

# Hindenburg's Redemption

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Mission Finale Flash Fiction

Jeri Shepherd

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# Float Day Festival

## After The Defeat

After the success of eliminating the Sky Serpent threat, the Air Dock workers made their way home and prepared for the now-safe Float Day Festival. The sky was a canvas of vibrant colors, with each of the floating islands dressed in banners of gold and crimson that hung from their precious airships overhead. The Hindenburg Peoples, dressed in their finest festival attire, filled the air with laughter and song. The Float Day Festival had begun, and for the first time in what felt like ages, the weight of worry had lifted.

At the center of the celebration, near the grand airship docks, the Silverwing gleamed under the midday sun. It was polished to perfection, its recent battle scars now symbols of victory. The air dock workers—heroes in their own right—moved through the crowds with a sense of pride. They were no longer just maintainers of the fleet; they were the defenders of Hindenburg’s Redemption.

Captain Audra Windsong stood near her ship, a slight smile softening her weathered features. She watched as the team mingled with the festival-goers, each member basking in the joy that only days ago seemed impossible.

Children begged them to tell the tale of their sky-high battle and they exaggerated the size of the sky serpent like fishermen from the

days of Earth-That-Was, their hands stretching wide, causing the children to gasp and giggle. They recounted how the serpent's scales fell like rain when they struck it with Gearheart's device.

One of the crew adjusted their wind-blocking earmuffs into a makeshift headband, as they marveled at the winged pets darting above. Their jobs required them to be practical, focused on the tasks at hand, but today was different. Today, they allowed herself to enjoy the beauty of the floating islands, the way the light played off the wings of the creatures and airships overhead.

Professor Thaddeus Gearheart, ever the eccentric, was not far off, demonstrating his inventions to an eager crowd. The device that had saved them was now a centerpiece of fascination. Children and adults alike took turns cranking a smaller version, watching in awe as it emitted harmless pulses of light along with its tones. Gearheart's wild hair bobbed with excitement as he explained the science behind it, though most of his audience was more interested in the flashes than the mechanics.

As they walked through the festival, people stopped to thank them, to offer them a drink or a token of appreciation. They accepted the praise with humble nods, but their smiles expressed their deep satisfaction.

As the day wore on, the team found themselves together again, seated at a long table laden with food and drink. The sun began its descent, painting the sky in hues of pink and orange. Music filled the air, and for the first time in a long while, they laughed together without the burden of the mission hanging over them.

The Float Day Festival was more than just a celebration; it was a reminder of what they had fought for. As the sky lanterns were released, floating up beyond the banners and airships above, to join the stars. They knew they had secured not just the safety of the islands,

but also the joy, the unity, and the freedom that made Hindenburg's Redemption their home.

# About Jeri Shepherd

VETERAN \* NOVELIST  
\* GAME DEVELOPER  
\* WRITING COACH \*  
PUBLISHER



*Photo By: Kimberly Laberge*

**R**ed, who writes under the names Jeri Shepherd, Reji Laber-  
je, and Maggie McMahon, is a 15-Time #1 Bestselling,



award-winning, 30-year writing and publishing professional of well over 100 independent and traditionally-published titles as of Summer 2024. Red leads the writer's series for many game and comic conventions around the country—including at least Gary Con, Game Hole, and Nerd Street—and she has been a proud member of the Origins Author's Alcove and Gen Con Writer's Symposium. She writes genre fiction novels, anthologies, and novellas, as well as TTRPG adventures and systems as Jeri Shepherd, romance as Maggie McMahon, and, as Reji Laberje, her work for general audiences includes: children's books, writer's and author's resources, celebrity biographies, and a diverse library of nonfiction and memoirs. Red Writes Books is the parent company of her publishing (Lucy's Lantern Literature) and writing where she works as a touring author, writing coach, workshop and panel leader at conventions around the nation, and professional of writing and publishing services of all kinds in client partnerships, a working writer's mastermind, and an expert-level professional writing workshop. She is also one half of the Girl Power GM duo (alongside Rose Nickel aka author TR Nickel) and an occasional podcaster. Red is a USAF Arabic Linguist Veteran, wife, mother, Gigi, pet mama, indie artist supporter, lover of adventure real and experienced around a game table, and explorer of life and the world. Red is happily living in Wisconsin, though she enjoys travel all over! *Be gloriously human, friends!*

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