



Order of the hammer short story

By Longbow

Context:

In a distant world, the King of the Ceraketin Empire formed a small group made up of mercenaries and criminals to deal with situations that would be too risky or too problematic for the regular soldiers, this group is called the Order of the Hammer. The group consists of 4 girls (Keris, Strelis, Rylith and Zikana) and 2 guys (Velico and Recker). At the time of this short story, the group has recently helped a town get rid of a band of raiders and are returning to the capital to report the success of the mission to the king, when they make camp in a forest for the night, but there is an issue when they got up in the morning.

Characters:

Keris, Strelis, Recker, Velico, Rylith and Zikana who is also called Ziji.

Keris acts as the group's leader, though she often turns to Zikana for advice and a second opinion. She fights with a sword that she stole from a noble that insulted her to her face, she also made his head roll. She uses the sword with skill and precision in combat.

Strelis is the group's drunk. She is temperamental and really mean when she is sober to everyone except bartenders, but friendly to the person who gave her alcohol when she is drunk. She isn't much of a fighter though, but when she does fight, she does so with knives.

Recker is the group's muscle. He is a seven-foot-tall mountain of muscle, and his experience with the army's artillery corps means he is quick with calculations. He prefers to fight with a mace or with his fists, but he can use most weapons, and he is also capable of helping artillery to aim by calculating the angle, height compared to the target, the wind and other metrics that affect the shells trajectory.

Rylith is a small, but volatile, matchstick. She is called a matchstick because of her red hair; she is also the youngest member of the group, being only 17. She loves fire and explosives and often fights using light artillery pieces, flamethrowers and shotguns and grenades.

Zikana is the group's voice of reason, she is also called Ziji as her full name is Zikana Jigervo. Her armour and weapons are copied from that of the winged hussars because she was inspired to fight for what is right after seeing a picture of them. She prefers to fight from horseback with a lance or sword, but she is also trained to fight on foot with a variety of weapons. She also can channel lighting through her body.

Velico is an asshole with a god complex who needs to be watched almost constantly because he could run off and destroy stuff or attempt to kill the other members of the group. Velico will always have his massive 20ft tall, 762mm "God Killer" cannon with him.

Story:

One morning, at the group's campsite in the middle of a forest, Keris wakes up and finds Velico missing and Strelis asleep when she should have been watching Velico to ensure he didn't disappear.

KERIS:

(shouting)

Strelis!

Everyone else quickly wakes up.

STRELIS:

(clearly rather drunk)

What?

KERIS:

Where is Velico?

STRELIS:

I don't know.

RECKER:

How do you not know? You were meant to watch him.

RYLITH:

(very angry)

It's because she is bloody drunk, why did we even trust her with watching him?

ZIKANA:

(very calmly)

Rylith, calm down, please. Strelis, when did you fall asleep?

STRELIS:

Not sure, I think it was around 3, or 4, I'm not too sure.

KERIS:

(annoyed, but trying to hide it)

Recker and I will go and search the surrounding area, Ziji, keep Rylith from killing Strelis please, and Strelis, keep an eye if Velico returns.

Keris and Recker then head into the surrounding forest to search for Velico.

RECKER:

You're leaving Strelis in charge of letting us know if he returns?

KERIS:

No, that's why I had Ziji and Rylith remain, meet you back at camp in 15.

RECKER:

Understood.

Meanwhile back at camp.

RYLITH:

(still angry)

Why is she even here? She is just a drunk! We might as well just leave her at the next town.

ZIKANA:

Rylith, she... yeah, she is a drunk, but she has helped us get information that we might not have gained otherwise, that and it's the king's order that we work as a group.

Velico then walks back into the camp with small bag of beef jerky.

VELICO:

Why is the matchstick lit?

STRELIS:

Because I fell asleep and Velico disappeared.

RYLITH:

(angry)

Velico! Why can't you just stay where you are told!

ZIKANA:

Rylith, calm down.

Keris and Recker hear Rylith screaming at Velico and return to the camp.

RECKER:

Where the hell have you been?

VELICO:

I was getting some fo-

Keris then cuts him off by punching him in the face.

KERIS:

Just shut up.