

Behind the Lines

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Youth Category: Third Place

One sunny day, unlike any other day it was a beautiful day in the state of Trenderom. Right beside the state of Trenderom was Zelabble. A boy and a girl just playing in the pasture. They both always had lots of fun together whenever they were playing a game in the pasture at the borders of the states. For quite a few centuries there was peace with both of the states after a great time of war. But the people have been nice to each other since the peace treaty. One day, when the girl and the boy were playing a game of chase in the pasture at the border of both of the states, their parents came along and got to see them play for a little but not too long after they called each of them over. When they both got their parents, they were both really sad and upset of how it seemed. They told the two, "We are really sorry but, this will be the last time you get to play together, we are going to be moving away now."

The boy and the girl were really sad and they went over and hugged each other one last time before they went away with their parents. Everyone had shed at least a tear that day. When the boy got home, he immediately asked his mom and dad when he was going to see the girl again. They looked even more sad and told the boy what was going on and why they couldn't see each other. Both of the states are back at war with each other. Something happened to the peace treaty and war was beginning again for the states of Trenderom and Zelabble. For 14 years, Trenderom and Zelabble were a war with each other again. Neither side could figure out how to get each other to agree with each other with all the anger and fighting going on. The boy and girl were separated because of the war with the two states. And even out of their will, they were

going into the armies of their states militaries to fight one another. Ryley Emmett Haas, the boy, was heading right into the military to get ready for a special attack on the Zelabbles.

Over on the other side the military there was planning on a special attack as well to the Trendom state. Hating to fight with each other, both of them went through an all state war that was going on. People from both states were fighting all over each states and lots of people were dying. The battle went on and to each side's surprise, both of them had the same idea of where to attack next and there they were facing off one another. Bullets and cannons and explosions came from all over the field. Yelling from people one minute, silent and sleeping they are the next.

This was going on for the past 14 years with no peace treaty. Nobody knew who or what happened to the treaty or if someone did something with it but since then they were at war. Back to the battlefield they go only after a few centuries have passed. After the battle there of the special surprise attack on each other, the Zelabbles won with the Trendoms fleeing back. More and more fights like this went on. Until one fateful day months later, after the surprise battle of both state, the Zelabbles were planning to send in a spy to try and figure out their battle techniques to find a way to defeat them for good or have them surrender. Almost nobody had been in the state of Trendom before though besides the war. Except only four people have been in Trendom before the war went on. General Boris Nova appointed a young soldier to head into the Trendom capital as a spy. Her name was Skye Schuyler. She once played with her childhood friend there in the pastures of where the war took place but now was forced to fight the war to win for their state. As Skye got into her disguise, General Nova gave her a walkie

talkie that only went to the station they used in their command center to send them the information. After she left the headquarters, she went off to head to the other state.

Even though she was on a mission to go and leak out the Tredom's command center's information, she still went and did some of her own things. As Skye quietly ran across the pastures, right past the edge of the end lines, right into the state of Tredom. Sneaking back through the backways through town and slowly made her way towards the Capital. Sneaking through the backdoor, Skye had her gun right at hand in case of anyone finding her. It looked like she was just coming back from her post. And as she thought, right around the corner there were guards. She just marched right to the gate and she made it inside undetected.

Later as she finished talking to the general and some other soldiers, she snuck out round the back and took the walkie talkie and gave the information to General Nova. Meanwhile, Ryley came to the back as well. Without knowing that anyone was back there, he was going to eat his lunch in private. After he turned the corner there was a scream and a yell. Both of them hid right behind the corners of the wall they were at. But then came to realization after a few seconds.

“Oh, it's just you soldier,” said Officer Haas.

“Uh y-yeah, it's just me, Officer Schuyler. What are you doing here?”

“I should be asking you that!” Haas replied.

“Well I asked you first!” Schuyler said.

“Okay, I was just coming out back here to get away from the other guys to enjoy my lunch in peace instead of having them all over me.” Haas exclaimed.

“Yeah they can really get out of hand when it comes to meals.” Schuyler replied. “I can understand. It is peaceful of sorts out here in the back, gives you a sigh of relief even with this whole war thing going on.”

Haas smiled. He sat down and finished his lunch. Schuyler was just sitting there really nervous, wondering if she had just about been found out snitching out the Trendoms. But Haas gave no comment, so she felt a bit more calm and relaxed looking at the clouds in the grim gray sky.

“I still remember the time I had when I was younger, in school for a bit then we all went to train for the military. It was not bad because we didn’t have any homework and no extra work unless you were failing the obstacle course tests.” Schuyler commented.

“Why, I do recall that there were a few upsides from growing up from that. It did seem easier than normal school where you had to wear those itchy school uniforms.” Haas said. “By the way, Officer Schuyler, what age did you first start training in the military?”

“I think I was six years old.” She replied. “What about you?”

“I think it was the exact same age for me too. Just please can we get even a breather of peace with no fighting with each other or the enemy?”

Schuyler stayed silent. She looked down at the ground. Haas stood up and felt the wind as it swept through. Schuyler on the other hand was watching the grass sway in the wind.

“Are you watching the grass, Schuyler?” asked Haas.

She nodded softly. Haas thought of it curiously himself. He looked down and watched the grass sway in the wind as well. Nothing but the wind could be heard rushing through the trees and the grass. It was quite a soothing sound.

“The swaying grass makes you feel like you are flying across the ground. I mean it really is something, with the sound of the tree and grass in the wind. The beauty of nature, which I never got to fully understand in school, but was the only thing I really wanted to learn about.” Said Schuyler.

“I can understand. But all the swaying grass really reminds me of my childhood.” Haas replied.

“How so?” asked Schuyler.

“Well, I would lay down in the grass on the hills of the pastures and look at the stars late at night sometimes. But what it really reminds me of is when I played with my childhood friend in the pasture every day when we didn’t have school. Of all the fun we had, it was unforgettable.” Said Haas.

“I remember playing with a friend in the pastures with my childhood as well. I can’t remember his name but we had fun.” Schuyler said.

“Ha, I bet you didn’t have as much fun as I did with my childhood friend!” bragged Haas.

“Nah I think me and my childhood friend had way more fun than you guys!” Schuyler said right back.

Both of them started laughing and still arguing for a little bit about who had the most fun in their youth. Then they both realized that even though they had their past brought up to each other, they are living in a present day warzone. Until something happens for one of the states to win against the other state, or come up with some sort of peace treaty.

“Well, that was how much fun we had until my parents came up to me and then I never saw him ever again. The war began with the states and I had to leave my childhood friend behind in the pastures.” Schuyler said.

“Yeah the same thing happened to me, I left her and she went with her parents and she went with mine. I wish I could get to see her again some day. Except, she lives in Zelabble, and we are at war with them. I hated it when I had to kill all of those civilians. But it’s just a part of war.” Haas replied.

“Do you know her name?” asked Schuyler.

“Very briefly,” said Haas. “I can’t remember her last name but I think her first name was Skye.”

Schuyler’s eyes widened. She looked at Haas and realized something.

“Wait, my first name is Skye,” she said.

“What!?” Haas replied, shocked. “But, there ain’t no way that you were her. She is from Zelabble, you’re from Trenderom.”

Schuyler thought about it for a second or so and decided to reveal herself to him.

“Officer Haas, it is me. I am the one that you were friends with all those years ago. I am Sky.” Schuyler said nervously.

After a little reunion with each other, something came immediately to Haas’s mind.

“Wait, Skye, if you’re here, then did you move to Trenderom?”

“No, I am not, I was sent here by my general.” She replied.

“To do what?” asked Haas.

“To, to leak out your battle tactics to our side so we could expect every attack that you would do to us.” Answered Skye nervously.

“That’s what we did! We sent a guy named Brock over to go and be our spy for your battle techniques but no the idiot accidentally exposed himself and ended up getting killed. You

need to be very careful when going through here. If you are caught, you will be executed on the spot.” Warned Haas.

Both of them went back inside the command center. Another attack was planned to be attacking the Zelabbles. Sky Schuyler decided to go with the plan that the Trendoms were going with.

Months had passed and the states were still at war. Skye was just about to head back to the Zelabbles headquarters. As she snuck back off the way she came from, little did she know she was being followed. After arriving in the town of Zelabble, Skye had just gotten to her house to pick up some supplies. Knocking came at the door, Skye got her gun at the ready and opened the door. Officer Haas was right outside at the door. He came on in and hid down away from the door.

“Officer Haas! What are you doing here?” asked Skye.

“To help solve the missing Peace Treaty!” replied Haas.

“Okay, one you are absolutely crazy, and two, how exactly do you plan on doing that?” asked Skye.

“Well of what I know is that the Peace Treaty was last put into your headquarters. We haven’t seen it since then so that’s where we shall start.” Answered Haas.

As it was said from the generals, the peace treaty was gone from the pedestal. But at the scene of the crime, there was a trail of footprints. Of course, out of curiosity, Skye and Haas followed them to see what happened to it. It led them down a staircase, outside around the corner of a house. What they found next was the reason for the whole war. There was a reminiscence of a fire, and on the edges of the fire were pieces of paper, the pieces of the peace treaty of what the one piece looked like.

“This is the peace treaty alright. It says here, declare peace.” Said Skye.

“So it was burned?” asked Haas.

“Someone who came here and burned this to ruin the treaty. But who?” said Skye.

Just then, a voice was heard coming their way. Haas and Skye quickly ran behind the building and a cart. The person that walked there was General Nova. But what would he be doing there?

“Alright, here it is. The burnt fragments of the Treaty. I want this cleared and not to be seen again. I will be back in an hour, that’s when you’ll start. I have a meeting to attend about the next attack of the Trendoms.” Said General Nova.

It was the General of Zelabble! But why would he ever have wanted to start a war with the Trendoms anyway? Haas and Skye knew that they couldn’t just leave this alone. An hour later, the two men with cleaning supplies were waiting by the burnt ground with the treaty still in little fragments and the black grass from the fire. General Nova came from the back way of the headquarters.

“Alright boys, clean up the mess of the treaty. And speak to nobody of this or its execution of the both of ya. Quickly now! Hurry up and clean this so the treaty is gone for good!” demanded the general.

“Stop right there Gentlemen!” yelled Skye.

Skye rose from the top of the cart and aimed her rifle down at the General.

“Oh, officer Schuyler. I’m sorry but you are not going to speak of this to anybody or you will be executed on the spot.” Threatened General Nova.

“Sorry, but she already did!” Haas said as he came from behind the building with a rifle out.

A whole army of troops came out and all of them aimed their rifles at the three men. General Nova had been cornered.

“You have sadly given your last command General. We have you surrounded.” Said Skye.

General Nova had no choice but to surrender. After the troops took in their General, they executed him and the two boys he had with him. Everyone cheered that the culprits had been killed. But even though they had done that, there was no leader for the Zelabbles. There was no way to sign a Peace Treaty so they were both still at war. Officer Haas had an idea. He asked Skye Schuyler and she agreed.

“Everyone, may I have your attention please?” started Haas. “I am Officer Ryley Emmett Haas. I am one of the soldiers from Trenderom. Yes, I snuck past your borders and fitted in with one of your own kind, but, one of you guys did the same for us. So we are even with that. If you don’t already know her, this is Officer Skye Schuyler, and she was sent to our headquarters as a spy. But she and I have teamed up and we are the reason we have found the treaty or what was left of it.”

“Why should we trust you, Trenderom?” said one person from the crowd.

“How do we know it isn’t one of your little tricks to make us the bottom state?” said another.

“Guys! Listen to me!” Skye shouted. “Me and Ryley have been friends since our childhood and we both even though we come from different states we still crossed the borders of both our states just to be able to calmly play in the pasture as little kids. We all want this war to end right? Aren’t all of us ready to have peace again? The only way we can do it is if we all work together!”

“So how do we get a sign to give peace to cease the war?” asked one of the troops.

“Me and Skye shall get married. It will be the official sign of the peace treaty of the war.” Answered Ryley.

And so, Ryley and Skye did get married. After the crowd cheered in Zelabble, they went to the Capital of Trenderom. There it was finished off that the marriage shall end the war with the peace returning. The marriage happened right in the middle of the battlefield. The pastures of which Skye and Ryley both played in when they were kids. Ever since that day, there had been marriages of the offspring of individuals from each state to continue the peace of both the states for years to come.