

THE POWER FORCE

The Other Dimension

The planet Earth is just one planet, but is there a parallel dimension that exists? Imagine another Earth just like this one, except that its people and time are different. And imagine what would happen if the people from the two dimensions meet...and find out that an evil force, nearly unstoppable, is out to steal all energy of life forms and plans to take over both worlds?

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Summary

18: The Contest. Who is the Best?

Contents

It was morning. Tyson woke up and yawned. He turned to the side and saw Faith sleeping. And she woke up.

"You awake?" he asked.

"Yeah."

They got out of bed and went to the bathroom to do what they had to do. Today they didn't feel like training, and they got bored.

"Say, I got an idea." Faith said.

"What?"

"Why don't we visit the others to see how they're doing?"

"Yeah, sure. Why not."

"We can go right now."

She nodded and they left.

Flying together, they reached the castle quicker than they had expected. "Ah, there it is." Faith pointed. They landed on the grass.

Nebula, Zelfire, Macintosh, and Lisa greeted them right away.

Macintosh: "Hey, it's them!"

Neb: "How are you two doing?"

Tyson: "Great. Just great."

Faith: "We are making progress."

Tyson: "So, how about you guys?"

Macintosh: "Oh, fine, I guess."

Midas: "My daughter, how was your training?"

"It's fine, father."

Darian: "That's good to hear."

Faith: "We just thought we'd take a break from training and come visit you."

Midas: "Ah, you two must have been working very hard. My students are working hard as well."

Nebula: "Yeah, let's all take a break."

"I know what we can do for fun." Faith suggested. "Let's have a contest to see who is the strongest among us."

"The strongest among us?" Lisa said.

Macintosh: "Yeah, great idea. I like it."

Zelfire: "It sounds fine with me. Should we try it?"

Midas: "Very well. Let us proceed."

After everything was decided, it was almost time to begin. All the heroes gathered together and prepared themselves.

Lisa and Midas won't be joining them, so they'll watch. "We're going to have contest, or a mini-tournament. Alright, here are the rules: It's a free for all, so that means no teams. And absolutely no cheating, please."

Nebula: "What's considered cheating?"

Lisa: "Teaming up with anyone, throwing dirt into opponent's eyes, you know, stuff like that."

Tyson: "Ah hem, and no hitting in the face."

"And no hitting the face." Lisa added. "You just have to fight for your own survival. If you say you give up, then you're out. If you know you lost, then you have to say you give up. And please, no killing."

Macintosh: "Will there be a prize?"

Lisa: "Ummmm...this is just for fun, you know."

Neb: "Yeah but there has to be a prize."

Midas: "Are you ready?"

"Yeah!" they answered.

Lisa: "Begin."

They all entered the woods from a different spot. Tyson was all excited since he's never been in something like this before. Anyone and everyone is your enemy, and it's like you're on a survival mission.

Lisa fired the gun, and everybody knew it had already started. Bang.

Tyson, who thought he should do this the smart way, hid in a cave. His plan was to attack the first person that shows up.

Zelfire walked along the road, keeping an eye out for “enemies.” Just then, he heard something on the trees. He became alert immediately. Darian jumped from above and attacked.

Macintosh ran worriedly, hoping he was not unlucky enough to run into someone. Hopefully, the training in spirit world paid off. He saw Nebula in front of him. “Hey!” he said.

“Let’s do this!” Nebula said.

They attacked each other. Nebula threw the Energy Bomb, and Macintosh dodged it. He fired the Electro-shockwave, and Nebula evaded. Suddenly, Zelfire jumped in between them and attacked Nebula.

“C’mon! Let’s go!”

Macintosh took the chance and escaped, but ran into Darian.

Tyson saw Faith approaching and smiled. He got ready, and then jumped out and surprised her. Faith let out a gasp and jumped away.

“So, I guess it’s just you and me.”

“Yep.”

They fought the best they could, not holding back, and it was just like training.

Faith punched, Tyson dodged, and appeared behind her. “Got you.” he said. He grabbed her arms and held them tight.

She struggled but couldn’t get free.

“Give up?”

“Alright, you win.”

“Just what I thought.”

“Tyson, I guess it’s up to you now. I knew you’d win.”

“Well, it’s thanks to your training.” He sensed something, and let her go.

Nebula came from behind and kicked, Tyson jumped over him and landed behind him.

Nebula was pleased. “Not bad! A big improvement indeed, bro.”

“You’ve improved too. Let’s see how much.”

They hit each other.

Macintosh was beaten by Darian, so he surrendered and he was out. Then Darian and Zelfire fought alone, and it was a close match.

Tyson and Nebula hit and shot energy balls, jumping from tree to tree. Wham bam whack crash! Nebula was hit and went through a tree, and it fell. Tyson flew down after him, Nebula regained control of himself and landed on his feet. He dodged Tyson’s kick, and they punched on the fists.

Zelfire and Darian realized that they were close to the other two, and they blurred. Faith watched from trees.

Zelfire attacked Nebula by surprise, and he was knocked down.

“Aaah damn it!” His neck was only inches from Zelfire’s fist, and he knew he couldn’t win. “Okay, I give!”

Darian came out of nowhere and attacked Tyson, who dodged just in time. Tyson ran, trying to get distance. Darian ran after him, but Zelfire dropped in.

“There’s only three of us left. Leave Tyson to me!”

“No way!” Zelfire said. “He’s mine!”

They hit each other, and Tyson blasted them both by surprise. Bam!

Tyson: “Give up?”

Zelfire: “Yeah. Darn.”

Darian was pissed and did not answer.

"Well?" Tyson insisted.

"You win." Darian finally said with a grumble.

Tyson helped them up. The whole group came back to the starting point and announced the winner – Tyson Spade.

Faith: "Congratulations! You're the strongest of all of us!"

Tyson was happy, but a little embarrassed. "Aww, it was nothing." he said, chuckling.

Nebula: "You did it man!"

Zelfire: "Congratulations."

Darian was unhappy about it. "Big deal." he said to himself.

Lisa: "Well done, Tyson. I bet you've been training hard."

Tyson: "Kinda."

Midas: "You have done well, young man. This deserves a celebration."

Sapphire, Nimrod, and their henchmen were floating in the sky, watching the beautiful city below.

"It's a shame we have to destroy it." Goldark said.

Nimrod: "Yes, a waste indeed. But we must obey our master's orders."

Sapphire: "Okay boys, you're free to do whatever you want. Report back here in one hour."

Dragoneous: "Sure thing, boss."

The henchmen flew down and started a rampage. They flew around, laughing and yelling, and the people saw them and panicked. They ran like little ants in all directions, creating chaos and mayhem. The henchmen shot fireballs at buildings, cars, and everything that could be a target, which was almost everything.

Macintosh: "Tyson, congratulations. I must say, I'm impressed."

Zelfire: "I can see the improvement already. You've been training hard, haven't you?"

Tyson: "Oh it's nothing, really. Luck played a part in it. I might not have won if I ran into certain people."

Nebula: "Heh, still so modest. Well, at least he's honest. If luck was on my side I would have won."

Lisa: "Oh come on, you're just a sore loser." Everyone laughed except for Darian and Midas.

Midas can feel the prince's displeasure and jealousy. "Are you alright, prince?"

"I'm fine." he answered hastily. "Thank you for your concern."

"We cannot always be the best. Sometimes it is better to accept our place."

Finally, the henchmen gathered together for the final blast. Goldark concentrated all the energy he had, and he strained and sweated to get this one. He fired three beams at once – BOOM! Three giant craters on the city had been created. The damage was unrepairable.

Tyson sensed something wrong, and the others sensed the same thing. "What...what is that?"

Nebula: "The enemy has revealed themselves."

Zelfire: "What strong energies."

Macintosh: "I can feel it too. It's pretty bad."

Darian: "We should go there right away."

Tyson: "Then let's go."

Everyone blurred. Lisa and Midas were left behind.

When the heroes arrived at the cliff above the city, they were shocked at what they found – three gigantic holes where there used to be buildings.

Tyson: “What...what happened?!”

Nebula: “They did this!! The bastards!”

They were all angry, and settled down.

Now only Tyson and Faith remained on the cliff. “Those scumbags.” he said angrily. “They will pay for this.”

“Innocent people always get hurt.” Faith said.

“Enough is enough. We must them now.”

“But your training is not complete.”

Tyson grunted. “How much longer do I have to wait? We can’t just helplessly watch them do what they want. We have to act now.”

“Tyson, I know you’re frustrated, but...”

“I know we are ready, Faith. With you by my side I feel I can do anything.”

“Really?” she asked.

“Yes. We have to act now before they destroy any more cities.”

The wind blew hard.

19: A New World. The Other Dimension.

Contents

After finding the city in ruins, the heroes could not take it any longer. They had to do something or both dimensions will be lost forever.

Tyson continued standing on the cliff, the wind blowing against his hair. Parts of his shirt rippled with the wind. Equipped with fighting shoes, sweat pants, a belt, and a loose T-shirt, he was ready to take on anything. Even the whole world. That’s what he felt like.

He stared at the three big craters created from the bad guys. It made him really mad. Faith came up to him. “Tyson? The others are waiting for us. We should go with them.”

Tyson turned around and smiled. “Alright, Faith. Let’s go.”

Everybody met up at **Harmony Park**. They were mostly silent until Tyson and Faith showed up.

Tyson: “Guys...I’ve already made my decision.”

Everyone looked at him.

“A lot has happened lately. We have some new enemies. But we also made some new friends. These people come from a world that we didn’t even know existed. But this Dark Society is going too far. They’ve destroyed one world, and they intend to do the same to ours. And I have no intention of letting them do that.”

Nebula: “Amen. Neither do any of us.”

Tyson nodded. “We’ve all gotten stronger. Training is over. The time to take action is now.”

Everyone stared in silence. They all seem to agree silently.

Macintosh: “The only problem is that our enemies are nowhere to be found. My computer can’t detect them anywhere.”

Darian: “That means they went back to our world.”

Tyson: “Isn’t there a way to get there?”

Midas: "Very well. Daughter, take them to the machine."

"Yes, father."

And so, Faith and Midas took them to the pod that they traveled in to escape from the palace.

"How did you get your hands on one of these?" Tyson asked.

"We stole them from the enemy." Faith answered.

"Just as you stole the energy-draining machine?"

"Yes. We learned to use them eventually."

In front of them was a large, white, round pod. Faith pushed a button and the door opened. "Come in." she said. They went in one by one.

They were amazed by its technology, especially Macintosh, who was bewildered. The basic structure was simple: a column in the middle and control panels on the side. There was also a control panel attached to the middle. A viewing window was placed on the opposite side of the door.

Mac: "Wow...this technology exceeds anything I have ever seen." He was checking out the computers like a kid in a candy store.

Lisa: "Ain't that a surprise."

Tyson: "Wow...so this is how they travel through dimensions."

Faith: "Actually, this is the old way to do it. They have an even smaller device, one that can be held on the wrist like a watch. We only managed to take this one."

Nebula: "Do you know how to operate this?"

"Of course, we escaped using this. Right, father?"

"Yes."

"Okay everybody. Hang on to something, because it's going to be a bumpy ride." She pushed a button and the door closed, making a mechanical sound. The heroes went towards the wall and held on to something. Faith pulled some levers and pushed some buttons, and the whole ship started to shake.

Nebula: "Whoa..."

"It is a normal sound." Faith assured him. Then every light in the pod started blinking, and they all turned on in an instant. The pod lifted off the ground and with a bright flash of light, vanished in the thin air. Whoosh. On the window, they could see patterns of black and white light, and occasionally some rainbow colors. There were spirals and other shapes. The pod was shaking heavily.

Tyson could swear his body was falling apart and his mouth was going to fall off.

"When i-is this-s g-going t-to e-end-d?!" Lisa said in a shaky voice.

"It is almost over." Faith said.

The pod suddenly appeared in another forest. It landed with a thud and the pod door opened. Clunk. The heroes came out one by one, admiring the new world they just came to.

Faith: "Ahhh...It's good to be home."

Midas: "I feel the same. We have not been here in a long time."

Tyson: "So, this is the other world, eh?"

Mac: "The atmosphere certainly feels different here."

Zelfire: "Yeah, something is different. I can't tell for sure what it is though. It's just a feeling..."

Nebula: "I feel the same."

Midas: "We have better get moving. Time is of the essence."

Faith: "Yay! Finally we are going home, to Almerak."

"You go ahead." Darian said. "I am going to Zaibach."

"But why?" the princess asked.

"I want to see how it is now. I know it is mostly destroyed, but I must see it."

Nebula: "I think we shouldn't separate..."

Midas: "I will go with Prince Darian. The rest of you should go to Almerak."

"But father..."

"Just go."

Faith: "Very well."

Lisa: "Is it dangerous here?"

Faith: "The forest is always dangerous, especially if Vega's stations are nearby."

Midas: "Be careful, daughter."

"I will," she replied.

The king and Prince Darian left them, heading the other way.

Faith: "Come on guys, we are going this way."

The group traveled through the woods, and it sure wasn't a walk in the park. The ground was never smooth; there were rocks, boulders, ponds, rivers, dirt, mud, and other obstacles. They had to walk through vines, where they had to push the vines aside, and risk being scratched by thorns.

Lisa complained the whole way. Macintosh helped her on rivers and getting down from high places.

Tyson: "Hey, how long until we get there?"

"Half an hour at most," Faith said.

Nebula had his hands folded behind his head. "Ahh, this sucks. Why don't we just fly?"

Zelfire: "That takes up energy and the enemy will see us. This is slower but safer."

Neb: "Yeah? We could still be attacked in here."

Zell: "Then why don't you fly alone?"

Neb: "Ah, whatever."

As they traveled, Vega received news of their disappearance in the other dimension. He was neither happy nor angry. "So, they made it here, have they? This will be their mistake. Most of my forces are here. Where are they going to?"

Soldier: "I believe they are heading in the direction of Almerak, sire."

"Almerak? Why would they want to go there? Ha. They do not know something is waiting for them there..."

The heroes have finally made it to **Sumni**, a village in Almerak. Instead of being glad, they felt sad and disgusted at what they saw – dead bodies. There was nothing but dead bodies and burned houses.

Faith: "No...the village."

Mac: "My God..."

Nebula: "Christ...even women and children were killed. They spare no one."

Tyson held a fist. "Bastards! What kind of people are these?"

Lisa covered her mouth. "I feel sick...Guys, let's leave."

Tyson touched Faith's shoulder. "Let us keep going. There are no pretty sights here."

Suddenly, gigantic machines appeared in front of them. The spider-like killer had four long tentacles, allowing it to carry its head very high above the ground. The head was round as a pod, and equipped with lasers.

Nebula: "Holy..."

The spider pods attacked. The heroes ran out of the way. Lisa hid in a hut house. Macintosh dodged its tentacles, but he was hit anyway, and was slammed into a hut.

Nebula decided to do the braver thing and went under one of those things. He blasted the machine from beneath. Boom. The second spider pod went for Tyson and Zelfire. Its tentacle went for them, they jumped away, and it hit the ground. Bam. Faith threw a rose at its head, hit it, but it had no effect. It fired lasers. Zap, zap. Tyson flew away from the shot. Zelfire shot an energy ball. The machine leaped to the air. Faith jumped up and slashed with her sword. Clang. She hit its head, scarring it. It hit her with a tentacle and she was knocked out, and falling. Tyson caught her and landed.

Faith: "Tyson...thank you."

"No problem."

Macintosh: "Hey you, over here!"

The spider pod went for him. He fired the Electro-shockwave, paralyzing it. Zelfire used the Energy Blast, finishing it off.

Lisa, knowing it was safe, came outside. "It's like those things were waiting for us."

Faith: "Vega leaves his stuff all over the place."

Tyson: "C'mon. We'd better leave before something else attacks us."

When they exited the village, they entered another wooden area.

Two people were spying on them from the trees. "Who are these people? They came from Sumni."

Ace: "Who would want to come to Sumni at a time like this?"

Marianna: "They are very suspicious."

"Could they be hired by the Society?"

"Possibly. We should follow them. They might lead us to clues."

As the heroes walked on, Faith stopped, looking around the environment. Tyson knew something was wrong right away. "What's wrong?"

"We are being followed." Faith said, taking out her sword.

Zelfire: "Really?"

Everybody remained quiet. "I know you're hiding out there." Faith shouted. "Why don't you show yourself?"

Tyson: "No, don't do that!"

"Come on. Show yourself unless you're scared."

Marianna and Ace jumped from the trees and landed in front of them.

Faith: "Why were you following us?"

Ace: "Who are you people?"

Nebula: "That's what **we** should ask you."

Zelfire: "Forget the talk. Let's just take care of them."

Marianna: "Are you followers of Vega?"

Faith: "Ha, don't kid me." She suddenly recognized this woman. "Marianna...is that you?"

"Faith?! Wow, it's really you!"

Ace: (Faith? She has the same name as my sister. Could she be...nah...just a coincidence.)

The two best friends hugged.

Lisa: "Ummm, you know each other?"

Nebula: "Well duh. Look at how close they are."

"Guys, there's been a big misunderstanding. This is my friend, Marianna. And these are my friends from the other dimension." She introduced them one at a time:

"This is Tyson, Zelfire, Nebula, Lisa, and Macintosh."

Marianna: "I see you've made some friends in the new world. Oh by the way, this is Ace, my companion."

Ace: "Greetings to all of you."

Sabre jumped out from the bushes, and she recognized Faith. Faith hugged and petted the tiger.

"Sabre! Good to see you. Have you been good lately?"

Sabre purred.

Faith: "What are you guys doing out here?"

Marianna: "It's obvious. Looking for Vega, of course."

Nebula: "Terrific. We were gonna do that too. We have the same goals."

Ace: "Then let's work together."

Nebula: "Yeah."

Marianna: "I'm so glad that you made it, Faith."

Faith: "Me too, Marianna."

At last, the childhood friends were reunited, and the heroes gained two valuable allies. But are they ready for what's waiting for them in Death Mountain?

20: Showdown! The Fight of the Dimensions.

Contents

Sapphire bowed before Vega. "This is my plan. The warriors are planning to go to Death Mountain. My henchmen will be waiting for them there." He smiled.

"Good." Vega said. "I will await your good news."

The group of heroes became a team, even though some of them just met each other. They traveled until they were at the foot of Death Mountain.

Faith: "Here it is. We finally made it."

Tyson: "Something tells me I should worry."

Nebula: "Why should we be afraid? There's so many of us, and we're all strong here."

Tyson: "Good point. I guess you're right."

Suddenly, Darian showed up.

Faith: "Prince Darian?"

Darian: "I came back here. I'm afraid his highness cannot make it. He went back home - to the other dimension."

Zelfire: "Back to our world? It's a wise choice, considering how dangerous the road ahead is."

Darian: "Do not worry much, princess. He is safe."

Faith: "Very well. We must proceed."

The heroes ran into the cave. They reached a large, empty room with nothing but rocks in it. In front of them was another tunnel on the wall. Tyson and Faith went into it first, and the others followed, but boulders fell and blocked their way.

Nebula: "Crap!"

Tyson and Faith looked back. "Oh no! They can't get through!"

"This was all a set up?"

"It looks like it."

"We have no choice but to keep going forward."

"Right." They nodded and continued running.

Their footsteps echoed through the cave, and after much running, they finally came face to face with the enemy.

Nimrod and Sapphire were already waiting for them.

"Just on time."

"Indeed. You are in such a rush to die." Nimrod said.

Tyson: "Arrrgh. The one who's going to die is you."

Faith: "It's the end of the road for you. Now you're going to pay for all that you've done."

Nimrod: "Do you actually think that you can beat us?"

Faith: "We will! Just watch!"

Sapphire: "Hmmm. Let them think what they want. Say...Why don't we make this more exciting?"

Tyson: "What do you have in mind?"

"Why don't we fight one at a time? Because I sure hate short fights."

"What do you say?" Tyson asked Faith.

"I don't know what they planned in mind, but it's alright with me. But I'll go first." Faith said.

"Alright."

"Tyson, before we continue, I just want you to know..." said Faith.

"Yes...?"

"You mean everything to me."

She looked him in the eyes and nodded.

Nimrod: "How touching." He stepped forward.

Faith stepped forward. Tyson got ready just in case Sapphire tried to pull something.

Nebula watched out for any enemies that might surprise attack him. He could sense someone close by, but he could not figure out where he is. Suddenly, a hand came from the ground and tried to grab him.

"Yipes!" He jumped up, and the ground cracked and Goldark came out after him.

Nebula kicked, and his foot hit the guy's face. Splat.

Nebula landed on a boulder. Goldark rammed forward, slamming Nebula against the wall. "Ugh!"

"Ha ha ha ha ha."

Meanwhile, Leo and Macintosh encountered each other. Zelfire was nearby, but he did not know about it. The fighters waited for a few seconds, and then attacked. Mac fired the Electro-shockwave, and Leo dodged, then shot a fireball. Bam!

"Quickly, they're somewhere close by." Marianna said as she ran with Ace. But while running, Zai jumped down from a boulder and got in their way.

"This is as far as you'll go."

Marianna: "Move out of the way and you won't get hurt!"

Zai: "Over my dead body."

Ace: "If you must get in our way, then so be it." He drew his sword.

Zai charged and attacked. The heroes fought him together. "Hyuahhh!"

Zai drew his sword and slashed. Ace ran to the left. Marianna ran to the right. They drew swords and hit him at the same time. Zai rolled away from their attack.

Ace ran forward and slashed. While he's fighting, Marianna loaded an arrow and shot it. Twang. Zai saw it coming and jumped. The arrow hit a rock.

"Take this!" Ace ran forward, charging like a bull at Zai.

Faith and Nimrod charged into each other. Wham. They jumped away. Faith did a somersault in the air, and drew the Soul Sword. She ran forward and slashed. Nimrod jumped away.

"Humph. That weapon can't beat me."

Sapphire watched with his arms crossed. "Be careful."

Nimrod: "Alright, I will. Don't worry about it. This will be over soon enough."

Tyson: "C'mon Faith, show them what you got!"

Faith powered up. She held the sword, pointed forward, and her backhand facing forward in a grasp.

"Show me what you've got!" Nimrod yelled. He ran and shot fireballs. Faith dodged them. Boom, boom. She charged forward. Nimrod blurred.

"Huh?!"

Nimrod appeared above her and kicked her down. Wham.

"Oof!"

"Ha!" laughed the sayan.

Faith got up. "That was nothing." she said, bluffing.

"Then I'll show you something!" Nimrod fired a beam.

Faith blocked it, putting her sword in front of her. "Aaaah!"

"Oh no!" Tyson yelled. He stepped forward.

"No, I'm fine!" Faith said. She blocked out the beam. "I can take care of it by myself. You just save your energy."

"But..."

"Just listen! It's for the best." Faith said.

"Alright." Tyson said reluctantly.

Faith walked forward, then speeded up and ran. She slashed violently, as Nimrod dodged the deadly blade. She kept on slashing, going on the defensive. Nimrod went defensive. They went to the air and fought. Whoosh! Slash.

Tyson watched with suspense, while Sapphire remained calm as ice. Tyson and Sapphire exchanged glances. They definitely did not like each other. It was as if they were fighting in their minds.

Wham! Faith was knocked down, she fell and dropped the sword. Nimrod landed in a crouch. Tyson was shocked, but remained calm. Faith got up. Nimrod fired a beam. She jumped away and picked up the sword. She threw a rose at him. Whoosh. Nimrod ducked. Faith charged forward and attacked.

"I will make sure that you die!" the sayan said.

Darian walked around the cave, searching for his allies. "Where is everybody? Where did they go?"

Leo appeared. "Your friends are not here. They will not be able to help you, human."

"What is the meaning of this?" he asked. "Who are you?"

"My name is Leo. And this will be your grave." He smiled wickedly.

Darian drew his sword. They waited to attack. Leo jumped up, gathered energy into his palms, and fired. Darian ran away from the energy balls.

Leo fired at the wall. Boom. The rocks came falling down. Dust covered the place. Darian coughed. His vision was blocked. Leo laughed and his voice echoed.

Mac walked, leaning against the wall. His injuries were causing him pain. He watched the smoke cover the area, and he couldn't see a thing.

Meanwhile, not far from them, Zelfire was having a problem of his own. As he walked, he saw Dragoneous. "I've been waiting for you, human." he said with his arms crossed.

"So this was all a trap, isn't it?"

"Wow, very smart you are." Dragoneous pressed a button on his scouter. Beep beep beep. "Hahahaha. You can't even compete with me with such a low power level. You might as well just give up and die."

"No way! Those devices can't really show someone's true powers. It can't measure the inside of someone."

"Hahahaha. You wanna bet?" He powered up. Then he released the energy. Bam! Zell winced from the power. He fell on his knees and moaned. Then everything became white.

Faith and Nimrod exchanged moves, hitting fiercely. She ran and used the **Tiger Fist**. It was a power-packed fist, as she gathered energy, and it was as fierce as a tiger. Nimrod blocked it, but she pushed him back as he grabbed her fist. Vroom. Their feet scraped against the ground.

"Grrr, is that all you got?" he yelled.

"Not even." Faith replied. She kicked him in the stomach, then jumped away.

"Uuugh." Nimrod groaned. "You little runt."

Sapphire: "I told you to be careful."

"I know. Just let me do my thing!"

Faith put energy into her forefinger, and put her folded her fingers like a gun. She fired the Energy Shot. Bang. Nimrod dodged. She fired. Bang. Nimrod ran forward and attacked. She blocked. Whack. They exchanged some fists, and then jumped away from each other. Faith and Nimrod breathed hard. They were both sweating.

Nimrod: "Looks like I underestimated you. It's going to take a little more to beat you."

Faith: "Save your breath! You have no place in either dimensions!"

The warriors faced each other. Tyson and Sapphire watched from the sidelines.

Ace and Marianna were also having a tough time with their foe. Will the heroes triumph, or meet their end in Death Mountain?

21: Hard Battle. We've Been Training For This!

Contents

The heroes have found their way into Death Mountain, only to find out that Vega's forces were there before they were, and they were expecting their arrival. Will the heroes triumph, or meet their end in Death Mountain?

Faith and Nimrod faced each other, while Tyson and Sapphire watched from the sidelines. Faith powered up, and she was surrounded by pink energy. Her aura expanded. Nimrod powered up, and released blue energy. The energies collided. Even though they stood still, they were fighting with their energies.

Tyson: (*I wonder how the rest are doing...*) Suddenly, he sensed that his friends were in trouble. His eyeballs moved to the right.

Ace charged forward and slashed, Zai blocked. Cling, clang. Marianna loaded up an arrow and shot it. Twang. Zai jumped and did a somersault and landed. Ace charged at him. Zai powered up and knocked Ace away.

"Ugh!"

Marianna loaded another arrow. She gathered energy into it. But before she could finish, he ran at her. She realized she couldn't finish charging it, and got defensive. Slash! He attacked. She blocked with the bow, but it got knocked away. He hit her, and she fell backwards.

"Just as I thought. You are no match for me."

Ace attacked while behind Zai. "Yahhhh!"

Zai turned around and blocked high. Clang. Then he punched Ace in the stomach. Pow. Then he kicked him. Whack. Ace laid on the ground and he grunted angrily.

Mac walked limply, close to the wall. "What's going on here? Ace...and Marianna?"

Zai looked that way, Mac hid behind the boulder. "Who's there?" Zai demanded. "Show yourself."

Suddenly, Nebula and Goldark came crashing through the wall. Crash. Nebula fell to the ground.

Goldark: "Damn punk."

Zai: "It seems your friends have lost as well. All is going according to plan."

Nebula got up and moaned. "Damn it, this is all a trap."

Goldark: "And you fell for it! Ha ha ha ha ha."

Nebula got ready to fight.

"You runts, don't you realize that you've lost already?"

"Wrong, it's just begun!" Neb replied. No one insults him like that.

"You are clearly outmatched in power, boy!"

"We'll see!"

Nebula gathered energy and formed the Target Energy Bomb. He threw it at his opponent. Goldark jumped away. The bomb slammed into the wall. Nebula moved his hands, direction the bomb's motion. It came out of the wall and hit Goldark. Bam. He was caught by surprise. The explosion occurred, creating a puff of smoke. Nebula flew into the smoke and punched Goldark, and he was slammed to the wall. Nebula punched, Goldark grabbed his fist.

"I don't think so!!"

"Ahhh..."

Goldark hit him and whacked him to the ground. Wham.

Just then, Zelfire showed up.

"Zelfire? Thank goodness you're alright." Nebula said.

Goldark: "You are still alive? I thought Dragoneous took care of you?"

"That ugly son of a bitch attacked me recklessly. I was lucky to escape."

"You've run outta luck!" Goldark formed an energy ball and fired, Zelfire dodged it.

Nebula did a flying kick, Goldark jumped away.

"I can take care of this!" Zelfire said. "Go and help the rest of them!"

Nebula: "You sure?"

Zelfire: "Yes! Just go!"

Nebula ran the other way.

Goldark: "That was a big mistake."

Zelfire: "The only mistake here is you."

Goldark grunted. He hated being insulted.

As this was going on, Nebula started to fight with Zai. Nebula drew his sword and charged forward. They jumped to the air and hit each other with the blades. Clang,

cling. Zai gathered energy into his free hand, and ran forward and slashed. Nebula blocked the blade. Zai threw the energy ball at Nebula's stomach at close range.

"Uuugh!"

They were bounced away. Nebula fell to the ground hard. He got up, more determined than ever to win.

Darian came out of the dust. Leo was in the air, and he charged energy and fired. Boom. Darian ran away from the explosions.

"Ha ha ha ha! Run you little bug."

"The Prince of Zaibach does not run away." He took out his flute. He started playing the usual tune.

"What the hell is this?" Leo asked. Then his ears started to hurt. He covered his ears. "Nooo, stop it! Arrrgh!" He stuttered and screamed painfully. "Arrrgh!"

Darian walked forward while playing the tune. Leo screamed and groaned loudly. Suddenly, Darian stopped playing, ran forward and drew his sword. Slash. Leo fell.

Darian walked away, thinking he had won. Then Leo got back on his feet. Darian turned around in shock. "What? Still alive?"

"I won't die that easily." Leo said. He walked forward, brush the dust off himself. "Now it's my turn." He blurred.

Darian reacted with shock. Leo appeared to his side, and kicked him. Wham. Darian was slammed against a wall. Leo charged energy and ran forward. Bam. Darian ran away, and he hit the wall, making a hole.

Pow. Wham. Whack. Darian was getting beat up badly. Leo finished up with an energy beam. Kaboom! Darian was knocked out of sight.

"Ha...hahaha." Leo laughed. Then his scouter detected something, and he turned around.

Mac: "This is not over yet, scum."

Leo: "Oh look, more trash to dispose of."

Marianna showed up. "The only trash here is none other than you."

"Humph. We will see." His eyes narrowed.

Faith crossed her arms and blocked as Nimrod was pounding her badly. Pow, pow, pow. She was being pushed back, while Nimrod advanced. Pow. She ducked a bunch, then countered with an uppercut. Nimrod got hit and almost lost balance. Faith punched, Nimrod smiled and countered with a kicked in the stomach. Faith moaned in pain, and Nimrod kicked her to the ground. Wham.

Tyson was watching angrily, holding a tight fist. He couldn't hold back his energy anymore. Seeing Faith getting beat up was the last thing he wanted to see. His muscles tightened, and he didn't know how long he could hold back his temper. But if he jumped in now, Sapphire will jump in, and things will go out of control. Can they afford such a risk?

Faith was hit, and she fell on one knee. Nimrod put energy into his palms. Zaaap.

The hero continued to watch angrily. He flash backed to the time Nimrod nearly burned him to death. And as a result, he nearly froze to death in Antarctica. He will never let that happen again.

Tyson had enough, and he rushed forward. Sapphire got in his way. "What do you think you're doing, sayan? I thought we agreed on the terms of the fight."

Tyson: "This game is over. I am not playing by your rules!"

Sapphire: "Have it your way."

Nimrod was distracted by them. Faith leaped up and punched. Wham.

Sapphire: "You should've done it my way. That way, you would've lived longer."

Tyson punched, Sapphire dodged. Whoosh, whoosh. Tyson kept punched. Sapphire jumped away. Now there were two fights going on at the same time. Faith continued the fight with Nimrod. Tyson and Sapphire warmed up with karate moves. Wham. Whack. Pow.

Tyson was hit, and he fell to the ground. He got back up. "Ugh, you were lucky."

Faith went to Tyson and they stood together. Nimrod and Sapphire stood side by side. Tyson and Faith did the attack stance. It looks like they were ready to do anything.

The sayan brothers put out their palms together and fired a beam. Bam! Tyson jumped to the right, Faith to the left.

Sapphire: "Do the move now."

Nimrod: "Yes, I've been waiting for this."

Tyson: "What are they doing?"

Faith: "Don't do anything yet, we have to observe them."

"I can take anything you throw at me." the hero said.

Nimrod: "You won't be able to survive this next attack." He had black energy in his hands.

"You wanna be?"

"Why don't you show me what you've got, earthling!"

"Alright!" Tyson ran forward.

"No!" Faith yelled.

He rushed and got his fists ready.

"Sucker!!!" Zap. Nimrod formed a black energy ball and threw it at Tyson. Tyson blocked, but the ball sucked him inside!

[Split screen - 2] [Faith, Nimrod, Tyson].

"Huh? What the hell is this?" He was now inside the bubble.

Sapphire smiled. "Idiot."

Faith: "No...I told you not to go!"

Tyson pounded his fist against the bubble's wall. "Let me outta this thing!"

Nimrod, using his right hand, directed the bubble's movements. His left hand grabbed his right hand for support. "Ha ha ha ha ha. You fell right into the trap." He made the bubble go up.

Tyson was a sitting duck inside. "No! No!" The bubble went down, then up.

Faith took out a rose and charged at Nimrod. Sapphire got in the way. Smack! She fell backwards. "No, Tyson!"

The bubble hit the walls, the ground, and the ceiling. Tyson groaned. Then Nimrod directed the bubble to the pit, where the spikes were at the bottom.

Tyson: "Oh no..."

Nimrod: "Oh yes..."

Schwoop. The bubble hurled downwards. "No!" Faith screamed.

Everybody was shocked. Faith stopped the bubble with her body, and she was close to the spikes. She pushed the bubble up, but to no avail. "Uhhhh..." It was too strong for her to push.

Nimrod: "Idiot...this way you both will die."

Sapphire watched curiously.

Faith struggled. The bubble went down more and more. "Uhhhh...uhhh..."

Tyson: "Forget about me, Faith! Just get out of here!"

She opened her eyes and looked at him. "No...never..."

"This is my mistake. Just go!"

"I won't leave without you. If you die, then I might as well die."

"Faith..."

Sapphire: "How simply touching." He gathered energy into his forefinger and pointed at him. "Die together."

Faith: "You mean everything to me."

"You mean everything to me too."

Suddenly, Faith summoned strength she never had before. She tried harder and harder and screamed. The bubble was pushed up. "Yahhh!" She pushed it into the air really high.

Sapphire: "Hmmm?"

Then she drew the Soul Sword and slashed. Tyson winced. Slash. The bubble broke; he was free. They landed together.

Nimrod: "No way..."

"When we work together," Tyson said, "Nothing can get in our way." The heroes got into defensive position.

Sapphire: "Looks like we'll have to work a little harder to kill you. No big deal." So the battle continues...who will come out of Death Mountain alive?

22: Teamwork. The Spirit Bomb.

Contents

Inside Death Mountain, the battle still raged on. The heroes are putting their training to test.

Tyson and Faith got into fighting position, and so did the sayans.

Sapphire: "You won't be lucky anymore! Mark my words!" He attacked Tyson and Nimrod attacked Faith.

Meanwhile, the other heroes were fighting for their lives as well. It was a struggle they will never forget...

Ace was injured and unconscious, lying on the ground, under the rocks.

Prince Darian dropped in.

Dragoneous, without turning around, asked: "And who might you be?"

"I am Prince Darian of Zaibach!"

"Zaibach?" he confirmed. "Zaibach is no more."

Darian grunted.

"So you are that famous prince, eh? I'll let you in a little secret: I was the one who destroyed Zaibach." He turned around, facing the angry prince. "It is such a shame to see a good kingdom go to waste, eh?"

Darian was really ticked off, and he clenched a fist. "How dare you? You will die for this!"

"I don't think so."

Darian ran at him wildly and punched, Dragoneous dodged, and kicked his guts. Darian got up, and drew his golden flute.

The fish alien laughed at the sight of it. "What are you going to do with that? Kill me with music?!"

Darian closed his eyes and played the tune he always played. Dragoneous felt a strange pain in his head. He screamed in agony and covered his ears, but it didn't ease the pain. His scouter shattered into pieces and all the surrounding rocks cracked. The alien fell on his knees and screamed like hell. Darian continued playing calmly.

The alien fired a stray beam at Darian and hit the flute off his hands. Darian ran for the flute, Dragoneous ran and kicked it away. "You're nothing without your flute, aren't you?"

Darian shouted and drew his thin sword and slashed at him. The alien dodged. Darian slashed again, and the alien punched his face, pushing him down.

Meanwhile, Nebula and Zai continued their sword fight, slicing each other.

Goldark beat the crap out of Zelfire as Leo beat the crap out of Marianna.

Things were definitely not looking good for our heroes.

Tyson and Sapphire hit their fists and elbows against each other. Sapphire punched, he missed, and Tyson jabbed his stomach.

Faith kicked Nimrod down, and she soared up. She gathered energy, with one hand holding the other hand for stability, as the energy formed a ball. It was becoming bigger and bigger.

Sapphire: "Nimrod, it is time!"

Nimrod: "Right, brother."

Faith: "Energy Bomb!" The energy was glowing, and she knew it was ready. She threw it at the brothers.

The sayans were next to each other, and they formed a shield around them, which bounced the Energy Bomb back to Faith. She had no time to dodge. It hit her and fried her.

"FAITH!" Tyson screamed. She was falling and he let out his arms and she fell into his arms. He set her down and trembled. She was unconscious, and she slowly woke up. "Faith? You okay?"

"Ty...son..."

"Uhhh...Faith..."

"I've lost...I...I'm sorry."

"It's not over yet! We still have each other! That is all that matters!"

"Oh, how touching." Nimrod.

"It almost brings a tear to my eye." Sapphire said also sarcastically. "It's too bad they have to die so soon."

Tyson: "Faith, we have not lost yet...as long as our love still exists we can never lose!"

Faith was speechless. As she could say was his name. "Tyson..."

Suddenly, the unexplainable happened. The lovers' energies started glowing. Faith's pink energy and Tyson's blue energy was rising and they combined together.

"What...what is happening?" Faith asked in surprise.

Tyson was not sure either. "Our energies are combining together...into one..."

Faith's pain miraculously faded away, and she could get up, with the help of Tyson.

Nimrod: "Impossible!"

Sapphire: "Their powers are becoming one! I have never seen something like that before!" His scouter showed numbers. "No...it's unreal!" It showed their power level to be 20,000 and increasing. 25,000...30,000...35,000

Zelfire charged into Goldark but got whacked in the face, and he barely landed on his foot. Goldark took a step forward. "What's the matter, puny human? Too weak to fight?"

"No," Zelfire said dramatically. "You have underestimated me."

"Yeah, sure!"

Zell used super speed and charged into the fighter, who jumped up, and Zell

jumped up to the same height, then used the Power Punch on him. Goldark felt a devastating pain as the fist hit him. Then Zell kicked his chin, and he had to raise his leg all the way to do that. Goldark's head thrusts up as his chin got kicked and he spit.

"Why you!" the bulky sayan yelled angrily. He charged up a fiery disk and threw it. Zelfire fired the Energy Blast at him and hit him. Goldark was wide-eyed with shock as he fell and died.

"I told you." Zelfire said silently.

Nebula and Zai took one final charge at each other, screaming as they took the last hit. CLANG! They went pass each other and stopped. The area was filled with silence as they waited to see who would fall first. There were no expressions on their faces. Zai fell and Nebula put the sword back in its case.

Leo threw Marianna onto the ground and she fell face flat. The bad guy laughed victoriously. Macintosh charged at him, only to be whacked away, and he fell next to Marianna.

Leo: "You are so pathetic!"

Marianna got up and loaded her arrow. Macintosh also got up and ran at Leo.

Leo: "Don't you know when you've lost?"

Mac: "Never!"

Mac punched and Leo dodged, and Kapow! Mac fell on the ground.

Marianna concentrated all her energy into the arrow. "Feel my Celestial Arrow!" She released the bow, and the arrow flew. ZOOM! Leo kicked Mac away. He saw the arrow coming at him and jumped. The arrow turned up and soared.

Leo: "Huh! Nooooo!" The arrow hit his chest and blood squirted out.
"Noooooooooooo!"

Marianna shot a beam at him, and that was that.

Bam! Darian was knocked against the wall, and he held onto his shoulder from the injury.

Dragoneous couldn't help laughing. "All you humans are weak and pathetic. It's no wonder Zaibach was destroyed so easily."

Darian breathed hard. These people – the Society – destroyed his kingdom. An entire kingdom of people. He wanted revenge. And that is what fueled him to go on to this very moment.

Dragoneous continued his ranting. "It was a worthless kingdom anyway."

"It was a prosperous, advanced kingdom! It was my home."

"Hmmm?"

"And you ruined it because you are jealous!"

"Ha ha ha. You've gotta be kidding me. Why would I want to live in a piece of trash place like that?"

Darian charged with his sword, and Dragoneous ran and made a punch. They went past each other and Darian's sword broke in half. A scar appeared on his face and blood was on it. Dragoneous laughed, then collapsed.

Their energy continued increasing as they stood together. "What is it?" Faith asked.

"It's our love...that is doing this."

A small and powerful ball formed above them, and it was growing bigger by the second. "This is the **Spirit Bomb**!" Faith exclaimed.

"Our Spirit Bomb!" Tyson corrected.

The ball grew enormous and the pink and blue colors merged together, making it glow.

Nimrod: "That thing is huge! We can't possibly block it!"

Sapphire and his brother watched in horror.

"It's all up to you now." Faith said. She put her hands down, and left him to hold the ball alone. It was on his hand and under his control.

He screamed and threw it at Nimrod. The Spirit Bomb charged at lightning speed and looked like it was going to deform at any moment.

Nimrod took a step back, and stuck his hands out to block it. The energy burned his fists and disintegrated his whole body, leaving not even a trace behind.

Sapphire was in total shock. "They killed...Nimrod!"

Faith collapsed from exhaustion.

23: It's All Or Nothing! The Final Round.

Contents

With Nimrod destroyed, Sapphire was getting real worried. He didn't seem sad or angry about his brother's death, but was more concerned with how he was going to win.

Tyson went over to his fallen partner. "Are you alright?"

Faith leaned against the wall and relaxed herself. "I'll be fine. I just need a little rest." She closed her eyes.

Sapphire: "I must say...I am impressed! That was an unpredictable move. But you cannot use it again."

Tyson: "I suggest you leave now if you don't want to end up like your brother."

"I won't lose. How about this, Tyson? Let's move to a better place to fight. What do you say?"

"Fine with me."

Sapphire flew up, heading for the hole on the ceiling of the cave. Tyson followed him. About half way there, Faith opened her eyes and wished her lover good luck.

Marianna came in, followed by Ace, Nebula, Zelfire, and Macintosh. Faith's best friend ran to her aid. "Faith, are you alright?"

Faith: "I am okay, Marianna. No need to worry."

Sapphire looked below and the guys looked like little ants to him. He had a smirky look on his face.

Nebula: "Where is Tyson going?"

Faith: "He is to fight Sapphire alone. He needs not your help."

Sapphire stopped flying. Tyson stopped also, wondering what he was up to. The evil sayan smiled and charged up energy.

"No!" Tyson yelled.

"Die!" the sayan said, then blasted a huge mega-fireball down.

Tyson punched his face and the scouter broke. He knew he had to save his friends, so he charged after the hurling fireball of hell.

"Guys, get out of here now!!!" he screamed critically. Unfortunately, he could not catch up with the ball.

Everybody on the ground looked up, and reacted with alert.

"Oh no..." Zelfire mumbled.

There was no time to escape. Only seconds left until impact, and the comet ball was powerful enough to destroy the whole cave.

"Nooooo!" Tyson screamed.

Nebula got into the center, just below the comet. He fired the Nebula Blast at the comet. The blast was destroyed upon contact, and the comet shattered. As a result, tons of fire balls fell on the heroes, whom winced and ducked for cover. It seemed like an endless hell storm and the heroes could do nothing but survive it. The fire balls blew up the ground and fell very fast. The heroes formed energy shields to cover themselves. Marianna and Ace covered for Faith.

Finally, it was over. There was no more danger.

Sapphire: "Damn, there goes my attack."

Tyson was now pissed off. "Why did you have to go and do that?"

"You don't need those worthless fools. They're too weak for any of us."

"How dare you!" Tyson charged at him, and punched furiously. Sapphire blocked desperately and they both soared up. POW! POW! KAPOW!

They went up the hole and out of the cave. Tyson kicked him down, and he fell diagonally, landed on a small river. Tyson landed in front of him.

"My offer still stands, Spade." Sapphire said.

"Say what?"

"Nimrod wasn't able to convince you, but I'm sure sooner or later you will change your mind. Why not switch to our side? Vega would love to meet you."

"Dream on. The only way Vega is meeting me is with my fist in his face."

"Very well then, you chose the hard way."

The two sayans got into fighting position. Tyson formed a stance of a martial artist, standing slightly sideways facing his opponent, and spreading his arms and legs out. Sapphire removed his heavy suit and tossed it on the water. "Ahhh, much better." He held up his fists to his face, like that of a boxer. The warriors stared at each other especially in the eyes.

After an eternity of staring, Sapphire splashed water at Tyson's face, and he winced. He punched Tyson on the cheek, and believes it, it hurt like hell. He jabbed his chest then his stomach. Tyson punched his face, then punched again and missed. Sapphire punched and Tyson grabbed his fist, and squeezed it. The alien grunted and tried to pull it off. Tyson let go, then punched his face and he fell.

He got up and wiped his mouth from the blood. Tyson waited for his next move. They both ran sideways, parallel to each other and stopped at the same time. Tyson saw a fish swimming in the clear water. He stomped his foot, and water splashed up and the fish hit Sapphire's face, wiggled, then fell. Sapphire was like what was that! Tyson hit him right in the nose. It was bleeding badly. Tyson gave him a super kick in the chin, which almost broke his whole head off. Sapphire blasted him away.

They jumped into the air and kneed each other. They fired energy balls and they collided and exploded. "This day you die, Tyson."

"Right after you!" he said, then grabbed a fist. POW!

Sapphire used his other fist, and Tyson blocked it too. Then he slammed his head into Tyson's head. The pain was so great he couldn't react for a few seconds, giving his enemy the chance to whack him into the water. WHAM!

Sapphire landed and blast him. "Electro-shield!" Tyson screamed, and a blue/white force field surrounded his body. When the blast touched him, it disappeared, having no effect.

"Nice move! But it won't save you!"

"Huh?"

The alien held his hands up in the air, opening his palms. "This move I saved just for you!!" Enormous amounts of dark energy went to his palms. "**Atomic Star!**" It formed a bright, yet black, electric star-shaped figure. Though it was small, its energy

was incredible.

Tyson powered up, strengthening his Electro-shield. "Come on then!"

The alien threw the star at the hero, who was ready for anything. The Atomic Star hit Tyson's shield and it was breaking it! The shield wasn't strong enough! A few more seconds and he's a goner. Tyson did a daring move and blocked it with his hands. The star pushed him back and back and burned his hands all the way to the elbows. He pushed the star up and it flew into the air, and then exploded.

"Arrrrgh, you won't be so lucky next time!" Sapphire said. He charged and knocked him on the water. He blasted and Tyson blocked, and it pushed him back. He ran at the hero and kicked him in the stomach. "Let's see you block this one! Ha ha ha ha ha!" He charged up another Atomic Star.

Uh oh, Tyson thought. What now? How was he going to block another one? Dodging it won't do any good, since it was so powerful if he's anywhere near it he'd be severely injured for sure.

"Atomic Star!" Sapphire yelled happily. Soon enough, another Atomic Star appeared in his palms. "So long, Tyson! It was nice knowing you!"

Tyson knew what he had to do. He had no choice, he had to risk it by firing one of his own attacks to counter it. "Energy Blast!" he shouted as he watched the Atomic Star approach.

Kabam! The Atomic Star exploded and the beam was shredded into stray beams, which hit Sapphire. The force hurt Tyson as well. He was knocked away senseless.

Sapphire was dumbfounded, his clothes burning. He fell down and the water ran through his body. Tyson slowly got up and caught his breath. He was not able to completely stand, he was hunching on his back, his face facing the water.

"Tyson!" a familiar voice yelled from not far away. "You did it Tyson!"

"Faith?"

"You did it! You defeated Sapphire!" She gave him a big hug and he hugged back. "Let's get you back." She put his hand over her shoulder so she could help him walk to their friends, who were waiting anxiously.

They stepped back on land.

Nebula: "I knew you could do it, Tyson. I never had a doubt."

Marianna: "You did a good job out there."

Tyson: "Guys, thanks so much."

Nebula went to him and offered his hand. "Nice work, bro."

Tyson shook it. Suddenly he was filled with disbelief. He stared at his hands as if it were not his own.

Nebula: "What's wrong?"

Zelfire: "Is something wrong?"

Tyson: "My hands! I can't feel my hands!"

Everybody was shocked, especially Nebula, Lisa, Zelfire, and Faith.

Faith: "Ty...Tyson..."

Tyson: "My hands! My hands!" He collapsed on his knees and screamed like a madman.

They stared at him in awe. Nobody knew what to say or do. Nimrod and Sapphire are defeated, but it was definitely no time for celebration.

Nimrod and Sapphire, the last two members of the Big Four are defeated. Vega heard about this, and he's definitely not happy. He was also curious as to find out who's responsible for the deaths of all members of the Big Four – starting with Kinesis, then Emerald, and finally, the sayan brothers.

Sitting in his chair as usual, sucking up energy from the crystals, Vega wanders into deep thought. (So the princess is more powerful than I thought. But even with her skills, she cannot defeat me. The kingdoms of Almerak and Zaibach are no longer. And it is only a matter of time before I have both worlds in the grasp of my hands.)

The heroes continued traveling about in Sumni, and they found two empty houses in the woods. What luck. They decided to stay there for now.

Inside a private room, Faith was doing the bandages for Tyson's wounds. He was on the bed and she was by his side. "Ouch! Ooh! Eeh! Aah! Oof! Ouch! Be gentle!"

"Come on, hold still." Faith said patiently as she wrapped the bandage around Tyson's chest and back. "Just bear along with me."

"You're doing it too hard! It hurts!"

"Ahh, all done. Don't you feel better?" Faith asked, smiling.

The truth is, Tyson didn't feel better. In fact, he felt the opposite. Just look at him now. His rib cage was broken, some bones in his back were broken and he's got bandages on his chest, forehead, right knee, arms, and around his fingers. The worse injury has gotta be his hands. They were totally paralyzed. Even when he tried to make a fist it hurt.

Right now he felt...what's the word...useless.

He looked at his hands and sighed. He tried to make a fist with all his might but the pain took the better of him. He moaned painfully. "My hands...will they get better? Or will they be like this forever?" he asked gloomily.

"You must have faith, Tyson. It will heal with time."

"But..."

"But what? You can still feel them, right?" she asked.

Tyson nodded.

"Can you hold something?"

"I don't know."

She took out a candle from the drawer and handed to him. "Here, try this."

Tyson focused on gripping the candle...it slipped out of his fingers and fell on the wooden floor. He had a gloomy look on his face and he sighed. He banged the desk angrily.

"Tyson, stop it." she said worriedly.

"I'm useless!"

"Stop it!" she shouted. She grabbed his hands and soothed them. "You're not useless! We could never have beaten the Big Four without you!"

"But look at me now...I can't do anything!"

"You think you are the only one who's hurt?" she said, looking away. Then she looked at him. "Watching you like this hurts me just as much! Don't you know..."

"You're just saying that." Tyson said, not believing.

"No, I am not. We are one now, and when you get hurt, I get hurt. When you are sad, I am sad. When you are happy, I am happy."

He got silent. They just stared at each other in silence.

Once they got over their emotional outbreak, they went into the main room to join the others. Marianna had just finished cooking something that smelled really good. It was some kind of soup.

Marianna, carrying a pot, comes out. "Alright guys, it's ready!" She put it on the table. Everybody was seated. Then Tyson and Faith sat down next to each other.

Nebula: "That smells great! It could be even better than Lisa's cooking."

Lisa: "Hey!" She smacked his shoulder. Everybody laughed. Ace and Marianna served the group, then themselves. They started to eat.

They were all trying to be extra cheerful, hopefully helping Tyson lighten his mood and forget about his injuries.

Marianna: "Ace, won't you join us?"

Ace: "No thank you. I am not hungry." He walked out the door, and Faith looked at him. Then she turned back to Tyson.

"Tyson, can you try to use your hands?"

Tyson: "I'll try." He grabbed the spoon and put it in the bowl. He lifted it slowly. His hand was trembling. The spoon trembled and drops of the soup fell on his lap. Faith watched him encouragingly.

Nebula: "C'mon Tyson, you can do it."

Tyson struggled but dropped the spoon on the floor. Tyson banged the table. "My hands...what good are they now?!" The whole room fell silent.

Nebula: "Tyson..."

"Let me help you." Faith said sweetly. She got another spoon and fed him.

Lisa was looking at them suspiciously. She noticed how they were looking at each other...it was the type of people who were more than friends. Yep, she thought, there's gotta be something between them.

"Wow, this stuff is pretty good." Tyson said as he took another bite.

"Don't speak with your mouth full." Faith said, putting the spoon in his mouth.

Pretty soon, Nebula and Zelfire were looking at the couple. Tyson and Faith noticed their staring and stared back.

"What? What are you looking at?" Tyson asked.

"Errr...ummm...nothing." Lisa answered. She left the house. Everybody else left except for the couple.

She continued feeding him and he grabbed her hands. "Thank you, Faith."

"You need not say that, silly! C'mon, eat while it's hot." She took the spoon, blew the soup, then fed him.

Outside, Lisa just couldn't hold it and let out her mind. "Guys, did you notice something strange about...them?"

Nebula: "About...who?"

Mac: "What are you trying to say?"

Lisa: "Oh come on, don't tell me you guys didn't notice?"

Zelfire: "Lees, you're not making any sense."

"I mean Tyson and the girl, you big goofball! Don't you think they were acting strangely?"

Ace: "I do not see anything wrong with them. Tyson can't eat so Faith is feeding him."

Marianna: "No, Lisa is right. I've known Faith since she was a kid, and she's never acted like this in front of a man before."

Mac: "So...you're saying that..."

Lisa: "Didn't you see how they were looking at each other and smiling?"

Nebula: "Nahhh, it's just your imagination."

Zelfire: "You shouldn't be so nosy."

Lisa: "I'm not nosy. I've got a feelin' there's something between them, and I'm usually right."

Mac: "Lees, you and your romantic visions! Even if there is something between them...which is not surprising at all, considering they've been training together alone all this time...it is none of our business."

Zelfire: "If they are in love, then they are hiding their relationship. Obviously they don't want us to find out."

Nebula: "Guys what are you talking about! There is absolutely nothing between them."

Marianna: "I would not be so sure, Nebula. You may never know. It is possible."

Yes, it is a tragic and great loss to the team that Tyson cannot fight anymore, but they are in the middle of a war. They have to plan the next step. Where will they go? How will they find Vega?

As the group began their meeting, Tyson walked in, along with Faith. They sat down by the table. Sabre was outside guarding the house. If she sees anything suspicious, she is instructed to alert them immediately.

Marianna: "Good, everyone is here. Now we can begin."

Nebula: "Zelfire, out of all of us you are the most experienced. What do you think should be our next course of action?"

Zell: "Hmmm..."

Marianna: "I say we go back to Death Mountain. I'm sure the Millennium Ship is there by now."

Ace: "No, I disagree. We just came from that place, and we almost got killed."

Zell: "We came into this world to search for our enemy. But our enemy is all around us. They've taken over anything. And as for the mystery man Vega, we have no clue as to his whereabouts. I think the leader of our group should be someone who is from this world."

The people cast glances at each other.

Faith: "Very well then, I'll be in charge."

Mac: "What's our plan?"

Faith: "We just survived a big battle. Tyson is still injured. And we do not know when his hands will heal. We should rest for a while."

Ace: "That is a good idea. However, we are in the middle of nowhere. We are vulnerable to attack."

Faith: "I know of a place that might be safe. The **Imperial Castle**."

Ace: (**The Imperial Castle?**) Lots of images flashed through his mind.

"Yes, it is the castle that belongs to my father. It is the biggest castle in all of Almerak. It was the source of all political matters. It was my home...and the place that runs my kingdom. When my father and I escaped to the other world, they were destroying the castle. We never looked back. I do not know if it still remains. But even if some of it is left standing...then..."

Ace: "Then we can use it as a shelter?"

"Yes, exactly." Faith said.

Darian: "But it is too risky, princess. What if it's completely destroyed? We would end up going there for nothing. And then we will have to come back here."

Faith: "But I still want to go. You went back to Zaibach to check up on things, right?"

Darian: "I suppose."

Ace: "Great. The Imperial Castle sounds like a great idea. And since no one else has any more suggestions, we should go there."

"Alright then, it is decided. We go to the Imperial Castle." Faith said, finalizing the decision.

Once they got there, the heroes were astounded by the castle's size. Faith was amazed it was still there. It was severely damaged, but most of it was unaffected. It was a terrific site indeed, for some one who hasn't been home in a while.

They went in from the grand entrance, which normally would be guarded by two guards. But now...well, you know.

The castle looked even bigger from the inside. In the throne room, the ceiling was gone, and the walls were cracked, but they had a good idea of what it looked like before the damage. Tyson and his friends finally get a glimpse of what the rich life is like. This place is more than rich – its filthy filthy rich!

His majesty's chair is still there, topped by gold and red silk.

Tyson: "Wow...this place is incredible."

Lisa: "It's huge! I wish I could live here."

"It hasn't changed a bit." Ace said, and started walking.

"Where are you going?" Marianna asked.

"Nowhere." Ace said, then left the group.

Faith: "What is his problem?"

"Beats me." Marianna answered, then shrugged.

"We will be living here?" Tyson asked in disbelief.

"If it is safe." Darian said.

Faith went up the stairs to the royal chair. There was a room behind there, which leads to the King's bedroom and princess's bedroom. "Everyone, I'll be back in a while. You can all make yourselves at home." She went into the door.

Nebula: "Hey Zell, let's go check this place out."

Zelfire: "Alright. Sounds fun."

They went off together.

Tyson: "I'm going to check the dormitories." And he ran off.

Lisa, realizing she was alone, ran after Zell and Nebula. "Hey guys! Wait for me!"

Nebula and Zelfire found a staircase (that goes down) behind a shelf. Lucky them. Not even thinking twice, their curiosity over took them and they went down into the dark tunnel.

In the dungeon, everything was opposite. Instead of being rich and pleasant, it was dusted and walls were cracked. The palace was bright and cheery, but down here things were dark and gloomy. Spider webs were everywhere. There was a big one in front of Zelfire and he pushed it away. Tarantulas ran loose in the cracks. The only source of light was the fires burning on wood, attached to the wall.

Nebula: "Oooh, creepy."

Zelfire: "Is this where they keep prisoners?"

Nebula: "Why would they keep prisoners where the king and princess lives? I say there's gotta be some treasure down here."

Zelfire grabbed a fire stick and it illuminated the road ahead. "Let's find out, shall we?"

They started walking and Lisa's voice called out. She ran down the stairs to join them. "Guys, where are you doing?"

"Down there." Nebula said.

Lisa: "But...it's so dark...and creepy...and scary."

Nebula: "If you don't want to come with us, then you can stay here by yourself."

Lisa: "No way José! I could get lost in the palace and nobody will find me."

Zelfire: "Alright then, no more complaining."

They walked and walked, Lisa was behind Zelfire, grabbing his shoulder, looking in every direction for possible danger. (There aren't ghosts in here, are there?) she thought with fear. Her eye balls never stopped moving.

She spotted a brick sticking out. "Hey, what's this?" She pulled it out and the wall fell apart, a skeleton fell on her. "AAAAHHHHH!" She pushed it away, it crashed on the floor into a pile of bones.

Zelfire: "Oh Lees, it's just a skeleton. It's not going to kill you."

Lisa: "Come on guys, let's get out of here. Whadaya say?"

Nebula: "After going all this way? No way. We are going to find out what is hidden down here."

After some more walking, the hallway led to a door, in which the top was rounded. Zell opened it and peeked inside. No signs of danger. They went in, discovering a library-type place. Nothing but shelves and shelves of books. The room was illuminated by candles. They looked in amazement.

Zelfire: "Look at all these old books. They must have been here for ages." He grabbed a book randomly, patting the dust.

They searched all over the place, perhaps trying to find something interesting to read. Nebula, by chance, found the **Sacred Scrolls**, rolled up, stuffed between two books. They were ancient old and you can bet the edges were ripped and it looked like if you even hold it the wrong way it'd turn to dust.

"Hey, look at what I found."

Zelfire: "It is a scroll of some kind."

Nebula: "Ah, but not just any scroll. I bet these are the Sacred Scrolls that Midas has been talking about so much."

Lisa: "If they're sacred, then I don't think we should be looking at it."

Nebula: "So these things will tell the future of our worlds, huh? I wonder if it tells my future."

Zelfire: "Come on man, you can't trust these silly old things. Only the superstitious will believe these words determine our destiny."

"What are you guys doing here?" Marianna said.

They all looked at her with guilty faces.

Nebula: "Err...umm...nuthing, just lookin' around, you know."

Zelfire: "We weren't trying to steal anything."

Marianna: "Whatever. Don't be snooping around here. It's forbidden. Come upstairs. The princess wants to talk to all of you."

Lisa: "We're coming."

They followed Marianna upstairs.

They were back in the throne room, waiting. "Faith will be coming out soon."

Tyson: "What is she doing in there?"

The curtains raised and Faith came out, with a completely different look. Her clothes were different, she was back in her princess dress. (the same one she was wearing when the Big Four first met her.) "Hey everybody! What do you think?" she said, turning 360 degrees so they can look at her dress more thoroughly. Like her other clothing, it was completely pink (her favorite color?) and some light pink at the top and dark pink around the shoulders and thin, transparent layers of silk around her shoulders and arms and legs. There was no doubt about it, everybody thought she looked stunning.

"You look...fantastic!" Tyson complimented.

"Oh thank you!"

Zelfire: "Like a real princess indeed."

Lisa: "You are absolutely marvelous! I'm so jealous."

Marianna: "You look better than ever, princess."

Darian: "It is gorgeous."

Faith: "Thanks guys. I knew you'd like it."

Tyson: "Like it? I love it."

Faith: "Hey, is someone missing?"

Marianna: "Ace isn't here."

Faith: "How rude of him! I am going to find him." She left the room.

Marianna: "K, guys, it's almost dinner time. We've prepared a special feast for you."

Nebula: "Mmm, a king's feast. I'm getting hungry already. I can't wait, right Zelfire?"

Zelfire: "Yeah."

Ace was in the king's private room, where much damage had taken place. The ceiling was not there anymore, the bed was in pieces. The wall was cracked and withered, the only thing left was a portrait of an aged man, with a white mustache and beard. He wore a golden gown and the background was the Imperial Palace at night time, with some stars.

Ace stared at the painting with sadness and regret. "You majesty, I have finally come back." His eyes had tears, and they spilled down his cheeks. "After all these years."

He took out a golden locket from inside his shirt. "Where ever you maybe, dead or alive, I will find you, father."

"Hey, what are you doing here?" Faith interrupted.

"Am I not entitled to my own free time?" Ace quickly hid the locket.

"Why don't you join the rest of us? What are you doing in the king's room?"

He sighed. "That picture...it is simply grand, isn't it?"

"Yes, it is amazing that it survived the attack." Faith was looking at Ace strangely.

"Is there something wrong with my face?"

"I don't know...but I have a feeling I know you. From somewhere."

"Impossible. We never met before." Ace said, with much guilt.

" 'Tis a strange feeling that I cannot rid myself of. I do not understand it."

"Maybe I look like somebody you know. Who knows?" he said, shrugging.

"It is just this feeling." she repeated.

"I don't know what you mean."

"You're not a very social person are you? You never hang around and chat with us."

"There is nothing to chat about. I'd rather be training. I'd love to sit all day and talk about meaningless things, but do not forget the position we are in. We are in a crisis here." he said coldly.

"I know what you mean." she said, looking at the floor, then looking back at him; "But is it during these times that we must be happy. We all know we might not live to see tomorrow. That is why we treasure our lives even more so."

"Then I guess you and I are different people who think differently."

"What are you doing in the king's room?" she asked.

"Because..." Ace had to think of an answer quick. He didn't want to blow his cover. Everyone has been calling her princess. And this is her castle. By now, it is obvious she is his sister. But Faith does not know this. And Ace does not intend to tell her...not yet anyway. "I wanted to see what a real king is like. I have heard good things

about King Midas.”

Faith: “Oh yes. My father...he is a good king...no, a great king. The people loved him. Although he was corrupt when I was a little kid, he eventually became a better person and a better king to his people. He is completely selfless. But it is rather unfortunate...my father’s change did not bring one person back. He ran away when he was little. He was **my brother**.”

Ace felt a sting in his heart. Is this the feeling of guilt? “Your brother?”

“Yes...he ran away from home because he did not like our father. It is unfortunate he never got to see my father’s change. My father only changed...after he lost a son. It’s been ten years since I’ve seen my brother. I’ve been looking for him ever since.” She took out the golden locket, showing the old picture of the girl and boy. “My father gave us this locket during our tenth birthday. It is the only thing I have of him. I do not know what he looks like today. I do not even know where he is.”

“Well...wherever he is...I’m sure he’s looking for you too. You will find him one day. Who knows? He might show up at the most unexpected time.”

“Yes...but my kingdom is already wasted. How is he going to come back now?” Then she lightly hit herself on the head. “Silly me, why am I saying these things? I should not be thinking about the past right now.”

Ace smirked. “Heh. That man Tyson, you like him right?”

Faith blushed. “Well...”

“He needs you right now. You should go to him. And I promise, I won’t snoop around. I won’t steal anything. I’ll join you for dinner later.”

“Okay then.” She left.

The heroes sat at the dining room, and had a grand feast. With whatever food was leftover. And there’s still plenty of them. Everyone helped out with the cooking – yes, even Nebula helped – after his peers forced him too. But he learned to enjoy it – it’s all about teamwork.

However, Ace did not join them. It was hard to do what he did. Talking with Faith...his sister...and not telling the truth. He couldn’t help it, and cried out alone. Why didn’t he tell her? Is it because he’s ashamed? Because it’s weird? Or too late?

Though they were enjoying themselves, they did not forget the main reason they came here: To save both worlds from the Dark Society. But will Princess Faith live long enough to find her brother?

25: The Legend of Goro. Secret of the Golden Locket.

Contents

The gang decided to stay in the Imperial Palace for a while. They did not know how long. Maybe until Tyson got better or when they come up with a plan.

Tyson was feeling a little better now, emotionally. With Faith’s support. Her words of encouragement are second to none. But he still could not use his hands.

In the woods, Macintosh was standing on a tree branch, conducting an investigation. He put the binoculars on his eyes and searched. He spotted something. Several dark soldiers were talking to each other. Mac continued looking, and found a few groups of soldiers gathering together. “Oh no...this is definitely not good.” he muttered. “They are planning to attack the palace. I’ve gotta warn the others!”

A dark soldier jumped at him and knocked him down on the ground. The binoculars fell, and the soldier stepped on it, shattering it. Another one approached.

Mac got up quickly.

Troop A: "You are not getting out of here alive!"

Mac: "Think again!"

Troop A charged, and Macintosh fired the Electro-shockwave. Zap! He died before he knew what happened.

Troop B, seeing his comrade dead, got nervous. He pointed the energy-draining device, and Macintosh attacked him before he could fire. Whack!

"What's that? The Dark Society is planning an attack on us?" Nebula asked.

Mac: "Yeah. I discovered some soldiers lurking around. They know we are in here."

Zelfire: "Then it is only a matter of time before they attack. We can not stay here for long."

Faith: "But we came all the way here and now we have to leave. No, we must fight back! I am not abandoning my home again!"

Mac: "I estimate the total number of troops gathering around ten thousand."

Darian: "Ten thousand?! We cannot possibly fight that many!"

Marianna: "Can we hold them off?"

Ace: "The princess is right, we must fight back no matter what."

Zelfire: "We cannot fight an army of ten thousand."

Faith: "What do you think, Tyson?"

Tyson: "Well...uhhh...ummm...I think it is better to stay here. I mean, if we run away, they will find us sooner or later. Outside in the wilderness we are virtually defenseless. At least we have a stronghold here."

Nebula: "He's right. If we plan our strategy carefully, we might be able to make it."

And so, they continued their discussions of whether to leave or not - and one day passed. The heroes went back to their normal (well, not quite normal) lives. They were trying their best to adapt to their new surroundings.

Zelfire was training outside on the fields. He was punching the air, practicing his skills. In the background were the woods, where there used to be defenses for the palace.

Darian was sitting down, training the spirit world.

Tyson was in his room, frustrated, trying to hold any object for a few seconds. Disappointment and Faith's confidence were like the yin and yang in his mind. One tried to gain control of the other.

He was very frustrated, as he dropped the candle stick. Then he looked out the window, and saw two people training outside. Nebula and Faith were hitting each other with swords. Well, he thought, at least they're making use of their time. And he felt a little helpless, not being able to do anything.

Marianna was also on the fields, loading an arrow into her bow. She pulled the arrow back, aimed, and let go. Twang! The arrow hit the bulls eye on the tree. "I'm too good," she said. "Right, Ace?"

He was sitting on a rock, polishing his sword, and looking around. "Huh?"

"Man...I just made a shot from this distance. And you didn't even pay attention."

"I'm sorry. It's a good shot."

"Sheesh. What's with you? You've been spacing out and mostly silent ever since we grouped up together."

"It is not them. It is just me. I am just thinking a lot," he answered.

Marianna: "This time, I am going to do it ten feet further." She moved back a few

paces, and aimed. Twang. The arrow flew fast – and it got knocked away by a rose!
“What?”

Faith: “My shot isn’t bad either, right Marianne?”

“Yes, indeed, princess.”

Nebula walked over to Ace. “Say there, your name is Ace, right? Wow, you’ve got a nice sword there.”

“Thanks.”

“Want to be my training partner?”

“No thanks. I am not fighting today.”

Neb: “Aww schucks. And I wanted to see your skills.”

Marianne: “Well, if you don’t mind, I will be your training partner. I too have been learning the ways of the sword.”

Neb: “An archer **and** a swordsman? Not bad.”

Marianne: “Let’s begin.” They walked away.

Now Faith was stuck with Ace. She still had this strange feeling about him – that she knows from somewhere. A childhood friend, perhaps? “Gee, that’s a pretty nice looking sword you have there. Training with Nebula was good. He is a good opponent.”

Ace: “Hmph. The Society will be attacking us any day now. What is the point of training in such a short time?”

Faith didn’t know what to say. “By the way, where do you come from?”

“I am from the **Kingdom of Zunai**.”

“Oh my. That place is far from here.”

“Yes. That is where I learned all my sword skills.”

“What are you doing here at Almerak?”

“What is with your questions?”

“Oh, I’m sorry.” Faith said. “I must seem really intrusive, right? We are comrades in a war. I thought I should get to know you better.”

Then Ace stared at the window in the room Tyson was in. “Maybe you should get to know him well. I think your time will be better spent with him than me. He is still mad over his disability.”

Then Faith looked at that direction. “Tyson is a strong man. He will not let that stop him. I know...I have seen him on the battlefield. My brother, his name is Prince Acelot...he is a strong man too.”

Ace: “If you must know why I came here – it is because I want to kill Vega. I’ve heard of the despicable things he does. Now, if you’ll excuse me, I’m a little busy.” He took his sword and walked away.

Macintosh continued gathering intelligence on the troops’ actions. Suddenly, an arm popped up from the ground behind Mac. Then two arms, then three, then four! The creature’s entire body came up, and he roared. Mac turned around and stared at him in shock.

Goro grabbed his shoulders and lifted him up as if he weighted nothing at all, then slammed Macintosh on the ground, leaving him unconscious.

Zelfire could sense someone approach him. He looked behind and some Dark Society troops were there. Then more dropped in, surrounding him.

“So, you’re here at last.” he said without fear or worry. “I have been waiting for you.”

Marianna was fighting with Nebula, and all of a sudden, soldiers jumped at

them. They got ready as they attacked, and slashed them.

A creature was watching them fight. Its eyes glared and its mouth growled angrily.

Slash! A soldier got hit. As he collapsed, Goro approached.

Marianna: "Goro? It's you again?"

Goro: "Haaaah! I have a feeling that we would meeeeeeet again! And this tiiiime, you die!"

Marianna quickly loaded an arrow into her bow, but he pounded one of his fists at her and she blocked and got knocked down.

An energy ball flew at the creature and he blocked it easily. Nebula was a bit surprised how ineffective his attack was.

Goro: "So, another mortal wants to challenge me. When will you ever learn?"

Nebula: "Yipes...what's the deal with this guy?"

Marianna got up. "He is a powerful demon named Goro. Me and Ace ran into him back at Sumni Village."

Goro took a step forward. "I have been ordered to wipe out any existing villages in Almerak. But look at what I found."

Nebula: "Are you one of Vega's goons?"

"Heh. That is corrrrect. And you are dead meat."

Nebula got into fighting stance. "That's all I need to know."

Marianna grabbed his shoulder. "It is not wise to fight this...monstrosity."

"Just leave it to me, hun." He charged forward, and she was quite surprised

Neb charged forward and slashed, Goro blurred, and appeared from above, and kicked him down. Wham. Neb rolled about, and regained himself. He kept slashing, as Goro dodged. Suddenly, clang! Goro drew two swords, blocking Neb's blade.

"You..."

Goro smiled, and pushed him away. Then the monster powered up, and everything seemed to light up.

Tyson sensed what's happening, and ran out of his room, into the hallway. Suddenly, soldiers dropped in front of him. "Crap!" he said. He can't fight, so he's pretty much screwed. Only luck can save him now.

The soldiers approached, and pointed their energy devices, and Tyson stepped back. Suddenly, the ceiling crashed apart, and Zelfire dropped in. He blasted one of the soldiers, and Darian slashed the other one.

Tyson: "Wow...just in time."

Zell: "We have to protect Tyson. Where can we go hide in this palace?"

Darian: "The dungeon."

Zell: "Alright."

All three of them ran. They kept running to the dining room. But more soldiers appeared.

Darian: "Tyson, go ahead of us."

Tyson: "But-"

Zell: "We'll be fine. Just go."

Tyson reluctantly went ahead. After that, he heard fighting sounds - things crashing and breaking, and people screaming.

Once he reached the antiques room, Tyson thought he would be safe for now. Suddenly the wall fell apart and Goro punched him against a shelf, and all the jars fell and broke. The four-armed monster laughed maliciously as it casts its eyes on the hero.

"Time to die, mortal!"

"Wha...what...are you?!" he said, freaking out.

"Your worst nightmare."

"Oh great, now the Dark Society has monsters."

"A **powerful** monster." Goro corrected. "And you must be the human that Vega has been talking about. You're just a puny punk! And such a shame, you can't fight without your hands."

Tyson grunted and clenched fists. The bulky body of muscles approached and Tyson backed off until he was against a wall. The monster's shadow covered him. Tyson swallowed hard and wondered if this could be the end of him. He didn't want to be helpless, but he was now. How unlucky of him to be in a predicament like this one.

Goro reached out his four-fingered hand towards Tyson's skinny neck and a pink rose slashed his arm and hit the floor. A few pieces of the pink flower fell off and slowly drifted on the floor.

Tyson saw the rose and knew who it must be. Faith dropped in between Tyson and Goro, and she was already holding the Soul Sword.

Goro: "Princess Faith?!"

Tyson: "I thought I was a goner."

Faith's eyeballs rolled towards Tyson. "Well you're wrong. Thanks to me." Then her eyeballs focused on her enemy.

Goro: "So you want to challenge Goro too? So be it! You will be the next mortal to die by my hands."

Faith: "You...I know you from somewhere. But I do not recall where."

Goro: "Do you?"

Faith: "Aren't you that demon who slaughtered all the strongest warriors of time..."

"The four-armed demon." he corrected. "You are correct. I am the legendary warrior who remains undefeated until now!"

"So, 'tis true. You are the one who killed over 900 men!"

"990 to be exact! And you shall be my next victim!"

Faith jumped and punched his face and he stumbled backwards. Then she ran and yelled "Tiger Fist" and punched his stomach. Goro's head faced down, then looked up. He laughed maniacally.

Faith: "My Tiger Fist...it should have caused significant damage to you..."

"It felt more like a tiiiiickle. If that is all the power you have, then dieeeeeee!"

Faith made a karate chop as Goro grabbed her arm and lifted her up. He threw her against a wall.

"No, stop!" Tyson yelled, running towards Goro.

"**Vine whip!**" A thorny vine sprang at Goro and tied him up. Faith's Vine Whip had caught him!

"ARRRRGH!" he screamed, struggling to get free."

Faith: "Tyson, quick, I can't hold him much longer! Use your energy attack!"

Tyson: "But...I can't!"

Faith: "You must try!"

"I just can't do it."

"Hurry Tyson! You have to!"

With all his might he formed an energy ball in his palms (which put pressure on his hands and usually it does not hurt but right now it really hurt) and fired it. Goro ripped himself free and swatted the ball like it was a fly.

The monster punched Tyson's face and he spit saliva. Then he punched Tyson's chest and grabbed his head and lifted him off the floor. "Stupid fool!" He threw Tyson across the room.

Faith charged at him, and he kneed her in the stomach, then gave her an elbow

on the back - WHACK! She got up and kicked Goro's face, his head turned sideways and he was still laughing. Faith, full of fear, took a step back. Goro raised two of his arms and slammed down on Faith, and she blocked them, her hands over her head. His arms were pushing her down and her knees were trembling.

"Goro will cruuush you!" the monster screamed.

"Never!" She pushed his arms away and punched his guts. She took out the Soul Sword and slashed, Goro dodged it. He jumped back and landed in the middle of the room.

"Feel my **Ground Smasher**!" he yelled, then leaped, and when he landed he pounded his fists on the ground. The whole floor was shaking and rock chunks flew everywhere. Faith couldn't stand up and fell. Tyson was holding the wall for support. "How did you like it?"

Faith: "You want to try it again!"

Goro: "With pleasure!"

Faith: "Now, you will feel my **Earth Crusher** attack!"

Goro pounded his fists on the ground, as Faith powered up her Soul Sword, and it was burning red. She violently stabbed the ground, and a few chunks of rock flew up. The energy on the floor traveled to Goro super fast. The two energies scraping through the floor collided and everything turned white. The floor completely fell apart and the walls were blasted. Tyson was blown away by its force.

When things calmed down, the three warriors still remained.

Goro: "Have you had enough?"

Footsteps were heard. Zelfire was running towards Goro on the side. Without even moving his eyes, the monster could see him.

Faith: "No!"

Goro extended his arm and blasted Zelfire with an energy ball. "Oops, did I do that? Hah hah."

Faith: "You will pay for this! Coming here shall be your biggest mistake, demon!"

She grabbed her sword from the floor and slashed at Goro senselessly. Goro dodged it easily. "En guard!" He drew four swords, one on each arm.

"Oh no! You've gotta be kidding!" she said in terror.

"Let us see how well you do against four of my swords, princess!" He advanced and attacked. His four swords banged into hers and the sounds echoed. CLING! CLANG! CLING! Faith was totally overwhelmed and she had to step back after each hit. Now she was trapped against the wall.

Goro ran at her, an energy ball hit the ground and he stopped. Nebula dropped in, followed by Ace, then Darian.

Faith: "Warriors, you came at last!"

Ace: "You didn't think we would let you fight that creature alone, did you?" He drew his sword.

Nebula: "Let's clobber him!" He and Darian drew their swords.

Goro: "ARRRGH! Goro will crush you all!"

The swordsmen fought Goro together and showed great teamwork. Sure, he had four hands, but only one mind. He couldn't possibly keep track of every opponent. Cling! Clang!

Frustrated, Goro powered up. "Arrrrrrgh!" Everyone winced. No one can get near him.

Tyson: (I can't even do anything to help out! I wish I could do something.)

The power surge continued. Goro suddenly charged at Ace and slashed his chest. Ace dodged, but the tip of the blade got his shirt, and got his necklace. Cling. The

golden locket fell out. Faith saw the locket, and suddenly, everything was in slow motion. The locket slowly went off his chest and fell to the floor.

Ace: "Nooo!" He quickly grabbed it.

Faith was still staring in awe. Why does he have a golden locket like hers? Although she didn't get a good look at it, she is pretty damn sure it's identical to hers. Does this mean...

"Raaawr!" screamed the monster.

The four swordsmen powered up. They charged and continued their relentless assault. Goro was pushed back every second until he was cornered against the brick wall. Goro's sword blades fell on the floor. All he had on his hands were the halves of the swords. He realized he had been beaten.

"Arrrgh! This is not over yet!" The creature jumped out the window.

Nebula ran after him. He peered his head out the window but found nothing. "He's gone."

Ace: "He is lucky this time."

Nebula went over to Tyson. "You okay, bro?"

"I've been better." he replied.

Faith went to him. "You had me worried. You shouldn't wander off by yourself."

Tyson: "I can take care of myself, thank you very much."

"Uhhh...I didn't mean it that way."

Ace left the group. Faith saw him leave and went after him.

"Wait!" she yelled, then panted for breath.

Ace turned around. "What is it?"

"That golden locket that you dropped..."

"What about it? It's a gift I received."

"Can I see it?" she asked.

"Why?"

"Please. I just want to see it. It looks like mine."

"It's none of your concern." he said coldly.

"Why won't you show it to me?!" she said, grabbing the locket from his hand. They struggled with it, and it dropped on the floor. The locket opened, revealing a picture of the boy and girl laughing.

Faith was in shock. She took out her locket, and opened it. The picture is the same. Exactly the same. "No way..." Faith said in disbelief. "You have the same golden locket that I do. But...only me and my long lost brother have it. So that means..."

Ace looked away in guilt.

"You're my brother??" she said, half asking.

He said nothing.

"You are...Prince Acelot?" she said, approaching him. "But...but...you knew all along, didn't you?"

Then he looked at her straight in the eye. "I'm sorry...sister...I couldn't tell you before. I just didn't know how to say it...how to bring it up. It's a bad time to bring it up. With all this fighting and death happening..."

Tears drip down her eyes. "Brother..."

"I guess I felt ashamed to be your brother. I never should have ran away. Look at me, I became a common beggar. I was not there to defend my home. What kind of a brother am I?"

"Stupid! I don't care about that! I...I haven't seen you in ten years!"

She hugged him tight, and he embraced her back.

The brother and sister of the royal family have finally been united after ten years.

Prince Acelot was only thirteen when he ran away from the palace. Faith was only ten. Yes, it is true Ace had all the riches in the world he could have wanted. The prestigious life of the royal family is every peasant's dream. But like the princess when she grows older, he resented it. He had no friends (not zero, but very few), and hardly got out of the palace in his life.

At that time his father was a cruel and ruthless tyrant. Acelot hated Midas for that. Unlike his sister, who dared not to speak to her father that way, he spoke out his mind, usually negative things. The end result was punishment. So one day, he's had it. He packed all his stuff and left Almerak for good. Faith begged him not to go, but he left anyway. He ended up in some village where he was raised by some nice people. It was during that time that Marianna and Faith became good friends. Naturally, Midas regretted being so strict, and changed for the better. But that did not bring his son back.

Ace and Faith had the same father, but different mothers. Ace was the son of King Midas and his first wife. But later on, his wife passed away. He remarried and his second wife gave birth to Faith. But when his second wife passed away because of a disease, he became bitter and cold.

The siblings stared at the evening sky. Faith was sitting, Ace standing. The soft breeze felt good.

"So how have you been these years?" she asked.

"I was really miserable after I left. The journey to Zunai was long and tedious. But once I got there, everything changed for the better. I've developed my skills and enhanced my sixth sense over there. I even made some friends."

"That's good. I've been living well too. Although I had no freedom."

"I'm sorry for running away. But I'd rather live poor than live rich with no freedom."

"Father is a better man now." Faith said. "He'd be delighted to see you again."

"Is that so?"

Vega: "Well done, earth's mightiest warriors. They have survived Goro's attack. But they will never succeed..."

26: The Miracle Touch. Faith's Secret.

Contents

The warriors, after defeating Goro, felt a little relaxed. But Zelfire reminded not to let their guard down. The Society is still at large.

Prince Darian left the Imperial Palace to get some peace time from his other allies. He walked along the river, traveling aimlessly. Something seemed to be bothering his head, but he didn't know what.

As he walked on further he encountered Goro, who was expecting him. "'Tis you again!" He instinctively drew his sword.

"Now now, Prince Darian, I have not come to fight you. My lord Vega would like to have a word with you."

"Vega? Vega wants to speak to me?"

"That's right. It is something very important."

"Forget it. I have no interest in what he has to say."

Goro was angry and his face turned more gruesome than ever. "How dare you!"

Behind Darian, a dark shadow emerged on the grass. It made its way off the ground and slowly formed a human figure in a cape and mask...it grew taller than

Darian and casts its red glaring eyes upon the prince.

Darian turned around and caught a glimpse of Vega just before he was knocked unconscious. "V-Vega?!" Whack!

Meanwhile, back at the Imperial Palace...

Nebula and Macintosh were playing cards. "Man...I can't believe that four armed freak got the better of me."

Neb: "Don't worry about it. I took care of him."

Zelfire: "Don't you mean **we** took care of him?"

Neb: "Yeah, whatever."

Faith walked into the room. "Umm excuse everyone. Have you seen Tyson?"

Neb: "Dunno. He's probably hanging out somewhere. I think that prince guy is missing too. I haven't seen him since this morning."

Zelfire: "What's with you people. I told you not to wander off."

Neb: "Hey don't look at me. It's them who disobeyed."

Faith was starting to get worried, as they continued arguing. She continued searching the palace premises.

"Uhhh...where am I?" the fallen Darian asked.

"You are where you belong, Prince Darian."

"Vega? Why have you brought me here? Why did you not kill me?"

"Foolish Darian, did you think I would you...my own **son**?"

At that last remark the prince stuttered and was dumbfounded. "S-Son? What are you talking about?"

Vega: "Yes, my dear Darian. You were always one of us."

"What are you babbling about? I am the Prince of Zaibach, and you are my mortal enemy!"

"Oh, am I?" the alien asked. "You do not remember very well, do you? Let me refresh your memory."

The land was a dry and barren wasteland. On a remote place, in the middle of nowhere, resided a mysterious colony. The sky was red and hellish.

The non-human creatures were dinosaur-like, with tails, claws on the hands and feet, green, scaly skin, and the eyes of predators.

Inside a cage cell was a small boy, with black, curly hair, dressed in ragged clothes. He was scared and didn't speak a word since he was captured. His face was between his knees and he was crying silently.

"You were not born a prince, did you know?"

One of the ailen creatures approached the cage, and the boy gasped. He backed off to the bars and cried out desperately.

"I had found you on a dry, deserted place, the most despicable of all places to live!"

Once the creature touched the cage, he disintegrated into nothing. The other aliens reacted with alarm, wondering what could have caused it. Out of the shadows emerged an even darker shadow, a shapeless form. The form molded itself into Vega. The creatures ran for their lives but they were all destroyed by Vega's fire beam.

"How pathetic you were when I found you! You did not even remember who you were or where you came from! You were in beggar's clothes. You would not believe the miserable condition you were!"

Darian: "No...no..."

"You were encaged...like...like an animal! When I destroyed the creatures I could have destroyed you too, but instead I did not! I chose to spare your miserable, worthless

life and take you to a better place!" Vega got up from his chair, his cape waving and his eyes glaring. "I sent you to **King Zaibach** and he promised to take good care of you and raise you strong!"

"Noooo!" the prince screamed, and he fell on his knees. His head was sweating rapidly and he grunted, baring his teeth.

"You know 'tis true, Darian. Your father is not your real father."

"You are right..." he said unwillingly. "My father mentioned once that I was not his natural son."

"You finally understand."

"Not quite! What you just said maybe true, but that was but the past! Nothing will change the fact that we are enemies!"

Vega: "My dear Darian, do you really think siding with those earthlings will bring you any good?"

The prince had never thought of that.

"Well did you? What would you possibly accomplish by opposing me? And even if they did win, what do you get? Nothing!"

"They are my...friends!"

"Oh are they? What kind of friends left you abandoned when you were dying? When you most needed help they were not there for you? Do they even know you are missing?"

"But..."

"Tell me something, what kind of friend would take away something that belongs to you?"

"What are you talking about?"

"You know what I am talking about. You, of everybody, know. Now, I have a question for you. I want you to answer me honestly. You love Princess Faith, don't you?!"

Darian hesitated, then let out the truth. "Yes! But how did you know?"

"Ohhh I know more than you think. I probably know you better than you know yourself. So, you do feel that Faith should marry you?"

"Yes."

"Well, of course! You two make the perfect couple - the prince and the princess. After all that you have done for her, you deserve her more than anybody! But..."

"But?"

"But you can't! Because some one else has stolen her heart! Some one named...**Spade!**" Vega emphasized the name Spade. "You hate him, do you not? Do I speak the truth? Tyson Spade has stolen what rightfully belongs to you."

Darian's eyes saw hatred and wrath. He was no longer the Darian that everybody once knew. As tragic as it is, it took only a few words from Vega to turn a person's goodness into pure hatred and jealousy. Unfortunately, Darian had a strong jealousy, but he did a good job in hiding it from the others. He could no longer hide it now. Vega had spoken what was on his mind, and he felt as if...as if this energy draining being knew how he felt.

His fists clenched tightly. "Yes! Tyson has stolen her heart!"

"That's right! You have known Faith for a long time now, but all of a sudden this stranger comes along and takes her away from you! It's not fair, isn't it? Don't you feel betrayed?"

"Betrayed..."

"Don't you feel jealous?"

"Yes!"

"And who's fault is it? Who is the sole cause of all your internal suffering and

agony?"

"Tyson! I must kill him!"

"But it is not easy to do so. Join me, Darian, and you will get everything you could have dreamed for! You will have everything - the world, infinite power, and Faith, of course." Vega said.

"Power?"

"Yes! All the power you ever wanted! Powers beyond your wildest dreams!"

"This...this offer..."

"It's an offer you can not refuse."

Tyson was standing by the lake, looking gloomy. He was punching the air and Faith was spying on him. Then she showed herself and joined him.

"Feeling better?" she asked with concern.

"I wish I could say yes. But I can't lie to you! I feel worse just like before."

"You feel hopeless now, do you?"

"No kidding! How would you feel if you can't use your hands! When Goro attacked us, I couldn't do anything to help!" Then he said hopelessly, "This is hopeless. I'll never be able to help my friends any time soon." His eyes squint. "God! I wish I could help out some way! How am I going to save the world from the Dark Society? How am I going to do anything?"

"Do you really feel that way?"

"Yes!"

"What if I said I can help you solve your problem?" she asked, as if she had a solution.

"What can you possibly do?"

"I can cure your injury for you."

"R-Really? How?"

"Just give me your hands."

He stuck out his bandaged hands and she held them.

"Try to keep your mind clear." she said.

So he tried not to think and closed his eyes. Then she closed his eyes and transferred her energy to him. He opened his eyes suddenly and wondered what it was.

"It...it feels so warm..." he said in amazement. Their bodies were glowing pink.

She let go and stepped back.

Tyson stared at his hands in wonder. He could move his fingers without the pain! "Oh wow! I don't believe it!"

Faith smiled as he tried to grasp the amazing thing that just happened.

"I can use my hands!" he yelled to the world. "I'm no longer disabled!" He removed the bandages and tossed them like garbage. He punched the air many times and touched his own face. He could only think of this as a miracle. A touch of miracle-ness. "But how...how did you do it?"

"I don't know how to explain it. I had the ability to heal since I was little."

In the forest, little Faith was running across the fields happily and giggling. King Midas, accompanied by some royal guards, stood there, watching her. Midas smiled, seeing his daughter so happy.

Faith picked up a flower gently. "Ohhh it looks so pretty!" she said. A butterfly flew past her and she ran after it, trying to catch it.

"Do not run so far off." Midas told her.

She didn't listen and chased the butterfly. Suddenly a roar came from the bushes. A black and white striped tiger crawled out and went towards the girl. She froze in fear.

Midas and the royal guards were also stricken with fear. They pointed their spears at the tiger, but their legs were trembling.

The tiger roared then fell. Faith saw he was bleeding. "He is injured! Poor thing."

"Do not get near it! It is dangerous!" Midas shouted.

"It is okay, father." She went to the tiger and put her hands on the wound. Soon enough, the wound disappeared and there was no more blood. "There you go, you are okay now." The tiger let out a friendly sound head and Faith petted him.

"So you see...I can almost any injury. I guess you could say it was an ability I was born with. No one knows why. I guess I am special."

"Oh yes, very special." Tyson agreed. "But why didn't you tell me this before?"

"I just didn't want anybody to know about it. Yes, I can heal, but there is a chance that I may die."

"And you were willing to take that risk so you can heal me. I understand now. Back in the cave in Antarctica...you healed me. That's why I didn't die."

"Yes!"

"Oh Faith...it's the most special thing anyone has ever done for me! It's an incredible ability! You're like an angel..." He hugged her and she hugged back.

From a distance, Prince Darian was watching them, making a tight fist. The sight of them hugging sickened him. For the couple, it was as true moment of romance but for this guy it was a moment of absolute jealousy. He walked away.

Vega was in front of him. Darian knew what was coming. "So, have you considered my offer?"

"As long as I get what I want..."

27: Surprise Attack! Vega Finally Comes!

Contents

King Midas has gone back to the other dimension and has not returned yet. And now, Darian was gone too. It has been a whole two days since he left the palace and the heroes were getting worried. Faith wanted to wait for them to come back, but the others believed that it would be a matter of time before the troops strike again. Staying in one place too long would be too dangerous. So they moved back to the two houses in the Sumni forest where they stayed before reaching the palace.

On the other hand, Tyson was not worried at all. His hands were back to normal and now he felt like he could save the world.

"I'm so worried about them." Faith said. "My father has not come back from Zaibach yet. And neither has Darian."

"At this point," Nebula said, "We have to assume the worse. They might be captured or killed."

"I refuse to believe that!" she yelled out. "They can't!"

"Come on, let's go back inside. It's getting late." Tyson suggested.

They went inside and slept.

"Look at them, they're sound asleep." Vega hissed. "All tucked in their little beds, unprotected. Sleep well warriors. For tomorrow is the last sunrise you shall see."

Morning came. The birds chirped and squirrels squealed.

Macintosh stepped outside and yawned, stretching his arms. "Wow, what a

beautiful morning." He walked farther off on the field and took out a tiny scanning device, the **Radiation Scanner**. This was used to detect any sources of energy within a certain radius. He turned on the device and it immediately found something. "Huh...this energy is huge! What could it be?"

Faith was already awake. She sensed something horrible close by. It was getting closer and closer to the house. She feared the worse. "Can it be...him..."

Zelfire was asleep but he could sense the disturbance as well. He woke up painfully and sprang up. (What is this force...it's nothing I've felt before!)

Macintosh's scanner went crazy. It beeped non-stop and there was a little dot moving all over the screen. "It's getting closer!" The dot stopped and the device went silent. "It's right here...but I don't see anything."

Vega was right behind him. Macintosh got a strange feeling...he turned around and didn't have enough time to react. He screamed and Vega's hand grabbed his shoulder...and nobody knew exactly what happened, but Macintosh fell on the ground. He could have been unconscious or dead, it was hard to tell the difference.

Zelfire came immediately when he heard Macintosh's scream. But he was already too late - all he saw was Macintosh, frozen in a large crystal structure. He ran towards his friend and touched the crystal. "Mac!!! Oh no...speak to me! Speak to me!"

"I am afraid it is too late for your friend." said a horrible voice from behind.

"Are you the one called Vega?!" Zell asked, knowing the answer already.

"Yes this is him. The bringer of your doom."

He noticed the being's red and black cape, and his mask, and he had long, gray hair hanging down to his shoulders. "You...will pay!" He fired the Energy Blast, Vega jumped to dodge it and landed in a crouch.

His response was so quick Zelfire could barely catch up. Vega ran towards him like a ninja, Zelfire ran at him and gave him a good punch, but he dodged, then punched Zelfire's stomach. Upon impact his mouth was wide open and he spit saliva. Vega blasted him away, and he bounced on the ground like a ball. Believe it, a blast from that close range hurt a lot. Zelfire struggled to get up, as Vega extended his right arm and fired an army of ice crystals at him. When they hit Zelfire's body it turned to ice and froze him.

"Nooooo!" His whole chest was frozen, then his shoulders, then his arms. "Nooooo!" The ice reached his legs as well as his face, and soon enough, he could no longer move. In a matter of seconds he was completely frozen. The villain laughed sinisterly.

"Vega!" Marianna yelled. She fired two arrows at him, he stepped sideways and they hit his cape. "What? I hardly miss!"

Vega shot his ice crystals and she jumped to the side. She was on the ground, and she realized her feet had been frozen. "Oh no!" she said. The ice crystals hit her whole body and she became frozen as well.

Tyson ran through the woods to find his friends but instead he found Goro waiting for him. "Goro?!"

"Time to die, Tyson."

"This time it is different. I can use my arms, so you better watch out."

"I am aware of that. But can you beat all four of my arms?"

"We'll find out right now." Tyson, though nervous, knowing how strong Goro is,

was also a bit excited. It has been a while since he fought. Sapphire was his last opponent and he wondered if this creature was stronger.

They jumped at each other and began the fists.

"Show yourself now!" Ace yelled at the trees. He knew some one - or something was there, waiting for him. Waiting to attack him at the right moment.

A bunch of crows flew into the air. In the dark woods Vega was hidden. But when he stepped out he was revealed bit by bit.

Ace stutted at the sight. "Uhhh..." He forced his fears back, which took a lot of courage and determination. "Are you Vega?"

"It will not matter soon enough."

"Why not?"

"You shall see." Vega approached Ace, who could not do anything but tremble.

"Coming here is your biggest mistake, Vega!" he shouted.

"How is that?"

"You are totally surrounded! Even if you kill me the others will find you and dispose of you!"

"Oh really? I have already taken care of them."

Ace was dumbfounded.

"And now it is your turn!"

Ace slashed his sword at him, Vega extended his hand, and metal claws strung out from his sleeve. The sword clashed into the claws, making a loud metal sound. Ace slashed again, Vega blocked with his claws. Ace dived at his stomach, Vega grabbed his sword and pulled it away. He kicked the young warrior down and blasted his shoulder. Ace's was on his injured shoulder and he had to think of what to do next. Too late for that. Vega fired the ice crystals at him and he froze.

"Zelfire? Ace? Marianna? Macintosh?" Nebula shouted with a hand on his mouth so his voice can be amplified. "Anybody?" Then, silently to himself:

"Where did they all go?"

"Perhaps I can answer that for you." Vega said.

"Huh?"

"So you are the last one."

Suddenly Lisa showed up. "Oh my god! Who is that creepy guy?" she shrieked, pointing at Vega.

[Close up - Nebula] "Get out of here Lisa! Now!"

Lisa ran for her life. Vega's ice rays hit her and she fell. "Aah! This can't be happening! I'm too young to be frozen!"

"Stop!" Nebula yelled. He charged at Vega and slashed his sword, but barely hit his cape. Vega jumped and landed behind him. Nebula turned around and slashed, Vega leaped and landed at a distance. Nebula ran at him and Vega fired the ice crystals and hit his hand! He dropped the sword and looked at his frozen arm. "You...you fiend!"

"You will suffer the fate of your other comrades!"

"No!" As skilled as he saw, the hero never expected this. He had been trained for almost anything, except with a disabled arm. He thought he could win, but he knew he could not stop the inevitable. Vega froze this leg as he jumped, and he fell. "No, no!"

His whole body turned to ice bit by bit, and only his face was left.

"Ve...ga...!"

The masked warrior then froze his face and an instant there were only two heroes left to save the world.

Tyson punched Goro's face, but he did not seem hurt at all. Now the sayan was getting worried. He kicked the creature's chest and jabbed his face, and he barely showed any signs of pain. Goro smiled, showing his sharp teeth, grabbed Tyson's hand and punched his chest, then tossed him down.

Faith, with the Soul Sword in her hand, was ready to defend herself. She looked around, scanning for any signs of danger. But she did not look behind - where a shadow slowly popped out of the ground and turned into Vega. He grew and grew until his chest was about her head's height.

The princess had a guy feeling something creepy was behind her so she turned around - and she was right!

"Vega?" she said in shock.

"We meet at last, princess."

"What have you done to my friends?"

"You should be worried about yourself. Fight me."

"You demon!" Faith summoned the Soul Sword and charged. She took one big swing forward - slash! It was a good move - if only it hit. Vega jumped to the air, and landed. She realized how flexible he is, and she knows he's not an easy opponent.

"Earth Crusher!" She powered up her sword and stabbed it into the ground. The ground made a series of explosions leading up to Vega, who jumped away.

In air, Vega shot his claw at her, she blocked. Clang. Before she knew what happened, he was right in front of her, and knocked her down. She dropped her sword.

"Alas...the poor princess has lost her kingdom. And now, the last of her comrades."

Faith grunted and stood up.

Vega: "But you have done some work, have you, princess? I underestimated you. You traveled to dimension 2 and hid somewhere. And you even defeated the Big Four. I commemorate you for getting this far. However, this is the end of the road."

"Shut up!" Faith used the Energy Shot.

Vega blocked the stream of energy with his palm. Smoke sizzled out. Then Vega fired a beam and hit her down.

"Pathetic!" the angry voice shouted from the mask. "And here I was expecting some worthiness from the princess herself. And this is what I get."

"I will...kill you...Vega..."

"Troops, take care of her."

The troops came and secured her arms. Vega left and Darian came.

Faith was more than glad to see her old friend come. "Darian! I'm so glad to see you! Help me!"

Darian: "Ohhh, poor little princess got captured? Isn't that such a shame?"

"Darian?"

"You are looking at the new and improved Prince Darian! I now have what I ever wanted!"

"What are you talking about?!" she said stupidly, not realizing the obvious. "What is going on?"

"What do you think is going on? I have joined the winning side."

"No...you didn't! You didn't join Vega!"

"I already have."

"No! You can't! You're not like that!" There were tears in her eyes.

"You are in denial, Princess Faith."

"But...why?" she asked, not knowing what else to say. "Why!"

"Why? Because I feel better than ever! Now I can have all the power I ever dreamed for, and more! And when both dimensions eventually fall into Vega's hands, I will have a place to rule."

She was so angry and disappointed. "Prince Darian you traitor! Traitor! Traitor!"

"Better be a traitor than a dead hero."

"Traitor! Traitor!" She powered up and the troops holding her were knocked away by the energy. ZOOM! She was at maximum and Darian was getting a little worried.

"Now now now, we must watch our temper." he said.

She gathered energy into both hands and fired a double beam at him, and he caught the beam with his hands, then released his own energy and the beam died out.

"Die! You die!" she yelled madly as she flew at him. She made a karate chop and he dodged. She unleashed a fury of punches and he dodged his head left and right. Then he grabbed her hands and she struggled to get free. "Let go!"

"As you wish!" He let her go violently and her back was against a tree. He charged with his sword and slashed, she ducked just in time, his sword chopped off the tree. She tripped him and he fell. She jumped and landed a good distance away. He got up and prepared to continue.

They both jumped into the air. Faith fired the Mega Beam and he barely dodged it. It went past him, almost touching his chest, but the energy scarred his chest plate, leaving a mark on it. "Ahhhhh!" he screamed, then flew at her.

"Soul Swords!" Two swords appeared on her hands on she combined them into one. They flew into each other and their blades collided. CLANG! Energy sparks appeared.

Tyson punched Goro in the chest many times but it still had minimum effect. Goro grabbed his hand and punched his stomach, then whacked him down. His fingers felt like stone to his face. "Had enough?" the creature snickered.

"I...was...just...getting started!" Tyson ran and used the Power Punch on him, but Goro blocked it with his arms. Tyson's mouth grew wide open, his fist still in Goro's palm. The creature smiled, then punched his mouth, and he spit blood.

Goro held his wrists and lifted him up with two hands. With his two other hands free, he punched Tyson's body non-stop. The hero screamed and moaned like hell. Pik pak pik pak pik pak. "Ugh!! Ahh! Ugh!" Tyson spit blood.

"Heh, had enough?"

Tyson opened his eyes, and smiled, despite the pain. His feet went to Goro's face and kicked him. Goro fell and let him go. Tyson charged up energy and fired a bunch of energy balls at him.

Smoke covered the area as Tyson caught his breath. When the smoke blew away, Goro was standing there, his four arms extended, holding fists.

Tyson: "No way. How am I going to beat this guy?" The situation grew hopeless and Tyson knew what awaited him. Goro charged at him and used all four arms to punch his face. POW! WHAM! SMACK! "Ooh...ahhh!" Every hit was more painful than the one before. He was pushed back farther and farther. Then Goro gave him a really hard uppercut, and Tyson fell on his back, his whole face broken.

Goro grabbed his shirt and lifted him up. He traveled a few steps forward, now facing a deep trench.

"No!" Tyson yelled faintly.

"This is where you die!" Goro tossed him into the blackness and there he went.

Tyson screamed in the air and he hit some rocks then landed on the ground face flat. He couldn't get up.

Darian and Faith charged at each other, aiming their swords at each other's necks. Swoosh! They went past each other. Darian's sword broke off Faith's golden locket and a piece of his black scarf fell off. Faith, realizing that her locket was gone, said: "My locket!"

Darian picked it up. "This belongs to you?"

"Give it back!"

"Make me!"

She charged at him and he threw the sword at her, knocking her sword off.

"Now, princess, you will bow down before me!"

"In your dreams."

Darian took out the magical flute and started playing. Faith never would have thought he would use that against her. The tune he played was completely different from before. It was still the same old tune, but it was horrible and deformed.

She could still imagine herself sitting on that chair, listening to Darian's music, that wonderful moment before the aliens came. No, this music was different.

She covered her ears in pain but it was no use. The music went into her head and all over her body. She collapsed on her knees.

"Now will you surrender?" he asked.

"Never!" She was not the least bit worried. She raised her right arm and opened her palm, as if expecting something to drop from heaven. The magical harp appeared on her hand.

Darian: "The **Golden Harp**!"

"Are you ready for the second round?!"

"Have it your way!"

They have played music together, but they never would have thought it would be the weapon they would use against each other.

Darian blew into the flute and Faith played the strings. The music was so powerful everything around them exploded, and some trees fell down. BOOM! BOOM!

They both had their eyes closed and seemed very calm. As they continued playing, their energies started increasing. Faith's harp released energy in the form of a beam and so did Darian's flute. The energies crashed into each other and BAM! Faith's harp broke and Darian's flute cracked.

Darian: "Now look what you did! Don't you realize by now you can't win?"

"The only thing I realize is that you're a traitor!"

"Call me what you wish!"

They continued fighting bare handed. Darian made a jab into Faith's stomach, and after that, she had no more energy left. She was paralyzed and can barely move.

The troops captured her again. Darian pushed a button on his sleeve and a rectangular black hole appeared. The troops took her inside. Then Darian stepped one foot inside, then turned around, staring in the direction where Tyson was in the trench. "Goodbye, Tyson." He knew Goro had won. There was no doubt about it. He stepped into the hole and it vanished.

28: Fight, Sayan! Tyson Fights Alone!

Contents

Inside the deep trench, Tyson laid there half-conscious with his eyes closed. His bruised fingers grabbed the dirt and squeezed it. He felt as if every bone in his body

was broken. "Uhh..." It was a miserable defeat by Goro, and he thought it was his final defeat. But it wasn't over yet. He is still alive, and as miserable as he is, he must find the strength to recover and fight back.

A piece of dirt fell on his face and he opened his eyes. He couldn't sense any of his friends or Faith. They must be dead or taken to the other dimension. Faith, he thought, where is Faith? (Faith...I must go save her! But how can I do anything in this condition? I'm so worthless!) He did feel worthless because of this devastating defeat. And he's lying there not able to do anything. (My friends, I must save my friends! It is all up to me now! Get up, get up!) Images of his friends' faces popped up in his head. (It is all up to me now. I have to save them!!!) With that last thought he summoned all the strength he had left and got up slowly and painfully. By the time he was on his knees he couldn't catch his breath. When he stood on his feet, his hands grabbed the wall for support.

In what seemed like an eternity, he finally got to the surface. His hands grabbed the ground and pulled himself up. He didn't even turn around to look at the trench. He was totally focused on what he had to do. "Everybody...stay alive, please! I am coming for you. Soon."

Faith was sitting on the throne chair, trapped and miserable. She really wanted to get out of there.

The door opened and Darian came in. He approached her and she looked away. "So, how is my princess doing?"

"You can't keep me here forever! Tyson will come and save me!"

"Tyson?"

"He'll come and get you! I know it!"

"Ha ha ha ha! Tyson is dead!"

"Impossible!" she said in denial.

"If he is what you say he is, then where is he now? Goro has already killed him!" He grabbed her chin and looked into her face. "Ohh, but don't worry. I'll take good care of you." He put his hand on her thigh and moved up into her dress. She was about to slap him but he grabbed her hand. She used her other hand and he grabbed it. He held her wrists tightly and twisted them.

Faith: "You're hurting me!"

"Oh poor princess! Am I hurting you too much?"

She pushed him away, got up and ran for the door. He grabbed her shoulder and ripped off a piece of her dress. He sniffed it and threw it away. She was trapped against the wall and he approached her. "Get away from me!" He grabbed her hands and put his face close to hers, and he can feel her breath. "No please! No!" she cried with tears. He kissed her lips wildly. She pushed him away and ran. He grabbed her and slapped her against the wall.

"You're mine!"

Faith looked at his waist, and snatched his sword. "Back off!" she said desperately. "Back off!" He reached for her and she dived the sword at him. He grabbed the blade and snatched it from her.

Darian: "Stupid fool!" He slashed her shoulder, tearing her dress. Then he slashed at her leg, making another tear on her dress. She screamed and backed up. She was against the wall again, and Darian violently stuck the sword against the wall next to her head, almost cutting off a few pieces of hair. He grabbed her and threw her on the floor.

"You'll be mine forever, Faith! We belong together!"

Faith: "No, please!" She crawled backwards as he approached. "Please!" The bed

was behind her and she used to help get up. He grabbed her and kissed her lips. The rose fell on the floor. He pushed her on the bed and laughed. He stepped on the rose and smudged it.

"There's no escape for you now!" he said, and got on the bed. He slapped her face and she moaned painfully. He took off her shoes and threw them away. He got on top of her and ripped her dress, revealing part of her breasts. She screamed helplessly. He kissed her neck, then her shoulders as tears dripped down her eyes.

He tore off her clothes and threw them on the floor as she cried and screamed in agony.

The curtains on the bed were closed, and there were two shadows inside, one on top of the other. Darian's face was on Faith's breasts and her tears dripped on the pillow. He grabbed her wrists and squeezed them tightly. Her fingers grabbed the bed sheet and her feet kicked helplessly. He looked at her face.

"Tyson will come and save me..." she mumbled weakly. He kissed her lips and more tears came.

He grabbed her leg and felt her thigh with his hands. He kissed her ankle, then her lower thigh. He kissed the soft, sensitive skin on her thighs and enjoyed every bit of it.

He stroked her and she screamed in agony.

When he was finished, he put his clothes on. Faith was under a blanket and the dried tears could be seen on her cheeks. She was unconscious and had a painful face. He kissed her shoulder. "Sweet dreams, princess." Then he left.

Vega stood before the **Silver Crystal** and stared at it. It was a bunch of energy crystals stuck together in a semi-circle shape and had a silvery color. (What a magnificent crystal! Oh yes, it is finally time. With you I will be able to put the two dimensions into one, and I will finally achieve my goal. All I need is a little bit more energy.)

"Faith, I must save Faith!" Tyson yelled to nobody. "I'm coming! Wait for me!" All of a sudden he had the strength to stand up again. He felt stronger than ever. He knew where he had to go, so he ran in into the woods.

Several troops were patrolling the woods and Tyson saw them, but he did not stop running. The troops prepared themselves as he approached. Other troops appeared and surrounded Tyson. The hero was not even worried in the least. He did not care about anything except for his goal.

"Get out of my way!" he shouted as if they were just nuisances and nothing more. "Just leave and nobody will get hurt."

The troops ignored him. They waited for the right moment, and one of them charged at Tyson. Several others followed. They suppressed Tyson, pushing him down as he struggled. Tyson powered up angrily and the troops were blown away. He screamed angrily and powered up more. Another troop went for him and he just kicked him away. Another one was running behind him. Tyson, without even turning around, raised his fist and the troop's face ran into his fist and he fell. Another was sliding at him. Tyson jumped. Two troops jumped after him. He punched one of the troop's face, then the other. Without even breaking a sweat, all the troops were defeated in no time. Tyson looked at the fallen bodies.

"You should have taken my warning seriously." He continued running.

Not far ahead he could see three troops standing in front of two gigantic spheres of something. They looked like the spider-bots that attacked his friends in Sumni village. The troops saw him coming and fired the zap rays at him. He jumped up and

landed on the middle one, knocking him out. Then he jumped at the right one and punched him out. The one on the left stepped back, then Tyson disappeared and reappeared in front of him. The troop trembled with fear. Tyson gave him a simple punch and he was out.

The two spheres started moving. Its legs stretched out and touched the ground, and its heads reached high up. "I have no time for this." he said to himself. He was going to make it quick and simple. No more Mr. nice guy.

One of the tentacles went for his head, he dodged, then another tentacle went for his legs, so he flew up. The two spider bots flew up after him, one on each of his sides. Their arms tried to grab him and hit him and he dodged desperately. The tentacles grabbed his arms, then his legs tightly. "Huh?" The spider bots opened their heads, and the guns inside were ready to fire. Tyson screamed and released energy throughout his body and destroyed the tentacles touching him. He fired a powerful energy ball at one of the spider bots, causing it to explode. The other spider flew at him, he floated up and it missed him, he kicked it down with his foot, then he charged the Energy Blast and fired.

He landed on the ground, and behind him, the two spider bots crashed down and exploded.

"Anyone else wants a piece of me?!" Tyson yelled at the remaining troops. They paused for a second, then ran away. "So, at the end you show your true faces. You are nothing but cowards."

Tyson continued running...running...and running. Finally he made it. The inter-dimensional pod lay in front of him, covered by grass and vines. It had not been moved nor touched since he and his friends came here. Now it's time to go back to his own dimension.

29: Rescue Faith. Fight For Love!

Contents

It was a pretty and bright Church. The door opened and the bride and groom came out. The bride was Princess Faith, holding her groom's hand. Her white wedding gown touched the floor and everybody appealed at her appearance. Her face was veiled, but part of her eyes and mouth could be seen. She was looking at the floor, and she was not happy. The groom was Prince Darian, and he was dressed in his usual Zaibach prince clothing.

The couple slowly walked to the priest, who was holding a bible. The light from the windows were overwhelming, and Faith's eyes hurt.

The priest began..."Do you, Prince Darian of Zaibach, take this lawfully wedded woman to be your wife, for richer or poorer, in sickness and in health, and to love her for all eternity?"

"I do." he said.

Then the priest turned to Faith. "Do you, Princess Faith of Almerak, take this man to be your husband..."

Faith: "I don't know..."

Everybody, especially the priest, was shocked.

Darian: "What are you doing? Just say it!"

Faith: "I...I..."

"Say it."

"I..."

The door burst open and Tyson came in, panting for breath.

"Tyson!" Faith yelled in surprise.

"Tyson." Darian mumbled angrily.

"Oh dear." the priest said.

Tyson: "Faith, I came to stop this marriage. I won't let Darian force you to do this."

Darian: "You're ruining a good thing! Why did you have to come now?"

Tyson: "Faith never loved you, and never will. You know it just as well."

"Faith belongs to me! Nobody else!"

"Her heart doesn't belong to you!"

"You never should have came, Tyson." Darian said, pulling out a sword. Tyson also pulled out a sword and they tried to slaughter each other.

Faith watched them worriedly. She really hoped her lover would win.

CLANG! CLING! SWOOSH! CLANG!

Tyson: "Faith loves me, not you!"

Darian: "Once you die, then nobody can stop us. So die! Die!"

Their blades hit each other's, then Darian stabbed the blade into Tyson's guts and then pulled his bloody sword out. Tyson fell. Darian laughed like a maniac.

Faith ran to her lover in tears. "Tyson! Tyson!"

Tyson: "I'm sorry, my love. I guess I couldn't save you after all."

She touched his hands, which were full of blood. "Please don't die." More tears came.

"I don't want to die either...but I can't go on." Tyson said, and closed his eyes forever.

"No! No! Tyson!! Tyson!!"

Suddenly, Faith woke up. It was all just a bad dream. But the dream was not far from reality. She was still naked in bed, tucked under a blanket. Inside Darian's room. She did not want to stay here any longer.

"Tyson...Tyson...I'm coming to you."

Darian came into the room. "Where do you think you are going?"

"No-nowhere." she said in fear.

He approached her and she walked backwards.

"No, please!"

He slapped her face and she fell on the bed. There were tears in her eyes and they fell on the pillow. He grabbed her and kissed her lips. "Do not even think about escaping. There is absolutely no chance for you."

"Tyson will come and save me!" she sobbed.

"Ha ha ha! Tyson is dead. How many times do I have to say it?"

Meanwhile, the rest of the gang of heroes were still frozen. They were now part of Vega's 'decorations' of his palace. Vega's throne room, which was as tall as a tower, had walls of pure crystal ice. Scattered around the walls were the heroes. The room was circular and brighter than the others.

"Poor poor earthlings." Vega said to himself, "All trapped within that crystal prison of yours and with no hope of escaping. With Tyson dead and Princess Faith captured, it will only be a matter of time before the dimensions are merged together. And all of you shall remain here and sleep for all eternity!"

They were all trapped and helpless, out of contact with the outside world. Nebula, Lisa, Zelfire, Macintosh, Ace, and Marianna. Will they ever get out of there?

Inside the castle, Goro was guarding the lower level, which at night time, was as dark as a cave. The only sources of light were but a few torches here and there, and that was it.

King Midas broke down the front door and barged in. He walked right up to Goro without any worries at all. He was tired, he was angry, and he meant business.

"Welcome back, your highness." Goro said with sarcasm on the phrase 'your highness.'

"Stop the small talk, demon. I want my daughter back."

"The princess? Too bad, I am guarding the entrance. You have to go through me first."

"Then that is what I shall do. "

"Ha ha! Good one, old man. You caaaannot be serious."

Midas gathered energy and ran at the four-armed creature. WHOOSH! He used the Tiger Fist, and Goro dodged. They were now on the opposite sides of where they were originally standing. Midas gasped at the monster's agility. This was not going to be a pleasant fight.

Goro: "What is the matter, old man? Not enough fight left in you?"

Midas: "Give me back my daughter!" He kicked Goro's face, then punched his chest, but nothing happened. Then Midas jumped up and Goro jumped up. Midas punched and Goro blocked with his elbow. Midas gave him a few more punches and he blocked all of them. They landed on the floor. The king folded his fingers together, with his forefingers facing up. He closed his eyes and started chanting mentally.

Goro: "What are you up to?"

Energy surrounded him like a force field and moved up and down. Midas concentrated that energy into a beam and fired it at Goro.

Goro blocked it with all four of his arms. "Arrrrrrrgh!" he yelled as the beam hit his arms. But then it shattered into fragments and disappeared. "Was that the best you could do?"

Midas was quite shocked. He grunted angrily. He charged at Goro and they hit each other. KAPOW! BAM! WHACK! Midas made a karate chop at him, Goro grabbed his arm and squeezed it. Then he punched the old man in the chest, and he coughed blood. He grabbed his own chest and gasped for breath.

Goro: "Give it up. There is no way you can fight all four of my arms." He spread out his arms, in a posture like Shiva. His fingers turned into fists and his mouth turned into a twisted smile.

"There is only one thing I can do." Midas put his arms and legs into position, and waved his arms up and down.

Goro: "Now what are you up to, old man?"

"I shall use my **Flying Mantis Technique!**"

"Flying Mantis?"

Midas charged at him, and the fists began again. This time, however, his arms were moving so fast it looked like he had four of them instead of two. POW POW POW! They were evenly matched for the moment, then Goro blocked his fists, then punched him against a wall. Midas's golden gown had a rip on it, there was blood on his mouth and he was getting tired.

Goro: "Atomic Star!" Like Sapphire, a black star shaped crystal of pure energy formed in his palms. Since he had four arms, each one formed an Atomic Star.

The old man gasped in disbelief. Goro threw the first one, Midas back flipped, avoiding it. Then Goro threw the other three. Midas blocked but they hit him and exploded and push him against the wall and crashed through it, sending him falling into the river. Some chunks of the castle fell on the same spot as him. He did not come

to the surface.

Goro went to the hole on the wall, looking down at the water. "Farewell, king."

Vega: "Now, let the merger begin!"

The Silver Crystal now had enough energy to do its task. Since the defeat of the heroes, his troops had been scattered all around, looking for life energy. Now he had all the energy he needed, and can finally accomplish his ultimate goal. The crystal flashed a brilliant light and the entire palace was flashing. The ground started shaking, then calmed down. Vega knew it had already begun.

"Now, it is only a matter of time. Ha ha ha ha!"

In the forest area, a large pod appeared a few feet off the ground and landed with a THUD! Seconds passed by, and the door opened. The door way was full of light, and a silhouetted figure stepped out. Tyson felt at home again.

"Finally, I'm back home!" The whole world seemed like normal again. But something did not feel right. He could see somebody floating by the river, maybe dead. And he was dying. Uh oh, he thought. That force felt very familiar.

He ran for the water, but some troops found him and attacked him. He beat them all up and headed for the water. He was shocked to see who it was.

"Your highness?" He went into the water and got the fallen king on land.

He was gasping desperately for air. "Tyson? It is you, young man?"

"Yes, it's me. Who did this to you?"

He coughed. "It was Goro!"

"Goro." he repeated.

"Can I ask you a question?" he asked weakly.

"Anything."

"Do you love my daughter?"

"Yes, very much. And I will do anything to get her back."

Midas let out a faint laugh. "I knew it. I could tell before. So young man, you have finally made it back. My...daughter is held captive in that castle just ahead."

"Thank you for telling me."

"Young man, be careful. Goro is guarding it!"

"I will."

"Good luck. May the Great Spirit be with you."

"What about you?"

"Forget me! Go save the woman you love!"

Tyson: "I will. And I will come back for you. I promise you, highness, I will bring her back." He set off.

So he went into the castle and ran down the dark and empty hallway towards the figure in front of him. Once he saw Goro's face he stopped.

Goro: "So, you are still alive, eh?"

Tyson: "More than alive."

"You should have taken that chance to hide and flee for your life! How foolish of you to waste your second chance."

Tyson: "You're wrong. This time I won't lose. You can count on it."

"What makes you so sure, mortal?"

"If you'd just get out of my way and let me take Faith back, nobody has to get hurt."

"Ha ha ha! Good one. You are the one who should worry about getting hurt."

Tyson grunted and charged and punched Goro's chest. This time, it hurt. Goro

was taken completely by surprise. His chest of muscles could no longer defend against Tyson's super fist. The creature just realized he had taken things too lightly. Now it's time to get serious. They ran into each other and hit each other skillfully. POW! WHAM! WHACK! Tyson flew, Goro grabbed his leg and slammed him down. WHAM! Goro grabbed Tyson's shirt and lifted him up. Tyson grabbed his hands and twisted them. Goro screamed like hell. Tyson's foot hit the creature's face. WHACK! Goro landed on his back.

"Arrrrgh!" the creature screamed. "Atomic Star!" He formed four black stars on his hands.

Tyson was ready for anything. He smiled, signaling Goro to bring it on. Goro threw all the stars at the same time. Tyson used the Electro-shield defense technique and all the stars exploded upon contact with the shield, and the person inside was unharmed. Goro charged at him and punched like crazy. Tyson blocked and dodged him. Goro slammed him into the wall. CRASH!

"How did you like that?" he asked.

"Very much." Tyson powered up and Goro took a few steps back in caution. The warrior ran and kicked, Goro jumped. Tyson appeared behind him and gave him a karate chop on his back. WHACK! Then he crashed, breaking one of the statues. CRACK!

Goro screamed angrily, and Tyson used the Energy Shot, and it hit his leg.

"Raawwwr!"

"Heh." Tyson snickered. "You might have four arms, but what good are you if you can't use your legs?"

"Garrw. Youuuuu are supposed to be disabled! Helpless!"

"The one who is going to be disabled is you." Tyson said, powering up.

"This is not possible! I am invincible."

"Not anymore." He fired the Energy Blast at him and it was all over.

On the bed, Faith, as weak as she was, could sense the presence of her lover nearby. She was suddenly filled with hope. "Tyson..."

"Tyson?" Darian asked.

"He's here. He's come here to save me!"

"No, impossible. He is dead."

An energy beam broke the wall and went straight for Darian. He had no time to react. It pushed him into the other wall and crashed. He was buried under rocks and rubbles.

The door slammed wide open and Tyson came in. He walked towards Faith. "Faith?" He touched her face lightly.

She opened her eyes and was overwhelmed at the sight. "Tyson...you came at last! Just like I thought you would!" She burst into tears and hugged him tightly.

"It's okay, it's okay." he said soothingly, hugging her back. "I'm here now."

He knew Darian was still alive. He had to get Faith out of there. So he carried her by the shoulder and her legs. He ran towards the exit out of the castle.

The pile of rubbles was moving and a hand popped out. Then Darian's whole body stood up. "Arrrrgh! Tyson!" He was definitely not happy.

Tyson ran as fast as he could, carrying Faith in his arms. He didn't look behind and just hoped they could get away safe and sound. A black energy beam hit Tyson's back and he screamed and fell. Faith fell off his hands and rolled on the ground. Tyson's back had a bad burn and he moaned in pain.

"Tyson...Tyson..." She crawled to him and grabbed his arms.

"Faith..."

Darian came and stepped on her lover's back.

"Aaaaaaaaah!" Tyson shouted crazily.

"Nooo!" Faith screamed.

Darian slapped her face. "Did you really think this pathetic being could save you? Did you?"

Faith was crawling backwards and turning her head. "No, please, no!"

"You can never escape!" He grabbed her blanket and she held on to it tightly. He slapped her and grabbed her shoulders. He pulled her face to his.

"No!" Tyson shouted, punching Darian's despicable face. "Faith, get outta here now!"

She ran into the woods.

Tyson: "Now that she is out of the way, you can never harm her again."

Darian: "Fool! How dare you show your face here-"

"No. How dare you!" he shouted back angrily. He clenched his fists and they were itching to hit something. "I always felt there was something strange about you, but I never thought it would be this. Not even once. Why did you turn against us? What has Vega offered you?"

"Ha ha ha! I only realized that being on your side will accomplish nothing for me! Nothing at all! Do you really want to know what gift I have received from Vega? Everything I ever wanted!"

"Scoundrel! You would betray your own-"

"Enough! Today, one of us will die. And only one of us is coming out of here alive." said the arrogant prince.

"Then so be it. I cannot even forgive you now."

"Who needs your forgiveness? I don't need it."

The two haters stared at each other, their eyes burning with contempt and their power steadily rising.

30: The Silver Crystal. The Merger of the Worlds.

Contents

The haters continued to stare at each other. "Today, one of us will die. And only one of us is coming out of here alive." said the arrogant prince.

"Then so be it. I cannot even forgive you now."

"Who needs your forgiveness? I don't need it."

"Faith will never love you."

"Arrrrgh! You stole her away from me."

"No Darian, you are **jealous**. Am I right?" he said, emphasizing the word "jealous."

"No! No!" Darian screamed in denial. "I have had enough of this! Only one of us will come out of here alive."

"So be it. And I do pity you, Prince Darian."

The prince punched Tyson's face. It hurt, but he did not even wince. He punched back twice as hard into Darian's chest.

"Aaaaaah!" the prince screamed. He grabbed Tyson's hand, and with his other hand, he made a punch. Tyson grabbed his other hand and they struggled. They soared up, then pushed each other into the water. SPLASH!

Now underwater, their movements were slower but their strength was not

affected. Tyson punched Darian then kicked him down. Darian fired an energy wave, and he blocked it. Then he took out his flute and started playing. Tyson covered his ears and Darian seized the chance and whacked his enemy into a rock. He swam up to the surface.

"So much for you, Tyson." he said.

Still underwater, he was running out of air. He fired an energy ball up and almost hit Darian. Darian watched the energy went pass him and explode. Suddenly Tyson flew out and punched him from behind. POW! Tyson charged at him and Darian flew to a safer distance.

Tyson: "You are a traitor. You switched from the side of justice to the side evil!"

The prince broke into hysterical laughter. "Hmmmph, you think you are a righteous fighter? Now let me show you why all this was worth the trouble. I will show the power I have received directly from Vega! The power I never dreamed I could get."

"Huh?"

Darian started to power up and it was intense. He grunted painfully as the black energy ran through his body. Black electricity surrounded his body and the water below him was splashing. "AAAAAAAH!"

Tyson watched with no emotion. He was not scared nor surprised. ZOOM! A surge of energy was released and spread in all directions. Tyson covered his eyes for protection.

"Now die!" Darian screamed. He fired a black beam and Tyson countered with the Energy Blast. The two beams crashed into each other and BOOM!

For a few seconds nothing could be seen but whiteness. Darian opened his eyes and wondered where his enemy had gone. Tyson appeared in front of him and punched him onto the ground. CRASH!

"Well, had enough?"

"You have already lost, Tyson!"

"How is that?"

Darian smiled, taking out his flute.

"Oh no, not that!"

Darian started playing and the music was pain to Tyson's ears. He screamed madly and covered his ears but it was no use. He collapsed on his knees and his head was sweating rapidly.

"AAAAHHH!"

Darian paused, then said: "Oh what is the matter? Can't fight back? Ha ha ha ha." Then he resumed playing.

"No! I can't lose!" His whole body was aching and there was nothing he could do.

Suddenly, something in his pants was glowing! It was Faith's rose! He took it out of his pants pocket and stared at it. Its energy felt so warm and caring. "It's...it's the rose that she gave me...the first time we met."

He could recall the moment like it happened yesterday. Faith threw the rose at him and he caught it, but its thorns hurt his hand and he dropped it. He picked it up more carefully. Then he threw it in the garbage, but picked it up again. And he's kept it with him ever since.

"Oh Faith...thank you! Thank you for this wonderful gift."

Darian stopped playing, realizing his music had no effect. "What is going? This is...impossible!"

Tyson held the rose in the air he felt like nothing before. Its glowing energy traveled to his body and gave him the strength he needed to withstand Darian's wretched music. "Yes...I can feel it!" The sky was turning blue, signaling the coming of

dawn.

"This can't be!" Darian said, stepping back. In a rage he broke his own flute, ripping it in half.

Tyson charged at Darian, who flew above the water trying to get away.

Darian waited for him to come closer, then punched. Tyson grabbed his fist and punched his chin. POW! He spit blood as his head turned sideways.

Darian: "ARRRRRGH! Die Tyson!"

The two enemies, full of energy, charged into each other and collided. KABOOM! There was a huge explosion and both warriors fell into the water at the same time.

The lake was silent now. Everything was calm. The sun could be seen now, half of it above the horizon, the other half still hidden. A hand reached out from the water. Tyson came onto the surface gasping for air. He fell unconscious with half his body still in the water.

Faith, seeing her lover fallen, ran to him. She pulled him onto land and turned him over to see his face. "Tyson! Oh Tyson speak to me!"

"I'm fine Faith..."

They hugged cheerfully. It's always darkest before dawn.

Back at Tyson's home, Faith laid unconscious on the floor mattress. She was wearing a kimono and tucked under a warm blanket. Tyson put a moist wash cloth on her head to sooth her pain. She moaned and turned her head. Tyson went to the kitchen to get some water for her.

He came back with a cup of water. He bent down and checked her head. It was still burning. "Here, drink this." he said. He lifted her head and poured the water into her mouth. Some of it spilled out and she coughed. She opened her eyes and saw her lover.

"Tyson!" She hugged him tightly, putting her head on his shoulder. He hugged back. She was crying and sobbing.

"It's okay. It's okay. We're safe now."

Meanwhile, the whole world was in chaos. As the two dimensions were being merged, earthquakes, thunderstorms, and other natural disasters struck everywhere. In West City, the earthquake was devastating. The ground tore apart and buildings fell in, along with cars, and people.

The same thing was happening to Almerak and Zaibach as well.

Vega: "It is only a matter of time now. Once the two dimensions become one, I will take it over with ease. I will rule the world!"

Not aware of what was happening to the world, the lovers remained inside the house, where they thought it was the safest place, because they had each other.

Tyson: "Whatever happened to the rest of them? Where are our friends?"

Faith got up, walking towards the window. "They have been held prisoner by Vega. Where, I do not know. They are probably dead."

"They can't be."

"We must find Vega now!"

"No, we both need rest. Especially you. We can't do anything in your condition."

"I can't wait any longer! Everything is in our hands!" she yelled, staring at him with bright, hopeful eyes. "We must go now!"

"If anything happened to you now...how will I keep my promise..."

She just stared at him in shock and awe.

"Don't you know I love you?"

He kissed her lips wildly and she put her arms around his head and he put his arms around her back.

After all that has happened, it has come down to this. Only Tyson and Faith remain; the others are still frozen, helpless and ready to be slaughtered at any moment.

31: One to Go. Vega's Ambition.

Contents

Standing on a cliff, a man watched the city. Like others, he was surprised by the merger of the worlds. But he remained calm. "So...is this the end?" said King Midas.

Vega sat on his chair, observing the frozen heroes. "Ha ha ha ha! 'Tis ashame you had to oppose me. Now look at yourselves. All your efforts were futile from the beginning."

The Silver Crystal was glowing brighter, releasing tons of energy.

"The merger is almost complete! There is only a few hours left."

Outside the palace, located in the center of West City, the ground was shaking and completely torn apart. Fire hydrants squirted water into the air and cars were crushed.

Faith was staring outside the window, not moving a muscle. Tyson watched her with curiosity. He wondered what she was looking at.

"What are you looking at?" he asked. "There is nothing to see but trees."

"Don't you feel it?"

"Feel what?"

"Something is wrong with the earth. I can sense it. The whole world is in chaos."

Tyson became silent.

"I know this...because I am one with nature. I can feel its pain. Vega is merging the dimensions."

Tyson: "You mean..."

"Yes, that means our homes will soon be in one dimension. The two dimensions will come together and form into one, rendering the world in chaos and Vega will take over it easily."

"That is not good..."

"We must stop him now, before the merger is complete."

"Yes, you are right about that. We have to stop him."

Faith turned around. "We must not waste anytime."

Tyson took out the rose that she gave him a while ago. "And with this, we cannot possibly lose."

She gasped in surprise. "That rose...I gave it to you the first time we met."

"Yes."

"And you still have it. You kept it with you all this time?"

"It never left my sight. It is the best gift anyone can possibly have."

"Tyson..." She was speechless.

"Come on, what are we waiting for? We mustn't waste any time." he said, smiling.

"Before we go..." she said, and he turned around. "You mean everything to me."

He just smiled.

They set off. Faith wore the clothes she had on the day she met Tyson - the pink blouse and sweats, the clothes she wore until she reached the palace. And Tyson wore his light blue fighting outfit: blue sweats, and a blue shirt with short sleeves.

They ran through the forest, hoping to reach West City in time. A bunch of Dark Society troops were waiting to ambush them. Tyson and Faith defeated the troops like they were nothing and continued running. They had a feeling this would be the final battle, the ultimate showdown for the fate of the dimensions.

They got into West City and found it deserted. They assumed the people ran away from the earthquake. Finally, they were in front of the Millennium Ship. Only a couple of stairs led the to the grand door, which would lead them inside to the core of all the problems they have faced so far. Inside was the main room, where the Silver Crystal laid in its protective layer. Behind it was the ice room, where Vega sat, waiting for their death.

"This is it." Tyson said.

The lovers took one last look at each other, and went in at the same time.

Vega: "So, Tyson is alive after all. Along with the princess. But no matter, if they dare resist me, they will end up like their companions."

Midas continued to watch the city fall apart. He felt hopelessness as well as helplessness. What will happen to both worlds now?

The lovers ran across the hallway and into a large room with red walls. In front of them was a dark passage that they could not see what was there. They waited, then Vega came out of the passage.

Tyson: "Vega..."

"Welcome, my fellow earthlings, to your doom."

Faith: "This is where it all ends. You've destroyed Zaibach, and Almerak as well. But we will not let you take over this world. Today we will kill you."

Vega: "Kill me?"

Faith: "It is about time you die."

Tyson: "Vega, you have gone far enough. Your evil ambitions will never be realized!"

The evil being bursted into hysterical laughter. "Those are big words from someone so pathetic!!! Do you really think you could defeat me? After all these years of absorbing life energy, I grow stronger and stronger. And now, my power is at its fullest! Prepare to die."

Vega blasted a gust of wind at them, and they both disappeared at the same time. Tyson appeared in front of Vega and punched, but missed, and got hit in the stomach. Faith appeared above him and kicked him into the wall. Vega got back up calmly.

Faith: "Take this!"

Tyson to join his ally and they stood together. They felt like they can do anything in the world.

Vega: "Your time has come!" He charged at them and double punched, but both Faith and Tyson blocked his fist. He was taken by surprise by their unison.

Faith: "No, Vega, your time has come." She powered up to her fullest, and pink electric sparks surrounded her body, along with waves of pure energy. Then Tyson stepped up and powered up to the max.

The three fighters exchanged punches, kicks, and karate chops. The heroes made an incredible team.

Tyson and Faith at the same time punched Vega's stomach, and he was pushed back against the wall. Crash! They both looked at each other for a second and smiled.

Vega got up again. "Arrrrrgh!" he grunted angrily. He fired a dark red energy beam at them, and they dodged. The heroes were in the air, and at the same time fired an energy beam at Vega, and he blocked both of them. He blurred out of sight and reappeared in front of Faith. Taken by surprise, she was hit and knocked on the floor. Thud! Tyson flew down and punched Vega's face. The alien punched him back with full force, knocking him away. "Pathetic."

Faith got up steadily and smiled. She held her hands up and summoned the Soul Swords. They appeared in her palms.

Vega: "Let us try it again."

Faith: "I will tear you into shreds!"

Vega put his arm in front of him, and metal claws came out of his knuckles. Then it happened to his other hand. They glided into each other and his claws collided with her blades. Clash! Cling!

As the metal was slamming, Tyson woke up and rubbed his head. "Uhhh... what's going on?" He saw his lover fighting the demon and he instinctively got up, wanting to help immediately.

Vega slashed his claws with quick agility, leaving Faith backing up and backing up until there was no room to move back. The wall was behind her and Vega's sharp claws were right in front of her. "Now I got you!" the tyrant shrieked.

A bluish energy ball flew at him, and his quick feet leaped and the ball missed him. He landed a good distance away and Tyson couldn't believe he missed his target.

"Tyson!" the princess yelled.

Vega charged at him and slashed his claws. Tyson dodged his attacks, but barely. He had no chance of a counter-attack because of those deadly metal claws. But he knew he couldn't dodge forever. So he ran towards the next room, the room containing the Silver Crystal. Vega blasted his back and he fell.

Faith glided at the demon and slashed her swords. Vega dodged to the side, then slashed at her. She jumped backwards all the way, her feet touched the wall and bounced off it. Now she was speeding through the air like a missile. "**Spin Needle Attack!**" She pointed the tip of the swords at her target, and spun like a tornado. She collided into Vega's claw and chopped it off! She landed on the floor ground with smoke all around.

Vega: "How dare you!"

She charged at him fiercely and chopped off his other claw, leaving him clawless. He grunted angrily and fired a powerful beam at her, pushing her into the other room.

Tyson found the Silver Crystal right in front of him, and it was huge. For a few seconds he was mesmerized by its magnificence, but then this was the thing that was causing the merger. He jumped at it, but not knowing it was protected by an invisible shield, he was electrified and bounced off and fell on the floor hard. Just then Faith crashed from the wall and fell down.

"Faith?"

Then Vega came in. "You...get away from the Silver Crystal!"

Tyson: "This is the source of energy responsible for the merge of the dimensions, isn't it?"

"Get away from it!" he repeated.

"I will destroy it!" He fired an energy beam at it, but the invisible shield blocked it.

Vega glided at him and punched him. Kapow! This one knocked Tyson out for a good few seconds.

"Fool!" Suddenly, Vega's arms turned into electric wires.

Tyson got up, and the wires were flying at him! He rolled to the side and avoided them. Then Vega dug his arms deep into the floor, and in an instant the wires were below Tyson and they popped out and tied him up. They pushed him up high to half the height of the room.

"Ha ha ha ha ha ha!" the demon laughed.

The hero was completely trapped. Around him were layers and layers of wires and he couldn't move his hands at all. He struggled hard but nothing worked.

"What is the matter? All tied up?"

"You won't get away with this?"

"Get away? I have already gotten away. Don't you see? You have already lost!"

"No...it is not over until the end!"

"And your end is here." Vega flew up to Tyson's height, and they were face to face. "Ha ha ha ha, you don't even know when you've lost. As we are speaking, the world is pummeling into chaos, and there is nothing that can stop it. Every second draws closer to the merger of the two dimensions and your time is almost up."

Indeed, Vega was right. From space, the earth looked very different now. Some kind of force field surrounded its atmosphere and the entire planet was glowing.

"You see? I am actually doing you a favor. By merging the dimensions I am bringing people together. And they will have one universal leader, me."

In West City, people panicked and ran like hell aimlessly. The ground was torn apart and the cracks were still growing. Buildings were slanted and crumbling into dust.

"It is all over for you."

"No!" Faith yelled, and sucker-kicked Vega into a wall.

"Faith!" Tyson said happily.

"I'll get you out of here." She dug her hands into the wires and pulled them out and struggled, but they were too tight.

"Hurry, before Vega gets up!"

"I'm trying!" She was doing the best she could but it wasn't enough.

Vega got up and was approaching her.

"Faith! He's behind you." Tyson warned.

She got punched away by Vega. "Aaaaaaaah!" she yelled madly. Kapow! She was knocked down.

Vega laughed again at their pathetic-ness.

Faith lay on the floor, unable to get up. Her hand reached forward and grabbed the air. "Tyson..." she said faintly. "I won't lose...I can't!" She crawled slowly, her hand still stretched in front of her.

Suddenly, the Soul Sword started shaking by itself! It shook more violently now and floated up. Faith, without even knowing it, was controlling its movements. It was as if the sword was attached to her soul, and knew what she had to do. The sword flew at Vega, and he dodged it just in time.

"What?!" he said in shock.

The sword flew into her hand and she caught it. "Take this Vega!" She charged, slashed the sword, Vega dodged, then she kicked him away. She flew up to Tyson and

chopped off the wires, setting him free.

"That does it! I have had it." Vega shouted with extreme rage.

The couple stared at him with horror. He blasted Faith and created a huge explosion.

"No!" Tyson yelled as his lover was hit.

He charged at Vega, but got punched, and slammed against the wall. Vega blasted him into the ice room, where his friends were. He got up and stared at the icy wall. "Its...it's them..." he said in disbelief. Yes, they were all here - Nebula, Lisa, Zelfire, Marianna, Ace, and Macintosh. He felt a joy beyond anything he had felt before. Now that he finally found them (alive?), he was going to set them free.

Vega came in and Tyson flew up. "Nooooo!"

The hero was about to go to Nebula when the alien blasted him down. Crash! "Oh no...so close..."

The tyrant pounded Tyson against the wall, and the whole wall shuddered when his back hit it. Pow! Pow! He kept on hitting Tyson, who was in deep pain.

"AAAAAAHH!" After every hit, Nebula's crystal prison cracked more and more. Pow! Pow! Tyson kept on getting hit, and the crystal cracked. The tyrant took a step back. Tyson tried to stand firm and advanced. Vega blasted him into the wall. This was the shudder needed, and the crystal prison broke and Nebula fell onto the ground.

When he woke up, he felt like he had been trapped for ages. He got up and looked around. "Huh? I'm free!" Then he saw the two warriors, one of them Tyson, and he was severely injured. "Tyson!"

Vega: "Arrrrgh. Get back in your prison."

"Now it's coming back to me! You're the one who froze me. Well, come on then!"

Vega charged at him and punched a few times, but Nebula dodged him.

Tyson: "Go and free the others. Hurry..." He grabbed Vega and tried to hold him.

"No!" the tyrant yelled.

Nebula flew up to Lisa, took out his sword, chopped, and she was free! She fell down, then woke up painfully. Then Nebula freed the other heroes one by one. Vega broke off of Tyson's grip and slammed him down. But then he realized all the prisoners were released. This was not good for him. "Blast you all!"

Mac: "I'm still alive?"

Ace: "What happened?"

Marianna: "Vega?"

Zelfire: "Vega?"

Nebula: "I'm afraid things don't look so good for you now, Vega."

Lisa: "Oh my gosh...he's horrible!"

"No matter. I still have the power to destroy every single one of you." the alien said. He blasted the ground in front of them, and smoke was everywhere. Everybody coughed.

Marianna: "I think it is about time you die!"

Ace: "Your end has come!"

All the freed heroes (except Lisa) fired randomly at him and he blocked desperately. Faith rejoined Tyson and they both went to join the heroes, whom were still shooting.

The energy beams went non-stop. Bang bang bang... Then the heroes were tired, being in the ice crystal for so long.

Vega: "Blast you all! Blast you!" He gathered energy into a powerful ball.

"I think it's time to use the Spirit Bomb." Faith said to Tyson.

"You're right. It's our only hope!" he said.

And so, like the last time, they combined their energies and formed the Spirit

Bomb. This time it was more developed and it was not as heavy as before. The bomb stood between them, supported by one of Tyson's arms and one of Faith's. It was floating a few feet from their palms, and turning pink and blue and glowing.

All the others looked at the couple with amazement. They had never seen such energy as this before.

Ace: "No way...this is..."

Marianna: "The power of love?"

Finally, the two sides had finished.

Tyson: "This is the last assault!"

Vega fired, and moments later, the couple threw the Spirit Bomb. The two energies collided and their bomb completely destroyed the beam. "Noooooooooooo!" Vega shouted helplessly. The Spirit Bomb hit Vega and pushed him back. It pushed him into the Silver Crystal, breaking its shield, and he went through the crystal, shattering it.

Everyone can feel the energy. They all winced and gasped at its power.

The beam kept pushing and pushing and it went out of the ship and exploded. Not even dust was seen.

With the Silver Crystal destroyed, the dimensional merger no longer continued. Things began to calm down. The earthquakes stopped. The sky calmed down as well. There was no more thunder, and the dark clouds slowly dissipated.

Tyson looked at Faith, the woman he loves, and they just stared for two seconds, and hugged. "We did it!!" he exclaimed. "We did it!"

Ace: "Does this mean...it's over?"

Marianna: "It's about time."

Nebula: "Well I'll be damned. Tyson actually pulled through for us."

Epilogue.

Contents

The heroes stood on the field, the stars in the black sky glittered above them. The wind was blowing fiercely that night.

Midas: "You have done well, young man. We all owe you our lives."

Tyson: "Gee, thanks. But I couldn't have done this without Faith's help."

Faith: "We did it together."

Midas: "As you know...now that the threat is over...we must go back home. To Almerak."

Lisa: "Awww, schucks. We'll miss you."

Nebula: "Yeah, it was nice meeting all of you." He went to Ace and they shook hands.

"You too, friend." Ace replied, smiling.

Then Zell went to Marianna and they shook hands.

Midas: "We have to go now."

Suddenly, Faith ran to her father and gave him a big warm hug. "Father! I have decided to stay with Tyson."

Everybody opened their mouths in shock.

Tyson: "Are you sure you want to do this?"

Faith: "Yes! I've thought it over many times. I have made up my mind. I do truly love him and there is no other place I'd rather be than with him." Then she ran to her lover and gave him a compassionate hug.

Ace: "Oh well, sis, I thought we were gonna make up for lost times. I guess we cannot force you to come back with us."

Faith: "Dear brother, I am just happy enough knowing you are alive and seeing

you grow up!"

Ace: "Well, Tyson, take good care of my sister."

Tyson: "You know I will." He smiled. Then they shook hands.

Marianna waved. "Bye bye!"

The king, his son, and Marianna went into the pod.

Midas: "Farewell daughter!"

"Bye bye!" Faith shouted with tears.

Ace: "We'll come visit you once in a while."

Everybody waved to each other and the pod closed. Then it floated and disappeared. For the remainder of the night, the heroes watched the sky.

Tyson's hands were around Faith, and her head was on his shoulder. They looked at each other and smiled.

So the fight for the two worlds has ended for now, and the heroes have finally earned peace and the happiness they deserved. This one event would change their lives forever, and set the path to their future, a future of new experiences...

Castle in the Sky: Rubeus Attacks¹

Castle in the Sky. Rubeus Attacks

Contents

[A] [B] [C]

In the complete darkness of his lair, the human-looking demon was chanting. The words coming out of his mouth were incomprehensible to a commoner, but to those who know the language of demons and the spirits, it is very powerful. As the silver-haired man sat there, surrounded by candles, his were shut, chanting with concentration.

Suddenly, the fire on the candles blew out, and he opened his eyes. "So that's where they are." he muttered with a smile.

As morning came upon the forest, every form of life seemed to come alive. Birds flew out of their nests went all over the place, and on the clear blue river fishes swam by and a deer sipped its water.

Nebula came out of his house and yawned. He was dressed in a black sweater and black pants. He decided to go into the woods to get some breakfast. He sensed someone on his roof and looked that way. "Huh? Who are you?"

The mystery fighter landed in a crouch. "My name is **Arkady**, and I believe you have something I want."

"What could I possibly have that you want?"

"Hand over the Anubis crystal."

Nebula's expression changed despite how much he tried to hide his reaction. "Anubis Crystal? I don't know what you're talking about."

"Stop pretending. I know you have it. If you're smart, you'd hand it over."

¹ Added large red title 12/24/2019

All changes made in 2019 were after the conception of Trouble in Almerak

"Even if I did have it, I won't hand it over to you."
Arkady landed on the ground. "Fine, let's do it the hard way."
Both fighters drew their swords and got into fighting stance.
The wind blew hard as they remained perfectly still. Then they charged and slashed each other.

Faith was on the fields, sweeping leaves off the grass. She was humming as she did. "Hmm hmm hmm hmm..." This was tough labor, but she didn't mind at all. She would do anything for Tyson.

"Hey there." Here came her lover.

"Good morning, sunshine."

"Doing a good job there."

She smiled. He smiled back.

Tyson gasped.

"What is it?" Faith asked.

"Nebula is fighting someone. I can sense it. I gotta go."

"Be back for breakfast!" she shouted as he ran.

"I will." he shouted, and flew off.

When Faith was done sweeping, she went towards the house. Suddenly, her feet stopped when her sixth sense detected something. She dropped the broom. Her eyes glanced around but saw nothing but trees. The wind blew and the branches shook from the wind. She looked up at the sky. Birds flew by. Everything looked normal but her senses were sharp and she knew something was not right.

"Who are you? Show yourself!" Her head turned to the side and she stared at some more trees shedding autumn leaves.

Suddenly, a silhouetted figure appeared in the distance - it dashed from one side to another and vanished. She summoned the Soul Sword in her hand and ran in that direction. *Doosh doosh* She did not see a ground ahead of her. She reached the edge of the ground and noticed diagonal slide. The silhouette appeared from a distance and vanished yet again. She slid down the hill. *Scrrrrrr*

She ran deep into the woods, chasing the silhouette. But seconds later, Faith no longer saw anything or sensed anything. The signal has completely disappeared. Whoever was there is no longer there. When the threat was over the Soul Sword disappeared and she sighed in relief. Then she looked down at her clothes. "Ughhh. My clothes are dirty all over. I need to take a shower."²

Nebula and Arkady slashed each other's blades. Clang! Clang! Just from those few moves they could judge each other's strength.

"Not bad." the stranger commented.

"You're pretty good too."

They charged and slashed. In an instant, Nebula got hit. He didn't even know until he felt some watery substance on his shirt. It was blood. Seconds later came the pain. It was pretty bad. He gasped and moaned. "Uhhh..." He fell on his knee, his hand held on to the sword.

"I'm afraid it's over." He went into Neb's house.

"No! Don't!" he shouted. But he had no power to stop him. He moaned from the wound.

² In the original, the silhouette whacked her on the back, leaving her unconscious. Then she wakes up and says she needs to take a shower

New version: It doesn't make sense for Ren to knock her unconscious then leave her be. So Faith chases the silhouette then slides down a hill and gets dirty - Updated: 12/24/2019

Arkady came out with the shiny crystal in his hand. "So you had it all along. And I would've found it anyway. You should've just told me. It would have saved you a lot of pain."

"Give that back! Ugh...it does not belong to you." yelled the injured Nebula.

"You know what they say. Finders keepers. And losers sweepers. So start sweeping. Ha ha ha ha ha!" He approached, ready to kill Nebula.

Suddenly, a hand grabbed his arm. "I wouldn't do that if I were you." Tyson said.

"Huh?!" Arkady got his arm free and stepped back. "Where did you come from?"

"Just in time, Tyke." Neb said.

"What do you want? Why have you done this? Who are you?" Tyson demanded.

"Die!" Arkady fired a beam.

Tyson dodged and punched him. He dropped the crystal. "Why you!" He made a punch, Tyson blocked his fist. Then he punched his face Pow! Arkady almost fell back. "Well, I'm outta here! So long!"

"You're not getting out of here so easily!"

Arkady grabbed the crystal and Tyson ran at him. He blasted the ground and smoke hit Tyson's face. He coughed. Tyson waved his hands to get the smoke away. By the time he could see again, Arkady was long gone.

Tyson went back to his brother's aide. "Who the hell was that?"

Nebula was still on one knee. "That's what I want to know. Ughhh..."

"You're bleeding. I'm gonna get you to Faith to heal you."³

"No. It's just a minor wound and I don't want to waste her energy."

"Don't be ridiculous. Healing you is not a waste of energy. C'mon." Tyson proceeded to grab his brother's arm and put it around his shoulder.

"No. Ugh. Carrying me will take too long. Just bring her here."

Tyson stood up and he was about to fly away. "By the way, you owe me one."⁴ Then he flew away. *Froom*

"Damn. I will return the favor." said Nebula. But no one heard him.

Fight in a Towel Contents

A silhouette figure jumped onto the roof of the Spade house. He slid down the chimney and landed in a crouch. Right after that he coughed from the dust and crawled out of the chimney. The young man was wearing a red cap. On his torso he wore a red and white sweater with a picture of a flaming skull on the back side. His jeans had holes on the knees and his sneakers had untied shoelaces. His arms were muscular and his body had an athletic form. His face was a young man's face, with black eyes and blonde hair.

From where he was he could hear the shower running from the bathroom. Good, he figured, it would give him time to search for what he needed. The intruder went to the shelf and pulled out books and tossed them onto the floor. He checked in drawers and found only clothes. He tossed them out as well. He looked everywhere but didn't find what he was looking for. **Ren** was getting frustrated. "The signal said it is in this house. Where did they hide it?"

³ Added new dialog 12/24/2019 - In the original, Tyson just leaves him there. The new dialog mentions Faith's healing.

⁴ Added new dialog 12/24/2019 - Tyson says Nebula owes him one. They're brothers and they've fought a lot so they can talk casually to each other. This adds some lightness to the serious tone of the story.

He heard the shower turn off and then got an idea. As soon as the owner of the house comes out of the shower, he will get an answer by using force. The bathroom door opened and steam came out. Ren had no idea what the owner looked like - whether it's a man or woman - so he was ready for anything. But what he saw made his eyes lit up and his breathing stop.

Faith came out wrapped in a **pink towel** around her body and a white towel on her head. Because of the steam she did not see the stranger until she took a few steps forward. They saw each other and stared like a deer in headlights. Her body was attractive from head to toe - she had the right curves and proportions and her skin was flawless. She was barefoot and her legs were dripping wet from the shower. Water droplets remained on her shin and thighs, many of them slipping down her leg. Her breasts were round and shapely and one could see their size even through the towel.

She was rinsing her hair with a smaller white towel. Her arms just remained frozen as she stared at him, clasping the white towel like that against her head. The look on her face was one of complete surprise. She expected Tyson to come home, but instead the one standing before her was a stranger. She just finished a shower and her guard is down.

Before she could utter a word or sound, her **towel slipped off** and fell to the floor. *Plop* Ren's jaw dropped as he stared at her features without blinking. It took her a full second to realize that she was standing naked before this man. She glanced down and then shrieked. "Aaaaaaah!"

Ren covered his face and turned around. "I didn't see anything! I didn't see anything!"

She bent down, dropping the white towel from her head as she picked up the pink towel and wrapped it around herself. Without wasting a second, she ran towards the kitchen. Hearing footsteps, he turned around and ran after her. She slammed the door shut and leaned her back against it while panting for breath.

"Open up!" he shouted, banging his fist on it. *Bang bang bang* Faith felt the banging as the door was pushing her back and she leaned harder against it. "Open up!" he repeated, banging harder. Ren stepped back and threw a kick, breaking the door and knocking Faith against the counter. *Wham* Pieces of wood ended up on the floor.

She groaned from the pain and held onto the counter to stand up. "Uhhh..." She turned around and watched as Ren approached.

"W-What do you want?" she stuttered.

"Where is the Anubis Crystal?" he asked while advancing. slowly.

"I don't know what that is."

He grabbed her wrist. "Don't play dumb with me."

"I don't know what you're talking about!" He squeezed her wrist and caused her to groan. "I don't know...please...ughh!"

Her back was against the refrigerator. Ren's left hand still held her wrist and he planted his right palm next to her head. "Still playing dumb huh? How long can you keep this up?" His hand let go of her wrist to take her upper arm hostage. He squeezed the area between the biceps and triceps.

"Uhh...you're hurting me!"

"It will hurt a lot more if you keep lying." His nose was nearly touching hers.

Her eyes showed fear and helplessness. "Let me go...please..."

He placed his free hand **between her thighs** and glided up into the towel. "If you don't tell me, don't blame me if something bad happens to you."

Faith winced and turned away from him. Ren's face was directly touching her cheek and she could feel his breath from every word he said. His hand went higher into the towel, causing her much discomfort. "Uhhh...Uhhh." She was squirming from being

violated between the legs. "Uhhh..." Her eyes shut.

But she can't just let it end like this...she's a princess after all as well as a fighter. Her fingers turned into a fist and she shrieked and shoved him away. She drew back her right arm to form a fist and hit him in the face. ***Pow*** It was a surprise punch for them both.

Ren stepped back and his head went diagonal. Then he wiped his lip. "So you wanna play rough huh?" In his sight, Faith was in a fighting stance. She was no longer the helpless girl from a few seconds ago.

She dashed forward and threw a bunch of straight punches. He blocked with his forearm. ***Thud*** Then her combo grew more intense as she mixed in some karate chops with punches. Ren dodged by slipping his head and lowering his back. ***Whoosh whoosh***

She made a karate chop and he blocked, then he threw a punch. She ducked and did a sweeping low kick, and he jumped backwards to avoid it. She threw spinning round house kick and landed it on his chest, knocking him against the drawers. ***Crash*** The glass behind him broke. Conveniently there were dishes within his reach.

He grabbed one and threw it like a Frisbee. She guarded her face with a cross arm block. The dish cracked when they hit her arm. It hurt a lot. He threw more dishes at her and they cracked on her arms. She groaned from the pain. He kept throwing them, not giving her a moment to recover. One of the dishes her knee and cracked, and she groaned. "Ugh! Ugh! Ugh!"

She saw a pan within her reach so she went for it. She dashed to the counter and grabbed it and threw it at him. Ren's head tilted to the side and the pan hit the dishes behind him. ***Crack*** Faith ran away, still with the cross arm block. Ren had one dish in his hand and he threw it, but it missed and hit the floor. ***Crack***

There was wall in front of her so there was no where to run to. She turned around to face him. She threw a straight kick and he dodged. Immediately after that was a round kick, which he dodged as well. They both threw a low roundhouse kick at the same time and hit on the **shins**. ***Wham*** She the same kick again and he did the same. Their shins hit and it hurt her a lot. She didn't want to lose and kept kicking and banging her shin against his over and over. She stepped back and nearly lost balance. Her shin was hurting a lot an she moaned. "Uhhh."

Ren smiled, knowing he won that battle. Faith got into her fighting stance. She used a open palm stance, her left palm was at the level of her stomach while her right palm was slightly above her head. Ren got into fighting stance as well. His stance resembled that of a traditional boxer - left fist in front and right fist near the face. As he stared at her face he recognized her. "No way. You're the **princess**."

Faith was confused. "Huh? Who are you?"

"You don't remember me? Has it been that long?"

She examined his face closely and her eyes grew wide open. "You're Ren!"

The towel slipped off her body and fell to the floor. She gasped and shrieked while Ren stood there dumbfounded. She bent down and wrapped it around her body as she stood up. Ren grabbed her upper arms and squeezed them while pushing her backwards. She gasped. With her hands clenching the towel she was unable to fight back. "No...let me go!"

He pushed her until her back was against the counter. They were face to face, their noses nearly touching. "Let me go!" Her eyeballs were shaking from fear and discomfort.

"This is your last chance. Where is the Anubis Crystal?"

"I...I...don't know." she muttered, her voice quivering.

He forced his lips into hers.

"Mmmmmfff!" Her pupils dilated she made moaning noises while her lips were being devoured. Ren was enjoying this very much, swallowing her lips while leaning into her face, forcing her back to bend lower. She was completely helpless while like this...every second felt like an hour.

Ren's hand went down to her thigh and caressed it. Then it went up the towel. Now she was being violated in two places at once and it was too much for her to absorb. Her hand slipped free and shoved his face away. They struggled like that for two seconds. Then she **kneed him in the crotch**.

"Ugh!" The pain instantly paralyzed him. Faith shoved his shoulders hard, forcing him to step back.

She threw a roundhouse kick to his face, knocking him over the counter and onto the floor. *Crash* Every item on the counter was pushed away.

She hopped over the counter. *Whoop* Ren stood up but he was wobbling from the impact. She leapt like a spring, hitting him with both feet, then bounced off him and somersaulted in the air. She was light as a feather and landed on the counter smoothly - her arms were horizontal. Then she got into fighting stance - her arms on her side and fingers curled into fists.

Ren grabbed the wound on his chest and groaned. Yet again he was surprised at how well this girl can fight.

While on the high ground Faith felt powerful. She has this fight in the bag. Suddenly, the **towel slipped**. She gasped and bent down and clenched it against her body. Ren didn't waste this chance. He pulled the towel while she clasped it tightly against her body. He did a leg sweep on her legs, and she fell down as he pulled the towel away from her. *Wham*

Faith peered out from the counter. Her arms were crossed over her chest, hands clasping her shoulders.

"Looking for something?" Ren taunted. He dangled the pink towel on top of her. Her hand reached for it and he took it away. "Oops. Too slow."

"Give it back!"

"Come and get it!" He dangled it so that it was within her reach, only to pull it away. "Come on. Come on."

"Give it back please!"

Ren was having fun toying with her. He continued to tease her with the towel many times. "It's right here, c'mon!"

Then he put the towel behind him. He leaned over the counter. Faith shrieked and lowered herself to avoid being seen. "Don't be shy. We're all adults here."

Suddenly, a lemon hit his face and the juice splattered on his eyes.

"Ugh!" He took a step back. He blinked and the next thing he saw was a fist in his face. *Pow* He was knocked down and the towel in his hand was gone.

Moments later, Ren's eyes opened and he stood up. Standing before him was Faith, wrapped in the towel in fighting stance.

She dashed and threw a kick, knocking him against the sink. *Thud* She charged at him. Ren saw an **orange** and grabbed it and squirted the juice into her eyes. She winced. Ren grabbed her wrists and head butt her. *Thud* She fell against the counter. She had a pounding headache from that. She faced Ren and her vision of him was blurry.

She threw a punch and he blocked her fist and squeezed her hand. She winced from the pain. She tried to strike with him the other hand but he secured the other hand as well. He pulled her into him and kissed her lips. **"Mmmmmfff!"** She shoved him away.

She threw a punch and Ren side stepped and pushed her arm at an angle. Because of the momentum, her arm continued to spin sideways. Ren got behind her and locked her in with both arms. One of his hands was on her breast and he squeezed it.

"It's so soft...and firm." He whispered into her ear. She moaned from discomfort. He kept smelling her hair while she turned to the side.

Faith kicked the cabinet, knocking Ren against the fridge. *Thud* His grip was loose, she ducked and elbowed him. She turned around and punched him in the stomach, followed by a punch to the face. *Wham Pow* Ren moved away and her next punch hit the fridge.

She threw a few high kicks. Ren skillfully dodged by slipping his upper body. *Whoosh* Ren threw a kick at her and she blocked with her arms. Then he threw another kick and she blocked her face. But he was aiming for her chest. She was knocked against the wall.

Ren dashed at her. She punched and he ducked and grabbed her neck with one hand. He put his second hand on her neck and lifted her up. Her feet were off the floor. He squeezed her neck and she was losing breath. Her fingers squeezed his hand trying to pry them off but his grip was too strong. Her legs kicked his legs but they did nothing. She thought it was the end of the line. She looked up and saw a clock. She grabbed the clock and hit him on the head. *Crash*

The pain came as a surprise and forced him to let go of her neck. The clock was destroyed completely. If it wasn't for his cap, his head would be bleeding. Faith coughed while holding onto her neck. There was no time to rest, she ran to the door that led to the basement while still coughing. She walked down the dark staircase. There was no light so she had to take her steps carefully.

Ren was annoyed at the throbbing pain on his head. He went down the staircase into the darkness. Unable to see a thing, he gathered ki into his palm to create light. His palm could only light up directly what's in front of him. He went through bookcase after bookcase but saw no signs of Faith. His senses detect something else, however. He felt a powerful presence coming from the wall - it must be the crystal he's been seeking. He followed the source of energy and saw a blank wall before him. He punched through the wall and his hand touched the crystal. He pulled it out and the crystal was in his hand. "I found it at last."

Faith walked stealthily between the bookcases, careful to not make a sound, lest the enemy should find her. The bookcase was missing books and she looked to the side and saw Ren two aisles down. He was holding the crystal in his hands. Suddenly, Ren noticed her and turned around. She gasped and ran away. Ren pushed the bookcase, and it made the next one fall, and they fell like dominoes. The bookcase fell on top of her and she screamed. *Crash*

"That should take care of the troublemaker." Ren announced and proceeded to walk up the stairs. "Rubeus will reward me handsomely for this."

"Hold it!" shouted Faith.

Ren turned around. Faith had bruises and dirt all over. The towel had dirt in several spots. Judging by the way she was short of breath, she was out of energy and this was her last stand.

"That doesn't belong to you! Give it back." She charged at him.

Ren opened his palm and fired an invisible ki blast. *Bam* Faith's back hit the wall and she fell down on her butt. She fell unconscious. Ren jumped out the window, breaking it and disappeared into the woods.

Not long later, Tyson entered the kitchen. Seeing his beloved woman on the floor

with her eyes closed, his heart and breathing stopped. He bent down and checked her pulse. "Faith!" He grabbed her by the shoulders and shook her. Her eyes blinked a few times and she looked at him. Her breathing was irregular.

"Are you alright? What happened?"

"He...came...and...t-took the crystal..."

"Who was it?"

"It was R-Ren." She grabbed his shirt. "Be careful." She fell unconscious in his chest.

Tyson shook her some more and screamed her name in vain. "Faith? Faith?! Faith?!"

[B] Title Contents

"Excellent work." **Rubeus** declared. He was a man with a youthful face and a mesmerizing smile. The most noticeable thing about his appearance is his long silver hair. He donned a black cape over his black clothing. His attire is that of a sorcerer, but his manner of speaking and the way he walked resembled that of a king. Whoever he is, he is someone with high intelligence and power. ⁵

He looked down. Before him lay five bright crystals. He could see his reflection in each of them. He was very delighted and satisfied.

Arkady: "Thank you, Lord Rubeus."

Rubeus: "Now, only two of them are left. Go and get me the remaining crystals!"

The two henchmen bowed and proceeded to leave the room. Ren still had something to say. "My lord, I have discovered something that might be of interest to you."

"Oh? What is there in this dimension that can interest me besides the crystals?"

"Is saw the princess. In fact, one of the crystals was the one I took from her."

"The princess? Here? Well, well, well. So she is here in this world. I have not seen her in a while. I still owe her for what she did back then. Ren, bring her to me."

"As you wish." Ren bowed and placed his hand over his chest. After that he took the exit just like Arkady.

A few seconds later, Rubeus spoke. "Cruton."

"Yes, Lord Rubeus." said a voice in the room. **Cruton** became visible - he was seen standing against the wall.

At first glance, Cruton seems like an average and ordinary man, but he is anything but that. He dons a white armor on his upper body that extends to the shoulders, and under that a sleeveless shirt. Like Ren, he has a muscular build, and a valuable henchmen to Lord Rubeus. Unlike the others, however, he has learned sorcery from his master, a rare skill not many can achieve.

"Help Ren find the princess. She is always with her allies. The archer and the man with the flute. Stay in the shadows and don't reveal yourself."

"As you wish." Cruton became invisible yet again. ⁶

Tyson held her hand firmly. She slept so peacefully on the hospital bed. A **respirator** was attached to her mouth and nose, and the heart rate machine beeped steadily. A white blanket was draped over her body to protect her from the cold.

"You'll be alright." he said in almost a whisper. Then he went to the window and

⁵ 12/28/2019 - Rubeus's description - mentioned sorcerer and someone with high intelligence and power. This is copied from Adventures in Almerak

⁶ 12/28/2019 - Cruton was not in the original story. He was added here after Adventures in Almerak II. He has a role to play in the hospital scene

shut it, and closed the curtains.

He was thirsty. He got up and walked down the hallway to the water dispenser. He poured himself a cup of hot water and sipped it. Ssssssssssp. Ahhh, it tasted so good.

A suspicious person in a red cap walked by. He traveled down the hallway, keeping his head down, not looking at the nurses or doctors or patients that he passed. He went past Tyson, and for a split second, Tyson felt something. He turned around to look at the guy, but there was nothing special about him. Tyson ignored the feeling and continued drinking water.

Ren stopped when he reached an intersection. The end of the hall led to two other halls on the left and right. He looked at the signs, then went left. He opened the door to Faith's room and peeked inside. This was the perfect opportunity. Faith faintly opened her eyes and mumbled something. Ren put his fingers on his lips and made a 'shhhhhh' sound. He carried her in his arms and left the room.

Tyson went back to Faith's room only to find the bed empty. He squeezed the cup of water and dropped it. *Splash* "Faith?" He ran out to the hallway and his eyes searched everywhere for anything suspicious. Tyson saw a man in a red jacket holding a woman.

"Hey you!!!" he yelled.

Ren ran like hell. He was slower than Tyson because he has to carry a woman. There was a mobile bed in front of him, so Ren kicked it down the hall. Tyson somersaulted over the bed and landed on his feet, then continued running. Ren ran into a fork on the road and turned right.

Tyson turned right and he pointed his palm at Ren's back. "Put her down." He gathered ki into his palm.

Ren stopped moving. "You wouldn't risk hurting this woman, would you?"

"I said put her down." More ki went into his palm.

"Fine." Ren slowly placed Faith on a mobile bed. Suddenly, he kicked the bed down the hall, surprising some of the patients.

Tyson fired an energy ball and Ren knocked it into the wall. The wall exploded and created a dust cloud. Ren continued to run when Tyson grabbed his shoulder. Ren turned around, blushed his hand away, and threw a punch. Tyson slipped and countered with a punch and Ren blocked it. Just from that small exchange they could measure each other's strength.

"What do you want with Faith?"

Ren released his fist with a push, causing Tyson to take a step back. Ren kicked him in the chest, causing him to stumble. Ren turned around and ran to the mobile bed. He nearly bumped into a nurse. She put the tray against her chest and screamed. "Aaah!"

Ren snatched Faith off the bed, jumped over the bed and did a back kick to the bed all in one motion. Tyson hopped over the charging bed.

Crutton was somewhere nearby, undetected by anyone else. Ren jumped into the roof, creating a hole, landing on the floor above. He ran down the hall. *Doosh doosh* Tyson jumped up the hole and ran.⁷

Ren was near the window down the hall and Tyson was close to him. Suddenly, the floor broke apart, causing Tyson to wince and fall down. Ren jumped through the window and landed on the ground.

Tyson flew over the hold on the floor and out the window. He stared at the

⁷ 12/28/2019 - Crutton wasn't in the original scene. In the update, he is the one who destroyed the floor, distracting Tyson.

ground and the sky. But the guy in the red jacket and Faith was no where in sight.

The heroes gathered in Macintosh's laboratory to make sense of the recent events that transpired. Everyone was worried over Faith's kidnapping⁸, especially Tyson, understandably so.

"I can't sense her at all. Her life force must be weakening." Tyson was sitting down with his palms on his laps. "Damn it. Why couldn't I save her? I was right there!"

"Hey." Nebula put a hand over his shoulder. "Don't sweat it. I'm partly responsible too."

Zelfire: "Fellas, we are not here to blame anyone. Please do not blame yourselves. We have a hostage to rescue here."

Macintosh: "Tyson, do you have any idea who could have done this?"

"No." Tyson replied. Then he thought about Faith's final words. "She said it was a guy named Ren. I have no idea who that is. All I know is that he took the Anubis Crystal."

Nebula: "The guy who attacked me...I don't know who he is. But he took **my** Anubis Crystal."

Zelfire: "So that's what they are after. They must know about the legend." "We must take caution."

Macintosh: "Crystals? Legend? What legend?"

Tyson put his fist on his hand, in a hammer-like motion. "So, they want to collect the crystals. But what do they want with Faith?"

Rubeus's Prisoner 1

Contents

Inside the big castle-like building, the princess was chained to a slab of concrete stood up vertically. She was wearing a pink night gown with straps on her shoulders. Her wrists and ankles were bound by metallic cuffs. The bottom of the gown reached the middle of her thighs. The rest of her legs were exposed and she was barefoot. She was unconscious as her head was facing down.

Large windows were placed on the walls where the sky was visible. They were inside the castle above the sky. Ren was also in the room with her. "So, how are we doing? Feeling better?"

Her eyes opened faintly. Her vision was blurry for a few seconds. A man was standing in front of her but she couldn't make out who he was. When her vision adjusted itself she saw Ren, the one in the jacket and red cap.

She immediately grew angry. "Where is the crystal? Give it back to me!"

"Don't worry babe, it's right here in the castle. It belongs to us now and we have a good use for it."

"It doesn't belong to you. You stole it from me. You're a bunch of low life's! You're murderers!"

"Uh uh uh." he said, waving his finger. "Where are your manners?" He grabbed her chin and they were face to face. "You're a prisoner now, and you must show some respect."

She was chained up by all four limbs so in this situation she was pretty much a sitting duck. Even though she was afraid, her eyes still showed a hint of anger.

"Ren!" shouted a man's voice from the same room.

⁸ Original line: *Everyone was worried over Faith's disappearance*
It makes more sense to say Faith's kidnapping

"Rubeus?" Ren muttered.

"No one is to touch the princess but me. Understand?" Rubeus said.

"Yes, my lord."

"Now go. Help Arkady find the crystals."

Ren bowed with one arm over his chest, then he walked away into the darkness.

"As soon as I saw Ren, I knew you were behind this." said Faith with hostility.

"I never expected to find you here, Princess Faith. What a coincidence, don't you think?"

"What are you doing in this dimension?" she asked.

"What do you think? Ever since I've heard about the Anubis Crystals of legend I was determined to get them."

"I see you're still up to your old tricks."

When Faith was younger, she was still living in Almerak as the princess and only heir to the throne. Rubeus was a sorcerer who summons demons to attack innocent villagers. But his plans were thwarted by none other than the princess herself. After going through rigorous training, she gained enough power to defeat him.

Faith screamed out loud, releasing all the excess energy stored inside of her. A gust of wind blew everything. *Froom*

Rubeus was taken aback by this new development. "This can't be right. She's just a little girl! She's supposed to be weak!" The wind blew in his face. "Aaagh!"

Faith was done powering up, and the dirt and rocks around her dropped down. A pink outline surrounded her body. And the look in her eyes is completely different than before. "Rubeus...your time is up." ⁹

"You've grown up so much, princess." he said. "My subordinates almost did not recognize you."

"And you haven't changed a bit. You're still stealing other people's things for your own good! All you care about is money and power. You are nothing but filth. I despise you!"

He grabbed her chin. "Of course. Money and power are the most important things ever." He kissed her lips. Mmmmmm. She turned her head away. "And soon, you shall see. You shall see the power of the Anubis Crystals! Once I get all seven, and it's only a matter of time before I do, I will rule this world! And I want you to witness it."

Now Faith was scared. This madman is serious. What fate awaits her once he gets all the crystals?

Tyson: "What do they want with Faith? What does she have to do with them?"

Nebula: "Does Faith know...about the crystals? Does she know the legend?"

Macintosh: "What legend?"

Zelfire: "A while back, my father told me the legend of the Anubis Crystals. These crystals were created by the ancient race called the **Ko-Rashm**. They were extinct millions and millions of years ago. But before they were extinct, they created seven Anubis Crystals – scattering them all over the planet. And so far, we have found two planets to have such crystals – Guardian Planet and ours truly, Earth."

Mac: "Seven of them? Is there something scientific about that number?"

⁹ Added new flashback 12/24/2019. In the original, flashback, Rubeus was a thief who wanted to steal a golden statue. Faith pointed a sword at him and spared his life, telling him to never come back. Similar to the scene in the Lion King where Scar tells Simba to never come back. This was written before Trouble in Almerak was written, where Faith's as well as Rubeus's background story was developed.

Zell shrugged. "Who knows? But the legend says that whoever collects all seven crystals will be granted the powers of Anubis. He will be invincible...a force that no one can stop."

Nebula: "And we can't let those crystals fall into the wrong hands."

Mac: "But...why do you and Tyson have one each?"

Nebula: "It was long before we met you, Macintosh. Years ago, our parents were fighting with Vegeta. Somehow, he heard about the legend too, and before we knew it, we were fighting each other for the control of the crystals. After Vegeta's death, we decided to separate the crystals, knowing it might fall into the wrong hands. So Tyson and I kept one each. The other five we hid in secret locations that only we know about."

Zell: "And our enemy has a way of finding these crystals. That's how they found you two."

Tyson: "Does this mean...they have the other five as well?"

Nebula: "I certainly hope not. Cuz we'll be screwed."

Macintosh: "These energy crystals...if they are filled with energy, we can find them." He turned on the mainframe computer and started typing. A map showed up. There were blinking dots all over. "What is this?"

Rubeus's Prisoner 2

Contents

Rubeus was standing in the middle of the large room facing the window, admiring the vastness of the sky. "We already have five of the seven crystals. It's only a matter of time before the other two are found."¹⁰

Faith was chained to a slab of concrete. Despite her situation, she still spoke back to him. "You won't get away with this."

"Oh? And who's going to stop me? You?"

"Tyson will...you took me away from him. He's coming for you."

Rubeus raised an eyebrow, then he turned around to face his prisoner. "Tyson? Who is that?"

"The one who defeated Vega."

"Really? Vega defeated by a mere mortal. I doubt that very much." Rubeus then stared at Faith's eyes. They did not show any signs of wavering or doubt, but full of conviction. "You're not lying. You may be stupid but you're no liar. The only way Tyson can defeat Vega is with a lot of help. That means he's not that strong."

However, Faith's conviction did not waver even one bit. "He's the strongest fighter this world has ever seen! You'll see!" As she spoke her body leaned forward as much as possible.

"Oh I see. He's your lover." said Rubeus, walking towards her. "That's why you believe in him so much. I'd love to meet Tyson and crush him in front of you." When he got too close for comfort, she turned away. He put his face in her hair and smelled her. She winced. "The Anubis Crystal we found in your home...was it yours or was it his? It was his treasure, wasn't it?" Then he took out a dagger in a sheath and brushed the bottom against her thigh. He glided it up and it pushed her dress up. "Has he seen your **treasure**?"

Faith winced in discomfort. "Stop it...stop..."

Rubeus's face went deeper into her hair and the sheath went closer and closer to

¹⁰ Original scene - Faith asked what he intends to do with the crystals. Rubeus laughed at the fact that she didn't know about them, even though one of the crystals was found in her home. It doesn't make sense because in an earlier scene Rubeus already explained what the crystals do.

her lady parts. "I wonder...which treasure does he value more?"

"Ugh! Stop it..."

"You're so sure that your knight in shining armor will save you huh?"

"Ugh...I know he will."

Rubeus then stepped away from her. "Oh, you have such blind faith. But I suppose that's why you're named the way you are." He unsheathed the dagger slowly and tantalizingly as she watched in suspense. He pointed the dagger at her cleavage. "Where is he now?"

The dagger went lower and cut into her dress. "Why isn't he saving you?"

Faith's face turned red. "No stop. Don't!"

Then he pointed the dagger between her legs. "Well? Is he going to save you now?" He moved the blade higher and higher and cut into the dress.

"Please stop! No!"

[C] Title Contents

Nebula: "What is it?"

Mac: "This is not right. There are five of them in one place...over the **Atlantic Ocean!**"

Tyson: "Our enemy is over the Atlantic Ocean?"

Mac: "Oh? There are two more energy signals. They must be the Anubis Crystals."

Zelfire: "I see. I think I know where that is. So that's where your parents hid them."

Nebula: "Heh, yeah. We didn't even tell each other the location of the crystals. This way we were sure none of us would get all of them."

Mac: "That's a pretty smart strategy."

Zelfire: "I'll get the other two crystals. You two should head over the Atlantic and check out the situation."

Nebula: "Alright. C'mon Tyson, let's go."

Tyson pounded his fist. "Let's go."

And off they went to the ocean. Tyson wanted to bring Faith back, and he also had a score to settle with her kidnapper. Nebula also had a score to settle with the swordsman. But their anger seemed to calm down as they enjoyed the scenery, flying over the calm blue seas.

After a while of flying, they saw the flying castle. The castle was old and worn out, and it was placed on a land mass.¹¹

Rubeus: "Finally. All seven crystals are mine at last." He smiled. The seven crystals gave a magnificent glow. "You have done well."

Arkady: "Someone tried to take the crystals from us, but we got away from him in time."

Then Rubeus sensed two people arriving. "Intruders. Go get rid of them."

"Yes my Lord." Ren and Arkady said unison.

Nebula and Tyson landed on two domes. Ren landed on the dome opposite of Tyson and Arkady landed on the dome opposite of Nebula.

¹¹ Removed line: Below the land were giant sized rocket propellers that keeps the fortress floating in the sky.

It was decided that the crystals were keeping the castle afloat. How would Rubeus get giant rocket propellers? Why would he use science if he's a sorcerer?

Tyke: "So it's you."

Arkady: "Nice to meet you again."

Nebula: "You humiliated me last time. But this time I'll make you pay."

Tyke: "I'm going make you pay breaking into my house and stealing my crystal. And stealing Faith."

"I can't wait." Ren said with a smile, crossing his arms.

Arkady felt the same way. "**It's a two on two. How exciting!**"

All four fighters blurred out of sight. Nebula and Arkady hit in the air and exchanged fists. Tyson and Ren leapt to the air and hit on the elbows. *Wham* They bounced back and landed atop a dome.

Tyson did a flying dash forward - the type of dash where one's feet does not touch the ground. He released a flurry of punches and Ren blocked them skillfully. But He was overwhelmed by the number of punches and how hard they were. Eventually, one of his punches went through and hit Ren on the chin. *Wham* He threw a knee to Ren's stomach, causing him to stutter backwards.

Ren returned the favor by throwing a roundhouse kick to the face, Tyson did a bent-arm block. *Whack* Ren went low and did a sweep, Tyson jumped back. They both got back into fighting stance. Tyson put his palms together to gather energy for the Energy Blast. Ren gathered red ki into his fist and pounded the ground. "Power Wave!"¹² The energy wave destroyed the ground in a straight line...and Tyson had nothing to stand on so he fell, making him fire the Energy Blast to the sky.

Tyke landed on his back next to some concrete. Ren landed in a crouch. The inside of the castle was of ancient design - made of marble and dark colors. Gargoyle statues lay abundantly in different places.

Faith sensed her beloved's presence. Everything turned black and a flash of lighting appeared behind her head. "Tyson..." She was happy he is here, yet worried for his safety.¹³

Likewise, Tyson felt his lover's presence. "Faith?" The background became black and he was hit by a flash of lightning.

"Awww, did that hurt?" Ren asked sarcastically.

Despite his legs shaking, Tyson stood up. "Not as much as it's going to hurt you."

Ren crossed his arms. "Heh, from what I've seen, you can't hurt much of anything."

"You've seen nothing." Tyke gathered blue energy into his right fist and blurred. He appeared in front of Ren and used the **Power Punch**. He was caught by surprise and the pain knocked the wind out of him.

Tyson flew up to the next level and saw a doorway in the shape of an arch. He ran past the arch and saw Faith chained up to a slab of concrete.

"Tyson!" the princess exclaimed.

"Found you at last." He went up to her and manually unlocked all her chains.

They embraced hard. "I knew it, I knew you'd come!"¹⁴

They've been separated for a day at most, but it felt like ten years to them. "Sorry I'm late."

¹² 12/28/2019 - Ren did not have Power Wave until it was developed until Adventures in Almerak I.

¹³ 12/28/2019 - Added more visual details to her 6th sense. Did the same for Tyson's 6th sense

¹⁴ 12/28/2019 - Original line: "I thought you would never come..."

Even though she's emotional, that line doesn't add up. Earlier she told Rubeus how much she believes in Tyson

A red and yellow energy ball flew at them and Tyson shoved Faith out of the way, and he jumped sideways and hit the ground. *Boom*

Tyson got up and suddenly Ren came out of the smoke and hit him. Ren's fists were charged with red ki and he punched him over and over. Then he threw a side kick to Tyson's chest, landing a clean hit. He flew past the safety bars and fell down to the first floor.

"No!" Faith yelled. She crawled towards the safety bars.

Tyke managed to stand up and brush the rock crumbs off his clothes. Ren got into fighting stance.

Faith managed to crawl her way to the edge of the platform and her hand reached out for her lover. "Tyson..."

Tyke heard her voice above and looked up. Seeing her in this condition made him feel sad and guilty. But soon that guilt turned into anger. He was not there when Faith was attacked in the house. He failed a second time when she was kidnapped from the hospital. She's suffering because of him...he failed time and time again.

His body was engulfed in a blue aura and his fists clenched tightly, as if trying to crush his own hand. If he fails again he can never forgive himself. The only way to redeem himself is to defeat the punk in front of him. Ren is the one who is responsible for all his suffering. Meanwhile Ren still stood confident, not knowing what was going through his opponent's head.¹⁵

Suddenly, both fighters ran forward and performed a flying kick. *Wham* Ren did a one-two punch, hitting Tyke in the face. He threw a corkscrew punch into Tyke's chest, knocking him against a statue. *Wham* Ren threw a flying knee. *Whack* He thought he had him. But Tyke blocked the knee with his forearm. Tyke powered up and knocked Ren away with his ki. He used the Power Punch and hit Ren in the face. It was a good clean hit. Ren wiped blood off his lips and grew angry.

He threw endless energy balls while Tyke formed the Energy Shield. It bounced all the balls away. Tyke flew forward and pushed Ren with his shield. When he touched it he felt electrified. "Ugh!" Ren fell to the ground and Tyke landed.

Tyke fired the Energy Blast forward. Ren redirected the beam upwards. "Ha you missed!"

"Not really." The beam hit the weakened statue and it fell down.

Ren looked up and screamed as the statue fell on him. "Aaaaaaah!" *Crash* What remained were debris and Ren's hand sticking out.

Faith ran down the stairs. "Tyson!"

Tyke waited at the bottom as she ran to him. She jumped into him, her feet lifted off the floor and they spun around and laughed.

Nebula and Arkady were both injured and they continued slashing each other. Nebula was really angry. He just wanted revenge for their previous encounter. As a true warrior, he hates getting humiliated. A defeat is a serious blow to his pride and honor. But Arkady not only defeated him, but stole his energy crystal, a crystal he had kept for many years.

Arkady had followed Rubeus as long as he remembered, and he was always loyal to his lord. He will follow his orders exactly and will do whatever it takes to carry out that order. Nebula to him was nothing but a nuisance that must be killed.

Tyke placed Faith against the wall so she could lean on it. "Where are the crystals?" he asked.

¹⁵ 12/28/2019 - Added more motivation for Tyson to beat his enemy and made the fight more intense

"Rubeus has them on the top floor. He's their leader."
"I see. So if I take care of him this whole nightmare will be over."
"He's a powerful sorcerer. You have to be careful." she warned.
"I will." Tyke ran up the stairs.¹⁶

Nebula and Arkady ran and slashed and went past each other. Then silence.
"I got you." Arkady announced.
Nebula felt a strange pain on his stomach. He looked down. It was bleeding. He groaned and fell on his knees. "Uhhh...uhh...ughhh..."
Arkady smiled. Then he collapsed.
Nebula turned around. "Looks like I got you..."

Tyson ran through the hallways to find the room with the crystals. each footstep he made created an echo in the empty halls. Rubeus's plan was to use this castle as the main base of his operations and the center of his new kingdom, as soon as he received the ultimate power. Finally, he found the room upon seeing the bright glow.¹⁷

The seven crystals were placed in a circular fashion, with one in the middle and six forming a hexagon. Their combined glow was as vibrant as the sun. He's had only one of the crystals thus far so he's never seen all seven in one place. For a moment, he understands why someone would want to collect all seven...just to see their magnificent glow.

Suddenly, a slew of **purple energy balls** headed for Tyson. He jumped to the side and the balls exploded in a straight line. *Bam bam bam* Our hero landed in a crouch and stood up when Rubeus himself appeared.

"Stay away from the Anubis Crystals."

"They don't belong to you. You stole them from other people."

Rubeus smirked because his words are so similar to the princess's words. "Ah you must be Tyson Spade. The princess has told me all about you. You came all the way here just to die, yes? Then die!"

Tyke put his palms to his side and gathered energy. Rubeus gathered energy by opening his palms facing up. His cape and silver hair flowed upwards from the wind. Tyke fired the Energy Blast while his opponent fired a purple beam of death. The two forces collided in the middle and pushed each other. When there was no clear winner, the energies exploded, causing them both to be knocked away. "**Aaah!**"

Tyke recovered and searched for his foe but his eyes only caught an empty room. Suddenly, energy balls came from nowhere and flew at him. Tyke back flipped away but wasn't fast enough and they hit him. *Kaboom*

"That ended quick. I didn't expect much from someone who had trouble with Ren."

"You sure about that?" Tyke retorted. He used the Energy Shield just in time.

His signature move, the **Orb Storm**, consists of summoning orbs around himself and throwing them at the enemy. He used Orb Storm yet again. Tyke's shield held strong but it was overwhelmed by the sheer number of orbs. Eventually his shield died and he was unprotected. An orb hit his shoulder and another hit his leg. He fell on his injured leg.

¹⁶ 12/28/2019 - Original line: "Rubeus has them. Be careful, he's a powerful demon"

Adventures of Almerak defines Rubeus as a sorcerer that summons demons. Also added a location for the Anubis Crystals.

¹⁷ In the original story, the crystals were not mentioned, which is bad because they were a major plot point

The sorcerer summoned another group of orbs. Tyke didn't have a shield and didn't have the means to run away so he thought he was a goner. With a single gesture of his hand, the orbs flew forward.

Faith somehow made it to the room unnoticed. She was leaning against and panting for breath. Even though she had no energy left, she was about to let her lover die. She summoned a rose and threw it. *Whoosh*

The rose went past Tyke and he was shocked when his eyes caught it. The rose multiplied into a dozen roses and hit the orbs, creating dozens of small explosions. None of them hit Tyson.

Rubeus was annoyed. "Princess? All you do is hinder my plans time and time again. It was a mistake keeping you alive! I'm going to finish you right now!"

"Over my dead body!" Tyson shouted.

They charged into each other and grabbed each other's hand and struggled for power. They grunted painfully as they twisted each other's wrist while keeping their own intact. It became so intense that an energy barrier formed around them. Energy waves were released and the castle shuddered. Electric sparks surrounded the fighters and all the rocks around them floated up. Being anywhere near them is not a good idea.

Faith covered her eyes from the wind as she looked up. Tyson and Rubeus became to float upwards after their barrier destroyed the ground. They continued to grunt and stare angrily at each other. Veins popped in their foreheads from the stress...Rubeus's cape flung up and down.

The excess energy caused a reaction in the Anubis Crystals...they started to jiggle around. As their fight continued, their jiggling became violent shaking. Suddenly, they gave on final glow and dispersed, flying out of the castle in seven directions. Without the crystals holding up the castle, it started to fall apart.

The fighters were too focused to notice their surroundings. They were using every drop of energy they had for this final push. Faith threw a rose at Rubeus's arm, stabbing him. Tyson seized this chance and powered up to his fullest. He screamed and his blue energy started to eat away at Rubeus's purple energy. "Yaaaah!" The sorcerer screamed as his body was burned. He got blasted into the wall and exploded.

The ceiling fell apart and Tyson fell with the debris. "Nooooo!" Faith yelled. The floor where she resided fell apart and she fell down as well. The entire castle was falling apart piece by piece. Gravity was pulling everything down. Chunks of marble and rock fell into the ocean. The whole sky was full of pieces of the castle falling into the blue waves.

All our heroes fell into the ocean along with everything else. Floating on the surface were the remains of the castle in the sky.

On the beach shore, a man's hand was seen on the sand. As the waves washed away, it revealed Tyson's body laying there, with Faith next to him. He was still alive and conscious and he managed to get on his feet, dragging his woman with him. He had no energy left and just collapsed on the sand. *Splat* They were wet all over and panted for breath.

"We made it." Faith announced.

"But where's Nebula?" Tyke asked, looking around.

"Do you think...he didn't make it?"

Nebula came out from the water and coughed. He fell on the sand.

"Hehehe...Did you really think I would die that easily?"

"Phew. You worried me." Tyke replied.

"I need to take a nap now." Neb then fell unconscious.

After that there was a moment of silence for everyone to reflect on the events that

transpired. The danger was over. All that's left is the splashing sound of water washing the sand away and the sun shining in front of them.

Tyke was lying on his back. "Faith...I've failed you. I was at the hospital where they-"

She lay on top of his chest and put a finger on his lips. "No. Don't say that. You saved my life...and destroyed my nemesis."

He looked into her eyes and those eyes of hers never lie. He took a sigh of relief. Then he became aware of the pain all over his body. "Faith, I sure could use a healing right now."

"You're going to get more than that." She lay on top of him and kissed him on the lips. Right now, she was on top of him completely. Their legs were intertwined. His hands held her back and caressed her. Their bodies started to glow as Faith's healing activated. Without any worry of danger, they had all the time in the world to enjoy themselves.¹⁸

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| Finished | 2/2002 |
| Edited | 7/2003 |
| Edited | 1/2007 |
| Edited | 12/2019 |

¹⁸ The original ending was bland
Ending updated 12/25/2019

Summary

Contents

After a hearty breakfast, Nebula and Zelfire walked along the forest just like any other day. But that day was no ordinary day. A sayan named Kinesis appeared from nowhere and zapped their energy. Tyson discovered his fallen friends and faced off with Kinesis. But the hero was no match for the energy stealer. Also from nowhere appeared a pretty woman in pink. She threw a rose at Kinesis to stop him from killing Tyson. She beat him up badly then he fled. She said her name is Rose, but she was really a princess from another dimension, which she does not reveal until later.

Once Nebula and Zelfire recovered, it's time to get serious. They had new foes and met a new ally, Macintosh Tori, the brilliant scientist. It turned out that Kinesis was just but one of the four Sayans serving under Vega, the leader of the Dark Society. The second member of the Big Four, Emerald proved her worthiness by defeating Nebula, Zelfire and Mac together. Once again, Rose saved the day by defeating Emerald. As more happened, the more things got confusing. Tyson wondered who Rose really is, and was she friend or foe. They both mistook each other for foes and battled to the death.

Then Rose's father showed up to clear up everything.

As Tyson recovers, Midas, Faith, and Darian told him the whole story. That being done, Tyson returned to his friends. Sapphire and Nimrod kidnap King Midas, and Faith and Tyson tried to save him. They ended up fighting Nimrod in a cave. Tyson and Faith got injured and were dying. Macintosh's helicopter arrived and they were saved. Then the heroes recovered and began their training. Tyson and the princess trained together while the rest was left with Midas.

During their training, Tyson and Faith fell deeply in love while Sapphire's gang of bad guys terrorize earth's cities. Eventually the heroes met again for a contest. Tyson won but there was no time for celebration. They travelled to Faith's dimension and fight against Sapphire and his gang. The showdown proved more than difficult for the heroes, but they eventually triumphed. Tyson and Faith formed the Spirit Bomb together and killed Nimrod. Then Tyson went solo to face Sapphire. Tyson won, but he lost his hands.

The whole gang except for Midas went back to the Imperial Palace to find what was left of it. While Neb, Lees, and Zell were snooping around, Faith discovered Ace was her brother and they embraced. At the least expected time, Goro and his army of troops raided the palace. Goro was defeated and escaped. Just after, Darian was made an offer he couldn't refuse. Faith decided to let out her secret and healed Tyson's hands. He was super happy.

The gang hid in a wooden house, trying to think up of a plan. One doomed morning, Vega came and turned the heroes into frozen statues. Faith got kidnapped by the traitor Darian and Tyson faced Goro alone. He was thrown into a deep place underground and soon recovered, determined to save everybody. He found his way to the pod and went back to his dimension. He saved the princess, killed the evil prince, and took the princess with him and they were happy. But it wasn't over yet. As Vega was merging the dimensions, the lovers barged in to stop him. All the stolen energy gave him more than enough power to be superior to the heroes. The lovers formed the Spirit Bomb as a final attack and saved both dimensions.