

THE CORT CHRONICLES BOOK 3

Rebirth

David D. Bernstein

ILLUSTRATED BY VICTOR AGUILAR

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Rebirth
The CORT Chronicles Book 3
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Dedication

I want to dedicate this book to my grandmother Nina, who always kept things in order. She was a wonderful wife, mother, and grandmother. She kept fighting till her last breath. We love her very much and we will miss her greatly, but memories of her will be with us forever.



A strong woman full of love.
April 29, 1923 to March 30, 2020

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Chapter 1

Supermarket

“What happened here?” Andy asked.
“When I left, it was empty,” Zack replied, pointing to the supermarket in front of them.

“Are you sure?” Wendy asked.

“I am positive. Something is wrong here.”

They watched as people of different sizes walked in and out. Each one was carrying a familiar square box—the same ones Andy and Zack saw everywhere in the future.

“I thought we destroyed them recently,” Andy said.

“We are not in Trinity anymore, little bro,” Zack said.

“I think we are.” Andy pointed to a sign in front of them: it read Trinity, NY.

“That was not there when I left,” Zack said.

“Maybe it was put up during those four missing hours,” Andy said.

“That is impossible. A sign takes years to plan and raise money for.”

“You are right. How weird.”

“It might be best if we went to the store; we might get some answers,” Wendy said.

“Good idea Wendy.” Zack said as he took her hand in his.

Andy noticed a large smile appear on Wendy’s face.

They both walked forward, not even looking back for a minute at Andy. Andy frowned as he followed.

Entering the store was a big surprise for everyone; it had been closed for three years. Inside they found several aisles full of food. It had everything an individual needed. It kind of reminded them of a massive Walmart. There were three floors full of goods. Many of the products were CORT brand, but most of them were normal goods found in any large supermarket.

Wendy approached a clerk, and asked, “Excuse me, sir, how long has this store been here?”

“You must be new in town; we have been here thirteen years now,” he said.

“Thank you,” Wendy said.

“Are you looking for anything in particular?”

“Just looking around. Thanks again.” Wendy walked back to the boys. “They have been here thirteen years,” she said.

“Wow, that is older than I am,” Andy said.

“Let’s look around a bit,” Zack suggested.

Inside was like a maze. The party even noticed golf carts moving around carrying goods and people.

“I have never seen a store like this one,” Zack admitted.

“It is so cool,” Andy added.

“We must be aware of all our surroundings,” Wendy said.

“What can we do without any magic or weapons?” Andy said.

“I highly doubt anyone will attack us; it is a store, not a war zone,” Zack said.

“I agree, we came from a war zone, but here seems to be very peaceful and quiet,” Wendy said.

The children continued to walk around, looking for something they could buy. Strangely enough there seemed to be no weapons for sale, only other goods.

“It is too quiet in my view,” Andy said.

“We will be very observant, just in case,” Zack said as he took Wendy’s hand again.

“I learned not to trust silence,” Wendy said.

“We should be on guard,” Andy added.

They tiptoed in the hallways; huge shelves of goods were everywhere. If only Andy could remember his flying ability he learned of in the future. He could not understand how some of the goods could not be reached by a person—maybe by a giant. That thought gave him chills. Could this new world have monsters in it?

The party started to move even quieter now, looking in all directions. They saw many goods; some they did not even recognize. The products were a mix of tech, food, and other goods. Andy thought back to the last time he remembered that store open. Back it only sold food. It also was not as massive. The store was now the size of 100 football fields and had three floors in it. The items were piled from wall to wall. Goods filled every bit of space except the hallways, which were clean and open so customers could move around freely. It was amazing what could be found here.

“Do you think we could buy weapons somewhere here?” Wendy asked.

“I truly doubt it, honey,” Zack said. He took out a paper and showed it to her and Andy.

“Three years ago, a massive shooting took place that killed a thousand people in one night. It caused Washington, DC to ban all weapons and overwrite the Second Amendment. Since that time our country has become a more peaceful nation.”

“Hold on a minute...where did you find this?” Andy pointed at the paper.

“Little bro, it was in the book section of the store.”

“When did you get to stop by there?” Andy asked.

“We passed by it just ten minutes ago,” Zack said. “I thought it would not hurt to learn a bit of history of the new planet.”

“Did you learn anything else, Zack?” Wendy asked with concern. The moment she said it three darts just missed the party’s heads.

“I thought weapons were banned!” Andy screamed.

“It means there must be a black market for them somewhere,” Wendy said as three more darts missed them again.

“Let’s run now and take the book with you,” Andy called out.

The party took off fast, running back to the place they entered. Darts were flying everywhere damaging all kinds of goods melted as they were hit.

“It looks like we must be wanted criminals,” Zack said.

“It is not funny, bro,” Andy added.

After ten minutes of running, they found themselves outside the store. Something very strange was going on this new Earth. They had to know what it was.

After catching their breath just outside the store, the three of them sat on a bench not too far away. They finally found peace again.

“What was that about?” Wendy asked.

“I am almost certain we are wanted criminals,” Andy implied.

“How could that be?” Wendy asked.

“We must have done something in the future to change the past,” Zack suggested.

“How is that possible? The future did not even happen yet,” Andy said.

“I have a feeling time really does not exist,” Zack said.

“It’s possible,” Wendy added.

It reminded Andy of the dark world he had been in; it was there that time had no meaning.

“Guys, I have a feeling what has happened here is my fault,” he said.

“Why do you say that?” Zack asked.

“It all started back in your home world Wendy. To save one of the sages, I had to enter dark world, and it was there that Zoey vanished. I believe that what we see in the present was caused by that event.”

“You know how dangerous the dark world is,” Wendy said.

“I certainly do, I think that dark world has appeared

here on our earth and changed everything that we loved,” Andy said.

“Oh, little brother, what will I do with you?” Zack said.

“I think it might be best for us to get home; it may be the only place that is safe now,” Andy suggested.

“No, the dark world likes to be in one area: It is not in a whole world, but only part of one,” Wendy said.

It made lots of sense to Andy. He remembered being in one area when he visited dark world.

“It only appears where it is safe. I have a feeling dark world is only underground or on CORT territory,” Wendy said. It made sense to them; that supermarket was CORT territory, and they were attacked only there, not outside.

“Let’s check out our house, and read more from this book,” Zack showed everyone a large book with the title *Laws of this Land*.

“That might give us many answers,” Wendy added.

“Let’s go!” Andy went forward.