

LASTChancePUBLICATIONS

# 白 武 器 的 知 道 者

written

by

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episode 15

In Episode 14...

*"So the Kid got one out of there huh?....Impressive"*

Headwire's daring assault on JBC's Node was successful but can he return the Artifact to his base?

*"There's a live Juggernaut here!...."*

Headwire sat on top of a small ledge deep in the back of the enemy's base, below him the Juggernaut, a giant armoured vehicle with a long rounded, fully rotational turret on top, sat with its engine rumbling while its turret turned, scanning the area for the attacking Ranger that had taken an Artifact.

Ordinarily a Juggernaut wouldn't have been such a big obstacle, Headwire had taken out many in previous battles, but this time he felt anything but ordinary. He had almost made it out of the base after he had grabbed the Artifact but his head had ached so badly it had forced him to his knees. Then his hands had begun to tremble and he thought he might even pass out. He had stumbled out of a door and along a corridor and found himself at the blue vehicle bay, where an enemy Gunner had re-spawned and, upon seeing Headwire immediately jumped into the Juggernaut. In his weakened state it was all he could do to smoke the Juggernaut and boost jump up to this ledge. His head seemed to be clearing a little but he knew he would not be able to react fast enough to survive the battle with the tank. Whilst he considered his position his Comms crackled into life.

"Headwire, its Kaio, what's your location?" came the transmission.

"I'm at the back of the base, above the vehicle bay"

"Roger, I'm on my way. What's the opposition like?"

"Just one Gunner in a Jugg mate, but I... I can't focus" There was a pause before Kaio replied.

"Roger I'll be there in no time"

While Headwire waited, trying to focus he heard the familiar noise of a Deploy point coming into life. No doubt some of the enemy had re-spawned at base rather than at the front line in an effort to recover the Artifact he was holding. A Gunner and a Tech emerged from the spawn room.

"There's a few more of them now Kaio" Headwire announced.

"I know" said Kaio and to Headwire's surprise he felt a tap on his shoulder. Kaio was sitting on the ledge next to him.

"How did you?" Head began

"We better get you straightened out if were gonna bust out of here" Kaio interrupted looking at Headwire's shaking hands. "Explain what happened".

Headwire recounted how he had taken the Artifact.

"With smoke?" Kaio asked upon hearing Headwire's strategy.

Then he spoke of his heartbeat and headache and then finally his collapse and current state.

"Hmm, I see" said Kaio

"There's one more thing Kaio" Headwire said. He looked down, not really sure how to explain.

"I could feel where the defenses were Kaio. I didn't need to see them, I..I don't know how" Headwire looked up at Kaio.

"Aenbiki" Kaio muttered to himself.

"What did you say?" asked Headwire

"Don't worry about that now. Do you still feel weak?"

"Yes" Headwire answered.

Headwire watched as Kaio crossed his legs, placed his hands together and bowed his head. He felt the hairs on the back of his neck stand up again and the air become denser and electrical.

"What...what the hell is going on!" he shouted. Kaio placed one hand on the stone platform they were sitting on and he reached towards Headwire with the other.

The energy building in air seemed to pull Headwire towards Kaio's hand. Kaio's finger tips were a few centimeters from Headwire's battle helmet when there was a sudden sharp jolt to Head's body.

"Ow!" he shouted in reaction. Then the air was clear again and the hairs on his neck lay flat. Kaio opened his eyes and raised his head.

"How do you feel now?" He asked

Headwire took a second to consider this, then he replied

"Fine... I feel good.. much better, headaches gone too. What did you do?"

"I'll explain later. We need to get out of here now though. Our Artifact's will begin to show up on the radar soon."

"Our..?" Headwire began in confusion then he noticed the blue misty glow rising gently from the middle of Kaio's suit. All four of the alien Artifacts produced a coloured glow and released a fine spectral mist, the colour depended on the suit it was attached to.

"You got an Artifact?" He asked

"I picked one up on the way over, now they're after both of us" Kaio replied with a smile.

Headwire felt better at the news. He couldn't help wondering about Kaio getting the Arti though, that Artifact room still had defenses up and at least one defender. Not forgetting that as far as Headwire knew Kaio had never done an Arti run before. Then there was this strange ceremony he had just performed on Headwire to recover his strength. Headwire began to wonder if there wasn't much more to the midfield Ranger than he had come to think. One thing was certain; Kaio had a lot of explaining to do.

"It's time to go Head" Kaio said "Now let's try and go unnoticed" as he saw that the Juggernaut had moved on and no defenders were obvious.

"Ok" said Head.

The two Rangers dropped down from their platform, straight on top of an enemy Gunner. All three men collapsed to the floor.

Kaio and Headwire were up quickest

"Unnoticed, like that?" Headwire said

"C'mon, what are the chances?" Kaio remarked as the two of them dodge boosted away from the recovering Gunner. Their two red sniper shots took him out of action, before he had finished standing up.

"Go" Kaio said and they turned to sprint down the corridor, only to be confronted by two Techs running up, no doubt in response to the Gunner's alarm call over Comms. One began immediately dropping Turrets whilst the other started filling the corridor with gas.

"Back!" shouted Kaio, followed with a subtle instruction, "The one on the left".

One sniper shot from each of them ended the Techs gassing as the two Rangers proceeded back up the corridor towards the vehicle bay.

"This leads round to the other garage door" stated Headwire

The two Rangers were sprinting and dodge boosting along the corridor whilst reloading their weapons. As they came round the bend to the vehicle bay they saw the Gunner they had just taken out standing up, having been revived by a blue Ranger.

"Keep moving!" said Kaio

"The Ranger's mine" said Headwire as Kaio fired another sniper shot catching the Gunner directly in the head and sending him straight back down to the floor.

The blue Ranger was quicker than his team-mate and he dodged away from Headwire's incoming rifle shot, firing one in return. Kaio boost dodged straight passed the Ranger and continued sprinting on passed the vehicle bay, barely noticing that the Juggernaut wasn't there anymore. Headwire dodged an incoming shot from the enemy Ranger and dodge boosted towards him; swapping to his grenade launcher in mid air he fired a frag grenade. It exploded right on the Ranger's helmet dropping him instantly.

"Too easy" said Headwire as he landed his dodge. He turned and sprinted after Kaio, who seemed to be standing waiting for him.

"Juggernaut, turning back round this way"

"Well you didn't think this was gonna be easy did you" Head joked. Behind them they saw the two Techs revive the Ranger and the Gunner re-spawned from the Deploy-point

"We hit it fast and hard then we're gone" said Kaio

"Roger" Head replied focusing on the Juggernaut, and with that they set into a sprint.

The Juggernaut turret was turning round and the Gunner inside saw two Rangers sprinting towards him, Shock Lances firing. Before he could fire a shot Kaio and Headwire had boost jumped onto the turret and began to unload their Shock Lances into it. The bewildered Gunner could only spin his turret in confusion as his vehicle shuddered with electrical impacts.

A blue sniper shot flew past Kaio drawing his attention to the force heading towards them from the back of the base. The Techs were setting up more turrets and the Gunner was on his way, determined to dish out some pay back.

"Wait, don't destroy it!" called Kaio.

"What?" replied Head.

"I'm gonna draw his fire, cover me." Kaio said as he gripped his Lance, took a few steps and boost jumped off the Juggernaut toward the oncoming enemies.

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From his turret's view port the Gunner saw Kaio jumping through the air. He began tracking his shot to the point where he would land. Then, in mid air, Kaio spun round to face the Jugg and fired his Shock Lance at the already flaming tank. The Gunner panicked and rushed his shot, which flew passed Kaio and exploded into the two blue Techs and their turrets, taking them both out instantly.

"Jump!" shouted Kaio as his secondary Shock Lance EM ball was about to connect with the Jugg. Headwire was already boost jumping clear as it exploded.

Now Kaio and Head tried to make their exit. They engaged the blue Ranger and Gunner whilst dodging missiles and sniper fire and heading backwards towards the garage door. Just then Chance came over the comms.

"Guys! They've taken both our Artis, we have little power and our defences are down. Some of them will be heading back to intercept you."

"Great" said Headwire as he dodged an incendiary grenade from the Gunner and ducked a sniper shot from the Ranger.

Chance continued "We are still fighting outside our base. You two have gotta get out 'a there"

"Roger that, over and out" replied Kaio.

At that moment the garage door opened behind them and a blue Tech came sprinting into the corridor, following him at a slower pace was a Ranger with a red cloth tied to his arm. To the front another Jugg came rumbling round the corner flanked by the two Techs, freshly re-spawned.

Kaio looked at Headwire

"Go" He said.

"What?" said Headwire

"Smoke Crying behind us and get out through the door. I'll keep them busy here."

"We can make it out together" Headwire said

"Negative, were both on low health and low ammo. We can't win a fight and if we both disengage they will cap us both. Now, fire your smoke behind us."

Kaio launched a smoke grenade down the corridor towards the exit, Headwire reluctantly followed suit. The oncoming Tech and Ranger were covered in the dense smoke which filled the corridor.

"Now! Head, go!"

"Good luck Kaio" Headwire said as he sprinted into a dodge boost and disappeared high into the smoke.

"Good luck to you" Kaio replied, then he turned back to the oncoming enemies, "Right, lets do this" he said.

As Headwire passed through the smoke he fired off a Frag grenade in the direction he expected Crying and the Tech to be.

*"Might as well even it up a bit"* he thought. Then he was through the smoke and sprinting out through the garage doors and into the open battlefield.

In episode 16 of  
**8 WAYS TO LOSE...**

*"Where's our last Artifact then?" Delacruz asked over the Comms*

*"One of their Rangers is running it up the left hill, won't get far, he's got four of our guys after him. Two more are at the red base waiting for him as well"*

*"Sounds like we'll have to be quick if we want the glory Boock" Dela said, but Boockerr was already heading out the door...."*