

Alaya gavan': World On Fire

Chapter 6 (30): MANTIS

<<Text>> = Japanese, [[text]] = Russian, ++text++ = English ☐text☐ = text message/phone call/radio

[LDB Outpost, BLACKLISTED, Nevada, 8-8-2025, 1:40 PM]

Tash was at a live fire range shooting up targets with his stranded issue AK-103, he could be seen all dressed in the stranded uniform of Lagunov's Defense Ballistics as both Kotone and Odetta could be seen watching from afar

Kotone: ++“Great work Tash, once you are done, I want you to come with me to the meeting room. I have something important planned.”++

Tash: ++“Understood ma'am!”++

Later at in the meeting room, Tash, Odetta, and Kotone were there, surrounded by hundreds of LDB troops as Kotone was standing at a microphone

Kotone: ++“Greetings everyone, today is the day that I announce the formation of a new unit; this unit is made up entirely of non-magical, but capable human and humanoid combatants, this unit shall be called the Mercenaries Against Notorious Invaders and Servicemen, or MANTIS for short. Today, all of you in this room are capable of being a part of this brand new unit as recruitment starts today, and your stranded-issue weapons will be the Beretta M9A4 loaded with JHP rounds as your sidearm, and as your primary, it'll be an AR-15 chambered .50 Beowulf. ”++

Later on in the mess hall, a conversation would sparkle between LDB troops

LDB A: ++“Hey Tash, would you like to join the new unit?”++

Tash: ++“I guess I will, why do you ask, Tillie?”++

Tillie has dark brown skin, pink eyes, and long pink dreads for hair, she was dressed up in the LDB desert uniform like the rest of them

Tillie: ++“Just been thinking about it, I always wanted to fire a 50 Beowulf rifle.”++

Tash: ++“I see, after we eat, let's go get signed up.”++

[Desert, BLACKLISTED, Nevada, 8-10-2025, 11:25 PM]

*LDB Humvees then drive through the desert with mounted minigun turrets as this convoy belonged to the new MANTIS unit featuring both Tillie and Tash in the back of the convoy, Tash would take control

of the minigun while Tillie was driving. Soon enough, an enemy technical then pulls up to Tillie's truck as it fires at Tash with its M2 Browning heavy machine gun, unfortunately for this bastard, all of their shots missed, this allowed him to mow down the technical with his minigun*

[Hornet Outpost, BLACKLISTED, Nevada, 8-10-2025, 11:35 PM]

The Humvees stop a couple hundred feet away from a Hornet Unit outpost as an older man with back-length blue hair and sunglasses speaks up, his name is Jordan Roscoe

Roscoe: ++“Alright everyone, this is where Corwin was last spotted, let's go raid the place to find any intel about his current whereabouts!”++

Tash: ++“Corwin...”++

Tillie: ++“Sounds like you know him”++

Tash: ++“He was my partner a while back when we were officers.”++

Tillie: ++“Glad you left that life, you're a good man, you don't belong in that kind of work.”++

Tash: ++“Maybe, but it would've been better if he and I were fighting on the same side. Instead, he left me to be part of Ami's goons.”++

Soon all of the MANTIS troops got out of their Humvees and started patrolling towards the outpost on foot

[Perspective: Hornets]

In a sniper tower near the outpost, there would be two Hornet unit members, one with a Barrett M107A1 anti-material rifle and the other with an M24 SWS

Hornet A: ++“Since we couldn't disable one of their trucks, looks like we have to disable them instead!”++

Hornet A then fired at Tillie, only to miss and have the shot land in the sand of the desert as both Tash and Tillie quickly responded by shooting at the sniper tower, although their shots missed the Barrett sniper, they managed to hit the M24 sniper with a neck shot, causing them to gag as they collapsed

Hornet A: ++“What the fuck!?! You pieces of shit, let's see you dodge this then!”++

The sniper took out his standard 10-round magazine of .50 BMG and reloaded it with a fresh, 20-round drum magazine as they laid out a suppressive fire of rounds against them, still missing their shots but forcing both Tash and Tillie to take cover as the other MANTIS troops took cover amongst the sand to take down the sniper with their Accuracy International AWC

Soon the Hornets came out of the outpost, shooting at the MANTIS operators who also started shooting back at them, with many of the Hornets starting to collapse mid-firefight as their armor stood no chance against their enemies' .50 Beowulf rounds; eventually, 20 MANTIS operators advance towards the outpost, trying to get inside as they attempt to breach the entrance, but the sniper with the Barrett M107 began to gun them down quick

Tillie runs back and gets onto one of the turrets of the Humvees, mowing down the approaching Hornet operators as Tash stays where he is, gunning down Hornet after Hornet with his AR-15 chambered in .50 Beowulf, using his magnifier and holographic sight combo to pluck away as many Hornets as he can while providing precise covering fire; soon enough, there would be no more Hornets approaching the MANTIS unit as the outpost was now filled with corpses

Roscoe: ++“Good work everyone, now let’s search the outpost.”++

The MANTIS squad searched around the outpost, only for them to turn up empty-handed

Tash: ++“Are you serious? We searched this whole outpost only to turn up with nothing.”++

Tillie: ++“Nothing, yet!”++

Tillie said as she was holding a laptop, she placed it on a table in one of the rooms of the outpost as she opened it, soon booting up

Tillie: ++“Heh, these dumbasses didn’t set a password.”++

She then starts to search through several files on the computer, soon finding a text conversation that mentions where both Corwin and the next squad of Hornets are currently located, Corwin was located within a hotel in the Philippines

Tash: ++“Damn, I am already going overseas just for this man.”++

[Pasay, National Capital Region, Federal Republic of the Philippines, 8-15-2025, 3:30 PM]

Pasay, home of opportunities and temptations, as the dawn of the afternoon sunlight highlighted the bustling enterprises, shopping districts, and even the jeepney stops located near restaurants, schools, and banks, it hasn't shy away from its infamy. To the residents, part of the real Pasay experience is witnessing beggars, armed guards, traffic enforcers, and even prostitutes walking around amongst crowds of businessmen, tourists, students, and even families as they all make their way around the infamous 'Sin City'

Meanwhile, Tash, Tillie, and Roscoe were all in the city dressed up in woodland camouflage, they were searching the city for the hotel in question as Tillie had a modified SIG SG556xi featuring a full-auto fire mode, while Roscoe has a AUG HBAR-T with an ARMACOT sticker on the stock featuring their message, "Three Worlds, Two Opponents, One People"; Tash meanwhile have taken Anzhela's Krieger M127 shotgun, featuring three tally marks engraved into the stock of the shotgun from a combat knife

Tillie: ++“Sir, do we really have to move on foot?”++

Tash: ++“Yeah, it gets tiring, even with my prior experiences and training.”++

Roscoe: ++“Yes we do, plus, the hotel is nearby based on our intel.”++

They continue to walk the streets of Pasay, sometimes bumping into people by mistake, eventually they around make it to the hotel which Corwin and his squad was hiding in

[Perceptive: Hornets]

In one of the rooms of the hotel, there would be both Hornet sniper using an M24 SWS bolt-action rifle and Corwin himself

Hornet B: ++“I spot three foot-mobiles, they all seem to be from LDB.”++

Corwin: ++“Good, take them out.”++

Corwin said, soon lighting up a cigarette at the table within the hotel room as he shuts off his lighter with a flick as he puts it away, taking a soft inhale as he huffed the smoke from his nose

Hornet B: ++“Will do, boss.”++

The Hornet said as he fired upon Tillie, Tash and Roscoe, but their shots missed as Tash saw the muzzle flash and pointed out to the others, with Roscoe using his AUG HBAR-T to shoot at the window as civilians run away from the gun fire as he successful took out the sniper with a clean headshot

Roscoe: ++“Everyone, move to the hotel now!”++

The three of them quickly make their way to and inside of the hotel, where they are met with resistance inside the lobby at the hands of the Hornets, they fired their first shots as the trio knocked a steel table over and used it as cover

Tillie fired back, taking out five of the Hornets while Roscoe provided covering fire with his AUG, killing off one of the troops as Tash stayed behind cover as the firefight broke out; well, that was until one of the hostiles ran up at the steel table with a knife, to which Tash used what is now his shotgun to blast them away

The firefight in the lobby continues for a solid minute, after which the three man MANTIS squad became the winners of. Afterwards, Tash, Tillie, and Roscoe came out of their cover while the hotel receptionist hid behind the counter

Tash, Tillie and Roscoe then went up to the elevator and take it to the third floor where Corwin’s room was located

*The third floor is relatively quiet, minus the few Hornets waiting in the hallways as they all squat

down to their feet almost like street boys as they went around playing Poker with a bag of potato chips, a few bottles of beer, and an old deck of cards featuring the faces of LDB's best operators. They played around for a bit before turning to face the elevator as it dings and its doors slide open to reveal Tash, Tillie, and Roscoe*

The Hornet operators immediately got up and aimed their rifles at the three of them, only for Tillie to toss a cooked frag grenade at them, killing off most of the Hornet operators. Another firefight broke out as Tash used his shotgun to clear them out while Roscoe and Tillie use their weapons to provide suppressive fire

[Perspective: Corwin]

Corwin was listening to the gunfire erupt just outside of his room while he smokes, he was busy loading up an AR-15 drum magazine with ammo as he listens to the gunfight go on before he soon got into a radio call with Ami

Ami: ☐++“Ah, Corwin, how are you holding up?”++☐

Corwin: ☐++“Good, it's just that my squad got into a gunfight. But otherwise, I should be fine.”++☐

Ami: ☐++“I see, I'll call back at a later time.”++☐

After the short conversation, the magazine was all loaded up as Corwin loaded into his HK416A5. Afterwards, he rushed out of his room, only to find dozens of dead Hornet bodies and Tash, Tillie, and Roscoe still standing

Tash: ++“You two go make sure the lobby is safe, I will deal with Corwin myself.”++

Roscoe and Tillie head for the elevator as Tash and Corwin stare each other down for what felt like hours

Corwin: ++“So, you made your choice, huh?”++

Tash: ++“I can say the same about you Corwin, it's a shame really.”++

Corwin: **“Heh, touché. Are you seriously willing to work for those goddamn people when you could've stayed with me.”++

Tash: ++“I don't know, are you willing to die for a woman who'll just use you for her empire until you couldn't shoot straight? Or are you going to do me a favour and turn yourself in.”++

Corwin: ++“....”++

Tash: **“You're my idol Corwin, I looked up to you everyday as we went on duty. And now, here you are, getting in the way of good people like me and RDT, and this place here isn't too far off from where your choices led to in the afterlife.”++

Corwin: ++"...."++

Tash: ++"Last warning, partner, either you'll have to die here today; or you'll have to come with me at the end of it."++

Corwin: ++"....i am so sorry, Tash."++

Tash: ++"...."++

Tash: ++"No, you aren't."++

[Tash VS Corwin]

Now playing: [Le Castle Vania feat. Cory Brandan - Raise The Dead*](#)

The firefight started off strong as Corwin unleashed a fury of bullets towards Tash as his former partner rushed towards him, quickly dodging the bullets as he yanked a fire extinguisher from the hallway before throwing at Corwin which he shot down, clouding the hallways with a thick, white fog as both men coughed as he stopped firing

Not knowing what Tash will do next, Corwin picked one of his former men and used them as a human shield as he slung away his rifle to grab for his Glock 18C, only for Tash to come in and blow off Corwin's handgun as he followed it with another shot from his shotgun, only for his former partner to dodge it as he used his men as a shield to rush towards Tash

Tash responded by shooting near the ground to cause the pellets to ricochet towards Corwin's leg as he flinched and cursed in pain, allowing him to use his shotgun like a bat to knock off the corpse that his former partner was using as he followed it with a grab onto their rifle as he yanked it from them, snapping the sling off as he threw away the heavy rifle

But Corwin wasn't done yet, fueled with adrenaline, he lunged at Tash with a jagged piece of glass from a broken beer bottle as the two grappled fiercely, trading brash and harsh blows to one another, with Tash having to use his shotgun as a shield as Corwin pushed through, that was until he managed to get the upper hand by slamming his against the wall with his empty shotgun as the jagged glass was inches from his own throat

Corwin then kicked Tash on his crotch as he was distracted enough to lunge the broken bottle into his former colleague, and in a final, desperate move, Tash grabbed onto Corwin's arm and redirected the bottle onto his former colleague, pushing it deeper inside them by accident as Corwin gasped as he squeezed the bottle tightly, holding it still as blood was pouring from the wound before he slumped to the floor. Dead. Meanwhile, Tash sighed as he sat down on the other side of the hallway, coughing quietly as he was damaged severely from the fight

END OF ACT 3 CHAPTER 5

Act 3 Chapter 7: [Title pending]

Written by Charcoal and James The Creator

*{Shoutout to HammyHotSauce for recommending this to me! - James The Creator}