

THE POWER FORCE

A cruel and ironic fate

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28: Forget The Past. Will Love Triumph?

Contents

The darkest hour of Mason and Margarita's relationship has come. Love is strictly forbidden in the Mascus Colony, and Jerrell lives by the rules and will die by the rules. Can they change Jerrell's mind, or will they be cast out of the colony?

Jerrell was training in the woods.

Mason showed up. "Jerrell..."

"What do you want?"

"You know what I want."

"That? Forget it. You won't change my mind."

"Do you know what you're doing?"

"I know exactly what I'm doing...protecting Margarita."

"No! You're doing the opposite. You're hurting her. You're hurting her feelings and you failed as a brother."

"Hmm, so she told you about us. Yes, I am her brother. Now do you understand why I care about her so much?"

"Jerrell, if you do care about her then let her have her freedom. We're not just playing around. We truly do love each other. I can swear it."

"Awwk! That word...it's forbidden in this place! This is my colony! And if you can't follow the rules, then leave."

"Why can't you understand?!"

"Enough! I don't want to hear you anymore..."

Mason was sad and angry and frustrated. **Sad** that Margrit had such a brother. And **angry** at his stubbornness. And frustrated that he can't be with the one he loves. But that won't stop him.

Margarita found Jerrell and tried to talk things out. Before she even spoke a word, he got annoyed.

"Oh God, not this again. I've already told you my answer."

"Jerrell! Why are you doing this to me?! Why won't you let us be together? Why?"

"I thought I explained it clearly. Margrit...I'm just trying to protect you..."

"Protect me? From Mason?"

"No! From the evil of love!"

"How is love evil? Tell me!"

"*Sigh* Remember our parents?"

"Yes, they loved us so much."

"We loved them too. And we lost them forever. They were killed because they were rebels."

"I still miss them now." Margrit said.

"It took us years to recover from the loss, don't you see? Love is evil! When you lose someone you love, it's more painful than anything in the world. After I lost my parents I swore never to love anyone again."

"Well, do you love me? Brother?"

"I...I...yes, I do. And that's exactly why I'm doing this."

"If you were me, you'd understand how I feel."

"And if **you** were me, you'd understand how I feel." Jerrell ignored her and walked outside.

Margrit was sitting in the cafeteria, depressed.

"*Sigh* I tried." Mason announced.

"He is not going to bend the rules." Margarita said. "I know him the best. He won't approve of it."

"I just don't understand why he has just a ridiculous rule. It's completely absurd."

"It's not entirely his fault. We just had bad experiences, that's all."

"Bad experiences?"

"It all started with our parents' murders. We were just kids when that happened. I think Jerrell never quite got over it. I don't blame him." Margrit said with respect. "I cried a lot when my parents died. And Jerrell cried too, but he did it alone. He never cried in front of me. He'd just hold it in, and let it out when he's alone. I saw him one time. He was sobbing non-stop."

Mason could tell she respects her brother a lot. Which makes the situation more complex and harder to deal with. "I've lived most of my life without my parents too. But I've learned that restricting love to someone is the worst thing to do than anyone."

"There's more..."

"More?"

"Yes. Please don't tell him I said that. But..." And she proceeded to tell him a tragic story about Jerrell's ex-girlfriend.

Jerrell was training in the opening of the woods. "How long have you been watching me?" he asked, knowing someone came in without looking back."

Mason: "I just came by now."

"I can sense people out, just like you. Don't think I'm stupid. Now, what do you want?"

"You obviously know what I want. I want to talk things out."

"Sheesh. You just don't know when to give up, do you?"

"Why can't you just let your sister be happy?"

"It's better safe than sorry."

"Margrit and I won't be sorry! What does it take to convince you? Please Jerrell! If not for me, do it for Margrit."

"I had enough of this nonsense!"

"To show you how serious I am, I'm willing to do anything so we can be together. Anything. You name it."

"Anything? How about you let me punch you in the guts fifty times? After that you can do whatever you want."

"Fifty times?"

"Well, you said **anything**. You are a good fighter, so pain shouldn't concern you so much."

"Fine. Let's do it." Mason said arrogantly.

"I gotta warn you, my fists are really hard. And I pack a pretty good punch!"

"I don't care. Let's just get it over with." Mason took a deep breath and prepared himself. Jerrell began...crunch! "You call that a punch?" Mason mocked.

"It's only the first one, so don't get so cocky!" Pow! Poof! "...two...three..." Punch! "Four..." Pow! "Five..."

The first few had little effect, but after the twentieth one, Mason was having a lot of pain. It was a grueling and painful moment for him.

"Twenty..."

"Uhhhh..."

"Don't tell me that's all you got! We're not even half way there!"

"...Uhhhh...ha ha ha ha."

"Huh? Why are you laughing?" asked Jerrell.

"Are you f-finished? Don't tell me you're giving up already?" he spoke weakly, grinning. "Cuz I was j-just g-getting started!"

"*Growl*...take this!" Pow! Pow! Pow! Crunch! "...Twenty one. Twenty two. Twenty three. Twenty four..."

Mason grabbed on the tree behind him to keep his balance. "Arrrrrrgh! Uhhhhh!" The pain was becoming unbearable.

As he was getting hit, Mason thought back to the conversation he had with Margrit just before this. Margrit told him of a tragic story about Jerrell's relationship.

"I can't blame him entirely for how he feels. A few years ago, Jerrell fell in love with this girl. I never saw him so happy before. It was like he was walking on a cloud the whole time. She and Jerrell...they were really happy." Margrit said with a tone of envy. "But that girl kept a secret from him. A secret which he eventually found out. She's an agent of the Dark Empire."

"But why?! Why did you hide it from me?" Jerrell asked, pointing his gun at her. She also pointed a gun at him. "I'm s-sorry, Jerrell. I didn't want it to be like this." She said as a tear dropped down her face.

Suddenly, there was a gun shot. Bang!

Liana collapsed. Jerrell went to her, and lifted her by the shoulder. "Liana..."

"I'm s-sorry, Jerrell. I c-can't make it up to you. I truly...wanted us to be happy together. But it looks like the world won't let us." Those were her last words before her eyes closed forever.

"NOOOOOO!!!"

So that's the story. Doosh! Doosh!

"Twenty nine. Thirty."

When Margrit told Mason of Jerrell's story, he was shocked. Something like that happened to him before, so that's why he's like this now? He actually felt bad for Jerrell now. Like Margrit said, who can blame him for feeling this way?

He only wanted to protect his sister from feeling the same sadness that he did, right? So Jerrell actually loved someone at some point in his life. And because of that loss, he was so sad and pissed off that he shut off all his emotions, especially love. He's now essentially a cold hearted machine.

But Mason was taught and believed in this - even if someone shuts his heart in stone...no matter how hard it is...if that person ever felt love before...he can...and will again. Maybe...just maybe, if he took the fifty punches, Jerrell might understand how he feels. Just maybe.

Suddenly, Margrit showed up and saw everything. " *Gasp* What are you doing?! Jerrell! Mason!"

Jerrell: "Margrit?"

Mason: "Margrit."

"What are doing to Mason?! How could you do such a thing! Creep!"

Jerrell sighed.

Mason: "Margrit, Jerrell promised if, ugh, if I let me hit me fifty times he'll, uh, let us be together. Ugh."

Jerrell: "Where was I? Oh yeah, thirty down and twenty to go."

Margrit: "How could you let him do this? Are you crazy, Mason?"

Mason: "Crazy about you. We're not finished! Let us continue."

Jerrell: "That's right! Get out of the way, Margrit!"

Margrit: "No!"

Mason: "We're not finished! It's the only way we can be together!"

Margrit: "Stop this! Stop it! Enough is enough, Mason!"

Mason: "Margrit..."

Jerrell: "We're not finished! Move it!"

Margrit stepped in front of Mason and spread her arms out. It was a surprising move, even for herself. "If you want to hit him, then hit me. I'll take the remaining punches for him."

"Sis, move out of the way!"

"Nothing will make me move."

"Why are you protecting this guy? Isn't one trip to the healing chamber enough?"

Margrit slapped Jerrell as tears rolled down her eyes.

"Margrit...you never hit me before. Yet you're doing this for Mason!"

Margrit: "Get out of my sight!"

"So be it then." Jerrell left.

Mason: "Margrit, I, I... I'm sorry."

"Silly, there's nothing to be sorry about." She helped him sit down with his back leaning on the tree. She took off his shirt to examine the wounds, and she gasped at the

first sight of the bruises. "Mason, look at you! You look like a mess." Her voice got softer. "You're doing all this - for me?"

"I would die for you. You know that. *Grunt* "

"Don't say such things!" She got a first aid kit and opened it. She wrapped a long piece of cloth around his messed up area.

"Ouch, ouch, ouch."

"Did he hit you in the face?"

"A couple of times."

Margrit: "Where does it hurt?"

"My face hurts. Right here." He pointed at the bruise.

She gently kissed his face. "Where else does it hurt?"

"My forehead."

She kissed his forehead. "Anywhere else?"

"My nose hurts too."

She kissed his nose.

"And my mouth hurts."

She kissed his lips. She put her hand on his face and he touched her hand.

"My mouth still hurts."

She laughed and they smiled. She kissed his lips again, even longer this time.

"Do you feel better?"

"I feel a lot better. Your kiss made me so energized!" He started to get up, but backed down. "Owww..."

"Don't move. It'll only make it worse. You've done your part, now it's up to me."

"What will you do?"

Margrit: "What I **have to do**." She walked towards her brother, his back facing her.

He turned around. "Finished chit-chatting?"

"What will it take, Jerrell?"

"Margarita, my dear sister...A soldier must obey orders. A soldier is willing to give up his or her life for the mission. A soldier can not have emotions. A soldier cannot feel. Did you forget?"

"We're sayans, not machines. Since when it is wrong to have emotions, to love someone as deeply as I have?"

"Margrit, you're a fool for love. Don't you remember what happened with your last 'boyfriend?' "

His mentioning that person really offended her. "Don't go there Jerrell."

"I have to go there, to make you realize your mistake."

"He was a mistake! Kerell was a traitor."

"And you fell for him."

"That's it! Nothing will convince you, huh? Even if it means losing a sister?"

"So **now** you're my sister? Who were you when you disobeyed me?"

"You know what Jerrell? I guess no words can get through to you now. You're like a brick wall!"

"What I'm doing is for your own good."

"Maybe fighting is the only way to make you understand. What do you say? It's you versus me. If you win, I never see Mason again, but if I win, you stay out of our business." She powered up. Her face became fierce and threatening.

"Fight? You? Forget it."

Mason: "No, Margrit!"

Margrit: "What's the matter? Too afraid to fight your own sister? Or is it because you know I'll win cuz I'm better?" Her power increased.

"Listen to yourself. Do you know what you're saying? You would fight me for him? We've known each other our whole lives."

"Do you accept the challenge?"

Mason: "Stop, you two. I don't want it to be this way. You are siblings, so you should love each other. I don't want to be the reason for the rivalry between you two. This is your colony, Jerrell, so we should abide by your rules."

Margrit: "No...Mason."

"Mason." Jerrell said, his tone of voice suddenly changing. "For some reason, when you said those words, it feels like that you care about Margarita more than I can imagine. Mason, I must say...you are one of the most honorable men I've ever known." He smiled and closed his eyes, and opened them. "I think you will bring Margarita the happiness she deserves, not me."

Margrit: "You mean..."

"Yes, by this point I've realized you won't give in until the end. Mason, you were willing to take fifty punches for her. And at the very end, you were willing to give her up for her safety. Margarita, I'm sorry about everything. You didn't ask to be in this colony, you were born a rebel. I promised my parents I will bring you protection and happiness, but these few years I've been doing the opposite."

"Jerrell..." She powered down.

Mason was dumbfounded.

"We hardly spoke to each other like the good old days, eh? That was the only way to keep our relationship a secret. You've been so lonely-" Jerrell said.

"Jerrell! Thank you!" She hugged him. Then she said to Mason: "Did you hear that? We did it!"

Mason: "Yep. I heard that loud and clear." She embraced him, then he grunted and she realized she touched the wound where Jerrell hit him.

"Oh sorry, I forgot."

"It's okay. I'm fine."

"I guess...we pulled through...huh?" she asked.

"Yeah...just like I said would happen."

Margrit carried his arm over her shoulder, and helped him walk about. "Jerrell?" she said, but he gone and no where in sight.

"Looks like he's gone."

"Jerrell...thank you. I knew you'd understand."

Jerrell was hiding behind a tree not far away from them. He heard his sister's words. He was crossing his arms and smiling, as if he just solved a big case.

(Congratulations, Mason. You sure have proved yourself.)

Mason has proved himself? What did he mean by it? Was all this a test of their love and dedication to each other? Or did Mason truly touch Jerrell's heart, and convinced him to bend the rules just once?

Mason and Margrit were standing by the lake watching the sun rise. "Isn't wonderful? We can finally have our privacy now." She put her head on his shoulder and wrapped her hands around his arm.

Mason: "Yep, I knew things will work out at the end."

"You did?"

"I hoped."

They paused for a moment.

Margrit: "Hey, did you really mean it back there?"

Mason: "What?"

"Were you really going to give in to Jerrell's rules?"

"Well...did **you** mean what you said?"
"What?"
"Were you really going to fight him?"
"Maybe. I don't know. I wasn't thinking at that time."
"I wonder who'd win if you and Jerrell had a match."
Margrit smiled and answered: "Too bad, you'll never find out."

29: Starburst's Plan. Colony Sabotage.

Contents

Mason didn't have a day of peace since his arrival to the colony. Everyday was a struggle, and the future was uncertain. That is, until he fell in love with Margarita and found his long lost father. He couldn't be happier in his life. Finally, he found his identity, and Mason, for the first time ever, found a place that he felt he belongs to.

Still, he hasn't told his friends about his secrets...yet. Zelfire and Piper are completely oblivious to the current events, but Lisa and Kane know a little bit.

Burdok was enjoying fresh air on the balcony. Mason joined him. "Father."
"Hey son."

"Looking at the scenery?"

Burdok: "Yep. I don't know why, but I can't take my eyes off it."

"This planet is great, isn't it?"

"Yeah." He paused. "I am sorry about everything."

"No need to be sorry. The best thing we can do now is make up for lost times."

"You don't have to accompany me. You should spend time with Margarita. She's a nice girl."

"Margarita? What do you mean?" Mason asked, a little worried.

"You know what I mean."

"Ummm, no I don't."

"Yes you do. Don't think just because I'm old that I don't know. I know about your relationship with her. Don't deny it."

"You were spying on us?"

"Spying? That is such an ugly word."

"Then what do you call it?"

"Uhhh...nosiness. Don't I have a right to know about my own son's affairs? Seriously, if you two are in love then you should spend more time with her. I'm afraid it's too late for me."

"I can spend time equally with both."

"Mason, one thing that I've learned is that women are impatient. You better hang on to her or she'll leave you."

"Not to worry. We understand each other."

"Love is probably the most valuable thing in the universe. I learned that the hard way when I lost your mother." Burdock leaned against the fence, and stared up at the gigantic ceiling.

A hacker sneaked into the colony without getting noticed. He managed to sneak past the guards and headed into the air conditioned vents. He crawled around, and then checked his computer map device. "Almost there."

Kori: "Starburst, what is your plan?"

Starburst: "I'm going to attack the colony with my Battalion!"

Kori: "What? I know your ship is powerful, but the colony's defense system is impenetrable. Trust me."

Starburst: "Nothing is impenetrable. I can assure you it's my most brilliant plan ever! I've already sent the hacker into the colony. He will disable all the colony's defenses, then he'll signal me, then I attack."

"Hmmm, that might work."

"My plans never fail. You see Kori, brains are as important as brawn, as my father taught me. Once the colony goes boom, Mason and every sayan inside will die!"

Margarita was sitting on the edge of the fountain, waiting for Mason to come. He finally came at last. "Hey there."

Mason: "Hey." He sat down beside her.

"Going to see your father?"

"Yep."

"I think you should spend more time with him. After all, you've never known him before."

"How strange."

"What is?"

Mason: "He just told me to spend time with you. Ayah! What a headache I'm having. This one tells me to go to the other person, and this one tells me to go there."

"That's what you get for being Mason."

"What do you mean by that?"

"You're always trying to make everybody happy, and in the end it's you who always suffers."

"As long as my loved ones are happy, I'm happy. That's all that matters."

"Mason, I want you to promise me something. Will you?"

"Promise what?"

"Stay here with me forever. That's all I want."

"Here?"

"Yes."

"I don't know if I can."

Margrit was disappointed. "What do you mean?"

"You know that earth is my home, right. No matter what happens in the end, I'm going back there."

"Earth?"

"You've seen it before. It's a beautiful place. It's where I belong."

"I want you to stay. With me." Her face grew sad.

"I want to too, but this place just isn't my home. Earth is."

She grabbed his arm and put her head on his shoulder. "I don't want you to go."

"Margarita, this is an eventual thing. After things are safe again, I'll go back there. There is nothing that can change that."

"Alright, enough. Please don't mention that anymore. I just want to be happy now. That's all that matters. Don't talk about the future anymore."

The bathroom steamed up from the shower. Margrit was showering in her tub. She was thinking about the conversation she just had with Mason.

"I just want to be happy now...Don't talk about the future anymore."

"Hey...you want to come to earth with me?" Mason asked.

"Come with you?"

It was such an irresistible offer. Earth is a neutral planet after all. And if she goes with him, they can have a peaceful life. No more wars and no more death. Should she do it?

The hacker crawled through the ventilations until he reached an exit. He decided to get off here. He took out the fence, and jumped down, landed on the floor. Thud. "Hmmm, this looks like the wrong room." he muttered to himself.

Margrit stepped out of the shower and wrapped a red towel around herself and used a cloth to dry her hair.

He heard someone walking by, and decided to surprise her. She came out of the bathroom, and he was across the room. Margrit was taken completely by surprise, and she was so scared she remained still.

"W-who are you? What are you doing here?!"

"Well, today's my lucky day! It's not everyday that you get into a colony and find a naked woman!" he said.

He walked closer and closer to her, and she gasped. Now he was right in front of her and she was too scared to scream or do anything to protect herself. He grabbed the cloth from her hands and put it around her neck. Then he pulled her head towards him and kissed her lips. It was nothing he felt like before, and he really enjoyed it. His hands grabbed Margrit's shoulders, letting the cloth drop on the floor. He grabbed her back and held her tightly as he enjoyed her lips.

Finally, she snapped out of it and pushed him away and screamed.

"You creep! Get away from me!"

He laughed and walked closer to her. She made a fist and aimed it for his face, but he blocked it and squeezed her hand.

"You're pretty tough, for a woman!"

"Let go...please..."

"No!" he said, and squeezed it even harder. She could feel the bones cracking and she struggled, but it was no use.

"Ahhhh! Let go! Please! Let me go!"

He laughed at her plea, and let her go and slapped her into a wall. He put his hands on the wall, next to her face. She was trapped. "No...please!" He kissed her and his hand grabbed her thigh. She pushed him away and ran for it.

He grabbed her arm and pulled her into him, making her turn around. He kissed her lips.

"No...stay back..." Margrit said as she retreated, while he advanced.

"I wonder what you're wearing under that?" he said, looking at her towel.

She knew what he wanted to do. "No! Please!"

He tried to grab her, she shoved his arms away, and attacked. He blocked her chop. Thud. She kept punching, and he dodged. Doosh, doosh.

She kicked. He blocked, and did a karate chop on her lower thigh. Thud. She groaned from the pain. She stepped back, and fell on her knee. "Uhhh...it hurts..."

The man walked forward, crackling his knuckles, with a smile on his face. "This is going to hurt more if you keep resisting."

Magrit quickly got back on her feet. He let out a fury of punches. She dodged. He kicked, hitting her in the chest. Wham. She was knocked against the wall. Suddenly, she jumped to the air and did a flying kick, he blocked. She landed on the floor. Then he kicked her in the neck, and she fell. Thud.

She crawled to her bed, and he grabbed her and slammed her against the drawers. Wham. He was behind her, and she was trapped between him and the drawers. He sniffed her hair and enjoyed it. His hand touched her thigh and reached up the towel.

Margrit: "No! Please! Stop! No!"

He turned her around. He moved his hands up her leg and into the towel as he kissed her lips tightly.

Margrit couldn't do anything to fight back. Tears rolled down her cheeks as his lips were touching hers. He kissed her neck, then her shoulders.

She pushed him and got as far away as possible. "Stop it, please!" He continued walking towards her.

He slapped her face and she just stood there, not knowing what to do. Controlled by fear, she watched helplessly as he approached her and kissed her. He touched her leg and rubbed it firmly. She pushed him away again, and her towel suddenly dropped and he saw everything.

"Whoa, you're gorgeous!" he said.

She quickly picked up the towel and wrapped it around her body. He slapped her against a wall and she let out a cry of pain. He grabbed the towel and tried to pull it off while she held on to it tightly.

"Stop it! Please! Please!"

He pulled her closer and closer and grabbed her arms.

"No! Please!" Margrit pleaded. He kissed her lips and tears filled her eyes. "Please, no!" Suddenly, the towel slipped and fell on the floor. She stood there, completely naked and helpless. She was too scared to react. Tears drop from her eyes. He stared at her body.

He grabbed her shoulders tight and kissed her lips, then her neck, then her shoulders. He moved his hand down her back. He kissed her lips, then moved down to her breasts. She struggled to get free, but couldn't.

He grabbed her tightly. He kissed her lips. He threw her on the bed, then got on top of her. He loosened his clothing.

She laid there crying and hoping some one will save her. "Please! Stop! Please! Please!"

He kissed her shoulders, then her breasts. He grabbed her leg and rubbed it. He kissed her leg then he took off her slipper and threw it on the floor. He kissed her leg enjoyably. He touched her leg and moved down onto her thigh. He kissed the smooth skin on her thigh.

Margrit's hand grabbed onto the bed sheet. She screamed in pain, but no one could hear her. "AAAHHHHHH!" she screamed helplessly.

He grabbed her other leg and touched it all over. He took off the other slipper and threw it at her face. His hand moved lower and lower. "Uhhhh! Please! Stop!" Tears were rolling down her eyes. His hand moved lower and lower into her leg, and he laughed. His hand reached her sacred area, and she groaned in agony. Her fingers grabbed the bed sheet tighter.

He continued violating her body. "Stop! Please!" He ignored her cries and continued. He slapped her again and again until her face was bruised. Her eyes were loaded with tears and they dripped out like a stream. Slap! "Ugh!" Slap! "Ugh!" Her feet kicked helplessly.

"Hahaha! You're mine!" He kissed her lips. Her fingers grabbed the bed sheet tightly. Her feet kicked the bed sheet helplessly.

He strangled her neck, then let go. He stroked her until he was out of breath.

She lay on the bed unconscious. The hacker fixed his clothes. "Well, it's been nice meeting you! See ya next time, baby." He kissed her and went into the bathroom. He turned the faucet on, poured water on his face.

He sneaked into the control room where Jerrell was talking with a soldier about some serious business. The hacker rolled a small black metal ball inside the room and smoke came out from it. Psssss! He covered his nose and mouth.

The soldiers inside were starting to get sleepy, really sleepy. "Uhhh, I'm getting sleepy..." the maintenance soldier said.

Jerrell: "Yeah, me too. I think I'll take a nap right now..."

In less than a minute, everyone in the room fell asleep. "This is easier than I thought! Today is my day! The colony will soon perish!" He sat down in front of the main control and typed a bunch of stuff in it. Words in sayan language appeared on the screen.

["Warning! Disabling the defense system will leave the colony unprotected! Continue?"] He typed "Yes" and typed more code in and a sound rang throughout the room.

"Bingo! Time to get out of here." He pushed a button on his wrist to contact Starburst. "Mission accomplished."

Starburst: "Excellent. Now get out of the colony. It's about to go kaboom!" The hacker left the colony safe and sound.

A dark shadow headed toward the colony and covered it. It's the Battalion! The soldiers looked out the window and saw the giant spaceship right on top of them. They were clueless and scared. They have no idea what's going on, and why the alarm didn't sound in the colony.

Lisa: "That's the..."

Piper: "The Battalion!"

Zelfire: "It's Starburst!"

Piper: "This is not good..."

Meanwhile, Kane inspected the control room and made his shocking discovery. "Wake up Jerrell! Wake up you lazy bum!" he said, shaking him violently.

Jerrell: "Huhhhh, what?" He got on his feet.

Kane: "We're under attack! Someone must have disabled the defense system!"

Jerrell: "He did this to us!"

Kane: "Do something!"

Jerrell: "Alright! Calm down." He checked the main computer. "Damn it! I can't activate it. The whole system's down!"

Kane: "In other words, we're doomed."

The Battalion shot several missiles at the buildings. They blew up and turned into dust. Others were severely damaged. BOOM!

Mason: "What the heck was that?"

Starburst: "Hahahahah! Take that! And this!" He pushed the buttons, targeting the buildings and shooting it like a video game.

Kori: "Looks like you're having fun."

Starburst: "The real fun is about to begin."

The bottom of the Battalion opened up and waves of soldiers on parachutes land on the colony. Piper and Zelfire split up, and Lisa followed Piper. They ran across the sky bridge, then suddenly the bridge went kaboom.

Dergoneous: "Split up and attack everyone! Show no mercy!"

The soldiers ran towards the main building.

Piper: " *Gasp* Oh no!"

Lisa: "Ahhhh!"

Piper: "It's that fish face again!"

Dergoneous: "You again? It's a small world after all."

Piper: "I won't let you ruin this place."

Lisa: "That's right. You tell him Piper."

Dergoneous: "With my new strength I'll clobber you."

"What are you talking about?"

"Thanks to the energy orb, I'm more powerful than ever! Now, kill them!"

The soldiers attacked Piper and Lisa. Piper could beat them easily, but he had to protect Lisa. A soldier got behind Lisa and held her by the neck.

"Heeeelp! Piper!"

Piper: "Let her go!"

He punched him in the face and he was knocked out. With a few fists and jumping kicks, he defeated the soldiers.

Dergoneous: "I'm next!" He charged at Piper and hit him with his shoulder. Piper couldn't do anything but get pushed back. Wham! Dergoneous slammed him into a wall. He left a crack on the wall. Piper regained balance and kicked, Dergoneous ducked and gave him an uppercut. Piper was hit on the chin.

Lisa: "Piper! Nooo!"

Piper chopped, but Dergoneous grabbed his hand and threw him on the floor. "Ouch. I've lost again."

The sayan soldiers were fighting with all they've got to protect their home. This battle would test their true skills and find out if their training has paid off.

Mason ran around the buildings to explore the situation, and all he found was people fighting everywhere. From one of the windows he recognized the Battalion. "It's Starburst! He's behind this!"

Dergoneous: "Mason! Today you will perish!"

"I won't bet on it if I were you."

"You're not so tough now!"

Back at the bridge, things weren't looking so well. "Are you alright? Say something!" Lisa said.

Piper: "I'm fine. Really. I'm okay. Don't worry about me."

Kane: "What are you still doing here?! Get out of here! We have to evacuate!"

Piper: "But Kane...this is our home now, we can't just leave..."

Kane: "You have to! We're out numbered here! It's for the best."

So, Lisa and Piper followed Kane to the exit.

At the main building, Jerrell ran into Zelfire and told him to leave at once.

Dergoneous attacked Mason, but the attack was interrupted by Burdok. Dergoneous: "How dare you get in my way!"

Burdok: "**No, how dare you!** Your people our home back in Arlia, and now our colony here. This place is home to many others."

Dergoneous: "For having a big mouth, you shall die!"

Burdok: "Mason, get out of here! We have to evacuate immediately."

Mason: "No, I'm not leaving you here!"

Dergoneous fired his **Bubble Beam** at Mason. It was a direct hit. "Ahhhhhhh!"

"Stop!" Burdock leaped at the alien and kicked him right in the face.

Dergoneous: "You'll pay for that!"

Margarita woke up painfully. "W-What's going on?" She got up on and slowly walked outside. "This is terrible!" She had to hold on to the wall with one hand while walking. "This place is under attack? But wait, where's Mason? He's not out yet..."

30: The Sorrow Of War.

Contents

By now, most of the people have been evacuated from the colony, but Mason and Burdok were still inside fighting for their lives. Will they escape in time to reunite with the others, or will their fate end here?

Mason got up weakly. He was still stunned from Derongeous's attack.
"Father..."

Burdok: "It's too dangerous here! Get out!"

Dergoneous: "You both will die!" They continued fighting until Burdok realized something.

(How can this be? He's too strong to be Kori's henchmen. It doesn't make any sense!)

Mason rushed to help Burdok, but the building was very unstable from the damage. A piece of the ceiling fell in front of Mason, blocking his way from Burdok.
Crash.

Burdok: "No! Leave now!"

Dergoneous hit him onto the floor. He got back up and fought back.

Mason: "I can't leave you!"

Burdok: "This is the last time I'm going to tell you. Leave this place!" Burdok and Dergoneous twisted each other's hands and struggled. Mason quickly left the building, which was falling apart.

Dergoneous: "Let go you fool! We'll both die!"

Burdok: "Exactly. This will be the end of both of us."

"You're crazy! Let go of me!"

Burdok: "With me out of the way...Mason will not have any distractions in his fighting...goodbye my dear son..."

A missile blasted out of the Battalion and hit the building. **Kaboom!**

Dergoneous screamed at his unwanted death. Burdok, on the other hand, predicted his death will come. His whole life had been borrowed time, ever since he lost his family. He just closed his eyes and accepted his fate.

Mason: "Father! Noooooo!"

The giant spaceship flew away and disappeared into the sky. Mason fell down on his knees as the dust from the building faded away. His eyes were full of tears and rolled down his cheeks and hit the bare ground.

The others arrived to the scene. "Where's Zorton? Did he make it?" Lisa asked.

Mason turned around and looked at her. "No, he was caught in the explosion..."

Piper: "You mean..."

Zelfire: "It can't be!"

Lisa: "Zorton..."

Margrit: "Z-Zorton is...dead?" Her face was in horror.

Mason continued crying.

Piper: "Mason..."

Mason: "He...he was my father."

Everybody was literally open-mouthed. No one said a word until Jerrell broke the silence. "Oh Mason, I'm so sorry."

Lisa: "Father? He was your father?"

Margrit was crying too. "Yes, it's true. Mason told me himself."

Mason: "Burdok...why did you do this? Why?"

It was the first time Margarita saw him cry. Who could blame him? He had lost the father that he never knew. She wanted to go and comfort him, but Lisa stopped her. They didn't say a word to each other, but Margrit knew what Lisa meant. Just let Mason grieve.

Jerrell: "My colony! It's gone! All gone!"

Kane: "Don't say that! Some of the buildings are still unharmed..."

Jerrell: "Most of it is destroyed! Everything I've worked for is gone. More than ten years of hard work all gone! It's all my fault. All because I was tricked. Goddam it!"

Kane: "No! It's not your fault. Starburst is the one to blame. Hey, look on the bright side...most of our soldiers have survived. Fifty are injured, and forty five are dead. The rest of them made it safely out."

Jerrell stared at the ground. "There's no hope for us. We just can't beat Dark Spectre. We better give up now and save whoever we can."

Kane: "What? I can't believe those words are coming from your mouth!"

Jerrell: "I just knew this day would come. The day our resistance ended. I prayed it wouldn't happen, but it's just reality. Dark Spectre's forces are too strong."

Kane: "We can't give up! Everyone is looking at us. We're the last of the rebels. Jerrell...we're the last hope in the universe...you said you wanted peace for the universe, if we give up now, it'll be all over. And what about all those who died?! They died so that the resistance can continue!"

Jerrell's expression on his face changed a bit.

"If we give up now, then those brave Sayans who died on the battle field died for nothing. What about all those innocent people who were slaughtered for nothing? Jerrell...you've resisted for your whole life, and now you're giving up?! Never give up until the end, those were your words."

"I...I...I..." He couldn't find the right words to say.

S-Soldier: "Kane is right! We can not, and will not give up!"

Kane: "Your soldiers really look up to you. I hope you know that."

Jerrell: "...You're right! I can't give up my life's work! We can start over! We can rebuild the colony!"

Kane: "Alright!h The old Jerrell is back!"

S-Soldier: "We will fight until the end. The war isn't over until all of us are dead."

Jerrell: "Thanks Kane, you talked some sense into me."

Kane: "There's someone else who needs some comfort. Mason. He just lost his father..."

Jerrell: "Okay, I'll go talk to him."

Mason was sitting by the table, putting his head between his crossed hands.
(Starburst, I'll make you pay. I promise you won't get away with this!)

Lisa: "He is depressed."

Piper: "Of course he is. He just lost his father."

Lisa: "Poor Mason...look at him...he didn't say a word all day. I'll go talk to him."
They walked over to join Mason. "Hey, how's it going?"

Piper: "Mason, I know whatever we say can't change what happened, but..."

Mason: "Go away! Let me be..."

They were surprised to hear this from him.

Lisa: "Mason! We're just trying to help you."

Mason: "I don't need your help. I don't need your pity!"

"Pity? Is that what you think of us?"

Piper: "I think we better leave him alone."

Zelfire: "Yeah, he needs to be alone right now."

They left him and Margrit came in and joined him. She sat down next to him. He remained silent. "Hey, it's Margrit, remember?"

"What do you want?"

"Want? I want to help you, of course."

"I don't need your help! I need some goddam peace and quiet! If you really want to help then give me some time alone."

It was the first time she heard him curse like that. He had never been so pissed off like this. Mason walked over to the balcony. Margrit just stared at him, not knowing what to do.

Later, Jerrell joined Mason to talk some sense into him. "What do you want?"

Jerrell: "I'm just trying to help you."

Mason: "Well, forget it. Just leave me alone!"

"Look Mason, we're all sad about Zorton's death, but we can't be sad forever. I know how you feel."

"Oh, really?"

"That was how I felt when my parents died. I felt angry, I wanted revenge, and I ignored everyone else."

"What are you trying to say?"

"I'm trying to say that...even through the most tragic loss, you have to live on, Mason. You can't go on like this. You're avoiding everyone around you, and soon they'll desert you. It's not worth it."

"Why can't anyone understand that I don't need them right now? I don't need you to tell me what's worth it or not. Father...where are you?"

"Zorton. Forget it, Mason. He's dead. You have to move on."

"I don't need this garbage from the likes of you." He walked away.

Jerrell sighed. "Sorry guys, looks like I can't help Mason." he grieved to himself.

Margrit had an idea that might cheer him up. "Mason, you haven't eaten in days. Here, I made this soup just for you."

He ignored her.

"Come on! It's good for you." She put the spoon next to his mouth.

"I'm not hungry." he answered coldly.

"You have to eat something...Mason...you can't go on like this. How about if I feed you? C'mon, open up."

"No."

"Mason, just take a sip. Please? If not for yourself, do it for me."

"I said I'm not hungry!!!" He pushed her hand away and the bowl of soup fell on the floor. It shattered apart and the soup spilled on the floor.

Margrit: "I, I, I was just trying to help..." Tears came from her eyes. "Mason...I guess you don't want my help...look at you! I just want the old Mason back! Look at yourself now! Look at what you've turned into!" She ran away covering her face.

Seeing her like that, he regretted being so mean. He got up and gazed at the spilled liquid. He could see his reflection on the liquid.

He could still hear Margrit's voice in his head. I just want the old Mason back! Look at yourself now! Look at what you've turned into! He had finally realized what Jerrell was trying to say to him. (I'm sorry everybody. Sorry...Margarita.)

At night, the heroes had to share rooms since most of them were destroyed. Most of the soldiers had guard duty and night patrol. Those who didn't have duty slept where ever they could.

Mason, Lisa, Piper, and Zelfire were squished into one room, since they obviously are close to each other. Jerrell, Kane and Margrit slept in another. Her nice, pretty room was gone now, but at least her diary was saved. While her friend and brother were sound asleep, she wrote on the diary, then went to sleep.

Everyone was sound asleep except for Mason. The room was silent. He opened his eyes, looking around to see if it's safe. Lisa was asleep. So was Piper. And Zelfire. Good. He took the backpack out of the blanket and got up. He took each step carefully, not wanting to make any noise to awaken his friends. He walked out the door and slowly closed it.

He slipped past the hallway like a ninja into the other room. He put the note he had written earlier in Margarita's hand. He kissed her on the forehead. "See ya Margrit. I'll be back."

It was a beautiful morning, the suns were shining and the birds were chirping. Margrit woke up pleasantly and found a note lying next to her. She picked it up and read it. She crumbled it up and ran towards the next room.

"Mason! Where is he?" she asked loudly, slamming the door.

Lisa and the others woke up, alarmed. "Huh, wha..."

Piper: "Mason! He's gone!"

"Nooo! I can't believe he did this..." Margrit said. She stared at the floor sadly.

Zelfire: "What is it?" He spotted the note in her fist. "What's that?" He took it from her hand and read it.

Piper: "What does it say?"

Zelfire: "He's going to find Starburst for revenge!"

Lisa: "No, he wouldn't!"

Piper: "Would he? But, if I lost a father, I'd do the same thing."

Zelfire: "If I was in his shoes, I'd be upset too."

Margrit was shocked. "Mason...how could you..."

31: The Search For Mason.

Contents

Mason walked along in the forest, still angry. He figured walking was better than flying because it would take up too much energy, and he needed to save his energy for the next fight.

He finally reached a water fountain on a stone floor.

"What is this place?" He put his backpack down and drank the water from the fountain. "This water...it's so pure and clean."

Suddenly, Starburst appeared behind him. "Are you looking for someone?"

Mason: "You! Thanks, you saved me the trouble of having to look for you."

Starburst: "What are you going to do? Kill me?"

"I'm taking revenge for Burdok!"

"Hmph. Then come and get me!"

Mason ran towards him, aiming a fist. Starburst took out a weird looking gun and fired. A head band was stuck to Mason's head.

"What is that? Uhhhhhhhhh! My head!"

"What's the matter? Got a headache?"

The band sent electricity throughout Mason's brain. "Ahhhhh! The pain!" He collapsed.

"Now I got you!"

So much for revenge.

Back at the colony, Margrit and the others prepared a search party for Mason. Every officer on duty went on the search except for Jerrell and the elite soldiers. Lisa, Zelfire, and Piper were also in the party, and of course, Margarita led them.

Margrit: "No matter what, we have to find him."

Lisa: "That's right!"

They began the search. No luck for the first few hours. No luck during the afternoon. Not a trace of him during the evening. No hope at night.

Margarita's scouter found nothing. Not a trace of him.

A whole day passed by like hours. Jerrell persuaded his sister and Mason's friends to come back to rest, while the soldiers continued searching.

"No sign of him, huh?"

Margrit: "I've searched a whole day, and found nothing! Not even a footprint."

Jerrell: "We'll try again tomorrow. And the day after. And the day after that. And every day after if we have to."

"Jerrell...thank you."

"Don't be silly. I'm your brother."

Lisa: "Where could Mason have gone to?"

Piper: "Oh no. What if he encountered Starburst and got killed?"

Margrit: "No!"

Lisa: "No way. Mason is undefeatable! I'm sure he's fine."

Kane: "Maybe he doesn't want to be found. I think we should stop wasting our time on this non-sense."

Margrit: "Non-sense?"

"Look at the note! It said that we shouldn't worry about him. Besides, even if we do find him, he might not want to come back yet."

Margrit: "He's coming back whether he likes it or not! This is a dangerous planet, and he could be in danger!"

Zelfire: (Terry, where are you?)

Margrit went into her room, which was messed up pretty bad by the last attack. She sat by the desk and cried. (Mason, why are you doing this? Don't you know we all miss you? Don't you know how much I love you? Where are you damn it?!)

It was day two of the search. It's 5:15 in the morning. Mason wasn't found during the night. Margrit ordered the party to continue searching until they find him.

"Listen you numbskulls! You can't even do a simple job like this. Mason is very important to us. Don't forget what he's done for the colony, so all of you owe him. If anyone slacks off and I find out, things will get ugly! Understand?"

S-Soldier #20: "Yes Margarita."

S-Soldier #21: "Gotcha loud and clear."

"And I don't care if you have to search this whole damn planet, you must find him!"

Piper: "Calm down."

"How can I be calm at a time like this? He's your friend. Why aren't you searching instead of standing there?"

"Okay..."

The search waged on. No luck. Thanks to the party's speed, they had covered about 23% of the whole planet Mascus. Still no luck. None of them knew (but some of them suspected) he was kidnapped by Starburst and held captive in the Battalion. They could search the whole planet and never find him.

Night time approached. Jerrell heard a bunch of noises from the hallway. It was from his sister's room.

"Get lost you imbeciles! You can't help me now!"

Jerrell: (Margrit?)

The door broke apart and Zelfire came flying out and his back went against the wall. "Ouch."

Margrit: "You have no idea how much I miss him, do you?"

Kane: "Calm down!"

"No, you calm down!" She lifted a chair and threw it at him. Kane shrank from it. She slammed the door.

Jerrell: "You guys okay?"

Lisa: "When she's angry, she's reckless!"

Zelfire: "I was only trying to comfort her."

Piper: "I knew it was a bad idea."

Jerrell knocked. No response. Knocked again.

"Go away!" she shrieked.

He opened the door. She was crying in bed. He was hurt to see her so sad.

"What if...what if he's dead?"

Jerrell: "No, no, he's not dead. Mason is the strongest sayan ever, remember? He'll survive. We'll find him. I promise you."

She got up. Her cheeks were wet. "I really miss him!" They hugged.

Jerrell felt bad for Margarita, and angry at Mason for disappearing like that. (Mason, you bastard. Where the hell are you, making us worried like this?)

It was already day three. Piper found the fountain where Mason encountered Starburst.

Piper: "Look! It's Mason's backpack!"

This means hope for Margrit. "His backpack is here."

Zelfire: "That means he must be around here somewhere."

Piper: "But there's no sign of him anywhere."

"You think something happened to him?"

"Hopefully not." Lisa joined them, Margrit followed.

Piper: "He can't be far from here, we have to keep looking."

Suddenly, a wave of soldiers dropped in, surrounding them. They were all surprised. Amongst them was **Kerell**, a vicious **Macedonian** warrior. He was standing on the statue.

Lisa: "Who are they?"

Piper: "I don't know, but they're looking for trouble."

Kerell: "Attack them."

Margrit: "That voice...could it be?"

The soldiers obeyed and attacked the heroes, but like any troops, they lost miserably. Pow! Whack! Wham!

After Margrit killed the last soldier, Kerell disappeared out of sight.

"Hey wait!"

Lisa: "Who was that guy?"

Piper: "Dunno, but I got a feeling he's behind Mason's disappearance."

Inside the Battalion, Mason laid on the table unconscious. "Now that we have him where we want him, what should we do with him?" Kori asked.

Starburst: "I'll give him the most painful and horrible death of all."

Kori: "Let's cut him into pieces!"

The door opened and **Kerell** walked in. "You don't hurt him. He can be useful to us."

Starburst: "Who do you think you are? This is my ship!"

Kerell: "I have received orders from Dark Spectre himself to stop you from killing Mason."

Kori: "Yeah. We were ordered to kill him!"

Kerell: "Lord Dark has changed his mind..."

Starburst: "How dare you..."

Kerell: "Not a step closer! Look at this." He showed them an official badge.

Kori: "He's an elite warrior of Dark Spectre."

Kerell: "That's right! Lord Dark sent me here to tell you that Mason can be useful to us. You'll brainwash him and turn him against his friends."

Starburst: "That's brilliant!"

Kerell: "Of course. This is Lord Dark's plan. Good luck to you." He left the room.

Starburst: "It'll be fun watching Mason kill his own allies..."

Kori: "I bet they wouldn't even hurt him! Those fools! They won't know what hit them!"

Fourth day. No progress. Finding the backpack didn't help them find the person. Margarita was standing on a cliff looking at the land below. The two moons were very bright.

Zelfire: "Don't worry Margrit. We'll find him tomorrow." He left.

Margrit: "Mason...where are you?" The night winds blew and she shivered.

Jerrell: "Margrit, you'll catch a cold." He took off his cape and put it on her.

"*Sigh* Will we ever find him?"

"We'll find out soon. I'm sure something will show up." They left.

Inside the Battalion, the brainwashing of Mason began.

Kori: "It's done."

Starburst: "Now, we'll give him the fake memories...when he wakes up he will see us as his allies.."

The machine erased his memories. Beep. Beep. Beep. Beep...it was done.

Kori: "It took faster than I thought."

Starburst: "He's now officially one of us."

Kori: "What if he recovers his memories?"

Starburst: "It's not likely to happen, but let's check just in case. Computer, scan probability of subject recovering old memories."

[The screen said: "Probability: 0.05%"]

Kori: "0.05 percent? That's like a zero in my book."

Starburst: "That's right. Even if his friends recognize him, he won't recognize them."

Mason woke up with a headache and memory problems. "Uhhhh...where am I? Who am I?"

Starburst: "You're Mason, remember? You're our master."

Kori: "Yeah, you were injured in battle. We rescued you back here and healed you."

Mason: "Ohh, I think I remember now...that's right! You're my students...but the rest is blurry."

Starburst: "You lost part of your memories in the fight against the colony. They did this to you."

Mason: "Really? What colony?"

Kori: "They are your enemies! They rebels are the traitors. We must end their resistance now!"

Starburst: "You work for Dark Spectre, the supreme ruler of the universe."

Mason thought for a few seconds... "I'm starting to remember now..."

Suddenly, Dark's face appeared on the screen. His face and head was covered by a black mask, and the speaker on the mask made his voice sound even more horrible. His body was covered by black armor. It's no wonder his family name was Dark. He was sitting on his mobile chair. "So, Mason, you have recovered."

Starburst and Kori knelt down. Mason stood there clueless and confused.

Kori: "Get down!" Mason followed them and knelt down.

Dark: "Mason, you must destroy the colony at all costs."

Mason: "You're Dark Spectre, the leader of the universe?"

Dark: "Yes, I'm glad you remembered. I hope to hear good news from you."

Starburst, Kori, assist Mason in any way you can."

Starburst and Kori: "Yes Lord Dark." His face disappeared from the screen.

Mason and his 'students' went outside on the land to get some fresh air. "I'm your master?"

Kori: "Yes, and you are a great one. Your power is immense, Mason."

Mason: "I sure don't feel that way..."

Starburst: "Mason, you can forget memories but you can't forget your skills!"

Mason charged energy and threw it at the mountain ahead of him. Kaboom!
"Wow. I did that!"

Kori: "Yes, master! Imagine what you can do with your full power! Those rebels won't stand a chance!"

Mason: "Those rebels...they'll die."

32: An Old Nemesis.

Contents

The search for Mason continued, but there was no luck. Day and night the colony's people had searched for him, but they haven't found a trace of him. After a few days passed, the party was getting discouraged, but only Mason's true friends and Margrit still had the tenacity to continue.

It was the third day since he was 'missing,' and Margrit decided to go alone. She just left without telling anyone, just as Mason did.

Wandering about in the wilderness by herself, she was thinking about an old nemesis.

"Kerell has to be behind this! It has to be him!"

She checked her scouter and discovered a high energy level inside the cave not far from her.

"So, Kerell's inside...I bet he's waiting for me there."

She quickly went in the cave. Inside it was dark and quiet and kind of scary. The only source of light is the entrance to the cave. She walked slowly, being careful, so she won't be surprised. In front of her is Kerell standing there, smiling.

"So you found your way in here, Margrit."

"Kerell..."

"Margrit, what happened to us? I thought we were partners."

"My name is Margarita!" she yelled angrily.

"You could've joined me, but you didn't...instead you stayed at your miserable colony."

"You betrayed me! You betrayed the colony!"

"Yeah, and I didn't regret that at all."

"I'll make you regret it!" She attacked him and he fought back.

Kerell stopped and tried to talk. "Don't you remember how good we were? We were an unstoppable team! Why don't you join me? You will be granted powers beyond your imagination! You will become much stronger than you are now."

"Forget it! I don't listen to traitors."

"You're the real traitor! There's no way you can beat Lord Dark Spectre! He rules the universe!"

"I've had enough of you!" They resumed fighting.

It was a violent fight between former partners. While fighting, Margarita flashed back. They were more than just partners, they used to go out. Margarita trusted him, but he betrayed her when he joined the Dark Empire.

"Where's Mason? I know you have him!" she asked after making a few fists.

"Mason? He's under my custody now. No matter how much you search for him, you won't find him."

"Give him back."

"Hmph. Why is he so important to you?" Kerell asked.

"Give him back." she demanded.

"You want him back so badly? Why is he so important to you? Is he your boyfriend? Ha ha ha ha!"

"Shut up! Tell me now!"

"Why should I? What if I send an order to have him executed?"

Margrit charged and punched. "You won't dare!"

Kerell dodged. "My my, such a reaction. He **is** your boyfriend, isn't he? Why do you care about him so much? Is it because he's the best that your pathetic colony has to offer? So, after you dumped me, you go find another one right away?"

"You are a traitor. Why would I stick around someone like you? Just give Mason back."

"Well, if you want him back, then you must do something for me."

"Forget it!" she said.

He made a 'tsk tsk tsk' sound and said: "Margrit, Margrit, Margrit...with just one command I can have him killed. You know I can do that. If I were you, I'd start being nicer to me."

"...Fine, what do you want me to do?"

"There we are. Now we're getting somewhere."

"Just say it."

"Take off your clothes." he said, smiling wickedly.

"Take off my clothes? You pervert! No way! Forget it!"

"You fool! Margrit, you better do as I say, or Mason dies! Now you don't want that to happen, do you? It's your choice, his life is in your hands..."

Margrit grew speechless, and stared at the ground.

"You can do it my way or you can walk out of here, and never see him again. So what'll it be?"

She held her fist tightly, and her eyes were shaking. A few seconds later, she responded, "If I do, will you let him go?"

"You have my word."

"Fine...as long as you keep your promise..."

"I knew you'd see it my way!"

She removed her combat suit and let it drop. (Mason, I'm doing this for you...I'm sorry...) After taking off a few pieces, she stopped.

"Why did you stop? Continue! Take everything off!"

She obeyed and continued. She took off everything and dropped it on the floor. Lastly, her underwear came off, and she was completely naked.

Kerell walked towards her, and stared at her body. "You made the right choice." he whispered. Tears were rolling down her wet eyes. He grabbed her shoulder and kissed her lips tightly.

Then he kissed her shoulders, then her breast. He moved his hand down her back and felt her smooth, silky skin. His hand went all the way down her back. He pushed her against the wall and her back was scraped against the sharp tiles. She shrieked in pain and he kissed her lips. He kissed her soft shoulders and tender neck. He grabbed her shoulder tightly and continued kissing her.

He pushed her on the floor, and loosened his own clothes. He kissed her neck and shoulders, as her fingers grabbed the ground tightly, and his hands grabbed her hands.

He grabbed her leg and lifted it up. He took off her shoe and tossed it away. He felt her thighs softly with his hands. He kissed her knee, then he kissed her lower thigh, all the way to her ankle. He kissed her thigh and it felt warm and comfortable to his lips. His moved his hand from her lower thigh to her knee, and continued moving lower. He put her leg on his shoulder, and rubbed his face against her skin. It felt so smooth and warm.

She screamed in agony as tears rolled down her cheeks. Her fingers grabbed the ground tightly as his hand squeezed her wrist.

He kissed her neck, then her soft shoulders. He touched her breasts and squeezed it tight. Margrit shrieked again. He continued kissing and feeling her body.

Margrit: "No! Please!"

He slapped her again and again. More tears dropped from her eyes. He kissed her back and touched her silky hair. He sniffed her hair and touched it. He turned her over and kissed her lips. He grabbed her back and continued the kiss. His legs were on top of hers, stopping her movements.

He her body all over, and kissed her lips enjoyably. He grabbed her leg and licks it deliciously. Then he kissed her lips. He stroked her again and again. She shrieked from the pain.

"No...please..." Margrit said weakly, with tears streaming down her face.

He kissed her lips, and she was completely helpless, as he swallowed her lips wildly.

When the sky grew dark, Kerell was done.

He left the cave. Margrit laid there completely naked and vulnerable. She sat there with her arms around her legs and head between her knees and cried.

Kerell flashed back to the time when he and Margrit were still partners. Although he wasn't a sayan, he was accepted in the Rebel colony as an exception. He showed great strength, and thus was paired up with Margrit for several missions.

Months later, Kerell was made an offer he couldn't refuse. Electrode promised him power and respect if he joins Dark Spectre. He accepted the offer, trading what he had for power. He fought Margrit and defeated her, and left planet Mascus. Margrit

was grief stricken and couldn't believe that she ever trusted him. She swore she would kill that traitor.

Kerell: "Margrit...you chose this path...you could've joined me, but now look at you! If only you realized it sooner..."

Mason continued to train with his 'students' to regain his forgotten skills. After only a short time, he was able to do all his moves with no problem.

Mason: "I'm ready to challenge the colony."

Kori: "Do as you please, master."

Starburst: "It's time to make those rebels pay."

Mason's fist burned with spiritual fire. It was a fire of spite and hatred.

33: The Fight Against A Friend.

Contents

The heroes returned to the colony, tired from the search. He's been gone for a few days now, and they missed him very much, especially Margarita. They hoped and prayed he'd come back, and their prayers are about to be answered. But there's going to be a cache.

Mason, Starburst, and Kori landed in front of the colony. Kane and Jerrell quickly rushed to see what's going on.

Kane: "Look! It's Mason! He's back!"

Jerrell: "But what are **they** doing here?"

"Heh heh heh heh...fools..." Starburst, crossing his arm and smiling.

Kori (to Mason): "These are your enemies."

Jerrell: "What's going on?"

Mason: "Prepare to fight."

He punched Kane in the face. Kane, caught by surprise, landed on his butt.

Kane: "Are you insane?!"

Jerrell: "He's not the Mason we know. Something must've happened!"

Mason: "I'll kill you all!"

He continued to attack them, but they didn't want to fight back.

Kane: "Stop this! Mason, it's me, Kane!"

Mason: "I know. That's why you'll be the first to die." He punched Kane in the guts and everybody heard the sound of the impact.

Kane: "Mason...why? The Mason I knew would never, ever do this. He must be controlled somehow."

Jerrell: "He's a traitor."

Kane: "No..."

Jerrell: "He's a lousy traitor. I knew you couldn't be trusted. What happened to the Mason that I trusted? The Mason that Margarita trusted?"

Mason: "Trust? Margarita? I don't know what you mean." He proceeded to gather energy into his palm.

Jerrell got ready for the next attack.

Margarita was sitting by her desk writing her diary. She was very sad. Suddenly, she sensed a very familiar spirit. (Huh? Mason, could it be you?) Yes, it was him alright. She knew there was something very different about him, but she didn't care.

Margrit, Zelfire, Piper, and Lisa arrived to the scene.

Margrit: "Mason, it's really you!"

Jerrell was down and dirty. "He's not the Mason you knew, Margarita. Be...careful."

Margrit: "Brother? What happened to you?"

Zelfire: (Brother? Jerrell is her brother?)

Mason charged at Margrit and punched her in the chest. She completely did not expect this, and fell down hard.

[Split screen - 3] - [Zelfire, Piper, Lisa].

Kori: "Oooh, that's gotta hurt."

Margrit: "Mason? What are you doing?"

Jerrell: "H-He's turned on us! He's our enemy now."

Lisa: "Turned on us? You wouldn't do that, right, Mason?"

Piper: "It's not true, right?"

"Hmmmph, I was never on your side." He attacked Piper next. Piper just couldn't fight his friend. Pow!

Zelfire: "Mason!"

Mason: "You're next!" He charged at Zelfire and punched.

Zelfire dodged a few times, then grabbed his wrist. "Mason! It's me, your best friend, remember?"

Mason got free, and punched him in the face. Doosh.

Margrit was still flabbergasted at the situation. "Mason..."

Kane: "Starburst! You did this to him!"

Starburst: "I don't know what you are talking about."

"Liar!" Kane charged at him vigorously. Starburst jumped into the air.

At this time, Jerrell got up. "What are you doing just standing there? This isn't a spectator event."

Kori: "Me?"

Jerrell: "Yeah you!"

Kori: "You want to challenge me? I wouldn't if I were you."

Jerrell: "Why not?"

Kori: "I'll tell you why."

They fought each other with full force, while Mason was still beating up his friends.

Piper: "Stop this! Please! We're your friends!"

Mason: "I've heard enough of this!"

He continued his assault, and his friends have no choice but to fight back. Piper and Zelfire defended themselves, but Margrit just stood there watching them fight. She didn't know what to do.

"No, Mason...stop this..." she said.

Lisa decided to make a run for it. Mason saw her from the corner of his eye. He stopped attacking and flew after her. Piper and Zelfire went after him.

Margrit: "What...what do I do now?"

Mason lifted Lisa by her jacket and lifted her a few feet higher.

Lisa: "No, don't do this!"

Zelfire: "Put her down."

Mason threw Lisa away, Piper caught her.

Piper: "Lisa!" Then he turned his friend. "What did you that for?"

Mason fired a blast, and Piper blocked it for Lisa. Kaboom. He was out.

Lisa: "Piper!! No!"

Zelfire kicked, Mason blocked, then hit him with his other hand. Zelfire aimed at his face, Mason tilted his head, and kicked him. Then Zell punched him in the face. Mason's head turned a little.

"You call that a punch?" Mason proceeded to punch him in the face. Doosh!

He skidded across the ground. Zell groaned from the pain and got up. Mason ran at him.

(Damn. I never imagined I'd have to fight Mason.)

Zelfire: "Mason! Don't do this. Don't force me."

Mason continued running at him. Zell fired the Energy Blast.

Mason stopped running, and he fired the Energy Bomb. It blew away Zelfire's beam and zoomed right into him. It knocked him against a tree. He was out.

Lisa: "How could you do this to us?!" She picked up a branch randomly from the ground. Mason's back was facing her, so it'll be the perfect time to strike.

Distracted by Zelfire, Lisa was able to hit him. The branch broke into two. Mason wasn't hurt. "Rrrrrrgh! How dare you!"

Lisa: "Don't you know who we are? Terry?"

"My name is Mason!" He slapped her and she lost consciousness. "What a bunch of idiots."

Margarita surfed on a T-board and got off once she saw Mason. "Mason?"

"It's you again?"

"What have you done? Those are your best friends!"

"They deserved what they got."

"How could you...what happened to you?"

Mason powered up. He had no interest in what she had to say. Can Margarita save her loved one, or get killed in the process?

34: A Cruel And Ironic Fate.

Contents

Margarita and Mason faced each other. "Why...why did you do this? They are your friends." she asked with emotion.

"Friends? Pah. They're my enemies."

"Do you know what you're saying?"

"I know exactly what I'm saying!"

"What has Starburst done to you?"

"He hasn't done anything! He only helped recovered my memories."

"Memories?" She paused to think. "Listen to me Mason, Starburst has erased your **real** memories and inserted fake ones into your head. That's the truth."

"Why should I listen to you?"

"Because it's the truth. Do you know how worried we were looking for you?"

Zelfire: "Margarita, its hopeless talking to him...I tried."

Mason charged at her and assaulted with fists, while she went on defensive. He punched, she blocked with her elbow, and stepped back, and he stepped forward. She retreated until her back was against a tree.

"Mason stop!"

He used the Power Punch as she went to the side and he broke the tree. "I will kill you!" He fired the Energy Blast.

Her scouter beeped. It showed the energy's power at 90,000. She knew she couldn't block this one. She fired an Energy Bomb and it collided with his beam. The bomb was too weak against Mason's attack, and the beam blew it away and hit her.

Her scouter on her eye shattered and her combat suit had a crack on it. One of her shoulder pads fell off.

Mason: "How did you like that? Want some more?"

"Mason, why won't you listen to me?!"

He punched her really hard. POW! Then kicked her. WHACK! When she was on the ground, he blasted her. Now her suit was really messed up.

"Mason, stop!"

He blasted her again. Her combat suit was completely destroyed, revealing her white dress she wore underneath. Mason hesitated when he saw the dress. It looked really familiar. He pushed that thought away and walked towards her.

Margrit: "How could you do this?"

Zelfire: "Margrit! It's no use talking to him! He's not the Mason we knew. He doesn't recognize us anymore."

Margrit: "There has to be a way to get through to him."

Zelfire: "He's going to k-kill you. Either fight him or run away."

Margrit (to herself): "It's ironic, don't you think? I always wanted a fight with Mason, and now I got what I wanted."

He ran and aimed his fist at her, and she held it.

"Why are you doing this to me? Ever since your father died you've been keeping yourself away from us! From me! You won't even let me help you! And then all of a sudden you left! I was so worried! I spent day and night looking for you, and I really missed you! And now that I've finally found you this is what I get?!"

Mason: "Shut up!"

Margrit screamed madly and let go of his fist. She powered up everything she had.

Mason: "Ohhh, looks like you're not as bad as I thought."

Margrit: "I'm sorry, Mason, but this is for your own good!"

She finally began to fight back against him. He made a punch, she blocked and counter attacked. She made a chop to the left, then right. He gave her a knee her in the stomach. She jabbed his face, then struck his chest violently.

"Energy Bomb!" She blasted him and he fell. She approached and kicked him the face. Doing that, she hurt herself more than she hurt him.

An image popped up in his head. It was the time when she challenged him to a duel, and he refused.

"Damn..." Mason said, getting up.

Margrit: "It's me, Margarita, remember?"

Mason: "Mar-grit?" He looked at her with innocent eyes.

"Yes, it's me! Mason..." She offered her hand.

Mason held her hand. He smiled.

Zelfire: "No, don't!"

Mason squeezed it firmly and elbowed her stomach. He threw her against a rock. Bruises appeared on her body. "You t-tricked me. What a dirty trick."

Mason walked towards her and looked at her with hatred in his eyes.

"Mason, don't look at me that way..."

"It's over." He grabbed her hair and pulled her head up to his face. "It's the end for you."

He put her head into the pond. "Drown! Drown!" He pressed her head down violently. She was running out of air. He pulled her head up.

"Mason..."

He put her head into the water again. Suddenly, another image appeared. It was the time when he saved her in the village.

He went inside and saw Margarita laying there under a pile of rocks and wood. She was injured and barely conscious. "Margarita? Are you ok? What happened?"

"Mason?... It's you?" she said in a weak voice.

"Who did this?"

"It was Kori, he's very strong. Get out of here...now..."

"No, I can't do that. He's not gonna get away with it, I promise!" He removed the rocks from her body.

"...You're helping me? You're willing to help me...even after all I've done?"

"Of course! That's what friends are for!" He held her hand. "Everything will be alright. I promise."

Margarita was touched by his courage and sincerity. Tears were rolling down her face. "Thank you...Mason. No one has been this nice to me before." Then she suddenly yelled: "Watch out! Behind you!"

Mason: "Huh?"

He turned around but it was too late to react. A beam hit him and pushed him out of the house.

Margarita: "Nooooooooo!"

Kori walked in. "Ha ha ha ha ha! Idiot. He didn't even know what hit him! Don't tell me he's part of your colony. He should learn to be more alert."

"Ahhh! What was that?" He let go of her. What was that image he saw? Is Margarita truly is ally? Is Kori his enemy?

She coughed and breathed hard. Her face was wet. "Why did you stop, huh? Why didn't you finish me off? Is it because you **can't**?"

"Can't? There's nothing I can't do!" He slapped her. He grabbed her neck and strangled her.

Her hands held his arm firmly, trying to push them off. His grip was getting tighter, and she was choking.

Suddenly, for an unknown reason, he let go. She was unconscious. He backed away. Another image flashed. It was his first kiss with Margarita. "Ahhhh! What are those images in my head? It's fake! It's all fake!"

("Oh really? Can't you tell what's fake and what's real?")

"Huh? Who's there?"

("What, you don't even recognize the voice of your father? Is this what I sacrificed my life for?")

"Who...what? Where are you?"

("You can't find me. I'm dead, remember? I'm only existent in your mind.")

"What kind of a trick is this?"

("Trick? This is no trick. I am your father!")

"I have no father. Now leave me alone!"

("Did you forget already? After my death, you wanted revenge so bad, you left the colony to get Starburst, leaving your friends worried sick. Then he somehow captured you and brainwashed you.")

"No, none of this is true! Go away!" He waited. Burdok didn't respond. Mason was glad that voice was gone.

Margrit was conscious again, lying on the ground. "Don't you love me anymore?"

"You're lucky today. Your life is spared. But don't let me see you again." He flew into the Battalion.

Inside the ship, Mason got a huge headache. "Uhhh, my head! What's going on?" He saw another vision.

Zorton removed his mask, and Mason saw his face for the first time.

Mason: (Zorton is old. I had no idea.)

Zorton's face was definitely not what Mason imagined him to be. He was wrinkled, with black spots on his forehead. His face was one that contained years of struggle and agony, and sleepless nights.

"Mason, I am your father..."

"What?! You're kidding me, right?"

"No, it is the truth. My real name is Burdok, I am a sayan like you."

"Nooooo!"

"Please listen, I didn't mean to hide it from you..."

("Mason, do you understand now?")

"You again?" Mason said, a bit startled.

("Don't you remember? I'm your father, Burdok.")

"You did this to me. You put those illusions in my mind!"

("Do you know what you are doing?")

"I know exactly what I'm doing and I don't need your advice!"

("You are hurting your friends. And the one you love.")

"Stop it! Stop it!"

("You have been brainwashed, my child. You must remember who loves you the most, remember Margarita...and your father...")

"Get out of my head!! Ahhhhhhhhhhh!" He breathed painfully. Burdock's voice was gone. He was relieved. "He's gone at last..."

Starburst: "Why is Mason back in the ship?"

Kori: "Maybe his job is done..."

"I doubt that very much. No way can he do it in such a short time."

Kori checked his scouter. "Hmmm, the four of them are still alive. Mason isn't done."

"He must be having some trouble. I thought those memories are completely gone! The machine was supposed to be effective!"

"Do you remember there's a slight chance he can recover his old memories?"

"Yes, it's 0.05 percent. It's so small, it's almost zero!"

"But it's not zero."

Margrit entered the control room where Mason was. "Huh? It's you. Idiot. I told you if I ever saw you again, I'd-"

"No matter what, I have to get the old you back. I have to...Because you're the one I love..."

"Quiet, you! Coming here will be your biggest mistake! I gave you chance to live, but you still came back..."

Margrit: "You could've killed me...but you didn't. Why? Why didn't you do it?"

"My memories don't lie! You're my enemy!"

"You still didn't answer my question...why didn't you kill me?"

"I don't have to answer anything!"

He attacked her viciously, but this time she didn't resist. "What's wrong? Why are you not fighting back?"

"Because I don't want to."

He knocked her into the computer screen and it broke. The control pad was releasing electricity.

Margrit got up, but she didn't fight back. She just looked at Mason, wondering why the one she loves would hurt her.

"Stop looking at me like that!" He blasted her shoulder.

"Uhhhh!" She walked closer to him.

"Get back!" He blasted her again, but she ignored the pain and continued to walk towards him. "I said stay back!" He blasted her again, and it was the final blow.

"Mason..." She collapsed in front of him.

Now Mason's eyes have completely changed. Now he finally realized what he's done and screamed like a mad man. "Margrit! NOOOOOO!" In a mighty rage, he destroyed the Battalion in one blow. Kaboom!

Starburst: "My ship! My precious Battalion!"

"Oh well, too bad. You win some, you lose some." Kori said as the debris slowly settled on the ground.

Piper: "Hey, isn't that the Battalion? Margrit and Mason are inside!"

Zelfire: "No! They couldn't have...they must have escaped."

"What if they didn't?"

Zelfire: "How can this be...?"

Lisa: "Are you guys saying...no! I refuse to believe such a thing!"

Piper: "They must have escaped..."

Zelfire: "I can't sense them. I'm sorry. They're gone."

"Noooooo!" Piper screamed madly. Hot tears rolled down his cheeks, and they kept coming. He realized he wasn't the only one with tears. Lisa was sobbing and Zelfire was crying silently.

Lisa: "What a cruel fate. This didn't deserve this...they loved each other so much!"

Zelfire: "So it's true then..."

Piper: "What does it matter now..."

Zelfire: "At least...at least they were together when they died."

Just when things seemed the darkest, when they thought all hope was gone, Lisa silently made a wish. A bright star slowly descended on the ground. It sparkled as Lisa looked at it.

At the sight, her tears of sadness instantly turned to tears joy. "Look!" she screamed.

As the star got bigger, they recognized it as Mason, with energy all around him. He was holding Margrit in both hands, head facing down. Once his feet touched the ground his energy faded instantly, and he fell on his knees, still holding his lover.

They quickly rushed to join Mason. "You're alive! We thought you were gone for sure."

"I...did this to her...it's all my fault..." he said in a regretful voice. He had done the most awful thing in the universe at the moment.

Piper: "Now's no the time to blame yourself!" Piper checked her heartbeat. "She's still alive, but barely."

Zelfire: "We have to get her back to the colony now!"

So they hurried back to the colony to save Margrit. Once inside, they rushed to the Medical Room.

"Doctor, will she be okay?" Piper asked nervously.

"It's hard to tell. She suffered many serious injuries. There's no telling when she might wake up." the doctor replied.

Jerrell: "Margrit! What happened?"

Mason: "I'm sorry....I did it...it's my fault..."

"You did this to her!" Jerrell said in an angry and accusing voice. No, he wasn't just angry. He was beyond pissed off.

"I'm truly sorry..." Mason said, and these words came out of his heart.

Jerrell punched Mason in the face. He didn't even flinch, despite the pain. He felt like he deserved a hundred times worse than that.

[Split screen - 3] - [Kane, Zelfire, Lisa.]

Kane: "What are you doing?"

Kane and Zelfire grabbed Jerrell to protect Mason.

Jerrell: "Let me go! Let me go! I'll make him pay for hurting my sister!"

Mason: "You have every reason to be mad at me. I didn't mean to hurt her...I don't expect you to forgive me..."

Piper: "Look, it's not entire Mason's fault. Starburst and Kori are responsible!"

Jerrell: "You've gone too far this time! I told you take good care of her, now look! She tried to help you, and now she has to suffer for your mistakes!"

Mason looked down at the floor.

"I can't believe this! Margrit was injured once because of you, this time its worse!"

"So you know about the first time..."

Jerrell: "Of course. She blocked the hit for you. Why would she be so dumb to do that? I still don't understand. You've done enough, Mason. Get out of my colony."

Everyone was shocked. They all stared at Jerrell, then Mason.

Kane: "Jerrell, you're not serious!"

"Get out, before I use violence."

A fight between allies was the last thing anyone of them needed.

"I understand. I'll leave immediately." Mason said, and flew off.

Jerrell left the room, slamming the door on the way out.

Outside on a cliff, Mason's friends went to see him."

"I don't expect to be forgiven." Mason said.

Kane: "Mason, no! Jerrell is angry now. But he might change his mind later, when he is calmer."

Mason: "He cares about his sister too much. It is my fault. If I didn't run away by myself, this wouldn't have happened. I don't deserve any forgiveness..."

They didn't know what to say to him. Mason broke the silence.

"Thank you all for your concern. I will be off now."

Zelfire: "Where will you go?"

Mason: "I'm getting revenge for Margrit! And my father!"

Piper: "By yourself? You're kidding!"

Mason: "No. This is my battle. I don't want any of your help, got it?"

Lisa went to see the unconscious Margrit in the healing chamber. "This is the price of love..."

Mason flew outside and sensed that Starburst and Kori were close by. He flew there and met them.

Starburst: "Well, look who's here."

Mason: "You bastards, you tricked me."

Kori: "It looks like he got his memories back."

Mason: "Because of you my friends are hurt. I'll make you pay for what happened to Margarita."

Starburst: "He he he, my dear friend, you can't put the blame on us. You were the one who hurt her. It's all your fault."

Mason: "**Shut up!** I'm going to make you pay with your life."

Starburst: "Oh? Is that a threat?"

"Oh, it looks the party is starting without me. Can I join in?" said a fourth voice.

Starburst: "What the?! Who are you? What are you doing here?"

"You don't know me? Then let me introduce myself. I am **Blaze**, the strongest sayan in the universe!"

Mason: "What are you doing here? What do you want?"

Blaze: "I want what every fighter wants. Victory!"

Starburst: "Who do you think you are?"

"I am Blaze, the strongest sayan in the universe!" he repeated proudly.

Kori: "You're **the Blaze**?!"

"Correct."

Kori was getting scared. "No! It can't be!"

Mason: "What's going on here?"

Starburst: "So you're the one who Dark Spectre wants dead so much. I never expected you would be here on Mascus."

Blaze: "Hmmm, you two are royal soldiers of Dark. Then you both will die."

Kori: "Why you! I'll show you!" Kori flew at him and attacked.

Blaze smiled, like he knew he was going to win. Then he jumped away.

Kori chased him. "He's fast!"

Kori charged at him and punched, Blaze evaded and blocked all his attacks.

"I had enough of you!" Kori fired the Energy Bang at Blaze and Kaboom! It looked like Blaze exploded and was gone for good. "Ha ha ha ha ha! Stupid sayan!"

But when the smoke blew away, Blaze was still standing, alive and well.

Kori: "That's impossible!"

Blaze smiled and powered up. "Hyaaaah!"

Mason: "What the hell was that about?"

Starburst: "You need not worry. That sayan was just a wild goose. Kori will take care of him. You should worry about yourself, Mason. I will make you pay for what you did to me back on earth."

"Hmph. I gave you what you deserved. You wanted revenge on me, so you turned me on my friends? That's a nasty trick. I'm going to break that hard shell of yours."

They charged and punched.

Kori and Blaze exchanged some beams and energy balls. Kori fired a highly concentrated blast, and made it connect.

"Stupid sayan. Eat it!"

"Is this the power of a Dark Lord?" Blaze said mockingly. "Even after absorbing so much dark energy, this is all you can do? I'm quite disappointed. It looks like Dark Spectre has gotten soft over these years."

"Why you..."

Blaze powered up, and Kori saw a golden light. He was so shocked, he just stared with wide open eyes, as his scouter went berserk. Beep beep beep.

"Impossible!"

Kaboom! Kori's body was no where in sigh.

Mason and Starburst continued struggling and crushed each other's hands. They were in extreme pain and grunted.

Starburst: "You're strong Mason, but I won't lose this time!"

Mason: "Grrrrrrrrrrrr!"

Starburst shot a double laser from his eyes and hit Mason's eyes. Mason let go and fell onto the ground.

"Ahhhh! My eyes! What did you do?"

"Ha ha ha! You idiot! You didn't know I could do that. Now you're blind and helpless like an old man!"

Mason tried to open his eyes but it was too painful. He couldn't see a thing, there was nothing but darkness. Everything was black around him. "I-I can't see!"

Starburst flew at him and hit him. Mason hit back, but he missed.

Starburst: "I've got you just where I want you! Blind and helpless!"

Mason put his hand in front of him and tried to walk without tripping on something.

Dark Spectre: "So, Blaze is taking action again. He's destroyed my missile base in Mascus and many other of my headquarters in other planets..." He charged energy in his hand. He threw the concentrated energy into the wall and crack! It blew up into smithereens. "How could I have been so careless ten years ago? I could've killed you!" he mumbled, as if Blaze were here. "The next time we meet, you won't be so lucky...I am Dark Spectre, the most powerful warrior in the entire universe! No one will stand the way in my goals. No one!"

Meanwhile, Starburst continued his assault on Mason, who just couldn't fight back without his eyes. He had no choice but to run, but he didn't go far. Mason continued to run straight ahead, but Starburst was right on his tail, shooting lasers from his eyes.

Starburst: "You can't run away forever!"

"He's right, I just can't run away. I have to fight back!" He fired a beam, but he was way off.

Starburst: "You weren't even close to hitting me! Ha ha ha ha!" He punched him many times, then kicked him, and uppercut him. Mason got up and relaxed. He made a punch, but missed.

Starburst punched him in the guts. Then he blurred and appeared behind Mason. He punched him in the back and Mason screamed from the pain. Starburst kicked him into a rock. Mason got up and threw the rock, but once again he missed.

Starburst: "Ha ha ha ha! You'll never defeat me Mason, never!" Mason ran away, but he was lost. Everywhere he went he bumped into something. He could hear Starburst's laughter get louder and louder. The annoying laughter got closer and louder.

How will Mason escape this predicament? Or will he escape at all?

36: Sayonara Starburst!

Contents

Starburst continued his assault on the blinded Mason. He saw nothing but black space, nothing but darkness all around him. He tried to open his eyes, but they're too weak from the injury.

Mason: "My eyes...what's wrong with my eyes?!" Starburst hit him hard and he fell onto the ground. Mason got up slowly and prepared to fight.

Starburst: "You're getting up slower and slower. It's only a matter of time before you wear out!"

"You and your dirty tricks."

Starburst hit him again and it looked like the final blow. This time, Mason couldn't get up. "I-I'm s-sorry everybody...I lost...sorry Margrit...sorry Burdok..."

Suddenly, Mason heard a strange, yet familiar voice in his head. ("Mason...what are you sorry about?")

"F-Father? Burdok?"

("Mason, I understand your situation.")

"I...I was careless, look at me! I'm blind!" he said, trembling.

("Yes, you can not use your eyes, but it is not over yet!")

"Not over? I've already lost! I can't even stand up!"

Starburst: "Who are you talking to?"

("I know things look gloom, but there is still hope, as long as there is hope, you can win, you must believe my son....")

"W-What are you talking about?"

("Your eyes may be blind, but your heart is not. You can use your other senses...")

Mason: "Other senses?"

("Your sixth sense. You must feel him out, feel it...that is only way you can see him. ")

"Feel him out?"

(Each of us living beings has five senses. They are your levels of awareness. Sight lets you see. Hearing lets you hear. Your sense of taste lets you taste things. Your sense of touch lets you feel things physically. Your sense of smell lets you smell things. But a select few of us has the sixth sense. It lets you feel another's spirit. So feel him out.)

"I'm trying! It's not working!"

("Mason, remember your fight with Radus. You sensed out which one was real. Now you must do the same...")

Mason: "I'm just too weak..."

("My son, you must not fight with anger in your heart. If you only think about revenge then you will never succeed...that's all I have to say. Goodbye son...")

"Wait..! Father! Don't leave me!"

Starburst: "What's the matter? Are you crazy from the beating?"

(I must follow my heart, I must forget about my anger?) Mason thought. Yes, that seemed logical.

Starburst: "Any last words?"

Mason concentrated for a while, and Starburst waited impatiently. Mason suddenly saw it. Everything was dark around him, but a bright red light was in the center. It felt hot and threatening. That was Starburst.

Mason: "I can see him! I can see!"

Starburst: "What?"

Mason charged at him and punched him in the face, then he punched him furiously. Starburst blocked as Mason continued hitting him. Starburst made it for his face, but Mason grabbed his hand just in time.

"Huh?" Starburst shrieked in disbelief.

"I might be blind, but I can still see you!"

"No! Impossible! You're not supposed to do this! You're blind!"

Mason: "I don't need my eyes to fight you!" He let go of the alien's cold, fleshy hand.

Both of them were now fighting at their full power. Like the battle on Earth, nearly everything around them was destroyed in their fight.

Starburst: "H-How is this possible?" He continued his denial and was losing to Mason.

Now, Mason was fighting like before as if he wasn't blinded at all. Maybe even better. Suddenly, Mason began to recover a bit of his eye sight. He opened his eyes slightly, but everything he saw was distorted and blurry.

"My eyes! They're healing! But I can barely see anything..." His eyes still hurt, but he could blink. He continued to use his other senses and beat the stuffing out of the evil alien. Starburst was wearing out, but he's not going down that easily.

He once again charged up a star shaped disc and tossed it at Mason. He quickly got away, and the star hit the ground. Just like last time, it left a large star shaped hole on the ground.

"That's it! You've made enough holes already!"

"Take this!" He threw a bunch of energy discs at him, Mason blocked it all with one hand.

"No!" the alien screamed.

"You lose Ultra Blast!" he yelled, and fired. Kaboom!

"Aaaaaagh!" Starburst was gone for good this time.

Mason caught his breath and couldn't believe that he had won. It was over. Burdok and Margarita had finally been avenged.

"I did it! I, I really did it! Thank you for everything, father...you might be gone, but you'll always be in my heart..." But suddenly, he collapsed.

The doctor removed the blindfold from Mason's eyes. Everything was blurry around him, but his vision had improved. He can make out several figures looking at him.

"M-Margarita?!" Then he realized it's not her. She was still in the healing chamber.

"How many fingers am I holding?" The doctor waved his hand.

"Uhhh, six?" he answered stupidly. He swore he saw six fingers.

Piper: "This doesn't look good."

"Your eyes were damaged from high intensity lasers from a close range. You're lucky your friends brought you to me in time. I was able to give you proper treatment. Your vision will return to you bit by bit."

Mason sighed. "That's a relief. I thought I'd be blind like this forever."

Zelfire: "Mason, before did just call out Margarita?"

"I thought I saw her..." Mason said dreamily.

"Must be an optical illusion. It means you do truly care about her."

Jerrell was listening on their conversation outside. He was leaning against the wall with crossed arms. (So he does care about her. Their love is...real after all. I never should have doubted Margarita's judgment.)

"I took revenge for her." Mason said.

Zelfire smiled. "You certainly did. Now stay here and get some rest."

"Sure thing."

"I'm going to tell Piper and Lisa the good news. They'll be over excited to hear about it. Cya."

"Bye!" Mason closed his eyes tightly and eventually fell asleep.

Mason opened his eyes. His vision was still blurry, but he could see the walls. He walked over to the Medical Room and to Margrit's chamber.

"Hey Margrit, how's it going?... That's a stupid question, you're injured...and it's all my fault..." He sighed. "Margrit...because of me you are in the chamber. That day...when I went off, you came looking for me. The whole colony was looking for me...I left without knowing how worried you were...when you finally found me...actually I found you...and you tried to help me. But all I did was hurt you. You tried to save me, but I did this to you...Margrit! Please just wake up!... You woke up last time, you can do it again, right?"

He sighed. "If you do wake up, I promise to make things right...I'll make it up to you somehow...I'll never let you get hurt because of me, again! I'll do anything you say. Anything that make you wake up again. So please...just wake up!" A tear dripped down his face. "Wake up..."

He felt extreme remorse and guilt. At the time he was still 'evil,' he was conscious of his own actions. He remembered the scene clearly and vividly.

Margarita, after taking the last hit, fell in front of him. "M-Mason..."

"No!" he yelled, catching her. "NOOOOO!" In a fit of rage, he expelled all the energy he had at the time, and blew up the ship. Boom.

"Margarita..." he called out. She was in his arms, barely conscious. "Why didn't you fight back? Why are you so stupid?!"

She woke up. "Mason. Because...because...I wanted you to kill me. I'd rather die than see you turn out like this. I always knew this wasn't you. You have a good heart. It's too bad it ended up like this. Mason...let's...die together."

Tears drip down his eyes. "Margarita!!" But he didn't want to die, not just yet. It's still too early for death. He powered up, forming a shield around himself and the unconscious Margrit. As the Battalian blew up, they were safe.

Mason never knew he'd find love in such a place as this. After all their adventures, this is where he ended up. The first time he met Renegade. The first time he met Kane. The fight with Destructo. Nimbus. The G-Force. Rasputin. Zarbon. The first time he met Zorton. The fight with Starburst. The first time he met Margarita and Kyle. And Jerrell. And when Zorton unmasked himself, saying he is his father. The time he fell in love with Margarita.

What is to become of him now?

37: The Seven Legendary Anubis Crystals.

Contents

After the death of Starburst, things have been pretty peaceful at the colony. Repairs were being made right now, but it will take months, maybe even years to repair the damage.

Somewhere in a secret planet, there exists a legend about seven legendary crystals, and this legend could save and preserve all hope, or cause the end of all hope and freedom.

Mason was still partially blind. He walked about the colony, bumping into things and people. He by chance bumped into Lisa.

"Oh, sorry."

"Where are you going?" she said.

"Lisa? Is that you?"

"Wow, you really are blind, aren't ya? C'mon, let me help you." And indeed she did. She helped him navigate to where he wanted to go. And not surprisingly, he wanted to go to the Medical Room, to see a certain someone.

Zelfire was outside by the mountains meditating, but his mind was clouded with thoughts. (I have to get stronger...I have to...I couldn't even defeat foot soldiers like Dergoneous or Triclops, how am I going to survive? How will I help Mason with such powerful enemies?! If Mason can do, so can I...)

Suddenly, Zelfire sensed something powerful approaching him. Actually, someone.

Zelfire closed his eyes. Amidst the darkness, there was a powerful force. But the energy was warm and inviting, thus it was not evil. But for some reason, this person's spirit was familiar. Does he know this person?

An old crippled man appeared. He walked slowly towards Zelfire with the aid of his cane. He looked just like an average old man. Wearing poor, worn out clothes. Gray hair and a long white beard.

"Who are you?"

"I'm just an old man who has lost his way..." he answered.

"Lost your way? But you're not an ordinary person. What are you doing here?"

"Ahhh, you're right. So, you have a sixth sense just like the sayans."

"How do you know about the sixth sense?"

"I know more than you think, Zelfire."

"How do you know my name?"

"Before I answer that, let me tell you a story."

"I'm not listening to you!" he said childishly.

He attacked the old man, but he proved to be more than just an average old man. He blocked Zelfire's attack without even a thought, like a reflex. Zelfire continued his assault, but the old man dodged all of them. Now, he threw his stick at him. Zelfire caught it, and the old man attacked. He only needed a nano-second of distraction. POW! WHAM! SWOOSH! It was all over for Zelfire.

"I lost to you! I can't believe this!"

"It's not your fault. I'm stronger than you. Let me give you some advice: know your enemy before fighting him. And know your allies from your enemies."

"Are you saying you're an enemy? Or an ally?"

"You can consider me as a friend."

"Alright, what do you want?"

"I just want to tell you a story..."

"Fine, I'll listen." He sat down on the floor and crossed his legs.

The mysterious man did the same, putting his stick by his side. Zelfire lit a match and tossed it into the pile of wood in front of him, setting it to flames.

The beggar cleared his throat. "Ah hem, ahem. Let me begin..."

"I'm listening..."

He cleared his throat. "Once upon a time, there existed **Seven Anubis Crystals** on the **Guardian Planet...**"

On the above, someone was spying them and listening to his story. "What a boring fairy tale! I feel like I'm wasting my time, but I got a feeling that old man will say something useful."

Behind a large rock, another shadow was watching them. "Looks like I've found one of the colonists. I'll wait to make my move..."

The beggar continued his story: "Those crystals existed on the planet known as the **Guardian Planet**. That planet was full of horrible monsters. It is said that those crystals contain mysterious powers. Whoever possesses all seven will have the ultimate power in the universe...Many have tried to get them, but none returned from the Guardian Planet alive."

The first spy watching was Blaze. "Crystals? Guardian Planet? What is he talking about?"

The other shadow was Kerell. "Seven Energy Crystals? I wonder if they really exist."

Old man: "One day, a powerful leader was determined to get all seven crystals. He fully equipped his army and searched almost the whole planet. After a long and dangerous journey, he finally gathered all seven. In an instant he became the most powerful man in the entire universe...no one could even come close to his power. With power came greed and tyranny. He conquered many planets and enslaved its people. Over the years his army grew bigger and stronger. He was just like Dark Spectre in his time. The people were getting tired of being treated like animals..."

Zelfire: "Then what happens?"

Old man: "Just like now, people began to rebel against him. They plotted to kill his family. He had only one wife, and in their opinion she was the most beautiful woman that ever lived. After a well planned operation, they killed his wife and his allies. When he found out he became ballistic. He was so angry that he destroyed his whole planet, along with himself. He was destroyed in his own rage, and those crystals were never seen again."

Zelfire: "That is some legend, but what does it have to do with me?"

Old man: "It has everything to do with you, child. Believe it or not, there exists another batch of those crystals on the Guardian Planet."

"No way!"

"They're there. That is the only thing you can use to defeat Dark Spectre. There is no other way. You must collect all seven of those **Anubis Crystals**...go tell the others..."

"I don't trust you..."

"That's funny."

"What?"

"I know that you trust me. You must follow your heart, this is the only way to succeed."

"Yes...you're right. I never met you before, but somehow I just know that you're telling the truth. It's strange, but I feel that I already know you...it feels so familiar..."

"Maybe you're right...someone's watching us!"

"Who? I didn't sense him..."

"Trust me. Look, whoever you are, I know you're out there! Show yourself!"

Blaze: "Looks like he found me. He's no ordinary person. I might as well introduce myself." He jumped down from the rock. "Here I am."

Old man: "So, it's you..."

Zelfire: "You were watching us? Who are you?"

Blaze: "Greetings, my name is Blaze. You must be from the colony. Tell Mason I said hi."

Zelfire: "You know Mason?"

Old man: "Wait...there's someone else watching us...Behind there! Zelfire, go find him..."

Zelfire: "What about you?"

Old man: "I'll be fine! Go!"

Zelfire checked behind the large rock and discovered Kerell was hiding there. "How did you find me?" Kerell said in shock.

Zelfire: "Why were you spying on us?"

Blaze: "So, those crystals really exist, huh?"

Old man: "You heard everything. I made such a big mistake..."

Blaze: "Who are you old man?"

Old man: "Just an ordinary beggar."

Blaze: "I don't think so. With your wisdom and knowledge of the universe, you're no beggar."

Old man: "Hmmm, Blaze, that's your name right?"

Blaze: "I can sense you're really strong. So why don't we see who's the superior fighter?"

Old man: "Forget it. I'm leaving here..."

Blaze jumped and landed in front of him. "I don't think so. It's rare to find such a person like you...you're not getting away so easily."

Old man: "You won't let me leave, will you?"

Blaze: "Let's see what you're made of!"

He attacked the beggar, and he blocked quickly, like a reflex. Blaze continued, and the beggar continued to block and dodge.

Meanwhile, Zelfire fought Kerell. "If what the beggar said was true, those crystals do exist!"

Zelfire: "Well, I'm not gonna let you tell Dark Spectre about this!"

Kerell: "Wrong. It's you who's not going to deliver the message to your precious colony! I'll make sure of that!"

They began fighting violently. POW! WHAM! BANG! After a few hits, Kerell kicked him into a rock. Then he seized the chance and escaped.

"Coward! Where are you going?!" he said as he gathered himself up.

Blaze continued attacking the beggar. The old man finally has had enough. He started to fight back. Blaze sent an energy ball at him, but he absorbed the ball and threw it back at Blaze. BOOM! Everything around Blaze exploded and the old man escaped. Blaze coughed from the smoke. As the smoke was blown away, he realized the old man had escaped, and he was out of sight.

"Where did he go?" Blazer exclaimed. "Why that slippery beggar! The next time we meet you're finished! You hear me? You're finished!" He had gotten more than he asked for.

38: Sayan Fight! Blaze Attacks!

Contents

It has been a few hours since Zelfire met the mysterious beggar in the mountains. Mason's eyes are mostly healed by now. He went to visit Margrit again. Like before, he talked to her about his problems and his feelings.

"Hey, it's a great morning isn't it? The sun is shining, the birds are chirping, it sure is a beautiful day. What am I saying? I said this yesterday!" He sighed. "When will you wake up? Come on Margrit...you're stronger than that...If I could I would take your

place in that chamber, I will. It's my fault...I'll wait for you. Even if it takes months or even years, I'll wait for you Margrit...I promise I'll be here with you."

Zelfire entered the room in a rush. "...Old man! Crystals! Guardian Planet! Blaze!" he blurted out all at once.

Mason: "What? Slow down Zelfire. Calm down." (Did he hear right? Did Zelfire said Blaze?)

Zelfire: "Mason, get everyone here! It's an emergency!"

Mason: "What is it?"

"Just do it! It's a matter of life and death!"

So Lisa, Kane, Kyle, Mason, Zelfire, Jerrell, and Piper entered a private room. Zelfire explained to them about what happened, and about the legend of the crystals he had been told.

"...So, we have to get the seven energy crystals before Dark Spectre or Blaze!" he said, finishing a short version of the old man's story.

Jerrell: "Incredible...energy crystals that can grant powers..."

Lisa: "Who is the old man who told you this? Do you know him?"

Zelfire: "Well, not really. But I'm sure we can trust him."

Kane: "What if he's just joking with you? What if it's just a fairy tale?"

Jerrell: "I don't think so. I've heard of this legend before. My parents told me about some of these crystals when I was little. So they're on the Guardian Planet..."

Mason: "So, we're not the only ones who know..."

Piper: "Then we better hurry up! Dark is probably on his way there as we speak now!"

Mason: "He's right. We have no time to waste." Suddenly, Mason sensed a huge force approaching the colony. Zelfire sensed it too.

Jerrell: "What's wrong?"

Mason: "We have an intruder! Let's go!"

So, everybody except Lisa ran outside to see who it is. It was Blaze again!

Mason: "It's you!"

Blaze: "Hey, nice to meet you again, Mason and Zelfire and Jerrell."

Zelfire: "You again? What did you do with that old man? You didn't hurt him, did you?"

Blaze: "Hmmm, that beggar got away before I could touch him."

Jerrell: "What do you want here?!"

Blaze: "Well, it's like this. After I heard about those crystals, the first thing I was gonna do was to go to Guardian Planet. But silly me, I forgot that my ship broke when I came here, soooo I just dropped by to see if I can borrow a ship..."

Jerrell: "Borrow a ship from me? Forget it! Get lost!"

Blaze: "Hey now, that's not very nice. I asked you politely, and this is how you answer me? Is that anyway to treat an old comrade?"

Jerrell: "Shut up! You're not our ally! Not anymore."

Blaze: "Hey Mason, why don't you tell them what happened the other day?"

Kane: "What is he talking about?"

Mason: "Well, he helped me finish off Kori. He didn't hurt me."

Blaze: "Now you see? I'm not such bad guy, now am I? Ha ha ha ha!"

Jerrell: "He just did what he wanted! I know Blaze. He wanted to finish off Dark's men anyway. We can't trust him, Mason..."

Kane: "Jerrell is right. He's sly and tricky! He tried to blow up our colony once..."

Mason: "Look, Blaze, I appreciate your help, but our leader doesn't welcome you. So just leave and nobody will get hurt."

Blaze: "This is the thanks I get for what I've done for you...I'm borrowing a ship whether you like it or not! Don't get in my way."

Jerrell: "You're not getting it!"

Mason: "Guys, now's not the time for this."

Blaze: "You want to challenge me?"

Mason: "All I want is you to leave..."

Blaze: "Fool! Those crystals belong to me! I'm the only one who can control their powers! I'm the only one who can stand a chance against Dark Spectre!"

Jerrell took out his gun. "Last warning. Leave now."

Blazer: "I see now. This is how you treat an old friend. Then so be it."

Jerrell fired. Bang. Blaze blocked with his palm. Kane charged first. Then Mason and Jerrell charged.

Kane drew his fist back and punched, Blaze dodged, and hit him in the stomach. Doosh! Kane was thrown off. Jerrell and Mason attacked, but they were hit.

Zelfire and Piper ran to help Kane. "You okay, buddy?"

Kane watched the fight with intensity.

Jerrell: "Mason, let me fight him. This is my fight!"

His words reminded Mason of himself. "Are you sure?"

"Yeah, just leave it to me."

Blazer: "Hurry up and quit wasting my time."

Jerrell powered up. Electric sparks produced. "**Thunderstorm!** Hyaaaah!"

Everyone watched with curiosity. What's going to happen?

Mason: (You gotta be careful, Jerrell. Blaze is the one who killed Kori. I didn't even see the fight. What kind of abilities does he have?)

Jerrell released his attack, and Blazer dodged all the currents. Suddenly, Blazer got in front of him, and did a high kick. Doosh! Jerrell was knocked into the air, and Blazer blurred, appeared above, and knocked Jerrell down. Wham!

Zelfire and Piper blurred and appeared close to Blazer. They fired energy balls. Boom.

Mason: "Do you know this person?"

Kane: "Yeah. He used to be part of our colony. But he never obeyed our rules. So Jerrell cast him out."

Zelfire was hit. And so was Piper.

Blaze: "Since you insist, I'll take on any of you. So who's next?"

Mason got upset, and he took on Blaze himself. Pak! Pow! Pak.

Kane: (Blaze is not someone to be taken lightly. This is the sayan that has Dark Spectre worried, after all. But is he fighting at full power?)

Pak! Pow! Pak! Mason got hit in the face while going offensive.

Kane: (Mason is having so much trouble. And Blaze is not even fighting at 100% power. Is he really holding back.)

Doosh, doosh. Blaze kept on dodging the fists. Mason noticed how quick he was.

Mason fired the Energy Bomb and Blaze blocked it. Froom. Blaze's eyeballs moved left and right. He was surrounded by the heroes. Zelfire, Piper, Jerrell, and Kane all stood at different angles from him.

Jerrell: "Alright, enough games. Just leave us Blaze, or suffer the consequences."

Blaze crossed his arms confidently. "So it has come down to this. It's no big deal, I'll fight **all** of you at once."

Jerrell: "Is that so?"

Blaze smiled and laughed. "Ha ha ha ha!" He powered up.

Everyone could feel his energy level rising. The winds were all out of control. Mason could barely stand still with his shield on.

Kane: "Ahh...what's this power?!"

Zell: "Damn..."

Blaze continued gathering energy and looked like he's almost finished. Suddenly, his hair turned from dark black to golden yellow in a flash. His body was covered by a flashing layer of golden energy. He stopped powering up and relaxed. Everyone was shocked. Even those not on the battlefield could feel it.

Lisa and Kyle were having a cup of coffee pleasantly, until Kyle squeezed his cup so hard that it cracked.

"What's wrong?" Lisa asked, completely oblivious to what's happening.

"Such power..." he muttered. "I've never felt anything like it..."

Lisa noticed that he grew pale. He looked like he saw a ghost.

Even Margarita felt it, in her state.

Blaze seemed to be emitting a golden energy from his body.

Mason: "W-What the hell did you do?!"

Kane: "Could this be..."

Blaze: "Behold! This is the power of a **Super Sayan**. Quite impressive, isn't it?"

Mason: "So this is a super sayan? I've noticed you changed your hair, but how is that going to make you stronger?"

"Idiot! Do you even know what a super sayan is? It is the destiny and hope of all the strongest sayans! Not just any ordinary sayan can be a super sayan. Only those strong enough will become one. They must show strength far superior to others. It takes years of training to reach this level."

Jerrell: "So the rumors are true..."

Kane: "This is the highest level of power for sayans?"

Blaze: "Naturally. But of course, weaklings like you can't even dream of becoming one. Not just everyone can become a super sayan. Some people train their whole lives, and they never reach this level. You have to be exceptional like me to become one."

Kane: "Now I see why he's one of the most wanted amongst the Dark Empire."

"Hehehehe. Do you know in this state I am invincible?"

Mason: "No way! You're bluffing!"

"Oh, am I? If you are not convinced, why don't you try me for yourself?" Mason charged at him, and he disappeared in a flash. Blaze flew around the sky in circles.

"Can you keep up with me?"

All five fight Blaze at once, but he defended himself brilliantly. He jumped into the air and they followed him. They were no match for his skills. Not even Mason could land a punch on him.

Blaze charged up energy and shot a bunch of beams at them. They all tried to block them, but the beams were too overwhelming. Suddenly, Blaze fired a shockwave, and the winds produced were so strong, they were blown away. Frooom!

The ground blew up as they fell.

Blaze: "Is that all you've got? Pathetic! Is this the best of the Mascus Colony?" Just then, he sensed someone still active. "Hmm?"

Mason came out from the rubble, coughing and breathing hard. "What a devastating attack. Am I the only one left standing?"

"Wow. You're the only one who survived my attack...I am impressed. But, I must say, no matter how strong you think you are, you'll never beat me in this state."

They began fighting violently. It was the toughest fight Mason has ever fought, but the best one he ever had.

They hurt each other bad. Mason delivered a blow to Blaze's chin and he was down. Blaze slowly got up and hanged on to the rock for support. Blood was dripping from his mouth and his suit was torn, but he was smiling.

Mason had a few bruises, and some blood.

"Mason...we're counting on you..." Zelfire mumbled.

Will Mason be able to pull through this time?

39: The Super Sayan.

Contents

Mason and Blaze stared at each other for a while. The wind blew hard. Blaze was still flashing gold, and Mason was still in shock about the whole transformation thing.

"Mason, you've met your match! Ha ha ha ha hah!"

"So this is the power of a super sayan? I've never experienced anything like this. I've never seen anything like this."

"Seeing is believing. Before this fight even began, you had no chance of winning. Zero percent."

That offended the hero. "That's not for you to decide."

"Still in denial? I'm much faster and stronger than I was in my normal state. There is no way a regular sayan can beat me."

"Well," Mason said in the same confident tone, "I'm not a regular sayan."

They charged. Bam!

Blaze landed in front of Mason and delivered a hard blow to him. Blaze charged at him like a train and punched his chin. Mason fell down head first. He got back up and took his fighting position.

It was clear that Blaze is superior to him. He needed a strategy.

Mason charged energy to prepare his most powerful move, the Ultra Blast. Blaze watched him. He was confident he could take anything Mason throws at him.

Mason fired and kaboom! The energy went right through Blaze, but he was unharmed.

"No way!" he screamed in disbelief.

"Nice try. Blaze kicked him, then grabbed him and threw him onto a rock. Crush! Mason went right inside and the rock broke apart. Blaze charged energy quickly and shot a beam at him. It hit Mason and the pain was unbearable. Mason laid still, not moving a muscle.

"So much for the great Mason!"

Mason: "It's not over yet!" He got up and continued fighting. They continued to hurt each other, but Mason was wearing out, and Blaze still has a lot of energy left. Finally, Blaze gave Mason one final move.

"**Cosmic Blast!**" He fired a beam of golden energy, and Mason took it head on. Boom.

Blaze: "You lose, Mason."

Mason: "I-I can't believe it! I've l-lost! I'm sorry everybody..." He crawled onto a rock and tried to get up, but he was too weak to even breathe.

Blaze powered down and his hair turned back to normal. "Tsk tsk tsk. You spoiled little brat. You had easy opponents in the beginning, but you're dealing with the top of the universe! No matter how strong you are, there is always someone better than you...you have to accept defeat once in a while...Bye, it was nice knowing you."

He flew into the colony and 'borrowed' one of Jerrell's space pods. The sayan colonists were not able to stop him. The space pod took off and faded away into the sky.

Mason crawled on the ground. "Ugh..."

Margrit showed up and called his name.

"Mason!"

"Margrit? Is that you?" he said, thinking it's an illusion.

"Yes, I did. I'm here now. I sensed you were in danger."

"Margrit, I was afraid when you were in there. Afraid that you might never wake up."

"I was afraid I'll never get to see you again..."

"What are you doing out here? You need rest."

"No, I'm fine. Besides, look at yourself, you're a mess!"

I was defeated by a sayan named Blaze. I couldn't even defend the colony, I...lost..."

"Forget that! You did your best, you just couldn't help it."

"Margrit...I'm sorry about before..."

"No, no, forget it. As long as you remember who I am..." She burst into tears.

"That's all that matters."

He was speechless.

"Let's just forget about what happened. It wasn't your fault. Let's pretend that never happened."

"Okay..."

They embraced.

So, everyone went back into the colony to treat their injuries. Most of them were minor, except for Mason's. He was in the worst condition of all.

Zelfire explained the situation of the crystals once again for Margarita's sake. Their situation was so desperate they had no time to congratulate Margrit's revival. This time the entire universe was at stake.

Margrit: "So, all we have to do is get the crystals before him and boom, Dark Spectre is history."

Zelfire: "Well, it's not that simple. He's already ahead of us, and besides, Mason is in critical condition. He can't help us."

Mason was sitting by the counter by himself. He sighed at what Zelfire said and let out a deep breath.

Margrit walked over to him. "What's wrong?"

"I've been defeated. By someone stronger than me..."

"Ohhh...Mason..."

"I'm totally useless now! Sorry, but I can't help you."

"No, you're not useless at all! You've done way too much for us..."

"I was no match for Blaze. What can I do?"

"We'll figure out something. We've survived so far, haven't we? Hey, who taught us that we must never lose hope? Did you forget already?" she said.

"But..."

"We can't win all battles. Even I admit that."

He sighed. "I've lost...I'm worthless!"

"No!" She crouched in front of him and touched his face.

He looked into her eyes.

"Not at all. You saved us all many times! And you were brilliant. As far as I'm concerned, you're the strongest sayan in the universe!" She exaggerated that, but he seemed to be a bit convinced. She took her hand and put it gently on his wrist.

"Really?" he asked.

"Yes." she said.

Jerrell: "That's right. As a sayan, your abilities are pretty impressive. You lasted the longest in the fight with Blaze."

Zelfire: "Yeah! You can find some way to defeat Blaze! He was just lucky this time."

Their undying faith in him seemed to have moved him. Suddenly, he was full of confidence, back to his usual self. Once Mason has snapped out of the depressed state, the heroes discussed the current situation.

Margrit got up and said: "Don't worry Mason. Once you heal, you can come to join us on the Guardian Planet."

Jerrell: "I think we better go as soon as possible. Like Zelfire said, Dark Spectre already knows about these crystals, and if the legend is true, then he must be stopped from gaining them at all costs."

Kane: "I don't get it. Dark already has all of the power he needs. Why does he need them?"

Jerrell: "No, he **wants** them. He has a greed for power that surpasses even all of us. Not only that, but he probably knows whoever gains them can revolt against him and his Empire."

Zelfire: "So, this mission is going to be our most dangerous one ever..."

Jerrell: "Yes, and I bid good luck to all of us."

Kane: "So guys, this is it? The ultimate showdown..."

Jerrell: "We have sacrificed everything for this one golden opportunity to happen. Countless people have died under his hands...and it must end now."

Piper: "You...don't have to do this."

Margrit: "We might not succeed...but I'd rather die trying than wait any longer. I have had enough of this torture."

Mason: "Good luck to all of you."

Jerrell and Kane were already inside one of the pods, ready to launch at any moment. Zelfire was in another pod, and his pod-partner would be Margarita. Piper, who was too weak and scared, decided to stay with Lisa and Mason.

There was no more time to waste. They had to go now or never. Margarita waved goodbye as she stepped into the pod.

Mason: "Wait...don't go. Stay here with me. When I get back to normal, we can go together."

Margrit: "Ohhh honey...you know I have to go now. I want to stay with you but I have something more important to do."

Mason: "Promise me you'll stay alive until I come join you."

"It's a deal."

She kissed his lips and they hugged.

"C'mon Margrit! Let's go!" Jerrell screamed against the engine sound.

"Bye." Margrit said.

"Goodbye."

She went inside.

The pods launched. ZOOM!

(Good luck, Margrit. Stay alive.) he thought as the pods disappeared into the sky.

He remembered half a year ago when he was looking at the sky as long as he was now. Staring at the emptiness, in deep thought.

How times have changed. He was watching an alien space ship arrive on earth, the event that changed everything. Now he was on Mascus, watching the pods leave. Things have changed a lot since then. A whole lot. He was a different person back then, and at that time he never thought he would be faced with a crisis so great that not even his power can save him. Whatever happened has happened, and there's no going back now.

There's absolutely no turning back. I'm not a normal person anymore. I'm a sayan. A sayan rebel. A rebel fighting against a whole empire.

40: The Guardian Planet.

Contents

The pods headed into outer space. From the small window on the side of the space pods, the planet Mascus could still be seen. They traveled further and further away from the colony.

Margrit was no longer wearing that combat suit, but her combat uniform instead. She felt much more comfortable out of that heavy piece of junk. Her uniform was much lighter and allowed her to move about freely, especially in the air. It consisted of tights, knee pads, shoulder pads, and a chest plate.

Kane, however, followed the rules even more strictly than Margrit. Since his return from earth, he had never been seen without the combat suit.

Suddenly, the red light flashed on the control panel. "What's that?" Zelfire asked in alarm.

"Code red."

"What does that mean?" At least he knew red wasn't good.

Margrit: "It means we're under attack!! Star Fighters!"

Zell: "They obviously don't want us to get to Guardian."

Margrit: "Well, I'm not going down that easily!"

Not far from the pods, five Star Fighters approached at high speeds and the pilots were ordered to kill. They began shooting at the pods. Margrit's and Kane's pod shot back at them. Zap! Zap! Zap! Two of the ships blew up, thanks to Margrit's skills. Now, only three were left. One of them flew fast at the pod, Margrit shot it and BOOM!

Zelfire: "That was close..."

Margrit: "Three down, two to go!"

The ships chased after Kane's pod and shot it. The lasers damage the pod severely and it lost control. Margrit's pod quickly flew to their rescue. She shot both of the enemies and they blow up.

Margrit: "The enemy is gone...Kane, what's the status of your space pod?"

[Kane responded on the intercom. The picture on the screen was static and fuzzy., even though the pods were very close. "Although its badly damaged, it can still fly. But our gas tank is destroyed! We don't have much fuel left. It can't go to Guardian. We have to go back to the colony."]

Jerrell: "What?! But...what a bummer...we made it all the way here and we have to go back."

Zelfire: "Damn! I can't believe this! Just the two of us can't beat Dark Spectre alone!"

Margrit: "Don't worry about that! If you're too afraid, then you can hide some where and I'll do everything!"

Zelfire: "No way! I can handle it!"

Kane: "We'll come back as soon as the repairs are fixed."

Margrit: "See ya."

Jerrell: "Good luck, sis."

So Kane's ship went back to planet Mascus, while Margrit's ship continued to Guardian.

Margrit's pod finally reached Guardian Planet three hours later. Their long, tedious journey could be summarized according to Margrit in one word: torture. That had been the longest three hours she had in her life.

She and Zelfire had a long conversation, but they ended up talking about Mason. She wished Mason could have been there. Yeah, they had different views on things, but they could understand each other.

Zelfire: "Look! We're there!"

Margrit: "Finally."

The pod entered the atmosphere smoothly. She landed the pod down on the ground. The door opened and they step out. The atmosphere was very different from earth or Mascus. Although there were suns, they were distant stars and the sky was pitch black. The whole planet was made up of deserts and mountains, nothing else. The desert sand was dark red, and there were mild winds.

Margrit: "What a creepy place."

"This place reminds me of a nightmare I had once...it's like hell..."

"It's so dark...and lonely..."

"Yep, it is dark."

"What a crappy planet this is, don't you think so?"

"What a beautiful planet this is, don't you think so, my fellow people?"

Villager: "What do you want?"

"We have come for the crystal." Dark Spectre answered in his deep voice.

Dark and his gang were inside a village, knowing that a crystal was here some where. Their scouters had directed them to this pathetic excuse of a village. The villagers wore nothing but worn out clothing and some had no shoes. Their houses were primitively wood and hay.

Standing before Dark's soldiers were the leader of the village, the villagers and their children. The children grasped their parent's leg, hiding behind them, shaking in fear.

Leader: "The crystal? What crystal?"

"Don't play dumb with me! I know one of the seven Anubis Crystals is in here somewhere!" the tyrant said angrily.

D. Soldier: "Yeah, you better not anger our Lord, or else you'll regret it."

Villager: "Leave now! You're not welcome here!"

Dark: "Did you hear that, boys? We're not welcome here! Ooo, I'm soooo scared!"

All his soldiers laughed out loud.

Dark: "Now seriously, we'll leave once you hand over the crystal."

Child: "Daddy, I'm scared!"

Villager: "Don't worry! It'll be alright. Just get inside the house and do not come out!"

So all the children ran into their homes.

Dark: "Well? What is your answer? My patience is getting thin!"

Leader: "Never!"

He attacked Dark's soldiers, but they beat him up. He fell on the ground and the soldiers continued beating him.

Villager: "Stop! Can't you see he can't fight back?!"

D. Soldier: "We'll let him go once you give it to us."

Villager: "If I give it to you, will you promise to leave us and never come back?"

Kano: "Don't worry. We will. We always keep our word, isn't that right Lord Dark?"

Villager: "Fine, you can have it."

Leader: "Nooooo! D-Don't d-do it..."

The villager went inside his house and came out with the crystal.

Dark: "Magnificent! If only you've done that sooner, a lot less people would get hurt."

The villager noticed the other crystals the soldiers were holding. "You already have three of them? What are you, making a collection?"

Kano: "Just shut up and hand it over!"

He handed the crystal to one of the soldiers, who gave it to Dark. Dark examined it and assured it's the real thing.

Dark: "Good. Kano, you know what to do."

Kano: "I sure do!"

He walked over to the injured leader and took out his round sword.

Villager: "NOOOO!!!"

Kano stabbed him and licked the blood from his sword.

Villager: "Why? I did everything you told me..."

Dark: "Yes you did. And as a reward, you will receive a quick and painless death."

Villager: "I trusted you! You promised to leave once I give it to you!"

Dark: "Guess what, I lied. Ha ha ha ha ha!"

The villager was really angry now. No, not just angry. Outraged.

He just couldn't take it anymore. He attacked Kano, but he was no match for the fearsome space pirate. Kano stabbed him and he died.

Dark and his gang flew away with the crystals.

Dark: "Where's our next destination?"

Kano checked his scouter, "Hmmm, the next one is in the village ten miles from here."

Meanwhile, Margrit checked her scouter and made a discovery.

Zelfire: "What is it?"

Margrit: "Hmmm, looks like there's a crystal just ahead, not far from here. Hold on, there's more! So many energy levels!"

Zelfire: "Is it Dark Spectre?"

Margrit: "Yes, and his foot soldiers. I think it is...I've never seen a power level as high as this before, not even close to it! They're moving!"

Zelfire: "Where?"

Margrit: "Down south. There's four more very high energies, it must be the crystals!"

"They have four already?!"

"Looks like he's one step ahead of us...or should I say four steps ahead of us..."

With Jerrell and Kane out of the picture, do Zelfire and Margarita stand a chance on this scavenger hunt?

41: The Hunt Continues.

Contents

Dark continued his search for the fifth crystal, leading his gang into a small, poverty-filled village in the middle of the Baron desert. They were receiving a most unfriendly welcome by the villagers.

As they landed, the villagers looked at them with fear and hatred. They rarely have any visitors, and many of their experiences with outsiders weren't good. The villagers were generally a peaceful group. They will try to talk things out, with fighting as a last reserve.

Villager #1: "Outsiders. What do they want?"

Villager #2: "What'ever it is, it won't be pleasant."

Dark: "Greetings, good people of Guardian, I want to speak to your leader."

Leader: "What do you ask of, stranger?"

Dark: "I am Dark Spectre, the leader of the Dark Empire. I will make this clear to you, simple-minded human, you do as I say or you will perish."

Leader: "We are a peaceful village and we have remained that way for many centuries. We do not desire to start a fight."

Dark: "Good. Then hand me the crystal."

Leader: "You want the sacred crystal? What you be doing wiv it?"

Dark: "I don't think that's any of your concern, human."

Kano: "Yeah, just give to us, if you don't want any trouble."

Leader: "But...the crystal has been in our family for many generations, and now with one word you want us to give to you?"

Dark made a fist. "Listen, just do it! Stop wasting my time!"

D. Soldier: "You better not get him angry! Or else this entire village will suffer the same fate as the last one!"

Villager#2: "What do you mean?"

Villager#3: "You didn't hurt 'em, did you?"

Dark: "They didn't even stand a chance! It's a shame, it was a nice village."

Kano: "We burned the whole place down!"

Villager#1: "No! You murdered them off?!"

Villager#4: "Monsters!...You merciless killers! You would kill even old people and children just to get what you desire?"

Dark: "Well, I was going to let them go, but they resisted, so I had to destroy them all. And the same will happen to your village if you don't hand over that crystal now!"

Villager#3: "No! We will never hand them over! They have been in my family for many generations!"

Villager#2: "That is correct."

One of the villagers ignored his fears and went straight for Dark. "Die!" he screamed.

Dark: "You fool!" Dark pointed his finger at him and shot an energy laser that went through his heart. All of a sudden the villager stopped moving. He felt like his blood has stopped circulating through his body, and death will occur at any moment. Dark watched him eagerly, waiting for him to die, while the blood was dripping from his chest.

Villager#3: "Roark! Noooo!"

His legs started to tremble and his body was shaking. He fell down and lay there still, not moving a muscle. With his last breath, he blurred out his last words: "You will never...get away w-with this, e-evil will be destroyed...g-goodbye, my friend..."

Villager#3: "Roark! Roark!"

Villager#4: "You murderers!"

Dark: "Looks like they are unwilling to cooperate with us. Kano, why don't you show them how good you are at convincing?"

Kano: "Yeah, they need to be convinced..."

Villager#3: "Stay back! Stay back!"

While Margrit and Zelfire were flying towards the village, they heard an explosion. BOOM!

Margrit: "What was that?"

Zelfire: "It's the village! We gotta hurry up!"

They flew faster than their normal speed, using more energy than they could spare.

Now, the whole village was on fire, the houses were burning down. Everywhere it was shades of red and yellow, like an inferno.

D. Soldier #2: "Lord Dark, our troops have searched every single square of this village, but there is no sign of the crystal."

Dark: "Impossible. The scouter said it would be here..."

D. Soldier #2: "Maybe someone escaped with it."

Dark: "That might be true...everyone! Let's get out of this place. I'm getting hot." So he led his gang out of the village.

Not long later, the heroes have finally found the village, or what's left of it. Margrit and Zelfire looked around, disgusted by what they saw.

Margrit: "Oh my...the whole place is burnt down...what a horrible thing to do!"

Zelfire: "Bodies!"

"Women and children...they didn't let anybody live."

"Monsters! I'll make them suffer!!!"

"Uhhh..." moaned a voice from not so far away.

They quickly found the source of the sound. It was a moving body.

"He's still alive!"

Zelfire: "Not for long. We gotta do something."

Villager #4: "The...the tyrants, they did this! Monsters...they destroyed the whole village!"

Margrit: "Don't speak. Save your energy."

"Forget about me...I'm not gonna make it...listen, they didn't get the crystal..."

Zelfire: "Then where is it?"

The wounded villager coughed out blood. "It's, it's in possession of an old man...he left the village before they attacked...uhhhhh..."

Zelfire: "Hang on!"

He closed his eyes and left this world forever.

"Noooo! This shouldn't happen! These innocent villagers, what they do to deserve this?" Zelfire screamed angrily.

"Calm down Zelfire! I know you're angry, but I've seen worse. In a war, you mustn't grieve over the loss of strangers. The battlefield is cruel and unfair...it's the way it is..."

Zelfire turned to her. "How could you say that? We can't just ignore what happened to them!"

"Then what can we do about?! Believe me, if I had the power to fight Dark, I would've done it a long time ago, but he's just too powerful."

"I won't let them die in vain! You hear me, Dark?"

Meanwhile, back at the colony, a sayan space pod lifted off into space heading for Guardian.

Jerrell: "Hey! The pod's not fully repaired yet!!"

Kane: "It went off!"

Piper: "This is not good..."

Jerrell: "Wait, if you two are here, then who's flying the pod?... Mason!"

Kane: "That fool! He isn't fully healed yet!"

Piper: "I got a feeling this would happen. This is the Mason I know..."

(Hang on guys, I'll be joining you soon. Just stay alive.)

Jerrell contacted Mason via the communication screen. "Mason! Are you out of your mind? Head back now!"

Mason removed the bandages from his body. "I know you're worried about me, but don't be. I'm not that badly injured. I'll be just fine."

Kane: "Fool! You could get killed!"

Mason: "I know you want me to go back, but it's too late now. Margrit and Zelfire need me! I'm sorry..." The screen shut off.

Jerrell: "He canceled communication. He blocked us."

Kane sighed.

Lisa: "There he goes..."

Blaze: "So, Dark has five of them already. He's way ahead of me. If only I can get my hands on one of those crystals, Dark will never get what he wants! Let's see, where should I start?"

Meanwhile, in Dark's spaceship, the **Wrath**, the henchmen waited for Dark's orders in their quarters.

Kerell walked into the viewing room.

Dark did not have to turn around to see who it was. "Kerell, we have found quite a few pests here on Guardian. Blaze and the two of the colonists have the same goal as me, and that can be a nuisance. Get rid of those two weaklings, understand?"

"Yes, Lord Dark." he said.

42: Just In Time.

Contents

"I have an assignment for you, Kerrell." said Dark Spectre.

"Yes, sire?"

"Kerell, we have found quite a few pests here on Guardian. Blaze and the two of the colonists have the same goal as me, and that can be a nuisance. Get rid of those two weaklings, understand?"

"Yes, Lord Dark." he said.

So, Kerell was entrusted with the mission of eliminating the colony sayans, while Dark and his gang continued his crystal hunt.

While they were flying, Margrit and Zelfire ran into Kerell. What bad luck for them.

Margrit: "Kerell? What are you doing here?"

Kerell: "Margarita, it's good to see you again."

Margrit: "Shut up, you creep! What do you want now? Did Dark Spectre order you to kill us?"

Kerell: "Bingo! So you see, I have no choice but to kill you. Sorry, but it's nothing personal. But if you are nice to me, I might give you a painless death."

Margrit: "Dream on!"

Zelfire: "Dark Spectre ordered you alone to kill us? What a stupid order. And I feel bad for the person who's stupidly following his orders. There's two of us and one of you. What can you do?"

Kerell grunted. "Quiet, idiot. A dead sayan shouldn't be speaking."

"I'm not a sayan. I'm a human."

"So you're one of the humans from earth? Is the colony that weak and desperate? They need to recruit humans now? Ha ha ha ha."

Margrit's fist tightened. "Save it, Kerell."

Kerell: "Ah, you're never into small talk, are you? You never change, Margrit."

"It's Margarita to you!!"

She flew at him with full speed. Zelfire followed suit.

Margrit: "Zelfire, stay put! I'll take care of this one."

When she got close enough, she attacked. Then they landed on the ground and fought.

Zelfire just stood there watching them. "Looks like Margarita wants to fight him by herself, without any help from me."

"You're through." Kerell said.

Pow! Wham! Crack! They kept on hitting in the air. Doosh doosh doosh. Kerell charged and punched, Margrit dodged, and maneuvered behind him, and kicked, and he blocked with his arm. Doosh. Then he kicked her in the stomach, knocking her to the ground. Margrit got up slowly, coughing. Kerell, in the air, fired a bright beam and hit the ground right in front of her. It exploded right in her face and she was knocked away. She was bleeding by the mouth.

Zelfire joined in to help Margrit. "Don't hurt her!"

"So you want to die too?" He fired a beam and Zelfire jumped over it, and flew forward. Kerell blocked his kick, and counter-kicked Zelfire away. Doosh. "Damn human. You piece of trash."

Zell got up and breathed hard, with a hand over his wound. "You're one of Margarita's old enemies, aren't ya? You betrayed the colony. You're the real piece of trash."

Kerell got more annoyed. "How dare you...say that to me? Who do you think you are?" He gathered energy.

Margrit: "No, Kerell!"

Zelfire: "Shit..."

Kaboom!

Meanwhile, in outer space, a space pod was flying towards Guardian. Mason was inside, training harder than ever. (Wow, I sense so many different power forces on that planet. I've got a feeling something big is about to happen. Guys, hang on. I'm coming to save you!)

Kaboom! Zelfire was thrown into the air, and crashed on his back. Wham.

Margrit charged wildly and let out a fury of punches. She was wearing out, as she expelled a lot of energy, while Kerell kept his movements to a minimum. Margrit used her best moves, but he was able to intercept all of them.

Margrit made one more shot, she charged at him head on, jumped, and got ready to make a kick, then Kerell, with precise timing, jumped up towards her and kicked her before she could. She fell down on her back, then got up and tried again. This time, Kerell took out a laser gun, aimed and shot her leg. Although she was fast, she was not fast enough for a laser trigger. Blood dripped from her wound.

"Ugh! The pain!"

Kerell: "Oh, poor Margrit, did I hurt you? You should be more careful. Ha ha ha ha ha!"

"Kerell, you're using weapons like this in fighting. That's low even for you!"

"No one said I can't do that. Winning is the most important thing, and I'll do anything to win."

"And that is why you're Dark Spectre's dog!"

"Silence!" He fired again, she tried to dodge, but she's a bit too slow, it hit her arm, and hurt even more than her leg. He shot again and again, and she screamed after every shot hits her body. He stopped when she fell on her knees, not able to get up. He blew out the smoke from his gun, and held his aim at Margrit.

Zelfire: "Stop it! Can't you see she can't defend herself?"

"Quiet, human." He fired at Zelfire's chest. Bang.

Margrit squeezed her wounds tightly to prevent any more blood from leaving her body. Sweat dripped down of her head and she was breathing hard. Kerell enjoyed watching her suffer.

Kerell: "Look at yourself. Pathetic. If only you had joined me..."

"I'll...never join you."

Suddenly, she got up as if she wasn't hurt at all, ran at Kerell and kicked the gun out of his hand. Kerell was surprised, having no idea she could do this with her injuries. He watched the gun spin in the air, and she kicked his face and left a mark. Then the gun fell on the ground making a loud cling against the quiet environment.

Kerell: "Why you! My face!"

Margrit: "Oh, poor Kerell, did I bruise your face?!"

Kerell: "Where did you get all this power? You're injured! You're supposed to be helpless!"

They ran into each other and hit on the elbows, then jumped back. He formed an energy ball and threw it at her. She jumped up, avoiding it. He jumped even faster than her and knocked her onto the ground. Then he motioned his hands and the ball went backwards, then up, then straight down right in front of her. Margrit blocked, but she was close to the impact. Boom!

"Hahahaha! You have incredible skills, but you're no match for me!"

He charged up energy and prepared his 'farewell gift' to her. Just before he fired, a bright star fell down not far from them, and went kaboom.

"What was that?" he asked in surprise.

At the landing site, the door on the pod opened, and a familiar figure stepped out. "So this is the Guardian Planet. It's a gloomy place." (I sense something...it's Margrit and Zelfire! They're in trouble.)

He flew in their direction at ultra-high speed, and hit Kerell, just before he fired at Margrit. Kerell was thrown backwards, scraping against the ground.

[Split screen - 2] - [Margrit, Zelfire].

Kerell: "Uhh...you're Mason!"

Mason: "That's right. I take it you know me?"

"Heh, more than you think. But stay out of my way, just let me kill those two first, then I'll deal with you."

"Sure, you can kill those two, over my dead body." Mason said, pointing at himself.

Kerell chuckled. "As you wish."

"Today's your unlucky day," Mason said, smiling. "I've heard about you. And I'm not as forgiving as Jerrell."

"Idiot! I should've killed you when I had the chance. Then you wouldn't be in my way right now, today."

"What do you mean?"

"Starburst and Kori wanted you dead. But I told them to spare you. I had them brainwash you and turn you against your colony, this way, at least you can still live. You should've stayed at your miserable colony, you damn sayan."

Mason's eyes widened and his fists got angry. "So you were responsible for my brainwashing...it was your doing."

They started fighting aggressively. Neither wanted to waste any time.

Kerell jumped into the air and fired an energy wave. "**Aero Shockwave!**"

Mason: "Energy Bomb!"

The bomb was more concentrated than Kerell's wave, and it hit him far away into the sky, and disappeared.

They don't know for sure if he's dead, but they're sure he was not a threat anymore. "You did it, man! You're awesome!" Zelfire yelled happily.

Mason walked towards Margrit. Although they were just separated for just two days, all this danger made it seemed like a month to them. It was a joyful reunion of two lovers.

Margrit gasped. "Mason...but you're injured! What are you doing here?"

"Forget that...those little scratches can't stop me from coming here. Look at yourself, you're a mess."

"Mason." She smiled and he smiled back. He helped her up, then helped Zelfire stand up. Margrit and Zelfire leaned against the rocks to maintain their balance. Mason was ready for some crystal hunting.

"So, what's the situation?"

Margrit: "It's worse than we thought...Dark has already gathered five of the crystals. And we have zilch."

Zelfire: "To make it worse, he has destroyed many villages."

Mason: "He's got five, so let's go get the other two!"

Margrit: "Ummm, Mason, you see...it's not that simple...my scouter broke and we can't find anything without it."

Mason was shocked and made a face like he's seen a ghost. He sat down on the bare ground, crossed his legs, and put his head on his fist, getting into his thinking position. "So, Dark has five, Blaze is here, and probably has gotten one by now, and we don't have a thing."

Zelfire: "That's right. Oh yeah, there was a villager who said an old man has one of the crystals. But we don't know where he is."

"This is really bad...but we can't give up yet...let's go look for that old man to get the crystal. And once we have one, we can be sure those guys can't get all seven. We'll go back to your ship to rest and recharge, then we'll be back in action."

"Sounds like a good idea." Margrit said. It was a good plan, but heck, at that moment any idea from Mason sounded good.

43: Reunion! Secret Of The Past.

Contents

Mason, Margrit and Zelfire started the search for the old man, but they might as well be looking for a needle in a hundred haystacks. They didn't have the slightest clue where he could be, but they have to find him before Dark does.

Suddenly, Mason sensed something, something close by, very close. Zelfire sensed it too, but he couldn't be certain what it could be.

"I sense something! It's probably him..." They searched around, and looked down at the ground. They saw an old man standing there, as if he was waiting for them. They jumped down from the cliff and confronted him.

Old man: "Well, I have been expecting you. I knew you would show up."

"How would you know we would be here?" Margrit asked.

"You look familiar...hey, you're that old man from Mascus!" Zelfire said.

Mason: "You mean..."

Zelfire: "He was the one who told me about the legend of the crystals."

Margrit: "Really? Then what are you doing here?"

Old man: "Why, I come in to join the fun. I am looking for the crystals too. Oh, looky here, I have one of them."

Zelfire: "You're that guy the villager talked about...so you took it."

Old man: "Yes, but not by force, like Dark Spectre. Here, you can have it." He showed them the sixth crystal.

They looked deep into it, mesmerized by its beauty and mysterious power. They could see their reflections on the shining glass. Mason didn't know why, but he felt that it somehow protected him and his friends from harm, like a invisible guardian watching over them.

Mason: "You're gonna give it to us, just like that?"

Old man: "I know it may be weird, but I know who you are. I, too, despise Dark Spectre. That is why I am helping you now."

Zelfire: "Thank you for everything. But I just I have to know, who are you?"

Mason: "Yeah, tell us."

Zelfire: "We're gonna find out one way or another. Why are you hiding your identity from us?"

Margrit: "We just want to know..."

Old man: "Ahem, you really want to know, my children?"

Mason: "Children? I'm not a child."

Old man: "Mason, do you remember Burdok, your father? He revealed his identity, but look at what happened to him."

Mason: "How do you know so much about us?"

Old man: "I know more than you think."

Zelfire: "You still didn't answer my question."

Old man: "Ah, blunt as usual, Zelfire. Ohhh, Zelfire, you have grown so much..."

He put his hand on Zelfire's face. Suddenly, Zelfire felt as if he knew the beggar, as if he was someone close to him, very close. "Huh?"

Old man: "So, how's Piper doing?"

Zelfire: "You know about Piper?"

Mason: "W-What?" Mason and Zelfire flashed back to a time when they were little, when the beggar was there...

Mason: "**Master Lang?**"

Zelfire: "Father?"

Margrit: "Huh? What?"

Lang: "Yes, so you finally remembered...you two have changed so much, you have grown much stronger than before."

Mason: "Master, but why? Why did you hide it from us all this time?"

Lang: "I told you before, revealing my identity would endanger me. Dark Spectre is on his way to get the last crystal, so you must get it before him. The last one is located in the ancient coliseum north of here, about fourteen miles away."

Zelfire: "But father..."

"But beware; it is not easy to get it. The coliseum is guarded by two giant guardians. Do not underestimate them. If you do, you will certainly have a hard time."

Zelfire: "But where have you been all this time? You disappeared after training us."

Lang: "I'm sorry, it must have been painful for you, but I had some important matters."

"Master Lang..."

Margrit: "What a legacy...this beggar was your master? Then he must be really strong."

"I think I should tell you this, Mason Spade. I knew from the beginning that you were a sayan, a descendent of the Burdok family."

Mason: "What?"

"I predicted that one day you would fight against the ultimate evil of the universe--"

"Dark Spectre." Margrit finished for him.

"That was why I trained you. I taught you everything I know. Everything about the sixth sense.

Mason: "You knew my secret all along, but why didn't you tell me?"

"I just couldn't bear to tell you. You were young back then. If I told you it would be too much on you...you were just a child."

Zelfire: "Father..."

Lang: "Hurry, take this crystal." Suddenly, from out of nowhere, an energy beam hit the ground close to Master Lang and knocked off all four of them. Lang was hurt the most severe, since he was closest to the explosion. Smoke and dust covered them, and hid the crystal that was dropped.

Mason: "The crystal!"

Blaze: "Ha ha ha ha ha ha! You were so careless, you fools!"

Zelfire: "Blaze? But how come I didn't sense him? How could I miss such a powerful ki?" He began to recover from the fall. All he saw around him was a cloud of smoke blocking his vision.

Outside of the smoke, Lang was severely injured, but he ignored his pain and prepared to fight Blaze. Blaze laughed, mocking the old man's pain. "Well, we meet again beggar! This time you won't get away! Your time has come old man!"

Lang: "You underestimate me, young one. True power comes not from age, but from the heart."

Blaze: "I don't need a lecture now, beggar!" He attacked Lang viciously and ruthlessness, not caring that he was old. Lang's pain got more and worse through every hit.

Zelfire: "Master Lang! No!" He ran at Blaze, ready to fight to the finish. Blaze saw him running from the corner of his eye. He waited until Zelfire got close enough and kicked him in the guts. Zelfire was knocked off the ground and bounced on the

ground like a ball. The kick was so powerful that it knocked Zelfire far away from him, leaving him paralyzed completely.

Blaze: "Fool."

Lang: "Stop this! This is our fight!" All of a sudden, Master Lang went all karate and attacked Blaze. Lang's lightning punches were fast that it looked like there were ten arms hitting Blaze at the same time. Blaze blocked and dodged and retaliated, but he couldn't keep it up for long. They jumped away from each other at a certain distance suitable for them. Master Lang charged up all the energy from his body and concentrated it between his palms.

Blaze: "What is that?!"

Mason began to regain consciousness, and the first thing he saw was Master Lang forming a large, dark, yet bright energy ball.

Zelfire: "W-What is it?" When it was big enough, Lang shot the energy at Blaze and created an explosion unlike any other.

Mason: "What a move! I've never seen anything like it!" As the smoke faded away, Blaze was standing there, almost unharmed.

Zelfire: "How can this be..."

Lang: "My most powerful move...the **Death Star**...it failed..."

"Ouch." Blaze said sarcastically. "You can't expect it to hit me if I'm faster than it."

Lang: "So I was destined to lose...now I understand..."

Zelfire: "Master Lang! No!"

Blaze made his final move for the injured beggar. He fired the **Cosmic Blast** and hit Master Lang. Smoke was burning from his body, like a barbecue.

Lang: "G-Goodbye my chil-dren..."

Margrit: "No!"

Zelfire: "No!"

He could no longer stand up not even a second more. He fell on the ground and at that moment, it seemed like all hope was lost.

Zelfire walked over to the body, hoping he was still alive, but he wasn't. He died the second he hit the ground. Zelfire kneeled before the body of what once was his father and master. "Master Lang, father...say some thing! Don't leave me!"

Mason: "Murderer!"

Margrit: "The crystal!" She quickly picked up the unguarded crystal and told Mason to run away.

Blaze: "Looks like he's done. Oh, Zelfire, don't look so gloom. He's gonna die anyway sooner or later. You can consider this a favor. I put that old man out of his misery!"

"SHUT UP!" Zelfire was really pissed now, and lost all control of his conscience. Without a thought, he charged at Blaze again, but the same thing happened. Blaze kicked him in the guts, then he jumped at Margrit and grabbed her crystal.

Margrit: "Hey, give it back!"

"Finders keepers!" He sent a wave of energy that knocked her and Mason on the ground hard. Blaze flew away with the crystal in his palms, and laughed at their loss.

"So long suckers! Ha ha ha ha ha! Better luck next time!" As Blaze left, he said to himself proudly, "That was easier than I thought! That old man's move was powerful, but he couldn't extent it to its full power, as strong as he was, he's out of shape."

Zelfire: "Father...I'll avenge you, I promise!"

Mason: "Blaze! You monster!"

Margrit: "He took our crystal...now we have nothing..."

Back at the colony, Piper awaited at the balcony, letting the wind strike his face. He suddenly felt something strange. Shock and sadness went over him. "M-Master ...Lang, Master Lang...no...how could you leave us...without saying goodbye?"

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