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A Brother’s Shadow

Synopsis

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In the 23rd century humanity has colonised across the milky way.

We first see **Marco** (23), the main protagonist - determined, brash and forever trying to prove himself - going through *Testing* with his best friend, **Archer** – handsome, likeable, and what Marco wishes he was. Failure at *Testing* would mean expulsion from the **Vytech** civilisation which is self-professed by its citizens as the best. As part of *Testing*, the two friends are pitted against each other in a fight. Unlike Marco, Archer has no stomach for defeating his best friend, but his physical superiority puts Marco’s place in Vytech at risk.

Marco is about to find out whether he has a place in Vytech when their hometown is attacked by **kroatons** – an alien species. In the chaos, Marco is given a place in the Navy without knowing if he deserves it.

Seven years on, Marco is stuck in an engineering division when he finally gets a break. However, he finds himself under Archer’s command and wondering again if there on merit. Marco settles in but then finds himself incorrectly accused of assassinating a kroaton ambassador.

Imprisoned, the civilisation he thought was perfect, torture him and his father. He escapes to Mars but knows he must return to clear his name. To leave Mars, he puts his own character into question, mercilessly killing a Vytech guard.

Meanwhile, the kroaton’s assassination started a war. Archer and others are determined to prove Marco innocent. Returning from a climactic space battle, Archer feels near the truth. This is ignored by Marco who reappears with his own ideas and pursues them with unchecked aggression.

Archer discovers Marco fighting the true assassin and is killed protecting his friend.

Marco is found innocent of killing the kroaton ambassador but no longer feels so.