

Zavish was standing on the roof of an apartment block. He looked around his place back then. The streets had some moving vehicles and pedestrians were not very present. That was because it was after the sunset.

Most buildings – at least in that part of the city – had quite a distinct style. Many couldn't exactly describe it, so they stuck to the information that the majority of buildings in Khorogard had some "Slavic touch" on them.

The goat looked at the other buildings. He was making a route in his head, since he was tasked to go to a certain place. Fortunately for him, the roofs were quite close to one another, so he could move around without big issues.

"Did you finish admiring the view?", the voice in his earbuds asked.

"You said that I should wait for more info from you, Snovid", Zavish replied indifferently.

"I said that I'll get you more info once I find it. And you should start to move around."

"Besides... how do you know what I'm doing? The earbuds have a tracking module, but not the camera."

"Just a guess, considering the fact the point on the map that's showing your exact location hasn't moved for several minutes."

"Yeah, yeah... I'll get going, mister bat."

Zavish checked upon his balaclava. Then, he looked around once again and started to prepare. He was supposed to make a quite long jump. After gaining enough speed from running, he jumped across the wide street onto another flat roof.

As he landed on the next building, he could hear sounds of admiration and confusion directed at him. The green-eyed goat didn't care about them. Instead, he continued to run on the various roofs.

"I think we should discuss the plan again", the voice in the goat's earbuds said.

"What plan?", another voice asked.

"Hi, Semezh", Zavish responded.

"Hey, man. Doing good?"

"For now", the goat replied, as he slid under the pipes. "I'll be doing a job Vitosh gave me."

"And he didn't say anything to me."

"I'll be going through the plan again with Zavish, so you can listen to it", Snovid stated.

"Cool", Semezh said enthusiastically.

"First of all... Zavish will be going to the facility that's under construction. It's located on the outskirts of our city. Currently, he's just a couple of streets away... no... now only one street away from his location."

"Let me guess... he has to steal something."

"Most likely yes."

"What do you mean by "most likely"?", Semezh asked.

"Vitosh visited that place", Snovid started explaining. "He sensed quite a powerful magical aura. And since he's quite curious, he sent Zavish to investigate. There's a high chance that's an item causing this, but it can also be some entity."

"I didn't sign up for kidnapping", Zavish murmured, while he performed a wall run.

"So you prefer killing?"

"I prefer avoiding contact", the goat sighed, as he slid down the rope to the next building.

"You know that it won't be easy?"

"But I can still try."

"I should go with Zavish", Semezh said in a slightly frustrated tone.

"Vitosh explained to me that's my initiation into "proper life here"", Zavish responded. "That I should go alone and test my skills."

"Eh... Good luck, man."

"Thanks... Okay, I'm close to the building."

Before the goat made another stop, he performed quite a long jump. He got across the wide alleyway and stopped on top of a flat-roofed structure. He assumed it was another residential block.

The place he was supposed to get into was on the opposite side of the road. It was a construction site. Judging by its state, the construction was in its early stages. There was only several barracks close to that place. It was surrounded by a fence with barbed wire.

"The item I'm looking for is in one of those barracks?", Zavish asked.

"What barracks?", Snovid was confused.

"The one where construction workers rest."

"Hmm... I don't think so. There might be other places more suitable for our item."

"Or they want us to think that way. Let me get closer."

The goat easily got to the next building. His next jump covered more distance. He grabbed the ledge and moved a bit to the side, so he could pull himself up to the even ground. He turned towards the construction side.

"Snovid?", Zavish called.

"What's up?", the bat asked.

"They have cameras."

"Vitosh didn't see any during his visit."

"They must've installed them recently."

"Wait for a bit..."

The goat crouched and was looking at the whole facility. He heard that it was supposedly a private laboratory. However, he thought that it could be a front for something shady, judging by the supposed purpose and location.

"Done", the voice in the runner's earbuds said.

"I can still see cameras working, Snovid", Zavish stated.

"I launched the footage from an hour ago as the live one. The cameras won't see you."

"For an hour."

"Yes."

"And what will happen later?", the green-eyed man asked. "They will see me and lock me up?"

"I'll try to organize a blackout in that district", the bat explained calmly. "You'll give me a signal and it'll launch."

"Okay, I'm going in."

"You'll break a lock?"

"No."

The runner backed off as far as he could. Then, he immediately started running. At the edge, he jumped towards the construction site. He jumped above the barbed wire and landed on the ground, performing a roll.

"Did you just jump over the fence?", Snovid asked.

"Yep", Zavish nodded.

"But you know you need a way out?"

"I already see one", the goat commented, when he looked at the barracks. "Don't worry about it."

"Try to find some unusual places there."

The horned man started to sneak around the place. He was looking for any clues that would help him fulfill the task assigned to him. As he was roaming around, he hid behind the pillar, since he saw a couple of construction workers sitting nearby.

"...you should really listen to me, man", the giraffe exclaimed, as he lit the cigarette.

"That's dumb", the hyena was slightly frustrated. "We should check the place below us. Talk with the guys that hired our crew."

"At least the cash is flowing."

"The cash would flow in other places, you know? I don't like leaving things unfinished. We should just get the construction going, so I can return to my family."

"Can't you just visit them?", the giraffe asked.

"They live far from Khorogard", hyena sighed. "I'd have to take a leave to see them, but – as I've said – I don't like to leave things unfinished."

"Listen... maybe our kitty left the shower. We can sit around at our place and drink something. You might feel better."

"Better than getting even more drowned in despair. Let's go."

The construction workers stood up and started going towards the barracks area. The trespasser was looking at them without their knowledge, moving around the pillar, so they wouldn't see him standing near it.

When they got inside one of those small buildings, Zavish went towards the place where those two were sitting. He wanted to investigate it, but soon after, he found a staircase, when he was searching the area.

"Guess I found the place, Snovid", the runner murmured. "It's below the site."

"Can you enter it?", the bat asked.

"Only one way to find out."

The goat went down the staircase. A big door was standing before him. For him, it looked quite heavy. It didn't have a traditional doorknob, like in normal doors, but had a hole that acted as such.

Zavish slid his hand inside that hole. Then, he tried to pull the door, but – as he expected – they were locked. He wanted to look at the lock that was in this door, but to his surprise, it didn't have anything like this.

He was confused for a moment, but he quickly found a code lock next to it. He also noticed that it had a card reader in it as well. However, he recognized that this model of digital lock was a bit outdated to the modern standards.

The trespasser grabbed a small magnet out of his pocket. He placed it close to the card reader, but not onto it. He pressed the "0" key four times and after waiting for a couple of seconds, he could open the door and enter the underground facility.

Zavish started to look around the place. It looked really modern to him, even futuristic. Main colors there were deep dark blue and dark green. Green lights were mixing up with dominant white light. The doors inside were grey.

"I got inside", the man said quietly.

"Splendid", Snovid said in a bit warmer tone. "Any clues about the thing we're looking for?"

"Not really. It seems like this place is huge. At least they don't have cameras here."

"Remember that you have less than an hour to leave with a magical item... or entity."

"I've heard one interesting thing", the goat stated, as he started moving again.

"What exactly?", the bat asked.

"I overheard the talk between some construction workers. One of them was upset that the construction isn't going forward."

"The owners are purposely stalling the work?"

"Could be the case. The construction site doesn't gather as much attention as the finished building."

"True...", Snovid murmured.

"Also, the place I'm currently at? Really modern."

"Be careful, Zavish."

"As always."

As Zavish was going deeper into the corridor, a guard was going from the crossing. It was a cheetah and the goat knew that they usually have quick reflexes. However, he was far from being considered slow.

The cheetah wanted to grab the trespasser. However, the horned man deftly dodged that and wanted to kick the opponent's leg. The guard dodged that, but he wasn't focused on another blow. The goat headbutted him, which knocked out the cheetah.

Tall guard fell on the floor and made less noise than Zavish expected. He grabbed the fallen opponent's arms and started dragging him on the ground. The man was looking for a place where he could hide him.

The goat quickly stumbled upon the door with a "closet" label placed upon them. He opened them and saw that the room was filled with various cleaning items. He left the unconscious guard there and closed the door.

The trespasser continued to go down the route he originally intended to follow. There were a lot of doors on his way. Fortunately, they didn't have any glasses that someone could look through and spot him.

Still, he preferred to go slowly and quietly through that whole facility. He was wondering what exactly people were doing down there. It was supposed to be a laboratory, but he wasn't convinced.

"You idiot!", person with a high-pitched voice shouted. "You'll seriously waste that item for your stupid idea?"

"Better than committing genocide", the one with low-pitched voice replied, being a bit angry.

"You seriously want to control mortals in this city? Why would you do that?"

"You're not listening. I want to provide the betterment of Khorogard to demons here. Mortals will be our slaves. Working for us, providing meat and blood..."

"We'll do fine without mortals", a high-pitched voice interrupted the other speaker. "We should just eliminate them, making Khorogard a city only for demons. No mortals, no problem."

"You won't achieve that without our item."

"You want to grab it for yourself."

"I want it to be out of your hands."

"Let's see who'll betray this alliance first..."

The horned man started moving quicker, but he was still trying to be as quiet as possible. He was thinking about the dialogue he just heard. He didn't like it, like the fact that guard had weapons intended to kill, not pacify. This job became much more important than it was originally planned.

"Snovid?", Zavish said quietly.

"What happened there?", the bat asked in a serious tone.

"Some demons were speaking about a certain item. Probably the one I'm supposed to retrieve. They're planning to use it to either kill or enslave all mortals in Khorogard."

"What?"

"Get out of there, Zavish", Semezh said in a commanding tone. "This job is far too serious for you."

"He has to get the item", Snovid got a bit annoyed.

"Fine, I'll go and get him out."

Zavish could hear that Semezh growled. After that, he seemingly started to talk to himself. After some moment of silence, the goat could hear a deep sigh. It seemed like it happened far from the microphone.

"Zavish?", a new voice could be heard in the runner's earbuds.

"Hi, Vitosh", the horned man replied. "You took over?"

"I did not want Semezh to interrupt your job."

"So you know the details?"

"More or less."

"And I should continue?", the goat asked.

"Yes", Vitosh replied. "I would not send you here, if it was something you could not do."

"Thanks."

"Keep us posted. This mission got really interesting."

Zavish eventually left the corridor network of that facility. He was going down the tunnel that had marks of not finished work. From time to time, he could see cables or pipes that were hidden under walls.

He quickly heard some loud, constant noise. He quickly got to its source. It was a completely circular tunnel. All of its walls were in motion, with circular sawblades sticking out of them quite often. He noticed that there was a lot of red spilled on it.

"I have a problem", Zavish said.

"How serious?", Snovid asked.

"There's a circular tunnel with moving sharp walls."

"Can you jump on the other side?"

"Too far."

"You should look for another way."

"Yeah..."

The goat turned away from the spinning tunnel. On his way back, he noticed some rubble lying around next to it. He grabbed a small piece from that group and threw it into the unavailable corridor.

A strange thing happened to it. The horned man noticed that it was floating in the air. Not dancing around in one place, but just lying around. He returned to the tunnel. After taking a deep breath, he started going forward.

Zavish noticed that he was floating in the air. More accurately, however, was to say that he was walking on an invisible bridge. He was walking slowly, because he assumed that even such construction can have some traps.

His suspicions saved him from his demise. As he was nearing the middle of the tunnel's length, his hoof went into the hole. However, he could easily save himself by just going backwards. He went around it and continued the walk.

The goat was still going through the tunnel that was seemingly uncrossable because of its construction. It could be, if the invisible bridge wasn't present. When he crossed it, he let out a deep sigh.

"I crossed the tunnel", Zavish stated.

"But how?", the bat asked, a bit surprised.

"There was an invisible bridge inside."

"So no more obstacle courses?"

"I have one before me."

The man was looking at the unfinished part of the big corridor. He looked down and noticed that there was a dark chasm spreading at the bottom part. There wasn't any kind of floor for quite a long distance.

The trespasser started to look around that place, so he could imagine a route he could follow. There were some holes in the walls, as well as pipes and other metal parts sticking out from various parts of that corridor.

Zavish jumped forward, so he could land on the quite wide pipe. However, as he landed on it, it broke off the wall and started going down. He quickly jumped forward once again and grabbed the ledge of a big metal base.

He pulled himself up and made another jump. That time, it was directed upwards. He bounced off the nearest wall and grabbed the ribs sticking out of the ceiling. He started to move forward, grabbing and releasing his grip on those ribs.

At the end of them, the horned man started swinging. After several seconds, he launched himself forward. He grabbed the thin pipe that was in an identical position like the ribs from before.

Unfortunately, the pipe broke off. However, only one side got damaged, so the pipe started turning and going downwards. Before it hit the wall, he released his grip on it, which caused him to fall.

He landed on the small metal base that started going down as soon as he landed on it. He started to perform a wall run and from that wall, he launched himself forward. He landed on the stable platform that was just a more finished part of the corridor.

"Semezh would probably be amazed by the parkour I just performed", Zavish chuckled.

"Since he likes action, I can see him being interested in your performance", Vitosh stated.

"I know you wouldn't be amazed. Snovid is a bat, so he can fly. And you're more of a mage. Can you levitate?"

"I can, but I prefer walking on the ground."

"I see... Another door... I wonder what attractions I'll have behind them..."

The man assumed the door was locked. After pulling down the doorknob, they didn't move. He crouched down to the lock and pulled out his set of lockpicks. He started studying it and grabbed a specific pair.

He was deeply focused on opening that lock. The goat was doing precise movements inside the mechanism to unlock the pins. Fortunately, that lock wasn't anything new to him, but it was still uncommon. He hid his lockpicks and opened the door.

The room had the shape of a dome. As Zavish looked around it, he noticed it was some kind of treasury. In the middle of the room, a fox in tattered clothes was sitting on a chair, tied to it. The horned man approached him.

"So you want to torture me, too?", fox asked in a harsh tone.

"You didn't harm me, so I won't", the goat replied.

"Heh... untie me, then."

The trespasser approached the tied man from behind. He pulled out a pocket knife from his trousers. He started cutting fox's bonds. After a couple of minutes, the prisoner was free and he could stand up.

"Thanks, man", fox said with a slight smile. "How can I repay you?"

"Do you know about any really powerful magical items around here?", Zavish asked.

"Ah yes... I have one on me."

"Really?"

"Yup. I hid it in my tail."

"You have a really fluffy tail, by the way", the goat commented.

"Thank you", the canid nodded. "I may not have the prettiest face, but my tail must be in pristine condition."

The prisoner reached towards his tail and grabbed the item that looked a bit like a flat egg. He handed it to his rescuer. The horned man pulled out a tiny ball and placed it on the newly acquired item.

"What are you doing?", fox asked.

"This thing can identify what exactly is this item that you gifted me", Zavish explained.

"Supposedly, at least..."

"Okay... Can you call someone?"

"I'm doing it now...", the goat called his friends. "What's this item?"

"Impossible...", Vitosh sounded like he was shocked.

"What happened?"

"Zavish... that is... Rodshard."

"Sounds like something important."

"Get out of there. And bring me that item. There should be a way out of that room."

"Hmm...", Zavish started to ponder and turned to the canid. "What should I call you?"

"Others called me Twig", the fox responded.

"Okay, Twig... is there a way out of this place?"

"I don't know... I can sometimes hear some water below this place."

"That means we're above the sewers. We should find the entrance towards it."

"We can also grab some things from the treasury. I need cash to get out of this town."

The two split up and started to gather as much of the most valuable items in that big room as they possibly could. And the choice wasn't that simple, since there was a huge amount of items to choose from.

As Zavish looked around the place, he noticed one item that was placed in a decorated rack. It looked like a spearhead to him. He grabbed that thing as well and wanted to get back to the prisoner.

"I found the hatch", Twig said loudly.

The horned man quickly got back to the canid. The guy with a long tail showed the entrance to the sewer system. The goat jumped down the hole and the man in tattered clothes quickly followed him.

The sewers weren't very interesting. Both of them scanned the place and noticed that it was dark, ugly and stinky. As they were going forward, they found out that someone was sitting down on the floor.

"Hey, guys...", the crocodile guy said with a harsh voice. "Got any cigs?"

"I got some", the fox replied and handed him a cig that he lit.

"Thanks."

"No problem", Twig replied, as he lit another cigarette for himself.

"Can you sit down and vibe with me for a while?"

"Sadly, I have to go", Zavish replied. "Twig?"

"I have nowhere to go anyway", the canid shrugged. "I can sit here and then, I can escape that city."

"That means we split up. Take care, Twig, whenever you may end up."

"Thanks again for rescuing me. I hope you'll end up in a better position than me."

The goat started going forward. In fact, he started sprinting in that place. He was counting the hatches, since he remembered that he could safely get out at third one. After getting to it, he climbed up and opened the hatch, ending up on the surface.

"Guys?", the horned man called his friends, while he was closing the hatch.

"You have the Rodshard?", Snovid asked.

"Yeah. I can return to you now."

"Excellent. Get back with it and we can party like crazy."

Zavish nodded. He began walking to his demonic friends' place. He fulfilled his task and got some loot along the way, especially that unusual spearhead. He was happy, since he got richer. He was enjoying the walk and freedom from the danger, wishing for a mood to stay that way.