

Battle Arena

By Mick Lennon

July 13, 2038

Damien Racer is sitting behind the wheel of his Acura NSX. Right next to the NSX is Eleanor Racer sitting behind the wheel of her Aston Martin DBS. Alice leans into Damien's NSX.

"Are you ready to race?" Alice asked.

"Of course I am. That DBS has never been beaten, but that's about to change," Damien replied.

"Okay. Good luck out there," said Alice.

Alice gets back on the sidewalk. Sean walks up to the DBS and leans in.

"Are you ready to race your brother?" Sean asked.

"Damn right, I am! This car was previously driven by our father, and has never been beaten. This car has also survived a lot of stuff, and I'm gonna make sure it remains undefeated," Eleanor replied.

"Alright, now be careful out there," said Sean before he got back on the sidewalk.

Darrell walks up and stands between both cars.

"Alright, are the two of you ready to race?" Darrell asked.

"Hell yeah!" said Damien as he revved his engine.

Eleanor looks at Damien and revvs back at her brother.

"10, 9, 8, 7, 6, 5, 4, 3, 2, 1, go!" said Darrell as he pulled out his Colt M1911 and fired a round into the air.

Damien and Alice launch out of the starting line leaving behind tire smoke and skid marks. Damien shifts into second, third, fourth, and then fifth gear before making a hard right. Eleanor shifts into second and then third gear before following Damien.

"I never would've expected Damien to be racing against his own sister," said Sean.

"He did race against his own father, but he lost that race. Probably because his father is a better driver," Alice replied.

"That makes sense. If Damien was able to beat my Zenvo, then maybe he could beat Eleanor's DBS," said Sean.

Damien shifts into sixth, seventh, and then eighth gear before making a hard left.

Eleanor shifts into fourth and then fifth gear before following Damien. The Racer twins near miss a 2038 Ford Explorer, a 2037 Porsche 911 Carrera, a Lexus RCF, and a McLaren 600LT. They head onto the freeway. Eleanor attempts to draft Damien with a determined look on her face. They continue to near miss various traffic cars before exiting the freeway. The two of them speed through a busy intersection, causing a sixth generation Volkswagen Golf to get t-boned by a 2036 Ford F-150. Damien later crosses the finish line first with Eleanor crossing it a few seconds later. The two of them exit their cars.

"Damn, Damien, I can't believe you became the first person ever to beat the DBS," said Eleanor.

"The NSX faster, quicker, more powerful, and handles better than the DBS, so it makes sense why I'd be able to beat it," Damien replied.

"That's understandable," said Eleanor.

Damien's phone rings.

"Hello?" Damien asked as he answered his phone.

"Damien, it's Ray. I have a special guest with me, and this guy is interested in joining your team. I want you and your team to get over here right away," said Ray over the phone.

"We'll be there in a few minutes. Wait for us," Damien replied before hanging up and putting his phone away. "That was Ray. He said that he's got some guy with him who is interested in joining our team."

"Then let's go," said Alice before The Blacklist all get in their cars and head out.

The Blacklist later arrive at Ray's mansion, park their cars in the garage, and exit their cars. They walk past an orange Lamborghini Murcielago SV with a Blacklist license plate that says "CBLACK".

"That must be the car of the new guy," said Darrell as he notices the car.

The Blacklist exit the garage and walk to the meeting room.

"Hello, everyone. I'm glad you could all make it," said Ray.

"Hello, Ray," Damien replied. "So who's the new guy who wants to join the team?"

Chester Black (a grey muscular anthropomorphic wolf wearing a black leather jacket and blue jeans) walks in.

"Ladies and gentlemen, I'd like you all to meet Chester Black, son of Murphy and Susan Black," said Ray.

"Hello, everyone. It's nice to meet you. You don't have to introduce yourselves because I've already read your files. I also saw that you people managed to recover those military planes last week, and I thought that was fucking awesome!" said Chester.

"Hello, Chester, it's nice to have you on the team," Damien replied, "So can you give us a little info about yourself?"

"I was born on May 16, 2017. This was back when my father was with the original Blacklist. The thing is my parents didn't get married until March 4, 2019. Ever since the old Blacklist split up, my father became the drummer for Exorcist. Little known fact is that my father actually named me after Chester Bennington. By the way, the orange Lamborghini in the garage used to belong to my father," said Chester.

"That's actually pretty interesting. Besides, my dad named me after Dimebag Darrell," Darrell replied.

"Yeah, well my dad named me after the Mustang from Gone in 60 Seconds," said Eleanor.

"So, Chester, why do you want to join my team?" Damien asked.

"I thought that it'd be an honor to be on the same team as you, the son of the legendary Michael Racer," Chester replied.

"It's great to have you onboard," said Damien.

"Hey, Chester, is there anything else you do besides racing?" Sean asked.

"I do occasionally participate in battle arenas with other drivers. It's not like demolition derbies because these battle cars have weapons attached to them like snowplows, spikes, rotary saws, and other deadly weapons like that," Chester replied.

"Is there a specific car that you tend to use during your battles?" Alice asked.

"I use a black, heavily modified 2018 Porsche 911 Turbo that has a snowplow on the front, a large shield on the rear, large rotary saws on the sides, and titanium armor on the windows," Chester replied.

"So where is your Porsche now?" Sean asked.

"It's back at my mansion," Chester replied.

"Are there any battle arenas coming up?" Alice asked.

"There's one coming up in three days, and it's gonna be held at the Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum. That's where all the battle arenas take place. I usually win whenever I participate in them," Chester replied.

"Will you be participating in the next battle arena?" Damien asked.

"No, I want you to do it," Chester replied.

"Me? Why do you want me to do it?" Damien asked.

"Listen, there's this guy who has a personal vendetta against me by the name of Stewart Licon because of all those times I kicked his ass in every battle arena me and him have participated in. His new battle vehicle is a 2020 Ford Explorer ST," Chester replied before turning to Ray. "Ray, can you show everyone what I'm talking about?"

Ray shows everyone a hologram projection of Stewart's blue Ford Explorer ST equipped with spikes on the front & rear bumpers, armor on the windows, and a snowplow on the front.

"This is his SUV. Looks it may be a challenge to take down," said Ray.

"So what does Stewart look like?" Damien asked.

"This is him," Ray replied as he showed everyone photos of Stewart (an anthropomorphic ram wearing a purple hoodie and blue jeans).

"For once, I'm kinda nervous about him, and I don't think I'll be able to take him this time. This is why I want Damien to do this," said Chester.

"I accept that challenge," Damien replied.

"Do you even have a car you can use?" Sean asked. "You can't use your NSX because everyone will know that something is up."

"I wasn't even planning on using the NSX I brought here. Instead, I'm going to be using a different NSX that I stole two days ago," Damien replied.

"So that's where that NSX went," said Ray.

"I'll be back," Damien replied as he ran to the garage, got back in his NSX, exited the garage, and headed out.

Damien returns to his mansion. The garage door opens, he parks his car in the garage, and gets out. He gets in a red 2019 Acura NSX, starts it up, and exits the garage. The garage door closes. He soon returns to Ray's mansion, parks his NSX in the garage, exits the car, and walks to the meeting room.

"Alright, I'm back with that other NSX," said Damien.

"So that's what you'll be using in the battle arena?" Ray asked.

"Yes, so are there any specific rules for this battle arena?" Damien asked.

"First of all, participants are not allowed to kill each other. EMP weapons and tire shredders are permitted, but spike strip release mechanisms are not. Vehicles with bulletproof and reinflating tires are allowed. Vehicles can also be EMP hardened.

Weapons such as machine guns, flamethrowers, grenade launchers, and rocket launchers are not allowed. Military vehicles such as tanks and APCs are not allowed.

Semis are not allowed either. Any driver who exits his or her car will be disqualified. The

last driver remaining is the winner and will receive \$1 million. Keep in mind that my mechanics don't build very many battle cars, but they can make your new NSX ready for battle in time. Of course, you'll have to register to participate in it. Meanwhile, my mechanics will be building and testing the car. We'll let you know when it's done," Ray replied.

"Alright," Damien replied as he and the rest of team return to the garage.

Damien & Alice get in Alice's McLaren 720S, Sean in his Zenvo ST1, Eleanor in her Aston Martin DBS, Darrell in his Toyota Supra, and Chester in his Lamborghini Murcielago SV. They start up the cars, exit the garage, and head out.

Ray's mechanics build and test the NSX over the course of three days.

The Blacklist come back to Ray's mansion, park their cars in the garage, and exit their cars. They see Ray standing next to the NSX, which is under a tarp.

"So is it ready?" Damien asked.

"Yes, and here it is!" Ray replied as he pulled the tarp off the NSX, now painted orange and equipped with a front scoop, a large shield on the rear, armor on the windows, and a rollcage.

"I gotta say, your mechanics did a great job with this car," said Damien.

"I'm glad you like it. This car is equipped with bulletproof & reinflating tires, a military grade EMP weapon, tire shredders on the wheels, titanium armor on the windows, and bulletproof glass. This car is also EMP hardened," Ray replied.

"Thanks for that," said Damien.

"As an added bonus, it even has a horn that sounds exactly like an air horn," Ray replied as he opens the door to the NSX and honks the horn while smiling.

"That's actually really cool," said Damien.

"You're welcome. Keep in mind that this car is not street legal, but you probably don't give a shit about that," Ray replied while smiling.

"Damn right I don't!" said Damien as he smiled.

"Now, as Chester previously stated, Stewart Licona will be participating with his Ford Explorer ST. His Explorer is EMP hardened and has an EMP weapon of its own, so you may want to try and shred his tires. You could also try to roll his SUV over," Ray replied.

"Got it," said Damien.

"Sean, can you drive me to the Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum?" Ray asked.

"Sure," Sean replied.

"Let's go!" said Damien as he and everyone get in their cars and head out.

They soon arrive at the Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum. Damien heads around back with the other battle arena drivers. The rest of the team park their cars in the parking lot, exit their cars, and enter the building. Meanwhile, Damien and the other battle arena drivers enter through the rear entrance as their cars are scanned one by one. Alice, Darrell, Eleanor, Sean, Chester, and Ray get seated. The announcers come in and get seated.

"Good afternoon, ladies and gentlemen! My name is Maxwell Norris, and this is Victor Norton," said Maxwell (an anthropomorphic cheetah wearing a blue business suit).

"How are you doing, Victor?"

"I'm doing good," Victor (a brown anthropomorphic bull wearing a black business suit) replied. "So how are you doing?"

"I'm doing great!" said Maxwell. "Now are you people ready for this month's battle arena?"

"You bet your ass I am!" Victor replied.

"I've been looking at the contestants, and noticed that one driver in particular making his battle arena debut is Damien Racer, son of Michael Racer and Diane McLaren," said Maxwell.

"Yeah, and I can see Michael and Diane sitting right there in the audience," Victor replied as the jumbotron cuts to Michael (wearing his glasses, a black Motorhead t-shirt, and black jeans) and Diane (wearing a black Rise Against t-shirt and black jeans).

Michael and Diane briefly wave at the audience. The jumbotron cuts back to the field.

"In a few seconds, the drivers will enter the field and try to smash each other's cars. The last driver remaining is the winner and will receive \$1 million," said Victor.

The drivers enter the field and start circling the arena. They stop circling and face the center of the field.

"Drivers, are you ready?" Maxwell asked.

"Ready!" said Damien as he revved his engine.

The other drivers rev their engines.

"10, 9, 8, 7, 6, 5, 4, 3, 2, 1, go!" said Maxwell.

The drivers head into the field and start attacking each other with their cars.

"And they're off," said Victor.

Damien heads toward a red armored '56 Chevy Bel Air. He aims for the left side and rolls the Bel Air over, completely immobilizing it.

"And there goes the first contestant," said Maxwell.

Stewart t-bones a green armored 2030 Volkswagen Jetta and pushes it until against a wall, totaling it. He backs up and smashes the engine of an orange 2017 Mitsubishi Lancer. Damien uses the tire shredder to shred the tires of a black 2019 Audi A6. He then fires an EMP at beige Chevy HHR.

"Damn, he's good," said Michael.

"He sure is, now let's hope he can win this," Diane replied.

A guy in a white 2019 Audi TT uses a tire shredder on the rear left wheel of Damien's NSX.

"Shit!" said Damien.

The tire reinflates.

"Alright, dickhead, time for you to pay!" said Damien as he turns around and goes all kamikaze on the Audi TT. The Audi is briefly airborne before rolling over five times.

"Holy shit! Did you just see that?" Victor asked.

"Hell yeah!" Maxwell replied.

A guy in a silver 2018 Subaru WRX STi and a woman in a blue 2020 Shelby GT500 drive towards each other head on and wreck each other's cars upon impact. Damien fires an EMP at a purple 2010 Honda Pilot, shutting its entire system down.

"Damien is really kicking ass out there," said Darrell.

"I have to admit, he's an even better battle driver than I am," said Chester.

"He was trained to drive the way he does by his own parents. Same with Eleanor," Alice replied.

Various drivers in the arena continue smashing each other's vehicles. Stewart sideswipes a white 2015 Volkswagen Beetle, causing it to collide head on with a silver 2019 Toyota Prius. Damien shreds the tires a blue 2020 Toyota 4Runner. Stewart fires an EMP at a silver Chrysler Crossfire. Damien flips a silver Mercedes-Benz X-Class and a red Mitsubishi Outlander.

"There are only two contestants left," said Maxwell. "Who will win this month's battle arena?"

"Damien has already demolished most of the other contestants' cars, so there's a chance that he'll be this month's winner," Victor replied.

"Stewart has also smashed his share of cars, but we'll have to see what happens," said Maxwell.

Damien and Stewart face each other from opposite sides of the arena. They charge at each other head on. Stewart sends Damien's NSX into the air. The NSX hits the ground and rolls over three times before landing on all four wheels and losing the shield.

Damien starts the NSX back up and gets back into the field.

"That was a very dramatic crash, but Damien is still moving. Damn, this guy just doesn't give up," said Maxwell.

Damien activates the tire shredders and shreds the left tires of Stewart's SUV.

"Shit!" Stewart shouted.

Damien turns around and shreds the right tires of the SUV.

"That's it, you're done, you little bastard!" said Stewart.

Damien charges towards Stewart's SUV, causing it to roll over five times. The front left wheel and right wheel come off the SUV as the windows shatter. The SUV stops rolling and lands on its left side. The fuel tank starts leaking, and Stewart climbs out the right side and onto the field.

"Stewart has just exited his Ford Explorer and has walked onto the field. That is an automatic disqualification. That means that Damien Racer is this month's winner!" said Maxwell.

The audience starts cheering as Damien exits his NSX. He stands on the hood of his NSX with his fists in the air as blood runs from his nose. He steps down from the NSX as Maxwell and Victor approach him with a gold trophy and a check for \$1 million.

Damien holds up the trophy and the check.

"So Damien, how does it feel to be this month's winner?" Maxwell asked as he passed the microphone to Damien.

"I've never been in a battle arena before, but it feels great. I'd also like to thank my friends, my family, and my girlfriend since they've been supporting me and were in the audience," Damien replied.

"Do you plan on participating in future battle arenas?" Maxwell asked.

"That is a possibility, though I'm not completely sure. We'll have to wait and see," Damien replied.

"You've heard it here. Damien has won, and Stewart has been defeated once again. We'll see you in next month's battle arena," said Maxwell.

Damien walks away with his trophy and his check before getting back in his NSX and exits the Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum. Alice, Darrell, Eleanor, Sean, Chester, and

Ray exit the building, get to their cars, and follow Damien back to Ray's mansion. They soon return to the mansion. The garage door opens, and everyone parks their cars inside. They exit their cars and walk to the meeting room.

"Damn, Damien, you were kicking ass out there! I never thought you'd be so skilled when it comes to smashing other cars," said Chester.

"I have played my share of vehicular combat games like Carmageddon," Damien replied.

"I'm glad to see that you won, even though you've never been in a battle arena before," said Ray.

"Thanks, and the NSX is gonna need some repairs," Damien replied.

"My mechanics will get to work on it. Once it's fully repaired, I'll have it shipped back to your mansion," Ray replied.

"Alright, let me know when it's fixed," said Damien.

"I will," Ray replied.

The Blacklist return to the garage. Damien & Alice get in Alice's McLaren 720S, Sean in his Zenvo ST1, Darrell in his Toyota Supra, Eleanor in her Aston Martin DBS, and Chester in his Lamborghini Murcielago SV. They start up their cars, exit the garage, and head out.

Story and Characters are Owned by Mick Lennon aka Michael Racer