

# THE POWER FORCE

## Society of Shadows

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### ☪ Society of Shadows.

#### Contents

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Zelfire Lang went outside to the pond, holding a bag of rice. It was such a nice day outside. Not a single cloud was in sight, and the sky was as blue as that person's eyes. Oh yes, that person...the person he did not see in a long time. He threw the rice on the ground, and the birds came to eat. They must be hungry, he thought. Life must be hard for these guys. Fate is really so cruel.

He looked at the spot where he usually meditated. A large pond surrounded by land on one side and a mountain structure on the other. There was a waterfall, and behind it was a cave. Steam came from the spot where the water fell on the pond, and it always made a sizzling sound. There were rocks on the pond, mostly small ones, and a big one in the middle, the one where Zelfire sat on to meditate. This was also the spot where he first met Nebula as a kid.

Time goes by fast. As he thought about it, he had meditated here for most of his life. Had he wasted his life?

It sure was nice to look at the birds eat. It gave him a warm feeling inside, a comfortable and happy feeling.

He heard the telephone ring, and went back to his house. He picked up the phone. "Hello?" "Oh...it's you..." "Yes, yes." "Oh, sure. Of course." He hung up. He came back outside, feeling completely different. He felt much happier than he did a moment ago. (I haven't seen her in a long time.)

A ragged-dressed man stood on a rock in the river. He tipped his hat up so his eyes could see forward. (I sense danger. He will be in danger soon. I must warn him.) He jumped onto the rocks like a ninja, and seconds later, disappeared into the woods.

Two bodies began to float in the river. The water around the bodies turned red.

The woman walked into the terminal, carrying the baggage in one hand and holding her son's hand with the other.

It was the busiest time of the airport, and it was full of people. Anyone could have gotten lost easily, especially a child.

"Let's go, Rocket." she said as she tucked his hand. "We're going to meet your uncle."

He nodded in agreement.

At Tyson's house, Zelfire had an important announcement to make while the gang was having tea. Everybody was kneeling by the table, having a casual conversation until Zell brought it up.

"Guys, I want you to do me a favor." he said out of the blue.

"What is it? Just ask." Tyson said.

"My sister Mei-lin is coming over from China. She just called me yesterday."

"Eh?!!" said everybody except Zelfire.

Tyke: "Your sister?"

Neb: "You never mentioned that you had a sister."

Zell: "Never?"

"Not even once."

Mac: "I don't know about it either. This is so sudden..."

Lisa: "You did tell me about her...once."

Tyke: "Really? What is she like? Is she cute?"

"Ah-hem." Faith said, hitting him with her elbow.

"Hey, hey, I was just asking."

Lisa: "I can tell you about her later."

Zell: "I haven't seen her in a long time. And her plane comes tomorrow at 5 PM. The favor that I want to ask is...well, she doesn't know much about American customs and all. I want her to feel right at home here. Would you mind going to the airport with me to pick her up, and give her a warm welcome?"

Spencer: "Absolutely."

Faith: "Of course."

Junior: "Can I come too?"

"Well..." his mother said, "Alright. Since tomorrow is a special day, you can miss one day of school."

"Yay!!"

Mac: "So, are we all in?"

Tyke: "You bet."

Zell: "Thank you guys."

Neb: "Oh don't say such a thing. We're practically family. Your family member is our family member."

Later, Lisa, Tyson, and Faith talked by the window, while the others had their own conversation.

"His little sister's name is Mei-lin Lang, and she currently lives in China." she said.

"Tell us more! How old is she? What does she look like?"

"Ok, ok, I'll tell you what I know. Zelfire didn't tell me much though. I know that he hasn't seen her in a long time. It's been years."

Tyke: "Wow. Then this reunion must be extra-special."

Faith: "After the party, where will she be staying?"

Lisa: "Well..."

Tyke: "We've got room. I sure hope they don't stay at a hotel, cuz it's mighty expensive."

"Oh, money is no problem. Her husband's rich."

"Her husband?! She has a husband?" Faith said in surprise.

Tyson was thinking the same thing.

"Yep. Married a while ago. His name is...Raymond I think. Raymond Chang. Now her name is Mei-lin Chang."

"How lucky."

Lisa: "He works in some kind of trading business. He's very successful, he is."

Faith: "I hope she didn't marry just for money."

"No, I don't think she's that kind of person. Besides, they knew each other for a while. They even studied under the same sensei. I think his name was Chao. Anyway, they must've fallen in love while learning together. I don't know the details."

Tyke: "I'd ask Zelfire but he wouldn't answer, I bet. We'll just have to ask Mei-lin when she arrives."

"Master, I have some urgent news for you." the servant said, bowing down.

Xiao took the paper the servant gave him. "Hmmm, what's this?"

"The flight schedule for tomorrow at the American International Airport. Look at the list of names. I think you will find interest in one of them."

He looked through the list of names, and one of them suddenly stood out. It was Mei-lin Chang. "So, she is coming to this country, eh? That means her brother is around here. We must not miss this chance. Vinster!"

Another man came, and kneeled next to the servant. "Yes, master?"

"You know what to do."

"I will do as you wish."

Zoom. The airplane flew at high speeds, and it started to go diagonal.

Telecom: "Ladies and gentlemen, we will be arriving in American International Airport shortly. Please fasten your seat belts and remain seated."

Mei-lin Chang was the woman wearing sunglasses, and she was looking out the window. This is America, she thought. It has been a while.

The whole gang arrived at the airport half an hour early. They went to the waiting area and had a happy chat. The airport was sure a busy place. Thousands of people passed by in a minute, walking in every direction, and each person was doing his or her own thing. People from many countries were seen here, and the place was noisier than the school cafeteria, Junior noticed.

Zelfire was watching the clock the whole time, and finally, it was 5 PM. They hurried to the crowd. At the entrance, people were coming out, and being received by their family and friends.

Faith: "Finally, we can meet her."

Zell: "She's coming out any time now..."

They waited anxiously for their special guest. Zelfire's heart was beating rapidly, and he couldn't help it. Where is she? Where is she?

At last, she showed up, and Zelfire could see her even though she was in the crowd. He was started to see her. They haven't seen in person for so many years, and now she was there, today, right now, in front of him.

Mei-lin was wearing sunglasses, and her eyes were concealed. She wore white heels, a white skirt, and a silk blouse with a red collar. Her hair was long and black, and strong and shiny. Her lipstick was a reddish-pink color, not too wet, and it was just perfect. She was carrying one suitcase, which was the smaller kind, and designed for easy use by women.

Everybody was breathless as they looked at her. She took off her sunglasses. They noticed her eyes were blue-colored and beautiful. So, this is Zelfire's sister, Faith thought. Mei-lin was everything that Faith thought she was, and more. A young, beautiful woman with a bright spirit. Her appearance gave everybody a reaction, and she was like an angel that couldn't be left alone.

"Zelfire..."

"Mei-lin...it's really you..."

Mei-lin dropped the suitcase and ran into her brother and hugged.

The others watched the scene and smiled.

Neb: "So, where's that husband of hers? I thought he was coming too?"

Lisa: "Is that him?"

Raymond Chang, carrying a suitcase, walked towards Mei-lin. "Hello, everybody." The women noticed right away that he was handsome and charming, and quite polite. He was wearing a business suit, with a tie, and one could tell right away that he was a successful man, without having to know it in advance.

Zell: "Ahhh, so you're Mr. Chang."

"Yo!!" said the voice of a kid. He ran up to Mei-lin and hugged her legs. "Mom, is these our friends?"

"Mom?!!!"

"Mom??"

"Everybody, I'd like to introduce you to my husband...and my son, Rocket."

Lisa: "Oh my God...I didn't know she had a child already."

Tyke: "She's sure full of surprises, ain't she?"

Faith: "That boy is about Junior's age."

Zelfire: "Okay everybody, settle down. Everybody, this is Mei-lin, that's her husband Raymond, and my nephew, Rocket. Mei-lin, these are my friends. This is Tyson Spade, his wife Faith, and their son Tyson Junior," Tyson and Faith smiled and waved. "And this is Tyson's brother, Nebula. This is Lisa, Macintosh, and Spencer."

Raymond: "Pleased to meet you all."

Behind one of the rooms, a ninja was watching them. "Our target has just arrived."

The ninja next to him tapped him on the shoulder. "Should we make our move?"

"We should wait until there are less people."

Lisa: "I've heard so much about you from Zelfire! [Lie] I'm so glad to meet you, Mei-lin, and Mr. Chang, and little Rocket."

Mei-lin: "Oh brother, you didn't need to do all this to greet us."

"No, of course I had to. I want the best for my sister."

Tyke: "Mr. Chang, I heard you own a dojo?"

"Oh yes. I own more than one, though. In China, I have fifteen dojos in three counties. I have two in America."

"Wow, you do?!"

Rocket: "Yeah. My dad's the best at karate. And he's teaching me too."

Junior: "My dad is great too. And I'm going to be just like him."

"Oh, so you think your skills are better?"

"I didn't say that, you know it."

The kids grunted at each other, and they kept on arguing.

Faith: "Those two get along well."

Mei-lin: "I notice that too."

Spencer: "Well everybody, shall we get going?"

Zelfire: "Yeah. I bet we're hungry by now. Let's go and eat."

"Boy, I can't wait. I'm starving." Tyson said. He felt a small, pointy object touch his back. "Hmmm?" A guy behind him was holding a gun to his back.

"Don't move. Make one sudden step and you're dead."

Faith: "Tyson...what's wrong?"

There was a guy holding a gun to Zelfire's back, and Spencer's back as well.

Everybody knew something was up.

Nebula: "What the hell is going on?"

"Augustus Lang, I suggest you come with us quietly." the ninja said to Zelfire. "You don't want to make a scene here, do you?"

"What...what did you call me?"

Tyson: "Who are you people?"

"Why should we tell you?"

None of the heroes said a word, or even moved. Tyson nodded to Nebula, and they understood each other's meaning. When should we make the attack? In two seconds? On the count to three. One, two, three-

Tyson powered up and the ninja behind him was blown away.

The other ninjas were surprised, and Nebula grabbed one of the gunmen, knocked the gun off his hand, and punched him unconscious.

One of the gunmen opened fire. Bang. The crowd panicked and people screamed. They ran all over the place, creating chaos.

Faith grabbed Junior and ran. "Come on!"

Raymond grabbed his son and ran towards any place that seemed safe. Lisa hid herself amongst the crowd. The heroes beat up the ninjas, but more of them showed up.

Their skills were extraordinary and their movements were quick and swift, and even Tyson had trouble with them. That is, until he powered up. "Yahhhh!" Four ninjas jumped at him. The energy around him bounced them away.

Nebula jumped to avoid metal stars. Clank! He drew his sword and got ready. The ninja threw three stars at him, and got stuck to his blade. He swing the sword, and the stars went back to the ninja. Stab! He collapsed. He turned around and saw more sharp objects coming at him, and jumped with speed.

Spencer extended his arms really long and punched a ninja. Pow! The second ninja was surprised, and he didn't know what to do. Spencer shot out his other arm and punched him. Pow!

Zelfire was surrounded by five guys. Two of them from the front charged. He did a double kick and knocked them away. Then he saw that a ninja was about to attack his sister. "Mei-lin, watch out!!"

A ninja was in front and another was behind her. She looked really scared, and the first ninja attacked. KAPOW! She stood on one leg, made her body parallel to the floor, and punched forward, and her other leg kicked the guy behind. They were taken completely by surprise, and knocked out with that one hit.

Mac: "Wow, she's good!"

Two more ninjas jumped at Mei-lin. She jumped and kicked him, and landed. The ninjas landed, and then collapsed. Then she looked at Zelfire and gave a thumbs up.

Zell smiled. "I guess my sister has learned a thing or two from master Go-hei."

Rocket and his father ran into a ninja, and no one else was around to help.

"You will die!" the ninja said. He punched.

Raymond grabbed his arm, and the ninja was shocked. "Don't hurt my son." He twisted the guy's arm and he groaned painfully. He punched the ninja's chest. Wham! Then he gave him an uppercut to the chin. Crack!

Vinster saw the whole scene from an unnoticeable distance. He saw it well despite all the people running and blocking his view. "Blast it, we must retreat."

[B] Title Contents

The heroes gathered at the table, and the dishes were being placed by Faith and Lisa. The women brought the final two dishes (lobster and turkey) and set them on the table. They sat down on their seats.

Mac: "Guys, we shouldn't let what happened at the airport ruin our spirit. After all, it is Mei-lin, Raymond, and Rocket's first trip to America, and the reunion between Zelfire and his sister."

Mei-lin: "Well, I haven't been to this country in a long time. Things sure have changed."

Zell: "Yes. Changed a lot."

Tyke: "By the way, who were those guys? And why did one of them say Augustus?"

"Oh, maybe they made a mistake." Zell said. "There's no Augustus here, is there?"

Spencer: "Don't worry about it, guys. The police are handling this right now. They'll find those crooks and jail 'em for sure. So relax and celebrate."

Nebula: "Thanks Spencer. We're just glad that one of our good friends is a cop."

"Aww schucks, it's nothing."

Raymond: "Wow, look at all this greatly prepared food. You guys really shouldn't have..."

Faith: "It's alright. Any friend or husband of Mei-lin is a friend of ours."

Tyke: "So, Mr. Chang, I heard that you own several dojos in China."

"Please, call me Raymond. Or Ray is fine. Yes, I do own dojos - twelve of them in three different districts."

"Oooh." Nebula said.

"And I own one right here in America. It's very close actually. Right in the city."

Zell: "Really? I had no idea."

"Yeah. I let the dojo's manager take care of it. I never had the time to come and check it out. I guess I can now."

Tyke: "I will make a visit someday. Very soon. After you are finished setting up and all."

"Sure. I'll welcome you as a guest."

Neb: "I'll come too."

The gang had a good chat about many things, mainly on Mei-lin's life, and about current issues in China.

Zelfire and Mei-lin decided to go to the kitchen and have their own private conversation. They both leaned on the counter facing each other.

"So, sis, how have you been? Doing alright?"

"Yes, I am. I have a wonderful family now."

"That's good to hear. I hope you didn't marry Raymond just for his money."

"Oh no, of course not. We have a long history together."

"So, did you fall in love while training?"

"You could say that."

"Tell me all the details." Zell said excitedly. "I want to hear everything."

"Oh brother, you always want to know everything."

"That's because I care about you."

Faith sipped the last of her tea. "So, Raymond, is it true you are a successful man?"

"Well, it depends on what you mean by success. If you define it as having money and a wonderful family, well, I am successful."

Tyke: "What exactly is your job? What do you do?"

"I'm a business man. What kind of business? I work on international trading and stuff like that. I travel all over China to make deals with different people."

Lisa: "That must be exciting."

"You could say that."

Tyke: "You know, just by looking at you, I can't tell that you know karate."

"I studied under the same teacher as Mei-lin. We graduated together. Under master Go-hei. You could ask her. Zelfire knows too."

Rocket: "Yeah! My dad is the strongest."

Junior: "No way, my dad is the strongest."

"Arrrgh. You wanna bet?"

"How much?"

"Okay you kids, settle down." Tyson said, a little embarrassed.

Junior: "Say, you want to see my Gundam collection?"

Rocket: "Would I!?"

The kids went to Junior's room.

"I think Mei-lin is a spectacular name." Macintosh said, changing the subject. "I wonder how you got it."

Neb: "Duh. What a dumb question. Her parents gave it to her." No one could argue with that. Mac felt a little stupid, and yes, it was a dumb question.

Faith: "How did you two meet? I can't wait to hear your love story."

Raymond: "Gosh. There's not much to tell, really."

Spencer: "Oh come on. We all want to hear it."

"Well...alright."

Mei-lin was training alone in the night. She usually trained at the public park, the place where there was beautiful grass, and a man-made river, and where a wooden bridge connects two sides of the river. Since it was a public place, the best time for privacy and peace was after midnight, where there would be no distractions, and no sounds except the creaking of fireflies.

That night, Mei-lin wore her usual clothing, which consisted of a white blouse, white skirt, and a red ribbon around her waist, and it was tied like a butterfly on her back. She also wore a red ribbon on her left wrist.

She practiced her moves in the open field. 'To become strong, one must be familiar with the techniques, and they need to be done over and over...and over and over...' her master said. And so she had been doing this for a while. Suddenly, she heard footsteps. Footsteps of a big man. Moxy approached her.

"Hey I remember you! You're one of my master's enemies, aren't you?"

"That's right. It's good I caught you here alone. I will beat up one of his students right now."

Mei-lin got into fighting stance, in which she bend her knees and puts her hand forward, that one for defense, and the other hand behind, for offense. That was the style of the butterfly phoenix. Moxy charged and punched. She blocked his fist, pushing it to the side, and punched his stomach. Wham!

"Arrrgh!! You pay!" He charged again.

Mei-lin jumped and kicked his face. Whack! He fell, but got up and attacked ruthlessly. Although she was faster, she realized that he wasn't going to go down easy. Wham! Pow! Whack!

They were on the bridge and hitting each other. Wham! Moxy punched her and she fell against the side of the bridge. "Why you..."

He lifted her by the collar. "I will crush you."

"Put her down!" yelled Raymond. "Now."

Moxy smiled, showing his teeth (one tooth was missing) and tossed Mei-lin behind him.

Zell: "Then what happened?"

Mei-lin: "Then..."

Moxy attacked Raymond, who blocked. Pow, pow!

"Stop..." Mei-lin said weakly. "Raymond, you're no match for him."

"I can't just leave you here!" he said, struggling with the muscle man. He realized that he couldn't beat this guy's strength. 'When you cannot push, then pull.' Was a concept that his master taught. It might help here. He pulled Moxy, and he landed on his back, and his foot was on Moxy's stomach, and he performed an overhead throw.

Wham. Moxy got up, angrier than before. "Arrrgh!!"

They continued fighting, and Moxy was beating the snot out of Raymond.

Mei-lin stood up, holding her wounded shoulder. "Raymond...don't do this..."

Moxy punched really hard, and Raymond was slammed against the side of the bridge. "Ugh!" He was hurt and couldn't get up.

Mei-lin bend down and held him by the shoulder. "Look, you're hurt." she said, almost crying. And she couldn't hold back the tears. "Why did you have to do this?"

"I...didn't want you to get hurt." he said, and smiled.

Moxy took a step forward. Stomp. "You both will be crushed!"

Raymond and Mei-lin panicked. Suddenly, a body jumped at him, and Moxy jumped back. "Who dares?"

The old man leaped and kicked Moxy's chest, and he fell into the water. Splash. He was pushed by the current. "You will not get away with this!" he yelled.

Mei-lin: "Master Go-hei! It's you."

"You're safe, my students."

Faith: "Wow...that's a touching story."

Lisa: "Yes, indeed. Full of love, drama, romance, and-"

Mac: "Okay, we get the point, Lees."

Everybody laughed.

Zell: "So that's how it happened. I'm happy for you, sis."

"Thank you. So, have **you** found your special someone yet, brother?"

"Ummmm..." He never even thought about that. "Not yet."

"We don't stay young forever, you know. I think you should start looking."

"Hey, hey, I don't need you to teach your older brother how to live."

"Vinster, I heard that the assault at the airport was a failure. What happened?"  
Xiao asked.



"I am sorry. All the people there knew how to fight. They were all experts. We are not dealing with ordinary people."

"Well, that is unexpected. However, no one must get in our way. Find Zelfire at all costs. Bring him back...dead or alive."

"Yes, master." He disappeared into the darkness.

Xiao: "Servant!"

"Yes, master."

"It seems we are not dealing with ordinary people. It's a very rare chance to see so many extraordinary fighters in one place. Find out who the people at the airport were."

"Yes, master." He disappeared.

Xiao was now alone. "Augustus Lang, you've been running away long enough. I will prove to you that no one, and I mean no one, escapes the Society of Shadows." He laughed.

Tyson: "Will you be staying at a hotel? I know that it's mighty expensive here."

Raymond: "I know it is. Don't worry; I've already bought a house."

Mei-lin and Zell joined the table.

Lisa: "Hey, they're back."

Faith: "I see that you are a good planner, Mr. Chang. Darn. We have two extra rooms here. I was hoping you'd stay over at our house."

Mei-lin: "Thanks for the offer. But our new house is pretty close by. You can come over and visit us if you want, or we can come to you."

Spencer: "That's great. So you and your family are set."

After they finished eating, they chatted for about an hour, shared some jokes, and good laughs, and then it was time to leave. Raymond and Mei-lin got their luggage and put it into Spencer's car. (Cuz he will take them there) They said goodbye and left.

"Goodbye!!" Junior yelled.

"Goodbye!" Rocket said, yelling against the window.

It was a happy time from morning until afternoon, but eventually they had to leave, and it's a sad thing. But look at the bright side, as Mei-lin said, they can visit any time they want.

Zelfire went outside in the morning. It was just the same as the other day. He threw rice on the ground and the birds came to feast.

(That guy at the airport called me Augustus. Nobody has called me that in a long time. Could he be...) His thoughts stopped when he sensed someone behind him. "Who are you?"

The old man jumped from the roof to the ground, landing right in front of Zell.

"Hello? I said who are you?" Zell said, his tone turning hostile.

"Is that how you greet an old friend?" said the old man, and he tipped his hat up, revealing his eyes.

Zelfire recognized him right away. "Master Go-hei! It's you."

"It's been a long time, Zelfire Lang."

"Yes it has."

Spencer went to his office and searched desperately for the file that he wanted. He searched the whole cabinet, and the every book on the shelf, but found none that he wanted.

Officer Mary knocked and came into his room. "Looking for something, Spencer?"

"I can't seem to find it. I'm going to have to research this."

"Well, whatever you're looking for, good luck."

"Thanks."

Knock knock.

"Come in." said Sergeant Bullocks. "It's you, Officer Spencer? What is it?"

"Sir, it is about the incident in the airport."

"Uh, oh yes, we are still looking into it." Bullocks took out the file from his drawer.

"I cannot find any information on those people."

"Well that's a shame. You usually come up with stuff."

"Sir, did you find anything?"

"Not at all."

"Sir, tell me everything you know...about the Society of Shadows."

"The...Society of Shadows?" Bullocks became nervous, and he was sweating. Spencer noticed this sudden change. "I don't know what you're talking about. Where did you get that name from?"

"Sir, are you hiding something?" he asked in a tone that hint he **was** hiding something.

"Excuse me? What do I have to hide?" He turned his chair around, and he faced the window. "I am busy now. Please exit."

Spencer exited. This case is not a simple as he thought.

As the others were partying and having a good time, Zelfire was also happy, but inside, he was struggling with life and death. He saw Spencer outside having a drink, so he joined him.

"Sup man?"

"Nothing. Just taking a drink in the fresh air."

"Listen, I have a good idea of who the 'terrorists' at the airport were."

"You do?"

"Yes, in fact, I was their target."

Spencer was surprised. "But how...why..."

"It doesn't matter. The police will probably not find anything on them. I think you should find out what the Society of Shadows is."

"Society of Shadows?"

Why did Zelfire tell him this? What does he have to do with this 'society'? Why is the sergeant avoiding his questions and hiding the truth? He had to find the answers.

[C] Title Contents

Tyson and Nebula just finished playing a good game of tennis, and they were walking uptown. "Say, isn't Raymond's dojo close by?"

"Yes. The address is around here." Nebula said.

"Why not make a visit. I want to see it."

"Okay."

They made it to the entrance. The sign read: "Welcome to the Butterfly Phoenix Dojo - owned by Raymond Chang"

Neb: "Wow. His name is on the sign."

"Well of course. He's the owner after all."

Faith sipped her tea. She and Mei-lin sat across each other from the table. It was such a nice day outside that they decided to put the table on the grass field. It sure was a different feeling than sitting inside the house.

Faith noticed that Mei-lin's cup was almost out of tea. "Here." She got the kettle and poured it into her cup.

"Okay, thanks."

The two kids were fighting each other, running along the field and laughing.

"I'm glad that Junior has a close friend."

"Doesn't he make friends at school?"

"I'm afraid not. He does get lonely. I guess it's the parents' fault."

"Why? What happened?"

Faith looked down. "Well, let's just say that he didn't have a father at the beginning of his life. My son saw many things that he shouldn't have. Things that a kid should not see. I guess that affected his personality."

Mei-lin understood that she was referring to a tragic time in her life, and that it's good not to ask about it. "I'm sorry. But I'm glad that Rocket has a friend here, because just like Junior, he doesn't make friends very well."

"Oh I see. We have something in common, and so does our children."

"Yeah. It's amazing."

The kids started fighting each other over an argument they had before.

"I say my dad is the strongest!"

"No, mine is!"

They hit each other using whatever skill of martial arts they knew. After a few moves, they decided to just grab each other's cheeks and pull until it turns red.

The mothers quickly grabbed the fighting children. They were lifted off the ground, but still trying to reach each other.

Faith: "Junior, stop this at once. No fighting."

Mei-lin: "Same goes for you, Rocket. You should be polite to our hosts! They did go through that trouble to greet us."

"It was no trouble at all." Faith said, flattered. They laughed.

Faith was glad to have such a good friend. One that she could relate personal problems to, because her friend was similar to her in many ways. Mei-lin and her both have tragic and romantic experiences with their husbands, and have given birth to a son. During their conversation, they discovered that they married on the same year! Faith thought that was a real coincidence, fate even. Mei-lin and her husband Raymond, and their son Rocket seem to be the perfect happy family. One that every family should look to as an idol.

Tyson and Nebula entered the dojo, and after they took the first step, someone jumped from the air and attacked with a wooden stick.

"Yahhh!!"

"Ahhhh!" they screamed, and ran to the side.

There were a bunch of karate guys, all wearing karate uniforms and barefoot, and holding long, wooden sticks.

Tyson: "Is this how they greet guests?"

Nebula: "I guess so!"

Student A: "Who dares enter the school of the Phoenix?"

Tyson: "Does it matter? If we give our name you'll attack anyway."

Nebula: "Stop the talk, and let's get them!"

The karate guys charged and the heroes fought them off. Wham! Kapow! Pak!

"Stop!" Raymond Chang said.

Everybody stopped moving. The karate students quickly formed two lines and took a bow. "Sensei." they addressed together.

"Sensei?" Tyke asked. "That means master?"

"Of this dojo?" Neb asked.

"Yes. I'm sorry about the misunderstanding."

"Misunderstanding?" Neb said, outraged. "They tried to kill us."

"If I had known you'd be coming, I would have told them to greet you like they would greet me."

Student B: "Oh, so you are one of Mr. Chang's friends. We are pleased to have you here."

All the students took a bow. The brothers were a little embarrassed.

"Is that how you greet all your guests?" Tyke asked.

Raymond: "Yes. Because all the people who come here usually want to challenge my dojo. And those who wish to join my dojo must be able to withstand the surprise attack in order to qualify as my student. Think of it as an aspect of training."

"Oh, it's to keep us on our toes. Good thinking."

Raymond: "Yes. I knew you would figure it out. And I saw the whole thing; you guys are pretty good to avoid the surprise attack."

Neb: "I guess you could say we were born that way."

"We were hoping to get a workout here, Raymond."

"Oh." Raymond said, sitting down. "Do you want to challenge me or my students?"

"Whichever is okay with you?"

"Okay. Mao Zhou?"

"Yes, master." the student said, coming out of the line. He bowed.

"You will take the challenge first."

"Yes." He turned around and faced them.

"I got it." Nebula said.

One of the students threw him a stick, and he caught it. One of them threw Zhou a stick.

"Ready?" Raymond asked.

"Yes, sensei." Zhou said.

"Sure." Nebula said.

"Okay, go."

Nebula charged and swings his stick, and the student blocked it. Clak! Pak! Pok! They kept on hitting. Tyson watched with amazement. Nebula was trained in using swords ever since he knew him, and because of that training, anything that can be used like a sword is no problem to Nebula, whether it is sticks, poles, or bats.

His opponent was defending himself extremely well, and he was not lacking in offensive either. They attacked whenever they saw a chance, and blocked when necessary. Even Nebula had trouble with this guy named Zhou. And he's only a young student about nineteen to twenty. His master, Raymond, should be much better.

Clak! Pak! Pok! Nebula swings the stick and hit Zhou's feet, sweeping him down. Wham! He pointed the stick at his neck. Then he smiled, withdrew the weapon, and helped Zhou up.

"Good match."

They shook hands. "Yeah, good match."

"You did well." Raymond said. "Don't worry about it. I know they are not ordinary people. You tried your best."

"Thanks, sensei."

Tyke: "Okay, you gonna do the fighting now or what, Raymond?"

"I will." He walked forward.

Nebula walked towards Tyson. "You gonna do this?" he whispered.

"I will not use my powers. I want this fight to be purely martial arts. It's only fair."

"Do what you want."

"Anytime you're ready." Raymond got into fighting stance.

Ahhh, so it's that stance, Tyson thought. His parents, mostly Margarita, taught him almost every stance known on the earth...every stance that they know in the universe, and told him what each one was about, its techniques and strategy, and how to counter. This was essential knowledge to warriors. How could a warrior not know stuff about fighting?

"Okay, don't mind if I go first." Tyson charged.

Raymond charged and punched, and Tyson jumped and landed behind him. Pow! Ray blocked his punch. (Very good.) Tyson withdrew his arm and kicked. Ray dodged it. Tyson charged and punched. Ray blocked and punched Tyke's stomach. Thud. Tyke hit his face. Pow.

They stood very close to each other in fighting stance. Ray attacked, and Tyke countered. Tyson kicked him in the chest, and he was slammed into the wall. Crash. It was made of cardboard, so he went into it. Ray came out, rubbing his chest.

"Not bad."

"You're still standing from that kick. You ain't bad either."

Wham. Pak! Thud! Kapow!

Tyson was enjoying the fight, and Nebula could tell that his brother enjoyed it. It's been a while since he had a worthy opponent (to Tyson, a worthy opponent is not be someone who's evil and too powerful, instead, it is someone who's almost at the same skill level as him), and Ray was everything that he expected to be. From what Faith told him (and Faith got the info from Mei-lin), Ray succeeded in learning the martial arts style from Master Go-hei. He received his black belt before Mei-lin did, and soon after, he succeeded his master. Now he even has his own dojo.

Wham. Pak! Thud! Kapow! Tyke jumped. Ray jumped and punched. Tyke dodged to the side. Ray went past him, and he knocked his elbow on Tyson's back. Whack! Tyke landed on his hands, and used them to keep balance, and flipped to his feet. Suddenly, Ray came from behind, and when Tyke turned around, it was too late. Bam! Tyke was knocked down. Ray put his fist on Tyke's neck. It was over.

Tyson was shocked that he lost. He and Ray looked at each other's eyes. Nebula and the students were dumbfounded and silent. Ray offered his hand, and helped him get up. "You beat me fair and square."

"I guess I did."

Neb: "Well, that was a good scene. I should've recorded that."

Ray: "That was a good match."

Tyke: "Yes it was."

"But I lost."

"What? You beat me."

"You didn't use your powers. If you did, I would be no match for you."

Tyke smiled and put his hands in his pockets. He was impressed that Ray knew about his powers even though he didn't tell him. "I don't know how you know...but I did not want to use my powers. It would be unfair."

"I see. Well, you guys want some tea? There's a room upstairs. It's got a great view."

"Sure. We'll join you."

Zell and Go-hei were still outside of his house, talking about serious issues.

"How have you been doing?" Go-hei asked.

"Oh, just the same. You?"

"I'm okay, but not doing so well lately. The Society seems to have discovered that I am against them, and they are on to me."

"I see. Did you come to China all the way just to avoid them?" Zelfire asked. "But wait, you'd know that the Society is all around the world. So why **did** you come here all the way from China?"

He did not answer.

"Is it because of Mei-lin and Raymond Chang?"

"Yes, mostly. I heard that Mei-lin was going to visit her brother here. Why didn't you stop her? She was in danger the second that she entered this country. So is her family. I know about the incident in the airport."

"You do?"

"It's in the papers." Go-hei walked towards the pond. "Why didn't you stop her?"

"I couldn't have. She insisted on coming. She knows about the Society already...and besides...after all these years, how would I know they'd be still after me."

Go-hei walked towards him. "Don't be a fool. You can never escape them. Don't you see? They will never let you leave."

"Master Go-hei..."

He sighed. "I know you miss your sister...however, is it worth risking your safety?"

Zelfire made a fist and held it tight. "So you're saying my sister can't come here, and if I go to China, they will discover me right away, and we will all be in danger."

"That's right. Zelfire, I am truly sorry for you...that you had to take this path. I know it's been hard. But we have to fight back the best we can."

Suddenly, a ninja jumped out from the pond.

Zell: "Master!!!"

Go-hei used his staff and hit the ninja in the guts. Whack. Two more ninjas came out. Wham! Smack!

The bushes nearby were ninjas in disguise, and they were hiding in the mountain, and some were on the roof of Zell's house.

Go-hei: "Damn! They've been watching us."

"And they heard everything."

They beat up the ninjas, but more of them were coming, and they had to clear a path and escape.

"You okay?" Go-hei asked.

"Yeah. You?"

"I'm tired already. I must be getting old."

"Zell, I have to ask you something."

"What?"

"Does anybody know about the Society? Have you told anyone?"

"No. Not a word about it all these years. Not even to my closest friends. I told my sister about them a long time ago. She didn't tell Raymond or her son, probably. Oh, and I told a police officer recently."

"You told the police about this? Don't you know they can't do anything?"

"This officer is an exception."

"Your friends and family are all in danger. You should've told them." He got angry and grabbed Zell by his collar. "Idiot! Don't you know they're all in danger! You're destroying everyone you know!"

"They don't have to know. If the Society comes, I will run away."

"And start all over? How long are you planning to run away, Zelfire?"

He looked to the ground. "We can't fight them. They are too powerful." Yes, he was sure what he was saying. When he was a child, he was in the Society, and he had no choice. He managed to escape and join with his sister.

"You've been running away your whole life. Don't you think it's time to face up to them?" It was a sad truth. Zelfire had no choice but to run away.

"It's just impossible! You don't know what they can do!!"

"I didn't know you were such a coward, **Augustus**. I will protect Mei-lin and Raymond by myself. Goodbye." He was serious, and he started to walk away.

"Wait." Zelfire said.

Go-hei turned around, and hoped that he had changed his mind.

"I'll join you. I will not let them do this anymore."

Mei-lin was taking a hot shower. It felt good. She was looking forward to it ever since she got off the plane. A whole day stuck in that seat, with no showers and nothing. It had been a tiring journey.

The gangsters were waiting at the backdoor. One of them was using a screwdriver to pick the lock. He was frustrated that it didn't work.

"Here, let me do it." one of the bigger guys said. He punched the glass, and the fragments fell on the floor. He reached inside and grabbed the knob and turned it. "Easy as ABC."

#### [D] Title Contents

Mei-lin turned off the faucet. She wrapped a towel around herself and stepped out of the tub. She felt refreshed and satisfied. She held a towel and dried her hair, while walking to her room.

"I'll check upstairs. You check the rooms." Rocky said. He went up the stairs quietly, trying to make as little noise as possible. He checked the bedroom, and someone was standing there. Her back was facing him, and she was folding clothes.

"So there you are." he said quietly. What an easy job, he thought. There's nobody in the house except a woman, and she's a beautiful woman. He was peering and noticed that her skin was beautiful and white.

He sneaked behind her and put his hand on her mouth. She was taken by surprise.

"Don't try anything, you got it?" he said to her ear. He pushed her against the closet and she moaned.

"Who...who are you?" she asked.

"That is none of your concern. I want to know where your brother, Zelfire is?"

"My brother...what does he have to do with you?"

"Tell me where is he, now!" he said grabbing her shoulders.

"I don't know!!"

"Where is he hiding? Where?"

"I swear, I don't know. Please let me go..."

"You don't want anything bad to happen to you, now do you? Just tell me where he is and you don't have to get hurt." He laughed and put his hand on her thigh. Mei-lin gasped and suffered helplessly as he went up her towel. "Last chance. Where is he?"

"I don't know!! I'm telling you the truth!" she cried.

"Wrong answer." He slapped her face.

"I swear I don't know. I'm telling the truth!" she cried.

"What I hate is a liar." He grabbed her tightly and kissed her lips.

She pushed him off, and ran out of the room. She ran down the stairs, but tripped and fell. She fell painfully down. She got up and ran for the door, but someone blocked her way.

Morin laughed as he approached her.

"No, no!!" Mei-lin said, and screamed. She ran the other way, and another man was in her way.

"You can't escape!"

She was surrounded by four men and panicked.

"Stay away from me!" she pleaded, but they only laughed. She put her hand on her towel. Nothing could've prepared her for a situation like this. She had never faced something like this in all her training. She was very scared and watched helplessly as they laughed at her.

Moxy went for her, and she punched him away. Then Damian tried to grab her, and she punched him. Rocky grabbed her from behind and sniffed her hair.

"Mmmm, you smell good, baby."

She struggled, but his grip was too strong. She raised her right leg high, and kicked his face over her shoulder. Whack!

Suddenly, Arson punched. Mei-lin dodged it and kicked him away. Damian charged. She grabbed a lamp and threw it at him. He blocked with his arms, and kept going. She kicked him away.

Moxy attacked. Mei-lin punched, but he blocked it and squeezed her fist, and she screamed. He slapped her face. Smack! She fell on her knees, and watched the four men helplessly as they surrounded her.

Arson grabbed her arm and pulled her up. She hit him with her elbow. Thud. He groaned in pain. She pushed him into Moxy, and they fell.

Damian grabbed her arm, and she struggled. He twisted it and she screamed. "Stop!!" He slapped her face, and she was slammed against the wall.

Rocky grabbed her, and she punched him. Pow! He fell into Damian. Mei-lin ran for it, and she ran into Arson. She kicked him away. She got into fighting position, and waited for him to come. Suddenly, her towel slipped off, and she quickly grabbed it. Her face became red instantly. Letting them see everything was the last thing that she wanted. Rocky saw that she was vulnerable, and went for her. With one hand holding the towel, she had only one hand free. He punched, and she dodged. He grabbed the towel and she held onto it.

"Let go!" she said.

"I don't think so." he teased, and smiled. He grabbed her and kissed her lips.

She pushed him away and punched his face. Wham. Arson was behind her, and he did a chop on her back. Whack. She fell on her knees. She was surrounded again. She was tired and helpless. There was nothing she could do.

The gangsters laughed. "So, who gets her first?"

Rocky: "I saw her first. So I get her first." He approached Mei-lin, and his shadow covered her.

"No, please, no!!!!" she pleaded.

He threw her into the bedroom, and he closed the door. She quickly got up and stayed as far away from him as possible.

"Stop. Please..."

Rocky laughed. "You are mine now, baby."

"Please, no!"

He grabbed her towel and pulled it off, and threw it on the floor. He grabbed her and kissed her lips. They were sweet and luscious lips. He kissed her shoulders, and she moaned. He pushed her on the bed.



"Please, no!"

He slapped her many times, and she was barely conscious. He kissed her lips and grabbed her hands to keep her from struggling. He kissed her shoulders and neckline, and she groaned. Tears dripped from her eyes.

He grabbed her leg and lifted it on his shoulder. Mei-lin moaned with her eyes closed. He touched her leg, and touched her thigh. His hand went all the way to her vagina, and she moaned. He kissed her ankle, and her lower thigh. He kissed her knee, pressing his lips against it. He kissed her thigh many times, going lower and lower.

Her fingers grabbed the bed sheet and squeezed it tightly.

Outside, the three gangsters were playing cards while waiting for their turn. They heard Mei-lin screaming.

Arson: "Boy, Rocky is sure having a good time in there, eh?"

Moxy: "Yeah, this one's better than the others."

Arson: "Alright, the winner of this game gets to go second."

Damian: "That will be me, of course!"

Mei-lin was on the bed with her back facing up, and Rocky was on top of her. He sniffed her hair and grabbed her hands tightly and squeezed them. He put his face on her hair and laughed. She moaned.

"Mmm, baby, you sure are beautiful. I'm glad we've had the chance to meet." He kissed her shoulders, and kissed her back all over. More tears came from her eyes. After what seemed like hours, Rocky was finally finished. He came out of the room, and he gave Arson a high five. Arson went inside and closed the door.

Mei-lin was sweating, barely conscious, and moaning with tears. She was naked and covered by a blanket. Arson stared at the naked woman and grinned. "Now's it my turn, baby. Rocky went easy on you, but I won't."

Outside, the gangsters heard Mei-lin scream non-stop.

"Boy, Arson is sure doing her good."

Moxy: "Yeah. I hope he doesn't kill her."

Arson slapped Mei-lin's face. Smack, smack! He slapped her many times and she pleaded him and begged him to stop. He kissed her lips wildly, grabbed her wrists and squeezing them tightly. Her eyes closed and tears dripped on the bed. Her legs kicked, but the movements were limited by Arson's legs on top of hers.

"Stop! Stop! Please! Uhhh!!"

The gangsters went out of the house. One of them lit a paper on fire, put it into a bottle of wine, and threw it into the house through the window. Crack. The fiery bottle landed on the carpet and it caught fire. Froom! Within seconds, the whole living room was lit up.

The gangsters saw the fire and smoke from the house, and they began to celebrate.

Mei-lin was still in bed, barely conscious. The heat around the room was making her sweat. "Raymond..." she moaned weakly. The fire in the room was getting higher and higher, and the ceiling started to fall apart. Tears dripped from her eyes. "Zelfire..." The flames surrounded her.

Zelfire sensed it. "Uhhh..."

"What's wrong?" Go-hei asked.

"My sister is in danger. I can feel it. We gotta hurry!"

Already, half the house was burned down.

Moxy: "What a shame that we had to kill her. Oh well. An order is an order."

The gangsters went towards the car, and then Raymond's car arrived. It stopped, Raymond got out, and he was shocked that the house was on fire. "No! What happened to my house?!" he screamed.

The gangsters heard his scream. "So, he's the owner of the house?"

They approached him, with bats and knives. Ray turned around. "You guys did this, didn't you? YOU DID THIS!"

"Hehehehehe, that's right, and what are you going to do about it?"

He recklessly charged into them, and they attacked. Wham! Pak! Pow! Bam! His martial arts skills were good, but he was against four men with weapons. Whack! He took several blows to his back from the bats. He ignored his pain and fought with pure anger. But they beat him down, and kicked him and stepped on him. Thud. Thud.

"Oof! Aagh! Ugh!"

Moxy and Arson grabbed his arms. His face was bruised and his nose was bleeding.

"How does it feel? Does it hurt?" Rocky asked. He grabbed Raymond's cheek.

Raymond grunted, looking at his enemy angrily.

"You want to kill me, don't you?" He punched Ray's stomach. Thud.

"Arrrrgh!"

"Any last words before you join your wife in hell?"

"In fact, I do." He spit on Rocky's face. Ptoo!

Rocky wiped his face in disgust. "You bastard!" He punched Ray's face. The guys threw him on the floor. Damian loaded his gun, and aimed. Bang, bang. Ray was shot on the chest and stomach. The gangsters left the bleeding body.

They went into the car and left.

Zelfire arrived, but it was too late. He saw a man on the floor and went to his aid. He was shocked that it was Raymond. "Raymond?! Are you alright? Speak to me!!" He had two gunshot wounds and lost a lot of blood. He was not breathing. "It can't be..." Then Zelfire turned attention to the burning house. Mei-lin was inside, he knew it. "Mei-lin!!!" He could no longer sense his sister. It was too late to put out the fire...no one could have survived. He watched the flames and fell on his knees. "MEI-LIN!!! MEI-LIN!!!"

How can this be? he thought grimly. Endless streams of tears of sadness and anger dripped from his eyes. He banged his fists on the floor madly and screamed like a crazy man. How could Mei-lin die? She's my sister! How could I let her die!!

When Mei-lin and her family came to America, he suddenly felt like he was released from decades of prison. He felt like he had everything he wanted. But in an instant he had nothing.

Ring. Faith picked up the phone. "Hello?"

Tyson opened up his newspaper and read it as Faith was speaking. She hung up, and didn't say a word. She just stared at the phone. "Who was it?" he asked.

She looked at him seriously. "Mei-lin...is...dead..."

"What? You're joking, right?"

"Would I joke something like this?"

Tyson knew she was right. She hardly made jokes. So that means...Mei-lin is dead? "How did it happen? How?"

"She was attacked by four people. When Zelfire got to the house, it was already burning. She's gone! She's gone..." She put her hands on the table and cried.

Tyson banged his fist on the desk, and it cracked, and the lamp was shaking.

"Who did it?! Who the hell did it?!"

"I don't know. I really don't know."

"Who would do such a thing?"

Nebula and Lisa received the doomed news later. They had the same reaction as Tyson and Faith did, sudden sadness and uncontrollable anger. Macintosh found out as well, and he told Spencer.

"Mei-lin and her husband are killed?" Officer Spencer said in disbelief, putting the phone down. "How can this be?" He thought long and hard, and came up with only one and obvious answer: the Society.

The four gangsters reported to Vinster in the Pandemonium. "I heard about the incident on the news."

Arson: "Yes sir. We killed Mei-lin Chang and her husband Raymond Chang."

"Did you find out where Zelfire is?"

"No. The woman did not tell us anything."

Vinster: "That does not matter anymore. Since we killed his sister, he will come find us."

Zelfire stood in front of the pond that he went to every morning, and that he meditated on. He stood there for hours without moving. Go-hei was frustrated and impatient.

"Are you just going to stand there?" he asked Zell.

"Leave me alone."

"Just standing there and grieving won't bring your sister back."

"I know that." Zell yelled.

"So what will it be, Zelfire? Are you just going to do nothing after they killed your sister?"

"No. They have gone far enough. I don't care what it takes now, I will get revenge for her."

"By yourself?"

"I don't need your help."

"I see." Go-hei was disappointed. "If you need my help, you know how to call me." He jumped away.

Zell went back to his house, and found a note on the table. He read it.

"If you don't want more people to end up like your sister and brother in law, come meet me in the Pandemonium. I assume you know where it is. I will be waiting for you there, Augustus."

He crumbled the piece of paper. "I will come. Just you wait!"

Tyson ran to the police station, and when he was one block away he was sweating and tired. A police car was heading towards him, and he saw Spencer was inside, and went in front of it. Spencer stepped on the brake.

"Tyson?"

"We need to talk." He opened the door and got inside.

Spencer started driving. "Is it about Mei-lin and Raymond?"

"So, you heard about it too."

"I'm as upset as you are. Is that what you came for?"

"Yes. I want to find out who did it."

"Have you heard of a group called the Society of Shadows?"

Tyson thought that sounded familiar. He was interested.

Tyke: "So they did it? The same guys from the airport?"

Spencer: "From the little information that I gathered, yes, I am sure of it. It was not a terrorist attack. They were aiming for Zelfire."

"So what exactly are they?"

"That I don't know. Even the police has no information on them. All I know is that Zelfire is...or **was** part of it. The name that they gave him was Augustus."

"He didn't tell us anything. He was always like that. Whatever problems he had he kept to himself."

"And he kept this from us. All these years."

"We will find the truth very soon."

Suddenly, they saw Zell running across the street. "Hey, isn't that him??"

"Yes it is! After him!" Spencer turned on the siren, and stepped on the pedal.

Vrrooom!

They chased him all the way to the Pandemonium. He went inside.

Tyke: "What the heck is he going there for?"

Spencer: "Maybe someone is waiting for him."

"Let's follow him."

[E] Title Contents

Vinster was watching his necklace clock, swinging it back and forth for amusement. (Augustus will show up anytime now. He will surely want revenge.)

One of the ninjas showed up for a report. He bowed down and folded his hands. "Sir, there is an intruder."

"Ahhh, that must be him." From the door, he heard fighting sounds. Sounds of people getting hit, and punches and kicks. The door slammed down and Go-hei entered. "You're not Zelfire."

Go-hei: "No kidding."

"How did you know about this place, old man?"

"I am here to take Zelfire's place."

"You are a fool." Vinster said.

The ninja jumped at him, and Go-hei punched him away. Wham.

Vinster: "Do you realize what you are doing?"

"Of course I do." He charged.

"Idiot!" Vinster put the watch away and fired an energy blast.

Go-hei jumped and attacked with his staff. Vinster blocked with his right wrist. Pong! Go-hei kept on hitting. Vinster knocked the staff away, and punched him in the stomach. Pow! Energy was put into his fist, and the force pushed Go-hei through the wall. Wham! Crash!

"Idiot!"

Zelfire ran deeper into the building. He heard other footsteps and looked behind. "Spencer? Tyson?"

They did not try to hide from him. They wanted to know what he was doing here. "Zelfire, why are you in a place like this?"

"Don't follow me!"

"We're worried about you."

"Thanks, but I don't need to be worried about. I am here to take revenge."

"By yourself?" Tyke asked.

"Yes. This is my fight."

Suddenly, ninjas showed up from many hidden places.

"You can handle this, guys!" Zell said, ramming into the ninjas.

"Sure thing!" Tyke replied. He and Spencer stayed back to back. The ninjas surrounded them, while three of them chased Zelfire.

A few seconds passed by, then the ninjas began their assault. Tyson and Spencer kicked their asses.

Zelfire ran across the hallway, and the ninjas caught up. One of them was in front of him. He punched his face, the ninja kicked, he ducked, then grabbed his leg and made him fall. A ninja behind kicked, he ducked. He blocked a punch, then punched the ninja's chest. Wham. Ninja C threw shurikens. Zelfire ran to the side. The ninja threw a shuriken, Zelfire jumped and did a flying kick. Pak! He was knocked down. Ninja A charged and Zelfire beat him down.

They were all beaten up. Then there was clapping. Vinster came out from hiding, clapping. "Very well done, Zelfire Lang. I must admit, your skills are impressive. However, you came to challenge the wrong person."

"No, Vinster. You messed with the wrong person. You killed my sister!" Zelfire said angrily. He got into fighting stance.

"You mean Mei-lin. Hahahaha, she was an unfortunate victim in the search for you."

"Unfortunate victim!?!? ARRRGH!" He powered up and attacked. Vinster blocked and dodged his attacks easily, since he fought recklessly. Wham! He hit Zell in the face with his knuckles.

"Ugh." Zelfire got up and panted for breath. He went on the assault again.

"Yaaahhh!" He punched, Vinster ducked, and hit him in the face. Pow. Zelfire's nose was bleeding.

"Is that the best you got?"

Zelfire grunted and wiped his nose. He charged and fought. Pow. Wham. Pak. Whack.

"I will not lose..." Zelfire gathered energy. (I won't let you die in vain, Mei-lin.) And he fired the Energy Blast. Bam. Vinster was knocked into the wall. Zelfire ran at him and punched him a dozen times.

"Uh, uh uh, uh!"

Pow! Zelfire hit his face, knocking him down. Then he charged. Vinster got up and zapped him.

"Uhhhh!" Zell was pushed back a little bit.

Vinster ran and jumped up. Zell jumped up and they exchanged some moves in the air, then landed. Vinster wiped the blood from his mouth and nose. "You are starting to become a nuisance." He powered up and fired an energy ball.

Zelfire dodged. Boom.

Meanwhile, Tyson and Spencer were almost finished with the ninjas. There were still a handful of them left. Tyson powered up as they jumped on him, but bounced away.

Spencer extended his arms and double-punched a ninja long distance. Pow! A ninja threw shurikens at Tyson, and his shield bounced them away. Then he jumped, hit two ninjas going for him, they fell, and he fired a beam in mid-air, blew up the ground, and ninjas were bounced away from the explosion. There were a lot of screams and battle grunts.

Both warriors hit each other badly, and they rested for a few seconds. Zelfire panted for breath. His vision was becoming blurry. But in the blurriness he saw his sister. "Sister?? Is that you?"

"Zelfire, do your best! I know my brother is not a pathetic person!"

"Mei-lin!! Mei-lin!"

"Do your best, brother..."

Then she disappeared and Zelfire saw Vinster. At this point he had a confident smile. "Hmm, I understand."

Vinster charged up electric energy. "Augustus, you had your chance to repent for your sins. But you chose the hard way. And now, your own choice will be your undoing!!" He formed a ball.

"Arrrrrr!!" Zelfire ran at top speed. Vinster punched, Zelfire ducked, then did an uppercut - hit Vinster's chest, breaking through the armor. Vinster gaped in pain and stuttered backwards. Zelfire used the Spirit Blast. Wham. He felt as if he was sliced into many pieces. Vinster was down on his knees. Zelfire zapped him with a beam - and within seconds he was fried.

"Nooooo!!" Vinster collapsed.

Zelfire fell on his knees and rejoiced. It was both a celebration and a grieving. Tyson and Spencer came just in time to see the event. Mei-lin's death was avenged at last.

Vinster was dead, and Mei-lin and Raymond were avenged. But the heroes realized that they can never be brought back. **Never.**

Faith: "It's over, isn't it?"

Tyson: "For now, yes."

"The hardest part is still to come. How are we going to break it to Rocket that..." Her hand covered her face. "That his parents are dead!"

"We have to tell him straightforward."

Zell: "I will do it."

Faith: "But he's just a kid!"

Tyson: "We can't hide it from him forever. He will know eventually."

"Out of all the people, I think Rocket has suffered the biggest loss."

They continued to stand there grimly. Minutes later, the two boys arrived, running and laughing with each other. The adults saw how happy they were, and it made the problem even harder.

Junior and Rocket made a bet to see who's the faster runner, and the first one to get home is the winner. "It's a tie." Junior said.

"You bet."

"Junior, go upstairs to your room." Faith said.

"Okay. Rocket, you coming with me?" Junior asked.

"Sure."

"No, go upstairs by yourself. We have something to talk to Rocket about." The kids looked at each other, and neither had any idea what's going on.

"It will be quick." Tyson said in a tone that sounded normal. He didn't want Junior to suspect anything. His son didn't have to know. He and Faith and Zelfire all didn't want Junior to know, but Tyson worried that Faith might not be able to hold the tears and spill it out.

"What're gonna talk about?" he asked.

"Nothing. We'll be with you, okay?"

"Okay."

Zelfire hated lying, but it's for his own good.

Junior went inside.

Rocket: "So, what's this about?"

Neb: "Ummm...well, Rocket, you see...sometimes bad things happen when people don't want them to. It's out of their control."

Zelfire put his hand in front of Neb, signaling that he can take it from there.

Rocket had no clue what Neb was talking about. "What are you talking about?"

Zell: "Rocket, you're a grown up boy, and you have to be strong."

Faith put her face in Tyson's chest. They looked sad. Nebula looked on the ground.

He bent down and put his hands on the boy's shoulders. "I am going to tell you some bad news. And you will not like it." He swallowed hard.

"What bad news?" the boy asked innocently. "I can take anything."

"Rocket, I just want you to know that we are always with you. The people you love are around you. Your parents are dead."

"What?"

A tear dripped from his eye. "Your parents are dead. They are gone. Gone to another place."

"You're kidding, right?"

"Rocket..." Zelfire started to sob uncontrollably.

"You're kidding, right? This is a joke!" Rocket said. Then he looked at Tyson, Faith, and Nebula. They do not look like joking. He was hoping that it was all a big prank just to get him to cry, but apparently, it wasn't. "This is a joke, isn't it? Somebody tell me it's a joke!" he yelled in denial. Everybody started to cry.

"I'm sorry." Zelfire said so weakly that it came out as a whisper.

Rocket cried and he screamed real loud. "Nooooo!!! You're lying!!!" he yelled. "You're lying! Liar!!!" He sobbed and screamed. Zelfire hugged him and he kept on crying.

Junior was peeping from the front door, and he heard everything. He was crying too.

"I'm sorry, nephew! I'll take care of you from now on."

It was a day none of them could ever forget.

Nothing, and nothing could have prepared any of the heroes for an event like this. Zelfire and the others accepted the truth - each in their own way. Of course they wished it wouldn't happen, but eventually, over time they accepted the fact that they could never, never be brought back to this world. Tyson and Faith did not know who was hit harder by this tragedy: Zelfire or Rocket.

Rocket lost his parents, and for the first few weeks, he did not go to school or do anything. Not even eat. But in a way he was lucky. He had peer and adult friends that cared deeply for him. Time heals all wounds. But time can never heal sadness. Life is what you make of it. Overcoming the loss loved ones was hard, especially for someone Rocket's age, but the overcoming must be done. Eventually, he got better. But with courage, he planned on having a good life, with his mom and dad watching over him in heaven.

Zelfire Lang put a flower on Mei-lin's grave. Her grave was next to her husband's, as Zelfire requested. It was in a row of graves on top of a hill. The air was a cool breeze and the sky as blue as Mei-lin's eyes were. That day, Zell was wearing sunglasses. "Goodbye, Mei-lin. I will take care of Rocket for you."

The End

## Society of Shadows: ☯ Strike of the Shadow

### Society of Shadows: Strike of the Shadow. Contents

- [A] - This is Mei Lin, All The Way From China.
- [B] - What is the Society Of Shadows? Spencer's Connection.
- [C] - Mei Lin's Secret. Can We Be Friends?
- [D] - The Betrayal. I Have No Choice.

Zelfire Lang went outside to the pond, holding a bag of rice. It was such a nice day outside. Not a single cloud was in sight, and the sky was clear blue. It was just like the day he escaped from that place...with that person. Ah yes, he hasn't seen that person in a long time.

He threw the rice on the ground, and the birds came to eat. They were literally pecking each other for every piece of rice. They must be hungry, he thought. Life must be hard for these guys. This is their fate.

Zelfire looked at the spot where he usually meditated. A large pond surrounded by land on one side and a mountain structure on the other. There was a waterfall, and behind it was a cave. Steam came from the spot where the water fell on the pond, and it always made a sizzling sound. There were rocks on the pond, mostly small ones, and a big one in the middle, the one where Zelfire sat on to meditate. This was also the spot where he first met Nebula as a kid.

Time goes by fast. As he thought about it, he meditated here for most of his life. Has he wasted his life?

It sure was nice to look at the birds eat. It gave him a warm feeling inside, a comfortable and happy feeling.

He heard the telephone ring, and went back to his house. He picked up the phone. "Hello?" "Oh...it's you..." "Yes, yes." "Oh, sure. Of course." He hung up. He came back outside, feeling completely different. He felt much happier than he did a moment ago. (I haven't seen her in a long time.) Indeed, he hasn't seen his sister in long time.

A little boy and a little girl were running down a dark corridor. They were being chased by an angry man, and he was about to kill them. The kids ran for their lives and finally escaped.

He decided to call an emergency meeting. The following people showed up - Faith, Nebula, Marianna, Lisa, Joe, and Spencer. They were all curious as to why he called them here in the middle of the day.



Zell: "Everybody, thank you for coming here. I have an important announcement to make."

Joe: "It better be damned important."

Zell: "Many of you don't know this...but...someone is coming to visit this country for the first time. She's never been here before, so I want you to give her a warm welcome."

Faith: "Ohh, it's a woman? Who is she?"

"My sister, Mei Lin Chang."

"Eh?!" everybody exclaimed.

Joe: "You have a sister, dude?"

Neb: "I never knew that!"

Zell: "Her flight is on her way as we speak. She's going to be at the airport tomorrow morning. I want you guys to give her the warm welcome she deserves. I want her to have a good impression of America."

Marianna: "So that's what this is all about. Don't worry, Mr. Lang, consider it done. We want to meet this mysterious sister of yours."

Neb: "So, what's she like?"

Zell: "You'll find out tomorrow. Well, I have some things to do. Thank you all for doing this."

Later on, Faith and Marianna and Lisa had a discussion about Zelfire's mysterious sibling. "I can't believe he actually has a sister." Faith said. "I wonder what she is like."

Marianna: "This is a surprise for me as well. I don't really know much about everyone."

Lisa: "He did mention it once..."

Faith: "Eh? Really? Can you tell us about her?"

Lisa: "Well, he didn't tell me much. From what I recall, she's currently living in China, and her name is **Mei Lin Chang**."

Faith: "Mei Lin? Chang? She doesn't have the same last name as Zelfire. Does that mean?"

"Yep." Lisa replied. "She's already married. I think her husband's name is **Raymond Chang** or something like that. And I heard he owns a couple of dojos in Beijing."

Faith: "What kind of person is she like? Is she like her brother?"

"I really don't know. Zelfire only mentioned her briefly."

Faith was disappointed at the lack of information. "Ohhh...I guess we'll have to find out tomorrow."

The airplane, labeled American Airlines 747, flew steadily in the sky. It was a clear day, and the passengers can see the city below clearly. A certain woman and her companion, who's just a boy, were anxious to get to America. Not only is it their first time to this country, but they were going to visit a very important relative.

The gang showed up at the airport early. They were all excited to meet Zelfire's sister. Standing by the terminal where other people were waiting, they grew impatient.

Faith: "Her plane will be coming anytime now."

Joe: "Hmm, I wonder if she's cute."

Zell: "Ah-hem."

Joe: "Oh sorry. Just wondering."

Zell: "FYI, she's married. If you're looking for chicks, go to a bar or something."

Announcer: "Flight 45 will be landing in approximately five minutes."

The plane prepared its landing sequence. Its front was facing down, in a diagonal angle, and the front wheels came out, then the back wheels. The front wheels skid the ground, leaving a long scuff mark. Scccccrr. Then it slowed down, its speed decreasing to ten miles per hour.

In the airport, the departure door opened, and the people came out. People were happy and hugged each other. Zelfire felt his heart beating loudly. He wondered if he can still recognize her. Or if she can recognize him. But how can two siblings not recognize each other? The woman and little boy came out. She took off her sunglasses. The moment they looked at each other, they knew who it was.

"Z-Zelfire?"

"Mei Lin..."

Mei ran to her brother and gave him a big, warm hug. And he hugged her back real tight.

Faith: "So that's her!"

Lisa: (I've never seen Zelfire so happy. He really misses her.)

Mei: "Are you doing fine by yourself?"

Zell: "Yes, I'm doing great. I have plenty of friends here."

Mei: "Oh, I'm so glad to here that."

Zell: "How's things going in Beijing?"

"Everything's fantastic!" Then she looked at the others. "Are these your friends?"

"Yes." he said proudly.

Faith was the first to shake her hand. "My name is Faith Spade It's a pleasure to meet you."

"Same here. My name is Mei Lin Chang."

Then everyone noticed a kid hiding behind her leg. "Who's that?" Faith said, bending down.

Mei: "This is my son, Rocket. C'mon Rocket, don't be shy."

Junior watched him with curiosity. This kid was around his age. At least this trip is worth it.

Rocket was embarrassed. "Hi everyone. My name is Rocket." And he bowed.

Joe: "So polite."

Lisa: "Awww, ain't he adorable?"

Junior: "My name's Junior."

Rocket was less shy now. "Nice to meet you."

Junior put his fist forward. "You know how to fight?"

"Do I!" Rocket said, meeting his fist with Junior's.

"Good. Let's have a match sometime."

"You got it."

Faith: "We are not here to fight, Junior. These people are our friends."

Mei: "I don't blame them. Kids are so aggressive nowadays."

Unbeknownst to them, someone was watching them from far away. "Mei Lin Chang...you came at last." said the spy.

The next day, Faith and Marianna and Mei Lin have lunch together. Just the ladies by themselves. Faith took a sip of tea in this nice, hot day.

Marianna: "The economy in China is pretty bad, isn't it?"

Mei: "Oh yes, prices are going up like crazy. But that's not the reason why I came here."

Marianna: "You came to visit your brother, correct?"

"Yes."

Marianna: "But why did you wait this long?"

Mei sighed. "I don't know. I guess I was waiting for the right time. Me and my husband have been very busy lately, doing our business and all."

Faith: "It must be tough, running so many businesses."

Mei: "Yes. But it's worth it in the end. Especially the money part."

Faith smiled. "I'm glad you are financially set. But money isn't everything."

Mei: "Of course not."

Faith: "Say, Mei Lin. Why don't you tell us about your husband? How did you two meet? When did you get married?"

Mei was surprised to see Faith so curious about her life. She figured, eh, why not? "Well," she began, "His named is Raymond Chang. We were both students studying under the same master." Flashback time.

Mei Lin and Raymond were in a crowd of students, all wearing a white uniform and different colored belts. Master Go Hei gave them instructions. "One, two!"

"Hyah!" Everyone punched at the same time.

While performing the exercises, Mei and Raymond couldn't help but look at each other and smiled. Their liking of each other was probably what got them through the tedious classes.

#### [B] Title Contents

Mei-lin was training alone in the night. She usually trained at the public park, the place where there was beautiful grass, and a man-made river, and where a wooden bridge connects two sides of the river. Since it was a public place, the best time for privacy and peace was after midnight, where there would be no distractions. There were no sounds except the creaking of fireflies.

That night, Mei-lin wore her usual clothing, which consisted of a white blouse, white skirt, and a red ribbon around her waist, and it was tied like a butterfly on her back. She also wore a red ribbon on her left wrist.

She practiced her moves in the open field. "To become strong, one must be familiar with the techniques, and they need to be done over and over...and over and over..." her master once said. And she's been practicing like this consistently ever since.

Suddenly, she heard footsteps of a big man.

Mei: "I recognize you! You're my master's enemy, Chow Lian."

The man smiled, showing his brutal teeth. "That's right, little girl. And tonight I am going to beat up one of his students. Ha ha ha ha."

Mei got into fighting stance. "Not a chance, scum face!"

"What did you call me? Arrrgh!" He punched, she ducked and strikes with her palm. Chow got up and charged, Mei dodged his punch, and jumped up, Chow jumped and kicked her in the stomach. Wham. She fell.

Chow cracked his knuckles. "Now you get it, little bitch." He was about to attack, until Raymond jumped out from nowhere and kicked him. Whack!

"Why you..."

Raymond: "Don't you hurt Mei Lin, or I'll kill ya!"

Mei was shocked. "Raymond..."

Chow grunted and punched, Raymond dodged and kicked him into the water. Splash! Raymond went to Mei and helped her stand up. "You okay, Mei?"

"Yes..." she said, blushing. "Thanks to you."

And they hugged.

Marianna: "Wow...that's a great love story, isn't it, princess?"

Mei: "So, Faith, what about you? How is your husband?"

Faith finished sipping her tea. "No words can describe him. He's full of surprise...it's like when I'm with him, I feel so safe and secure. He's both safe and dangerous, well-behaved and naughty at the same time." She thought about the times she spent with Tyson – the good and the bad. The time when they trained under the same roof, their first kiss...the time he made the promise in the lake. The time when they just defied fate and defeated Labyrinth. The time when they formed the Spirit Bomb and destroyed Vega. The time when Faith was kidnapped by Prince Mulder. The time when they united at the cliff, and then everything exploded.

All those memories were the times she shared with him. Tyson, her one love, her soul mate. "Yeah...there's no one other like him. I can't imagine spending my life with anyone but him."

Mei: "I see. I can't wait to meet this Mr. Tyson. Sounds like a great guy."

Faith: "He should be coming back soon. By the way, how long are you going to stay in America?"

Mei hesitated to answer. "Well uhhh...Rocket is still getting used to it here. I guess I'll stay for a while." Suddenly, she got up, nearly knocking the table over. Then Faith and Marianna sensed a bunch of ki's nearby. "They're here."

Ninjas approached.

Faith: "Who are they?"

Mei: "No idea."

The ninjas all ran at them. One of them jumped and threw shurikens, the heroes ran away. The shurikens hit the floor and blew up.

Faith: (Exploding shurikens?)

Marianna loaded an arrow into her bow and shot it. Twang! A ninja in the air got hit. Another one came from the side and jumped at her with a sword, she quickly loaded another arrow and shot it. Twang! Stab!

Faith summoned the Soul Sword and slashed about. Slash! Slish! Blood splattered in the air. A ninja charged at her, she jumped over him and stepped on his back, and she stabbed the next ninja. Schleb. The one she stepped on came from behind and stabbed, she ducked, and stabbed her sword backwards. She killed him without turning around.

A ninja went for Mei, and she waited in fighting stance. The ninja dives his sword forward, Mei dodges by tilting her upper body back, in circular movements. She pushes the sword away with her arm, and punched him in the face. Pow! Another one came for her – she jumped up, dodging a kick, and kicked him in the face. Whack.

Three of them were running at her. She gathered energy in the form of a ball and released it. Kabam!

Faith: (She's good! Is this Chinese style fighting?)

Mei and the enemies jumped about in the trees, and soared to the air. She dodged a bunch of shurikens and threw energy balls.

Whack! Faith got kicked, and bounced back up. This ninja was extra tough. Only his eyes were revealed, the rest of his body was covered in black cloth. "You...are you part of the **Society of Shadows**?"

Faith: "Society of Shadows? What do you mean?"

The ninja widened his eyes. "You do not know? You are in great danger. You should stay away from Mei Lin."

"Why?"

Mei saw those two talking and threw a dagger at him. He blocked it. Suddenly Faith charged and slashed, he jumped up. Suddenly Mei jumped and she was behind

him. He turned around and it's too late, she struck her palm against his chest. THUD. It was a critical hit. He coughed blood and fell to the ground.

Mei and Faith finished the rest of the ninjas. Faith grabbed the one who spoke to her. "You...tell me, what is the Society of Shadows?"

"\*Kuff kuff\* You have to...run away...now..." A dagger hit his neck, and he died for good. Mei Lin threw it.

Faith: "Hey! I was talking to him."

Mei: "Sorry. But you can never trust these people. He could've stabbed you while you were close to him. You'll never know."

Marianna came to the scene. "What was that about?"

"Do you know who they are, Mei Lin?" Faith asked.

"I have no idea."

"Ninjas don't just come out of the blue and try to kill random strangers. They're not even from this country."

Mei: "Are you implying I brought them here? I heard you have lots of enemies too."

Marianna: "Alright alright you two. Whatever it may be, we should be glad we're still in one piece. Come on, let's go eat. I'm hungry."

"Sorry, I have no appetite." Faith replied.

He tipped his hat up so his eyes could see forward. (The Society is here. He will be in danger. I must warn him.) He jumped onto the rocks, and seconds later, disappeared into the woods. The ninja bodies began to float in the river. The water around the bodies turned red.

Faith is now back at home, still thinking about the attack the other day. She's sure they were after Mei-Lin. No ninjas attacked before Mei-Lin showed up. Not satisfied, Faith called Spencer.

Ring ring. In his office, Spencer picked up. "Hello?"

"Officer Spencer, it's me, Faith."

"Oh hi, Mrs. Spade. What's up?"

"I need to ask you a favor. Yesterday we were attacked by ninjas. They were professional assassins."

Spencer: "Say what?"

"I believe they were after Mei Lin. Can you find information on the Society of Shadows?"

There was a pause. Then Spencer replied, "Yes, of course. I'll get to the bottom of it right away." He shut the phone off. That name sounded familiar to him. He put his arms behind his head and put his feet on the table. The Society of Shadows. It's not just familiar. He actually had a past with them.

"AAAHHHHH!" Spencer screamed as he fell into the dark pit. He remembered the face of the man who blasted him down the pit. But in his memory, the man's face was blank. All he saw was a face with blue hair.

It was that very event that marked the turning in Ricky Spencer's life. Because of that attack, his body was damaged beyond medical healing. Thus, the doctors had to replace his body parts with mechanical parts.

Yes, it was that day that marked his fate. He was chasing some goon from the Society, but he had the sixth sense, and Ricky did not. As a result, he nearly lost his life. He can never, ever forget the name Society of Shadows.

Knock knock. Spencer came into his commander's office. "Commander White?"

"Yes, Officer Spencer?"

"I'm looking into a new investigation. There's a group called the Society of Shadows..."

White turned his chair around, his back facing Spencer. "I've never heard of them."

"A lot of criminals know what they are. They are a well hidden organization."

"It's better not to look into these things, Spencer."

"But commander-"

White: "You have other assignments pending, don't you, officer? I suggest you do not waste your time, or your life on these myths."

"But sir, I'm telling they do exist! They're the ones that caused me to get a new body!"

White: "I am very well aware of that, officer. Which is more the reason why you should forget about it."

"Fine then!" Spencer turned around to walk to the exist.

In her bedroom, Mei opened her pocket mirror, and a man's face appeared. The man was **Xiao Pei Yi**, a leader of section of the Society. "Commander Xiao?"

"Ah, agent Mei Lin. How nice of you to report promptly. How is your progress with the mission?"

"It is going well, sir. I have gained the trust of the target."

"Good. I am expecting to hear the good news from you."

"You are going to keep your end of the promise, right?"

"But of course. We always keep our word." Xiao said, and communication ended.

Suddenly, Rocket came into the room. "Mom? Can we go to Junior's house?"

"Sure. Of course."

In the dark room, there was a large symbol of a dragon behind the man on the chair. And the man on the chair is Xiao. His subordinates, **Shao** and **Chuyan**, bowed down. Shao was a man with a cunning face and blue hair. Chuyan is a fighter and spiritualist, who can use incantation spells.

Shao: "Sire, we cannot trust Mei Lin Chang to do the job."

Xiao: "Surely she will. After all, we have her husband captive. She wouldn't want to see him die? That she certainly does not."

Chuyan: "Yes. We should just leave it in her hands. She is the perfect person for the job."

Knock knock. Faith answered. "Oh, Mei Lin? What a pleasant surprise."

Mei: "Hi Faith. Rocket wanted to come play with your son, so I brought him here. Sorry for the short notice."

"Oh it's no problem at all."

Rocket went into the house and up the stairs, and into Junior's room.

Faith: "Say...since you are still new around here, want to go sightseeing?"

"Well uhhh..."

"I'll show you lots of fun places and we can go shopping."

"Well sure, I guess." Mei said, still unsure.

[C] Title Contents

The two newly acquainted friends had a fun time in the city. Faith took her new friend to all kinds of places - bowling, an ice cream shop, a talent show performed outdoors, and the mall. (Luckily they didn't buy anything). Mei Lin wowed at nearly everything she saw. America is so different from her native country. It's like a whole new world over here. These American people sure know how to live, she thought.



At first Mei Lin was hesitant to have fun – after all – Faith is one she’s supposed to kidnap. How can she be friends and suddenly betray her? She had to not get too attached to the target.

While eating ice cream, Faith asked: “Hey, want to go bowling afterwards?”

“Well, I dunno. I’m not that good.”

“C’mon, it’s fun.” Faith got up and grabbed her hand and ran. Mei had no choice but to run with her.

They were being followed by a spy this whole time.

But she ended up having fun. The ball rolled all the way to the pins. Pom! Strike. Mei jumped up and down and yelled happily.

Faith: “You did it!”

Mei: “Yeah! I did it!”

They grabbed each others hands and jumped up and down. Without even knowing it, Mei Lin was having fun. Having the time of her life. Something she rarely experienced before (except with Raymond, but he’s a guy).

At the talent show, a mime was pretending to be trapped in a box. Mei laughed and clapped like crazy. And so did Faith.

After the show, they went to the edge of the river. “That was great, wasn’t it?” Faith said, leaning forward against the fence. By now it was evening, and the sea had a shimmering glow to it.

“Yeah! Especially the part with the clowns. They were so stupid.” Mei replied, and giggled.

Then comes the shocking statement: “I’m so glad you came here, Mei Lin.”

“And I’m glad to have met you.”

“By the way, the other day...umm...those ninjas were after you, weren’t they?”

“Let’s forget about them. They’re not important.”

“But they might show up again.”

Mei: “Don’t be silly. They’re probably scared off by our amazing teamwork.”

They jinxed it. Ninjas jumped out from hidden places and surrounded the women. Mei and Faith were back to back, in karate position. They charged. Ninjas threw a net at Faith and she was caught. She summoned a Soul Sword and cut herself free.

Mei beat the ninjas by jumping around and kicking. Whack! Pow! She sensed someone powerful in front of her. Shao was standing there, staring at them with hatred.

(Shao? What is he doing here?)

Suddenly, helicopters showed up.

Mei: “Let’s get out of here!” She flew away, and Faith followed. Froom.

The choppers chased them all the way to the forest. Mei flew differently than Faith, she had her arms spread out, and she’s spinning.

Helicopter A fired a missile, and Mei dodged to the side. Kaboom!

Suddenly, the heroes stopped flying and turned around. The choppers fired machine guns. Mei and Faith dodged them, Mei threw an energy ball at it, and it blew up, along with the pilots. Boom!

Faith threw an energy ball at the second helicopter’s rotor, and it broke, and it fell into the forest. Kaboom!

Faith: “Not bad. You have been well trained in China.”

Mei: “Of course.” Suddenly, a beam from above hit her stomach. Zap! She fell.

Faith: “Noooo!”

Shao, floating in the air, laughed. “Ha ha ha ha ha!”

Faith flew up to him and attacked. He dodged her advances, and punched her in the stomach, then kicked her down. She fell against a bunch of branches, and ultimately the hard ground. "Ow..."

Shao landed in front of her. She used the Energy Shot, Shao dodged and ran to her and punched her in the face. Kapow! She fell. Mei got in front of her. "Stop!"

Shao: "Hmph. Defending your target, Mei Lin?"

"Stay out of this, Shao." she shouted back. "This is my mission."

"You've failed your mission. You took too long to get the job done."

"I have everything under control. Why are you interfering?"

Faith was semi-conscious, and she heard bits and pieces of their conversation. It's obvious they know each other.

Shao: "You are going to betray the Society of Shadows, aren't you?"

"You're interfering with my mission." Mei said, and the pain in her wound got to her. "Ugh!"

Shao: "Hmph. You cannot do much in this state."

"Do you really think you can take me on?"

Shao fired a beam, Mei dodged to the side and threw a dagger, he jumped. Mei charged energy into her fist and ran at him, Shao made a shield, and her fist clashed into his shield. They struggled. Zzzzzzzzt. Mei's fist slowly broke into his shield, and she stabbed the dagger into him, he blocked with his arm. Blood squirted out as the dagger stabbed his arm, he jumped away.

"Why you..."

Suddenly, he got a mental message from Chuyan, who was close by. "Shao, retreat. You are in no condition to fight."

(But!)

"I sense the Red Dragon's forces approaching. And your right arm is injured. You cannot do much. Retreat."

Shao gritted his teeth. "Crrrrr. Fine. You two are lucky this time." He jumped away.

Mei was glad he left, and she grabbed her stomach in pain. She helped Faith walk by lifting her arm around her neck. The two went to a cave to hide.

Things were quiet now. The only sound was the dripping of water from a leak.

Faith: "Mei Lin, thank you."

"What do you mean? It was my fault we are in this mess."

"Let me check your wound." She lifted Mei's blouse. "It's pretty deep."

"It's fine."

"No it's not."

It's healing time. Faith placed her hands an inch over the wound, which was the red spot. Her hands glowed pink and little sparkles of light appeared between her miraculous hands and the wound. Slowly but surely, the wound closed up. Mei was shocked as she witnessed this miracle.

"How are you doing this?"

"It's an ability I was born with."

By now, there was no more wound. "That's a-amazing." Mei said. "But I don't think I deserve your help. After what I've done."

"I'm sure that whatever happened, you have your reasons."

"Faith...you're too kind. I bet you have lots of friends and they all like you."

"You could say I was blessed with this ability. It's nothing short of a miracle, people say. I guess I was meant to help other people. This is my fate."

"Can you heal yourself?"



"Unfortunately, no. But do not worry, these are minor scratches. It's ironic, isn't it?" Faith said, looking at the evening sun. "I can heal anyone in the world except myself."

Zelfire was feeding the pigeons, and he sensed Spencer behind him. "What's up Officer Spencer?"

"Zelfire...or is it Augustus?"

Zell turned around like he saw a ghost. "What did you say?"

"That's your name, isn't it? Your real name?"

"Where did you get that?"

Spencer: "I'm a special forces officer, remember? I have access to information that people don't even think they can find. I came to ask you about the Society of Shadows."

Zell: "I don't know what you mean."

Spencer: "I'm here to help you, Zelfire. Mei Lin and Faith were attacked the other day."

Zell gasped. "They found her already?"

Spencer: "So you **do** know them."

"I'd rather not talk about it."

"You are purposely withholding the truth?"

"The Society of Shadows is not something you want to get involved with."

"Oh, but I already **am** involved. More than you think."

A younger Spencer was chasing a man named Shao. Shao decided to fly up. "Ha ha ha ha! Little bug on the ground, you can't reach me."

Spencer pulled the trigger many times. Bang bang. But every shot missed. "I'll show you!" He jumped onto the construction building, hopping from metal to metal.

Shao continued flying up. "You should give up. An ordinary person like you can't possibly arrest someone with the sixth sense."

"Shut up!" He fired. Bang.

Shao opened his palm and blasted him down the building. Spencer screamed like hell. "Aaaaaah!"

When he woke up, Spencer felt a little different. Very different, actually. Certain parts of his body were replaced with robotic parts. That was the only way to keep him alive.

He was their leader and Zelfire knows who he is. "**Master Go Hei!**"

Go Hei: "It's been a while, Zelfire Lang."

"I'm so surprised...what are you doing here?"

"I think you know the answer to that. It's regarding your sister, Mei Lin Chang."

"What about her?"

"She's betrayed the **Red Dragon** and joined the Society of Shadows."

Zelfire and Spencer were shocked beyond belief. "What?!" Zell exclaimed. "Are you sure you're not mistaken, master? My sister would not do such a thing."

Go Hei: "But that is the truth, Zelfire. She's killed several of my men already. And more will die if we do not take action."

"But...why..."

"We believe it has something to do with Raymond Chang's disappearance."

Spencer: "Her husband?"

Go Hei: "Correct. During a mission, he did not report back. He was captured. We believe the Society is forcing Mei Lin to work for them using Raymond as a hostage."

Zell: "No way..."

Go Hei: "We have to stop her, Zelfire. Because you and everyone you know are in danger."

Faith and Mei ran away from ninjas and helicopters. They jumped over bushes and ran down the path of endless trees. They've been on the run ever a ninja discovered their hiding place.

The two stopped to catch their breath. "Just \*pant\* a little. We can lose them." They continued running until they reached a cliff.

Faith: "Do you think we lost them?"

Mei: "I don't know. They're pretty persistent." She concentrated hard, and sensed Chuyan and Shao's presence. ([Damn it. It's only a matter of time before they find me. I have no choice.](#)) "Faith...I hope you don't take this the wrong way." She took a gun from her blouse and pointed it her. "But I am going to have to bring you in."

"What? Mei Lin..."

Go Hei, Zelfire, and Spencer, along with the Red Dragon warriors, ran to the forest.

Chuyan gave more orders. "Do not stop until you find them."

The ninjas bowed. "Yes ma'am!"

[D]    Title    Contents

Mei had her gun pointing at Faith. There was a lot of tension. "Mei Lin, what do you think you are doing?"

"I am very sorry about this, Faith. But I am a member of the Society of Shadows."

Faith gasped. "So it is true then. Why are you still working for them? They are out to get you!"

"My mission is to bring you in."

"Why me?"

"Because Xiao Pei Yi knows about your healing abilities, Faith. He says you can help the Society greatly. Please come with me. I promise you they will not hurt you."

Faith was angry. "You are out of your mind."

"I appreciate everything you've done for me. But this is my mission. I had to make sure what they said about you is true. After last night..." Faith placed her glowing hands over Mei's stomach. The wound slowly vanished. "I realized that the rumors are true."

Suddenly, a helicopter appeared from below the cliff. Its rotors made loud noises. Mei ran and grabbed Faith, twisting her arm behind her back.

Shao and Chuyan jumped out from the chopper and landed.

Mei: "My mission is complete - I've captured Faith Spade."

Chuyan: "I see. Well done."

Shao: "They are just pretending. Can't you see that?"

Mei: "Shao, you are just jealous you are not the man for the job. It's clear why Xiao picked me."

Faith: "Traitor!"

Mei: "Why would I betray the Society when they have my husband captive? Think about it."

Faith was shocked to hear this.

Shao: "How can we trust anyone from the Red Dragon? Chuyan, you don't believe her, do you?"

Chuyan: "What I see is that Mei Lin has captured our target."

Shao: "I still don't trust you. You helped Faith before."

Mei: "That's because you attacked us first. You were in my way. My goal was to gain her trust first, then get her at the right time."

The Red Dragon forces have shown up. The two groups just stared at each other.

Shao: "The Red Dragon..."

Go Hei: "Let her go."

Chuyan: "Not a chance, old man!"

Go Hei made a hand signal, and his men attacked. Shao made a signal, and the SOS men attacked. They two groups fought each other to the death.

Go Hei jumped and attacked with his golden stick, Chuyan dodged, and they kept a good distance from each other. Spencer fought some ninjas and went for Shao. The one who made him fall into the dark pit. He must get revenge.

Spencer dodged a bunch of energy balls. "You...you're the one who did this to me.

Shao: "Hmmm?"

Spencer: "You don't remember?" He took off his police hat.

Shao: "Ohhhh. You're that cop who tried to hunt me down. I commend you, you survived that. And now you even learned to fly."

Spencer: "You ruined my life, Shao. And I'm going to ruin yours."

"Interesting." He fired a beam, Spencer dodged, and his arm extended and Shao grabbed it. "You've learned some new tricks?"

"They're not tricks." Spencer's other arm extended and hit Shao in the face. Pow. While falling, Spencer kicked him. Whack. He fell to the ground.

Chuyan dodged Go Hei's golden stick, and knocked it away. "You are always in our way, old man."

"I can say the same about you."

Chuyan powered up and released a bunch of beams, Go Hei dodged while back flipping.

Zelfire kicked two ninjas away, and approached Mei. "Mei Lin...let her go."

Mei: "Not a chance."

Faith: "You're making a mistake."

Zell: "Mei, we know what's happening. We can help Raymond."

Mei: "You can't save him! No one can!"

Zell: "They are using you! Don't you see that? They will force you to do more and more things, and they are not going to release him."

Mei: "Shut up! You don't know anything! You ran away from us. You lived a peaceful life while I had to struggle!"

Zelfire gasped.

Two kids running down a dark corridor. Little Zelfire and his sister, little Mei Lin. They were holding each other's hands, running for their lives. Soldiers were chasing them. Finally, they made it outdoors. Go Hei was there, and he fought the troops. "Come on, let's go!"

Go Hei and a few other adults, with the Lang children, were on a boat. There were other boats not far ahead, awaiting their arrival. But SOS troops at the cliff shot arrows. Twang twang! Everyone feared for their lives. The unlucky ones got hit and fell into the water.

"We have to swim!" Go Hei shouted. He grabbed the two kids and swim to the rest of the boats. But in the confusion, Zelfire got separated from them. He managed to get to the safety boat. The adult helped him up.

“Oh no! Mei Lin! Mei!” screamed her brother.  
The poor little girl was drowning. A rainstorm of arrows was between them.  
Splash!  
The drowning girl was struggling to stay up. “Brother!!”  
“Mei!!” He wanted to jump in and save her, but the adults grabbed him.  
“Don’t do it! Are you crazy?” said the adult.  
“But that’s my sister!”  
“Do you want both of you to die?”  
“Brother! \*Kuff kuff\* Brother!”  
“Nooooooo!”  
Mei: “You think you can save Raymond? How? Do you even know anything about the Society?”  
Suddenly, Faith got free and elbowed Mei in the stomach. Zelfire approached his sister. “Don’t do this, Mei Lin.”  
Mei punched, he ducked. “Out of the way!”  
“Stop!” Zelfire ducked a punch and dodged a kick. Whoosh. Mei did a high kick, and hit him on the chin.  
Two helicopters showed up. One of them fired missiles. Kaboom! Smoke was everywhere. The man in the chopper threw down a ladder made of rope. Shao and Chuyan jumped on it.  
Chuyan: “Mei Lin, we must abandon the mission. Come!”  
Mei jumped to the rope.  
The heroes watched in helpless awe as the criminals, along with Mei Lin, escaped.  
Mei: (Sorry, everyone.)  
Zell: “Sister...”  
Faith sighed. “It’s too bad, really. I was just getting to know her.”  
  
Rocket: “Uncle, what happened to mother?”  
It was going to be hard. But someone had to say it. “Don’t worry, Rocket. I’ll get her back.”  
“What happened to her?!” he repeated louder.  
“Sorry. I couldn’t save her. But I’ll get her back. I promise you.”  
“They kidnapped her, didn’t they? The bad people in the Society.” Rocket said, crying and sobbing.  
Zelfire was surprised he knew. He’s not a dumb kid. “Yes. Bad people will be punished. I will get both your mom and dad back. No matter what it takes.”

End.

Finished 4/1/2007

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Characters		
Name	Role	Personality
Mei Lin Chang (maiden name: Mei Lin Lang)	Zelfire Lang’s sister	R

Master Go Hei	Zelfire and Mei Lin's old master, member of Red Dragon	S
Raymond Chang	Mei Lin's husband	A
Rocket Chang	Mei Lin's son	R
Xiao Pei Yi	Leader of SOS Division	T
Shao	Xiao's henchmen	A
Chuyan	Xiao's henchwoman	T
Chow Lian	Go Hei's enemy	A

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## *The Silver Warrior.*

### Legend of the Mirari. Contents

Sequel to the Silver Warrior story

- [A] - The Mirari
- [B] - Taking A Break
- [C] - Silver's Ambush
- [D] - Final Fight

In the peaceful forest, there was a lot of noise. Several flying beings were chasing one guy, and they were firing beams downwards, destroying trees in the process. The man being chased was **Heromi**, one of the natives who lived in the Malaysian Mountains. He dodged the incoming beams by swinging left and right. Boom! Boom!"

"Do not let him escape! We must capture him at all costs." the leader of the hunters, a man in shiny silver armor.

They chased Heromi all the way to the city, where he was flying through a park. They did not care about anything else, they just fired beams like they had plenty of energy. One of the beams hit Heromi's back, and he fell to the ground. Froom. Heromi got back on his feet and ran. That wound on his back didn't let him run too fast.

The warriors landed in front of him, and he was in a bad situation. These warriors were trained professionals in black uniforms. One of them took a step forward and extended his hand. "Now, Heromi, why don't you hand over the **Mirari**?"

Heromi's hand was in his jacket pocket, tightly clutching something. "No, I will not let you have it. I won't let it fall into your hands."

A: "Don't be stubborn, you savage. Just give it me and I'll promise you a quick death."

### [A] Title Contents

On the other side of the park, Bianca stepped on the brakes and his car came to a halt. "What's wrong?" asked her partner, Spencer.

"I sense trouble nearby. It's in the park." She pointed in that direction, and they both got out of the car.

The fighters in black uniforms continued to intimidate Heromi, who was walking back very slowly. "Don't come any closer, or else."

A: "Or else what? You are going to fight us?"

The other two fighters laughed.

Heromi got offended and pissed off at them. He ran forward and punched, and fighter A blocked his fist, and returned the favor to Heromi's stomach. The impact made a loud **thud** sound, and Heromi, unlike them, was not a trained fighter. He fell down and groaned in pain. Fighter A kicked him in the face. Whack! Heromi landed on the grass face flat, and a small round object fell out of his jacket. It was like a pearl that radiated a shiny white color.

Heromi crawled forward. "Wait, no...you must've take the Mirari...it's evil!"

A: "Shut up, you uneducated fool." He picked up the Mirari, and suddenly, an energy beam came his way, and he dropped it as he dodged. Kabam!

Spencer and Bianca showed up.

The three assassins covered themselves in the smoke. "What do we do now?" one of them asked.

"Argh. They must be the authorities. We better go back to our boss." said A. They flew out of sight.

Spencer helped Heromi get up. "Are you okay?"

Heromi was semi-conscious. "The M-Mirari..."

Bianca saw the glowing sphere and picked it up. "You mean this thing?"

A: "Master Silver, the authorities have taken Heromi into their custody."

The Silver Warrior was not pleased, and he always shows it. "So he still has the Mirari. Damn you, can't you do a simple job as this?"

The three of them bowed. "Sorry, master."

"You know what they say, when you want something done, do it yourself."

Heromi was brought to the police station, and he felt quite uncomfortable here. Spencer and Bianca were sitting on the other side of the table, and they want an explanation.

"Who were those people chasing you? Better yet, who are you?" Spencer asked.

Heromi just stared at the table in silence.

Bianca: "We are here to help you. If you don't cooperate, then those people will surely get you. So help us help you...you can start by telling us what is going on."

The native finally decided to tell them. "What they are after...is this." He showed them the shining Mirari. The two officers couldn't help but stare at its magnificent glow.

"What is it?"

"This is called the Mirari, a sacred orb that grants its users incredible powers. I am the leader of my tribe on the Malaysian Mountain range, and this orb is a sacred treasure of our land. It is believed to be a gift from God, and we treat it as such. No one is allowed to even see the Mirari except for myself and those that I trust."

Bianca: "Is this why those guys are after it? Who are they?"

Heromi: "I'm not sure, but they work for someone who calls himself the Silver Warrior. He has been after the Mirari for a while now. If it falls into his hands...he will become unstoppable. I cannot let him have it, so I took it with me so I came to this foreign land."

Bianca: "Well, I don't quite understand everything, but you are in good hands, mister...ummm...sorry, what's your name?"

"My name is Heromi."

"We can protect you from those rogues." Spencer said.

"No..." said Heromi. "You may be able to protect me from them, but not the Silveer Warrior. He is too powerful. I came here looking for the one named Tyson Spade."

Bianca and Spencer gave each other a quick glance. "You said Tyson Spade? How do you know him?"

Suddenly, there was an explosion, and things fell off their desk from the shaking.

Bianca: "What the hell was that?"

Heromi grabbed the Mirari. "It must be **him**...Geroco, the Silver Warrior!"

Spencer: "Don't worry, you're safe here."

Kabam! Silver fired another beam directly at the headquarters. Chunks of the building fell off. Silver flew into the building and ended up in the parking lot. He continued his shooting spree, blowing up the cars. Kaboom!

Heromi and the two officers arrived at the basement via the elevator. They saw a bunch of smoke coming from one direction.

"I will go ahead, you two stay here, got it?" said Spencer. He ran into the smoke.

Bianca heard sounds of pain. The Silver Warrior came out from the dust. "So there you are...I've been looking for you, Heromi."

Bianca: "You're not going to lay a finger on him!" She shot an energy ball at him, and Silver blocked it just by opening his palm. He gathered energy for a big one.

Heromi was trembling in fear. "No, no..."

Silver opened fire. Kablam!

It was a typical day for the heroes. Tyson was doing sit ups outside on the grass. He tied up his feet to together to make sure they stood still. "One hundred fifty...one hundred fifty one..." He was sweating all over. Sweating is good, it shows that his exercise is paying off. His parents taught him that in order to be strong, Tyson must train everyday. It's a good thing he developed that habit early on in his life.

Faith was hanging up the laundry and humming. She learned to enjoy these chores, because it would be tedious if they were boring. Other women might not be able to do such menial tasks, but Faith is fine with it, since she volunteered to do it. If she wasn't here, this house would be a complete mess.

She suddenly sensed something. Heromi walked over to her, and she gasped. She did not recognize him, and to her he could've been a filthy drunkard.

"Who are you?" said Faith.

"Help me..." he said, and collapsed in front of her.

Faith gasped and quickly went to his aide. "Sir, are you alright?"

Tyson showed up. "Faith, what's wrong?" Then he saw the man on the ground. "Who is he?"

"I don't know."

"Wait...isn't that Heromi from Malaysia?"

Heromi woke up after having a nightmare. One can guess what his nightmare was about. It had to do with losing the Mirari to the Silver Warrior, who use becomes much stronger, and then kills everyone in his tribe. But it's a good thing he's back to being conscious.

Faith knocked and came into the room. "How are you feeling?"

"Much better." Heromi replied. "Am I in your home?"

"This is our home, it belongs to Tyson and I."

"Thank you for the hospitality."

"There is no need for that between us, Mr. Heromi. You showed us the same hospitality when we went to your home. It is only fitting that we return the favor."

"I have something I need to tell you." said Heromi.

"Alright." she replied. "Tyson is outside. I will take you to him and we can discuss this."

Tyson and Nebula were having tea together. "So, the same guy who you met at the mountains is the one that you found lying unconscious in your backyard?" Nebula asked with much interest.

"That's exactly what happened." Tyson replied. "I know it's hard to believe..."

"Please, a lot of unbelievable things happened to us. This world is full of strange things."

Faith and Heromi showed up.

"Ah, it looks like our guest has arrived." Tyson commented.

Heromi sat down by the table and Faith served them tea. The tribesman was very grateful to them, and he made it clear verbally. "I can't thank you enough."

"Don't worry about it." said Tyson. "Even if you were a stranger, and I found you lying there, I wouldn't just walk away. It's the right thing to do."

"Certainly." Heromi replied.

It's time to get to the matter at hand. "What happened to you, Heromi?" Faith asked. Everyone had serious looks on their faces.

"It's that bastard the Silver Warrior. He sent assassins after me."

"I thought I took care of him back then?" Tyson said.

"Somehow he's still alive, and he's been after me ever since. He just won't leave my tribe alone. The Silver Warrior said that he wants my land, and we would not move no matter what. It has been our home for many generations, and we are not about to move because some greedy bastard tells us to." Heromi was very resentful when he said this. It's not easy to explain after what he's been through. He continued to explain: "After you and Faith left, the Silver Warrior continued to put the pressure on us. But I know what he is after. He is not after our land, but what is in the land."

Neb: "Which is what, exactly?"

"He's after our secret treasure...a treasure that was passed down by our ancestors...the Mirari." He took out the orb. Everyone stared at it. It was very enticing to look at, it was as if it sucked them into its reality.

Neb whistled. "This thing must be pretty valuable."

Heromi: "It is not the money he is after. The Mirari is a legendary artifact said to have been created by a powerful demon long, long ago. It used the Mirari as a weapon to battle other demons, but it died in a battle and the Mirari was lost somewhere. My ancestors found it and thought it to be a gift of the Gods. They kept it in the mountains and it remained there this whole time."

A dragon had the Mirari worn on its neck, and it flew into the sky, fighting other dragons. After a bloody battle, the evil dragon fell onto the land, dropping the Mirari, and later on it was found by humans.

Heromi: "The Mirari grants the user unlimited power He can become stronger just by keeping the Mirari at his side. He doesn't even have to do anything, and he will absorb its powers gradually."

Faith: "I've heard of this legendary artifact. It was mentioned in the ancient scrolls of Almerak. While it grants its master powers, it also consumes his soul little by little, turning the person's heart to evil. It is said that the Mirari can turn even the most honorable person into a despicable lowlife. "

Tyson: "So this is what the Silver Warrior is after. Needless to say, we can't let him have it. We must protect the Mirari."



Heromi: "Without you, I cannot protect my tribe because the Silver Warrior is too strong. I had no choice but to take the Mirari and flee from the mountains. It is against the code but I had to do it to save my tribe. I came all the way here to look for you, Spade."

Faith: "It must have been a long and dangerous journey...we sympathize with you, Mr. Heromi."

Nebula stuck his thumbs up. "Your safety is guaranteed here. We have two of the top fighters in the world as your bodyguards."

Heromi smiled. "Thank you all. But it is not the protection I am worried about, rather, I worry about the Mirari taking over me. If I keep it by my side for too long it might consume my soul."

Neb: "Non-sense. You've had it this whole time and you look fine to me. You were willing to do all this just to protect this artifact. I am sure no one here is more capable of protecting the Mirari other than yourself."

Thus, it was decided that Heromi was to stay with them until they find a way to solve this problem. The tribesman was very thankful for their hospitality and he offered to help them with their house chores. It's the least he could do to repay Tyson and Faith.

During this time, Silver observed the household from a distance. He knew who he was dealing with, and attacking directly will be a bad risk. So he waited and watched for days, hoping to catch them off guard so he can attack them. Patience is the key, and he will do anything to obtain the Mirari, because the reward is worth the price.

One sunny afternoon, Zelfire was taking a walk through the forest to visit Tyson. The Silver Warrior saw him from a distance. "Who is that?" asked fighter B.

"Probably one of Spade's friends. He came at a perfect time. Capture him."

The three fighters bowed and dispersed.

Faith went to Heromi. "Heromi, it's time for lunch."

"Okay, I'll join you soon."

"Hurry before the food gets cold." she said as she was leaving the room.

Heromi's eyes were hooked onto the Mirari. He cared about nothing else but this artifact.

While the couple was eating, Tyson asked, "Hey, where is Heromi? He never misses a meal."

"I asked him to come down, and he said he will."

"No one can be too busy for food. I'll go get him." Tyson went up the stairs and knocked. "Hey Heromi?"

"What is it?"

"Your food is getting cold." Tyson said.

"I'm not hungry."

"Not hungry? Are you not feeling well?"

"Don't worry about me." Heromi replied. "Just leave me alone."

"Is something the matter?"

"I said it's nothing!" Heromi said, almost yelling.

Tyson went down the stairs.

Faith: "What did he say?"

Tyson: "He did not want to talk. He's been acting strange since this morning."

"I've noticed too. It's like he is avoiding human contact."

Suddenly, both of them figured out the answer. "Could it be the Mirari?" Without even having to agree to it, they both went upstairs and knocked on the door.

"Heromi?"

"Leave me alone." said the tribesman.

"Listen, if there's anything wrong, you can tell us." Tyson said.

"I said it's nothing!" His voice became hostile. "Just let me be."

Faith gave Tyson the key and he unlocked the door. They came in and Heromi gasped, and dropped the orb on the ground. He quickly picked it up. "What are you doing here?"

Faith: "Heromi, you've been infected by the Mirari. You must let it go."

"Never! No one can have the Mirari but me. It belongs to no one but me!"

Tyson stepped forward. "Listen, we want to help you. Just hand it over."

"I said no! Don't come closer!" Heromi was trapped against the wall and he panicked. He jumped out the window. Crack. Faith and Tyson ran to the window to see Heromi running down the field.

Tyson leaped out the window in pursuit of him. Heromi looked back and he ran faster. "Hold it!" Tyson yelled. Faith was right behind them.

Heromi tripped over a rock and fell. Tyson and Faith already caught up and it's pointless to run further, but he was still acting hostile. "No, don't come near me. You want to take the Mirari for yourself!"

Tyson stepped forward. "That's not true. You've been consumed by its evil. Just listen to me."

Heromi continued to move back defensive, his fingers holding the Mirari tightly as if it's the only possession he had left. And to him, it probably was.

Faith: "Please, Mr. Heromi, you are being deceived by its power. Do you not see that?"

Zelfire continued his little walk and suddenly his sixth sense activated like a lightning bolt to the head. "Who's there?"

The three assassins showed up. "Very good," said A, "Your sixth sense is sharp."

"Who are you and what do you want?"

"That's none of your concern. Just come with us and we won't hurt you."

Zell realized that they mean business, so he put his bag on the ground and got into fighting position.

Fighter A charged forward and did some karate moves, and Zelfire dodged them. He let out a few punches, then some round kicks. Whoosh, whoosh! Zelfire blocked his kick, then pushed his leg to the side and kicked A to the chest, and he ended up slamming against a tree.

Fighters B and C slowly moved forward. Zelfire kept his guard up, with both hands in raised in front of him. C charged and kicked, Zelfire jumped over and kicked his face. Whack! Fighter B fired a beam, Zelfire soared up. He gathered energy for an attack, but he was distracted when he sensed someone else who's much stronger. Silver was right above him, he was a silhouetted figure in front of the bright sun.

Zell: "Who's that?"

The energy dispersed from Zelfire's hand due to his lack of concentration, and Silver fired a beam downwards, hitting Zelfire. Bam!

[B]      Title    Contents

Heromi continued to back up. "I'm warning you, stay away! The Mirari is mine!"

Nebula showed up. "What the hell is going on here?"

Heromi became distracted and Tyson saw the chance and ran forward. Heromi fired an energy ball, Tyson dodged to the side. The ball went past Faith and blew up,

and she screamed in fear. Tyson continued his rush, and hit Heromi in the stomach hard. Thud!

"Sorry, friend."

That punch was good enough to knock him unconscious, and he fell into Tyson.

Silver sensed what just happened. "They're too close! We must move! Go!" He flew away, along with the three fighters.

Zelfire wondered what the hell that was about. He went to see the others and more questions popped up. Tyson was with some unconscious guy lying on the ground, and he's clutching some orb, and Faith and Nebula were just standing there.

"Guys? What happened?"

"Zelfire?"

As a result of this little mishap, Tyson was given the job of watching the Mirari. They put his trust into him and he took the responsibility. He put the Mirari into the closet with other crap that he didn't use in years. He closed the door and took a sigh of relief. "No one will go near it again."

Down the hallway, in the bedroom, Heromi was lying in bed. Faith took the wet cloth from his head and put on a new one. Seconds later, he woke up. "Ughhh..."

Neb: "Well, our sleeping prince just woke up."

Heromi panicked. "The Mirari! Where is it?"

Neb: "Relax, it's in a safe place."

Heromi grabbed the blanket. "I remember how I acted...I wasn't myself. I should've been stronger, I let the Mirari take over me. I don't know how to apologize for what I did."

Faith: "It's not your fault, it was the Mirari that poisoned your mind with such thoughts."

Neb touched Heromi's shoulder. "It's alright, man. In the end you're still a good guy."

Heromi: "Thank you."

Tyson leaned against the fence, thinking about some stuff. But his mind kept on focusing on what's in the closet. For some reason, his mind kept on focusing on it, as if he wanted to open the door and hold the Mirari. No, he said to himself, shaking that thought away. But his eyes kept on looking at the slightly ajar door. Something was calling him in there. The Mirari? Yes, it was calling him. It's crying for a master.

Zelfire came into the room and knocked. "How is our guest doing?"

"I am fine, thank you, mister, ummm..."

"Oh, I haven't introduced myself. My name is Zelfire Lang, but they call me Zell."

"I am Heromi, leader of the Malaysian tribe. Pleased to meet you."

"The pleasure's mine."

Neb: "You're probably wondering how he got here...well, it's a long story."

Zell: "Does this have to do with some guy in silver armor? Cuz I ran into some strange guy who tried to attack me earlier today."

Faith: "A man in silver armor? That is the Silver Warrior."

Heromi: "So he has been watching us, waiting for one of us to leave the safety of the house and then attack. He is cunning."

Neb: "It's fine then. He knows both Tyson and I are here, so he won't make a reckless move. So we can stay here and think of a strategy."

Tyson came in. "I put the Mirari in the closet. It is fine as long as no one gets near it."

Neb: "Good idea."

The heroes still remained on alert, but even they need to sleep. Heromi agreed to stay up to guard the place. Nebula would be next on the list, and each shift would be six hours each. Tyson and his girlfriend can finally get some sleep. Ever since she moved to his house they've slept on the same bed every night, with the occasional exception if one of them has to go somewhere for a few days, but that rarely happens.

Faith was sound asleep, but Tyson tossed and turned. There was only one thing on his mind, and he wanted to shake the thought off, but he couldn't. Just then he had to go pee, so he got up and walked down the hall. Something compelled him to open the closet door, and he did. He forgot all about going to the bathroom.

Tyson rummaged through the boxes and took out the glowing Mirari. "What do you want?" Suddenly, its glow brightened and everything became blurry. Before he knew what happened, Tyson was sucked into another world. "What the?"

A ghastly figure appeared and it did not have a lower half body, only the upper part. Its eyes were glaring red. "Tyson Spade, I've been expecting you."

"You know my name? You're good. I don't know what you want to do, but it's not going to work."

"Oh, really? You don't want to possess my power?"

"No thanks. You already corrupted Heromi's mind. But I'm different, you're not going to get me."

The ghost flew to Tyson's shoulder. "I understand, Tyson." it said, as if they were friends. "You always act tough and always put on this tough guy image in order to protect your loved ones. No one can deny respect to you for that, and I respect that too."

"You sound like a real know-it-all."

The ghost flew in front of Tyson. "I know that the Silver Warrior is watching your every step. What happens if he possesses the Mirari? Then what? Then you and Faith will perish, along with your brother, your uncle, and Heromi. That's not something you want to happen, do you?"

"Of course not." the hero replied, starting to listen to his words.

"Why not give me a chance, Tyson Spade? Why not give **us** a chance? If you truly do have a pure heart, then the Mirari will not corrupt you when you use its power, correct? Unless you are afraid of my power."

"Afraid? Don't be ridic-"

"You are afraid to gain new power because you worry what others might think of you. They might criticize you for merging with me. Think about it, how will you protect them without my power? You need it, only you can harness my powers. Heromi doesn't even come close to your potential."

"Well..."

The ghost again moved to his shoulder, speaking into his ear. "Merge with me, Tyson, and I guarantee you will not regret it. Don't worry about what others think, you are doing this **for them**. They will respect you, but they may not. But you are doing this for their own benefit, just remember that."

The next morning, Faith woke up and saw that Tyson wasn't next to her. This is quite unusual, since she always wakes up before him. She found Tyson downstairs, watching a workout video. This makes her feel at ease, to know that he got up earlier this morning. Maybe it'll become a habit.

Zelfire jumped onto the roof. "Nebula, you did a good job. Now get some rest."  
"Alright," said Nebula, yawning. "Take over for me." He jumped down the roof.

Fighter C came to Silver. "Sir, there still hasn't been any activity."

"Just be patient." Silver replied. "If the Mirari is as dangerous as the legends say...it should easily take over one of them, and turn him against his allies. Something is bound to happen in that house sooner or later. And we will swoop in into the middle of the confusion and take it from them."

Faith just finished making breakfast. "Tyson, time for breakfast!" No answer. "Tyson!" This is also unusual. He never misses breakfast, especially when he stresses that it's the most important meal of the day. "Tyson?" She went upstairs to the bedroom and finds him loitering by the window. "Tyson? Breakfast is ready."

"Thanks, but I'm not hungry. Save it for the others."

"Not hungry?" Now she's getting suspicious, and she has every reason to be. "Fine then." She went to the closet and found it locked. "Tyson, can I get the key to the closet?"

"Why do you need it?"

"I just remembered that I left something in there and I need to get it."

"Left something in there? That closet is full of junk. You're lying, aren't you?"

Faith got defensive. "I don't know what you mean."

"You're going after the Mirari, aren't you? It's my job to make sure no one gets near it."

"I just want to make sure it is still in there." Faith replied.

"What do you mean?" Tyson asked, and he was defensive. "Of course it's in there. Why wouldn't it be? Don't you trust me?"

"I **do** trust you, but I'd like to see it for myself."

"It is not necessary. The Mirari is too dangerous to even touch. Look at what happened to Heromi."

"I am not going to steal it, I just want to see it."

"I told you already, you don't need to see it."

By now, Faith has it figured out. "It's not in the closet, is it?" she asked. "You took it out last night. You waited for me to be sound asleep before you snuck out of your room and you took the Mirari out and hid it somewhere. So where is it?"

"I don't know what you're talking about, Faith."

"Tyson, where is it?"

"Don't be stupid. Are you accusing me of stealing it?"

"Where is it?" she asked again. She approached him and he retreated to the window. "Just tell me where it is."

"I t-told you, it's in the closet."

Faith suddenly reached into Tyson's shirt and pulled out the orb. "I knew it!"

Tyson snatched it from her. "This doesn't belong to you."

They both grabbed it and struggled with it, and Tyson pushed her on the floor. "Aah!"

"This doesn't belong to you! It's mine!!" Tyson shouted. "It belongs only to me!" Tyson jumped out the window.

Nebula ran into the room. "Faith, you okay?"

Faith: "Tyson...he is possessed by the Mirari!"

Neb: "Oh no."

Tyson ran all the way to a cliff and stopped to catch his breath. He took a good look at the glowing orb in his hands. "That's right, no one can have you. Only I know how to use your powers. You belong to me and only me. Those fools don't understand a thing."

"Tyson." said Nebula.

Tyson turned around to see Faith, Nebula, and Zelfire. "You guys again."

Neb: "Alright, the jig is up. Hand it over and we'll end this painlessly."

Tyson: "I see. So you want the power of the Mirari for yourself."

Neb: "Don't be ridiculous! You've been possessed by it."

"You just want it for yourselves...you greedy bastards."

Faith grew worried. "Tyson, stop this. This is exactly what happened to Heromi."

"I'm different. I'm going to be a great fighter with this!" He powered up. Froom. "All fools who stand in my way will regret it!"

Zelfire stepped forward and grabbed Tyson on the shoulders, trying to talk some sense into him. "Tyson, don't you see this thing's taking over you?"

Tyson punched him in the stomach, knocking him down. Faith gasped.

"That's it." said Nebula, and he charged forward and punched him in the face. Kapow.

A bruise instantly appeared on Tyson's face, and he's pissed. He returned the punch and knocked Nebula down. Then he jumped off the cliff and landed on the ground.

Neb: "He's insane...he's beyond reason now."

Faith, Nebula, and Zelfire jumped down the cliff to chase him. Heromi got out of the house. "What's going on?" he wondered.

Tyson leaped from place to place, looking behind once in a while to check if his "allies" are following him. He continued to increase his speed as he realized they're hot on his tail. He was wearing the Mirari as a gem on a necklace. While in the air, he suddenly stopped. Silver was standing on top of a cliff, looking down at him.

"Silver Warrior..."

"Tyson Spade. We meet again at last. I see you brought what I wanted. You just saved me a lot of work."

"You want the Mirari, just like the others, but you are not going to get it. It's mine!"

"Not for long." Silver fired a beam, and Tyson dodged it. Whoosh.

Silver leaped down and did a flying kick, and Tyson blocked but he got pushed all the way to the ground and he crashed. Fighters A, B, and C showed up. The hero was surrounded, but he only cared about protecting the Mirari. He floated up a few feet from the ground and transformed into a super sayan. His golden aura made everyone wince.

"Aaaah!" shouted B. "This power is..."

"That of a super sayan." said A.

Silver was not scared, but instead, he's excited. "So you finally show your true form. I was hoping to defeat you in this form, Tyson Spade."

The three fighters appeared and Tyson was surrounded on four sides.

"I have you now."

"Cut the non-sense. You are not getting the Mirari."

All four bad guys gathered energy balls, and they had evil looks on their faces. Tyson was ready to defend the ornament with his life, and he did not care how many of them there were.

Suddenly, a beam flew their way. Everyone jumped out of the way. The other heroes have just made it.

Neb: "Tyson is a super sayan already."

Zell: "Combined with the Mirari, his super sayan form should be even stronger than before. This is a bad combination."

Silver: "Damn meddlers. Men, get them!"

A, B, and C attacked the heroes. Tyson leaped at Silver and punched, and Silver blocked. Wham!

Neb and fighter A exchanged fists. They hit each other on the arms. Zelfire fired a beam downwards and B dodged it. Bam! Then B fired a beam of his own and Zelfire blocked it with the Electro-shield.

Fighter C fired energy balls and Faith dodged from side to side. Then she took out her whip and threw it at him and it caught his arm. "Huh, what?"

Faith pulled the whip and made C fall down.

While all this was going on, Tyson and Silver had their grudge right here and now. Pow! Tyson punched like crazy, and Silver blocked. His powered up armor really came in handy for protection. Silver punched Tyson in the face, knocking him against a boulder, and Silver followed up with a kick. Tyson got out of the way, and Silver broke the rock. Smash!

Tyson jumped away. Silver fired an energy ball and Tyson knocked it away with his bare hand. "I will not say this again, hand over the Mirari!"

"Fat chance!" The sayan flew up and fired a golden beam at the ground.

Silver got out of the way. Kaboom! A crater was created as a result. (He's more powerful than last time with the Mirari. I must take it from him at any cost.)

[C] Title Contents

Meanwhile, Heromi was watching the battle while hiding behind a rock. Out of all these people, he had the least fighting ability, and he did not want to be involved.

Whack! Zelfire just got kicked in the face by B, and he fell to the ground. Then he got up and wiped the blood off his mouth. B smiled. "What's the matter? Losing your touch?"

Zelfire powered up, showing that he's serious now. B was not happy. Zelfire used the Spirit Blast, and B was hit without being touched. Wham! "Aaaah!"

C fired energy balls forward, and Faith dodged to the side and fired the Energy Shot. Bang! C dodged it. They continued to shoot things at each other.

Tyson and Silver continued their fight in the sky. Silver punched Tyson, knocking him back a few feet, then Tyson charged forward and hit him in the stomach, knocking Silver into the ground. Smash! Everyone saw the explosion and they were shocked.

While A was distracted, Nebula punched him in the face, knocking him down.

Silver crawled out from the hole and coughed from the dust. Suddenly, he saw Faith and ran at her. She fired the Energy Shot, he blurred, and appeared behind her and grabbed her pointed his sword at her neck.

Nebula and Zelfire quickly run to her.

"Stay back!" Silver shouted, "Or the girl gets it!"

Nebula and Zelfire immediately stopped. They want to kick his ass, but not at the risk of her life.

Silver: "Hand over the Mirari or the girl gets it."

Faith couldn't do anything but watch helplessly. This is a bad situation to be in.

Tyson: "Stop this meaningless charade, Silver Warrior."

Silver continued to put on the pressure. "I am not going to say it again. You decide which is more important – the Mirari, or this girl's life? Can you really let her die like this?" he asked.

It's decision time. Tyson was having a hard time, and he didn't say a word.

Heromi sneaked behind them, taking each step cautiously. Then he grabbed Silver, allowing Faith to escape. Silver punched Heromi, knocking him down. "You filthy savage! How dare you attack me from behind!"

Heromi: "Geroco, you will never lay your hands on the Mirari!"

"I said do not call me by that name!" Suddenly, a beam flew his way, and Silver jumped away.

Neb: "Faith, you okay?"

She nodded. "Uhm."

The Silver Warrior continued to attack Tyson by swinging his sword. "Give me the Mirari!" he shouted in frustration.

"No one can have it but me!" Tyson said, dodging the deadly blade. Whoosh, whoosh.

Silver made a vertical swing, and Tyson caught the blade between his palms. They struggled and Tyson pushed the blade to the side, then kicked him away. Whack!

They both charged forward and grabbed each other's hands and struggled. They nearly ripped each other's arms off as they grunted heavily in pain. Their energies were released from their bodies in the form of electricity.

Everyone sensed their overwhelming power and winced from the light.

As they struggled, the Mirari began to glow. Both Tyson and Silver were surprised, and the heat from the orb was burning them. The Mirari seemed to have a mind of its own, and it floated up.

[Split screen – 2] [Tyson, Silver].

The orb's glow was brighter than the sun's and everyone winced. A bunch of lights flared from it like the twilight zone. Seconds later, everything became white. No one was safe from its power.

Things calmed down. The heroes were in some barren wasteland and they were all unconscious. The wind blew hard and a piece of rock fell from above and hit Tyson on the shoulder. He was the first one to wake up, and he saw all his friends not moving. He went over to Faith first and shoved her.

"Faith?"

She woke up. "Ugh...Tyson?"

Nebula and Zelfire woke up, and so did Heromi.

"I don't have the Mirari anymore." Tyson said.

Neb: "More importantly, where the hell are we?"

Faith: "We're in the spirit world!"

Zell: "The spirit world?"

Tyson: "This is the spirit world?"

Faith: "It must be the Mirari...it sent us all here."

Zell: "Against our will? How is that possible?"

Neb: "More importantly, how do we leave?"

Zell had to think hard. "Normally, one must enter the spirit world through disciplined meditation, and once we wake up physically, we exit the spirit world. But I'm afraid this is an exception."

The Silver Warrior just woke up. "What is happening? Did I get transported to somewhere else?" He looked down the cliff and saw the heroes, and they saw him.

Tyson: "It's him! Don't let him get away!"



Silver quickly escaped, and the heroes separated and chased him. Silver jumped from place to place, and he turned around to see if they're catching up. Tyson turned super sayan in the middle of flying and shot fire balls and Silver dodged them by flying sideways. Bam. Bam.

Silver turned around and they flew into each other and hit. Wham! From afar, it looked like a golden comet crashing into a silver comet. They continued to push each and grunted in pain.

As they struggled, something glowed in the background, and its energy caught their attention.

Heromi: "It's the Mirari!"

The orb got bigger and suddenly it took the shape of a dragon. Its body was nothing but a transparent image of flashing colors, but seconds later, its body solidified, and it became a dragon in the flesh. Its skin was black and scaly, and its eyes were angry red. It has horns on its head, two on each side. It also has giant wings and a long pointy tail.

Silver: "What is this?!"

The other heroes flew up to the air. "A black dragon?" Zelfire inquired, stating the obvious.

Faith: "This is the mythical dragon that created the Mirari. We are in the spirit world, and thus the Mirari's spirit is manifested in this world."

Neb: "I'm not worried about what made the Mirari, I'm worried if it's pissed off at us!"

Tyson: "Dragon, we are not your enemies! Do you understand me?"

Zell: "Tyson, I don't think he understands our language."

Meanwhile, fighter A and C were on the ground, staring at the mighty dragon in fear. "What is that thing?"

"I don't know," C replied, "But I don't want to be anywhere near it."

The others just watched stupidly.

It raised its head and roared and breathed fire.

Silver: "What a nuisance. I'll dispose of you!" He fired a beam at the dragon, and the energy was destroyed by its shield. It didn't even flinch. "What?"

The dragon roared in anger and opened its mouth wide, shooting a fireball, burning Silver to a crisp, and he fell onto the ground. The heroes were horrified by the sight.

A and C decided to show themselves. "You killed our master! You're going to get it now!" They fired beams at the dragon. It turned around to stare at them. They kept on firing beams but they did nothing to the beast's body.

"It's not working!" A shouted.

The dragon opened its mouth, and A and C panicked and ran away. The black dragon fired a beam from its mouth, destroying A. He screamed in pain as his body disintegrated into nothing, and C was knocked away by it.

Zelfire: "Everyone, we have to be careful. I think it's out to get everyone, and we're next."

And he's right, the dragon looked at the heroes. Everyone fired their beams at it, and it disappeared when touching the dragon's shield. They were all shocked.

The black beast roared and shot fire balls, and the heroes got out of their way. Froom! They certainly did not want to end up like the Silver Warrior. The beast continued to shoot fireballs like it had plenty of them in store. But the heroes were too small to hit, and the fact that they flew around made it harder. The dragon flew forward and the heroes got out of its way. Its tail hit Nebula, knocking him down. Zelfire flew down to catch him.

Faith: "Nebula!!"

The dragon shot a fireball and Faith blocked it with her shield. Bam! She wasn't burned, but she was knocked out and fell. Tyson swooped down to catch her. "Gotcha."

She just woke up. "Tyson, we have to stop that demon...or else we can never leave this place."

The dragon landed. Heromi approached the beast bravely. "Spirit of the Mirari, it's me, Heromi. Don't you recognize me?"

The dragon used its claw and smacked him away.

Nebula: "Damn, is that thing indestructible?"

Zell: "No, it must have a weakness. My bet is the crystal on its forehead."

Nebula and Faith noticed the red crystal too.

The dragon roared with its threatening voice and spit out flames, the heroes jumped out of its way. Froom! Everything in its path was burned to a charcoal. Nebula gathered energy and threw a beam forward. Bam! Like before, nothing happened.

Tyson: "**Mr. Heromi!** That's it, I am not going to tolerate it anymore." He walked directly to the dragon. "If you insist on trying to kill us, then we have no choice. Prepare yourself!" He gathered energy into the form of a ball. The dragon fired a beam, Tyson disappeared and reappeared from above, and threw the ball down. Kabam! It looked like the dragon was destroyed, but it survived.

Zelfire: "That's not going to work. Your beams are too thick, we need something with more density and precision."

Faith: "I can use my roses."

Tyson threw golden beams but none of them worked. The dragon kept on advancing and Tyson flew to the air. But the dragon flies faster than him, and he got hit.

Zell: "Then we better hurry up or else we're toast. Nebula, go help Tyson, I'll distract the dragon with a beam, and Faith, you use the rose attack."

Everyone nodded.

Tyson dodged the fireballs like hell. Bam! One of them blew up in front of him, incinerating the ground. It was this close to him, and he sighed in relief. But his troubles aren't over yet. The dragon spit out another fiery flame, and Nebula's beam blocked the fire. Froom!

Zelfire fired a beam at the beast's back. The dragon turned around, and Faith threw a bunch of roses forward. A lot of them hit the shield and disappeared, but one of them hit the red crystal on its forehead, cracking it into pieces. That one hit is all that is needed.

The dragon screamed in pain, and it was so loud it was unbearable. The dragon flew up to the sky and its body became transparent and flashed a rainbow of colors before disappearing completely. Its exit was just as dramatic as its entrance. The heroes covered their eyes from another spectacular light show. Everything became quiet for a moment, and they thought it was over.

Faith: "We did it."

Tyson: "Thank God that is over."

Neb: "So, how come we're not back to our world yet?"

Suddenly, the Mirari appeared again and this time, it took the form of a man. Just like before, his whole body was transparent, and then solidified. This man had killer red eyes, and gray hair. He was dressed in gray pants and a gray shirt.

The heroes were surprised and they're all speechless. They have no idea who this is, or what he is capable of. And this mysterious fighter is about to show them. He gathered energy and stretched out his arms and screamed like hell. The energy he released spread everywhere, and everything in sight was shaking like crazy. The background changed from a barren wasteland to a ruined city within seconds.

The heroes have no idea what's going on, and they're all speechless. Silver just woke up, and he was surprised that everything changed almost instantly. The ground he was standing on was not the same. "What...what the hell is this?"

Neb: "Where are we? Are we still in the spirit world?"

Zelfire: "I think we are...but this is the Mirari's spirit world, and this warrior is the true form of the Mirari...I suppose."

Faith: "I recognize this. This place is the ancient city of **Paiya**, according to historical records from my world. It was the city destroyed by the Mirari's power."

Tyson: "And that means this man is the last remnant of that city."

Fighter X finished his power up and stared at the heroes, and he did not look friendly. He flew forward and punched Tyson, making him fall into the ground.

"You bastard!" Nebula charged forward and punched, X blocked it and kicked him away. Then he charged into Zelfire and hit him in the stomach. Faith fired a beam, X blocked it, and he lost no speed at all from the attack. She braced herself from the impact and was knocked into the ground. Smash!

Fighter X landed. Silver showed up. "Who are you..."

There was no reply.

Silver: "No one defeats Tyson Spade but me. I don't know who you are, but I am the strongest one here." He took out his sword and charged forward and swings it.

Fighter X blocked the blade with his bare arm, and the sword cracked. Silver was startled, and he threw the broken sword away. He punched X in the face, but it did not even phase him. Silver was shocked. "It can't be..."

X grabbed his wrist and squeezed it, cracking the armor and hurting his hand.

"Ughh...nooo!"

X punched Silver in the stomach so hard that Silver was sent flying backwards, crashing into the wall. X fired a beam and Silver stared at the bright light.

"No! Nooo!" KABOOM!

Tyson: "Impossible...he killed the Silver Warrior?"

X stared at Tyson with his bloodthirsty eyes. Tyson charged forward, ready to make an attack, and X gathered energy into a ball and let it go. It pushed Tyson back, his feet scraped the ground, and it pushed him until he hit a wall. Crash!

Suddenly, Nebula popped out from the ground. "You bastard...I'm going to repay you for what you did to me...ten times over."

Zelfire, Faith, and Heromi surrounded fighter X.

Faith threw a rose forward, X dodged it and attacked with a fistful of energy. Faith jumped out of the way as X smashed the ground into pieces. Zelfire used the Energy Blast, and X blocked it like it was nothing.

Zell: "Damn!"

X charged into him and Zell flew up, dodging punches along the way. Nebula came from the other side and attacked, and they double teamed him. X was able to dodge all their attacks and they flew around in circles.

Heromi: (No one is a match for him. At this rate, he is going to kill all of us. What can we do...)

X knocked Zell and Neb away. Everyone landed on the ground. Zelfire charged forward and X kicked him in the stomach, effectively knocking him away. Nebula gathered energy and threw the Nebulon Blast, a powerful blue ball of energy. It hurled at a super fast speed, scraping the ground along the way. X fired a beam and hit the blue ball, and they exploded. Kaboom!

Nothing could be seen. Nebula couldn't see through the dust. A hint of the fighter appeared and by the time he realized it, it was too late. X charged forward and hit Nebula in the stomach, and this one was a good one.

Tyson: "No! Nebula!"

X flew up and fired energy bullets like crazy. Bam. Bam. He fired two, even three at a time. The heroes ran for their lives. Bam. Bam. The dust covered everything. Suddenly, Zelfire flew out from the dust and X continued to fire. Zelfire maneuvered his way around the bullets and punched kneed X in the stomach, then Zelfire moved to the side and punched him in the face, knocking him against the wall, and he became embedded into it.

Zell took a breath of relief, thinking he knocked out the enemy. Suddenly, the fighter's eyes opened and charged forward, pushing Zelfire back. Froom! He could feel the air hit his face. X slammed Zelfire against the wall of another building, cracking it. X let go, and Zell fell to the ground like a puppet.

Tyson ran forward. "Zelfire!"

Heromi threw a ball at X's back, and it didn't hurt him, it only irritated him. Heromi was scared and kept on firing balls as he retreated. X continued to advance, blocking the balls with his bare hands.

"Stay away!"

Tyson: "No, don't!"

X punched Heromi, sending him flying to the next wall, then fell unconscious. Tyson was pissed and he charged forward and kicked X as hard as he could. Wham! X was hit in the neck, and his head was facing up and he almost lost his balance, if it wasn't thanks to the quickness of his feet. Tyson gave him no time to recover, he did a jump kick, hitting X on the head, sending him flying to the wall. Crash!

Tyson followed up with a golden beam, blowing up the old building along with X. He expected that no one could even get up after such a hit, but X was standing and well. He wiped the blood from his mouth and he's ready for another round.

"Tyson..." Faith mumbled.

"Stay back." he said. "This one is mine."

Nothing left of Silver was left but a broken helmet. Nebula was down for the count. Zelfire has fallen and can't get up. Heromi was injured badly, and he's down as well. This mystery warrior shows up out of nowhere and beat the crap out of them. Even if they are in the spirit world, defeat is not a pleasant thing. Will a super sayan be enough to match the power of the Mirari's spirit?

The super sayan and fighter X did the stare, and they're pissed off at each other. They jumped to the sky and beat the crap out of each other. Faith just watched in vain.

Wham! Wham. Tyson and X hit and fly away, then hit again. They were going to do it until one of them falls.

Suddenly, X landed a kick on Tyson, making him fall. In the middle of the fall, Tyson regained control of himself and floated right side up. X flew down to him. Tyson fired a beam, and X blocked it, and it pushed him further up. Suddenly, Tyson appeared in front of him and punched him into a building. Crash.

Not only did X go through the outer wall, but he went into the second wall as well. Tyson entered the building and looked at the hole he made. Judging by this fighter's strength, a hit like this will not bring him down. He was right. X screamed and powered up. "AAAAAAH!" The rock chunks around him flew off, and Tyson punched the rocks flying at him.

X charged forward and punched Tyson in the cheek. Wham! A hit from this guy is a like a hit with a stone brick. Tyson fell down the building. Splat.

Faith: "Tyson!"

X came out and leaped onto the floor. Tyson got up. He was hurt badly, but he acted like it was nothing. Tyson fired the Wrath Beam, X dodged to the side and punched Tyson in the chest, knocking him into a statue. Crash!

Faith threw her Vine Whip and it caught X's arm. X grabbed the vine and with his free hand, gathered energy and broke the vine. Snap! Faith charged and used karate chops, and X blocked. Whack! She followed up with a high kick, X blocked it and punched. Faith grabbed blocked with her forearm. Whack! X kicked her in the chest, knocking her away and rolling on the ground. Scrrrrr.

It seems that no matter how hard the heroes tried, all attempts ended in vain. And Faith is very last one standing. She's fighting alone, and she admitted to herself that she's scared. Her chances of winning this fight are slim, given the enemy's power.

But every last moment of life is worth fighting worth. No one knows what would happen to their bodies if they die here. Faith summoned the Soul Swords and charged them up with energy. X was not impressed.

"Take this!" Faith swings her swords down, throwing a double wave of energy. X jumped out of its destructive path. Slash! X shot a fast fireball, and it knocked one of Faith's swords away. X charged, Faith slashed forward, X ducked and punched her on the chin. She dropped the sword and X followed up with a kick to the stomach, and was sent flying horizontally and hit the wall, then the floor. Thud.

Even the last one standing has fallen. That last hit was more than enough to keep her down. She crawled forward but couldn't get up.

Suddenly, the other heroes were all standing up limply. Even Heromi wanted another shot at this guy.

Faith: "Everyone..."

Nebula was the first one to go in. Whoosh, whoosh. X dodged punches and kicked Nebula away. Zelfire grabbed him from behind and X threw him away. Heromi punched him in the chest and X kicked him away. Tyson charged in and let out some punches.

Faith watched in shock as the good guys kept on suffering and taking hits, even though they have no chance of winning. Kapow! Tyson was knocked out.

X looked at Faith.

"I won't let you win!" she yelled at him. She took the ends of the swords and put them together, making a double bladed sword. She spins it like a fan. "Whirlwind!" The horizontal bursts of wind pushed X back, and although he tried to walk through it, it wouldn't let him. He fired a beam but it dispersed at her spinning blade.

The constant wind blowing at him is getting annoying, and he threw a shockwave, breaking the whole ground, along with the ground she's standing on. Bam!

She was sent into the air and X fired an energy ball, hitting her in the stomach and pushing her against the wall. Wham. She fell and dropped the Soul Swords in front of her.

X smiled, knowing he achieved victory. Everyone who is a threat is defeated and that means he is once again the strongest fighter in the world. He laughed triumphantly.

Suddenly, Faiths' Soul Swords were moving on their own, they vibrated. Faith, while lying down, looked up. "What is happening?"

X wondered what is going on. The swords were glowing and a transparent figure of a man appeared. X gasped in shock and his eyes widened.

The spirit began to speak. "Tairo, what are you doing?"

X stepped back. "Impossible..." He spoke for the very first time. "Impossible!"

Forcis: "Why are you doing this, Tairo? Do you enjoy killing others in cold blood? Is this what you do for thrill seeking?"

"You're wrong! You're wrong!"

The other Soul Sword manifested. A spirit in the form of a woman appeared. She opened her eyes. "Tairo..."

Tairo was even more shocked. "Forcis, Lana..."

Lana: "Tairo, we've been friends for a long time. We know you better than anyone else. Just end this killing spree now."

Tairo grabbed his head in pain and fell on his knees. "No, no..."

Faith was speechless. She was actually watching an interaction between two spirits and the fighter, whose name is Tairo, the spirit of the Mirari. This was a rare sight indeed. She can't believe her luck...the people whose souls are in the Soul Swords happens to be friends with the Mirari spirit. There can be no stranger or fateful coincidence like this in the world.

Tyson stood up limply and he watched with as much interest.

Tairo struggled with their words. "What do you two know about my suffering? I am the Mirari, this is my fate!"

Forcis: "No, you are not the Mirari, you are Tairo. You have been and always will be. Your soul was consumed by the Mirari and you became trapped in this place, doomed to a life of imprisonment. The only way you can survive is manipulate people, making them feel strong, forcing them into the same fate as you."

Lana: "But you can change. All this killing must end now. You can end this. Let's stop the killing."

Tairo was in tears. Moments ago, he was a heartless, cold and calculated sixth sense fighter. But he broke down at the sight of his long lost friends.

"I'm sorry!" Tairo shouted. "I'm sorry!"

Forcis: "It's alright...just let your soul rest in peace. You are now free from the Mirari."

Then Forcis and Lana turned to Faith. "As long as we are the souls embedded into the Soul Swords, we will fight in honor of you, Princess Faith. We will continue to protect you."

"We will always be with you, Princess." said Lana.

Both spirits went back into the swords. Tairo screamed like hell and everything became white, just like how the background changed before. But this time, everything is falling apart. All the light objects floated up, then the heavy objects, then everything else. The heroes gasped as they were pulled into the air. Then everything was white.

Flash!

The heroes woke up. Tyson went to Faith. "Faith, I'm sorry about before. I let the Mirari control me. I should've been stronger."

"Anyone would've fallen for the same trap. Let's forget about it."

Neb: "The important thing is that we're all in one piece."

Heromi: "I must say, that was quite the adventure. I certainly don't want to do it again."

Tyson: "You said it."

Everyone laughed.

The Silver Warrior stood on the top of a cliff, looking at the heroes below. "Enjoy your victory while you can, you idiots. One day I will get the Mirari." He walked away without being detected.

Heromi decides to return to the tribe, but before he does, he thanked the heroes again for their trouble. He did not know how to repay them but to sincerely say thank you while bowing. Tyson was modest as usual and said that there is no need for thanks.

Faith: "What are you going to do with the Mirari?"

Heromi took it out of his pocket. "Although this thing is the symbol of our tribe, it is the cause of all our troubles. I have decided to get rid of it and put it in a safe place...a place where no one can ever get it again. After that I am going back to the mountains."

Tyson: "Good luck with running your tribe, Mr. Heromi. I bet they're all anxiously waiting for your return."

Heromi floated up and waved. Everyone waved back as Heromi flew away, disappearing into the sky.

As he said, Heromi arrived at the ocean, and he dropped the Mirari into it. He didn't care where it ends up, as long as it's not near a human being.

The end.

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