Relics #4:

A Ride with the Doctor

By Jonathan Gutheinz





Twitter: @gutheinz

First Printing: USA 4/10/2019

**Other Books in WarZone**

Dawn of War

Mario Chronicles

Warzone

Tales

Chronicles

Outsiders

**Chapter One:**

**Leo**

The cool night air chilled Leo to the bones. His head was splitting, far worse than he would have thought possible. Everywhere he looked he took in more information than anyone had a right to know. Whole libraries of knowledge in an instant. It was enough to overwhelm even the smartest of humans. He wasn't sure how much more he would be able to handle, if he was a computer he would have sorted out already and what was the human mind if not a sophisticated computer?

He made his way over to Dr. Geller's town car, doing his best to only focus on what was right in front of him. Attempting to limit the information that was being downloaded into his head a million terabytes a second. He had to clear his head of all the noise, it was the only hope that his friends had of making it out of this alive. Something that he didn't believe he had much chance of doing himself.

Once inside the car he closed his eyes tight. It was hard to focus on the situation at hand when your mind kept telling you about Niko, a young man who worked at the factory where the town car was built. He just found out that he got his girlfriend's best friend pregnant a month before his wedding. He was freaking out, causing him to contemplate stealing from the factory after hours.

Leo shook his head, Niko and his personal drama had nothing to do with Leo and his friends. Dr. Geller was their only chance to escape the men chasing after them, men that in fact worked for Dr. Geller. The only thing they had going for them was that, at the moment, Dr. Geller doesn't know what they know. If they played it right, Dr. Geller would drive them somewhere away from the rest of his goons and then they could plan their escape. Leo just had to stay awake long enough to see the plan through.

The back door opened as Draco allowed Cordelia to place Shaw in the back seat. They then followed suit. Dr. Geller was the last to enter the car, closing the door behind them. Leo risked a glance behind him, in an instant he knew everything he needed to know. Shaw was going to be just fine, as soon as he woke up. Cordelia was stuck in her own head, trying to figure out the secret behind her new found strength. It was terrifying to her, something that Leo could relate to at the moment. Draco was scared as well, but he was in full problem solving mode. He trusted Leo, but was unsure if Leo was in his right mind at the moment. A fair question. One that Leo had been asking himself, if truth be told.

After all, getting in a car with the man who had been trying to kill you all night while one of your friends is out cold, another keeps passing out and the third is on the verge of a nervous breakdown wasn't the smart play. Leo had always thought of Draco as someone who played by his own rules, did what he wanted when he wanted and flew by the seat of his pants. For the first time in his life, Leo saw through that. Draco carefully maintained that image, all the while keeping a tight control over his life. Nothing he did was as half assed as it seemed from the outside. This new found truth was a disappointment to Leo. One of many that he had coming to him in the near future, of that he had no doubt.

Then there was Dr. Geller. He knew more or less everything that had happened while they were in the Pyramid. Everything except for how they activated the machine, and what objects were given what power. It would seem the doctor had found out about the Atlanteans technology and was obsessed with gaining the power it had to offer. Dr. Geller didn't know as much about it as he liked to believe he did, a fact that was a disappointment to Leo. Part of him wished he could reenter the chamber where they were given these new found gifts and look around. It wouldn't take him long to learn everything there was to learn.

Leo shook his head as Dr. Geller started asking questions. Leo wasn't in the mood to answer any, not that he had to. Draco had already jumped in to provide them with a cover story. From the sound of it, Dr. Geller was more than willing to accept any story they gave, as long as it kept them talking about the what they saw and kept them from asking him too many questions in return.

While Draco dealt with Dr. Geller, Leo turned his mind to the task at hand. Escaping from the not-so-good doctor. When Dr. Geller had opened the door to the exit and pretended to save them from the men chasing them, it seemed logical to accept his help. A plan formed fully in Leo's mind. It was perfect, foolproof. It was gone. The amount of information he had received since coming up with the plan had driven it from his mind and no matter how hard he tried to recall it, it seemed lost to him.

He closed his eyes tightly, trying as hard as he could to remember, but nothing came to him. He was going to have to come up with a new plan and fast. There was no telling where they were going, or what would happen to them once they got there.

“Leo! Leo can you hear me?” The sound of Draco screaming in his face as he shook him startled Leo into waking up. It would seem he had dozed off while trying to clear his head during the car ride.

“I'm. . .I'm fine.” Leo said, feeling anything but. He allowed his friend to help him out of the car, only to find himself standing in the middle of a parking lot. Cordelia was standing near the back door, a shaky Shaw standing next to her. Leo could tell he was still a little weak from the action down below. When Leo had a chance, he had to thank him for keeping him alive.

“I was so worried about you!” Cordelia said as she threw herself into a tight hug. Leo could feel her squeezing the life out of him. He tried to let out a warning, but her hold was too tight.

“Cordy, let go.” Draco said, attempting to pull her back. She let go of Leo.

“Sorry, I'm still trying to. . .” She stop, glancing over at Dr. Geller who watches them intently.

“Let us go inside.” Dr. Geller said. An unsettling smile on his face that did little to hide the thoughts running through his mind. He had figured out Cordelia's power. Just not the source yet. Leo looked at his sister, and the brass knuckles that radiated power from its spot around her neck.

“After you.” Leo said, moving past his friends to walk next to Dr. Geller. Behind him he could hear the town car take off, leaving them here with the not-so-good doctor. To all appearances they were alone with him, but Leo knew better. Almost every room in the motel was filled with Dr. Geller's men. There was only three other people at the motel. The woman in the office and a couple in the last room on the second floor. They had problems of their own to worry about, they wouldn't get in the way of anything Dr. Geller was up to. No, it was up to Leo to save his friends. No one else could.

**Chapter Two:**

**Shaw**

Dr. Geller led them to a room at the far end of the motel. Shaw kept to the back of their little troop, he couldn't figure out for the life of him, why they were suddenly with him. When he had first woken up in the back of the towns car, he had thought the worst. That Dr. Geller had captured him and his friends, but after a while it became clear that they were there of their own free will. The reason was lost on Shaw. And it would seem that no one felt any need to disclose it to him.

What else was new?

Shaw never made the cut when it came to need to know information. Even if said information was about him. It wasn't so much that people didn't trust him, more so that people just couldn't be bothered to tell him. As if the act of talking to him alone was too much of a hassle.

Shaw threw on his hood, as he always did when he felt insecure. He knew that it was a bad habit, but it was one he just couldn't break. No matter how hard he tried.

The door to the last room in the back of the motel, room 8, opened as Dr. Geller motioned them in. Leo, Draco and Cordelia went in but the look of utter confusion of Dr. Geller's face made Shaw stop in his tracks. It was almost as if he was looking right through Shaw, seeing just how much he didn't belong.

Before Shaw had a chance to speak, Dr. Geller entered the motel room, closing the door behind him. Leaving Shaw alone outside. It was one thing to always be the odd man out, but being kept out of your own rescue, that was too much for even Shaw. He took a step towards the door when it suddenly swung open, with a panicked Cordelia standing there. She looked all around, her eyes sweeping right past Shaw, as if he wasn't even there.

“Shaw! Shaw where are you?” She called out. What was she playing at? He was standing right in front of her, how could she not see him? He was about to ask as much, when Leo and Draco showed up next to her, with Dr. Geller right behind them. All of them were scanning around the outside of the motel, as if they couldn't see him. All but for Leo, who when his eyes scanned past Shaw, winked at him.

“Where could he have gotten off to?” Draco demanded.

“Don't worry, we'll find him.” Dr. Geller said, putting his hand on Draco's shoulder. Something that Draco did not seem to care for.

“We have to go back!” Cordelia demanded.

“It's too dangerous. Those men who were after you could still be there. It's safest if you three stay here.” Dr. Geller told them, motioning them back into the room.

“We can't.” Cordelia said.

“We're not about to just leave our friend out there,that's not happening.” Draco demanded. Shaw had never been so confused in his life. He was standing right in front of him and they were all acting as if he wasn't.

Could he have died? Is that why they couldn't see him? Was he some kind of ghost?

“I think Dr. Geller is correct. We should wait here. We can go and look for him in the morning. When it is safe.” Leo said, locking eyes with Shaw as he said it. For a moment Shaw felt like he was in the twilight zone. Draco and Cordelia were worried about him and Leo was good with letting him waste away. His whole world was upside down.

“You can't be serious!” Draco snapped at his best friend.

“I am. If we go looking for him now, we just put all our lives in danger.” Leo said, turning away from Shaw to look at Draco.

“Leo, he could be killed.” Cordelia pleaded.

“Come on, he got out of the car with us. He has to be around here somewhere.” Draco pointed out.

“Fine, I'll go and look for him.” Leo said, growing frustrated.

“We'll all go.” Draco said.

“We stick together.” Cordelia added.

“No! Dr. Geller is right. It is too dangerous for us all to be running around out here. We don't know who we were dealing with back at the pyramids, or if they followed us here. Please, just go back inside and I'll bring him home.” Leo told them. Dr. Geller just watched on.

“Fine, but if you're not back in 10 minutes, I'm going after you.” Draco snapped, heading back into the room.

“I don't know about this Leo.” Cordelia said. Leo leaned in close to her and whispered something, causing her to pull back and nod. She started into the room, Dr. Geller following after her.

“Everything's going to be fine. Just trust your brother. We have much to discuss.” He told her as he closed the door behind them. Leo waited a moment before walking towards Shaw.

Shaw was about to open his mouth to ask what the hell was going on when Leo whispered to him to follow him and stay quiet. So that's what Shaw did. He followed Leo around the motel and out to the woods behind them. On and on Leo went, not slowing down, or looking back. Once or twice he stumbled and Shaw could see some blood dripping from his nose, but he said nothing, so Shaw followed his lead. It wasn't till they were in the thick of trees that Leo finally stopped and rested himself against a large tree. He seemed more worn out than Shaw had ever seen him before.

“You can remove your hood now.” Leo said, his words seeming to be an effort.

“What?” Shaw asked, not sure he heard correctly.

“Your hood, take it off.” Leo said again, attempting to stand up, but falling back to the tree. Shaw reached up and took his hood off. He had almost forgotten he had even put it up.

“Happy?” Shaw asked, more confused than ever.

“Ecstatic.” Leo said and Shaw could tell he was telling the truth, tho he wasn't sure why.

“What's going on?” Shaw asked.

“So much more than we ever thought possible.” Leo said, a grin on his face as he looked around.

**Chapter Three:**

**Draco**

The ten minutes had quickly come and gone, but Draco had yet to go after his friends. Since the door had closed on the tiny motel room, Dr. Geller had been drilling them with questions. On his part, he did the best to make it seem like he was asking out of concern, but he wasn't fooling Draco or Cordelia.

They would both respond with vague answers that had just enough of the truth to pass a taste test, but not enough to help Dr. Geller get whatever it was he was after. Which, if Draco has to guess, was whatever that green mist that had hit them. It was what had given Cordelia her new found strength and was behind Leo's new found confidence, and problems. He kept passing out, there was something wrong with him and the sooner they got away from this mad man and got him to a hospital the better.

Draco lifted his hurt leg onto the bed, grimacing as he did so. Cordelia reached over and took his hand. It lifted his spirits to be with her, even if it wasn't under the best of circumstances. It was a hopeless crush, he knew. He would never be able to pursue it, what with her brother being his best friend, but he couldn't help how he felt about her.

“This is most unsettling.” Dr. Geller said, as he took a seat in a chair near the television. “You really saw nothing that would even hint at an Atlantean presence?” He asked, once again. Draco swung his leg off the bed and got to his feet. Wincing in pain as he did so.

“I need to go find Leo.” He said. Cordelia rushed to his side.

“Careful, your leg is still weak.” She said, he pulled free of her. He knew her heart was in the right place, but now wasn't the time for him to show weakness. Not with so much at stake.

“I'm fine.” He told her.

“I'll go with you.” Cordelia said, getting off the bed and to her feet as well.

“I don't know if that's a good idea. We should all stay inside.” Dr. Geller told them, now on his feet as well. The three of them all just exchanged glances, no one knowing what the right play in the moment was. The tension mounted, only to be broken by a knock at the door.

“It's me.” Leo's voice came from the other side.

“Leo!” Cordelia called out, rushing past Draco and Dr. Geller to the door, which she flung open. Sure enough it was Leo standing there. This time with blood dripping not only from his nose, but his eyes as well. No sooner had Cordelia opened the door than Leo fell into her arms, once more out cold. “Leo!” She screamed. Picking him up and moving him over to the bed.

Draco limped over to the door, looking for any sign of Shaw, there was none. Behind him, Draco could hear Dr. Geller and Cordelia talking about Leo. Things just kept spiraling out of control, and there seemed to be nothing he could do to set them right.

“Draco, he's not waking up.” Cordelia called to him. Slowly he turned away from the door and started to slowly, painfully make his way over to them. Leo looked bad. Far worse than he had back in the pyramid. Draco looked over at Dr. Geller, who for once, seemed genuinely concerned.

And why shouldn't he be? If he was really after the green mist, and this was a potential side-effect, it could ruin everything he had planed. Draco couldn't help taking a small pleasure in that thought, but only for a moment, before his concern for his friends took back center stage in his mind.

He had two, no make that three problems in front of him. One was the missing Shaw, two was the possibly dying Leo and the third was how to escape Dr. Geller. As of yet, he didn't have an answer for any of those questions.

“We need a doctor.” Cordelia said, providing what could be an answer to all of their problems if he played it right.

“There is a hospital nearby. Not an hour from here.” Dr. Geller said. Draco nodded.

“Good. Um, is your driver still here?” He asked the doctor, who nodded.

“I'll call him.” He walked back to his desk and pulled out his phone. Draco looked at the scene in front of him. There was only one play as far as he could see. Cordelia had to escape, find Shaw and get the hell out of dodge. Leo and Draco, both needed medical attention, and attempting to run would cause all four of them more problems than it was worth. It wasn't the best outcome he could have hoped for, but it was the only one he had.

Besides, whatever the green mist was supposed to do, it did to Cordelia and he had to make sure that Dr. Geller never found that out.

**Chapter Four:**

**Cordelia**

The hair on the back of her neck stood on end as she lifted her brother up and carried him out to the car. She could feel Dr. Geller's eyes locked on her. She knew that her picking up her brother, who was bigger than her, would only prove to the doctor what he already suspected. That they were lying about not finding anything out of the ordinary. It was clear from the questions being asked of them that Dr. Geller knew about whatever caused the green mist, and he wanted access to it.

So far Cordelia had followed Draco's lead and pretended not to know anything, something that was going to become that much harder now that she was showing off the results right in front of him. But it couldn't be helped, her brother was out cold and they had to get him to a hospital and she was the only one who could carry him. Shaw was missing and Draco's leg was getting worse and worse.

Dr. Geller ran in front of her and opened the back door for her, she placed her brother inside. The sooner they were away from this man the better. She didn't want him anywhere near her, or her brother, but the hospital was the best bet that they had to finding out what was wrong with Leo.

“He's going to be okay.” Dr. Geller said as he got in the car after her. Draco was the last to enter, his bad leg slowing him down. Once the door was closed Dr. Geller knocked on the glass and the car drove away, leaving the motel and any chance at finding out what happened to Shaw behind.

The truth was, Shaw was never her favorite person. In fact, she more or less hated the man. He was annoying and he always held Draco and her brother back. Not to mention how nervous he got when she was around. He just got under her skin, but ever since the battle with the stone soldiers, she had been feeling guilty. She was ready to leave him to die after finding out he abandoned them, only to learn that he hadn't. Instead he had saved her brother from death, at great risk to his own life.

She couldn't help but think that maybe he wasn't as bad as she had once believed. Cordelia had no idea where he could have gotten off to, or why, but for the first time, she really did hope he was okay, wherever he was.

“How far is this place? Draco demanded, as he looked over Leo, who had not so much as moved since he passed out.

“We should almost be there.” Dr. Geller said, he knocked on the glass, but the driver didn't lower the window. “Driver, how much farther?” He demanded. There was no answer. Cordelia and Draco exchanged looks. Dr. Geller banged on the window louder, as Cordelia looked out the window. They seemed to be in the middle of nowhere. “I demand you open this now!”

The car pulled over to the side, in the middle of nowhere. Draco and Cordelia both tensed up as the window started to slide down, with Dr. Geller watching on. He looked ready to tear the drivers head off, leading Cordelia to once more feel that getting away from him as quickly as possible was the best bet.

“What the?” Dr. Geller demanded as the Driver came into view, with a gun pointed at him. “Who are you?” Cordelia couldn't believe their luck. The driver was none other than Shaw, in a suit, holding a gun on Dr. Geller.

“I'm the driver, and this is your stop, so if you don't mind.” He motioned towards the door.

“Let me help you.” Draco said with a smile as he opens the back door, Dr. Geller looked around the car, sizing up his chances.

“I'm not going anywhere!” He told Draco, locking eyes with him. It seemed the not-so-good doctor knew who he had to get in line to get his way. Shaw was a pushover, that much was easy to see.

Still, Cordelia couldn't help but be proud of him for trying. It was a big step for him. A bigger step still, when moments later he hit Dr. Geller in the back of the head. It had to be the bravest thing he had ever done, if not the most successful. It didn't knock Dr. Geller out, he merely let out a yell and turned around to fight for control of the gun from him. Draco, wasting no time pushed forward, knocking the doctor out of the door.

“Drive!” Draco yelled as he pulled the door shut.

“Right!” Shaw yelled as he hit the gas. It only took seconds for the back window to shatter. It would seem the not-so-good doctor had the gun and wasn't afraid to use it. Cordelia looked back to see him standing there firing at them, growing smaller and smaller in the distance.

**Chapter Five:**

**Leo**

Leo awoke with a start. The sun was high overhead and his friends were standing around the outside of the town car. The sun was bearing down on his face through the shot out window. No sooner had he looked at the window than he saw the bullet that flew through it. He saw the warehouse where it was built. He saw the young boy who moved it into the box, who only wanted to earn enough money to get his mom the surgery she needed to make it through Christmas.

Leo shook his head. The information was too much, it came at him from everywhere at all times. Each and every thing he laid eyes on had a history, and a million other things attached to that history. He saw those histories as well. It seemed to be never ending, and he had a strong suspicion it would be the death of him. He couldn't process the information and the pain was overwhelming, but he couldn't worry about that yet. He had to make sure that his sister and friends were okay. After all, they were all in this mess because of him.

Slowly Leo sat up and opened the car door. He didn't even have a chance to get all the way out of the car before his friends pulled him into a tight hug. They were beyond happy that he was still among the living. He assured them they had nothing to worry about. A lie, but one that he felt they needed to hear.

“So where to now?” Shaw asked, his voice shaking.

“More importantly, what happened to us down there? We need to find out what Dr. Geller is after.” Draco counted.

“Why? Let's just disappear.” Shaw pleaded.

“We can't! What about our parents? My mom can't lose us. Leo she needs us.” Cordelia said. Leo knew deep down she was right, he may not have had the best relationship with their mother, but he knew how close Cordelia was to her. He couldn't take that away from her.

“The room we found.” Leo started. They all turned to look at him, he knew they thought he was broken. That his mind was fractured, and the truth was, they might be right. But he also knew what he knew. Lately he knew too much and it was long since time he shared what he knew with the others.

“What about it?” Draco asked, he was still favoring his hurt leg.

“It belonged to the ancient Atlanteans.” Leo started when Draco cut him off.

“Not this again. News flash Leo, Atlantis isn't real. Never was.” Draco said, his tone more hostile than Leo had ever heard before. He knew that it was due to the extreme circumstances of the past day, but that didn't keep it from stinging.

“But it is, or at least it was. I tried to tell you guys.” Leo said, Draco put his hand on his shoulder and locked eyes with him. Leo could see the concern in his oldest friend's eyes.

“Leo, I don't know what happened back there, but, whatever it was, it did something to you.” Draco told him, not unkindly. “We will do whatever we can to help you. To make you better, but what you're saying, it doesn't make sense. Just lay down, let us figure this out.”

“Remember the mist?” Leo asked, as he pulled back. Draco was about to respond when Cordelia spoke.

“It changed us, somehow.” She said. Leo nodded.

“Changed us how?” Draco asked. Before Leo could answer, Shaw put on his hood. Vanishing from sight as he did so. “What the fuck?” Draco said, falling backwards. Shaw removed his hood and reappeared.

“Cordy has super strength.” Shaw said, not feeling comfortable with all the attention that was currently on him.

“I do.” She said, smiling to herself. Leo could see it, until now it had scared her. But hearing Shaw put it into words the way he did, it made her reassess it. See it for the blessing that it could be. Leo couldn't help but smile. Ever since their father had passed, he had resented his little sister. Gone out of his way, time and again to prove he was better than her, but for the first time, he was truly proud of her. Happy for her. Whatever else this curse did to him, allowing him to empathize with his little sister, made it a blessing.

“What about us?” Draco asked, getting to his feet. “What did it do to us?” It was a fair question. One that Leo didn't know how to answer. If Draco didn't come to his gift and what it really means on his own, he would never be able to truly master it. Not fully. Leo couldn't take it from him.

“I was gifted. . . cursed, with sight. The ability to see the truth in things. In all things.” Leo answered.

“What does that mean?” Cordelia asked.

“I'm still trying to figure that out.” Leo answered truthful. “All I know, is it is overwhelming. My mind feels as if it is on fire at all times.” Cordelia gave him a hug and told him how sorry she was, Leo hugged her back for the first time since their father died.

“And me?” Draco asked the question Leo wanted most to avoid.

“Your pocket watch.” Leo said, giving him all the information he felt comfortable with.

“What?” Draco asked, pulling it out to look at it.

“The Atlanteans had advance tech. Far more advanced than anything we have ever seen or thought possible.” Leo started, trying to piece together what he knew as he talked. There was so much information it was hard to think straight. “They went to war against people with abilities. The only chance they had was to give themselves abilities as well, but instead of altering themselves, they gave abilities to objects. To things.”

His friends all exchanged glances. Shaw looked down at his sweater, Draco at his pocket watch. “So, our possessions give us power?” Draco asked, sounding as confused as everyone else looked.

“Yes. Shaw's hoodie, Cordelia's necklaces, my glasses.” Leo said. Draco looked back down to his pocket watch.

“My pocket watch?” He asked. Leo nodded.

“What does it do?” He asked.

“Honestly? I don't know. But you'll find out.” He lied. “But that's another day's problem. Today's problem is finding a way to stay ahead of Dr. Geller. He'll be after us. He won't stop until he figures out how we activated the power.”

“Well, at least we have a car.” Shaw pointed out. Leo shook his head. It was too dangerous to take the car. They would have to go it on foot till they made it to the next town. Once there they had to steal a car and head out of the country. Leo had too much running through his mind to think up long term plans. He was too focused on short term goals, but that was enough. At least for now.

The End