

Bang!

by

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INT. SPACE SHIP - NIGHT

METAL JACK (28), a space bounty hunter with cybernetic enhancements, is leaning back at the pilot's seat of his ship with a shawl wrapped across his face. It's spacious but empty. A call comes in from a nearby ship of other HUNTERS.

HUNTER 1 (O.S.)

Hey! You listening!? I said this
here's our mark. Go ahead and turn
around.

Metal Jack looks at the bounty notice: "EDGE. EARTHLING.
5,500,000,000 UNITS. DEAD OR ALIVE. EXTREMELY HIGH RISK". He
looks up and into the distance with no response.

HUNTER 1 (O.S.)

We gotta get up in there so you can
hear us? Turn around. Now.

HUNTER 2 (O.S.)

Hey, boss. Don't that look like
Hollow's ship?

On the back wall are a series of pictures featuring Metal
Jack's father, HOLLOW, a legendary gunslinger with a
signature cowboy hat. Metal Jack is much younger, and also
much happier in these photos. Hollow looks sickly in some.

HUNTER 3 (O.S.)

Hollow!? Ain't word goin' around
that he kicked the bucket? Can't be
him.

HUNTER 2 (O.S.)

You really think someone done him
in? We talking about the same guy?
Ain't buying it.

HUNTER 1 (O.S.)

Quiet! Our bad, sir. Excuse us.

The hunters turn off their comms. Metal Jack continues to
look out as his ship draws nearer to Earth.

CUT TO:

EXT. OPEN FIELD - DAY

EDGE (34), a swordsman with bullet wounds all over his body
and face, is swinging his sword in an empty field. Violent
winds blow blades of grass through the air.

Edge stops, and so too do the winds as they were merely
gusts from the swings of his sword. He looks up and closes
his eyes while bringing his sword to his face.

EDGE

May the land above not be heaven,
but life itself. May a waning soul
find resurrection there.

Metal Jack's ship comes down from the sky and lands on the field. Edge opens his eyes.

Metal Jack steps out of his ship with guns on each hand. Bandoliers are strapped all over his shoulders, arms, and legs. He wears Hollow's hat while keeping his shawl wrapped over the bottom of his face.

METAL JACK

Dead or alive.

EDGE

Hollow. Finally come to fight me again after all this time. I don't remember you being this small. I hope this means you've worked on your speed. Or are the rumors true? Has "Death's Gun" fallen ill?

Metal Jack squints his eyes as his fingers start shaking at the trigger. Edge takes notice of this.

EDGE (CONT'D)

To be "Death's Gun" means to be ever held by death. That you've lived this long is but another testament to your strength.

Edge puts his sword back in its sheath.

EDGE (CONT'D)

Though many claim so, I am not death. I am not the one who seeks to end you like this. As my most formidable opponent, I grant you the honor of taking me in.

Edge walks past Metal Jack.

EDGE (CONT'D)

I have always wondered what could be out there anyway.

Metal Jack suddenly fires a shot at Edge. Edge quickly draws his sword and effortlessly blocks it from behind.

METAL JACK

Nothing. There'll be nothing for you where you're going. Or did you think you could just get away whenever you wanted? I'll be taking you dead.

EDGE

Hm. It seems you've already died and left only an honorless vengeful spirit. May your soul find rest here.

Edge gets low into his stance while Metal Jack stands tall as he points a gun towards his opponent. Edge dashes forward and instantly gets in Metal Jack's face right as the shot is fired. Edge swings, then hesitates for a split second.

EDGE

Huh.

Metal Jack is caught off guard and jumps back while firing more shots. Edge blocks them with his sword as he starts pursuing Metal Jack who continues to shoot while running.

EDGE

You react so slow yet run so fast now. I preferred how you fought before.

METAL JACK

Shut it! I'm not here to talk.

EDGE

Then stand your ground and fight me!

Metal Jack stops running and takes aim. Edge gets up close to him in an instant again, though Metal Jack is able to react this time and throws a knee. Edge blocks it with the hilt of his sword and thrusts the blade towards him.

Edge avoids Metal Jack's brawler style attacks with ease while the latter is barely able to avoid the swordsman's quick counter hits and swift swings, receiving small cuts.

EDGE (CONT'D)

Enough of this!

Edge swings multiple gusts of wind. The air and grass blades flying around blind Metal Jack who's taken down by Edge, now standing above him. He points his blade at Metal Jack's face as he tries to keep the shawl in place over his mouth.

EDGE (CONT'D)

There is no more use hiding it.

METAL JACK

You knew?

EDGE

I hoped I was mistaken. Who are you, really? Why do you disgrace the memory of a great master?

METAL JACK

Quit talking about my father like you guys were all chummy or some shit!

EDGE

I'm not sure I can call a man who
riddled me with bullets a friend. I
did not even know he had a son.

Metal Jack tries to get up and tighten his grip on his gun,
but Edge pushes him down with the tip of his sword.

EDGE (CONT'D)

But though he came after my life,
he did so with his own.

METAL JACK

That supposed to mean something?

EDGE

As one walks up the path of the
life they chose, they will find
many who walk the same road. Most
will simply tread along. Only a few
will spare a passing glance; and
even less will choose to share the
journey with you.

METAL JACK

I thought you wanted a fight.
What's with all this cryptic shit?

Metal Jack quickly draws and fires a shot that allows him to
flip off the ground and stand on his feet. He points his gun
at Edge who remains standing firm.

EDGE

I must know if you really are the
son of the man who opened my eyes
to how much more our path had to
give. Or if you're simply another
passerby. Perhaps you don't even
walk the same path.

As Metal Jack carefully observes Edge's unmovable figure,
the image of Hollow suddenly replaces Edge from where he
stands.

HOLLOW

C'mon son, you wanna be like your
old man, you gotta learn from him.

Metal Jack is suddenly turned to a younger adolescent
version of himself. We are now at an impromptu FLASHBACK.

METAL JACK

It's no fair, dad! There's no way I
can ever beat you in a fight!

HOLLOW

And there's no way those other kids
your age could ever beat you. They
(MORE)

HOLLOW (cont'd)
don't even wanna play with you
anymore you're too good. You've
gotten sloppy hitting below your
weight. C'mon, back to the basics,
sport. Fundamentals.

Hollow gets into a low and guarded stance.

We return to Edge and the current Metal Jack stand off.

METAL JACK
Hah. You know what, old man? You
want a fight with my father so bad?
You got it.

Metal Jack gets into the same stance as Hollow from the flashback, guns on both hands. The gunslinger fires a few rounds, and as the swordsman raises his blade to block them, Metal Jack--appearing as Hollow from the perspective of Edge for a moment--gets in front of him before the bullets do.

Metal Jack gets his first solid hit in on Edge. He couples his punches with up-close gunshots. His youthful mobility allows him to flip around and gain short distances to rapidly shoot before rushing in and gun-brawling again.

EDGE
I think I see the resemblance now!

The ever-shifting range and combination of melee hits and gunshots throw Edge off, finally getting hit by Metal Jack.

As this happens, we see moments of Metal Jack appear as his younger self. From his perspective, he is running and jumping circles around Edge with childlike glee and laughter--as if playing with his father.

EDGE (CONT'D)
You're faster than him, I will
admit. But it was not his speed
that troubled me.

Edge pulls out another sword to dual-wield for a larger range of attacks. This forces Metal Jack to create distance.

METAL JACK
So you want me to fight from a
distance now? You asked for it!

Edge uses one sword to summon weaker gusts of wind or to throw it with a boomerang effect to pressure Metal Jack's ranged shooting. He uses the other to defend himself as he continuously rushes Metal Jack for more precise sword swings.

As this happens, we see moments of Edge appearing without any of the scars on his body nor his face. From his perspective, he is back to his electric fight with Hollow who is now implied to have given Edge all his scars.

As Metal Jack attempts to overwhelm Edge, and Edge attempts to cut through the storm of bullets and fists with precision, The momentum favors Edge by a small margin. Metal Jack once again retreats into a distance.

EDGE

How humorous that the one who
shoots guns fights with less
precision.

METAL JACK

Precision, huh?

Metal Jack swipes the ends of his magazines across the bandoliers strapped to his body, forming two long extended clips.

METAL JACK

Let's see how precise you can be
against this.

Metal Jack begins firing a massive hail of bullets. For a moment, we see Metal Jack once again appear as his younger self, though a vision of Hollow stands beside him--rapidly shooting with his son.

Edge counters by spinning one of his swords and throwing it with all his strength. As he does this, we momentarily see his appearance shift to being scarless. The spinning blade flies across the battlefield, causing a powerful cyclone.

Bullets fly all across the field as they are carried in different directions by the winds. As Edge begins to rush Metal Jack, slicing stray bullets along the way, Metal Jack concentrates and fires a single shot that precisely follows the winds to hit the flying sword.

The sword falls into Metal Jack's hand. He fires a few rounds at Edge before rushing at him with the sword and a burst of speed. The two rush towards each other, though before they clash, we see a shot of them appear as the childlike Metal Jack and the scarless Edge. They both wear a smile in these forms as they get near each other.

Edge commands his sword back to him, flying off of Metal Jack and into his hand like a magnet. Edge slashes at the stumbling Metal Jack. The gunslinger falls to his knees. The swordsman stands over him.

EDGE

There is no shame. Your father did
not anticipate that I could call
for my blades either. Yet, even in
that position, he still managed to
fire a shot that fell me. And he
stood over me like I do over you
now.

METAL JACK

He... Beat you?

EDGE

I suppose he did not understand it either at the time--why he did not kill me or turn me in after. That is probably why he did not tell you.

METAL JACK

The "path"?

EDGE

Fewer persevere as you go further down the path. Perhaps that was also why I asked if I could join his bounty hunting in space if I was victorious in our next bout.

Metal Jack looks at and tightens his grip on his gun. Edge spots this.

EDGE (CONT'D)

You may be your father's son, but you are still very young. You have too much potential to die here. But if your stubborn youth compells you to finish what your father started, then I will not hesitate to cut you down.

As the two lock eyes, Metal Jack draws and fires a shot. The bullet goes past Edge, and hits another bounty hunter.

The group of hunters who came across Metal Jack before the fight are riding hovercrafts above the battlefield. The hunter who was hit by Metal Jack's bullet carries a sniper rifle.

HUNTER 3

See! I told ya it wasn't Hollow!

HUNTER 2

Damn, so that asshole really did bite the bullet then, huh?

HUNTER 1

Quit yall's yappin! Ya'll saw how the kid fights, we gotta stay focused!

HUNTER 3

No way they ain't tired from whatever that freakish battle was! There's about 10 of us, we can take em!

HUNTER 2

Edge AND the Hollow imposter? We'd be the biggest names out there!

HUNTER 1

Heh, I like the sound of that.

Metal Jack stands up and the two look at each other.

EDGE

Hmph. They're nothing special. You could have taken them out after they shot me.

METAL JACK

I finished what my father started, and I lost. If there really is more to the path that my father couldn't make it to, then I'll carry our names that I disgraced to it. And if you're such a smart ass brute, you're gonna show me this path.

EDGE

Hah, so you'll start by honoring the conditions and let me join you up there, huh?

HUNTER 1

Aw, well ain't this peachy. Tell ya'll what, if you surrender, we'll take ya'll in alive.

Edge offers one of his swords to Metal Jack.

EDGE

I know you're almost out of bullets. Show me what you can do with this.

Metal Jack grabs the sword, but Edge holds on to it tightly.

EDGE (CONT'D)

And for the record, I already saw them coming.

Edge chuckles as Metal Jack snags the sword away. Metal Jack shoots at the hunters while Edge summons a gust of wind with his sword. As the hunters reel from the attacks, the two fighters rush and jump at the stunned hunters.

THE END.