

THE POWER FORCE II

Diamond

Contents

- 11: Galactic Enforcement.
- 12: Heart Of Ice. Subzero's Past.
- 13: Subzero's Challenge. I Accept!
- 14: Second Strike.
- 15: Triumph! I Did It At Last. [A] [B]
- 16: The Secret Of The Royal Family. Color Of The Crest.
- 17: Surprise Appearance. [A] [B]
- 18: Grudges of the Past.
- 19: One Last Hope. Fire in the Sky!

The Black Hand

- 1: Blazer's Connection.
- 2: Signs of Impending Doom.

Summary

11: Galactic Enforcement.

Contents

The nightmare ends for the heroes – they finally are able to go home. They came to Centilia for a purpose, and unfortunately, they got the short end of the stick. They were beaten up and chased around like fugitives. But Tyson did get one thing out of it – he was able to transform into the Phoenix for the very first time. But whether or not he can control its power in the future, it will be up to him.

In space station Fortran...

As Jerrell was sitting in his office, two officers stepped into the room. “Ah...welcome, 3rd Commander **Milo**, and 3rd Commander **Falcon**.”

The two saluted him. Milo was one of the leaders of the Rebel Faction on C-16, he led a whole division of soldiers on a campaign against the Elitists. Unfortunately, he was captured during a base raid, and later on he was saved from execution by High Commander Angela. He was wearing dark black sunglasses, a green military uniform with shoulder pads and several badges on his chest.

Falcon, formerly known as Lieutenant Falcon, was a general of the Rebel Faction on C-16. Like Milo, he had a desire to free his people from the tyranny of the Elitists.

"You two have been GP officers and served me for several years now. And you two have been doing a good job. But I need know how the situation is on Volteron?"

Milo: "Sir, we were doing well. Our campaign against the Elitists is rapidly improving. But lately the different presidents of the continents – they are called the Field Cabinet – they have teamed up."

Falcon: "We believe they are beginning to mass produce the E-Series...known as the Eliminator Series. Lately we have been seeing more and more of these mobile suits fighting in battles."

Jerrell bit his finger. "This is more serious than we thought. I don't want us to lose the war, especially after we have put so much effort into it."

Milo: "We are doing our best, sir. These Elitists just won't let up."

Jerrell folded his hands in front of him. "No...this problem cannot continue. We have to end this war once and for all. It is slowing down on our other operations."

Milo: "What do you propose we do?"

"I am going to have to turn this into a Code Black-2 situation."

Milo and Falcon gasped. "Code Black-2?"

"Yes. This problem is of an extreme severity that it can no longer be treated like an ordinary civil war. We can't let their Black Technology spread to other planets."

Falcon: "I heard that Centilia already has their hands on this technology. And they are planning to declare war on earth?"

"We will have to focus on Volteron first, I'm afraid." Then Jerrell pressed a button on his computer. "Osborne? Cuzzy? Angela? Report to my office at once. This is an urgent matter."

Once all the important people in the organization met up, Jerrell began discussing his plans for planet C-16. Everyone had their own input on plan, but they all agreed to it unanimously.

About an hour later, there was a big commotion amongst the Fortran space station. A big meeting was happening in the conference center, and many GP Officers rushed to get there.

Amongst one of them, Geromius, was walking down the hall, ignorant of what is happening. He happened to run into Angela.

"High Commander, how are you doing?"

"Nevermind." she said. "Get to the conference center immediately. Jerrell is going to make an urgent announcement."

"Eh?" Geromius replied, "But I have already been assigned a mission."

"Forget that. This mission has higher priority...it's priority is black-2. It is regarding the war on C-16."

"I see."

"Hurry or we're gonna be late!" Angela said, running down the hall."

"Wait for me!" Geromius replied, running after her.

The people sat down in whatever seats they can find. The auditorium was a large around room. At the center of attention was the stage where the speaker is, and the audience seats are lined up to be a semi-circle around the stage. Above the stage were three big computer screens for visual displays. One faced straight, the other two were titled at angle.

There was a lot of commotion amongst the GP Officers. Geromius had to struggle through the crowd to find a seat.

The headmaster began to speak, and everyone grew silent. "Fellow members of the Galactic Police Organization, I have gathered all of you here for a reason. Currently

there is a civil war going on planet Volteron, also known as C-16, the sixteenth planet in the C-Chain. Our involvement in the war has helped the rebels in their cause. But lately they are losing more battles. We as the Galactic Police cannot ignore this issue any longer. People are dying as we speak. We cannot allow the rebel forces of Volteron to be suppressed. This is clearly a crime against humanity."

There was chatter amongst the crowd.

Jerrell: "We ask that you assist our fellow allies on Volteron. Because right now they are fighting for that one precious thing that is most important to any life form – **freedom.**"

On planet Volteron itself, there were battles on many fronts. In a certain military base, mobile suits were shooting each other like crazy. Elitist mobile suits advanced as they pumped bullets into rebel's mobile suits. Kabam! Boom! Chaos was everywhere. Soldiers fired indiscriminately. Some threw grenades. Kaboom! People died fast on both sides. Casualty rates are shooting off the charts.

Just as the rebels felt despair and hopelessly, a savior appears in the sky – a savior in the form of the Galactic Police mobile suits. Swooping in like an eagle, they flew down and fired missiles at the enemy. Kaboom! Elitists suits are being shot down by the dozens.

Jerrell: "Freedom is the one thing that is essential for life. It is the very essence of life. Without freedom, what meaning is there to live?"

GP mobile suits appeared in another base. The rebels cheered as the suits flew by them, heading towards the enemy.

Jerrell: "But our friends on Volteron are being denied this one thing which they need most. They are being overpowered – which is why we must step in and help them with their cause. We can no longer take this problem lightly. Everyday that this war continues is another day that the universe is in disarray. We must show them that we mean business! We must show them that the Galactic Police is not to be messed around with!"

Kaboom! An Elitist base explodes after being hit by a missile. Rebel and GP forces stare wide-eyed at the bright explosion.

While the Centilian royal family was planning the invasion of earth, Rasha wandered outside by herself. Fighting is her one expertise; she didn't care about planning and building huge robots and all those things. Peace and quiet is what she needs from time to time.

While she was deep into her thoughts, she sensed someone approaching. It's Aries's presence. She was quite surprised that he's here. Why is he coming here all of a sudden? Her heart was racing as he walked within sight. He came and waved casually. "Yo. Long time no see...Rasha."

"Aries? What are you doing here?"

"I missed ya. Just thought I'd come to say hi."

"You're taking a big risk by coming here."

"I'm taking a big risk just by being alive. But luckily for me, our prince is occupied with another problem, eh?"

"So you know?" Rasha asked.

"Of course. Just because I'm on the outside doesn't mean I'm stupid."

"Just by talking to you I'm risking my life. What do you want?"

Aries scratched his head, a little disappointed. "Is this how you talk to your boyfriend?"

"Ex-boyfriend. You are a traitor. You disobeyed Prince Diamond's orders...you're nothing more than a fugitive."

"Diamond this...Diamond that. Is that all you care about? Have you ever considered that the things he does are immoral?"

"Immoral or not, I don't know. But disobedience means death. What do you want me to do? End up like you? What will I have then? Nothing!"

"Maybe it **was** a mistake coming here after all." Aries said. He somehow knew this was going to happen. But deep down inside, he thought he still had a chance. A ghost of a chance. "Well, I'm going to leave you alone now. But think about this...is it really worth it following a leader like Diamond? He's already exiled two members of the royal family. He destroyed villages to make an example of them. And now he's going to declare war on a neutral planet called earth. One day, he's going to get it. I just know it. It might be me, or it might be someone else. And when that day comes, what will happen to you? What will your efforts get you? How will your life turn out?"

"I don't need you to lecture me." Rasha replied coldly.

"Farewell." Aries said, and flew off.

As he vanished into the sky, Rasha suddenly regret what she said. She regrets being cold to him. She really wanted to talk to him like she used to...those wonderful memories they once shared...she wants to relive them. But then there is reality - following Diamond has made her a cold-blooded warrior.

Aries's words are true - is it really worth it to follow a corrupt leader like him? But then again...isn't following him better than being an exile with no future?

In Freedom City, one of the many cities ruined due to the war, a battle has just ended. Two GP officers took Andy, one of the Field Cabinet members, in handcuffs, to a spaceship. Andy's head was facing down the whole time and he didn't utter a word. Naturally, the rebels are grateful for police's help.

One of their sergeants walked over to Cuzzy to shake his hand. "Thank so much for your help, High Commander."

"Think nothing of it." he replied in a humble tone. "I am just following my orders."

"Please send my thanks to Headmaster Jerrell."

"Certainly."

Angela just got out of her mobile suit, the GP-10. A little girl ran to her and offered her a flower. "Thank you big sister for saving us!" she said in a high-pitched voice.

"Oh...thank you." Angela said, and patted the kid on the head. Then the kid ran back to her mother.

Cuzzy: "You sure are popular here."

"It's only natural, since we are doing this without any compensation."

"You're familiar with this planet, am I correct?"

"Yes." Angela replied. "Even if it wasn't Jerrell's order, I'd still help liberate the rebels. I've fought countless battles here and I have seen many things. You could say I've grown attached to my mission. I want to see that these people have a future to look forward to." And with that said, she and Cuzzy stared at the bright sun.

"What!" yelled Mikhail. He is another Field Cabinet member, the current ruler of his continent. "So they've got Kim and Andy? I see. Don't worry, I'll take precautions. The Galactic Police won't get me." He hung up. Click.

Mikhail was a bald, middle-aged man in his forties. Like all the other cabinet members, he's arrogant, corrupt, and a greedy bastard. He's been loyal to Prince Mulder for as long as he can remember. He sat on his chair, thinking hard. Mulder's dead, Ostrovsky's in jail, so who is left to control the planet? No one.

Cuzzy, Commander Milo, Geromius, and Falcon make plans for their next attack. They all stare at a big map of the base. "This is Mikhail's base." Cuzzy explained, pointing his finger. "We believe that Mikhail is hiding inside one of these bunkers. This base is well-defended, so it will not be easy."

Milo: "Are there any anti-aircraft missiles?"

Cuzzy: "Yes. They are located here and here. We will have to destroy them somehow."

Milo: "So they are protected against both air and ground assaults. It's just like you said, it is well-defended. What about the number of mobile suits?"

Falcon: "They have anywhere between ten to twenty active at all times."

Milo: "I see. Then we'll just have to beat them with numbers."

Kaboom! A mobile suit was shot down. Soldiers fired. Thut-thut-thut. Mikhail covered his ears from the noise. "Damn you, you incompetents! Destroy them!! Destroy them all!"

Soldier: "We are doing our best, sir."

Mikhail: "Then do better! Otherwise we are going to die!"

Thut-thut-thut. Another of their mobiles was shot down. Mikhail can't stand it anymore and ran inside the base.

Cuzzy walked towards the line of fire. The soldiers shot him but nothing happened. They are all scared. Cuzzy powers up and charges at them. Kapow! Whack! They're beaten easily. Then he looked at the bunker and went inside.

The place was dark and damp, full of pipes. One of the pipes was leaking, making a dripping sound. Mikhail breathed hard. " *Pant* They won't find me here. *pant* I am completely safe. Ha ha ha ha! They'll never get me." He started laughing like a maniac, knowing that he lost the battle. But he still is happy that he did not end up like Andy and Kim.

"So there you are, President Mikhail." said a voice in the dark.

Mikhail was startled and gasped like a coward. "W-Who the hell are you?!" he shrieked, pointing his gun.

"Your Grim Reaper." said the silhouetted figure, and proceeded to open his palm and fire. Bam!

Cuzzy heard a sound. He ran through the darkness and found Mikhail's body...frozen in ice. "What...who could have done this?" Then he heard a faint jumping sound. "Who's there?" He fired his gun. Bang.

The man landed in a crouch and stood up.

Cuzzy: "Who are you?"

"Who wants to know?"

"I am High Commander Cuzzy of the Galactic Police, and I demand to know who you are!"

"My name is **Subzero**. And I would not point that gun at me if I were you...since I did you a favor by freezing him."

Cuzzy did not let his guard down, he still pointed his gun at him, ready to pull the trigger in a split second. "Subzero? The legendary ice warrior? The Galactic Police did not request your help. What are you doing here?"

"Why, I am just a vigilante. Now if you'll excuse me, I have things to do." Subzero turned his back to Cuzzy and walked.

"Hold it!" Cuzzy yelled, pissed off. No one ever turns his back on Cuzzy. "You're not going anywhere."

"Do you intend to fight me? I suggest you stay out of my way, if you value your life...police officer."

"I will fight you if necessary."

"Hmph. There is only one man worthy enough to be my rival. He lives on earth. His name is Tyson Spade."

"Tyson Spade?" Cuzzy repeated. He's heard of that name before...from the headmaster. Just then he noticed that the floor Subzero was standing on had a trail of ice...and the trail of ice was slowly going towards Cuzzy's feet. He looked at it in surprise. Suddenly, Subzero blurred. Gone. Completely out of sight. (Damn it!) he thought. (This guy is slippery.)

What an unexpected thing to happen during a mission. Maybe it was a mistake to point a gun at that man...for some reason Cuzzy felt lucky to have avoided a fight.

12: Heart Of Ice. Subzero's Past.

Contents

Planet C-12, also known as Trachian, was an ice planet. Being the farthest planet away from the sun of the C-Series, this planet is one of the coldest planets known in the Milky Way. Vegetation is scarce, the land is filled completely with snow and ice, and there are snow storms and blizzards all the time.

People may not like this place, but this place is perfect for people who like the cold. People like Subzero. This is his natural domain. He's meditating in some cave somewhere. The ground was filled with snow, but it doesn't matter to him.

All his life, he strives to be the strongest of warriors. He trains night and day for this purpose. He cares about nothing else other than being the best, even if this means being a cold blooded killer. He truly has a heart of ice.

Tyson was in a mountain cave. There was a hole on the roof that was made when the warriors crashed through it. There was a pond just in front of him.

He zapped the water with his energy and it started to steam up. He put his right arm into the water and the ice on his shoulder started to melt.

"Very clever." Subzero said. "Using your energy to make the water warm, and using the water to melt the ice."

"Damn it! If only I had more time."

"Your time has just run out." He used the Ice Beam attack, and Tyson was not expecting it.

Zap! He was frozen. His whole body was encased in ice except for his head.

"Ha ha ha ha!"

"It's not over yet!" The ice cracked apart, Tyson powered up.

"What?" Subzero said in shock.

Tyson charged with super speed and punched Subzero in the face. Pow! He spit blood and his face was bruised. Tyson followed with a combo of fists, Subzero was

getting hit and couldn't block. Pow! Wham! Bam! Then he fired the Super Sayan Beam. Subzero blocked it with his bare hands.

"No way!"

"Arrrgh!!" he screamed as he used all his strength to push back the beam. He managed to step forward, then pushed the beam back.

Tyson put more power into it and the beam grew thicker instantly. Subzero couldn't stand it and got pushed into the wall. Boom!

So far, only one man has defeated Subzero who is still alive. He can't stand the thought of someone stronger than him existing. He has to settle this matter once and for all.

Subzero opened his eyes as he senses someone approach the cave. It's a familiar signal, and he stood up, waiting for the person to come. It was an old man dressed in a blue robe. The old man had a big white beard and eyes with the strength of an eagle.

"Trace...or it is Subzero...no time no see."

"Absolute...Zero?"

"It's been a while, has it not? How is your training?" asked Absolute. There was a light drizzle and snowflakes fell on his clothes.

"I am doing fine, master."

"That is good to hear. Are you still striving for perfection as usual?"

"Yes. There is still one man I cannot defeat. I can't stop thinking about him..."

"Still living your foolish way, I see."

"This is how I live, master! I have to be the strongest. I won't settle for anything else."

"So who is the man who you cannot defeat?"

"His name is...Tyson Spade."

Absolute was surprised. "That sayan? The son of Mason and Margarita Spade?"

"Yes. That's him! You've heard of him before?" Subzero said, getting excited.

"Heard of him? I actually met him on Arlia."

"You met him?"

"I can tell you this...he is much stronger than you are."

"..."

"He's gained a new level of power which is beyond comprehension...the Fourth Stage. You must understand, Subzero, that no matter how hard you try, there are those who are stronger than you. Somewhere in the universe there is always someone superior to you, you cannot escape this fact."

"But I must defeat him, master. Please aide me!" Subzero got on one knee and bowed.

"*Sigh* Do you want victory that badly?" Absolute asked.

"Yes."

"Very well then. Come with me."

They flew to the sky.

Subzero: "Forgive me for asking, but where are we going?"

Absolute: "In order to be strong, one must find his roots."

"His roots?"

"You are going to undergo a special training - this will guarantee you will become a stronger warrior. But in the process you might die."

They stopped flying and floated about in the air.

Absolute: "Here we are. The coldest part of Trachian."

"So this is it..."

"Here lives a species known as the ice dragons - they live underground and they come up to the surface when they are hungry. They are deadly carnivorous hunters

who silently follow their prey and kill them. Your mission is to survive one week in this place."

"One week? Sounds simple enough."

"Don't get overconfident, apprentice. Ice dragons tend to come in packs. They live underground so they can attack you at any moment's notice. There is a high chance you will not make it out alive."

"Tch, please. I am ready to give up my life for power. This challenge is nothing compared to what I have been through."

"Very well then, good luck, apprentice." With that said, Absolute Zero flew away.

Subzero landed on the snow and walked around. "Ice dragons, hmm? I wonder what they look like."

As he walked about, he saw a familiar place. A group of houses covered in snow. He knew this place...it was his home. The place where he was born. Subzero just stared at the place in awe. Is this what his master intended? To find one's roots?

Curious, he walked into one of the houses. It was completely empty. It hasn't been used in years. It's no surprise, since everyone was killed in that incident...

Sounds of machine guns. A massacre. The villagers were being shot down by the dozens. Blood splattered everywhere. The ground was filled with red snow. Thut-thut-thut-thut.

People ran for their lives as soldiers shot them. "AAAAAAH!" Thut-thut-thut.

Amongst one of them was Trace as a kid. His mother was holding his hand, and they were running like everyone else. But his mother was shot, followed by his father. In that one moment, Trace was alone in the world. He had no choice but to run away from the evil soldiers – men with masks over their faces.

Subzero almost had a seizure from that memory. It was one that certainly wanted to forget, it was a memory he suppressed for quite some time now. Nonetheless, this memory is important, as it defines how he became what he is today. Subzero, the warrior of ice.

He stepped out of the house a little dazed. Who exactly were those soldiers? And why did they shoot the villagers? Why?

Grumble. The ground was shaking violently, Subzero grew alert. What is happening. Can it be...those things? Smash! An ice dragon just popped out of the ground, rearing its ugly head.

"So there you are...you found me somehow." Subzero hissed.

The dragon dived its head towards Subzero, opening its mouth wide, showing its razor like teeth.

"Aaah!" Subzero rolled out of its way.

The dragon's long body made the ground crack, Subzero found himself surrounded by the dragon's body.

Subzero fired a beam at the creature's neck. Wham. It only annoyed the dragon, as it opened its mouth and fired. Chuen! Subzero jumped out of harm's way.

"It can shoot from its mouth?" he asked in surprise. But now is not the time to be surprised.

Subzero jumped to the air, the dragon chased him, he kicked it on the head. Whack! The dragon fell. Suddenly, two more dragon heads popped out from the ground behind Subzero. (There's more?)

Ice dragons tend to come in packs. So his training has begun. Surrounded by three hungry dragons, Subzero had to think quick, or he could lose his life. One of them went for him, he jumped away. Smash!

Subzero flew up to the air, the dragons fired their beams. Froom froom froom. They were extremely accurate, and the warrior had a hard time avoiding them. Froom.

"Take this!" Subzero shouted, firing a big ball of energy at the ground. The dragons quickly dived into the ground, hiding themselves completely. Kaboom!

They survived. Subzero can see the ripples on the ground, following their movements.

Now he's in a pinch. It's too dangerous to go down, and he can't stay afloat forever. Even if he flies away, the dragons can track him down using their superior smell. No wonder they are one of the most dangerous hunter species on this planet. They're probably the most adapted to survive on a terrain such as this.

Subzero flew and flew, but the creatures underground followed him. He couldn't lose them no matter how fast he went. Running out of energy, he landed on a mountain and hid in a cave. In front of the mountain was a gorge of water, and dragons hate water. They circled about under the ground and left. He was able to buy some time and rest. But he knows the creatures are smart. They will go enter the mountain from the back.

This cave looks familiar, he thought. Hauntingly familiar.

"Run, Trace, run!" yelled his mother.

The little boy just watched in curiosity and fear. The little boy in the snow jacket and hood.

The line of soldiers stepped forward and fired on the defenseless villagers. Thut-thut-thut. The horrible sound of the machine guns. The horrible screams and moans of those dying.

His mother was shot on the leg and chest. His father was shot three times on the chest. "Run...Trace..." his mother cried out. "Run..." and her voice disappeared into a whisper.

Survival was the only thing in the boy's mind. He ran for his life. Running. Running. He sees his own breath. The soldiers are right behind him, but he dares not look back.

The soldiers tracked his footprints. Luckily, there was a storm, so eventually his footprints became covered up. The soldiers have no choice but to split up to look for him. Their orders are clear – leave no survivors. Not even if it's a boy.

Trace was hiding in a cave and he's scared shitless. He just sat there and shivered from fear. They're going to kill me next. I know it. I'm next. They're going to kill me. I don't want to die. He cried silently.

But he wiped his tears away. I have to be strong. I have to be strong in order to survive. I can't die yet. I don't want to die. I want to live! Trace remembers that feeling very well. The need to survive is one of the strongest of human instincts. It can turn a logical man into a madman and the softest person into a cold-hearted murderer. The true murderers are the soldiers. They have guns, and he does not. They have numbers, he is only one. What can he do?

He still has one thing, one advantage that may allow him to live. The ice.

Three soldiers came upon the cave. They decided to go in and check it out. It was dark and damp. They had to turn on the flashlights on their helmets. Their machine guns had a little red laser that allowed them pinpoint the target. It was silent. Not a sound was heard except for their footsteps on the soft snow.

Trace was waiting on the upper platform. He pushed a big snowball down, and it made a loud thundering noise.

"What's that?!" they yelled.

One of them fired at the snowball, but that didn't do any good. Smash! It fell on one of them. The other fired his machine gun like crazy, shooting the other soldier.

"Where are you, boy?" shouted soldier B. "I know you are here. Come out wherever you are."

Trace waited from the above, holding an icicle firmly in his grip. It was felt cold to his skin, but he did not mind. Suddenly, he jumped down and landed on him, he plunged the icicle deep into the soldier's throat. He fell without having the chance to use his gun. Trace stabbed the man on the face several times. Blood splattered on the kid's face, as he smiled wickedly.

Once he killed B, Trace walked over to soldier A, under the snowball. "Wait...don't do it...please!"

Trace did not care. He was now a monster. He grabbed the icicle and stabbed the man to death.

Once the flashback was done, Subzero felt a little better about himself. So that's how he became the man he is today. In this world, you are alone. He lost his mother and father at a young age. He remembered that day very well. It was nature that saved him. The snow covering his tracks. The icicles from the ceiling. They became his weapons. He is one with the ice, and the ice is one with him.

Ever since that day, he was a dedicated warrior. He will no longer be weak. Because the weak perish, the strong live.

The ice dragons popped out and attacked. Subzero is ready. He dodged their freezing beams. Froom. Froom. One dragon opened its mouth to fire. Subzero fired a beam into its mouth, making it explode. Bam! Its head blew up. Blood squirted out of the headless dragon.

The second one charged at him, Subzero grabbed an icicle and stabbed it into its eye. It roared like hell. Subzero flew behind it and blasted it into oblivion.

The last dragon crawled at him at amazing speeds. Subzero fired at the ground, making a huge wall of snow come up. He and the dragon charged into each other. Slash! Slish! Slice!

It was over. The dragon squirted blood from its wounds and collapsed. The mission is over. He survived.

"I did it, master." he commented, and walked away. A certain shiny object on the snow caught his attention. He went to it and picked it up. Why, it's one of the helmets of the soldiers – the soldiers who caused the massacre to his village. Inscribed on it was certain symbol...of Centilia.

Outside the earth's orbit, the Centilian Armada gathered together. All the ships' captains were ready to take orders from their prince.

13: Subzero's Challenge. I Accept!

Contents

Nebula stepped out of his house and took bite out of an apple. Chomp. It tasted sweet and chewy. The taste of raw fruit is the best. He continued eating it hungrily, but he suddenly dropped it as he sensed a strong presence. Immediately he took flight.

Amanda came out of the house. "Father, what do you want for dinner? Father?"

Nebula waited in the forest for the person to come. To his surprise, it was his old "ally." The ice warrior named Trace, also known as...

"Subzero?"

"I'm glad you still remember me, Nebula Spade." said he, coming out from behind a tree. "So this is your home planet? It's a nice place to live in."

"Uhh...thanks..."

"You know why I came, right?"

"Of course. You want to challenge my brother to a duel? He's having some personal issues lately, so how's about you fight me instead?"

"Hmph. I don't fight second-rate fighters."

"What?" Neb muttered angrily.

"If you want to fight so badly, then you wait until after I defeat Tyson. For now, I will only fight him."

"Is that right?"

"Deliver the message for me. I'll be waiting for him in the Meridian Forest."

"Fine. I'll do it."

With that said, Subzero walked away. Between these two, there is no need for politeness or thanks. Definitely not.

After returning home from Centilia, Tyson was all stressed out about what happened. Faith didn't care about what happened back there, all that matters is that they are safe and sound right now. And for the past few days, Tyson listened to her words and became more relaxed. Though, the Phoenix is still in the back of his mind.

He's playing Frisbee with his son, Junior. They're throwing it back and forth and having a hell of a time. Faith smiled as she watched them play while she was doing the laundry.

Nebula showed up and pulled Tyson aside.

"What?" Tyson exclaimed in surprise. "Subzero is here?"

"He wants to invite you to a duel."

"I see." the hero replied as if he saw this coming. "So he hasn't changed at all. Fine, then. If he wants a duel, then he's got it."

Faith was a good distance away and she did not hear what they were saying. But she knows it's pretty important, judging by the way they are acting.

The very next day, Tyson was training for his upcoming match. He was holding dumbbells while punching the air. This exercise strengthens the biceps and wrist muscles. "Hyah! Hyah!" He was sweating in the summer heat. But he didn't mind, for he is used to these kinds of things. Training has always been a part of his program ever since he was little.

Faith watched him train with admiration. He'd do this for four hours at a time, but today his training is longer than usual. She got a compelling urge to ask him why he's training so hard. But then again, it's better not to ask. Maybe he will tell her of his own free will.

Subzero, standing on a tree, thought about his previous fight with Tyson.

"That's the difference between you and me, Tyson. You have feelings for others, which will ultimately be your weakness. I, on the other hand, do not have any family or friends. I live alone and fight alone."

"That's why you are cooped here in this frozen wasteland. So lonely and quiet, with nobody by your side."

"Yes. I believe a true warrior does not feel any emotions. He only looks out for himself."

"You are just as cold as your heart. You have a heart of ice."

"Exactly. That is why I am so powerful."

"Terrific." Tyson powered up and his body was flashing a golden color.

Subzero charged and punched, and Tyson blocked, then kicked. They hit violently and their energy was so strong that the snow around them was blown away. A small blizzard just started and snowflakes fell on their hair.

Time draws nearer and nearer, and the day of the match arrives. Tyson shows up, waiting for his opponent to show up. Nebula and Zelfire are here to watch. "He should be here any time now." Nebula said.

When he was close by, everyone sensed his presence. Subzero landed. Tyson took a good look at the warrior. He looked exactly the same as last time. Same face, same person, same purpose.

"Subzero...it's been a while."

"Don't get so familiar with me." replied the ice cold warrior. "Our alliance is over, remember? You are still my adversary. I come today to challenge you to a one on one fight to see who is the better fighter."

Tyson shrugged. "You haven't changed one bit."

"Neither have you."

"Let's cut to the chase, shall we?" said Tyson, getting into fighting stance.

"Agreed. And don't hold anything back."

"I won't."

Nebula: "They're about to begin."

Subzero powered up to the max, and he was surrounded by blue energy. Tyson turned second stage, then proceeded to fourth stage. Froom! His hair was glowing white and electric sparks appeared throughout his body.

Immediately, they both notice the improvement in each other. They're impressed and worried about the outcome of the fight.

Subzero charged forward, and they slammed on the fists. Wham! They soared to the air and hit randomly. Wham!

Neb: "Look at them go."

Zell: "They both are very strong."

Neb: "Tyson's got this one hands down."

"But I can't help but think Subzero came prepared. I wonder what living and training on Trachian is like..."

The hits continued. Wham. Wham.

Subzero: (He's fast! I've never seen this kind of power before. But I am prepared for anything!) He powered up, releasing energy and turning the ground into ice starting from his feet. The ground of ice slowly expanded. Now, even Tyson was standing on the ice.

(He's improved a lot since I last saw him. He's fully prepared for this. But then again, I have improved too...ten fold.)

Subzero charges forward and launches an all out combo, Tyson defends. Whack whack. Tyson blocks his punch, Subzero does a roundhouse kick, knocking him away. Wham.

Before Tyson has any time to breath, Subzero runs forward and hits him in the stomach. Thud.

Nebula: "They look evenly matched."

Zelfire: "At first glance it might seem that way. But when it comes to spirit power, Tyson has the advantage."

"So, this is him." said a third voice. Blazer came in between Nebula and Zelfire, who were surprised. "This is the one they call Subzero...the Ice Warrior."

Neb: "Blazer? You came to watch the fight?"

"Yes, I suppose."

Kaploosh. Subzero punches the ground, just as Tyson jumps away. They soared to the air and continued the violent hitting. Wham. Wham. Subzero punched forward, Tyson blurred, appeared behind him and kicked him on the back. Subzero landed on his feet and took a break of a few seconds. (His power is much different than last time.)

Absolute: "The most important thing during the fight is to remain calm. Never let emotions take over you. Fear, hatred, anger, these are going to impair your judgement."

Tyson gathered energy and fired the Super Sayan Beam. Chuen! The ice warrior jumped out of its path of death. He's lucky he was fast, since the beam completely destroyed a rock.

Absolute: "Tyson Spade is a powerful warrior...one of the top in the galaxy. He has reached a level of fighting known as the fourth stage. There are only two ways to beat him - disable him or outlast him. The first one seems more plausible."

His master's words ring true. (So, this is the fourth stage? A level that no other sayan has reached?) Subzero smiled. "Play time is over." He groaned as he gathered energy into his right hand, and it began to freeze. The ice crystals on his right arm slowly turned into the shape of a sword. He swings it for practice. Whoosh.

Tyson saw this move before, and he's extra cautious now. Subzero runs forward and slashes aggressively, while the hero dodges and retreats. Whoosh. Whoosh. There's no way for Tyson to attack without being slashed, so he has no choice but to step back. Whoosh. Whoosh.

Then they took it to the air. Subzero slashed while Tyson flew away from him.

Neb: "Look at them go."

Faith showed up. The others saw her, but they didn't say anything. She had the look of worry on her face, and who can blame her? She sincerely did not want her husband to fight Subzero. They are both good people, and she thinks the fight is meaningless.

Blazer: (So...this is the man I have to capture?)

The fight dredges on. This is a fight the ice warrior has been waiting for, and he's not about to mess it up. Tyson accepted the duel, since he can't turn down a challenge, just like his brother Nebula.

Subzero screams like hell as he tries to slash Tyson, who dodges. Whoosh, whoosh.

Subzero was sweating heavily, and Tyson noticed it. (Is he sick? No...wait...) Then he looked at the sun. (That must be it...he's not used to this kind of weather. He's been on Trachian all his life. He's used to the cold, but not the heat of the sun.)

Tyke: "Subzero. We should call off this match. You won't survive in this weather."

"Shut up! I don't need your advice."

They landed. Subzero charges immediately after he lands, Tyson grabs the ice cold sword between his fingers. Subzero pushes the sword closer to him, while he repels it. They struggled like this for two seconds, but then Tyson pulls the sword down, allowing him to punch Subzero's face. Kapow.

Tyson did a jump kick, Subzero slashed with his sword, and Tyson's kick broke the sword. Crack.

"Agh..." The ice warrior had to step back. "

"I got you!" Tyson charged and punched, Subzero grabbed his fist. And as they struggled, the sayan's hand froze from the fingers on. And the ice was spreading. As soon as he realizes, he withdraws. Subzero kicked him on the chin. Wham.

With his right arm frozen and pretty much disabled, he can't do much. Seeing this chance, Subzero took flight and fired a massive army of energy beams, Tyson ran away like hell. Kaboom-boom-boom. The entire place was covered with dust.

All the spectators gasped.

Neb: "Oh man..."

Tyson coughed from the dust. Trace popped out and hit him like a million times, while Tyson blocked desperately. Pak pak pak. Tyson jumped and somersaulted and landed a safe distance away. Both warriors panted for breath.

Tyke stared at his frozen hand. He can't move it or feel it. It's no good. Even if he is in his 4th stage, so what? How can he fight one handed? Being the most logical choice, he decided to...

"Alright...Subzero...you win. I surrender."

Everyone was shocked.

[Split screen - 4] [Faith, Neb, Zell, Blazer].

[Close-up - Trace]. "What did you say?"

"I give up." the sayan warrior repeated. "It's clear you have the advantage. With only one arm, I can only do so much. It was my own mistake that this happened. You did well."

Trace said not a word more. He was satisfied with the result, although it's not the way he imagined it to be. "You've made a wise choice. I've finally defeated you."

The two walked towards each other to shake hands.

Faith went to them. "Mr. Subzero."

"Oh Ms. Faith?"

"I still have not been able to properly thank you for helping us last time."

"Oh, don't worry about it. I was after Prince Mulder, regardless if you were involved."

"But still, thank you." Faith said, and bowed.

"Have you two been living happy together?" Trace asked.

"Yes." Tyson replied.

"Good. I'm glad. Your hand should unfreeze in about an hour. Don't move it or touch it until then."

"Thanks." replied Tyke.

Subzero began to walk away. Blazer suddenly jumped out of nowhere and pointed a gun at him. "Hold it right there!"

[Split screen - 3] [Nebula, Tyson, Subzero].

"Hmmm?" mumbled the ice warrior.

Tyson ran forward. "Blazer, what are you doing?"

"Stay back!" Blazer yelled. "I have a mission to capture him...Subzero the Ice Warrior."

Subzero turned around. "Mission? Who do you work for?"

"I am Agent Syrus of the Black Hand. And my mission is to bring you in...dead or alive."

"Ohhh? A member of the Black Hand? Are you prepared to back up your words?"

Tyson: "Blazer, you don't know what you're doing. Subzero is a skilled fighter...you don't want to mess with him. He just defeated me."

Blazer: "That's because you're incompetent. But I am different. Subzero has killed some of our agents in the past...they were frozen in ice. Frozen forever."

Subzero: "That is because they attacked me first. But I have no interest in fighting you. But if you insist, then I will not hold back."

Blazer grunted. Tyson was still scared. Nebula just watched in awe.

"Let me tell you a little secret. There is another reason why I came to earth. I am here to kill a certain man...named Prince Diamond."

Everyone was shocked.

"You're here for Diamond?" Syrus repeated.

"Correct. Allow me to kill him first. Then we will have a duel. If you defeat me, I'll gladly surrender myself to the Black Hand. I promise you."

"We're not here to negotiate."

Subzero: "Or would you rather die now?"

Blazer hesitated, and lowered his aim. Subzero flew away.

"Damn it..." Blazer yelled, and mentally cursed himself.

14: Second Strike.

Contents

The Centilian Armada lands somewhere in the valleys of middle America. As each ship landed, it made a loud mechanical noise.

Diamond and Dmitrus stepped out of the main battleship, to be greeted by lines of soldiers – all standing perfectly uniform. They were in a saluting gesture, and nobody moved a muscle. The two brothers walked by the soldiers proudly.

"Alright men. Today we Centilians are going to make history." Diamond said. "All throughout history we have been an underestimated power. Our race is strong and disciplined, and our planet is prosperous. This so called Land of Paradise is but one milestone in our conquest of the galaxy. The earthlings think they are better than us. But we will show them!"

The soldiers raised their arms to the air and screamed.

The general came into the president's office in a rush. "Sir...sources have confirmed that the Centilian army is about to make their move. What are your orders?"

President Eisenhower, the man with the white beard and thick eyebrows, thought about it carefully. "We've already tried negotiating with Prince Diamond, but he was unreasonable. We have no choice then. If they attack us, we will have to fight them. Send the EMF forces to the location. Evacuate all citizens in the cities nearby."

"Yes sir." said the general, saluting.

Froom. Blazer flew to the landing site and hid in the mountains. He sees soldiers walking by in a hurry.

It's been a week since his fight with Subzero, and Tyson felt like it happened yesterday. It was a fight to remember, even though he surrendered. But he can't help but think about Subzero's last words before he left: *There is another reason why I came to earth. I am here to kill a certain man...named Prince Diamond.* The question in his mind is why? What does Subzero have against Diamond?

His thoughts shattered when his sixth sense is tingling like crazy. A very strong ki is within the perimeter. Aries? It can't be...what is he doing on earth? There is no

doubt about it, it's the same ki and same killing aura. Why here? Why now? Is it because of the Centilian invasion? Without further ado, he flew towards the energy signal.

The alarm ran in the city. It was mass chaos – there's people running and pushing each other. The highways and roads were jammed with cars. All the tolls and intersections were patrolled by soldiers. The evacuation order was enforced immediately after the president issued it.

Macintosh and Lisa, however, do not plan on going anywhere. They stood on the rooftop of MC Technologies and stared at the crowd below.

"This is it...it's starting for real."

The wind blew against Lisa's hair. "Earth has fought many wars in its past...but we've never fought against another planet, right? I wonder what is going to happen."

"Don't turn your uncertainty into fear, Lisa. We have to believe in our race."

Ring ring. Faith picked up the phone. "Hello? Erika? What's up? ... What? An evacuation?"

"Yes." Erika replied on the other end. "It's not safe here anymore. Even though you are not in the city, you should leave. Don't forget that the Centilians know where you live. This is for Junior and Tina's safety."

"Yes, I know." Faith replied. She hung up and ran upstairs to Junior's room.

"Junior?"

"What is it, mother?"

"We have to go. Now. We're taking Tina too."

Five minutes later, they flew out of the house. They didn't even bother taking any belongings with them. Material possessions can always be replaced, but people cannot. Faith carried Tina while flying. The baby was sound asleep. Hopefully the wind won't be too much for the little child. At times like these, having a baby can be a burden. But it's her daughter, her little angel, her flesh and blood.

As planned, they meet up with Erika and Amanda.

Faith: "Erika, what is happening?"

"I'm not so sure myself. I just got a call from Macintosh saying that all the cities within a twenty mile radius are being evacuated. They predict that the Centilians might attack one of these places."

"It's all because of that man..."

Junior: "Amanda...are you scared?"

"Well, a little." she answered. "But there is nothing to worry about. At times like these, our sixth sense will protect us."

He nodded. Her confidence made him feel better.

Faith and Erika sensed two forces approaching – it's none other than Rasha and Melinda.

Erika: "It's them."

Faith: "Junior, take Tina with you. Go with Amanda and get as far away as possible."

Junior: "But..."

Faith: "No buts."

Amanda: "I understand, Mrs. Spade."

Faith gave Tina to Junior. "Take care of your sister."

"I will." Junior replied. He can handle it. And off they went. Now, only the adults remained.

Rasha and Melinda landed. "Well well, if it isn't the weaklings." taunted Melinda. "Unfortunately, this is where the line ends for you."

Erika: "Put a sock in it."

Faith and Rasha took quick glances at each other. They did not want to fight, but no one else knows.

Everyone blurred and attacked. Melinda chose Faith as her target and attacked ruthlessly. "You're that earth woman..." She fired beams, Faith dodged in the air. "What's the big deal about you anyway? I am way better than you!" Kaboom.

Faith landed. "What non-sense do you speak?"

Melinda: "It's all because of you...Diamond is ignoring me. Because of you..." She powered up, and her gem glowed from green to red.

Faith got into a defensive stance. She knows she has to be careful, knowing Melinda is crazy.

Blazer was still in the same spot as before, spying on the enemies' activities.

Agent Syrus contacted his superior through his headphone.

"You are not to interfere with the Centilians." said Commander Jamell.

"But sir-"

"This is an order. We the Black Hand have a certain purpose. Our purpose is not war. The Centilians are the earth's problem now. You are not to interfere or be involved with them in any way, do you understand, Agent Syrus?"

"Yes sir..."

And that was his orders. Yet he's disobeying them. How can he just stand by and let this happen. Earth is his temporary home after all. It's the planet he's been assigned to. Screw his superior's orders. It's time to do what's right.

Kapow! A soldier just got punched. Blazer attacked them head on. Some of them fired their machine guns. Thut-thut-thut. Blazer formed a shield and it protected him from the bullets. He charged into them and hit them hard. Wham!

Diamond: "Ohhh...it seems like we have a nuisance today."

Syrus and the Centilian princes stared at each other. "You are Prince Diamond? You're the sole cause of all this trouble."

"No one talks to me this way, earthling."

"I'm not an earthling. I am a sayan, a native of planet Arlia."

"A sayan? Just like Tyson...then I won't show you any mercy. Watch brother, I will show you how victory is attained."

Dmitrus was worried as usual. But he stepped aside to observe the fight.

"You've gone too far, Diamond. This is your punishment!" Flash! Blazer turned super sayan, and this sight irritated Derus even more. It reminded him of another super sayan - that blasted Tyson Spade.

Diamond brushed his hair in confidence. "You'll regret ever coming across me, sayan!" They ran into each other and exchanged moves. Whack! Kapow!

Blazer has his quick instincts and agile movement, but Diamond has raw power and solid defense. Kapow! Diamond just blocked Blazer's punch, and he counter-punched him in the chin. Blazer landed in a crouch, and wiped the blood off his mouth. He's in disbelief that he's losing to a blue-class Centilian.

Things are heating up elsewhere. Macintosh, Nebula, and Lisa are attacking a base and beating up soldiers. Macintosh used his signature shockwave, Nebula slashed them with his sword, and Lisa used telekinesis to throw things at them. They make a great team.

Arkady: "What? Intruders outside? It's probably them. Send more troops outside!"

"Yes commander!" replied the henchmen.

Slash! Nebula just killed another soldier. They're just outside the base. Suddenly, the wall cracked apart as Vertigo's beam shot through, they jumped out of its deadly path. Vertigo jumped out all of a sudden and Nebula dodged. They soared to the air and hit like crazy.

Mac and Lisa into the hole, and not surprisingly, there are more soldiers inside. They fight and fight and got separated. They didn't even realize it as they are focused on the enemy.

Kabam. Arkady winced from the dust. Lisa came into the room, two soldiers ran at her, she powered up and knocked them away without even lifting a finger.

A bright and deadly beam from above descends; Erika dodges it just in time, leaving a hole on the ground. Rasha descends from the air and gives her enemy an intimidating look. Erika knows this warrior is better than her, but she has to give a try.

"I still have to pay you back for what you did to me back on Centilia." said Erika.

"You lost on earth, and you lost on our territory. What makes you think you can win this time?"

Erika fired a purple beam, Rasha dodged it. Froom. It blew up some trees.

Meanwhile, not far away...

"Ha ha ha!" Melinda yelled as she fired beams recklessly. "Die! Die!"

Faith dodged. Kabam. Another one coming, she jumped. Kabam.

"Stop running, you little bug!" She gathered energy with both hands and fired a big one. Kabam!

Out of the smoke a rose flew out, Melinda avoided it. Whoosh.

"You're fighting me with plants?"

"Anything can be a weapon, if you use it correctly."

"Don't talk smart with me, earth woman!"

"Do you have something against me?" Faith asked.

"As a matter of fact, I do. I hate earthlings! Especially your type!"

Faith gathered energy into her finger tips. "Your rudeness arrogance is really getting to me."

"Bite me!"

Faith fired the Energy Shot, Melinda blocked. Zap.

Tyson was still chasing Aries's signal. The city was mostly empty now...there's not even a ghost of a shadow. He landed on the floor. There wasn't a sound, only the deadly silence of the wind. The energy signal grows stronger each step he takes. But the enemy's location is still unknown. He's walking slowly, looking left and right, front and back, to make sure he isn't ambushed.

And there he is - coming out from the smoke - the warrior called Aries. Standing in front of his very eyes. First they met on Centilia, and now they meet again on earth. Probably for the last time. The two warriors have a lot to say to each other, but they kept it all to themselves. They'll speak with their fists.

At a certain base in America, it was hectic once they received the president's orders. Soldiers ran to their posts. On the ground, mobile suits in launchers were opened from the ground. Massive numbers of suits were already flying in the air. Those in the ground launched when instructed to. The commander watched the whole scene from the window. Something this big hasn't happened in a long while. What will happen to the earth?

The battle continues in the valley. Blazer was losing to Diamond, and he's getting frustrated. Dmitrus was still watching. He wanted to help but there is nothing he can do right now. Blazer charged energy into his fist and charged angrily. Diamond grabbed it and punched Blazer, knocking him into a rock. Smash.

"What are you doing on earth?" Tyson asked his adversary.

"You came to Centilia for a visit last time, so why can't I come to your planet for a visit?"

"You didn't come here for a visit. What is your real purpose?"

"I just wanted to see you, that's all." Aries replied. "I still have a score to settle with you."

Tyson powered up, going fourth stage. Aries screamed and powered up like hell. The gem on his head turned from green to blue. The entire street shuddered, Tyson can barely stand still. The buildings were falling apart, crumbling from the excess energy. Crash!

Tyson jumped to the air, looking for his enemy. But he can't see a thing with all the dust around. Suddenly, Aries appeared out of nowhere and kicked him hard. Whack! The hero was caught by surprise.

After Blazer was embedded into the boulder, Diamond thinking he has won, got cocky and turned around to face his brother. "You see? It wasn't hard at all." But then Diamond's eyeballs turned to the side when Blazer jumped out, screaming like a madman.

"Yaaaaaah!" Blazer punched him hard. Kapow!

Diamond blocked his fist just in time. "What do you hope to accomplish, sayan?" Thud. He jabbed his fist into Blazer's stomach, and the pain was paralyzing. While he's down, Diamond kicked him. Whack!

Blazer rolled on the floor a few times. It took him a few seconds just to stand up. " *Huff huff* It's not over yet. *huff* "

At this point, the prince shrugged. "Why do you even bother fighting? Can't you see you are outmatched and outclassed?"

"Outclassed? What does someone like you know about class...when all you care about is power?"

"Power is everything, Blazer. The more power you have, the more land you control. The more land you control, the more people you control. By taking over the earth, I will control its entire people. They will recognize a new ruler, one that will be better than all of the previous ones combined."

"You think it will be that easy?"

"Ha ha ha ha!" the prince laughed. "The earth is weak. It is made up of hundreds of individual nations. Each nation has their own language and their own military force. Human beings are foolish creatures to be fighting against one another. They're begging for a leader to unify them."

"That leader will not be you!" Blazer fired a one-handed beam.

Diamond blocked effortlessly. Dmitrus covered his eyes. Once the beam was done, Diamond used his blocking hand to fire a thick, blue beam. Blazer jumped up, but the beam followed him on a curved path and hit him dead on. Frooom.

"Aaaaaah!" Everything was flashing red and white. Blazer's smoking body fell to the ground.

"It's too bad, really." Diamond commented. "He had potential. But the second he ran into me, he did not stand a chance."

The unconscious warrior was starting to have visions.

Agent Syrus contacted his superior through his headphone.

"You are not to interfere with the Centilians." said Commander Jamell.

"But sir-"

"This is an order. We the Black Hand have a certain purpose. Our purpose is not war. The Centilians are the earth's problem now. You are not to interfere or be involved with them in any way, do you understand, Agent Syrus?"

"Yes sir..."

The next memory...the first time he met Tyson.

Burten jumps and kicks, and suddenly someone else came and kicked him away. Whack.

The stranger in the ragged cloth landed in front of Tyke.

Tyke: "What? Who are you?"

Burten: "Ugh. Another one?" He threw an energy ball, the stranger countered with another ball. Bam! It exploded mid-way between them.

At this point, Burten escaped, leaving just the two of them.

Tyson: "Just who are you?"

The stranger turned around. "Tyson Spade...you did not fight with your full power. Why?"

"What? You know me?"

"Why are you holding back?"

"Hey, I don't know who you are, but I know how to fight." Tyke replied, a little angry.

"Hmph. You are not as strong as they say you are. Just don't let your guard down." With that said, the stranger jumped away.

Tyson: "Hey wait!" He never got his name. Or his face. Nothing. Who the hell was that?

Blazer won't admit it to anyone but himself, but he's learned a lot since he came to earth. To him, at first it was just a regular mission. But he became richer for the experience.

Blazer and Tyson had one helluva fight with the monster known as Burten. But with their super sayan powers and super teamwork, they achieved victory. "See ya. And we **do** make a great team. I'll look forward to settling the score with you." Blazer waved goodbye, and he flew away. But how can he settle the score when Tyson has the fourth stage, while he has only the second stage? There is a big gap between their strengths.

But then, there's Subzero...

"Stay back!" Blazer yelled. "I have a mission to capture him...Subzero the Ice Warrior."

Subzero turned around. "Mission? Who do you work for?"

"I am Agent Syrus of the Black Hand. And my mission is to bring you in...dead or alive."

"Ohhh? A member of the Black Hand? Are you prepared to back up your words?"

No one else knows, but later on, Blazer had a one on one fight with Subzero. Something strange happened during the fight. He felt strange all over his body, especially in his head. And right now, he's having the same feeling.

This feeling...

Flash! Blazer stood up, to the prince's surprise. "Where are you going? This is not over yet."

Diamond turned around. Blazer's expression has completely changed. His eyes were glowing, and his hair was glowing a vibrant white color. Vertical beams of light surrounded his body. Now he's the same as Tyson...he has reached the fourth stage. This feeling...Blazer looked at his own hands. For him it is a moment of personal triumph and glory. He's worked hard and trained all his life, it was all worth it. Every bit of it.

Now the tyrant prince was getting worried. (This power...it's the same as him...) But fear makes him angry.

Syrus powered up, releasing golden energy. Frooom. (I did it...and it's all because of you.)

Blazer was severely injured, his clothes were messy and torn.

"Haven't you had enough?" said Subzero.

"I won't lose!" Blazer yelled and powered up, charging forward. Chuueen.

The rest of that event was somewhat blurry, but he remembered transforming into the fourth stage for the first time. Ever since then, he's been trying to do it again. And now, it is Diamond who pushed him to the limits to do it again.

"I did it..." said the hero.

"This...this doesn't mean anything!" Diamond said nervously.

"Are you worried now?"

"Grr..."

"This is known as the fourth stage. You were winning a few moments ago, but now, you lost your advantage." Blazer said.

"What..."

"You should give up your conquest of earth...it is meaningless. You are only doing it because of your arrogance and your pride. This war will take away many lives. How can you be the leader of your people when all you do is lead them to their destruction?"

"Shut up!" the prince shouted. "Stop spouting non-sense." He charged forward and punched, Blazer powered up without even moving a muscle. The energy alone repelled him, and Diamond jumped back to a safer distance.

"Our difference in power is clear. The wisest thing to do right now is to surrender and leave!"

"I take orders from nobody, you hear me, sayan? Nobody!" Diamond powered up angrily and punched. Blazer blurred and appeared three paces away. Diamond continued his relentless assault, while Blazer dodged effortlessly.

Diamond let out a fury of punches, Blazer blocked and jabbed Diamond in the stomach. His fist was full of energy, and it pushed Diamond away. Bam. He was smashed against a rock.

The prince stood up. He was in despair, but he was not about to give up. "No one does this to me...and lives...for I am Prince Diamond, ruler of Centilia. No one makes me bleed...you are going to get it."

"Hmph. It is because of your position that you let your ego get the better of you. Maybe you need a beating in order to wake up."

"Grrr..."

"Power is the most important thing, as you say. And right now, it is the very thing that you lack, Centilian trash."

"Shut up!!" Diamond leaped forward with energy in his fists. Blazer stepped back and kicked him in the stomach. Thud!

While he's down, Blazer fired a beam at him, pushing him against the ground. Scrrrrrh. Diamond's clothes were messed up, and he had scratches and bruises all over. He groaned in pain while on the floor.

"Call off the invasion now." Syrus demanded.

"No...screw you..."

Blazer sighed. "You still do not learn. Maybe this world is not the place for you..."

Suddenly, Dmitrus got in between them, spreading his arms. "No! I won't let you."

Diamond and Blazer were shocked.

[B] Contents

Slam! A soldier was hit against the wall. Lisa used telekinesis to prevent him from moving, and he struggled. Then she mentally lifted a garbage can and threw it at him. Wham.

Arkady fired his pistol twice. Bang bang. Lisa made a shield to stop the bullets. Two soldiers in front of Arkady ran at her, she ran at them and powered up, knocking them aside. Arkady flew up to his mobile suit to the cockpit, and Lisa fired a beam, making the cockpit blow up. Kaboom.

"You're not getting in that thing."

"You should out of places like these, little missy." He fired a shockwave, Lisa jumped up and punched, he blocked. Thud. They hit some more and landed on the floor.

Lisa ran forward and punched, Arkady stopped her punch and smacked her on the face, knocking her down. She was lying sideways unconscious. Arkady, thinking he has won, walked over to her and turned her over. Suddenly, she opened her eyes and used her energy to push him away. She stood up, electrified and charged up.

Arkady had no choice but to use dark energy, he gathered a bunch of them into his arms, and fired a shockwave. Lisa took the hit, thinking she can block it, but it consumed her and she was pushed off the ramp, and fell down.

Macintosh saw her falling and immediately ran to the spot where she'd land and caught her. "Lisa! Lisa!" He put her down. "Lisa? Speak to me..."

"I'm sorry..." she moaned weakly. "All I wanted to do was help, but in the end *kuff* I was useless."

Macintosh stood up and faced his old friend and enemy. "You've done it now...I'll never forgive you."

Carlos: "Hmmm? Where have I heard those words before?"

Mac fired a beam at the ramp, Carlos jumped off and landed on floor level. Macintosh fired a beam at him, pushing him out of the building. Crash.

Nebula floated in the air, and waited for his enemy to come. A beam went at him, he dodged. Vertigo shot a beam from his eye and chased him. Zap. Zap. They landed on a rooftop. No more messing around, it's time to get to business. Nebula ran forward to punch, Vertigo uses the psychic wave. Nebula's fist almost reached him, and Vertigo blocked it. They grabbed each other and struggled. With the waves, Nebula was

dizzy as hell, and everything's spinning, but that didn't matter, he had a hold on his enemy. They struggled and grunted like that for a while, and it's a contest of sheer will. The Rainbow Crystal glowed, giving him an extra boost, and Nebula was able to push him away. Bam!

"You die!" Vertigo opened his palm and fired a deadly beam, Neb jumped up. Kabam.

Vertigo flew up. Neb drew his sword and swings it. He hit Vertigo's cape and cut it in half. Suddenly, Vertigo appeared from above and kicked him. Whack. It was a trick, Vertigo removed his cape and flew higher, just so Nebula can take the bait.

While he's falling, Vertigo flew after him, hoping to make another hit. Suddenly, Nebula blurred, to his surprise.

"What?"

Neb appeared from above and attacked. Slice! Slash! Vertigo's eye broke, and his body squirted blood from his wound. He fell on the rooftop and slid off, falling into the ground. Crash.

Vertigo's energy signal vanished. Nebula won.

Wham! Two shadows hit each other in the air. Erika landed in a crouching position, and she felt pain on her shoulder and grabbed her wound. "Ugh..."

Rasha landed. "It's over for you, earthling."

That comment made Erika smile. "I'm not even an earthling!" She ran forward and attacked, just to get blasted away.

"You should stay still. That way it will be less painful."

Erika fired the Stun Ray. Rasha jumped up, but it hit her left leg. Zap! Erika jumped up to intercept. Rasha opened her palm and fired a blast. Kabam! Erika was knocked out. She fell on the ground. Kaploosh.

Rasha can't believe that her leg was paralyzed from the knee down.

"Ugh...ahh..." (She had such an ability?)

Faith and Melinda exchanged some beams. "You earth woman, you should just die!" Melinda shouted.

"I don't know what grudge you have against us, but this fight is meaningless. Just stop!"

"Why should I listen to you?!" She fired a beam, Faith jumped away from its path. "You're nothing compared to me! You're just a peasant. I'm a member of the Centilian royal family. I control a whole planet."

"A peasant? So what if I am? Does that make you more important than me?"

"You be quiet!" Melinda shouted while punching, Faith ducked. Whoosh. Faith made a karate chop, Melinda blocked and kicked her away. Thud!

Faith was on her hands and knees. Melinda was about to make her move and Rasha showed up. "Melinda, that's enough. We don't need to kill her."

"Just stay out of the way, Rasha. I'm not satisfied until I kill every single earthling. Starting with her." She gathered energy into her hand.

Rasha grabbed her hand. "I said enough. She's no longer a threat to us."

"Let go, you idiot! This is our mission."

"Our mission is to help Prince Diamond with the war. We are done here."

Faith watched in curiosity as these two argued.

Melinda: "Why are you helping her?"

"I am not!"

"Yes you are. Ohh, I get it. You are going to betray us...just like what your good for nothing boyfriend did."

That was another cheap shot, and this ticked Rasha off. Bringing up Aries and that incident, her big mouth has gone too far. "I told you not to bring that up again! It had nothing to do with me."

Melinda: "Ohhh, is that right? You're the one who dated Aries. Maybe you two planned in secrecy to betray your planet?"

Rasha: "I've had enough of your accusations. It was your fault to begin with – if you did not report that incident to the prince."

Melinda: "I see now. You still hate me for that. You've shown your true colors. I never liked you anyway." She attacked Rasha, who had trouble dodging, due to her paralyzed leg. Whoosh, whoosh.

"Ugh...stop this at once!"

Melinda did a karate chop, Rasha blocked it with her arm. Whack!

The tension between these two has finally boiled over. From the very beginning, Rasha hated Melinda for being a bitch. She's always on Diamond's side because she's pretty much infatuated with him. It's all because of that incident...when Commander Aries was banned from the palace forever.

Whack! Rasha fell on her behind after being kicked. Melinda laughed. "Ha ha ha ha! So, you're injured from that fight with the other earth woman. I can't believe how useless you've become. You're no longer useful to the royal family, so why don't you disappear?"

Whoosh! A rose went in between them. "Not so fast." Faith said.

Rasha was pleasantly surprised. Faith is actually helping her, despite the fact they are enemies. "Why are you helping me?"

"Because you helped me."

"I wasn't helping you-"

"In any case, I can no longer sit back and watch."

Melinda a smirk on her face. "Fine, you die first."

Pow! Dmitrus got hit in the face. But he stood back up nonetheless. Diamond couldn't do anything, as he was lying on the ground. "Brother...don't do this. Run away!"

"No! I can't just leave you here." Dmitrus said, turning around to face his fallen brother. "You taught me to never surrender or run away."

Diamond was extremely surprised. He can't believe he has such a good brother, one who's willing to fight for him until the end. Never in his life has he realized this. He never treated Dmitrus like a brother, but more like a subordinate. But Dmitrus always thought of him as brother. Bound by blood and love. It's unfortunate he realizes it so late.

Blazer couldn't care less. "Listen Prince Dmitrus, you should step out of the way if you do not want to get hurt."

"No! I won't let you hurt him. I cannot just stand and watch. Sure, he has done some bad things, but he's my brother!"

"I am not going to warn you again." Blazer said in a cold, calculated voice. "You should take your brother's advice and run away. You are too young to be in the battlefield. You're only a red-class Centilian. In other words, an amateur. Even Diamond, who is a blue-class Centilian lost to me. What makes you think you can make a difference?"

"Too young? Amateur?" Dmitrus charged forward with all his might and punched. Kapow! Blazer stuttered back a few steps, with his head tilted to the side. "I did it!" Dmitrus said happily.

"What are you so happy about?" Blazer said in that same cold, emotionless voice. His face was bruised, but he showed no signs of pain.

Dmitrus was worried now.

"That one was a freebie. You should leave now before you get killed."

It looks like Blazer is serious. Dmitrus is in a tough spot now. It's either fight or escape, and escaping is not on his to do list.

16: The Secret Of The Royal Family. Color Of The Crest.

Contents

The fights continue as Faith and Melinda go heads up. They leaped forward and Faith threw a rose, Melinda ducked and punched, Faith blocked. Melinda followed up with a kick to her side, and Faith screamed in pain. "Ugh!"

Melinda continued her ruthless attack, while Faith blocked and dodged, minimizing the damage done. Whack. Kapow. Melinda did a kick, Faith jumped over it and landed a few feet away.

Rasha wanted to help, but in order to move, she had to drag her left leg. It was pain to even walk one step. Flying is out of the question, as one needs to put energy into one's feet in order to ascend. She's still wondering why Faith, her enemy is helping her.

Melinda and Faith leaped to the air, Faith used the vine whip and caught Melinda's foot. Before she realized it, Faith pulled the vine over a tree branch, and she landed, pulling Melinda up in the air, hanging upside down like a piñata. Melinda formed a little ball in her hands and threw it at the vine. Twap! It snapped and she fell on her rear end. "Ow..."

Suddenly, Faith fired the Energy Shot. Bang bang. Melinda blocked with her shield, but the energy was concentrated enough to pierce it. Bang! Melinda's shoulder was hit, and she screamed. She jumped away, while the shots hit the ground. Bam. Another shot hit her leg and blood squirted out.

"Aaah!" The Centilian landed and covered her wounds. "Why you..."

Faith approached. "Were you saying something about earth women being weak?"

"How...dare...you."

Faith charged and gave her a well-deserved punch to the cheek. Pow.

The wind blew hard in the empty valley. Only two warriors remain standing, while Diamond was on the ground. "No...Dmitrus...don't do it..."

"There is no meaning in this fight. You have no chance of winning." said Syrus. He's still charged up, electric vibes were throughout his body, and his hair glowed a white color.

"Even if so, I won't let you hurt my brother. Will you let us go if he promises to stop the war?"

"Helping him ask for mercy? My answer is...no."

Dmitrus grunted.

"Even if he stops now, Diamond will not learn his lesson. He will try something else later on, so I will end this right here and right now."

"Then you leave me no choice." Dmitrus ran and punched like crazy, while Blazer dodged while stepping back.

Dmitrus drew his fist back to punch, Blazer pushed his arm aside, and jabbed him in the stomach, and then jumped back. Dmitrus moaned in pain while he fell on his knees. "Ugh..." But still, he found the strength to stand up.

Blazer was not impressed.

Meanwhile,

Kaboom! Tyson jumped away from an explosion. He flew for his life, as two beams chased him dead on. Whoosh. One of them hit a nearby building. Bam. The other one missed. Aries was chasing him and he fired a big beam of spiritual energy. It took the shape of a beast and it screamed as it hurtled towards the hero. Tyson looked back and gasped. The energy blasted him and he fell to the ground.

Aries landed and walked towards the fallen hero. "Is this the best you can do?"

Suddenly, Tyson woke up and punched him to the air. Kaching! Aries landed and wiped his mouth. "Not bad, but you're still not as strong as last time."

"Last time?"

"You remember what happened, don't you? How did you summon that legendary power?"

"I don't know what you're talking about."

"Don't play stupid! You clearly know what happened." Aries charged forward, Tyson blocked his incoming attack. Wham.

Dmitrus continued his assault, punching left and right. Syrus dodged calmly and waited for his opportunity. Dmitrus punched, Syrus ducked and uppercut him on the chin. While airborne, Blazer jumped up to him and hit him so fast it couldn't be seen. Thud-thud-thud-thud. Then he appeared behind Dmitrus and kicked on the back.

Doosh. He fell.

"You should stay down. If this continues, you will die."

Dmitrus coughed blood and moaned.

"Why are you protecting this worthless man? Diamond is a type of leader who will bring your race to ruin."

Dmitrus got up, and he blocked as Syrus rammed him with his fist. He fell and skidded the ground.

"I just don't understand you people."

Suddenly, Derus grabbed Blazer's leg. "No, don't do it! Please. He's just a teenager, he doesn't understand a thing." He was still moved by what Dmitrus said before. Even though he has fallen, this is the last thing he can do.

"A man like Prince Diamond...begging for mercy? I never thought I saw this day coming. But it serves you right, after all that you have done. It is too late to ask for mercy."

"No, wait!"

Blazer took him off and kicked him and he rolled on the ground.

Syrus went to Dmitrus: "I would consider sparing you, but apparently you are still a threat to me. You are an enemy nonetheless, and thus must be eliminated." He did a high kick, hitting Dmitrus on the neck. WH-ACK! It was a critical hit. For Derus, it all happened in slow motion. Blazer's hard kick on him. Dmitrus was falling slowly, as he coughed saliva. And he fell on the ground, making a hard thud.

Dmitrus's eyeballs were now blank and lifeless. He was barely moving, as his nerves are paralyzed. He was on the brink of death.

"NOOO!" Derus screamed. For the first time in years, he shed tears. Tears of sorrow and regret...and anger. He was in shock as he saw his brother's body. Dmitrus

is dying and it's because of him...because of his own greed and selfishness. "No! No! What have you done?"

"Don't worry, for you will join him soon."

Energy overtook Derus's body and he found the strength to stand up. His power is jumping rapidly as his eyes glowed. Blazer, feeling the presence, turns around in shock.

[Close-up – Blazer].

Diamond powered up like never before. He felt an insurmountable energy within him dying to be released. It's as if it's been inside of him all his life, waiting for the right moment to come out. The gem on his head turned from blue to gold. Flash! He's surrounded by gold energy. Blazer covered his eyes from the light.

"Yaaaahhhhhhhhh! Aahhhhhhhhhhh!"

While fighting, Melinda sensed this energy, and it caught her off guard. Faith, with this chance, ran forward and punched her opponent senseless.

Aries felt it too. "No...it can't be...has Diamond reached **that** level so quickly? Is he a gold class warrior?"

"What are you talking about?" Tyke asked.

"You feel it too, don't you?"

"So what about it? What does it have to do with us?"

"It has everything to do with us! I need you to activate your hidden powers right now. There is no time to fuck around!" He charged and attacked, while Tyson defended.

Once done with the power up, Derus felt like a new man. A man reborn.

Blazer just watched in shock, not sure what is happening. (His gem turned gold just now. Does this mean he has reached the next stage of power?)

Diamond stared at his own hands in disbelief. He was feeling the same thing Blazer felt just moments ago. "This power...can it be..." He took out a mirror from his pocket to look at himself, and he saw the proof – the golden gem. "This color...this mark...I am finally a gold class warrior! The ultimate Centilian warrior! I have finally accomplished it! AHAHAHAHA!" He smashed the mirror on the ground and continued laughing with a hand over his face. "AHAHAHAH!"

Blazer just stared in awe as he laughed like a madman.

"I finally did it. Now I no longer have to be afraid of anyone. No one! Prince Diamond bows down to no one! For I am a gold class warrior."

"Gold class?"

"It's not something you would know, sayan. Just like you have different stages, we Centilians have our own stages. Every fighter starts out as a green class. As our strength increases the gem changes color. From green to red, then red to blue. And blue to light blue. But no one in my family has reached beyond the blue class...for several generations. Gold class is the last and best class of fighters. Only one a million actually reach this level of power. It is the equivalent of a God-warrior."

"God?" Syrus repeated. "There is no such thing as God."

"Wrong, I **am** God! And you will obey me." Choom! In an instant, Derus vanished. Blazer's quick instincts told him to jump up, and he did. Derus flew after him and fired beams. One of them almost touched him, it was just inches from his nose. Derus kept on firing. Bam. Bam. Blazer had to counter one of them, but the blue overpowered him and hit him. Zzzzzzt.

While falling, Derus gave Blazer an elbow on the stomach, making him fall faster. Wham! He fell into a boulder.

"Yes..." Derus exclaimed proudly, "A gold class Centilia is stronger than a fourth stage sayan. Because our race is superior to begin with."

The rock shattered into pieces. Syrus powered up.

[Close-up - Derus].

Syrus charged forward and punched. A normal fighter would've been pummeled, but Diamond was able to block it with equal force. Bam!

"The tables have turned, sayan." he said as they struggled. Derus overpowered him and pushed him away.

"Aaagh!"

Melinda was lying there unconscious. Rasha limped towards Faith. "Ms. Faith, it seems I have underestimated you. It took skill to defeat someone like Melinda."

Faith looked at Rasha's leg. "You have been hit by Erika's Stun Ray. The effects should wear off in about an hour."

"Your friend is Erika? She is still alive. I held back from taking her life."

"So it's true then? Centilians do have consciences."

Rasha: "I'm surprised you are even talking to me and not trying to kill me. What makes you able to trust the enemy?"

"I only trust good people, Ms. Rasha. And I have this gift...to be able to see people's true nature. Call it intuition, but I use this everyday of my life. And I can see within your eyes...you're not a bad person."

"Huh?" Rasha muttered in surprise.

"I can tell...you don't like following Prince Diamond's orders. You do what you are told because you think it is the right thing to do. You are afraid to do otherwise, being afraid of the consequences."

Surprisingly, Faith is right. And Rasha knows it's futile to deny it.

Faith: "It's rather unfortunate...that the only world you know about is your home, Centilia. If you lived on earth like I have, you'd probably live the life I live."

Blazer panted for breath. He's in a bind now. (His power is at least double from his regular state. Is there no way to defeat him?) Blazer fired a bunch of beams, Diamond ran through them, blocking them with his arms. Bam. Bam. Kapow! Diamond punched him in the face, making him airborne. (Ugh! Am I going to lose?)

Derus looked at his brother. (I've reached this level...and it's all because of you. Don't worry, I will get you medical help as soon as I can, brother.)

Blazer had to catch his breath. This fight is tiring him out.

"Now, let us end this, shall we?" Diamond said, approaching.

"Do you always help your enemies?" Rasha asked.

"Not always. Only the ones I deem trustworthy."

"You are too trusting, Faith. I am afraid that your attitude does not carry long on my planet."

"You still have not answered my question from last time..."

Rasha entered the room and she saw Faith staring out the window. She was so sad and depressed. "Excuse me?"

"What do you want?" Faith said rudely.

"I am apologizing for how Lord Diamond is treating you. Why did you come here in the first place? You should've just stayed on earth!"

"We came here stop the war! Why do you take orders from a man like him anyways?"

Rasha remembered. "That question..."

"Why do you do what you do? Do you realize that war is not beneficial to either of our worlds? Millions, even billions of people will die! Diamond just decided this on a whim. Does he realize the consequences?"

Rasha was speechless.

"Even if he does take over earth, then what? More people will hate him. This whole thing is meaningless!"

"He has his pride. And so do I."

"Do you really respect a man like that?"

Rasha hesitated. "My whole life, I've been brought up to be a soldier. All I know is how to follow orders. Even if it is from a tyrant. I don't know anything else."

"So what then? You will let him run your life like a puppet?"

Rasha was shocked. Faith's words reminded her of someone else's words. His words.

Aries: "Are you going to be his puppet for the rest of your life?"

This, coming from two people, has to be true. Now that she thinks about it, what good did she gain from being a royal family member? Sure, she has power and prestige, all the riches of the world, and everyone's respect. But do the people really respect her? Is she living a happy life? Has she wasted her life following orders?

This was like a wake up call for her, she never thought about things this way...thinking from **his** point of view. Is this why Aries betrayed the family...so he can pursue his own life and make his own destiny?

Kabam! Diamond made a hole on the ground as Blazer jumped away. (Is there no way to defeat him?)

Diamond ran at him and punched like crazy. Blazer blocked, and it hurts. "Ugh ahhhh!" Suddenly, Diamond jumped and kneed him on the chin. Wham. "Ugh!"

Blazer stood up and now he's in a bind. (This is the power...of the gold class fighter? The only way I can defeat him is to catch him off guard. But that will be unlikely.) Syrus gasped as his opponent ran at him with full speed. He fired a bunch of beams, Diamond blocked them while running forward. Zap, zap. Kapow! Diamond punched him in the face, making him go into a boulder.

The prince waited on his spot, knowing he can still get up. Suddenly, Syrus popped out and kicked him. Whack. Syrus ran for it. (I have to retreat, this is the only way.)

Diamond chased him and caught up, and they ran parallel to each other. Suddenly, Diamond slid down, tripping Blazer and made him roll a few times. Splat. Blazer flew to the air, and Derus appeared in front of him, to his surprise. He can't believe any fighter can have such incredible speeds.

"So now I see your true face, sayan. You are just a coward." Derus kicked him hard. "Why don't you **die**!"

Blazer fell to the ground. He found the strength to stand up, but that's all he can do. His hair turned to black, and he collapsed. Splat.

Now victorious, Derus felt a lot better about himself. But his victory came with a price - his brother. He went over to Dmitrus to check on his heart. It's still beating. He can still be saved. He carried him and flew away.

"This power I just felt...is it him?" Subzero asked himself. Deep down inside, he already knew the answer. It's his time to take action.

While Faith and Rasha were still having their little chat, they sensed him coming. Derus, carrying Dmitrus, went to Faith. "Faith..." he said in desperation, "I know we were not on good terms, but I am asking for your help."

"What happened to him?" Faith asked.

"It's a long story. Please, I am begging you, save my brother's life. I know you have the ability to heal."

"Put him down." Faith said.

He gently put Dmitrus down on the ground. Faith opened up his shirt to check his wounds. "Just leave it up to me." Her hands hovered over his chest, moving up and down. As usual, there was a pink glow. Rasha and Diamond watched with amazement. They've heard of such an ability, but seeing is believing.

Dmitrus moaned weakly, his fingers moved. "D-Diamond?"

Derus was relieved. "Thank goodness. You had me worried."

"Sorry *kuff* I wasn't much help."

Faith: "You should save your breath. You need to rest."

Derus: "Faith, I am sorry for how we treated you before. You're a life saver."

"It's no problem."

"You helped us again? Why?" Rasha asked.

"I was born with this ability to heal. I guess it is my fate to help others." she replied honestly. No one can argue with that.

Suddenly, Erika came out of no where and leaped at Diamond.

"No!" Faith screamed.

Diamond turned around and kicked her away. Wh-ack!

"What an infidel." said the prince. "That was a foolish mistake."

Erika was down for the count. Her face was hidden, no one could tell if she's awake or not.

"Hmm?" Derus muttered as he sensed another energy signal.

No one could ignore Subzero's presence. They all turned their attention to him and didn't say a word. They knew he is not here by accident. He's not some dude who's lost. He's here for a reason.

Faith: (Mr. Subzero? He's here.)

Suddenly, she just remembered something.

"There is another reason why I came to earth. I am here to kill a certain man...named Prince Diamond."

That's what he said after his duel with Tyson. So that's why he's here. But his connection with Diamond is still unknown.

He speaks. "Are you the one they call Diamond?"

"That's Lord Diamond to you. As long as you address me you will show me proper respect."

"You are him then. I have some questions for you."

Derus shrugged. "Sorry, I don't do interviews. You'll have to wait until I take over the earth."

"Your sense of humor irritates me, Centilian."

Derus: "I don't like it when people act rude to me. Rasha, why don't you take care of our guest?"

"Yes, prince." she replied.

It looks like Subzero has an obstacle to overcome before getting to his main target. As the two warriors stared at each other, it started to snow. Little snowflakes fell on the ground.

Faith can feel the tension between these two. Truthfully, she doesn't want anymore fighting. She doesn't want either Subzero or Rasha to get hurt. But reality says otherwise. Both Rasha and Subzero are strong, cold, and calculated warriors. Fighting and training are their lives, there's no mistake about it. The outcome of this fight will affect the fate of all those who are involved. Who will be the victor?

17: Surprise Appearance.

Contents

Throughout the forest, a dark cloud emerged. It was snowing a light drizzle. The ground became half-filled with snow, and soon to be completely covered. All the better for Subzero, since he fights better in cold temperature. The two opponents – Subzero and Rasha stared at each other with spite. They never met and they don't hate each other, but circumstance pits them against one another. And only one will be the victor.

In a flash, they vanished and hit in the air. They took their fight to another location not far from here. Faith watched in suspense, Dmitrus watched clueless. As far as he's concerned, he just woke up and he has no idea what's happening.

Derus: "Rasha will take care of that nuisance. Come Dmitrus, I believe we were in the middle of doing something."

"Prince Diamond," Faith said, "Please, call off your invasion of earth. There is no meaning to this war."

"My dear, I don't change my mind just like that."

"You can consider it repayment for saving your brother's life."

"This favor you did me and my invasion are two separate things."

Nebula landed, to everyone's surprise. He looked at Erika on the ground, laying still and not moving. "Diamond..." he muttered angrily. "What have you done?"

Derus: "Ohhh, we have another nuisance. It looks like I will take care of this one myself."

Faith: "Nebula, don't do it! He's reached a new level of power-"

"Don't worry about it." Neb said, interrupting her. "When have I ever let you down? I am not backing away from this fight. Not after what you did to Erika."

Derus: "You are about to join her soon, earthling."

"Earthling this, earthling that. Don't you people ever stop discriminating? I'm not even from here. I am a native of the planet Nebulon."

"And yet you defend a planet like earth? How pathetic."

"This is my home. I won't let you dirty it with your filthy hands." Nebula powered up.

Diamond brushed his hair with his hand and laughed. "That's an insult, Nebulan, and I will make you swallow your own words!"

The two warriors jumped and hit each other. Wham!

Subzero and Rasha distanced themselves after a hit. The drizzle fell on their clothes and hair. (He's not simple at all. I have to take caution.)

Subzero fired the Ice Beam, Rasha jumped away from it. Froom. The trees that were hit were frozen.

Rasha: (What a power! He can freeze things!) She dodged another ice beam. Froom. (Only one person can have this kind of ability...he must be Subzero the Ice Warrior. So the rumors are true.)

Froom! She jumped away from a beam, but it slightly touched her shoulder, and her sleeves were partially frozen. "Uhhh..." That was a close one. Too close for comfort. One mistake can be fatal in this arena of death.

Subzero fired another ice beam, Rasha countered with a beam. Kaboom! The two forces canceled. An energy disk flew at him, and he ducked. Cheeeerrrr. A bunch of trees were cut. His quickness saved his life. The ice warrior feels the same threat. He has to be careful or it's all over.

Meanwhile,

Two shockwaves hit in the air. Kabam! Macintosh and Carlos were still at it. They were airborne and exchanging some moves. Clearly, Carlos is the better trained fighter, as he hits Macintosh with all he's got, while the hero was barely able to defend himself. Wham. He fell on the street. Carlos stood all high and mighty, while Macintosh stood limply in pain.

"You were never meant to be a fighter, Macintosh. Just give it up."

"Don't call me by that name. You have no right to!"

"Tch. Is this how you talk to an old friend? Whenever I see you, you're always so rude."

"You're no friend of mine."

"Quit acting so tough, imbecile!" Carlos replied. "You think you're the only one who suffered?"

Arkady was standing in court, about to be tried for his crimes. The jury was silent instantly, stopping the murmur. "Dr. Carlos Arkady...you and your dangerous experiments have caused much damage to our society. You created a horrible monster – and he's still on the loose. Four people have been killed so far because of your little experiments."

Arkady listened behind those bars in disbelief. His grip was tightening.

"Your license will be revoked, and on top of that, you will be sentenced to three years in prison! I hope you do learn what you have done wrong, Dr. Arkady." The judge slammed the hammer on his desk, and it was extra loud. Bam!

As a result, Arkady walked through the dark hallway in handcuffs, with two guards as his companions. The dark and cold place known as prison. It was no fun at all.

"After they released me, I had **nothing**! They took away my license. What did they expect me to do afterwards? How was I supposed to make a living?"

Mac sighed. "It's your own fault. And I have to pay for your mistake as well."

Carlos had a wicked grin on his face. "No, not my fault. It is **our** fault. You took part in the experiment as much as I did."

"Shut up!" Mac shouted, powering up. "You tricked me!" He charged forward and punched, Carlos blocked his fist. "Huh?"

"Pathetic." Carlos said in a cocky tone. "Is this all your anger amounts to?" He jabbed Mac in the stomach. Thud. He was knocked against a street light, and a piece of his shirt was torn. "I hate to see you like this. I was going to ask you to join me, but since you're bent on killing me, I'll just have to kill you."

Mac breathed hard. "You're worse than scum, Arkady. After all that punishment, you still haven't learned your lesson. Now you work for Centilians. That's a new low for you."

"Hmph. Someone like you would not understand ambition. There is nothing left for me on earth. Prince Diamond graciously accepted me as his commander. I can finally put my abilities and talents to use! This is true glory."

Macintosh stood up. "You went against your own people. What glory is that?"

"You don't understand after all. Just die!" He fired a ground shockwave, Mac jumped away. Smash.

Arkady charged up with energy and fired a shockwave, Mac countered with his own shockwave. Arkady's beam overpowered his, and ended up hitting him and zapping his hands. "Aaaaah!" That was a bad hit. Macintosh's bracelets were electrified, and his hands were burnt. He groaned in pain as he stared at them.

"Ha ha ha ha. Just as I thought. Without your precious bracelets, you are useless." He ran and kicked him on the stomach, making him fall.

Mac was hurt on the inside and outside. Carlos continued with his insults, and each word he said made Macintosh even more pissed off. But there's not much he can do.

"You were always second to me, Macintosh. Without me you would not even have had a shot in life. You're a second-rate scientist, and a second-rate fighter. You'll forever be inferior to me."

Inferior? Second-rate? All those are true, and they only hurt him more. Macintosh can't take another word of this, especially from someone like Carlos, the man who ruined his life. Being partners with him was the biggest mistake of his life. And he's still paying for it to this very day.

Carlos: "This son of a bitch broke into our lab. So we're going to use him as a guinea pig in our experiment."

Lisa: "Macintosh. I came because I was worried about you. It wasn't because I used the sixth sense. You don't have to fight alone."

One time, Macintosh was in his lab, feeling depressed. " *Sigh* I wasn't of much help at all. I'm just not a good fighter...how can I ever compare to Tyson and Nebula and others?"

"It doesn't matter." Lisa replied. "Tyson is Tyson and you're you. You have your strong points, Macintosh."

It happened some time ago, but he remembers it now more clearly than ever. Her one compliment meant more than she thought.

Macintosh found the strength to stand up. Although he's not in prime condition, he feels renewed and refreshed. He now has a new reason to fight. Carlos noticed this sudden change in him.

"Ohhh, the mouse still has some strength left in him."

"I am not useless. I can fight without these." He unhooked the metallic bracelets...the bracelets that he's been wearing for so long. They dropped on the floor with a clunk. It felt so strange to let them go, since he's never gotten into a fight without them. His hands felt so light and flexible now. "I'm not useless. So what if I am not the best fighter? At least I'm not a traitor who works for Centilia."

"Still talking tough?" Carlos charged up and he's surrounded by red rings of energy. He fired a beam, Mac jumped over it and kicked him in the stomach. Doosh. He was thrown back a few feet. "Ugh..." He felt that hit good.

Macintosh was standing there in a fighting position, looking all tough. Now Carlos is worried and angry. "Strength is not something you gain by experimentation. It's something you gain by working hard and training everyday."

"Like you know anything?" Carlos fired a beam directly at him, Mac jumped away. Carlos continued firing while his target ran away, jumping over cars and other things to avoid the attacks. Kabam!

Carlos was on the street, looking for his opponent. He was walking around cautiously. Suddenly, Macintosh jumped out from behind a car and punched him. Pow. It was a good one, as he's not prepared for it. Mac followed up with a second punch,

knocking Carlos against a street light, bending it. Whack. Arkady go up and he was a little dizzy.

Mac saw the fire hydrant and got an idea. Carlos fired a one handed shockwave and Mac blocked it. Zap! His shield protected him. Mac counter fired with a shockwave and hit Carlos against the fire hydrant, breaking it. Water splashed from the ground and hit Carlos's eyes. "Aaaah!" he screamed, covering his eyes.

This was his golden chance. Mac charged at him and hit him with full force. Kapow. Whack. Then he followed up with the Electro-shockwave. Froom. Carlos was pushed against the wall of the base, and the force of the beam made the wall break and he went inside. Kaboom.

After the explosion, Macintosh can no longer sense Carlos's presence. He walked forward, seeing Lisa limping out. She was a dizzy and barely able to stand up. They looked at each other and smiled.

[B] Contents

Nebula charged and punched crazily, while Derus was able to anticipate his moves. He dodged the punches and retreated while his opponent advanced. "Take this, punk!" Kapow! Neb punched him in the face, but it didn't even faze him.

Derus returned the favor by hitting him on the cheek. Pow.

Faith watched in shock beside Dmitrus. Watching on the sidelines while a friend is in danger is not easy.

Kachink. Nebula got hit on the chin and he groaned as he fell to the ground. He got up and breathed hard, and in this weather, he can see his own breath. By now, the floor is filling up with snow.

[\(What is this power that I'm dealing with? Is this really Prince Diamond?\)](#)

"Now, let me show you the true power of a Centilian." Diamond powered up and screamed like hell. Golden rays of energy were released from his body and it was so intense Nebula had to cover his eyes. Flash! His gem was flashing a gold color. "Face it, you're no match for a gold class warrior!" The tyrant gathered energy and the snow on the floor floated up. A big sphere of energy was released, and Nebula countered the power sphere with his own. The Rainbow Crystal was glowing, signifying its usage. The two titanic force struggled with one another, and it's a contest of will power and endurance.

But Diamond had the upper hand. The power struggle was bad for Nebula. Kabam! He was thrown airborne. Everyone is surprised.

Rasha ran about in the woods after she lost sight of her enemy. He could be anywhere – hiding behind a tree, up on a tree branch, hell, he could even be hiding under the snow. There is no room for mistakes as she must take every possibility into account. From a distance, a beam went for her, she jumped away. Froom. A bunch of trees were frozen in its path.

Rasha went tree hopping – jumping from branch to branch. Subzero was right behind her. Hop, hop. Suddenly, he lost sight of her. He saw her floating in the air, gathering energy for a big electric ball. He gasped, sensing its force, and before he knew it, she fired it. Kaboom! A good piece of the forest was destroyed.

Subzero was dirty all over and he had bruises and scratches all over. But this happens when you fight. Rasha came from above and swooped down. Subzero turned his right hand into ice and produced the ice sword. Rasha, seeing what he's doing, took out the light saber. Their blades collided when she landed on him. Twang. They slash and hit about. Cling. Clang. After five or six hits, they jumped back to a safe distance.

"What do you want with Prince Diamond?" she asked.

"It's none of your business, Centilian. Just stay out of the way and I will spare your life."

"You? Spare my life? Good one."

They ran into each other and slashed. Her light saber cracked his ice sword. He jumped back. Since his sword was broken, he unfroze his right arm. Rasha still has a weapon and she leaps and slashes. He grabs the blade with his bare hands, and they bled. The blade was slowly freezing, starting from his hands and the ice went all the way to hers. She quickly pulls it out and jumps back. Now that the saber is useless, she throws it away.

"You're a native of the planet Trachian, are you not?" Rasha asked. "What are you doing on earth?"

"Like I said, this is none of your concern."

Rasha opened her palm to fire a beam. Subzero blurred.

"Huh!?" Rasha exclaimed in confusion.

Subzero appeared from the side and fired an ice beam, she quickly jumps away, but her leg was frozen. Subzero appeared in front of her and punched her down. Kaploosh. That hit took the wind out of her. She was about to fall unconscious as her vision is blurry. But she took a good look at Subzero's face and focused on it. It reminded her of something. She saw that face before.

Somewhere. A long time ago.

A line of soldiers pointed their machine guns at the villagers, who were all frightened. Rasha was just a little girl, but she was already a commander for her age. The soldiers waited for their orders. Amongst one of the villagers was a little boy, and he clutched to his mother's side, trembling in fear.

There's no doubt about it, Subzero was that little boy. It's no coincidence. His face is grown up, but it's the same face as that little boy's. Just when she realizes this, she loses consciousness.

Subzero walked away.

Nebula was getting beat badly. He feels the same way Blazer felt when he was losing. And he's not losing to a good fighter, but an extraordinary fighter.

(I am outmatched in every possible way. How can I defeat the gold class warrior?)

Derus walked forward slowly. "Face it, Nebulon, your chances of winning a bleak. If I were you, I'd beg for mercy. Then I might consider sparing your life."

"Beg for mercy? Not a chance!" Neb jumped up and fired a blast, Derus blocked. Kaploosh. Derus coughed from the smoke, and when it cleared, Neb was no where in sight.

"What?"

From a distance, Nebula charged up the Nebulon Blast, his favorite move. It's his best move, but one that requires a tremendous amount of energy. It's going to be his last ditch effort. Derus flew at him and fired a beam at the Nebulon ball, shattering it.

Neb: (Damn it! He didn't let me finish it.)

"Well, what about it? I want you to get on your knees and beg."

"In your dreams!" Nebula jumped and punched with all his might. Derus dodged to the side and jabbed him in the stomach.

"Ugh!"

Nebula now lay with his face on the snow. His skin felt cold, but he was unable to move.

Derus put a hand over his face and brushed his hair. "You see, brother? This is how you defeat your enemies." Then the look on his face changed. "Where is Faith?"

Dmitrus didn't even notice she was gone, and he had the same look of surprise. Derus looked frantically, and saw her beside Erika. She was healing her while he was distracted. Derus approached her, and she gasped as she's caught.

"So, you think you can sneak away while I'm not watching?"

"She's my friend, and you hurt her." Faith replied, looking at him without fear.

"Just let me heal her and we will call it even."

"Hmph. Call it even?"

Dmitrus walked over to his brother. "Let them be. Faith was kind enough to heal me and give me a second chance. We owe them one."

"I'm afraid not." Derus went and punched her in the stomach, effectively knocking her unconscious.

"Noooo!" Dmitrus screamed.

She didn't move.

"What the bloody hell did you do that for?"

Derus turned around. "Brother, you are too naïve. Just because she helped us doesn't mean she is not our enemy. I repaid the service she did by sparing her life."

"What kind of logic is that?!" Dmitrus yelled. "If it wasn't for her I'd be dead! Is this how you repay kindness?"

"I would control my voice if I were you, Dmitrus Do not forget who is the one in power. You still have much to learn, foolish brother. You cannot trust anyone in this world."

"Shut up!" Dmitrus went and punched him on the cheek. Pow!

Derus's cheek was red. He had an angry look on his face.

Dmitrus just realized what he did. "I'm sorry..."

"You dare hit me? After all I did for you? I'm disappointed." Kapow! Derus punched him in the stomach, knocking him on the ground. "When we go back to Centilia, I will give you a proper punishment. Maybe after that you will learn some respect."

Dmitrus coughed. "You'd attack even me? Now I see your true face. You're just a scumbag. I was right to hit you!"

"What did you say?"

Their little argument was interrupted by Subzero's appearance. He had a serious look in his eyes, and he's certainly not here to clown around.

18: Grudges of the Past.

Contents

A lot has happened since the incident with the runaway mobile suit occurred. So far, Blazer and Nebula have been taken down by the mighty Prince Diamond, who is now a proclaimed God-warrior. After reaching this new level of power, it seems hopeless for our heroes to win. Subzero just defeated Diamond's strongest henchmen, Rasha, and now he's facing Diamond himself. Does the ice warrior have what it takes to defeat the God-warrior?

In the air, heavy class Centilian ships fired laser beams at the enemy. The EMF's have their mobile suits and jets, and on the ground they have tanks. Explosions occurred everywhere as the two forces destroyed each other.

A certain mobile suit was shot down and it fell onto the street behind Aries. Kaboom! He wasn't even fazed by it.

"Listen Tyson Spade, we have no time left. I need you to activate your powers now!"

"Like I told you, I don't know how!"

"Liar! You did it last time."

"I don't have to listen to you." Tyson replied. He leaps forward in a punching position, Aries jumps and ducks his punch and hits him in the chest. Thud.

Tyson landed in a crouch. "Ugh...ahhh..."

"So you still won't transform into the Phoenix, eh? Then you are as good as useless." Aries proceeded to power up. "Hyyyyyah!" His gem was glowing a furious blue color and energy waves were released from his body. Tyson winced.

"Aaaagh."

Aries released a powerful beam and the energy seemed to take the form of a fierce beast. Tyson winced and braced himself for the impact. Kabam! He was hit and thrown into a deep crack on the ground. He screamed as he fell into complete darkness.

Aries walked to the very edge and looked down. Tyson was no where in sight. His energy signal is gone as well. When Aries said he's disappointed with Tyke, he meant it. But now is not the time to worry about such things, he will take matters into his own hands.

The chilling stand off continues. Subzero and Diamond just did the stare. One of them finally spoke up. "The fact that you are here means that Rasha failed."

"You are Prince Diamond, correct?"

"Yes that is me. But you have yet to introduce yourself."

Subzero: "My name is not important. I have a question for you." Then he paused. "Were you the one responsible for the massacre on planet Trachian?"

"I don't know what you're talking about."

"I am talking about the massacre on Trachian that took place thirty years decades ago."

"I don't know." Derus replied, shrugging. How can I possibly remember something from that long?"

"Don't play around!" Subzero shouted impatiently. "It was you, wasn't it?"

"Yes, I was the one responsible." Derus replied as if he's proud of it. "Ohh, I get it now. When the whole village was wiped out, there was one survivor, a boy. He managed to escape and my men did not find him. And that boy is you. You are one of the few people living on that hellhole of a planet. Subzero the Ice Warrior."

"So you do know."

Derus: "And three decades later, you came looking for me. You are here for revenge for your parents' deaths, correct?"

"Hmph. I could care less about revenge. I am a warrior who seeks worthy challenges. And my target is you - Diamond, ruler of Centilia."

"Oh, really? Do you think you actually have a chance?"

"Your arrogance will be your downfall. You remind me of a certain someone...he was just like you. Prince Mulder. In the end, his foolishness led him to his grave." Subzero charged up energy and fired a beam.

Derus blocked it with one hand. Chuuen. Kaboom. Subzero gasped in surprise.

"If you're referring to Prince Mulder, the former ruler of Volteron, then you have another thing coming. I know what happened there. He was able to become strong due to a chemical he digested. And it took both you and Tyson Spade together to beat him."

Subzero grinds his teeth. "I don't need him to defeat you!" He charged and punched. Derus grabbed his fist and squeezed it tightly. With his free hand, Derus punched, and Subzero grabbed his hand, and they struggled. Derus noticed his hand

was becoming frozen, and he groaned trying to get free. Subzero let go and hit him on the chin. Wham.

Derus landed. He gathered energy into his hands and the ice cracked into pieces. "Nice trick, ice warrior, but it's not going to work on me."

"I'll make sure you never take another breath again. Hyaaaah." Subzero powered up, releasing cold air from his body. The ground became ice, and it spread throughout the ground.

Derus ran forward, but the ground was slippery and he lost balance. Subzero punched him a few times.

Rasha came to the scene, leaning against a tree for support. Her left leg was frozen and there's not much she can do. Dmitrus watched just like before. Faith and Erika were still unconscious. One of them was waking up.

Knowing he can't win on the ground, Derus took it to the air. He and Subzero hit each other randomly. Wham. Wham. They grabbed each other's hands and struggled in the air.

"Arrrgh! Aagh!" They grunted and stared angrily.

But Derus's hands were freezing and it's getting worse every second. Subzero overpowered him, pulled his arms down and hit him on the chin. Derus was falling, and Subzero hit him with a charged up punch. Dooosh. Derus fell to the ground like a comet. Kaboom!

Subzero landed. Suddenly, Diamond popped out from the ground behind Subzero. It happened so surprisingly that Subzero was open-mouthed as Diamond blasted him away. Bam.

Smoke was coming out his ripped up suit. Subzero coughed blood and stood up.

"That should teach you a lesson."

"I have one more question for you..." said Subzero.

"Hmm?"

"Why did you do it? Why did you kill the villagers?"

To which he replied: "Because they deserved it. I was bored of running my planet, so I decided to expand to planet C-12, one of our neighbors. However, the village chief refused to cooperate. They said some non-sense about being independent. They refused to have another leader rule them. So I ordered them to be killed."

"What?" replied the ice warrior, shocked.

"They were useless to me. No one ever defies Prince Diamond. But later on I realized that Trachian had nothing to offer me. It was nothing but ice and snow. A wretched place."

Subzero gritted his teeth in anger. "So you wiped out an entire village just for that reason?"

"What better reason than you need? They were just a bunch of peasants anyway. I did them a favor by putting them out of their miserable lives."

Subzero had a blank expression on his face. He stared at the ground. No words could describe the anger he felt. His head was so hot it was about to explode. Rasha heard their conversation, and she's feeling guilt about that incident. It was her responsibility as well. Dmitrus felt the same thing. He's ashamed that his brother did such a thing.

An entire village of people killed. Just for one man's ambition.

"This is unforgivable!"

"Ohhh?" Derus said in that sarcastic tone of his, "I thought you did not care about revenge?"

"Even if it is the last thing I do, I will wipe you out from existence!"

"Those are big words. I hope you can back them up."

At this point, Faith just woke up with pain on her wound. "S-Subzero..."

The fight continued. Derus kept on dodging the ice beams. Now that he has seen his opponent's strategy, he will not fall for it again. Subzero kept on firing non-stop as Derus blurred and appeared in random places.

They flew into each other and hit. Wham! Pow! Derus punched Subzero against a tree. He slashed with energy, Subzero dodged, and the tree was cut.

Rasha: (It was my fault that this happened. Subzero came here to avenge his parents. It this what our Centilian empire will look like in the future? Full of hatred and sadness?)

Kapow! Subzero was hit again. He dodged for his life as Derus used his martial arts. Wham!

Subzero never had such a hard fight in his life. There was only one exception – his fight with Tyson. Ever since he lost, he was hell bent on beating him. And once he came to earth, he did. But thinking back, it might have been a hollow victory. Tyson himself willingly surrendered because he had only one able arm to fight with. But now he is losing to Diamond. His whole life, he wanted to be the best warrior ever known.

Absolute Zero: "You can never be the best. There will always be someone stronger than you. Always."

Maybe his master's words are true after all.

Whack! He just got kicked in the face.

Subzero was just about out of energy. But he's not giving up yet. He is going to make on final attack.

This fight is different from all the others. This one is linked to his distant past. A past he suppressed for the longest time. The past made him what he is today. A cold-blooded fighter who challenges others to duel. The feared and well-known Ice Warrior. He who is at the mercy of no one. Except for today. He hates having someone stronger than him exist. He just will not accept it.

He powered up and closed his eyes and his body produced a blue aura. Ice crystals formed around him and they flew to Derus. He crossed his arms over his face as the crystals went for him. They stabbed him in various places – his arms, legs and stomach. Then he put his fingers on his forehead crest and fired the Sanctum Beam. Zap. It hit Subzero's shoulder and went through it. Blood gushed out from both ends.

He collapsed. "Ugh...aaaahh...uhhh."

"Another one down."

Dmitrus approached him. "Brother...you have done enough."

"Do you see now? All those who defy me will end up like him!" he shouted, pointing at the bleeding Subzero. "I will administer your punishment later."

"Derus...let's just stop this...please..."

His brother hasn't called him by his first name in a long time. "No! I will not stop, especially not after having gone this far."

A bright light appeared in the sky, and everyone paid attention to it. Rasha was surprised. (It's him...he is here?)

Diamond made a grimace at the sight of the traitor. His former commander. The one he exiled.

"Prince Diamond..." The tension in the air was thicker than before. "I see you're still up to your old tricks."

"What are you doing here, traitor?"

"So you still refer to me as that? I thought you'd change and get better. But you're still the same. Now you're declaring war on the earth? What a stupid thing to do."

"I don't need your criticism. For someone who betrays his leader, you are lucky to have your life spared!"

"Yes, I should be grateful." Aries replied sarcastically. "That you ruined my life."

Rasha went to them. "Aries..."

Aries: "Rasha. Stay out of the way. This is between me and him."

Derus: "You already failed. Let me handle this."

She had no choice but to step aside. Her leg was still frozen so there's not much she can do.

"I've wasted my life following you. I am going to do something I should've done a long time ago!" Aries powered up to the extreme. His gem went from red to dark blue. He fired a beam, Derus swiftly dodged to the side, and the beam blew up a tree. Aries charged and launched an all out attack, while Derus defended.

The two went to the air to duke it out. Wham! Wham!

"Diamond! Arrrgh!" Aries yelled as he charged.

Derus blocked his punch and returned a punch to this face. Kapow!

"I understand that you hate me. But it's your own fault. You lost everything because of a bad decision."

Aries fired a double beam, Derus knocked them away.

"It was you who ruined your own life, not me!"

Aries and Diamond fired a blast at each other and they struggled.

[Split screen - 2] [Aries, Derus].

Derus's beam overpowered the other, and it hit Aries. He was zapped all over and he screamed in agonizing pain. He ended up on the ground.

Derus landed in front of him. "How about this? If you get on your knees and beg for your life, I might forgive you."

Aries stood up. "Hah. Forget it. You might as well kill me."

"Your wish will be granted. A traitor like you doesn't deserve to live."

"I'm tired of you calling me that, Diamond. I know what you did what you did. The reason why you exiled me...wasn't because of the fact that I disobeyed orders. The fact that I did it gave you the reason to banish me."

"What are you talking about?"

"You were afraid that I'd surpass you." Aries said. "After all, you had your reputation to consider. I was a dark blue class back then, and you were a light blue warrior. I was the one closest to achieving the gold warrior status! And you were afraid that I'd be stronger than you. Traditionally, the main branch of the family are the strongest ones, and the king of our race should be the strongest of us."

Derus frowned as he listened. Rasha can't believe what she's hearing. It's new to her.

"You wanted to look for an excuse to banish me because you're a coward! You took advantage of my weakness...which is my kindness. You made me do missions like destroying an entire village. You keep on forcing me to do mission after mission until I finally snapped and disobeyed. Once I did, you had a reason to banish me."

There was a silence in the air. Dmitrus and Rasha did not know this, but it makes sense now. Was it all a set up, as Aries implies?

Derus begins to speak. "That's the most ridiculous thing I've ever heard."

"Just admit it, Diamond! You are nothing but a weakling!"

"Ha ha ha ha! Why should I be worried about being surpassed? I am already a God-warrior! And you are not."

Aries gritted his teeth.

"It happened by luck. That's all!"

"Luck?" Derus said, brushing his hair. "It has nothing to do with luck! Can't you see that I was meant to be a gold class? Our fates were predetermined by birth. The second we were born our fate has been decided. I have a higher K-factor than you, and there is nothing, absolutely nothing you can do to change it. Don't blame yourself, blame fate."

Tyson was in the ditch, lying down in a dark place. He woke up, as if hearing Diamond's annoying and loud laughter. But he's unable to find the strength to stand up. He was severely weakened and bleeding from the head. He thought this would be his grave. But he's not dead yet.

The thought of his family and friends made him open his eyes. "Ugh..."

Sayans needed to be strong to survive. So they grew stronger and stronger.

Out of this need arise hidden powers within us. It is the need to survive. For some, it is the need to dominate. The need to be stronger than someone else, thus, not

Our bodies contain energy. It comes from the nutrients that we eat, the water that we drink, and the blood with flows through our vessels. This is **life energy**. It is essential for us to survive. It is the very thing that keeps us breathing and moving and walking. And it is this same energy that can be used in combat.

All the power that you need is within you. You must search within your heart to find the answers.

He used sheer will power and forced himself to stand up, little by little. First he got up to his knees, and hands, and he was about to fall any moment. Finally, he was able to get on his feet. He stuttered around like a drunken man. But then he took a deep breath and calmed down. Tyson shut his eyes and felt the energy flow through his body. He could feel it clearly - the balance of life energy inside of him. The Enchron Crystal was vibrating loudly and it was dying to be released.

Tyson powered up and flew out of the ditch.

Derus continued his condescending speech. "If you must blame someone, blame fate for your misfortune. Those who are strong rule the world, and those who are weak are to be ruled. This is the universal truth! Those who are strong are strong by birth. There is nothing you can do to change that. Your K-factor was set at birth...and it will be until death."

Aries laughed, which made Derus frown. "Fate? My fate was predetermined by birth? Don't make me laugh." He powered up probably for the last time. "I make my own fate!" He ran forward with full determination, gathering energy into his fist. It's all or nothing. Derus blurred, appeared a few feet away and opened his palms to fire a blast. Everyone winced from it. The explosion was seen from the entire forest.

Kaboom!

Standing amidst the energy was Aries. He was panting for breath. A second later, he collapsed, and thus ended the last hope for the heroes.

Diamond, knowing that he won, burst into hysterical laughter. "Ha ha ha ha! I am the strongest fighter in the universe! Ha ha ha ha ha ha!"

Tyson found Blazer lying in the middle of an open field. He went to his friend to check up on him. "Blazer? Are you okay?"

Blazer was weak, so he had to whisper his words. Tyson leaned close to listen. "T-Tyson, be careful of Diamond. He is stronger than last t-time."

"Don't worry, Blazer. I'll take care of it. Right after that I'm coming back for you." With that said, he flew away. He hated having to leave him there, but he must take care of his priority first.

Aries was lying face down. He was still awake, but he had no energy left to move a muscle. Derus approached and opened his palm. Rasha went to Aries. "No, spare his life, please!"

"Rasha..."

"So, in the end, you are on his side after all." Diamond said in disappointment. "Fine then, both of you will go to hell together! I will kill two birds with one stone!" He raised his arm, and Dmitrus grabbed his arm.

"No, don't do it!"

"Get off!" Derus shook him off, making him fall. "You will die now!"

Rasha and Aries prepared themselves for the worst.

Diamond halted his attack when he sensed someone. Aries was surprised. "So...he made it out after all."

Subzero sensed him too. Faith as well. "Tyson..."

When the heroes think all hope is lost, they know there is still one more person who can do the job. One last chance. One last hope.

By the time he landed, all eyes were on him. Eyes of admiration, eyes of surprise and respect, and of course, eyes of hatred from Diamond.

It has finally come to this point – the final fight. All warriors are down except for two – the most important two and the last two. Will Tyson be able to activate the Phoenix or become another one of the God-warrior's victims?

19: One Last Hope. Fire in the Sky!

Contents

Once Tyson landed, all eyes were on him. For he is the earth's last hope against the tyrant. Aries was surprised, yet he knew this was going to happen. "So...he made it out after all."

Derus: "Hmph. It looks like I have one more pest to eliminate."

Tyson took a look at Aries and Rasha, then at Dmitrus. Then he sensed Faith, Nebula, and Erika and Subzero and their energies were depleted. "You...you did all this!"

"Guilty as charged." Derus replied, shrugging nonchalantly.

"You are going to pay!"

"Oh? Where have I heard that before? I still haven't paid you back for what you did to me on earth and Centilia..."

Tyson: "Can't you tell that the balance of power has shifted to your disadvantage? Or are you too blind to see something so simple? Now leave this planet before you get hurt."

"No sayan can defeat a blue class warrior!" Diamond charged and punched, Tyson grabbed his fist and hit him in the stomach. He ended up lying on the ground in pain.

"I don't want to continue this fight. Just learn your lesson and leave."

"I've never been subject to such insult in my whole life. First I am going to cut off your arms and legs and then I'll let you bleed to death!"

Tyson powered up, going second stage, then directly to fourth stage. Froom. He's surrounded by gold energy and his hair turned gold. Rock chunks floated around him. "This whole thing was your fault to start with!" He charged forward and punched with all his might. Pow!

Derus was hit on the face, and he took one step back. But he jabbed Tyson on the stomach, and the pain was paralyzing.

"Ughhh!" Tyson spit saliva as he was hit.

"Pathetic. After all that talk, you can't do anything."

Tyson got up, wiping his mouth. "I was just getting started."

"Ohhh? Warm up time is over! Let's do it for real." Diamond powered up, and everyone within the area felt his frightening power. Even Tyson was surprised. So this is what Blazer warned him about. The legendary power of a God-warrior. The ultimate unrivaled Centilian.

Derus's power up made an explosion, and Tyson had to fly up to avoid it. Suddenly, energy beams flew at him from below, he dodged like hell. Bam. Bam. He flew higher, but one of the beams hit him, and he was fazed, falling into the forest. As he fell, he hit a bunch of tree branches. Crash.

"You die!" Derus fired one more beam into the ground, with Tyson at its center of impact. Kaboom!

The trees within the area were burning. The snow on the ground melted completely. Not a single living creature could have survived the blast of doom. But Tyson was still alive. He panted for breath. His clothes were torn and had holes on them. But he fights on.

Diamond appeared in front of him, to his surprise. "Still not dead? You're just like a bug, no matter how much I try, you won't die."

Tyson smiled. "Why don't you call an exterminator?" He jumped and kicked, Diamond blurred, appeared to the side and kicked him in the middle of his jump. Whack! He was thrown against a tree.

By now, Tyson realizes his situation. He hates being overpowered by someone else, especially someone as hateful as Diamond.

"Hmph. You don't stand a chance in hell, sayan. Blazer, Nebula, Subzero, Aries, they all failed miserably. And you will join them in hell. I'll make sure your death is extra painful." Diamond ran forward and punched Tyson non-stop. Pak-pak-pak. Tyson blocked with his back against the tree. Pak-pak-pak. He was cornered and getting hit like crazy.

I need more power to defeat him. I can't win like this. Pak-pak-pak. He was hit in the face. Pow.

Diamond slammed his arm against Tyson's neck, and they grabbed each other. "You will learn your place, you pathetic piece of shit." Diamond said, breathing against his enemy.

"Ugh...uhhh..." At this point, he really needed more power, and the need became so great that he could feel it inside of him. Yes, it's this very feeling that allowed him to turn second stage and fourth stage for the very first time. This feeling...the need to survive. Just as Absolute Zero says.

The Enchron Crystal was reacting and his chest glowed, giving him an extra boost in power. Diamond was pushed away by its power, and he was like, "What the?"

With this chance, Tyson punched him in the face hard. He didn't get many chances to land a hit, so he's going to make this one count.

"You hit me on the face again...that will be the last time you hurt me!" Derus shouted angrily.

"Pain might be good for you. Maybe you need a wake up call. First you steal illegal material from our planet to make mobile suits, and you use those very suits to attack us. And to top it off, you hurt my friends and family. Even your own subordinates. You banished the most talented commander that you could have, you disrespect Rasha, and you even hit your own brother. I've seen scum, but you take it to

a new level of low. You are nothing but a rat – you deserve no family or friends. You deserve a cold, dark coffin.”

“Tch. You have no right to criticize me, sayan. In the end you are just like me – a murderer!”

“Don’t even compare me to you.”

“That’s right, I shouldn’t compare us. Because you will be dead. I’ll be sure to send flowers to your grave!” Diamond fired a shockwave, Tyson flew up. Froom. Diamond put two fingers on his crest and aimed carefully, then fired the Sanctum Beam. Zap! It hit went through Tyson’s chest. In an instant it was over. He could take a hundred punches to the face, but a beam through his chest is another thing. He had no more strength left and fell, at which point Diamond caught him, holding him by the shirt.

Derus: “Don’t worry, you won’t be lonely down there. You’ll join all the other people I’ve killed. Ha ha ha ha ha!” He punched Tyson with an energy fist, making him fall into the ground and explode. Kaboom!

Diamond broke into hysterical laughter. “HA HA HA HA HA! AHAHAHA!” His day of victory has finally come. Oh, how long has he waited for this day. Being a God-warrior means being invincible. No longer will he be at the mercy of any man, especially that damned sayan.

Faith saw the explosion. “No...Tyson!” She fell on her knees. Is this the end?

Nebula was still unconscious. Subzero was still unable to stand up. Aries was crying on the inside and he cursed at fate. Even though he met Tyson briefly, he felt connected to him. He lost a comrade and a worthy foe. Rasha was sad as well, knowing that Tyson doesn’t deserve to die. Who else is left to defend them?

But wait – Derus’s sixth sense is tingling. He was dumbfounded as he turned around. It can’t be – can it be? Tyson was still standing. Surrounded by flames of fury and hate. His whole body is an inferno. He screams and powers up – and it was an energy burst unlike any other. A big beam of energy reached up to the sky and made the clouds dispersed. “AAAAAAAAAAAAHHH!”

Derus winced from the energy. His sixth sense was going crazy. It was so intense he had to jump away from Tyson’s energy field. Everything within the field was disintegrated except the Phoenix. He walked forward, and each step he took burned the ground.

Rasha: “What is this power? How can that young man possess such enormous power? It doesn’t make sense!”

Aries was laughing. “Heh. So he’s finally done it.”

Rasha: “What do you mean?”

“I could sense his potential back on Centilia. I knew he had something hidden inside of him – a power unlike any other. I was surprised when I first experienced it – the Phoenix itself. It was my first loss in a long time.”

Rasha had a flashback. She sensed this power when she was in the Crystal Palace. (This energy...it was him?! Incredible.)

Dmitrus: “Amazing...I’ve never felt anything like it.”

Faith was speechless.

Everyone had their own reactions to this sudden change in climate, but the one who should be most worried is Diamond – the one who is going head up against Tyson Spade.

“So this is the power of the Phoenix. It’s amazing...I feel completely different.” said Tyson. “My only regret is not learning how to use this power sooner.”

[Close-up – Diamond]. “The Phoenix? Bah! What are you....compared to me, a God-warrior?” he yelled arrogantly.

"Do you still think you are a God?"

That remark made Diamond angrier. "Tchhhh I'll show you!" He fired a blast. Kabam. Tyson did not even have to move, his shield blocked it.

This made Diamond even more worried. Tyson charged forward with super speed and hit Diamond in the face. It was one of the strongest punches he's ever felt before. Tyson's fiery fist gave him an extra burning sensation on his cheek. The mighty prince is now on the ground, dirty and roughed up.

"Why you..." he shrieked. He got up and ran forward. Tyson shot a fiery beam, and he ran through it, not caring about the burns. Kapow! He punched Tyson's face, but the hero did not show signs of pain. Diamond's fist was burning on contact. "Aaah! Aaah!" He withdrew his hand and grabbed it in pain. He was in disbelief. How can this happen? How can anyone be this powerful? Has the balance of power been upset? Has it turned to Tyson's favor?

"Now let me show you how a real warrior fights."

Diamond jumped backwards to avoid what's coming, but Tyson was faster than he thought. He charged forward in an instant. Froom. He kicked Diamond on the chin, and while he's airborne, the Phoenix hit him a couple of times before he fell. Crash.

Tyson hovered about in the air, looking for the spot where his enemy landed. Suddenly, beams went at him. Bam. Bam. Diamond flew up to his altitude, and he's pissed off. "I'll get you sayan! I'll get you if it's the last thing I do!"

Diamond's gem glowed and he flew forward with high speed. He looked like a big blue sphere from far away, and Tyson resembled a fireball. They hit each other like crazy. Bam. Bam.

Faith: "Is that really Tyson? His ki feels so different..."

Rasha helped Aries walked by hitting his arm around her shoulder. "Yes, that's him alright. There's no doubt about it." he said.

Faith: "I understand now...it was our fight with the monster known as the Phoenix. After we defeated him, he must've taken control of the Enchron Crstyal. It's inside of him."

Aries: "The Enchron Crystal, eh? So that's what allows him to transform. He's incredibly lucky."

Dmitrus: "He's your husband right, Mrs. Faith? In all my years of fighting I've never sensed anyone quite like him. He fights for a different reason, doesn't he?"

Faith just looked at him.

"He fights for different reasons than my brother. Those two are from different worlds."

KABAM. The two enemies hit and hit, showing no mercy. Diamond fired the Sanctum Beam, and Tyson blocked it with his shield. It's time to return the favor. The hero gathered energy into his palms and released it as a beam of fire. **"Eternal Flames!"**

The prince tried to block it, but it burned his arms. "AAAAH! You son of a bitch!" He gathered energy with his burnt arm, not caring about the consequences. He threw an energy ball upwards.

Tyson had nothing to be afraid of. He took all the fire he had around his body and gathered it into a ball, and threw it down. Froom. The two energies collide and Tyson's energy overpowered the other, and Diamond ended up getting the shorter end of the bargain. He was completely surrounded by energy, and he screamed as his body was disintegrating.

King: "You are a strong prince, Derus. One day you will make a great king."

"Yes, father." replied the little boy.

"Remember, as a king, you have your duty to protect your people. Never harm them or become a tyrant."

"One day you are going to get it." Aries said, pissed off. This was time when he was banished. "You can cast me away, but the fact is you are a tyrant. One day you are going to get it. If it's not me, then it's someone else. Farewell!"

And Aries's prediction came true. Diamond regretted living his life the way he did, but it is a little too late for regrets. He sees nothing but white, and embraces his fate. KABOOM!

Tyson landed on the ground. But the second his feet touched the ground, he powered down and lost consciousness. Faith and the others ran to him. "Tyson! Tyson!"

After everything calmed down, Faith went to each person to heal them. When Erika woke up, the first thing she asked was: "Where's Nebula?"

"He's here." Faith replied.

He was standing there, watching them. "Nebula..." She just went up to him and they hugged.

Faith watched them and smiled. They were finally able to express their feelings for each other. She's been suspecting it for a while now...that they had a thing for each other. But she's glad they're together now. One of her best friends and her husband's brother together.

Subzero came by. "Ms. Faith. Thank you for your help."

"Ohh...uhh..." His gratitude came as a surprise, and she was at a loss of words. "You're welcome."

"I've never been able to properly thank you. Have you and Tyson been living well?"

"Yes. Yes we have." she replied gladly. "You should consider staying on earth for a while, Mr. Subzero. There is nothing home for you. Living in a completely cold place is what turned you into you. Here you can experience new things...and even make some friends."

"I don't know." he replied. "I'm used to living by myself."

"But you don't have to live by yourself. We have more people like us on this planet. You'll be surprised."

The battle between the two armies continued. Inside the main spaceship, the commander just found out the bad news. "What?!" he shouted in dismay. "Prince Diamond is dead? Call off the invasion?"

All the operators and pilots looked at him.

"We have new orders. Halt the attack. Centilia surrenders."

The Centilian Armada officially declares their surrender and withdraws their forces from the planet. The EMF's were glad.

President Eisenhower and his generals found out the good news and they had a celebration in his office. They had wine and food and laughed and had a jolly good time. Even the soldiers celebrated. In a certain air base, soldiers slammed their glass cups together and shouted "Cheers!" There were exotic dancers dancing in the center and the men cheered and whistled.

Aries and Rasha now face each other. It was an awkward moment for them, for the last time they saw each other they had a bitter argument. Aries ended up walking away. But this time, it felt different. A huge burden has been lifted from their shoulders.

"So...have you been living well?" Aries asked.

"Yes. Have you?"

"No, not really. The food on Centilia stinks. Ever since I've been exiled, I know what it's like to be a commoner. But I'm used to it. At least I have my freedom. And so do you."

"True." Rasha replied. "At least you're no longer a traitor."

"Yes. What will you do now?"

"What is there to do? Prince Dmitrus will now be the successor. He will take his brother's place, and I will serve him."

"Dmitrus, huh? He's young, but good-natured. He'll make a good king."

"Are you going to join us? As commander again?" she asked.

"I don't know. I don't know what I want anymore."

"You are welcome in our kingdom anytime." said Dmitrus, who just showed up. "You are part of our family after all."

"Thanks. Definitely." Aries replied.

Rasha: "Are you going to take over the throne?"

"No, I'm afraid not." Dmitrus replied. "I think you are better suited for this position, Ms. Rasha."

"But what will you do?" she asked him with curiosity."

"I think I will stay here for a while. Mrs. Faith was kind of enough to help me despite the fact that we are enemies. That says something about her. And there are more people like her on this planet. It seems that I have much to learn."

Faith was leaning on Tyson, who had his arm around her shoulder. They watched the Centilian Armada lift off and leave the atmosphere. In the city, Lisa was resting against Macintosh, and they also watched the armada leave. It sure is a relief to see them leave. At least the earth avoided a deadly war before it escalated. It saved potentially millions of lives.

The heroes have gained something as well. Every one of them learned something in this experience. Even the Centilians have learned to open their eyes and see another world. A world of love and kindness, rather than a world of disease, murder and death.

These events brought Macintosh and Lisa together, although they've always known each other, they finally realized their feelings and accepted each other. Their friendship has grown...well...into something that is more than a friendship. The same thing goes for Erika and Nebula. He was finally able to tell her something he could not tell her on Volteron. That he loves her.

Subzero learns to overcome his past. Although he did not personally kill Diamond, it doesn't matter. The pest is gone. He accepts his master's words: In this world, there are always those who are stronger than you. But he will still train and strive to be the best. Second to none. Not even Tyson.

As for Tyson, he gains a new level of power – an unimaginable power. But of course, he will only activate the Phoenix in dire emergencies. Whenever people are suppressed, whenever darkness covers the light, look for the fire in the sky.

1: Blazer's Connection.

Contents

After a big battle usually comes a period of peace. Everyone of the heroes have learned more about themselves and each other and they have grown stronger. They finally take a sigh of relief. As for the earth's military and the one in charge of them, they have a lot of cleaning up to do.

One sunny afternoon, Blazer was doing his usual stuff in his space pod station. He was typing on the computer, doing some research on the Empire. Just then he received a transmission. He put his headset on and listened.

"Agent Blazer Syrus..." said the voice of a female.

"Who is this?"

"You've disobeyed an order. Are you ready for the consequences?"

"What...are you...Agent Mai?"

The woman on the other line smiled. "Very good. Your voice recognition ability is impressive. I am already on earth. It will be a matter of time before I find you." With that said, she ended the transmission.

Back at the space pod, the line went silent. Blazer just sat there and stared in shock.

But not everything was bad news. News of Erika and Nebula's' engagement spread like wildfire. No one expected this to happen...well, except for those two.

Ring ring. Erika picked up. "Hello? Oh Nebula? What's up? ... Sure ... yes, of course. I love you too." She hung up with a smile on her face.

"Okay. See you later." Nebula hung up. He walked away in a happy mood. Just then his cell phone rang. "Hello? Tyson? What's up?"

Tyson said that it's an emergency, Blazer wants to meet up with them immediately. This made him curious, so he met up with them in a secret place.

Nebula: "So, Blazer, what's the urgent news that you have for us?"

Tyke: "Is something the matter?"

Blazer turned around to face them. "This is very important. As you know, I work for an organization called the Black Hand."

Tyke: "Yeah, you told us before."

"I only mentioned them briefly to you because they are a secret society. I am not even supposed to reveal my identity. But things have changed. Ever since you killed Prince Diamond, you became famous in the galaxy."

"I did?"

"Rumors spread like wildfire." Blazer continued. "Prince Diamond was a well-known tyrant. And people will be wondering who was the earthling who killed him. You've also caught the attention of my commander...he is Commander Jamell of the Black Hand."

Neb: "Is Tyson is danger?"

"That I cannot say for sure. But Jamell will pay a visit to you very soon. Take caution."

Tyke: "Take caution? Wait a minute, Blazer. Don't you work for the Black Hand? Aren't they our allies?"

"Kind of...the thing is that I don't know what Jamell's true intentions are. By interfering with the Centilians, I have disobeyed an order. They are very strict on rules, Tyson. I'm not even sure if I am one of them anymore."

Tyke and Neb gave each other a look. "So what now? Am I their target or something?"

"I don't know."

For the next few hours, Tyson was disturbed by what Blazer said. Not knowing where to go, he turns to Macintosh for help. Maybe the smart guy has answers.

But first they talked casually about other things. "So...how are things going with Lisa?"

"Uhhh...well...it's going okay." Mac said, blushing.

"She's a nice girl." Tyson said in a matter-of-fact way. And he knows it's true. "I've known her my whole life. She's very strong."

"Yeah, I know. She's always been there for me, and I never realized it until recently."

"Well, at least now I know she gets the inspiration to write her columns." Tyke said in a playful tone. Both of them know that Lisa works for Viz Entertainment, and her job is writing love stories. This is the "inspiration" that Tyson is referring to, since she now actually has experience in romance.

"Ahhh, so what did you need me to look up for you?" Macintosh asked, changing the subject.

Now they got serious. "I need to find information on the Black Hand."

"The Black Hand? You mean...the Macedonion terrorist organization?"

"Yes, exactly."

After a while searching on the computer, Macintosh gave him the answer: "I can't find much on them. Sorry..."

"It's okay. You did what you could." But the truth is, it's **not** okay. This adds to Tyson's uneasiness. He definitely had a bad feeling about this.

Agent Mai walks through the hallway and into the dark room. Sorell was sitting behind his desk, with hands folded on his chin. Mai salutes him. "Commander. Agent Blazer Syrus has disobeyed an order. He intervened in Centilian affairs when you ordered him not to do so, and he has failed to capture the fugitive known as Subzero."

"Indeed." he replied. "What should we do with him, Mai?"

"Leave it up to me. I will administer his punishment." After she said this, she turned around to leave.

"You are not going to kill him, are you?"

At this point Mai turned around. "Don't worry about it, commander."

Blazer stood by himself in the middle of nowhere. His mind is troubled by what is about to happen. He is not sure what the Black Hand has in store for him. Thinking about the past, he has done a lot for them. Blazer completed various missions successfully, and only failed a few missions. He successfully disbanded the Gladiators by defeating their leader, destroyed the Great Seven terrorist organization, and aided in the defeat of Ostrovsky. Each time he had help, but he played a significant role in those events.

His thoughts broke when he saw the person in question walking towards him. Mai was dressed in combat armor - one designed to fit her body type - slim and

slender. Her armor pieces were black and red and there were various devices attached to her belt. She was a girl with black hair, tied to a pony tail, and eyes as cold as steel.

"Agent Syrus, I found you at last."

"I wasn't planning on hiding, Agent Mai."

"Do you know why I'm here?"

"It's pretty obvious."

"Blazer Syrus, you interfered with the Centilians when you told you not to, and you failed to capture the fugitive named Subzero."

"How many times do I have to hear that?"

Mai: "Very well, let me get straight to the point. You've been of service to us in the past. I'll give you a chance to redeem yourself. We will have a match right here and now, and if you defeat me, you're off the hook. There's no rules. And no holding back."

"Fine. I accept."

Mai smiled. "Good. I've been wanting to fight a sayan like you. Show me what you are capable of! Hyaaaah!" She begins to power up, and waves of red energy were released from her body. Blazer winced from the light.

A man with silver hair was standing on a rooftop. Then he vanished. Tyson sensed him from the laboratory. (This presence...what is it? Could it be one of the members of the Black Hand?) "Nebula, I am worried about Blazer. We should go check on him."

Nebula nodded. "Alright, I'll go with you."

And off to the sky they went.

Mai and Blazer ran forward at super speed. Mai strafed left and right, making her opponent's eyes confused. Blazer punched, and suddenly she was gone. She appeared from above and kicked him before he knew what happened. Whack! She hit him in the face. Pow! Then a round kick to his chest. Wham.

Mai continued her assault with a series of palm attacks, and Blazer had to block and dodge them. Once she found an opening, she hit him on the chin. Smack. He jumped and landed in a crouch. (She's serious about this. I have no choice but to transform.) He didn't want to do this, but he turned second stage. Flash.

"So you finally revealed your true form, eh? Let's go." Mai said. She took out a pistol and fired. Blazer tilted his head to the side to avoid the laser. Zap! It hit the rock behind him. Blazer opened his palm to fire a beam, Mai jumped away from it.

Tyson and Nebula hurried to the scene.

Blazer formed a golden ball in his right palm, and Mai formed a red ball in her palm. They did the stare for a while, trying to anticipate each other's movement. Blazer was worried the whole time, while Mai was confident she can win. They leaped and smashed the balls together, an action that caused a power surge. Zzzzzzt. They struggled for superior strength.

Kaboom! Both of them had to jump away from the explosion site.

Syrus panted for breath. "You want to see power? I will show you power!"

Tyson and Nebula showed up just Syrus jumped at her. Mai had a wicked smile. Once he was within reach, she pulled out something from behind her back and threw it at Syrus. The mechanical device had an eye in its center and metal tentacles, it caught Syrus's chest and tied itself around him and gave him electric zaps.

"Aaaaagh! Aaaaah!" He could not rip the thing off and fell on the ground as he's being paralyzed. "Ugh..." His hair turned black as he powered down.

Mai: "Hahahaha. Once you are caught by the 'spider' it will be hard to resist."

Tyke: "No! What are you doing?"

Mai: "Who the hell are you?"

Tyke: "Stop this at once. You don't know what you are doing."

"Oh, these must be the earth friends he mentioned." Mai said, putting a hand on her hip. "Stay out of the Black Hand's affairs if you know what's good for you."

Tyson grunted. "What did Blazer do that was so bad?"

"This is none of your concern."

"No, this is the man we have been looking for." said another voice. Sorell jumped out from a rock. She was a woman dressed in a shiny black coat, tight black pants, boots, and a belt around her waist. She had long, silver hair.

Tyke: (How long has she been hiding there? I didn't detect her presence at all.)

Sorell crossed her arms. "What's your name?"

"My name is Tyson Spade."

"And I am Nebula Spade."

"So, you are the famous Tyson Spade, Prince Diamond's assassin. I've heard much about you from my organization."

"If you heard about me, then you know I am not one to be tampered with. Let Blazer go now."

Sorell: "Sorry, but we don't take orders from outsiders. The Black Hand has strict rules that must be enforced. The fact is that Blazer failed, and he must be punished."

Tyke: "Is your way of thinking the right way?"

Sorell: "And I suppose yours is? How about we settle this on the battlefield?"

Tyke: "You are challenging me to a duel?"

"Exactly."

Neb: "Are you sure about this?"

Tyke: "I'll be fine. You just stay there and watch the other girl in case she tries anything."

"Very well then. Oh by the way, my name is Sorell."

"Well, Sorell, I won't go easy on you, even if you're a girl."

She laughed. "Ha ha ha ha. A girl? I'm old enough to be your mother."

"No way..."

Suddenly, she blurred. Tyson was surprised. "What?"

She appeared from behind and blasted him. Kabam. Nebula covered himself from the smoke.

Tyson was in the air, already in second stage. He escaped a narrow death. "That was close."

Sorell fired beams at him, and he dodged. Froom. Froom. Tyson landed. Sorell turned her hand into an energy ball and ran forward.

(I have no choice - I have to transform!) Tyson powered up and glowed. Sorell jumped and the energy ball collided into his shield and knocked her away. Froom! Now Tyson is in the fourth stage. Sorell and Mai noticed the change immediately.

Nebula: (This is the power he gained on planet Arlia. No one is a match for him now.)

Tyke: "This fight ends now."

Sorell: "Really? I was just getting started."

Tyke: "Is fighting some sort of entertainment to you? You shouldn't use your sixth sense recklessly, someone can get killed. This isn't some child's play, this is the battlefield."

"What..."

Tyke: "You should know better. Terrorist organizations like the Black Hand only cause more trouble. Your kind of people don't even war, it's what starts wars."

Sorell: "Why you little..."

Mai: "Don't listen to him. He's trying to get you angry."

"He's still a cocky bastard. Good, it makes my victory even more satisfying." She ran and punched, he blocked. Wham! She kept on attacking, not allowing him to counter.

They continued to throw energy balls at each other. At this point, Sorell takes out her pistol gun and points it at him. Tyson blurred and appeared in front of her, grabbing her hand. She dropped the pistol as he squeezed her wrist. "This fight is over." he said.

"Yeah, for you." Something jumped out of her sleeve and attached itself to Tyson's hand. It was a spider – the same thing that caught Blazer and made him paralyzed. Tyson freaked out when it's on his hand, and it zapped him. He felt a paralyzing pain. It's as if the machine wanted to eat his arm.

"Aaaaah!"

Sorell laughed.

"You think this thing will beat me?" Tyson powered up and the spider broke apart from the energy on his arm.

"Very impressive." said Sorell.

"You forced me to do this." The super sayan charged and let out a fury of punches. Sorell blocked. Pak-pak-pak.

Tyson made a strong punch forward, Sorell ducked and put a spider on his chest, and it attached itself to him. "Huh?!"

Sorell jumped away and watched the thing take its effect. Tyson screamed like hell and he can't get it off no matter how hard he ripped it.

"Aaaaah!" The hero fell on his knees.

Nebula can't stand it anymore and he charges with his N-Sword. Sorell jumps out of the way. Slash.

Sorell: "You want to interfere too?"

"Enough." said another voice.

Mai and Sorell stared at him in surprise. "Commander?"

"Release them at once." said Jamell.

The two agents did as they are told.

Blazer went to Jamell and bowed. "Commander, I apologize for my failure. I will do better in the future."

Tyson was still a little dizzy from that machine.

"It's fine, don't worry about it." Then he walked over to Tyke. "Are you Tyson Spade?"

"Yes. You are their leader, I suppose?"

"Yes. I am Commander Jamell, chief of operations of the Black Hand. I apologize for how my agents treated you. But I had to be sure you are who you say you are."

"It's alright, there's no harm done."

Jamell: "We need to talk."

"Huh?"

"There are some important matters I need to discuss with you and your brother."

2: Signs of Impending Doom.

Contents

"What was that? Prince Diamond is...dead?" said the figure in the dark.

"That is correct." replied a Muraian soldier. "He was last seen on earth. He was waging a campaign of war against the Earth's Military Forces."

"That idiot!" Orbital shouted, banging his fist on the table. "We told him not to do it."

Wiseman appeared. "It is most unfortunate that we lost a valuable member of the Council, Orbital."

"It is a good thing that we are not affected. Right now we just need to wait for his successor to take control of his throne."

"Indeed."

After Tyson and Nebula's little incident with the Black Hand, Jamell apologized and invited them for lunch. The brothers sat on one side of the table while Jamell and Sorell sat on the other. They were eating high class food while enjoying the scenery from the window.

"Earth food is so good. I'm so glad I came."

Tyke: "Yes, well. This is just food from our region. To be honest, I haven't experienced all the food on earth. We have over 180 different countries, each with their own culture, beliefs, and different foods."

Jamell: "That is simple astounding. This is what makes earth the Land of Paradise."

Tyke: "They still call it that?"

"Yes, you'll be surprised. Being diverse is good, but it is also a weakness. The earth's military forces are divided into 180 different groups. How will they organize themselves if there is a threat to the human race?"

Neb: "Good question...we still haven't figured that one out."

Jamell: "I could imagine you can't do much about it, since you are not politically involved. The reason why I invited you is to tell you something very important."

The atmosphere turned serious. Tyson and Nebula stopped their eating and paid full attention.

"Though I must warn you first. What I am about to tell you will be hard to believe...and you might even question its validity, but the earth will enter a war soon."

"What?" Tyson suddenly had no more appetite. "Are you serious?"

"I would not joke about something like this." the commander replied. "Our sources indicate that the Empire has set its sights on earth. This planet will likely be their next target."

Tyke: "But...the Great War is over, isn't? Didn't Murai sign a treaty with the Alliance and promised not to attack ever again?"

Jamell: "It would seem so. But that was thirty years ago. It is in fact, part of the Empire's plan to surrender. During this time they secretly build up their army in preparation for another war."

Neb: "Are you saying that the Muraians had no intention of surrendering in the first place?"

Sorell: "Think about it. If you think you are the most powerful entity in the universe, would you give up just like that? Or would you trick the enemy into thinking you've surrendered? The treaty states that Murai would not expand its territory to other planets. But in fact, they have. The treaty also states that Murai would cut down its weapons production and army training. The opposite is true. Their army is stronger than ever. The treaty is still in effect, but the question is...who's enforcing it? The better question is...who wants to mess with Murai?"

Tyke: "I can't believe they'd do such a thing."

"I know it may be hard." said Jamell, "But this is reality. We have to accept the facts...so that when the worst does happen, we will be prepared for it. I have already sent a message to important presidents of earth. I hope they will take my warning seriously."

Sorell: "Planet V-5, or Murai, is the heart of what is called the Dark Empire. Murai is the planet that started it all – they are the sole cause of the Great War. Because of their greed for power and ambition, they allied themselves with planets like Draconia and Masadonia to expand their control. They seek to destroy those who resist them. They're nothing but a bunch of cold blooded murderers. They don't know anything about morale!"

Tyke: "I can't believe what I'm hearing. They are going to start another war? Then has everything that my parents fought for...everything that the previous generation done in **vain**!? All those soldiers who died for peace and freedom..."

Jamell: "I understand how you feel...but young man, you have not been through war like we have. You were born during peaceful times. I understand that this may be hard to accept, but we need to accept it."

But as one can clearly see, Tyson is having a hard time accepting it.

Jamell: "This happened because of our carelessness. We left Murai alone to do whatever they wanted. Muraian are one of the most powerful races to exist in the cosmos. We know almost nothing about them. Not even the Galactic Police wants to get near that place."

Tyke: "The Galactic Police? Does my uncle know about this?"

"Your uncle?"

"My uncle is Headmaster Jerrell."

Sorell: "Headmaster Jerrell is your uncle? So that means...you are the son of Margarita and Mason Spade?"

"Yes."

Sorell and Jamell looked at each other. "I see." said the commander. "Now I see why you are so strong."

Tyke: "My parents raised me to be the best. They expect nothing less of me."

"Sounds like Margarita alright."

"You knew my mother?"

"Yes." Sorell replied. "We met her during the first Great War. It's been over thirty years since then."

"Why...why?" Tyson asked.

Jamell: "You have to understand, Spade, that the people in the Empire do not think like us. They've already adopted their way of thinking over a hundred years ago. It all started with the founding of the elite Council..."

A few men sitting in a dark room were discussing important matters. They were the top leaders of planet Murai.

"They were greedy. For them, ruling one planet is not enough. They began to form alliances with other planets within the galaxy. One of their oldest allies was planet Draconia, home of Draconians. The next to join them was Masadonia. Their influence began to spread as they took control of weaker planets, enslaving their people to make them more powerful." Image of the three planets together. "They wanted to get others to join their alliance, including my home, Macedonia. Our government agreed, but half our population disagreed with their decision. Thus we had a civil war. The same thing happened on Arlia. The people went against their government. The Great War was the single most violent war in the history of the universe."

Muraian soldiers raised their arms in the air and screamed "Victory!"

“What makes the Empire so powerful? It was something they found in a nearby planet – a source of energy known as dark energy. This unknown substance is known to cause a chemical change within our bodies. Somehow it heightens our use of the sixth sense. In fact, it heightens all of our senses. Even our scientists at Macedonion have yet to figure out the substance’s secret. But the Empire knows it’s secret, they are able to harness this dangerous energy.”

This information was overwhelming for our heroes. But this is just the tip of the iceberg. The real cause behind the war is much more complicated and may take a while to explain.

Jamell: “The reason we told you this is not to scare you. But we want you to be prepared. The Empire might attack in a few years or so. This will affect everyone that you know. Your families, friends, co-workers, relatives. Your parents. Your wife, your kids. Your whole planet.”

Nebula: “I appreciate you telling us this.”

“Blazer knows this too. I hope he’s been of help to you. The reason why he is living here is because I assigned him to this planet.”

Tyke: “He’s a good friend of ours.”

“Friend? I see. He has made friends here. I noticed a change in him ever since he came here. Perhaps one day...he will open up. Ever since he was born, Blazer has had a hard life. I want what’s best for my subordinates. Well, that is all I have to say.”

Everyone stood up and shook hands. “Thank you for informing us. Maybe in the future we can be allies.”

“Definitely.” replied Jamell.

Back in the Crystal Palace in the capitol of Centilia, the four members of the royal family – Aries, Rasha, Melinda, and Vertigo were having a meeting deciding what to do about Diamond’s death. It certainly is hard not having him around anymore, but they need to move on.

Rasha: “Right now we need a new leader to take over the throne. Without a leader we will be crippled.”

Melinda: “Naturally, his brother Dmitrus should take the throne. But where is he?”

Rasha: “He is somewhere on earth.”

Melinda: “What? What is he doing there? Has that boy gone out of his mind?”

Vertigo: “Perhaps he does not want to inherit the throne?”

“Non-sense!” Melinda replied. “Who would not want the throne? It is the greatest honor of the royal family.”

Rasha: “Not everyone sees it this way. The question is...who will be the leader?”

Everyone froze at the presence of a fifth person. Her ki was mysterious as they cannot figure out its magnitude. It was woman dressed in a long robe with a golden mask on her face.

“No one else shall become the leader of our race other than Prince Dmitrus. We need to find him at once.” said **Maya**.

The Spade couple meets some new friends on their way – Prince Derus Diamond, the ruler of Centilia, and his brother, Prince Dmitrus Diamond. They claim they come to earth for a vacation, but it seems that Diamond has other plans in mind. In the middle of the city, a runaway mobile suit causes havoc. Blazer confronts another Centilian by the name of Vertigo who he believes is doing illegal things on earth. Are these incidents related to Diamond's arrival, and what kind of plot does he have in mind?

2: Mistake Of The Past. Macintosh's Struggle.

Macintosh goes to confront his old nemesis again – his old partner who betrayed him, the one who ruined his life up to this point – Doctor Carlos Arkady. It turns out he is also involved with the Centilians' illegal activities. What connection does Arkady have with the Centilians? Will Macintosh be able to overcome his past?

3: A Matter Of Pride.

One day, while Diamond and his brother Dmitrus were walking on the wrong side of the street, they run into a drunken old man who insults and attacks them. The infuriated Diamond kills him, which instantly makes him a criminal. Being too proud to be arrested, he attacks the city in a rage. It's up to Tyson to calm down the angry prince before he gets too carried away. Meanwhile, Macintosh confronts the man who ruined his life – Doctor Arkady.

4: Snow Fight.

Angry over his defeat, Prince Diamond sends his finest warriors to crush the heroes – Vertigo, who has some tricks up his sleeve, Melinda, a proud and ruthless warrior, and the mysterious Rasha, a cold and calculated assassin. Will the heroes survive this winter?

5: Let's Visit Centilia.

After Prince Diamond declares war on earth, the heroes decide to go to his home planet to pay him a little visit. But their trip turns into disaster as they're separated when they get attacked by the armed forces of Centilia! Will Blazer and Tyson be able to survive in a world they've never been to?

6: Runaway. The Fugitives.

Blazer and Tyson are now fugitives running away from the law. They are chased by the military, they have to live in a cave, and to top it off, they run into mercenary who challenges them to a duel to the death. Will they survive this cruel world to regroup with the others, or will this be their grave?

7: Secret of the Centilians.

The other heroes get impatient and decide to take matters into their own hands. Upon finding the Crystal Palace, they break in, hoping to convince Diamond to halt his attack on earth. But their plans backfire as they run into the warriors who fought them on earth – and this time, they mean business. Will they survive Rasha's overwhelming power?

8: Hidden Power, The Awakening Phoenix!

While the heroes are struggling, Tyson was struggling with the mercenary known as Aries, a member of the royal family. Even Tyson, in his fourth stage, is having trouble with this warrior. What link does Aries have with Diamond, and will Tyson

overcome this challenge...or will he need to call summon a power beyond the fourth stage?

9: Activation! Heart Of Fire.

The grueling fight continues as Aries beats Tyson to a bloody pulp. But the hero won't give up just like that. Will Tyson activate the Phoenix or he will be consumed the flames of guilt and anger?

10: Payback Time.

After their showdown with Aries, Tyson and Blazer go directly to the Crystal Palace to rescue Faith from the hands of the enemy. But in the heat of battle, Tyson accidentally reverts back to the third stage – the strongest and most dangerous level of power of a sayan. Not being able to distinguish friend from foe, he goes on a killing spree. Will he wake up in time or be destroyed by his own rage?

11: Galactic Enforcement.

It seems that our friend in the Galactic Police has a grudge against the Centilians as well. But he has problems of his own as tyrants on C-16 make use of “Black Technology” – a new technology that powers mobile suits with dark energy. During the mission, Commander Cuzzy finds the dead body of one of the leaders of the planet – completely in ice. What does this mean?

12: Heart Of Ice. Subzero's Past.

As Subzero continues his training in the ice lands of Trachian, he gets a visit from his old master, Absolute Zero. The old wise one sends him to the coldest part of Trachian for the ultimate training. While fighting ice dragons, the predators of the cold, Subzero remembers something about his childhood – a terrible massacre that killed all the villagers, leaving him behind to fend for himself. Will the Ice Warrior survive this ultimate training?

13: Subzero's Challenge. I Accept!

After his life and death struggle on Trachian, Subzero goes to earth and issues a challenge to our hero, Tyson Spade, who gladly accepts. The two fighters haven't seen each other in years, and it's no time to get soft. Who will be the victor of this duel? Who is the stronger warrior? What are Subzero's true intentions?

14: Second Strike.

As promised, Prince Diamond sends his Centilian Armada to attack the earth's cities. Meanwhile, the royal family members attack the heroes, and this time, they will fight to the death. With Tyson occupied with Aries, will the heroes make it out alive? Will the earth's forces crumble at the power of the Centilians?

15: Triumph! I Did It At Last. [A] [B]

In the heat of battle, Blazer calls forth a legendary power – the fourth stage. In an instant, the balance of power turns to his favor, and even the mighty Prince Diamond admits that he's not strong enough. But even Dmitrus has his pride, and won't give up without a fight. However, things do not look so good for the others as Melinda reveals her ugly jealousy of Faith, and Rasha and Erika continue their unfinished match. Macintosh has his own problems as Arkady prepares to launch the Eliminator into battle.

16: The Secret Of The Royal Family. Color Of The Crest.

Just when Blazer thought he had the advantage, Diamond transforms into a gold-class warrior, the final stage of the Centilian power levels. Faith's duel with Melinda escalates, and everyone has their struggles as well. Is the gold-class warrior of legend truly invincible?

17: Surprise Appearance.

With Blazer down for the count, the now proclaimed God-warrior now believes he is the strongest fighter alive. But he may be celebrating his victory too soon as there are others who want him dead. Subzero makes a surprise appearance. What past connection do these two have together?

18: Grudges of the Past.

Aries, the former commander of the Centilian forces, returns for revenge. But things have changed as Diamond is now in an invincible state. Will the former commander be able to get his revenge and overthrow the tyrant, or be consumed by his power?

19: One Last Hope. Fire in the Sky!

It's not over until it's over. And it's not over until Tyson is defeated, but he doesn't plan on it. The only way to defeat Diamond is to find the power inside of himself – will he be able to summon the legendary Phoenix or be added to Diamond's long list of casualties?

The Black Hand

1: Blazer's Connection.

Blazer has disobeyed an order, which is forbidden in the Black Hand, and now he has become one of their targets. But Tyson and Nebula are involved as well. These agents have some tricks up their sleeves. Will the heroes survive their wrath?

2: Signs of Impending Doom.

As Centilia is going haywire over Diamond's untimely death, Jamell sits down with Tyson and Nebula to explain the origin of the Great War. What was the cause of the biggest and most violent war in history? What secret does Murai harbor that we do not know of? What is the Empire's thirty year plan?