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Subject: STORY: The Scorpion's tale.

Posted by [KIRBY098](#) on Tue, 06 Jul 2004 19:35:52 GMT

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He was out on the field in front of the barracks well ahead of 0500. Standing at attention at 0430, he figured he could beat any indoc hazing new recruits usually got by being woken early, accused of "missing roster", then being punished the rest of the day by twice as much torture as usual. The base was alive even at this hour, he noted. Rumbling machinery idled past him, and soldiers in the back of trucks heading to the front looked at him with vacant expressions. They were young, but the look on their faces spoke of age past their young years. He surmised they had seen their share of everything bad that life had to offer, and were ready for more.

The air was cool, and damp. He glanced out of his peripheral vision, not daring to move a muscle while at attention. He saw flashes of light on a mountain side off in the distance. The truck the soldiers were on rumbled in that direction, and Sergei felt guilty for his special treatment. He should be with them, fighting alongside them, and dying with them if need be. Maybe the schmuck Becker was right. No, he thought. I was chosen to serve in a different capacity. Maybe I can save a few of them by using whatever talents Nod leadership thinks I have.

The training officer showed up as he expected at 0445. He looked at Sergei with a raised eyebrow, and walked over in front of him. "Who told you to be out here now, candidate?"

"No one sir!"

"I find that extremely hard to believe candidate. Drop and give me 50. That will give you some time to think about your sources of information, while I get the other slackers out here."

"Sir, yes sir!"

Sergei dropped, and chuckled slightly to himself. The officer saw the smirk, and said over his shoulder, "Make it 60, since we're feeling so intelligent today." In a sarchastic tone.

He sighed inwardly, as he continued his count. In the background he heard the shouting, and laughed as the others, almost dressed and ready, were surprised by the sudden appearance of an angry training officer claiming they had "missed roster, and were going to be sorry mother f\*\*kers very shortly".

He finished as the officer arrived again.

"Who told you to stop, Smart ass? Drop and give me 20 more!"

"Sir, yes sir!"

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