

# Paradise Falls

## **Chapter Six**

Witnessing the Rovers Race was a spectacle unlike anything Jakob had ever experienced. Despite his familiarity with Rovers and even having ridden them himself, nothing could compare to the scale of this event. The Rovers, a groundbreaking invention that had taken the world by storm centuries ago, possessed unparalleled capabilities. These remarkable machines, originally created as single-rider vehicles for warfare against the infamous Blackfoot Kanui in the far east, had evolved into a form of leisure and entertainment for countless individuals.

**"Sir, we've arranged transportation for you and the royal party to Paradise Falls. The Grand Reserve has provided a new type of Rover, that they call Rarri's, they can accommodate multiple occupants. Though it may not be as fast, it's much safer for you, my King,"** a Legionnaire informed the King as they departed the Grand Hall. Jakob, being the observant one, was the first to spot the blue Rover. It emitted a soft rumbling sound,

**"Holy Sh\*t!"** Jakob exclaimed, unintentionally speaking louder than he intended, as if it were his first word like a baby.

**"Jakob, control yourself,"** Joseph scolded, looking down at him with a mix of surprise and disapproval.

**"I'm sorry."** Jakob replied, glancing at the Grand Reserve member. He followed his father into the Rover, feeling the gentle vibrations beneath him and couldn't help but smile.

**"What a day to remember,"** Jakob whispered to himself, managing to keep his excitement contained this time.

**"Everyone, hold on,"** Emissary Lafaille cautioned. The Rover accelerated more swiftly than expected, causing Jakob to feel the rush of the wind on his face. He took in the sights of the Capital, occasionally closing his eyes to fully immerse himself in the moment. The conversation among the men in the Rover revolved around topics that Jakob considered insignificant. They discussed trade opportunities in the south and the growing relationship between The Clergy and The Republic. Jakob couldn't catch every word they said, as he was too captivated by his surroundings and couldn't wait to share the experience with Celeste and Aleki. As the Rover turned the final corner after passing through the courtyards, the shouting of the crowd assembled for the race grew louder. Jakob felt the warmth of the sun on his skin as he gazed out at the thousands of people gathered in different sections along the waterfront. The energy of the chanting crowd vibrated through him, momentarily overwhelming him with the sheer magnitude of their presence.

**"Boom, Boom!"** The rhythmic beat of the drums began to play, sending shivers down Jakob's spine.

Led by the Rover, the group proceeded down a pathway, exclusively designated for privileged spectators of the highly anticipated race. The dream that started Jakob's day, now felt like a distant memory. The day had just got better and better, this might even be his best day alive. The Rover eventually arrived at its destination, and the royal party was escorted to a private section located on the edge of the platforms. Paradise Falls, perched upon the waterfront at the outermost edge of a towering cliff, offered a breathtaking view of the competitors in their Rovers, preparing for the race below. Jakob particularly enjoyed the sight from the platforms, overlooking the ancient ruins of Hyperion City. To most, these ruins merely appeared as weathered stone pillars and monuments emerging from the water, stretching for miles. However,

to Jakob's eyes, they held a profound historical significance, representing the remnants of a once magnificent city now reduced to silent testaments of the passage of time. Jakob instinctively began to run towards his friends, but his impulsive movement was swiftly halted by his father.

**“Make sure to not leave the platform and stay with Tita.”** He demanded.

**“Okay Dad I promise.”** Jakob finished as he ran to his friends,

**“Guys, guys, you’re not going to believe it. I just road in the new rover, it was great!”** Jakob said with much excitement, grabbing Aleki.

**“Wow you’re so cool”** Celeste said sarcastically. Aleki and Jakob looked at each other shrugging their shoulders in confusion over the random attitude, maybe it was just that time of the month. Aleki changed the subject trying to catch up on how the day went.

**“How many of those tomahawks did you eat?”** Aleki asked as he they both turned to look out towards the view that Celeste had turned too.

**“I only had a few because I had some elk earlier! Did you find out who the racers are like I asked you earlier?”** Jakob asked.

**“I sure did! The First in the lineup is Landry Revis racing the Onyx Phoenix and in second is Aldan Korun of House Khalifa racing the Sand Boa.”** Aleki was going to continue but Jakob interrupted him.

**“What about him, is he here?”** Jakob asked with a huge smile.

**“The Man, The Myth, The Legend!”** Both boys yelled at the top of their lungs.

**“Conner O’Malley!”** Both finished yelling together and did a secret handshake. Conner was Jakob and Aleki’s favorite racer and they loved to brag about him winning several races

around the world. After talking about the racers for a bit longer, naming more and more. Jakob, Celeste, and Aleki continued to crack jokes about each other.

**“You stink man, did you shower today?”** Aleki asked as they both settled down to look over the edge of the railing.

**“Shut up fat boy!”** Jakob responded.

**“Your mom.”** The kids went back and forth, messing around like typical boys but it always in a good laugh. Tita yelled at them several times to not talk like that to each other. They were always under the watchful eye of someone. During their joking, the King began the announcements to begin the race, and everything went silent for a moment. From where the kids were standing, they could hear the loud roar and rumblings of the engines. Jakob took a big whiff and said,

**“Ahh, I love the smell of the fire!”**

**“Sounds Gay.”** Celeste said quickly.

**“Your Gay!”** Jakob snapped back.

**“Hey, you guys should both be happy, and be nice to each other, you are talking to your future husband anyway.”** Celeste’s mom said laughing. The two of them looked at each other and both said simultaneously,

**“Ewww gross.”**

Jakob acted like he agreed but deep down he knew he felt differently about her, he always wanted her attention. At the sound of a large cannon ball exploding in the sky, they changed their focus, and the race was off. The Rovers blasted out directly into sharp fast turns, following a

track that was guided for them by flags. There were several quick explosions, and the crowd went wild, with all three kids following along.

**“O’Malley, O’Malley, O’Malley”**

They were all having a great time and suddenly Jakob heard his name called quietly,

**“Jake, Jake, Come here.”**

He knew only one person called him that. Jakob looked around and from the corner of his eye he seen a man bent over. He didn’t recognize him immediately, the man calling him had his head covered by a robe. He looked closer,

**“Uncle is that you?”** Jakob said.

Fred interrupted him,

**“Shhhh come here quick, keep it down.”** Fred finished. Jakob walked closer confused,

**“Uncle?”** Jakob asked, walking towards him.

**“I said Shhhh.”** Fred said again with a smile on his face as he grabbed him to hug him.

**“I’m sorry, why are you wearing these robes, you look terrible, and you smell bad.”**

Jakob said laughing.

**“I’m hiding from the women. You know how your uncle is.”** Fred said smiling and Jakob laughed some more. Fred continued,

**“How’s the race going, you got a good view?”** Fred asked.

**“It was great in the beginning but now I can’t see as much.”** Jakob said with a sigh.

**“Well, I have a good idea, me and your dad used to do it all the time where we were your age.”** Fred replied.

**“Yea what?”** Jakob said with enthusiasm.

**“There's a secret path right over there,”** Fred whispered, pointing discreetly. **“It will take you down to The Boulevards, where you'll be right by the water and get an even better view of the race.”**

**“Really?”** Jakob exclaimed, unable to contain his excitement.

**“Shhhh,”** Fred cautioned, placing a finger to his lips. **“But be secretive about it and don't tell anyone I'm here yet. I'll see your father soon.”**

Fred turned Jakob around, gently pushing him back towards his friends. He quickly ran over to them, whispering in their ears and trying to keep their excitement contained. Tita, who had been watching them, grew curious about what they were up to. The trio was always getting into mischief. However, Jakob knew how to smooth things over. He apologized to Tita for his attitude earlier and made up a story about the three of them going to grab some snacks, which she naively believed.

**“Be quick about it!”** Tita urged the kids. Then they all hurriedly made their way down the secret path to get a better view of the race. When the race began, the view from the platform was already enjoyable. But the idea of being right by the water, feeling the rumble of the Rovers flying by, made it even more exciting for Jakob. With directions from his Uncle Fred, Jakob led his friends on a quest to locate the pathway that would guide them. This hidden trail curved through a narrow alley before converging with four distinct roads that cascaded down the

cliffside, granting them access to the lower regions of the capital. Jakob kept repeating the name of the section to himself because he liked the way it sounded,

**"Boulevards, Boulevards."**

However, the best part about this small adventure was sharing it with his best friends, Celeste, and Aleki. As the three kids ran towards the end of the platform, Jakob began explaining the plan. But before he could finish, Aleki interrupted with excitement,

**"So much for a secret path! My mom has taken me down here loads of times. At the bottom of the cliff, there's a marketplace with vendors selling delicious treats like King Beignets and Legion Floss. We gotta try them!"** Although Aleki, determined to satisfy his instant overindulgence, he managed to grab a few snacks before they left. He insisted that he needed something salty to balance out all the sweetness he would soon have. This only annoyed Jakob, who had only lied to distract Tita, but Aleki was adamant about getting his snacks. He even threatened not to go if he didn't get any food.

**"Come on, Aleki, we really need to hurry. We don't want to miss too much of the race,"** Jakob pleaded with a sense of urgency.

**"But you promised we could get snacks, and I'm the one who actually knows the way to the marketplace. Just let me grab a few bacon strips to munch on, or I'm not going,"** Aleki replied, his tone filled with a hint of attitude as they continued down the path towards their much-anticipated destination.



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*Registration # -TXu 2-433-354*

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Cover Design By – Castillo Collective Inc.

Published by – The Art of Reign Productions Inc.

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