

"Alright, Asset combat test number one-two-seven-four. Asset versus Project Riley. Begin."

Riley and the Asset were on each other in an instant. They lunged across the room, their hands joining in a grapple. Riley had the upper hand against the Asset's fleshy arm, easily overpowering it. The Asset's cybernetic replacement arm however, was more than Riley could force back, and the grapple turned into a spiral. The Asset planted his heel, skidding their spin to a stop as he blasted Riley with a headbutt. Unphased, Riley snarled and returned the favor, butting his opponent with his horns. The Asset howled and leaped onto Riley, pummeling his stomach with both feet before leaping away to get distance. Riley stumbled back from the blow and hissed, baring his fangs.

Blood began to run down the Asset's face from the punctures made by Riley's horns. He clenched his fists, and the gears in his arm whirled as they applied pressure. With a snort he charged forward again, and Riley responded in kind. At the last moment, the Asset dropped and slid between Riley's legs, grabbed one with his metal arm, and pulled. Riley went down, landing on his jaw as his balance was thrown out from under him. That robotic grip dug in, gears whirring as Riley's ankle joint was fractured. He kicked with his free leg, but the Asset bent backwards, avoiding the swing without breaking his grip. With a grunt, the Asset lifted Riley into the air by his foot, and slammed him back down onto the ground. With a metallic screech, he wound up his arm and slammed down, shattering the floor as Riley rolled away and flipped to his feet, leaning his weight on his good leg and clutching his side.

The Asset stomped toward Riley and took a swing, which the beast deflected causing the cybernetic arm to ram itself into the wall and stick. In the second it took to unwedge his arm, Riley had tackled him, landing on top of him. Heavy, clawed hands pounded down on the Asset's chest, pummeling the air out of his lungs and scoring his skin with gashes. The Asset poorly fended off the brutal assault, only managing to keep one clawed arm at bay at a time with his metallic limb. He changed strategies, laying back for a moment, completely vulnerable... An then took a swing, landing a steel-fisted punch right on Riley's breastbone. Riley went limp, gasping for breath as the pressure stopped his heart just long enough for the Asset to throw him off. His heartbeat restarted as he rolled into the wall, splattering the white surface with red blood.

Too injured now to stand, Riley hunkered down onto all fours, his fur bristling as he growled. The Asset panted, catching his breath as he wiped blood from his eyes with his organic arm. Riley screeched and pounced, and the Asset caught him across the top of his muzzle, slamming him into the floor with a metal fist. Riley yelped as the blow hit hard enough to rattle his brain through his artificially reinforced skull. A combat boot connected with his jaw, and Riley only managed to skitter away as the Asset stooped down to grab at him.

Riley rolled his tongue around in his mouth for a moment, before spitting out a thick wad of blood and broken fangs. That thick crimson dribbled out of his mouth and down his chin, where it dripped onto the floor. He stepped forward, staggering on his cracked ankle, but able to stand on it again through a combination of his rapid regenerative ability, and a genetically enhanced pain tolerance. Despite his newest head and face injuries, Riley seemed to be in better fighting shape than he was just minutes before.

The Asset determined that he had to end this quickly. With his bleeding wounds, he wouldn't win a battle of attrition against something so durable, even if it wasn't as strong or skilled. He backed against the wall and laid his metal hand upon it, steadying his breath, focusing his gaze. He pushed off the wall, the strength and speed of his robotic limb giving him an artificial boost of speed that sent him sprinting the short distance between himself and his target. Riley brought up his claws to slash, but was too slow, and the Asset rammed his metal fist into Riley's chest. This second impact cracked the monster's breastplate and knocked the air from his lungs. He gasped as the Asset ducked down and swung his leg out, knocking both of Riley's legs out from under him. Before the beast could even finish falling, the Asset lashed out with his enhanced arm and grabbed Riley by the throat, squeezing it as he lifted him helplessly off his feet.

The cold grip of the steel hand was unbreakable, holding firm even as Riley raked his claws over the length of the mechanical arm that was crushing his throat and lifting him off the floor. The Asset's eyes pierced right through him, staring out from behind a shroud of unkempt hair. Riley choked, a spurt of blood ejecting from his mouth as his windpipe began to fracture. His legs kicked the air, and his hands tried desperately to peel away that mechanical grip, his failing strength being the only thing keeping his throat from being totally crushed. His eyes rolled back, and he convulsed, slipping into shock.

Metal gears whirled as the Asset released Riley, letting his now unconscious body drop into a bloody heap on the floor. "Useless," the Asset muttered to his commanders. He spit on the mangled lump of fur and flesh that had retreated to a corner of the room, and strode out of the test chamber. "I don't need that failed experiment cleaning up after me. Fucking thing bleeds too much."