision with the ground. His vision was blurry and he couldn't see. Feeling around for his glasses, he heard a noise that caused him to groan.

"Tunnel Snakes rule, nosebleed! Hahaha!" It was Butch. Ever since that birthday party, Butch had done nothing but torment him for years and there was nothing he could do about it because his dad said he was "working."

Butch ran out of the room quickly after the taunt; grabbing his glasses off the nightstand, Zaphaeus looked down. The music box given to him by his dad had been knocked down when Butch pushed him off his bed. He groaned. He was going to have to spend all day fixing it, and be late for The Range. Great. He studied the state of his hair and decided to fix it. He looked in the mirror and saw a mop of hair strands on his head. He had platinum-gold color hair and blue eyes. He checked his time on his Pip-Boy. He was 10 minutes late for Mr. Broatch's class anyway. Today was the G.O.A.T -- The test that was supposed to revolutionize the Vault Dwellers' lives and make them well rounded. He ran down to his dad's office to get his backpack, among other things, and to give his dad a hug goodbye.

Sprinting down the hallway, he saw Butch and his lackeys bullying Amata, his best friend. Zaphaeus walked down the narrow hallway toward the commotion. As he got closer, he heard glimpses of words aimed toward his friend. "I can show you a REAL Tunnel Snake, Amata" and, "I've heard you're sensitive about your weight" among other things. Butch walked up to Zaphaeus in the hallway. "Well, well, well. If it isn't Mr. Nosebleed. Come to see your girlfriend, Amata?"

Walking up to Butch, he felt like his heart was about to jump out of his chest. He had never actually confronted Butch before, so this was unexplored territory. "What is it, nosebleed? radroach got your tongue?" Butch pushed him to the ground, into a sticky Nuka-Cola spill after that. Butch pushed the cylindrical button and a sharp edge came out of his switchblade. He brought it to Zaphaeus' ear and nicked off little bits of skin until it drew blood.

Butch continued running his knife along Zaphaeus' ear, It's shining blade taking skin and tissue captive along the way. Amata's piercing shrieks echoed across the halls of Vault 101 all the while.

Butch clicked off the switchblade and grabbed a steel beam from the exposed wall. The beam scraped across the floor as he let his arm down to his side. He raised it up against the wall..

And it came down directly on top of a lead pipe that Amata was holding.

The split moment of shock of Butch's face was overthrown by a look of pain as the pipe struck him in the face. They moved closer to the maintenance sector. Amata swung at Butch and hit him in the pelvic bone. The force of the blow brung him to one knee. She bashed the joint of the pipe into his patella, which shattered almost immediately.