

THE POWER FORCE

The Other Dimension

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

Contents

- 1: Kinesis Attacks!
- 2: The Dark Society.
- 3: Kinesis KO'd.
- 4: A New Enemy.
- 5: Rose vs. Emerald.
- 6: Rose: Friend or Foe?
- 7: Mismatch.
- 8: The Whole Story.
- 9: A Misunderstanding.
- 10: A Cold Storm.
- 11: A New Plan.
- 12: Ace and Marianna.
- 13: Spirit World.
- 14: Berserk.
- 15: Train Hard.
- 16: Hearts Unite.
- 17: Clear Minds.

Summary

1: Kinesis Attacks!

Contents

It has been 14 years since Vegeta was killed, and the Spade brothers have been through so much in the years afterwards. Their run ins with Vegeta and Destiny, at the time were so scary and devastating, were mere stepping stones for them as warriors. After all, a tough life builds a tough warrior. After finishing four painful years of high school, they started to live on their own.

A new adventure awaits our heroes. And this time, it will be **their own** adventure. Their parents won't be around to help them this time. They may be adults now, but still inexperienced. Are they up to the challenge?

Tyson finally has his own house. A house where he can do whatever he wants, and set his own rules. He actually found it as a kid. One time, when he was extremely unhappy and ran away from home, he wandered about in the Meridian Forest, and found the house. It was good, since he stayed there overnight. And ever since then, every time he feels down, he goes to this abandoned house to feel better. And one day, he finally moved out.

Tyson, Nebula and Zelfire were sitting down on a table, waiting for their meal.

"Breakfast is ready!" said Lisa.

"Thank goodness. I'm starving!" said Nebula hungrily.

"It smells real good, Lisa." Tyson complimented.

"Thanks." She put the plates on the table and they ate enjoyably.

"Mmmm...these pancakes are delicious." said Zelfire.

They continued with their breakfast, not knowing someone was watching them not far away...

A mysterious figure was standing on a tree branch, keeping an eye on Tyson's house. He was dressed in a sayan suit.

Numbers appeared on his scouter. De de de de..."Hmmm, it seems that there are very high energy levels in that house... three of them! It is the people. They must be no ordinary people. I haven't seen any human with that high of an energy level. And this means more energy for **Vega**! Once I zap their energy, the energy crystal will be full! Vega will be very proud of me." He disappeared.

"Thanks for the meal. I gotta get going now." Nebula said gracefully to Lisa.

"Bye, see ya!" said Lisa.

"Bye." said Tyson.

Nebula left the house.

Like his brother, Nebula has his own house as well. Somewhere within the same forest. At some point, he decided not to bunk in with Tyson, knowing how they "get along" when they shared a room back at their folk's place.

As he walked into the forest, he sensed something was wrong. Some one was following him. "Alright, I know you're there! Show yourself now! Well... I'm waiting."

Suddenly, figures dropped from the trees. It was **Kinesis**, member of the **Big Four**, and his soldiers, who were all in gray uniforms. They wore gray one piece suits, and had masks to cover their faces.

"I must say, I'm impressed. You can tell that someone is watching you without a scouter. You can sense us." Kinesis said. But what he said was far from a compliment. Shorter than average, and a little balding, he's been one of Vega's most loyal servants. He was equipped with a sayan suit, and a claw on his right hand, with a red scouter.

Nebula: "And just who the heck are you?"

"I though you'd ask me that. But it doesn't matter who I am. It's what I want."

"So, what exactly do you want?"

"Your life energy!"

"My what?! Look, I'm not sure what that is, but you ain't getting it from me!" Neb answered.

"Have it your way. Get him, boys."

The soldiers attacked Nebula. He took out his sword and defended himself, but there were too many of them.

"Man, these guys are tough!"

Kinesis: "You think they're tough? Wait till you fight me!"

Nebula and Kinesis faced off, hitting each other with loud whams.

Then Zelfire dropped in. "Hey Nebula, I thought we were pals. How could you leave me outta this exciting fight?"

Nebula: "Don't worry, you made it just in time."

"Fools! Your energy is mine!" Kinesis yelled. He rolled up his sleeve, revealing a crystal and a device attached to his arm. The crystal let off two rays, and they zapped Nebula and Zelfire! Their bodies were flashing as the rays continued to zap them.

"AAAAAHHHHH!" they screamed.

Kinesis: "Hahahaha! Your energy is mine!"

Nebula: "He's zapping our energy! I'm feeling weaker and weaker..."

Zelfire: "I can barely stand up! We've got to... s-s-stop h-h-him!"

Kinesis: "All resistance is futile!" The crystal was taking their energy bit by bit, and they're growing weaker by the second.

Nebula and Zelfire struggled, but it was no use. As the crystal stopped zapping them, they fell on the ground unconscious.

"Looks like our job here is done." the sayan said to his soldiers.

"Hold on!" yelled a voice from the sky.

"What? Who is it?" Kinesis said, startled.

Tyson dropped in right in front of Kinesis, and they're face to face.

Kinesis: "Ahhh, you must be the other high-energy life form my scouter detected.

Tyson looked at his friends, laying there unconscious. "What have you done to them?!"

"Nothing to worry about. They will be fine in 24 hours. I just zapped their energy."

"I'll make you pay for this! No one hurts my friends and gets away with it!"

"I don't think so." All the soldiers laughed. Even Kinesis was laughing.

Tyson ignored the laughing. "You'll regret this!"

"You'll be joining them soon! Give me your energy..." Kinesis raised his arm, revealing a metal claw that's attached to his hand. The claw shined in the sunlight. "I'll enjoy ripping up your flesh."

"Yuk! That's disgusting!"

Tyson faced off with Kinesis. They started off with punches, with Tyson trying his best to avoid that deadly claw. Slash! Slash! Tyson dodged the claw. Kinesis punched, Tyson blocked. Kinesis dive his claw and Tyson dodged it, but got scratched in the arm.

Tyson powered up. Zzzzzzt.

Kinesis checked his scouter. "Heh, your power level is only 6500. Weakling."

"Take this!" Tyson said, firing the Energy Blast, a thick beam full of energy.

Kinesis fired a red energy ball and destroyed the beam. Boom!

"No way!" Tyson shouted. (Grrr, this can't be. Is he a sayan too?)

They charged and jumped, Tyson punched but missed, and Kinesis punched him in the stomach, then whacked him in the back. Tyson fell, then got up. He charged and Kinesis punched him in the face. Pow!! Tyson was slammed on the ground and scraped against the dirt, leaving a trail. The ground was hot and smoking.

Kinesis laughed and insulted Tyson. "Hahahaha! You're no match for me! You might be strong, but I'm way off your league, boy!"

"Oh yeah, you're still ugly!!"

"I'll show you!" Kinesis yelled in a loud voice, "I'm gonna give you a permanent scar on your face!" He directed his claws towards Tyson's face, but Tyson couldn't do anything but watch in shock. It looked like the end for him.

From out of no where, a pink rose hit Kinesis's hand and hit the ground, standing up. It scratched his arm.

Tyson: "Huh, what happened?"

Kinesis: "**Argh!** Who dares?!"

A figure dropped from nowhere. She landed on one knee, with swords in both hands.

"You..."

"It's a woman...and she's beautiful." Tyson said. He couldn't help blushing.

She stood up and stared at Kinesis with hatred. Her face was beautiful indeed. Her eyes were full of spirit, her hair was black and she had a pony tail tied by a pink ribbon. She was dressed completely in pink, with a pink blouse and pink pants. Her shoes were those of a ninja.

Kinesis: "Rrrrrr... don't just stand there! Get her!"

The soldiers surrounded her, but she wasn't worried at all. She closed her eyes, then opened them. They charged at her, and she attacked! The soldiers were no match for her incredible moves. She slashed any one who came near and blood splattered. She slashed her way through the soldiers and finally got free. Now her enemies were in front of her, making it much easier. The soldiers charged and she beat them all up. She jumped into the air and did a flying kick. Wham! She kicked a soldier in the chest.

Tyson: "Amazing..."

She was surrounded again. She stuck one sword into the ground and grabbed it. She lifted her feet off the air and made a 360 degree spin, kicking everybody close to her. They were all knocked down. More soldiers came. Her most powerful move was the **Spin Dive Attack**. She jumped into the air, positioned her head down, spread out the swords and started spinning as she fell. It was like a falling tornado! She hit the ground and created a huge explosion. All the soldiers near the explosion were instantly killed. There were no more soldiers, only Kinesis was left. He and Tyson looked shocked and amazed.

Tyson: "Wow! I haven't seen anything like that before! She's good!"

Kinesis: "How can a human be this strong? Wait a minute!" He realized something. "You're the **princess!**"

"That's right! What took you so long to figure that out?" she said.

Kinesis grunted. **Rose** looked at Tyson, the two fallen heroes, then back at Kinesis.

"So, you're picking on innocent people again. You never learn. Beating weaklings is what you call glory?"

"Hmmmph. There is no place in this world for the weak!"

Tyson: "Hey, I'm not weak!" No one was paying attention to him.

Kinesis: "I'll rip you apart!"

Kinesis charged and slashed, Rose dodged. Slash, slash, slash. He kept on attacking, and she kept on dodging. She jumped over and landed behind him. Kinesis turned around and kept slashing.

Tyson: (She's fast!)

Kinesis slashes, Rose blocks with her sword. Clang! Clang. He jumped away, then gathered energy and fired balls. Kabam. Rose dodged the explosions, and Kinesis couldn't see her through the smoke. Suddenly, she ran out, and kicked him. Wham!

"I won't lose to a woman!" he shouted.

They went past each other. Slash! Rose had a cut on her arm. Kinesis laughed. But his metallic claw fell apart.

"What?" he said in surprise.

"Is that all you are capable of?" she mocked, point her sword at him.

"How dare you make a mockery of out me?!"

He charged and punched, Rose ducked, and slashed. Slice! Slish! Then punched him in the chin. He collapsed.

Overall, it wasn't much of a fight. Rose beat him easily. Kinesis was critically injured, but Rose wasn't harmed at all. Tyson, once again was amazed by her skills.

"This can't be! I'm one of the four strongest fighters of the **Dark Society**! I can't lose! Noooooooo!"

Rose approached him, and was ready to chop his head off. As she raised her sword, Tyson ran towards her and yelled "Hold on! I think he's had enough punishment. Let him go. He's not a threat anymore."

Rose: "Alright then. Go on. Leave this place now! If I ever catch you again, you won't be so lucky next time!"

Kinesis: "I don't need your mercy! This isn't over, princess! The Dark Society will get you for this! That includes you, boy." He flew away humiliated and defeated.

Tyson: "Thanks, you saved my life."

Rose: "I didn't plan on saving you. I just wanted to stop him. You spared his life, even after what he did to you and your friends. You have a kind heart."

"You too."

"No, I just let him go so he can warn the Dark Society that I'm going to destroy them." She whistled and called out "**Lady**!" A white horse appeared from the trees, and Rose jumped on her. She began to leave.

Tyson: "Wait, who are you?"

"You can call me **Rose**." She threw him a pink rose.

"Rose..." He caught but the thorns on the rose hurt his hand and he dropped it. "Ouch!" Tyson said.

"Consider this as a gift."

"A gift?"

"Let me tell you this, as a fighter you have a kind heart. But there is no place for kindness in a battlefield! Your kindness will be your weakness!" Rose and the horse disappeared into the woods.

Tyson carefully picked up the rose he dropped; he looked at it and said "So, her name is Rose."

Nebula and Zelfire began to recover consciousness.

Zelfire: "Ugh...I feel dizzy."

Lisa: "You guys have been asleep for a whole day."

Nebula: "What happened?"

Tyson: "It's a long story, guys."

2: The Dark Society.

Contents

It has been a whole day since the attack of Kinesis. Nebula and Zelfire finally returned to 100% health. Lisa put ice bags on their heads every once in a while so they can cool off. They thanked her for taking care of them.

And now, everyone was at the living room, having an emergency meeting.

Nebula: "I feel much better now."

Zelfire: "Me too."

Lisa: "I'm just glad you guys are okay. Tyson you saw the whole thing. What happened?"

Tyson was looking at the rose that Rose gave him, not paying attention to Lisa.

"Hello, Earth to Tyson!" she hollered.

Tyson: "Huh? Oh, uh...yeah. Remember that guy who attacked you?"

Nebula: "You're damn right I do. I remember his face. And if I ever see him again..." He punched his own hand. "He's gonna get it big time."

Tyson: "His name is Kinesis, and he works for a group called the Dark Society. That's all the information I have on him."

Zelfire had his arms crossed. "Dark Society? Whatever society it may be, our enemies are not to be messed around with. That man Kinesis – he had some sort of machine that can drain other people's energy."

"Tell me about it." Neb replied. "Because of that we were out for a whole day."

Zell: "And I also noticed something. Kinesis was dressed like a sayan. He even fought like one." Then he turned to Tyson. "Is he a sayan?"

Tyson: "I don't know. Possibly."

Neb: "Don't know? Can't you like tell your own kind?"

Tyson: "Can you?"

Neb stuttered. "Err, never mind."

"Many people try to mimic sayans." Tyson said, explaining. "Because we...they are one of the most respected...and hated species out there. But I won't be surprised if Kinesis is actually a sayan. We have a reputation as warriors. Many people hire sayans to get the job done."

Neb put his hand on Tyke's shoulder. "Well, even if so, at least we got one of those sayans on our side, right bro? You sure took care of that dufus, didn't you?"

"Well...to be honest..." Tyke said, scratching his face with one finger. "It wasn't me."

Everyone was shocked.

Lisa: "Then who defeated him?"

"This girl named Rose – she came out of no where and beat him! It was simply amazing. You guys should've seen her."

Neb and Zell looked at each other. "Ehhh...Tyson, saved by a girl?"

Neb: "Kinda hard to swallow."

Tyke: "But it's true! She even gave me this rose!"

Lisa: "A girl gave you flowers? Does that mean?"

Tyke: "No, it's just a memento! Don't misunderstand. I don't even know who she is."

Lisa: "I don't know what world she lives in, but when someone gives someone flowers, it's always for a reason."

Neb: "Heh, maybe Tyson will finally get a girlfriend." And he laughed.

Tyke: "Shut up. I'm not the one who fell asleep in the middle of a fight."

Neb frowned. "I just got caught off guard, that's all."

Meanwhile, Kinesis spoke to a mysterious person from a large screen on the wall. He was in a dark, abandoned building.

"Congratulations, Kinesis." said the voice. "You have succeeded in filling the energy crystal."

Kinesis: "It was nothing, I was just doing what I had to do."

"How did you find so much energy in just one day?" the voice asked.

"Well, I found many high energy life forms in a location."

"Really? That means that those people must be real strong. It is good that you absorbed their energy. Did you get rid of them?"

Kinesis: "No, I..."

"No? Do you realize that those people can be a threat to us, to the society?"

"I didn't think they would be a threat..."

"You imbecile! You didn't think, and do you know that can cost us dearly?!"

Kinesis: "I was going to finish them off, but someone interfered..."

"Who? The princess?" **Vega** said sternly.

"Yes." Kinesis said with embarrassment.

"Not only did you lose to her, but she spared your life! You were at her mercy! You are a disgrace to us!"

"...I'm sorry! Please forgive me, sire!"

"Fine. I shall give you one last chance. I need you to fill up the energy crystal by tonight."

Suddenly, a giant crystal magically came out from the ground.

"I do not tolerate failure, Kinesis."

"I won't, rest assured, sire." replied the sayan.

Back to Tyson's house...

The heroes were still in a state of panic over what happened the day before.

Tyson: "From now on, we have to be extra careful because they might attack again."

Nebula: "Tyson's right. They know what we look like and they know where we live. Well, they know where **you** live."

Zell: "It is not wise to stay here anymore. We have to go somewhere else. As Tyson says, they might attack again. With more people next time."

Tyson: "But... this is my house! I don't want it to be wrecked."

Zell: "I want to defend the fort and fight back too, but currently, we have no information on the Dark Society."

Lisa suddenly realized something. "Hey guys, I know someone who can help us. He's a great scientist, and one of my good friends from college."

Neb: "Who?"

Lisa: "His name is **Macintosh Tori**. But everyone calls him Mac."

Tyson: "Macintosh Tori? How good of a scientist is he?"

"He's very good. He's got the latest state-of-the-art computer systems in his laboratory. I'm sure he can help us get the information we need. He's like a super-genius. When it comes to smarts, no one beats him."

Zell: "He has his own laboratory?"

"Yep." Lisa answered happily.

Lisa took them to Macintosh's laboratory in the city. Everyone was skeptical except for Lisa, because they didn't know what to expect. The sign said **MC Technologies, Inc**. When they entered - boy were they impressed. There were all kinds of high-tech stuff, like robots and computers.

Lisa took them to the final door - the main laboratory room. "Who is it?" asked Mac, his voice projecting from a speaker from the door.

"It's me, Lisa."

"Oh Lisa, it's you. Come on in." The door automatically opened.

Tyson and Nebula glanced quickly at each other, then shrugged.

Once they entered, they immediately noticed the surroundings - technologically advanced, yet it has a homely feeling to it. There were big windows that allow a view of

the street below. And hard to unnoticed was a big computer system that took up an entire wall's space, kind of like the one Batman has. **Macintosh** was working on some kind of experiment with liquid and tubes.

"Hi Mac!"

Mac looked up and saw them. "Hey, how are you doing?"

"I'm fine. Look who's here."

Tyson: "Pleased to meet you, Mr. Tori."

Zelfire: "Greetings."

Nebula: "Sup!"

Lisa: "Let me introduce – this is Tyson, Nebula, and Zelfire."

Mac: "It's them! It's really you."

Tyson: "Uhh, really?"

Mac: "Lisa told me so much about you guys. About saving the human race from aliens and all kinds of stuff. I've always wanted to meet you."

Tyke, Neb, and Zell looked at each other.

Zell: "Well, looks like we got ourselves a fan."

Lisa: "Well, what do you say? Can he join us?"

Tyke: "I don't see a problem with it. Sure, why not."

Mac: "Thank you so much. I've always wanted to save the world."

Neb: "Right now we need all the help we can get. So, Mr. Scientist, can you get us information on the Dark Society?"

"Dark Society? Hmmm, I've never heard of them before. But I can find out." He went over to the mainframe computer and started typing.

Everyone noticed how fast he types. It's almost inhuman. They were all impressed, but kept comments to themselves, not wanting to distract him.

"Hmmm, strange." Mac said.

"What is it?" Lisa asked.

"There's no information on them. Nothing. Nada."

"Then search harder!" Lisa said.

"I'm trying."

On random street in the city, everyone was walking about busily. Just then a giant crystal (a little bigger than a person) stood floating in the middle of the street. The people who saw it were curious at its existence. Suddenly, the crystal zapped in all directions, draining people's energy. Running couldn't avoid the crystal's rays. There was a mass panic as people screamed like bloody hell.

Kinesis, standing on a rooftop, laughed.

Suddenly, the heroes sensed a familiar force. All three froze. Tyson closed his eyes.

"Something's wrong." Neb exclaimed.

"It's him – Kinesis!" Tyson said.

"Let's go!" Zell said.

"I've prepared something for an occasion like this. I've been testing it for months." Mac said. He opened his drawer and took out two **Metallic Gauntlets**. They were plain and black, and metallic, and he put them on. These were his weapons, since unlike the heroes, he hasn't mastered the sixth sense.

Tyson: "What's that?"

"These are my weapons. Don't worry, I won't be too much of a drag to you guys."

Neb: "Hey new guy, can you fly?"

Mac: "Not as fast you can, but yes."

Neb: "Try not to fall too behind."
Mac showed a thumbs up. "You got it."

When the warriors arrived at the scene, they were horrified, looking at the fainted bodies. They heard a voice laughing, it was getting closer and closer...

Kinesis appeared near the crystal. "Ha ha ha ha ha ha..."

Tyson: "It's him again..."

"He's the one who attacked us." Nebula said with an angry look.

Zelfire: "We have to be cautious."

Kinesis: "It's them again! Hmmm, I won't even bother wasting my strength on them. Boys!"

Dark Society troopers leaped down from the buildings.

Kinesis: "Kill them all! Show no mercy!"

The society warriors surrounded the heroes, but they're not scared at all, well, except for Lisa. "We're surrounded! What do we do now?! Help!"

Tyson: "Quiet Lisa! Calm down."

"How can I calm down?! My life is in jeopardy here!"

They began fighting, and Lisa quickly hid somewhere. Of course the heroes had no problem with these guys.

They noticed Mac's amazing karate moves, and proved Lisa was right. The best move was yet to come. As a troop leaped at him, ready to pounce, Macintosh fired an electric shockwave from his gauntlets. Zaaap! The troop was knocked away a few feet, along with the pain of thousands of volts. This is his signature move, the **Electro-Shockwave**.

Neb: "The new guy isn't so bad after all."

In a short time, all Dark Society troops were beaten.

Kinesis: "They killed all of them! Looks like I have to finish them off myself."

Tyson: "Hey Mac, you're pretty good, for a scientist."

Mac: "Gee, thanks. I've been training real hard lately."

Zelfire: "This time, you will not take our energy, Kinesis."

Kinesis: "Humm, I don't need your energy! I've got just enough right here, from the people!"

Nebula: "All those innocent people, even children....**you'll pay** for this!!!"

"That's gonna be hard if you can't catch me!"

A bunch of smoke surrounded him and the crystal...the smoke disappeared and they're gone!

Lisa: "What? How?"

Tyson: "I can't believe he got away!"

Nebula: "We'll get him next time."

Mac: "Incredible! That crystal was floating! Their technology must be really advanced..."

Tyson: "What are they going to do with all that energy?"

3: Kinesis KO'd.

Contents

"So that is where Kinesis is hiding... I have found him at last. This time, you shall die!" Rose took out her sword and hit the air.

Resting on the bed was another individual – an old man over the age of sixty. He was wearing a golden gown, made of rich silk. With a fluffy, white beard, and white hair all over, he was the old wise man archetype. **Midas** sat up.

“ *Koff koff* Be careful, my daughter. *Koff* The enemy is powerful.”

Rose: “Do not worry, father, I will be fine.” She left the castle.

Meanwhile, the heroes were walking around the city. Everywhere they saw fainted bodies of men, women, and children. It was like a nightmare come true...

Tyson: “Looks like we’re too late. Kinesis is one step ahead of us.”

Nebula: “Hey, don’t worry about them. They got drained, but they’ll be okay. Me and Zelfire are fine, aren’t we?”

Zelfire: “Yes, we had our energy drained, but after a day of rest we’re back in action.”

Tyson: “Well, I guess you’re right. But that still doesn’t give him the right to take all these peoples’ energies.”

Mac: “I agree. We have to put a stop to this.”

They continued walking around, hoping to find a clue of some sort, or any trace of where Kinesis was hiding. They walked into a dead end and heard a voice screaming for help.

Citizen: “AAAAAAAH! Get away from me! Help! Anyone! Heeeeelp me!” They quickly rushed to the scene.

Mac: “Another Dark Society warrior!”

“Help me please!”

Tyson: “Let him go.”

Soldier: “Blast it! I’m out numbered, but not for long!” He whistled and a bunch of soldiers appeared out of nowhere.

Nebula: “We’re surrounded!”

“Surrender your energy to Vega, or suffer the consequences!”

Tyson: “No way!”

They began fighting, and while they were distracted, the citizen ran away out of sight. The result was, of course the heroes won. All the soldiers were beaten except for one.

Zelfire grabbed him. “Who’s Vega? Where is Kinesis? Answer me!”

Soldier: “You’re not getting anything from me...Vega will kill me if I tell you anything...”

“Do you know what I’m going to do to you if you don’t tell us?!” Zelfire said threateningly.

Tyson: “Uncle Lang, I don’t think he’s gonna tell us anything. Let him be.”

Zelfire: “You’re lucky this time. Don’t ever let me catch you again, if you live!”

They left the dead end and continue searching.

Soldier: “Uhhh, Vega is not gonna be happy about this...”

Later, the heroes decided to split up. That would make it easier to search what they’re looking for. Actually, they don’t really know what they’re looking for, maybe a sign, or a clue, it was better than doing nothing. Tyson searched the center of the city, while Nebula searched the east side, Zelfire was assigned the north side, and Macintosh and Lisa was assigned the west side.

Meanwhile, Rose is riding her horse towards Kinesis’s hideout. Tyson sensed something as he was walking. (What is it? Is it Kinesis? It has to be him...I’ve found him at last...)

Kinesis: “What? How did you find this place?”

Rose: **"That is for me to know and you to find out!"**

Inside the very large room was the two of them, standing opposite each other, with wires and broken computers everywhere. Behind him was the energy crystal, lighting up the dark room with its energy. It was energy stolen from innocent people from Faith's perspective. But to Kinesis, who couldn't care less about other people, it's just another mission that has to be completed, and he'd be rewarded.

Kinesis: "You won't get me this time!" He pointed his metal claw at her. Then he grinned evilly, then he charged at her and drew back his claw, then aimed at her and slashed, but she jumped out of the way just in time. She landed a few feet off where she jumped.

"You missed me." she shouted mockingly.

"I'll rip you apart!" He tried again, but this time Rose ducked and punched him in the stomach, which disabled him for a few seconds.

After he caught his breath, he continued his assault, but each time Rose avoided his assault. She took out a pink rose. "Your end is now, Kinesis!" The rose's stem grew longer - drastically longer - and the whole thing had thorns on it. She slashed it at him and Kinesis dodged.

Then Tyson entered the building and wanted to help Rose.

Kinesis: "Him again? Now I have double trouble!"

Tyson: "Heh. Looks like I came just in time for the party." Then, looking at Rose: "Oh hey, it's you again. From last time. We're on the same side, so I'll repay the favor and help you beat this guy.

"Thank you, but I do not need your help." she said crudely.

Tyson: "If you don't want me to help, that's fine, but I'll fight Kinesis."

Rose: "Do whatever you please, just do not hinder my way."

They fought him and beat him together. But it wasn't over yet.

"Fools! You'll never win! Drain their energy, oh mighty crystal!"

The giant glass crystal shot a beam at Tyson and Rose and absorbed energy from every part of their body.

After a few seconds, they couldn't stand up anymore. They struggled to maintain balance, but fell on their knees and shrieked from the paralyzing feeling.

Rose: "Uuuhhhh...my body, I feel like...I'm being stunned by a thousand n-needles...I'm losing my energy..."

Kinesis laughed. "Your energy belongs to Vega! Ha ha ha ha!"

Tyson: "N-Nooo! It's not over yet! W-We can't give up until the end! We have to...keep on fighting..."

Rose looked at him in a way she's never looked at him before. She saw the determination and courage in his eyes, and realized he's right. With all their might and strength, they managed to stand up. Tyson screamed as he fired an energy blast at the sayan, and hit him. The crystal stopped draining their energy, as if something was blocking it. As her finishing move, she slashed his arm with her sword and cut it off.

"AAAAAHHHH!" Electric wires dangled from the cut and sparks flew everywhere. Electric currents appeared on his separated arm and made a zzzzzzzz sound.

Rose was shocked to see this. "You're not human?"

"I'm a sayan! A sayan robot, that is. I've made modifications just to beat you, but that wasn't enough!"

Tyson: "You're unbelievable! You'd turn yourself into a robot just so you can win?"

Rose: "Well, it's not surprising to me. You people will do anything to win. **Anything.**"

Kinesis realized that he has been defeated, but he can not live with that shame of being beaten by a princess. There's only one thing left, one option left, to destroy them even if it means destroying himself.

Not wasting anytime, Faith ran at the energy crystal and slashed it so fast, it could not have been seen by an ordinary eye. CRACK! It broke into three and broke into a million pieces as it hit the ground.

"No! The energy crystal!!! You fools!"

Tyson: "That precious energy doesn't belong you! You took it from those people, those innocent people..."

"I don't care! We'll all die together." He laughed. With the arm he had left, he gathered all the energy he could and began to throw it at the floor, then Faith pushed her sword into his guts and out to his back. He suddenly lost all strength and stared open-mouthed at her. He was now a sayan shish-kebob, staring at Rose with anger and disbelief. "Noooo...I...I can't lose..." Rose took out her sword quickly and sent her old friend a farewell gift - BANG! Her Energy Bomb blew him up into smithereens.

Tyson: "Wow, you did it."

Rose: "Yes. Thank you so much. The things you said before really helped keep my spirit up. You will not give up, no matter what, even if the enemy is a million times stronger than you."

"Yes, that's how my father taught me. I've never taught differently."

Rose's tone of voice suddenly changed from appreciative to blaming. "But it is all your fault! If you hadn't spared his life the last time--"

"M-My fault?!! Hey, you agreed to let him go!!"

"It's your fault! Admit it!" Rose said, pointing a finger.

"This is ridiculous! Is this the thanks I get for helping you?!"

"Hey, I saved your behind last time, so consider us even!" So much for talking like a traditional, polite princess. "Ahhh, forget it, I'm wasting my time talking to you." She whistled and shouted, "Lady!" Then her white horse galloped into the building and went towards her.

"Wait...hold on...that flower you gave me..." He took out the pink rose from his pocket.

"It is so you too can believe in the **Great Spirit**." She turned away and got on Lady.

The horse galloped out of there, leaving Tyson. "Great Spirit?" he muttered cluelessly.

"Kinesis...that pathetic weakling..." said Vega quietly. "He didn't even give me any energy this time. Well, good riddance. It's time for some one else to get the job done. Vega was sitting on his chair, in a large, open, dark room by himself. Then, there was a sound from the one of the four platforms on the ground. Standing on the platform was **Emerald**, another sayan, Kinesis's replacement. The platform stopped rising as it leveled with the ground, revealing her whole body.

She had blond, long, curly hair, blue eyes, wearing a sayan suit and emeralds all over her body. The gems shined in the darkness of the room. Her only hobby was collecting emeralds (or stealing), and considers them the most valuable things in the world. Not only that, but she has an attitude nobody likes. She always thinks she's the toughest sayan of the Big Four, and shoves it at every one's face. She also has a very loud and annoying laugh that occurs whenever someone makes a mistake.

"Let me do the job, sire." she said confidently.

Vega: "Very, well. Number two of the Big Four, **Emerald**, it's your turn. Don't fail me."

4: A New Enemy.

Contents

As the sun rose, everyone in Network City woke up confused and with headaches. They felt all the energy from their body has been taken away from them. (They're right.) They had no idea why there were sleeping on the ground, and didn't remember anything from last night. Later in the day, things returned to normal, and what happened to them couldn't be explained, considered a phenomenon.

Since Tyson announced the death of Kinesis, the heroes assumed the threat was over. They didn't know it wasn't over yet. Tyson was still thinking about Rose.

Days later, Emerald terrorized the city. Inside a corporate building, business men and women were walking in all directions, some to the elevators, and others to the offices. There were some tourists as well, and a few kids playing ball near the beautiful fountain. The floor was magnificent, tiles of golden color, and perfectly smooth. It's so clean people could see their reflections without any trouble. Today was just like any other normal day. People going to work, people playing, people visiting. They never even suspected that they'll be attacked by some one from another dimension, and this day will change their lives forever.

A large, hexagon shaped crystal floated out from the clear water. The ball-playing kids saw it, and one of them asked an adult, "Mommy, what's that?"

Then the lady gasped. Everyone saw it and got really scared. They all stopped what they're doing and just froze. Then they heard a laugh, a woman's voice. Every one looked around to find the source of the crazy laughing, but they couldn't find it. The voice was getting louder, and the laugh was getting more annoying. "Ha ha ha hahahahaha..." The hysterical laugh was growing and growing, and the people waited in horror. "Ha ha ha hah ha hah!" Then, from out of nowhere appeared Emerald, with her pretty black dress, and blue emeralds attached to the sleeves, red ones on the bracelet on her wrists, and a large green emerald between her breasts. She was literally covered with jewels, especially emeralds. Did I mention she had a pearl necklace, with a diamond at the tip, and earrings? Her jewels sparkled in the sunlight, while the energy crystal was a dim red color. But what so amazed everybody was the fact that she's floating on air.

"W-What is she?!" some guys asked.

"A witch!" some one shouted, answering the other guy's question.

She gave that annoying laugh again. "Ha ha ha ha ha! Foolish humans. Your energy is mine. Don't worry, you won't feel any pain unless you resist."

Suddenly the crystal gave a brilliant flash and its rays zapped every soul in the room.

"I have returned, father." Rose said.

"My daughter..." muttered Midas proudly.

She bent down on one knee and held out her Soul Sword. It was surely no ordinary sword, it was carved in detail and it was a legendary weapon. "With the power of this sword, I have vanquished Kinesis."

"Well done, daughter. You have succeeded, but beware for more obstacles lie ahead. You must believe continue to believe in the Spirit."

"Do not worry, for I shall vanquish all of the Dark Society."

Midas tried to get up, but had hard time. Rose helped him lie down on the bed.
“Father, you must be careful. You are not in good health.”

He relaxed on the bed as Rose covered his body with a blanket.

“Alas, I regret not being able to help you. You must remember that the road ahead will become only more dangerous.”

As Tyson, Mac, Lisa, and Zelfire were relaxing, Nebula slammed the door open. Everybody stared at him. He breathed hard. “Have you guys heard what happened?”

Tyson: “What?”

“It’s the Dark Society’s work...a bunch of people were attacked earlier today. Their energy was completely drained.”

Lisa: “No way!”

Zelfire punched his fist. “I knew they wouldn’t stop so easily.”

Tyson: “They will definitely make another attack. We have to watch over the city.”

Nebula: “Right.”

Once again, the heroes have split up to various parts of the city. Rose was also searching, riding on her horse.

Eventually, night came. Emerald showed up again in the middle of town square. The crystal came out of the ground and floated into the air. She laughed while the citizens stared blankly at her and the crystal. Suddenly a beam went past her and hit the street. Boom! Her laughter was broken.

Emerald looked in that direction. “What? Who dares?”

It was Zelfire, floating in the air, crossing his arms. “So you are the one responsible for the mayhem recently. Having fun stealing people’s energy?”

Emerald: “A human? No human is foolish enough to challenge the Dark Society, well, except you. I’ll be glad to rip you apart.”

“Not so fast!” shouted Nebula, dropping from a building. He landed, then stood up. “You’ll have to take me on too, sister!”

“And me too.” said Macintosh.

Emerald looked surprised, but then she laughed. “You’ve got to be kidding me.” She landed. “So it’s three men against a poor woman like me? That’s hardly fair. But it’s fine with me. Come on, I will take on all three of you!”

Nebula: “You’re asking for it, lady!” He charged and punched, Emerald blurred. Nebula was surprised. “Huh!?”

Emerald appeared on the street and fired an energy wave. Whoosh! Nebula, Macintosh, and Zelfire were blown down the street.

Nebula: “This lady means serious business!”

Zelfire: “No kidding. It’s going to take all of us to beat her.”

Mac: “Ouch...”

Emerald laughed. “Hahahahaha! Pathetic humans.”

Nebula drew his sword and attacked. Emerald dodged. Macintosh fired the Electro-shockwave into the air, Emerald flew around it and fired a beam and hit Macintosh. Zelfire went behind her and attacked, Emerald ducked, turned around, and punched his stomach. Nebula jumped at her. She soared high up. Nebula slashed but missed, she bounced off the building and prepared to slash. She dodged, then kicked him down. He fell on top of a car, wrecking its roof.

“Oww...”

Zelfire: “I’ve had just about enough of you, lady.” He fired the Energy Blast.

Emerald opened her palm and blocked it like nothing. With the same hand, she fired a dark energy wave that blew up the street. Zelfire was knocked down.

Mac: "That's it. Let's give it all we've got!!"

All three of the heroes surrounded her and got ready. They punched, kicked and screamed. Emerald dodged and blocked every attack as she flew up. They went higher and higher until they were higher than the roofs of the buildings. She screamed and released an energy wave that pushed them away from her. The heroes fell on the roofs and couldn't fight any more.

"Just what I thought. I doubt very much that Kinesis lost to you weaklings. Hmmmm...then there must be someone else...stronger..."

Far away, Tyson sensed something wrong. "Their power is fading...have they lost? Oh no...this can't be good."

5: Rose vs. Emerald.

Contents

Lady galloped through the streets as Rose searched for her next target, the sayan named Emerald. Rose could sense her power from here, it was not to be underestimated. "She is here, in this city."

The giant crystal drained energy from all its victims. After the task was done, Emerald laughed triumphantly. "This is too easy!"

"Things are about to change!" shouted Rose.

"Who dares?"

"Who else but me?" Rose got off the horse and landed. She drew a sword and got into position.

"Well, well, well, if it isn't the princess. Long time no see. Did you miss me?"

"You will pay for stealing the energy from the lives of innocent people!" Rose charged and slashed, Emerald dodged. Rose slings the sword at Emerald's neck, and she ducked. She fired an energy wave and blasted Rose into a building. Crash!

Rose crashed into a wall and cracked it. She was under a pile of rocks. Emerald entered the building from the front entrance. "Princess, princess, princess, when will you ever learn? Your powers are nothing compared to ours." She took out a fan and fanned herself.

Rose managed to stand up firm. "You are wrong. I am protected by the Great Spirit."

Emerald closed the fan and laughed. "What Great Spirit? There's no such thing. You talk non-sense."

"We shall see!" Rose jumped and slashed, Emerald opened her palm and blasted her back to her starting spot.

Emerald used the fan and threw it at her. Rose held her sword face up and the fan hit it and split into two pieces. The pieces hit the columns behind Rose and they collapsed, with dust coming out. "The Dark Society will not succeed, not as long as I am here."

"Right. What can a princess do to us?" She fired an energy wave and Rose charged at super speed, dodging the wave. Emerald jumped out of the way.

Rose ran up the wall, then in the middle of it she jumped off, heading for Emerald. Rose slashed, Emerald disappeared. "What?!"

Emerald appeared above her and knocked her on the floor senseless. Wham! Rose was hurt, but she forced herself to stand up and pick up the sword.

"I like your determination, princess. But it will get you **nowhere**."

"Yaaahhh!" Rose screamed and charged.

"You never learn, do you?" Emerald fired an energy wave and knocked Rose against a column. It crashed and fell on her. She was under a pile of rocks and fell unconscious.

Rose was sitting on a chair, in the middle of a large green field, playing her harp. Her best friend enjoyed the heavenly tune. After she finished playing a song, **Marianna** clapped.

"That was wonderful, princess! Simply marvelous!"

"Thank you Marianna. And now for my next performance..." She started playing the harp again. Her fingers hit the strings skillfully, as if she was born with the talent and her life was meant to play it. The music that was produced was wonderful to Marianna's ears.

As she was playing, they heard music from another source. It was getting closer and closer and the music got louder and louder.

"Who could that be?" Marianna wondered.

A man dressed in royal clothing approached, walking slowly, playing a flute. He was wearing black boots, a chest plate made of gold, a black scarf, black pants, and black gloves.

The two women enjoyed the melody of the music. They watched as the man came within sight. Faith continued to play the harp as the man played the flute. The two were playing the same song, and their music turned into one. When they finished, Marianna clapped.

"Wonderful! *clap clap* That was simply marvelous!" Marianna said.

"Who might you be, stranger?" asked Rose.

The man bent down on one knee. "I am **Prince Darian** of **Zaibach**. "It is a pleasure to meet you, **Princess of Almerak**." He kissed her hand.

She got up from the chair. "Ahh, 'tis you, Prince Darian. My father has been expecting your arrival. Marianna, be so kind as to get refreshments for our guest."

"Yes, princess." she said, then left them.

"Come," said Rose, "Let me show you around these royal grounds."

"Lead the way."

She took him to various parts of the whole place. It was a fortress that was several acres big. It was basically a plain with walls around it. She led him into a hexagon shaped building, built with columns. Inside was a golden statue of a man on a horse.

Rose: "Here is the golden statue. It has been in my family for many generations and we are very proud of it."

Darian: "Why, it is magnificent! It is made entirely out of gold?"

"Yes. No amount of money can buy it. My father says it is priceless."

"Who is the man on the horse?"

"He is a legendary war hero. The first king of Almerak. This statue is to honor his bravery during the war."

"Ohhh. Interesting."

They went outside. Darian looked at the sky and became dumbfounded. A dark shadow covered the sky, slowly approaching them.

"What...what in the world is that?!"

"A shadow in the sky?" said Rose.

"Never have I seen anything like this in my life!"

"Neither have I! We must run!"

They ran for their lives. The space ship fired a red beam and hit the ground, creating a devastating explosion. Boom! Smoke covered the whole place. Rose and Darian were lucky enough to survive. They ran back into the building. The ship fired another beam, destroying the statue and the whole building.

Rose turned around, realizing Darian did not come out. "Prince Darian!" she yelled. No use going back in. She continued to run. Four bright, red balls flew down and surrounded her. She fell in nervousness. The bright balls were actually four sayans.

Rose stood up nervously, staring at them. "Who...who are you people?"

They were laughing at her.

Emerald: "Listen up, princess, we have come to deliver a message."

Kinesis: "It is a message for your father."

"Tell 'his majesty' that we have already begun the invasion of Almerak. Your puny army cannot match ours. We advise your father that he surrender his kingdom."

Rose: "My father will never surrender to the likes of you!"

Emerald: "Little girl, that is **his** decision to make."

Third Sayan: "I suggest you take our advice. This way many soldiers will not have to die for a meaningless cause. Well, that is the king's choice. If he wants to send his army to their death, that is fine with us."

Kinesis: "Either way, we win."

They turned into red balls and went back to the ship. What just happened was too much for Rose to absorb. She had to tell her father what happened.

Rose woke up with a painful headache. "Uhhhh..." For one second she did not know where she was or how she got here, but then she recalled everything. It was hard to move with a column on her back. She had to turn around and push it off her. It was difficult, especially with the weight on her, but she managed to do it.

Emerald: "Still alive? If I were you, I would pretend to be dead."

Rose pushed the column off her and got up. "Unlike you, I have something worth fighting for."

"What exactly is that?"

"My home. You destroyed me home! I cannot ever forgive you for that!"

"Ooh, that sounded like a threat." She put the fan over her face, then closed the fan, then laughed. "Forgive me if I'm not trembling in my boots."

She took out a pink rose and held it firmly.

"A flower? What are you going to do with that? Plant it? Ahahahahaha!"

Rose ignored her stupid humor. She drew her arm back and the rose's stem grew. Its thorns grew also, and they were on every inch of the stem, which was more like a rope. It was one of her amazing moves, the Vine Whip.

Emerald jumped out of the whip's way as it lashed at her. It hit the floor and cracked it. Emerald landed, then looked at the cracked ground. She was surprised this woman had such an ability.

Rose made the whip change direction and slashed Emerald on the side. Whip! One of her jewels fell off and made a tear on her clothing. "Ahh! How dare you! You will pay for that, princess."

Rose lashed at her, Emerald dodged the whip. The sayan warrior performed a flying kick, she kicked Rose in the chest and she fell.

"Oof!" Rose got back up quickly.

Emerald put out her right hand and opened her palm, firing a beam. It got really close to Rose, then she threw a red rose at the beam, and they cancelled out. The explosion made Emerald think she had won, but clearly she had not.

"I underestimated you, princess!"

Rose summoned her **Soul Sword**, it appeared magically in her hand. The Soul Swords were no ordinary swords. She had exactly two of them; they were identical except for one detail. One of them had a string attached to it, and at the end of the string were two very small shiny pearls. It's said the pearls keep evil spirits out. Either one of them is a deadly weapon, and they were even more powerful if used together. Very few know this: the Soul Swords can merge into one sword, and its power is undeniable.

Now, Rose had a sword in one hand and a rose whip in the other. Seconds passed, and suddenly, she whipped at her enemy. Emerald dodged the whip, Rose leaped like a tiger into the air and slashed. Emerald floated sideways, then grabbed Rose's wrist.

"Huh?"

"But I will not lose to you." She squeezed Rose's wrist, making her drop the sword. It went cling-clang on the floor. She jammed her knee into Rose's stomach.

"Aaahh!" she groaned.

Emerald laughed briefly, then did a karate chop on the woman's back. Wham! Rose fell on the floor and went splat. Her body felt like falling apart.

"Awww. Poor poor princess has a boo boo?"

When Rose started to get up, Emerald was not pleased. "I will not let you win...never...you...you destroyed my home!" She flashed back.

The image she saw was inside the Imperial Palace. Everything in the background was white. She and her father ran for their lives as the place fell apart. Her father got hit by a ray and got injured. "Father!!" she yelled. Just go, go without me, he said. No, never, she said, then helped him get up. They managed to escape the danger.

Rose gathered energy and prepared the Energy Bomb. Emerald put both her palms forward, forming a large, green energy ball. They released their attacks at the same time and the two energy balls crashed into each other and exploded. Light flashed from the building and it was blown apart.

Tyson, from a distance away, saw the explosion and felt its power. "Rose? She is inside!" He went there at once.

The entire building was now rubble. The only thing that remained was the floor they were standing on. Rose and Emerald stared at each other. They both knew who had won. Emerald collapsed, and the last look she gave was one of regret and hatred. Rose turned around and walked. She was limping each step because of her injuries. Then she collapsed and fell unconscious.

Tyson came and saw two women lying on the floor. "Rose?" He turned her around, lifting her head. She moaned unconsciously. She'll be okay, he thought. Nothing that's near-death serious. He was glad to get the chance to help this woman. But wait, what about the other woman? Who is she? Is she Emerald, the one who defeated his brother, Zelfire, **and** Macintosh?

A tiny black hole appeared a few feet above the floor. It stretched to about several feet long. A person came out from the other side. Tyson stared in shock and horror. The man was dressed exactly like Kinesis, only more neatly and in different colors. He had a sayan suit, shoulder wings, and a scouter. He looked at Tyson, then to Rose, then to Emerald. "Greetings, Earthling."

He picked up Emerald and stepped halfway into the hole.

"We will meet again." He went inside, the hole disappeared.
What the heck just happened? Oh well, the important thing now is to help Rose.

6: Rose: Friend or Foe?

Contents

Tyson put a moist cloth on Rose's head and she turned her head. She moaned. He had felt her forehead, and it was burning hot. This should help her.

Tyson went towards the window. It was dark outside. There was so much on his mind, so many questions unanswered. He wanted to stop thinking, but couldn't. Once the woman wakes up, he will ask her. She knows. She knows the Dark Society. And they know her.

"Uhhhh..." Rose woke up with a huge headache. Her whole body was in pain.
"Uhhh... 'Tis you, Tyson? Where am I?"

"You are in my house. I brought you here."

"Your house?"

"Remember? You were injured while fighting."

"Yes..." Her head hurt again and she groaned.

Tyson grabbed her shoulders. "Don't move. You need rest."

She lied down. "Thank you."

"No problem. Consider this as returning a favor. Here. Have some water." He gave her a glass of water.

She drank it thirstily, but finished only half of the cup. She relaxed herself.

"So, where do you come from?" Tyson asked casually. "There's a lot of questions I have... what is the Dark Society? What do they want?"

"It is best if you do not know."

"Why not?"

"It is too dangerous to oppose them... it is best if you avoid them as much as possible... they are ruthless people."

"So what? I'm involved already, right? You know the answers, don't you?"

Suddenly, Rose remembered something very important. She gasped. "I must go."

"Go? Go where?"

She sat up. "It is an emergency. I cannot stay."

"But you're injured. You need to rest."

"Sorry. I cannot stay here any longer. I must go." She stood up, and then walked towards the exit. He followed her.

Rose put two fingers into her mouth and whistled, then yelled, "Lady!" Her white horse galloped from the woods, then stopped in front of her.

"Well, goodbye." said Tyson, wanting her to stay.

Rose got on Lady. But her headache came back to strike her. She fell off the horse, and Tyson caught her in his arms. Rose's face turned red and she just stared at him with her beautiful eyes.

"Be careful." he said. "Are you okay?"

"Yes..." she said shyly. "Thank you. Can you put me down?"

He set her back on her feet. She did not look at him and tried not to. Tyson helped her get back on the horse.

"Be careful." Tyson said.

The horse galloped into the woods.

Wow, Tyson thought, she was in my house. She was actually in my house.

"Father, are you doing well?" asked Rose worriedly.

He was still in bed. "I am fine." He coughed. " *Koff koff*. No need to worry about me."

"I do not know how much longer I can stay this way. I miss my home so much."

"Just remember, dear daughter, our spirit can never die. You have defeated Kinesis and Emerald, but I foresee a bigger challenge ahead. Have you found **him** yet?"

"No. I have no clue who he is or where he is."

"The **Sacred Scrolls** says that he will help us in our journey. You must find him." He coughed again, this time it was more serious. He lied down, grabbing his chest.

"Father, father!"

"Energy...I need energy..." he moaned weakly.

"I will be back."

"Remember, do not take energy from innocent people!" he said just as she left.

Meanwhile, the others were still in the city. Nebula, Macintosh, and Zelfire remained in the park, bandaging their injuries. It was mostly bruises and scratches, and luckily no broken limbs.

Nebula: "I can't believe that woman beat us. Damn sayans."

Zelfire: "That proves how powerful the Dark Society really is. I bet you there are more warriors like her."

Macintosh: "Let's go home."

Nebula: "Who's home?"

"Tyson's, of course. We usually go there." answered Zell.

"Let's go."

They forgot about Lisa. She got worried while waiting in the laboratory, so she went outside, hoping to find her friends. "Nebula? Zelfire? Tyson? Anybody?" She walked through the alley, being as cautious as she could. When there was a turn, she stood behind the wall and peeped before going further. Who knows, some one might attack her at any instant.

"Oh, so someone is still walking after what Emerald has done?" said a voice.

"Who are you?"

Rose was standing on a wall, and then bent down. "Nothing you need be concerned about. All I need is your energy."

"My energy? You're with the Dark Society, aren't you?" Lisa said, suddenly getting scared.

Rose rolled up her sleeve, revealing the crystal device. It fired a ray and hit Lisa. She got weaker and weaker and collapsed.

"Task accomplished." Rose jumped away.

Lady galloped back to the castle.

" *Koff koff* Is that you, my daughter? *Koff koff* "

Rose: "Here, father." She gave him an energy crystal. "Take this energy and you will feel better."

Midas grabbed it, his arm trembling. Energy transferred from the crystal to his body slowly. The old man felt warm and more comfortable. Rose could see the energy by its glowing color and watched excitingly.

"Do you feel better?"

"Much, much better."

"Thank goodness."

"Where did you get that energy from?" he asked.

She turned around. "Ummm...well...it is from..."

"You did not steal it from somebody, did you?"

"Steal? Why do you say that? Of course not." She was a bad liar. Her father knew it by the sound in her denying voice.

"You did, did you?!"

"But father..."

Midas sighed. "I told you not to take energy from innocent people." He was not angry, just disappointed that she did not listen. "It is not right."

"The important thing is that you are alright. What other choice did I have? Besides, it is not like I hurt anybody. A person whose energy is drained will recover in one day."

"It is still wrong, daughter, and you know that."

"Father...I just did not want to see you suffer. I would not let anything happen to you, even if it means doing the wrong thing."

Midas did not argue further.

Tyson knocked hard on Macintosh's door. Mac let him, and they ran to the chamber. "What happened to Lisa?" he asked.

Lisa was inside a glass chamber, unconscious, while Nebula and Zelfire were watching her.

"We found her on the street. Her energy was completely drained. Luckily she is still alive." Macintosh answered.

Nebula: "She was supposed to stay here. But for some reason she stepped outside. No doubt it's those Dark Society goons. Just wait 'till I get my hands on them."

Zelfire: "If only we went to her sooner..."

Lisa moaned and woke up.

Zelfire: "Who did this to you?"

"Uhhh...it was a woman..."

"A woman? Was it Emerald?"

"No...someone...else...I'm not sure who she is. She dressed in pink...and oh yes, she had a sword...and I remember she had a pony tail."

Wait a minute, Tyson thought. That description sounds like Rose. Now, how can that be? Tyson stood in shock.

Zell: "Oh, and she was holding a rose."

Neb: "Are you sure?"

Lisa: "Yes."

Tyson was even more shocked.

Nebula: "What's wrong, Tyson?"

"Oh nothing." He went towards the wall, then took out the pink rose. "How can this be..." He was in total disbelief. Rose was such a sweet and innocent woman in his eyes. How can she do such a bad thing? Is she in the Dark Society? No, no, no, it has to be a mistake.

Back at the castle, Rose and her father were still stressed out from their current situation. Ever since that incident, Midas has hardly gotten out of bed.

Rose: "The Dark Society warriors keep coming. Their forces are strong. Nonetheless, I have defeated both Kinesis and Emerald. Things are looking in our favor."

Midas: "Do not let that get to your head, daughter. There is a bigger challenge ahead. It will not be easy."

"I know it is not easy. I have been fighting alone all this time."

Midas: "Oh yes, I almost forgot to mention to you-"

"What is it" asked Rose.

"He is still alive."

"Who?"

Prince Darian entered. "Greetings, princess, and your majesty." He bowed politely.

"Prince Darian?" Rose was quite surprised. She got up from the chair to greet him. "I am glad you are here."

Midas: "You are very lucky to survive, **Prince of Zaibach**. We all are lucky to have fled here. This castle is our temporary hiding place. But eventually they will find us."

Darian: "True. But we are safe here. Rest well, your majesty."

"Is something on your mind?" Rose asked.

"In fact, there is. I have discovered an unguarded energy crystal, just beyond the hills."

"Unguarded? Is it a trap to lure us?"

"Regardless, it is an energy crystal and must be destroyed." Darian said.

"Then let us be on our way."

Rose rode on her horse while Darian flew.

"Are you sure you can keep up with me?" Rose asked. She was willing to let him ride with her, but he if he chooses to use energy, that is fine too.

"I am okay. Just keep going."

As Lisa was recovering, Macintosh had an announcement. "Guys, I've discovered an energy source in the fields of section 9, section 10, and section 13. It is located just outside of the city."

Tyson: "An energy source? Is it an energy crystal?"

Mac: "Most likely, yes."

Nebula: "Hmph, it's time to make them pay for Lisa's suffering. Let's go."

Zelfire: "Macintosh, you stay here and watch Lisa, ok?"

Mac: "You got it, Mr. Lang."

So the heroes split up and investigated.

After rushing through deep woods, Rose and Darian found a hill slide. Below was a plains. The only thing there was a gigantic energy crystal on top of an ancient stone.

"There it is." Darian said. "All by itself."

Suddenly, soldiers popped up.

Darian: "Well, it is not unguarded after all."

Rose pulled the reins and yelled "Yah!" Lady whined and lifted its two front feet. Then the horse charged forward. Rose used her sword and slashed the soldiers. Then she jumped off and landed next to Darian. The prince drew his sword from its case, then slashed a guy in the chest. Before they knew it, they were surrounded.

Darian: "Leave them up to me." He took out his magical golden flute. This was his secret weapon. Only he can use it, and its music will bring pain to all those with evil in their hearts. Darian began playing the flute. The melody was nice to hear.

"Are you trying to kill us with that music?" asked a soldier. They laughed. But their laughter soon turned to cries of pain. They covered their ears and screamed, squirmed, falling on their knees.

Rose ran past the soldiers and towards the crystal. Darian stopped playing the flute, then used his sword and killed the soldiers. Rose summoned the Soul Sword and got ready to destroy the crystal. Before she could, however, soldiers appeared and surrounded her. She waited, her eyeballs moving left and right, ready for any attack. Suddenly, a soldier charged from behind. Rose saw it, turned around, and stabbed him. Splut! Blood splashed on the ground. Then she slashed the others. Slash! Stab! Whack! Then she jumped and slashed the crystal in half, the top half slid off the bottom and crashed on the ground and shattered.

Prince Darian joined with her. "A job well done."

"Thank you."

More soldiers came from the fields. "Ha ha, you have fallen into our trap."

Rose: "There's too many of them. We better make a run for it." She and Darian ran up the hill as the troops chased them.

"I will distract them. You go ahead."

"Will you be alright?"

"Of course I will."

Rose left as Darian remained. He used the flute and played another tune. Troops collapsed and covered their ears as they heard the music.

Tyson just showed up and he was impressed by what he did. "How'd you do that?"

Darian was like, "Who are you?"

"Well, who are **you**?"

"Begone!" Darian played the flute. He was surprised that it didn't work on Tyson.

Tyson just watched curiously. Darian slashed at him, and he dodged, then vanished.

Darian: "Where did he go?"

Tyson went up the hill and found Rose. "It's you..."

"Tyson?" she said, a little startled.

"I have something I need to ask you."

"I have no time for this. I am on an important mission."

He noticed that her attitude had completely changed. The last time she was so grateful and nice since he saved her, but now she's giving him the cold shoulder. It's as if he is the enemy.

"This can't wait. I need to know, did you attack my friend Lisa?"

"I do not know any Lisa."

"Her energy has been drained from her. She described the attacker, and that description fits you. Did you do it?"

"I do not have to answer anything!" Rose said.

"Are you trying to avoid the question?" he said.

She pointed her sword at him threateningly. "Out of my way! You are wasting my time."

He grabbed her arm, and found something in her sleeve. He rolled up her sleeve and saw the crystal device. "What's this?! This is the weapon that the Dark Society uses to take people's energy. Why do you have it?"

She shook her arm free. "Like I said, I do not have to answer to you."

"You are one of them, aren't you? You steal energy just like them!!"

"This is your last warning!"

"And I thought you were on my side. Why did you do it? Why?"

Rose slashed at him. Tyson dodged and she advanced. She slashed right, Tyson dodged to the left, and she slashed left, he dodged to the right.

Tyson fired an energy ball, Rose hit it with her sword and destroyed it. She proceeded to using another one of her special techniques. Rose put the ends of the swords together, forming a long blade. She started spinning it vertically, the motion got faster and faster..."Whirlwind!" This move is called **Whirlwind**, where a deadly force of wind is created by the spinning blades. As they were spinning, winds were gathered and concentrated in one spot, then pushed forward.

Tyson could feel it. He was being pushed back. "Uhhh....uhhh..." He covered his face and couldn't see a thing. The wind became so strong he was lifted off his feet and blown away.

Darian joined with Rose. "Who was that?"

"Just a nuisance. We need not worry about him. We should go back to the castle."

"Aye."

They left. Tyson got up and patted dust off his clothes. "Damn it." He was very upset. He thought for sure Rose – the one who amazed him the first time he saw her – would be an ally. She seemed so nice too. But is she a friend or foe? By the way she treated him today, she's definitely a foe. A foe not to be trusted. He took out the pink rose given to him, crumbled it, and threw it into the trash.

7: Mismatch.

Contents

Nebula and Zelfire were still working on sections 10 and 13, but Tyson came back to the lab. He found Macintosh working by the main computer. "Hi Tyson." he answered without looking. He heard Tyson's footsteps.

"So, how's it going? Found any more clues yet?"

"Nothing yet, except that I found one energy source."

"Where?"

Macintosh pressed "Enter" on the computer. The display showed a grid map of Network City. It showed the roads and blocks. The screen was quite large, and they had to look up. A red dot was flashing. Macintosh pointed at that dot. "Here it is. Somewhere in town central."

"Thanks. I gotta get going. By the way, how's Lisa doing?"

"She's doing fine. Better than ever. All she needed was a good rest." Mac smiled.

Rose's horse stopped when she pulled the reins. She sensed an energy source coming from the building ahead. She got off. "Stay here, Lady." The horse whined as if she understood.

Tyson walked through a dark hallway and found a large room, much like the one where Kinesis died. The energy crystal was clearly seen, vibrating and giving off a red glow.

A man was standing in front of it. He looked familiar. Wait a minute, Tyson thought, that's the one he saw the other day. He's the one who came out of nowhere and took Emerald away. "It's you..."

"Greetings, Spade. I said we would meet again, and here we are." He closed his eyes and grinned.

"How do you know my name?" Tyson demanded.

"We know many things."

"You're in the Dark Society, aren't you?"

"Isn't that obvious?" the sayan answered.

"Then tell me this. Why are you stealing other people's energy? What are you doing with them?"

"Why should I tell you?"

"You won't answer me, eh? Maybe my fist can change your mind."

Sayan: "If you think you can beat me, you are way off your league, boy."

"What's that supposed to me?" Tyson answered back.

The sayan checked his power on the scouter. Readings appeared. De de de de..."Hmmm, not bad. You are a sayan, is that correct?"

"How do you know?"

"One sayan always can tell if another is a sayan. It's an instinct."

"That means you are a sayan too?"

"That's right. See, we have something in common." the sayan said, with his arms crossed.

"Heh, unfortunately we are enemies." Tyson said.

"Oh why do you say that? Why don't you join us? We need a fellow sayan like you. With Emerald and Kinesis out of the picture, there is a place with you."

"Join you? Never!"

"What?"

"Just because I am a sayan doesn't mean I am like you."

Rose made her way here. She hid behind the wall to see what the two men were doing. (Is that Tyson? Him again? And the other one...he's...Nimrod!)

"Don't be stubborn, fool. I am offering to spare your life. Not only that, but the privilege to work for Vega. You are a sayan just like me, Spade."

Rose: (Tyson is a Sayan?! He is one of them?)

"I don't need you to spare me. And I don't even know who Vega is. I suggest you stop wasting your time."

"So stubborn, eh?" **Nimrod** said. "I must say, Tyson, for sayan, you are pretty pathetic."

"I don't care what you say."

Numbers showed on the sayan's scouter. "Hmmm? Well, looks like we have company. I will see you next time, earth warrior." He opened the black portal like last time.

Tyson was like, "What?"

Rose revealed herself and charged forward. She slashed as Nimrod went into the black gateway. "Uhh! He escaped."

"Rose?" said Tyson with a bit of unexpectedness.

"You..."

"Hey you, what are you doing here? I had him right where I wanted him." Tyson said stubbornly. "And you had come and ruin everything."

"Don't you talk to me that way, you sayan. You are one of them." Rose said angrily.

"One of them? I am nothing like them."

"I do not trust the likes of you."

"And neither do I. You drained my friend's energy. You're the one at fault here."

"Then we shall settle this right here." She slashed, Tyson ducked, and the blade hit the air horizontally. She slashed, Tyson dodged, then grabbed her armed hand. "Let go!" She used her free hand to punch him. Whack!

It felt like a sandbag struck his chest. "Ow!"

Rose advanced and slashed non-stop as Tyson retreated, dodging the blades. He's not taking any chances of getting hit. Even one touch by her sword can be fatal. Tyson jumped onto another platform, and then jumped on the next one. Rose followed him, jumping at the same speed. They stared at each other. Rose summoned the second Soul Sword and now it's double the trouble for Tyson.

"Feel my fury!" she yelled, then jumped and slashed. Tyson jumped away, Rose ended up hitting the floor. The spot that she hit cracked.

"Oh yeah? Take this!" Tyson fired a stream of energy balls.

Rose ran sideways, too fast to get hit. She disappeared behind a wall.

Tyson remained still and wondered where she went. Suddenly, the wall crashed apart and she came out. No more wondering. He quickly got out of the way.

"I've had just enough of you." said Tyson.

"You do not want to see me? I feel the same. Let us end this!" She powered up and became full of spirit energy. Her Soul Swords were glowing and fully charged. She crossed the two blades, forming an X. Then she raised her arms and slashed the air. Whoosh! Whish!

Tyson was like "Ahhh!" and covered his eyes. He heard rocks cracking, and hoped it wasn't his body being chopped. He removed his arms from his eyes, realizing he was still in one piece. He got cocky. "Aha! You missed!"

"Did I?" she responded.

Tyson gasped and let out a "Yipes!" The wall behind him had two cracks, forming an X. The floor was also cracked. He was right in the middle of the X.

This was one of her secret moves. Called "**X Marks the Spot**," it is dangerous and effective, especially considering that she needs only a little energy to perform it.

Rose ran at him and slashed, and he dodged. As he retreated, he tripped on a rock and fell. Rose flew up. Then she began diving, using the Spin Dive Attack.

"Oh on!" Tyson ran for his life.

The spinning tornado went in a diagonal line and crashed on the floor near Tyson. Boom! The force knocked Tyson away. Smoke covered the place. Tyson was relieved that he survived. Suddenly, Rose popped out of the smoke and slashed. Tyson grabbed her hands and he let his back lay on the floor and performed an overhead throw. Rose was tossed up and fell on the floor. Her back hurt. Tyson had one of her swords.

"Give it back. It is mine."

"Make me."

Rose yelled and charged at him. Tyson blocked with the sword and they slashed. Rose kept on slashing and pushing him back. Tyson had enough, and he ran at her. Rose got ready, expecting him to hit hard. But instead he jumped up, then shot an energy beam. Rose jumped up, dodging, then attacked. They hit each other, then Rose moved back, then did a flying kick into Tyson's stomach. Wham! He fell on the floor. Rose landed, then got into a fighting pose.

"This is what you get. Now I will finish this!" She slashed at him non-stop and Tyson could do little but block and retreat.

Just then he realized he was standing on the edge of a very tall platform. He looked below and it seemed very high. "Ahh...yipes..."

Rose saw it as the perfect opportunity to make him fall. She slashed, Tyson blocked, and Rose kicked his stomach. He fell all the way down with a splat.

"Ouch." was the only thing he could say. He looked above. Rose was about to jump down!

She jumped, and in mid air held the sword over her head, ready to chop him. Tyson quickly grabbed the other sword and held it over his head. Rose's sword hit the

sword's blade, she rolled into a ball, then landed on the floor. Tyson got up, and Rose slashed. He slashed at the same time as her and the two swords hit, then bounced away from their grips because of the force. The swords hit the floor vertically.

The two warriors got into fighting position. Rose showed him her karate moves as she attacked ruthlessly. Tyson fought back with equal force. The sounds of them hitting each other echoed throughout the building. They hit on the elbows, fists, and knees. Rose punched Tyson's face. Pow! He was knocked senseless. Rose then swept his feet, making him fall on his back. Then she kicked him and he went up into the air, then slammed against the wall. As a finishing move, she gathered energy and fired the Energy Bomb at him. Boom!

But Tyson wasn't finished yet. He walked with lagging steps, and breathed hard. "You...you won't win."

Then she took out a red rose. Tyson knew what was coming. She threw the rose at him and he dodged.

"Nice try."

She threw another rose, but this one split apart into three roses! Tyson ducked, and luckily did not get hit. The roses hit the wall and exploded. Just when Tyson thought she ran out of flowers, he was wrong. She took out another one and its stem extended into a whip, and thorns grew.

"Oh no!!!"

"**Vine Whip!**" she yelled, whipping at him.

Tyson ran for his life, and the whip broke anything it touched. Crack! Tyson fired energy balls as he ran. Rose hit the balls with her whip, but she missed one and that one hit her. Wham! She dropped the rose.

"I still have one more trick up my sleeve." Rose said, getting up.

"I'm ready for you."

Rose closed her eyes and put her arms sideways.

Tyson: "Oh great, what now?!"

The swords started shaking. They got out of the wall, then flew into her hands.

Tyson was really impressed, and at the same time overwhelmed. "She can do that?"

Rose held the swords and combined them. "Whirlwind!"

"Not that again!"

She used the Whirlwind move, doing exactly the same thing as last time. Tyson covered his eyes as he was pushed back.

"Uuuhhh!" He was slammed against the wall. Rock chunks went at him and he punched them away.

Rose was not done just yet. She held the double-bladed sword over her head, then started spinning it like a top. "**Whirlwind Disk!**" She threw the spinning blade at him.

Tyson ducked nervously. The disk cut through the wall, then went up the air, and back to Tyson. He jumped to avoid it. The disk went to Rose and she caught it. "I've had just about enough of you."

They charged at each other. Rose slashed with the double-blade, but she missed and Tyson kicked her down. Wham! Rose got back on her feet. "We shall see."

"Alright, here I come."

"I am ready."

Tyson ran at her and got his fist ready. Suddenly, he tripped on a rock. He accidentally pushed her on the floor and he fell on top of her and their lips touched. Rose slapped his face good. Smack!

"Ahhhh!"

Tyson got up nervously. "It was...an accident...I swear! I didn't mean to!" She looked at him with anger and embarrassment. "You...you creep! How dare you!"

"It was an accident! I swear! You have to believe me!" he said, waving his hands.

"You filthy creep!"

"I'm sorry! I didn't do it on purpose, I swear!"

Rose charged and gave him a good beating, consisting of a zillion punches on his face, some slaps, and some kicks. She drew her fist back and gave him a powerful punch. KAPOW! Tyson was knocked into the wall.

"YOU DIEEEEEEE!" she screamed. She fired energy beams at him until she was tired. Then she gathered energy for the Energy Bomb. She threw it at the smoke and it went boom!

She breathed hard, catching her breath. She hoped he was dead. Suddenly, Tyson came out. He was extremely angry. He was already powered up and full of blue energy. He glared at her with pure hatred. Now Rose was getting worried.

"He is still alive after all that? What kind of man is he?"

Tyson charged and attacked. Rose blocked desperately. Tyson kept attacking non-stop and Rose couldn't handle it. He kicked her she fell on the floor. Splat! He fired the Energy Blast at her and it was all over. Boom!

Tyson calmed down. He hardly believed what he had just done. "It's over now. What do you have to say for yourself?"

Rose laid face flat on the floor, barely able to move. "Uhhh..." Her eyes were half open.

"I will let you go just this one time." Tyson said, breathing hard.

"H-Help me...I c-can't get up..."

"Help you?" He was outraged. "After all you've done? You expect help from me?"

"P-Please...help. Please...sir..."

Tyson couldn't just do nothing. It was his fault this happened in the first place so he felt obligated to help. Maybe she'll even appreciate him this time..." Alright, but no funny stuff." He grabbed her arms and pulled her up.

She was on her feet, but she was too weak to stand and fell against him. He caught her. Her face suddenly turned red.

"You alright? Careful there."

"Thank you." she said meekly, looking at him.

"It's okay."

She smiled. Then Tyson moaned. He looked down and saw her fist in his stomach. "You..."

Rose kicked him and he fell. "Now you are finished."

"Why...why you, that was a dirty trick."

"And you fell for it." She picked up her sword and got ready to behead him.

Tyson was helpless and watched in horror.

"Stop!" said a third voice. "What are you doing?"

"Father? What are you doing here?"

"Why are you trying to kill this man?" Midas yelled.

Tyson saw another person approach Rose. His vision was blurry. At this point he fell unconscious and saw nothing further.

"He...he is our enemy."

"No, no, you have made a grave mistake. He is the one we have been looking for all along."

"This man...is him? The one mentioned in the Sacred Scrolls?"

8: The Whole Story.

Contents

Nebula and Zelfire came back MC Technologies, a little roughed up. They were talking as they came into the door. "Man, I sure taught those goons a good lesson." Neb said, flexing his muscles.

Zelfire: "Same thing for my opponents. I managed to destroy their crystal."

"Me too. It was a piece of cake."

Mac: "Well done, folks. Congratulations."

Lisa: "I knew you could do it."

Neb: "Lisa out of bed already? Are you feeling okay now?"

Lisa: "Yep, of course. All better now."

Zelfire: "Where is Tyson?"

Mac: "He came back from section 9 a while ago. Then he left to another site."

Neb: "Already? Man he's faster than I thought. That sneaky bastard. I won't fall behind."

"Uuhhh..." moaned the unconscious Tyson. He was rest in the bed that Midas was resting on.

It was raining outside. Thunder roared and lightning flashed. Water splashed on the window.

Rose sat by Tyson. Filled with guilt, she was determined to bring this man back to perfect health. She sat there and reflected on how this craziness started. It had been a misunderstanding all along. They mistook each other for enemies and almost fought to death. How could she not have known he was **the one** mentioned in the Sacred Scrolls?

Darian: "How is he doing?"

Rose: "His condition is stable. His wounds are starting to get better. But he has not woken up."

Midas: "He is strong, I know it. He will get better soon."

Rose: "I will stay here and wait until he wakes up. I owe him and it is my fault he is here."

"As you wish, daughter." He and Darian left the room.

Rose got a moist cloth and put it on Tyson's head. She wiped the sweat off his forehead and he moaned, turning his head. There were bandages on his head and chest, his left arm was in a cast, and there was a band-aid on his left cheek.

Tyson's eyes slowly opened. "Uhhh...uhhh...ummm..."

Rose gasped. "You're awake."

Tyson was surprised it was her. He crawled back. "You...it's you!"

She quickly stood up and said: "No, do not be afraid of me. I am not your enemy."

"Get away from me!"

Darian and Midas entered the room. "Oh, you are awake at last, warrior." said Midas.

Tyson got off the bed and backed up towards the window. "Back off, all of you!"

Darian approached him. "Wait, we are not your enemies. Hear us out."

Tyson grabbed his sword and pointed at him. His hands were trembling. Darian moved back. "Stay away from me. Don't you move one step near me or I'll use this."

Rose: "We do not want to hurt you. Please listen."

Midas: "Now young man, don't do anything foolish."

Tyson: "Arrrgh. You tricked me and tried to kill me. Why should I trust you?"

Darian: "If you would just calm down and listen to us--"

Tyson: "I don't need an explanation. I know about you people."

Darian approached him, and Tyson got into defensive position. Rose stopped Darian. "Let me handle this. This whole mess is my fault." She approached Tyson.

Tyson stepped back, and he was touching the window. No more room to move.

"Listen, Tyson, I believe there is a misunderstanding."

"Damn right! You tried to kill me!"

Midas: "If we are your enemies, then we would kill you while you were asleep. Why would we bother to bandage your wounds?"

"Well...you do have a point." But still, Tyson was not 100% convinced.

Rose: "I sincerely apologize for everything I have done. I take full responsibility for what has happened, but please hear us out, please. We do not wish to harm you in any way. Please put down the sword and listen to us."

Tyson was becoming convinced. How could he not believe the words of such a beautiful young lady?

"Just put the down sword. Nobody is going to hurt you."

He looked at her beautiful, bright eyes and fell under her spell. She touched his hands. Tyson was dumbfounded. He let her take the sword. She handed it back to Darian, who put it back into its case.

Tyson grabbed a chair and sat down. "Okay, I'm listening."

Midas: "I believe we owe you an explanation."

"Damn right you do. I'm all ears."

Rose grabbed a chair and sat down across from him.

Darian: "Where should we start?"

Tyson: "How about you start by telling me who you people are?"

"I am Prince Darian of Zaibach."

"And I am King Midas of Almerak."

Then Rose introduced herself. "And my name is Faith, **Princess Faith of Almerak**. I told you that my name is Rose. Actually, Rose is my name on the battlefield."

Tyson couldn't believe what he was hearing. "So first of all, you gave me a fake name? And secondly, where the heck is Zaibach or Almerak? Are you from some foreign country?"

Faith: "Those are not countries. It's not just a place you can find...in fact, you will never find it."

"What do you mean?" he asked. (Almerak? Zaibach? Where are these places? Are these people making this up?)

"We come from another dimension." Midas said.

"ANOTHER DIMENSION?" He snapped.

Midas: "Whether you believe us or not, 'tis true."

Rain continued to pour.

"You expect me to believe this crap?"

"Young man, we are not trying to deceive you." said Midas.

Darian: "The kingdom of Almerak has been destroyed by the forces of Vega."

"Vega? I've heard that name before. Who is he?"

Faith: "The better question is **what** is he?"

Midas: "We do not know for sure. All we know about him is that he is a life-draining life form. He steals energy from living things for himself. That energy makes him more powerful."

"He is that dangerous?"

Darian: "This is based on what we know and heard. Nothing about Vega is confirmed. He is a complete mystery to all of us."

Faith: "Your planet earth might seem like just one planet, but it is not that simple. Let me tell you about it. There is a parallel dimension that exists. Our dimension is an exact replica of yours. Only certain things are different. There are only two ways to travel from one dimension to the next. The first way is to use a gateway device. It is small enough to put on your wrist and you can activate it at any time. The second way is using a dimensional pod, which is a large spherical transporter that can fit several people in."

Midas: "Although this is several centuries beyond our technology, we have learned to use it."

"I see..." Tyson tried his best to keep up.

Midas: "The Dark Society is an evil group led by Vega. Their sole purpose is to steal energy from every living thing in this planet."

Tyson: "What I want to know is, well...you still haven't explained about what you did to my friend."

Faith felt very guilty now. "I am very sorry..."

"It is my fault." Midas interrupted. "You see, young man, the Dark Society scums are ruthless. They destroyed my army and attacked my palace. I had to flee with my daughter to this dimension, but I suffered a great injury trying to escape. As a result I need to intake energy in order to survive. I apologize for my daughter's actions."

Faith: "I am truly sorry for what I have done."

Midas: "Please do not be so harsh on her for that. She did it because she cares about me. She had no other choice but to take energy from another person. You must understand she had no intention of hurting anyone whatsoever."

"Father!!!" yelled Princess Faith.

"We must run!" he said.

The shadow in the sky went above the Imperial Palace. Suddenly, the palace started to fall apart. The ceiling came down piece by piece, and the father and daughter had to avoid them. The floor cracked apart.

Faith screamed.

"This way!" Midas grabbed her hand and they ran to the left. A beam hit Midas in the back and he screamed in agony.

"F-Father!!!"

"Uhhh...just go without me. Go!"

"I will not leave you! Never!" She helped him up and carried his arm over her shoulder. He walked in limping steps.

They reached the pod and entered. The pod disappeared before the palace exploded.

Tyson was pleased to hear this. "Well, at first I had my doubts, but after your explanation, I'm seeing things in a new perspective. I am not angry anymore.

"Really?" asked Faith in delight. "Thank you so much! I thank you from the bottom of my heart."

"You did it for your father. No one was hurt. That is the important thing. I'm sure my friend will forgive you."

Darian: (This man is the one mentioned in the scrolls? I do not see anything special about him.)

Faith continued the story. "Our kingdom...both Zaibach and Almerak were peaceful kingdoms in our world. From the day I was born was a princess. I enjoyed a privileged life that an ordinary peasant can only dream of. Sometimes I think I'm too

spoiled and take things for granted. And right now, I have taken my home for granted. But one day the Dark Society came to us and threatened to take everything away from us. They wanted our land and wanted to use our people as slaves. Of course me and my father refused to give in to their demands. But it was no use – they were too powerful for us. Our armies lost in just a few battles.”

Faith was playing her harp in the middle of the field. A man was walking towards her. A man dressed in black with shoulder pads. She got up from the chair.

“Greetings, Princess Faith of Almerak.”

“Ahh, ‘tis you, Prince Darian. My father has been expecting your arrival. Marianna, be so kind as to get refreshments for our guest.”

“Yes, princess.” she said, then left them.

“Come,” said Rose, “Let me show you around these royal grounds.”

“Lead the way.”

She took him to various parts of the whole place. It was a fortress that was several acres big. It was basically a plain with walls around it. She led him into a hexagon shaped building, built with columns. Inside was a golden statue of a man on a horse.

“Here is the golden statue. It has been in my family for many generations and we are very proud of it.”

Darian: “Why, it is magnificent! It is made entirely out of gold?”

“Yes. It is very valuable. My father says it is priceless.”

“Who is the man on the horse?”

“He is a legendary war hero. The first king of Almerak. This statue is to honor his bravery during the war.”

“Ohhh. Interesting.”

They went outside. Darian looked at the sky and became dumbfounded. A dark shadow covered the sky, slowly approaching them.

“What...what in the world is that?!”

“A shadow in the sky?” Faith said in shock.

“Never have I seen anything like this in my life!”

“Neither have I! We must run!”

They ran for their lives. The space ship fired a red beam and hit the ground, creating a devastating explosion. Boom! Smoke covered the whole place. Faith and Darian were lucky enough to survive. They ran back into the building. The ship fired another beam, destroying the statue and the whole building.

Faith turned around, realizing Darian did not come out. “Prince Darian!” she yelled. No use going back in. She continued to run. Four bright, red balls flew down and surrounded her. She fell in nervousness. The bright balls were actually four sayans.

Faith stood up nervously, staring at them. “Who...who are you people?”

They were laughing at her.

Emerald: “Listen up, princess, we have come to deliver a message.”

Kinesis: “It is a message for your father.”

“Tell ‘his majesty’ that we have already begun the invasion of Almerak. Your puny army cannot match ours. We advise your father that he surrender his kingdom.”

Faith: “My father will never surrender to the likes of you!”

Emerald: “Little girl, that is **his** decision to make.”

Nimrod: “I suggest you take our advice. This way many soldiers will not have to die for a meaningless cause. Well, that is the king’s choice. If he wants to send his army to their death, that is fine with us.”

Kinesis: “Either way, we win.”

They turned into red balls and went back to the ship. What just happened was too much for Rose to absorb. She had to tell her father what happened.

"We could not just surrender our kingdom to some strangers because they said so. But Vega's forces proved to be powerful...too powerful for us."

Soldiers shot arrows at Kinesis, flying around in the air. He dodged them and laughed. He shot fireballs at the ground, blowing the soldiers up. They all screamed while he laughed.

"Those scumbags...they devastated our kingdom. And our people. And pretty soon, the forces reached our main castle. We could not hold them off. They destroyed our castle, and we escaped just in time. And father was injured in the process. But good thing we found one of their machines earlier on. We used it to get to this dimension. But the fighting continues, no matter where we are."

Tyson: "So they totally ruined your home, huh?"

"Yes. I'll never forgive them." Faith said.

"So what are they doing here?"

Faith: "They're still not satisfied after destroying our kingdom. So they have to your dimension to take over your land. If we do not act soon, your world might end up like ours. That is why...I think we should form an alliance."

"An alliance?"

Faith: "I cannot just let our home be destroyed in vain. We must take revenge. But we can only succeed with your help. So, will you help us, please?" She grabbed his hand and looked at him with innocent eyes.

How can Tyson not agree? "Of course! As you said, he has already ruined one dimension. I will not let him ruin this one! This is my home."

"Really?" Faith was overjoyed. "Oh thank you Tyson!"

Suddenly, Darian sensed something. "Excuse me everyone, I need to check on something. It will not be long."

Tyson: "Well, I'm just glad we had this sorted out, Rose. Uh, I mean, Faith. Gee, what should I call you?"

"You can call me by my real name, Faith." she said, smiling warmly. They both felt the same kind of relief, misunderstanding each other for enemies. Both it turns out they're both on the same side.

"I am happy you can join us, young man." Midas said. "Please forgive my daughter. She does not even know friend from foe sometimes."

"Oh it's no big deal. We're both at fault here." And he laughed. Faith laughed too, and felt a little embarrassed.

Suddenly, Midas coughed, and he fell on his knees. Faith went to him immediately. "Father, are you alright?"

"I am fine. Do not be alarmed. It is my condition."

Tyson: "Phew. You had me worried for a moment there."

Outside, Darian saw the other heroes – Nebula, Zelfire, Lisa, and Macintosh. Everyone was hostile.

Neb: "Who the hell are you? The knights of the round table?"

Darian: "Hmph. Your comments mean nothing to me. Identify yourself, stranger."

Neb: "You first."

Darian: "No need saying my name to the enemy."

Neb: "Same here. Guys, this one's mine. Stay outta this."

Zelfire: "He is all yours."

The two warriors walked forward a few paces, and got ready.

"I heard about the big news." said a mysterious, dark figure. "Emerald lost?"
"Yes." Nimrod replied. "She wasn't as good as we thought."
"She was worthless to the Society. We do not need her any longer."

9: A Misunderstanding.

Contents

Nebula and Darian began their face off. The others watched in suspense. Zelfire wondered what kind of abilities this person has. Mac was nervous, not knowing anything.

Darian pulled something from his patch, Nebula awaited anxiously. To his surprise, it's a golden flute.

(What is he up to?) Neb thought.

Darian played the flute, singing a tune.

Nebula: "What are you trying to do? Kill us with music?"

Darian, while playing: (It's not working. Time to change the harmonics.) Then he played a different tune, one that targets everything within the area.

Now the heroes felt it. Nebula fell on his knees, as his hands covered his ears. Macintosh, Zelfire, and Lisa felt the same, they couldn't stand it.

Mac: "It's some kind of vibration sound attack! Ugh!"

Nebula drew his sword and charged forward! Clang! Darian's flute got knocked into the air, and Darian drew his sword to defend. Cling! Clang! As they continued hitting, they powered up.

Suddenly, Midas, Faith, and Tyson showed up. Everyone gasped.

Tyson: "Guys?"

Lisa: "Tyson! You're here." Then she saw Faith. "You!!"

Faith identified Lisa as well. They pointed at each other. "It's you!"

Lisa immediately pulled out her gun. "Back off, energy drainer!"

Faith was alarmed, she did not move.

Lisa: "You stupid witch! You're one of them, aren't you?"

Tyson stepped in front of Faith. "Wait Lees, you got it all wrong!"

Faith: (This girl...is the one I ran into that day...and she is Tyson's friend?)

Darian and Nebula paused fighting, a little confused. Macintosh and Zelfire were clueless as well.

Mac: "Huh? What is happening?"

Lisa: "Tyson, why are you helping her? She's the enemy!"

Tyson: "No, it's a misunderstanding. She's on our side. She's the one who helped me with Kinesis."

Lisa: "What? This woman is that woman? She drained my energy!"

Tyson looked at Faith. "Is that true?"

Faith did not answer.

Midas stepped into the center of everyone. "It seems that this is a big misunderstanding. Please everyone, put down your weapons and we can explain."

Darian and Nebula, in the heat of battle, were reluctant. But they withdrew.

Everyone listened with all ears, as Midas tried his best to explain the whole confusion. Tyson helped with the explanation too.

And Midas explained his condition, explaining the rationale of Faith's actions. But of course, that is not enough.

Faith went over to Lisa and apologized regrettably. She even bowed. "Mrs. Powers, I am very sorry. I did it for my father's sake. I never meant to hurt anyone."

Tyson watched stupidly.

"I hope you can find it in your heart to forgive me."

Lisa was thinking real hard. "Well..."

"I..."

"It's okay. I understand your hardships. You meant well." Lisa said.

Faith was glad and relieved. And everyone else was glad they worked things out. Nebula and Darian shook hands.

Neb: "Sorry about the misunderstanding."

Darian: "No, the mistake is mine. I apologize."

Zelfire: "So we are all together in this, correct? We now have one common enemy – the Dark Society."

Neb: "Amen to that. There's no way we can take such a big enemy on our own."

Boy, were the heroes every glad they got this cleared up. They thought they'd be invincible with their new alliance, but they did not know their enemies well.

Nimrod was watching on screen the fight between Faith and Emerald.

"Watching the fight closely, are you, brother?" said a mysterious figure in the dark.

"Of course. We cannot fight our enemy without knowing who they are. It turns out a certain someone has escaped the other dimension."

"Is that so?" **Sapphire** said, walking into the light. "Who would that be?"

"The one Emerald lost to. A woman." Nimrod said.

"A woman?" Sapphire repeated. He had red hair and had eyes of a predator. He was the same height as his brother, but everyone knows he is the better one in terms of strength and strategy. These two are the last members of the Big Four. They are Vega's most trusted confidants.

"A woman by the name of...Princess Faith. From Almerak."

"Ohhh...how interesting."

The heroes were taken to the royal throne room, where Midas continued to explain the whole story to them. Faith and Tyson weren't there though, and neither was Darian. He was outside training by himself.

"So let me get this straight." Nebula said with much skepticism. "Vega came from another dimension? And so are you?"

Midas: "That is correct, young one."

Zelfire: "Hmmm."

Nebula: "You've gotta be kidding me. How do you expect me to buy any of this?"

Midas: "I know it may sound absurd to you, but it is the truth. We do not benefit from lying."

Lisa: "Well...it's not that far of a stretch. Nebula, you're not human anyway, right? You're from planet Nebulon."

Neb: "Well, that's true."

Midas: "Planet Nebulon? It sounds like a mighty wonderful place. We all come from different places, but we are united for one cause. To prevent our world from being the Dark Society's slaves. We must stop them at all costs."

Zelfire: "Their energy crystals sucked up everyone's energy within the city. If this keeps up, the world will not be a safe place to live in anymore."

The two brothers stood on the platform, as it ascended to the surface. "Alas, Nimrod and Sapphire, I have an important mission for you."

Nimrod: "Anything for you, sire."

Vega: "It seems that we have some enemies here in this dimension. They are not to be taken lightly – they have defeated both Kinesis and Emerald. I need you to rid of these pesky warriors right away."

Nimrod: "Yes, sire."

Sapphire: "Leave it to us. Kinesis and Emerald were both failures as sayans. I'm embarrassed to even know them. We will show these humans what a true sayan is."

The platform descended, and both sayans went into the floor.

Vega: "As I expected from the Big Four. I will not have anyone stand in my way."

"I am so relieved." Faith said. "I thought your friend might not have forgiven me." She walked to the edge and put her arms on the fence. The air was refreshing.

"Oh schucks, no. Lisa's not like that. She understands."

"I just hope all this will end soon. I miss my home." Faith said.

"I can imagine. It must be hard, huh?"

"Harder than you think. But with my father still with me, I will manage. Even without a home, I will continue to fight."

"You've got lots of determination." Tyson said, looking at her.

"I wonder if they are still alive..."

"Who?"

"Never mind." she said, changing her thoughts.

"Ummm...about your kingdom...was it a happy place to live in?"

"Oh, definitely." she answered full heartedly. "Almerak was one of the best kingdoms in terms of prosperity. My father doesn't let me out of the castle, so I often sneak out. Kind of rebellious, huh?"

Tyson smiled. He was glad to have such a friend. And he notices she speaks regular English, unlike when he first met her.

Suddenly, there was an explosion. Boom!

All the heroes reacted with alarm and shock.

Nimrod: "We found them, brother."

Sapphire: "This place has such low security."

Nebula and the others attacked.

The sayan brothers fired an energy wave together, knocking everybody down.

Midas charged at them and punched.

"Foolish old man." Sapphire kicked him, Midas collapsed from the pain. Sapphire grabbed him by the neck and took him outside.

Faith: "Father!"

Tyson charged without thinking. Nimrod shot an energy ball and he was pushed against the wall. "Oof!" The ball exploded and knocked Faith away.

Nebula: "You bastards!"

Nimrod: "If you want your king back, I suggest you surrender. If not, you might not see him alive again."

"Father!"

The sayans flew away.

"Father!" Faith screamed again.
Darian came to the scene. "What the hell..."
The heroes could not believe what just happened.
Faith: "They took father...no...they can't..."
Darian: "We must find him."
Tyson: "I think that is a risky thing to do. Shouldn't we wait?"
Faith: "We can not wait any longer. We have to get my father back. I do not want anything to happen to him."
Mac: "They are expecting us to get him back. It is a trap, most likely."
Tyson: "You saw how powerful they were. Even if you can find the king, what good will that do?"
Faith: "If you are such a coward then don't go!"
Tyson: "Fine. Go by yourself. See if I care."
"I will remember these words, Tyson. If you are that way then so be it. Let's go, Darian."
She left the room.
Darian: "You must forgive the princess...she has a bad temper...she is not that impatient, really. She just cares about her father." He left.
Nobody said a word after he was gone.

10: A Cold Storm.

Contents

The Almerakian heroes and the earth heroes have finally worked out their misunderstandings and formed an alliance. But their tranquility didn't last as Nimrod and Sapphire breaks into the castle and kidnaps King Midas! Will they be able to get him back safe and sound?

Darian: "Can you sense his highness?"

Faith: "Yes. He is in that direction." She got on Lady and pulled the reins. They left without the other heroes.

They reached the entrance of a large, dark cave. Faith got off Lady and told her to stay.

Darian: "I cannot see a thing. Are you sure he is inside?"

"Positive."

"Let's go."

They walked inside. It was so quiet every footstep they took could be heard clearly. They went slowly and steadily, not wanting to rush.

Soldiers showed up.

Darian: "You go ahead. I will distract them." He took out the flute and started playing. The soldiers moaned and covered their ears.

Faith ran in a straight line, slashing all soldiers in her way. Darian finished off the remainder. Faith went ahead and reached a large room.

Her father was in a liquid chamber on a high platform.

"Father..."

Sapphire: "Oh, look who's here."

Nimrod: "If it isn't miss princess."

"Return my father to me now. If you get in my way, I will have no choice but to kill you."

Nimrod: "Is that so?" He thought it's amusing she said that.

Sapphire: "You came to this dimension to flee from us. You will run no more, for this place will be the last place you see!" As he gathered energy, his scouter beeped. "Oh? You brought a friend with you? Nimrod, take care of these insolents. I will handle the intruder."

"Right away."

Sapphire flew away.

Faith jumped towards her father. Nimrod appeared in front of her. "I don't think so," he said as Faith gasped. She punched. He blocked, then punched her down.

She fell on the ground hard.

"You will never save your father."

Faith threw a rose at him and he caught it. "Using plants as a weapon?" Suddenly, smoke came out and went on his face. He coughed. Faith seized the chance and jump-kicked him. She followed with a combo of punches and kicks. Sapphire blocked all her attacks, then blurred and appeared in a safe distance.

Faith did not see where he went.

"Over here!" He shot a beam and by the time she saw it, it was already too late. Bam! She was hit badly.

Sapphire charged and slammed her against the wall. Wham! She got up and used the **Energy Shot** technique. She put her hands together with two forefingers pointing out like a gun. Energy formed at the tip of the fingers and was released in the form of a laser. Sap[hire jumped and avoided the shot. In mid air, he gathered energy and fired a beam. Faith ran for it but got hit by the shockwave.

"It is time for you to die, Princess of Almerak!" said Sapphire, opening his palm at her.

Faith gasped and wondered if she really was going to die. Suddenly, a beam came down and Sapphire jumped out of the way. Bam. He looked up and saw Tyson.

Faith gasped in surprise. "It's you! You came..."

Tyson jumped down, landing next to Faith. "Of course. My job is to help you."

Nimrod: "It's you again, sayan? It looks like it is our destiny to fight. You are not so lucky this time."

"We'll see about that."

Tyson charged and kicked. Nimrod jumped. Tyson flew after him. He punched Nimrod in the chin, Faith seized the chance and went to her father. Nimrod saw her, then got in her way.

"I think not."

Tyson pushed him away, then jabbed his face, then jabbed the other side of his face. Nimrod blocked the next punch, then kicked him. Wham! Nimrod followed with a hard punch to Tyson's face. Pow! He formed an energy ball that looked like an empty sphere. He fired it at Tyson.

"Watch out!" said Faith.

Tyson formed the Electro-shield, destroying the ball. Then he charged. Nimrod just gave a simple kick, and the shielded Tyson crashed into the ground. Faith tried to free her father from the chamber, but before she could Nimrod slammed her on the ground. Then he blasted her away. She almost fell off the cliff, she grabbed the edge and held on to it. A few rock chunks fell into the darkness below. The pit seemed to be bottomless. She looked down and screamed in fear.

"Help!" she screamed.

Tyson quickly got to her and grabbed her hand just before she lost her grip. "I got you..." He pulled with all his strength. The piece of ground they were on cracked and separated from the rest. It slanted diagonally, and Tyson slid down along with Faith and they screamed. Nimrod came just in time to see the rock fall into the pit.

Thinking they were good as dead, he smiled and crossed his arms. Just then Tyson floated up, holding Faith. They landed and got ready to fight.

Nimrod was surprised as well as unhappy.

Tyson: "As long as I am here, I will make sure you won't have it your way."

Faith: "Release my father at once, or I will be left with no choice but to kill you."

Nimrod: "Ha! I ain't scared of you." He waved his forefinger. "I have a trick I'd like to show you. I think you will be quite impressed."

Tyson: "What trick?"

"Just watch and see. Don't blink, cuz I can only do this once!" He gathered energy.

Tyson looked around him, and noticed that rocks floated up, and the ground shuddered. Faith also felt his power. They watched in horror.

Nimrod laughed like crazy. Beams came from the ground, creating light. Suddenly, Tyson and Faith disappeared, and then Nimrod disappeared.

Tyson and Faith reappeared in mid air and fell on snow. Snow?! The entire ground was filled with snow and the ground itself was shuddering. Nimrod appeared and landed on his knees and hands. He got up and laughed.

Tyson: "What...what did you do?! Where are we?" He could see his own breath.

Nimrod: "I teleported you another place on the planet."

Faith: "You did what?"

"It's a rare trick indeed that I have mastered. The spot we are standing now is thousands of miles away from where you were just a second ago."

Tyson: "This is unreal..."

Faith took out a rose and its whip extended. "Take us back now!" she demanded.

Nimrod: "I do not take orders from anyone except Vega. You will all freeze to death here. I hope you enjoy your stay."

Tyson charged with blind rage. He got slammed into a cave. Faith whipped at him, Nimrod dodged all her attacks. He finds the chance to attack her and he knocked her into the cave. Wham! She hit the wall and fell on snow.

Tyson: "Faith, are you alright?"

Nimrod busted through the wall and slammed Tyson against the opposite wall.

"Oof!"

Faith charged, Nimrod punched her stomach and she fell.

"Say goodbye!" He opened his palm and shot a fiery beam.

Faith watched helplessly and wondered if this was the end of her. Tyson ran in front of her and spread out his arms. He took the hit. Bam! He screamed in pain. Faith was totally shocked at his noble action. She gasped. Tyson felt like an inferno as his body became extremely hot. He thought he was going to explode any minute - literally explode.

Faith: "**Tyson!!**"

Nimrod: "What a foolish thing to do! You should have run away while you had the chance."

Smoke burned from Tyson's clothes. "Uhhh..."

Nimrod gathered energy. Tyson fired the Energy Blast before Nimrod could and hit him, pushing him out of the cave and into the air. It went so far away it disappeared into the sky.

Tyson then collapsed.

"No!" Faith screamed. She went to his aid at once. "Tyson? Speak to me Tyson!" She lifted his head.

His eyes were closed and he moaned. "Uhh..." He forced his eyes to open faintly. "Listen, you b-better get out of h-here while you still can..."

"No...I won't leave without you. Never."

"I don't think I can make it. You better leave." He coughed.

Faith gasped. "No, don't die." she yelled frantically. Tears came from her eyes and dropped on his face.

"Are you...crying? For me?"

"Just don't die. Please don't die!"

With the clothing they had on, they'll never last in this cold weather, and Faith knew it. Tyson was wearing only a blue T-shirt and athletic pants.

Tyson moaned from the cold. Faith took off her sweater and set it on his chest. She was wearing only a tank top underneath. "You're going to be alright, Tyson."

A helicopter soared through the sky. Beep beep.

Lisa: "Have you found them yet, Macintosh?"

"Be patient, Lisa. This scanning device is state of the art."

All the heroes were dressed in winter coats, with hoods and mittens.

Nebula: "Boy...brrr...it's getting chilly."

Zelfire: "Chilly? I'm freezing to death!"

Macintosh: "Aha, I found them. Their energy signal is very weak though."

Lisa: "Oh no...what does it mean?"

Nebula: "It means they are in big trouble. Come on Mac, can't you go any faster?"

Mac: "It's going as fast as it can!" He could barely see a thing in the blizzard. It was all dark and snow covered the sky.

The weather seemed to be getting colder and colder. Faith was turning into an ice cube. She went to the entrance and looked outside. There was no way out for sure. If she carried Tyson with him, it would be pointless and they'll both die. If they remain in here, at least they are partially sheltered and may last longer. But how much longer?

Faith only cared about Tyson, even more than herself. She began transferring energy to him. When she grabbed his hand, he opened his eyes.

"What...a-are you d-doing?"

"Tyson..."

"No, save your energy for yourself...you need it..."

"No. Just be quiet." She gave him energy. He was glowing pink as he received it. She kept transferring until she barely had any left.

Hours have passed. Time seemed to last longer when you're dying. Faith's energy kept Tyson warm, but she ran out. "No...we can't...we can't just die here..." She got up and walked one step, then collapsed next to Tyson on the snow. Plop.

Now both were motionless for hours. What is the fate of our heroes – are they to freeze to death in a place like this?

11: A New Plan.

Contents

The helicopter landed. Its wings stopped spinning. Macintosh got off and landed on snow, and his boots became wet instantly. "That way!" his voice shouted against the wind. He led them to the cave.

Lisa and Nebula gasped. "There they are..."

"Poor Tyson...and poor Faith..." said Lisa in sadness. "They didn't deserve this!" Macintosh touched their chests. "Thank God. They are both still alive, but barely." Zelfire: "We better hurry and get them back to the lab." They carried the bodies back to the laboratory.

Tyson was put into a liquid chamber with a respirator attached to his mouth and nose. Macintosh set the temperature of the water extra high since he's been in the cold for hours. This should neutralize his condition. Bubbles came from the respirator and floated to the surface.

Nebula: "He'll be okay, right?"

Macintosh: "Sure thing."

Zelfire put his hand on Mac's shoulder. "We couldn't have saved him without you. We owe you a great thanks."

Macintosh: "Gosh, it's the least I can do for you guys."

Lisa: "Look, he's waking up!"

The chamber opened. Tyson came out and covered his shoulders and shivered. "Brrrrrr I'm so cold!"

Nebula put a towel on him. "You're lucky, you know? We found you in a cave. In the middle of Antarctica!"

"Antarctica? So that's where we were." Tyson muttered cluelessly.

Lisa: "How on Earth did you get there anyway?"

"It's a long story." He suddenly realized something. "Where's Faith?"

"She is okay." said Darian, coming in.

Faith came in with him, also covered by a towel.

Tyson was so glad to see her. He went towards her. "I'm glad you're alright." he said.

"Me too." she replied gratefully.

Midas: "They found me while I was unconscious. And now they have found you two. Thank the spirits we are all in one piece."

Mac: "What happened back there, Tyson?"

He looked on the floor. "Our enemies...are just too powerful. These sayans are the toughest guys I've ever faced. I'm afraid we don't stand a chance."

Everybody looked gloomy after Tyson's statement. They know it was true.

Nebula: "I don't believe this! We are all warriors, and I refuse to accept the fact that we have lost before we even try anything."

Zelfire: "Tyson is right. They are too strong for us. Remember Emerald? We were not even a match for her."

Nebula squeezed his fist and grunted. Accepting the truth was hard.

Lisa: "Then...what can we do? Just let them take over the world?"

Midas was in deep thought. Then he finally spoke up: "Young ones, the only thing we can do is undergo training."

[Split screen - 3] [Darian, Nebula, Tyson]

"Training?" Darian and Nebula said together.

Midas: "Yes. That is the only way we can become stronger if we want to defeat our enemies."

Zelfire: "But we don't have time for that. The Dark Society-"

Midas: "Haste makes waste. We must accept the current reality that our powers are limited. Our opponent is stronger than we are. We can do nothing."

Darian: "I agree with his highness."

Zelfire has been training his whole life. "Hmm. Will training under these time constraints really be effective?"

Midas: "Yes. With my training I guarantee you will become stronger than you think."

Tyson: "You're going to train us?"

"Yes, that is correct. I feel that each one of you is strong and have your own unique skills and abilities." Midas said, looking at each one of them. "With my training you will be stronger than ever. But it will be most effective if I train only a few of you. That way I can spend more time individually. Tyson, I suggest that you seek special training."

"Me?" Tyson said, smiling and pointing to himself.

"Yes. I can feel a special power in you, and I've felt this since I first time I saw you. You have a fast learning rate."

Neb crossed his arms. "What makes him so special?"

Midas: "I suggest you seek the **Grandmaster**."

"Grandmaster?"

Faith smiled. "Oh yes. He can surely help you."

Tyson: "So, ummm...where do I find this Grandmaster?"

Midas: "He can be found within the Meridian Forest. Look beyond the mountains. You will see his house if you travel correctly. Your senses will surely take you there."

Darian: "Very well then, your majesty. If we are to train, then we must not waste any time."

Zelfire: "I agree. We should start right now."

Neb raised his arm in the air. "Then it's settled. We start training!"

So they agreed with the plan. Indeed, it was the best way.

Tyson had some trouble finding the house in the Meridian Forest. They were so in a rush to start things they forget to mention where **exactly** the house was. He was carrying his things in a bag over his shoulder. After much searching, he was beginning to think this plan was stupid. Who the heck is the "Grandmaster"? They barely mentioned anything about him.

Finally, he found a house, and hopefully it's the one he's supposed to be finding. Knock knock. No answer. After waiting there stupidly for two minutes, he decided to turn the knob and found it was unlocked. He peeked inside, then stepped in. "Hello? Anybody home?" He walked down the hallway, looking around. The house was made mostly of wood. When he walked he can hear creaks on the floor. "Ummm, hello? My name is Tyson Spade, and I sought to train under you, Grandmaster. You see, it may be hard to believe, but I have to save the Earth. I was hoping you can train me so I can become stronger."

Suddenly, Faith dropped behind him. "Hi."

Tyson turned around. "Ah! Faith? What are you doing here?"

"What do you mean? I'm the grandmaster."

He looked at her strangely. "Right...seriously, where is the Grandmaster?"

"She's right in front of you."

He pointed at her. "You're the grandmaster?!"

"Yep."

"You're kidding..."

"No I'm not. I'm the Grandmaster."

"What kind of prank is this?"

"It's no prank. My father wanted to surprise you."

"I'm surprised. Really." he said with mockery.

"Well, I think we should start the training as soon as possible. After all, we have to save this dimension from doom." she said, smiling childishly. "Come on, let's get you settled in." She took his luggage and went down the hallway.

Tyson was still unsure about this whole thing. But he had to go along with it.

Tyson unpacked his stuff as Faith unpacked hers. When they both finished, Faith began discussing the rules.

Faith: "Alright, there's some rules you must know before we begin."

"What rules?"

"First rule: I am your master and you are my student. From now on you will call me 'master' and not by my name."

"Sure, whatever, 'master.'" he said sarcastically.

"Second rule: You will sleep in that room and my room is here. You are not to enter my room without my permission."

"Of course. What do I look like?"

"Thirdly, we will be training and training and training. Other than sleeping and eating, the only other thing we will do is training." Faith said.

"Isn't that a little severe?"

"The sayans are severe!" she yelled back. "Now, we will begin immediately."

Then they went outside to the fields. Faith and Tyson got into fighting position. Tyson still had doubts she was the Grandmaster. How can this hot tempered princess be a Grandmaster? Oh well, this is life.

"Okay, the first day we will just fight. I want to see your strengths and weaknesses."

"So, anything goes?"

"Yes. Do what you have to to win."

"Alright." Tyson moved forward and punched.

Faith blocked, grabbing his fist. "Nice try."

Now Tyson was surprised. She's fast and good. "Take this!" He used his right hand to punch.

Faith moved her head back, avoiding Tyson's fist. She kicked him in the chin. Whack! Tyson got hit so bad he was turned upside down and fell with a splat. "Oof!"

"That is how you fight, Tyson. You have to give it all you got."

"Yes, Faith."

"What was that?"

"I mean, yes, master."

"That's better."

They charged and attacked. They hit each other non-stop. The sounds of the hitting echoed throughout the woods.

Tyson punched, Faith dodged and kicked his stomach.

"Oof!"

She punched his face and he got slammed against a tree. "You have to give it all you've got."

"I'm trying!"

"Pretend I am the enemy."

"Okay." he said. Then he charged and punched.

Faith blocked it like it was nothing. Her open palm stopped his fast punch and he couldn't even push it one inch. Now he was impressed. She was something after all.

Tyson punched with his other hand, Faith vanished.

"Huh?"

She appeared above and kicked him as she landed. Wham! "Come on! That's all you got?"

"Making fun of me?! I'll show you!" He charged wildly.

Faith did a roundhouse kick and hit him in the face. Wham! He was slammed against a tree. Faith drew her sword and slashed.

"Yipes!!!" Tyson ducked and rolled on the ground as Faith chopped the tree.

She put her sword back in its case and the tree collapsed.

Tyson: "Are you nuts? You trying to kill me?"

"You barely dodged that one. You call yourself a warrior!?"

"Errrr...I've had just about enough of you."

"Then show me what you've got. Remember that all we will do is fighting. Nothing but fighting."

Tyson was tired, but he forced himself to continue. "Fine with me!" He attacked.

Looks like Faith's training was hard and rough, but Tyson can handle it, right? He has to, or there will be no hope for this dimension. The road ahead will not be so easy.

Sapphire: "By now, the earth warriors should know they cannot beat us."

Nimrod: "I am not so sure. You know how stupid they can be. Besides, that blasted sayan and the princess survived my trap. They even lived through freezing cold. They might think they have a chance."

"That is why they are here. Isn't that right, boys?"

Goldark: "You got that right." He was the biggest of the bunch, with huge muscles and big shoulders. The sayan suit and shoulder pads made him look even bigger.

Leo: "This will be easy as pie." He was shorter than average, but twice as deadly as the average warrior.

Zai: "Eliminating the princess should be no problem." He was a man dressed in a white cloak and had a white mask. No one saw his face yet.

Dragoneous: "I second that. They are weaklings." He was a purple-faced Draconian.

Sapphire: "Hmmm. The war is just about to begin."

12: Ace and Marianna.

Contents

The sun rose above the horizon and everything in the forest came to life. Birds chirped in their nests, waiting for their mother to return with worms. The river looked bluer than ever. Fish swam by happily.

The sun light shone into the wooden house, and on Tyson's face. He was sound asleep. An alarm clock was next to him and he was covered by a blanket.

Faith opened the door and came in. "Tyson, time to rise and shine."

No response.

She instantly became unhappy and frowned. "Hey, wake up." She bent down and pushed his shoulder lightly. "Wake up you bum!"

He snored.

"Hmm!" Faith left, then a minute later, came back with a bucket of water. Guess what she's gonna do with it? You're right! Splash!

Tyson woke up instantly and startled. "What the! Hey, what's the big idea?"

"Time to get up!"

Tyson looked at the alarm clock. "Do you know what time it is? It's 7 AM in the morning!"

"Yes. Is that too early for you? Get up bum!" She pulled the blanket off him and he was startled again. "If you're going to train under me, then you better live under MY schedule, got it? Now get yourself ready. I will be waiting for you outside." She left.

Tyson grumbled angrily as he stood up. "I can't believe that woman." Ever since she became his 'master', her entire attitude towards him had changed. She's definitely taking this too far. Life is gonna be rough from now on...

"I'm ready." said Tyson.

"Good. It's about time that you showed up." she said coldly. "For today's lesson I will be training your instincts and reflexes."

"Okay." he replied in a 'whatever' attitude.

"You see that pile of rocks over there?"

Tyson looked. "Yes?"

"This is how it goes. I will throw them at you, and you will dodge them."

"Oh, is that all? Sounds easy to me."

"Not quite. You will do it blind folded."

"What?" he said in surprise. "Blind folded? You're kidding me."

"Do I look like I'm kidding?" She took out a blind fold from her pocket. "Put this on. And don't peek."

"Fine!" he said forcefully. He took it and put it over his eyes, tying it at the back. Now he was blind. He saw nothing but darkness. It made him feel vulnerable and more cautious.

"The purpose of this is to increase your awareness. Do not rely on your sight. You must rely on your other senses.

"Great." he said sarcastically. He was still against this whole Grandmaster thing. He felt like the center of some sick joke.

"Are you ready?" Faith asked.

"Anytime you are." He got into position, putting his hands in front of him.

"Okay." She threw a rock.

Tyson caught it.

"Good job. Ok. Here comes more. I won't stop until I say so."

"Wait! Can you do it slowly?"

She threw rocks at him, and Tyson some times dodged or blocked. But Faith increased speed as she went. She started off one at a time, then went crazy and threw two at a time, three at a time, even a handful of them.

"Yipes! Ahh!" Tyson dodged for his life. A rock hit his thigh. "Ouch!" One hit his chest. "Oof! Stop!" Another hit his wrist. "Ow! Can't I get a break!"

"Shut up!" She continued throwing.

Tyson ran to the side, not knowing where he was going. The rocks kept hitting him. He took off his blind fold. "Enough!" A rock hit his forehead and he fell backwards. "Oof..."

Faith slapped her own forehead. "This is hopeless."

Deep in the forest, a stranger walked by, stopping to admire the scenery. It was as if he knew this place and didn't recognize it at the same time. He was a young man of about twenty, and had average height. He was dressed in ragged clothes, boots, and a sword on his side.

He saw a lake just ahead and it reminded him of how thirsty he was. He went towards the lake, bent down, and took a sip of water from his hands. It tasted so good.

The water was blue, clear, and the cleanest he ever saw. It sure feels good to be back home, he thought. His good mood was ruined instantly when he saw a pool of red blood in the lake. He gasped.

Ace realized there was a village up ahead. Maybe there's a dead body in the lake. If so, why is there a dead person? Without thinking any further, he ran towards the village.

What he found shocked him. The villagers were fighting some sort of mutant, a monster unbelievably ugly. His face was twisted in a grimace, he was much bulkier than the average person, and to top it off, he had **four arms**.

Ace hid behind a well. "What in the devil..." he whispered to himself.

There were many bodies on the ground. Their faces were hard to see. Only three men, armed with weapons, remained to fight the monster. The first one, a man with a beard, charged with his spear. **Goro** grabbed the spear and snatched it from him. The man gasped and stepped back. Goro roared and broke it like cheap wood. Then he approached the man, who was trembling. Goro punched him in the face. Wham!

The other two guys charged and screamed. Goro jumped up, and they missed. He landed and the ground shuddered. He grabbed one of the villagers and threw him on the ground. Wham!

Ace has had enough, he could no longer just watch. He took out his sword and got on top of the well. "Stop!" he yelled fearlessly. He charged at Goro, stopping his attack on the villager. "Get out of here, now!"

The guy ran like hell. Goro punched, Ace jumped back.

"What are you?!"

"I am Goro, the four armed demon. My power is greater than any mortal. You are nothing compared to me."

"Why did you kill the villagers, huh? You must pay for this."

"Fool! I cannot be defeated by you."

"That's for me to decide." Ace charged and stabbed Goro.

The demon blocked the blade with his arm, and surprisingly, no blood came out. The blade didn't even go into his skin. Ace was totally shocked. "What...what are you made of..."

Goro grinned, then moved his arm forward, and the sword bounced back, and Ace was pushed backwards.

"Why you!" Ace jumped and slashed, Goro blocked and punched him. Wham! Goro's big fists were as hard as stones. Ace dropped his sword and fell on the ground.

Goro picked him up by the shoulders. "You are a nuisance." He squeezed Ace's arms and he screamed. Then the demon threw him high up, and Ace fell on one of the roofs of the houses, and because it was made of straw, he fell into the house.

Crash! Ace landed on a table, which was broken now. His back ached. "Owww..."

A woman, who was watching by the window, gasped. "Are you alright, mister?" she asked sympathetically. Ace noticed she was one of the villagers. She had long, bluish black hair, and blue eyes. She wore a ninjustu-like clothing, and she had a band around her head.

"Ow..."

She helped him up. "Who are you? How did you fall into my house?"

"My name is Ace. And I..." He looked at the window. "I was fighting Goro."

"Goro? That monster with four arms?"

"Yes. So, who are you?"

"My name is **Marianna Quartz**. Pleased to meet you, Ace. You're not from around here, are you?"

"No...I've come a long way."

"I see. It's a shame you have to be involved into my village's problems."

"It's okay."

They went to the window, watching Goro destroy houses. He was on a rampage.

Marianna: "I cannot let him destroy my village."

Ace: "Stay here." He began to go outside.

"Wait. You cannot stop him alone."

"Huh?"

"You need my help."

"What can you do?" Ace asked.

"I'm an archer." she replied.

"An archer?"

She picked up a bow, and a patch of arrows from the floor. She put the patch on her back. "In fact, I'm the best one there is in Almerak."

"I see." he said, half believing her and half not.

Marianna carefully put the arrow in the bow, and then aimed. "Steady ...steady..." She let go of the string. Zeem! The arrow flew straight at the monster.

Goro saw it in advance and caught it.

Marianna was shocked. "It can't be!"

"Looks like that isn't enough." said Ace.

Goro: "Who threw that at me? Show yourself?"

Marianna and Ace came out.

"You!" said the monster.

Marianna: "I will not let you ruin my village any further!"

Ace: "You will die!"

"Stupid mortals! Come meet your doom!"

"This is the plan," Ace whispered to the archer, "I will distract him while you shoot him."

"Got it."

"Good." Ace charged and slashed.

Goro picked up a sword from the ground, one that belonged to some one he killed, and used it to block Ace's attack. They slashed at each other.

Marianna shot an arrow and hoped this one will hit. Ace and Goro saw it coming. Zoom! Goro caught it!

Ace: "Damn!"

Marianna: "That should've hit him!"

Goro: "Your weapons cannot harm me." He slashed at Ace.

Ace blocked with sword. Clang! Goro used his third arm to punch his stomach. Pow! Ace spit as he got hit, and his mouth was wide open. Goro slammed his back and he fell.

Uh oh, Marianna thought as the monster stared at her, I'm next. Goro roared and ran at her. She jumped onto a roof, Goro did the same.

Marianna: "I'll never let you win, demon!"

Goro: "I have already won."

They jumped at each other. Goro struck with his bare fist, Marianna used her bow to block. Whack! They landed. Marianna jumped onto another roof. Goro jumped after her, but he was too heavy for the roof. He tried to keep his balance and not fall.

On the ground, Ace moaned and crawled up. "Damn...he's strong."

Goro grabbed Marianna and threw her on the ground. "Ahhh!"

"Take this you demon!" Ace yelled. He punched Goro's face, but nothing happened. He did not even show a sign of pain. The monster smiled with Ace's fist on his face. Ace was shocked.

"Rrrrrr!" Goro punched, Ace jumped up and kicked him in the neck. Wham! Nothing!

Ace kept on attacking, but it was no use. Goro punched him and he was knocked down.

Marianna got up. "Enough of this...I have no choice but to use my secret technique." She loaded an arrow into the bow. She pulled the arrow, bending the string as much as possible. "Must concentrate..."

Goro grabbed Ace, lifting him up above, then threw him down. Wham! "Had enough? Roar!"

Marianna was still in the same position, not moving a muscle. She closed her eyes. The arrow became filled with energy. (I must concentrate...all my energy into the arrow...become one with the arrow...) The arrow was glowing blue and full of spirit energy. She did not let anything distract her. Everything around her became darkness, and the arrow was the only source of light.

Goro grabbed Ace by his neck. "Ha ha ha ha ha! I will crush you like the bug you are."

Marianna opened her eyes, and let go of the string. "**Celestial Arrow!**" The arrow flew at super speed to Goro. Stab!!! It went into Goro's left shoulder and the monster screamed in pain. Blood squirted out from the wound.

Ace: "Well done!"

Marianna: "Thanks."

Goro pulled the arrow from his shoulder. "Blasted mortals. You have not seen the last of me." He ran into the woods.

Ace: "We sure taught him a lesson."

"Yes. But unfortunately he destroyed this village. Look."

Ace looked around. Houses were burning and some were smoking. Bodies laid on the ground.

Marianna: "I swear...he will pay for what he did."

"That savage! He killed all the people. By the way, where did a demon like that come from?"

"I'm not sure." They paused. "By the way," she asked, "where are you from?"

"I came from a place far from here. Almerak was my home. I left a long time ago."

"Oh?"

"I stayed in another kingdom for many years. Today I come back and find this! I want to go back to Almerak."

"I'm afraid it's already destroyed."

"What?"

"I am sorry. Only a few villages and towns remain."

"I came all the way here...just to see my home in ashes?" He looked down and clenched his fists. In that moment he had many thoughts and regrets.

"How about you come with me? I can show you around. And we can find out who did this to Almerak."

Ace thought for a minute. "Sure, why not? I have no home anymore. I'd like to get the bastards who did this too."

"Alright, then, let's go."

"Lead the way."

At night time, after hours of training, Faith decided it was enough. She was tired and Tyson was more tired, whining every second.

"I think we'll call it a day." she said.

"Finally. It's about time."

Faith went back to the house. Tyson washed his face with the water in the lake, relieved that the training was over. He can finally get some rest.

Marianna: "We're almost there."

Ace: "That sounds good. I'm tired. I've been walking all day."

And so, Marianna and Ace paired up to begin a new journey. Revenge for their ruined home was what's on their mind, but what they were looking was more than they asked for.

13: Spirit World.

Contents

Tyson continues his training under the so called Grandmaster, who is actually Faith. As she stated in the beginning, her training program is going to be rough. And that's an understatement, as Tyson faces harsh conditions and brutal sessions. Will he survive and become strong, or give up and go home?

Both Tyson and Faith had been training all day and it was already night time. Tyson's clothes had worn out throughout the day, and he was tired and almost breathless.

"Come on, can't we take a break?" he asked. This was the second time he asked.

Faith was getting annoyed with him acting so immaturely, like a child. "Shut up! You will rest when I say you rest. Got it?"

"But master..."

"But nothing!" she yelled.

"C'mon, give me a break!"

"Stop complaining. What kind of warrior are you?"

That's how it has been going between them since they started training. Faith put him and herself under a strict schedule and she's been strict and rough on Tyson. Tyson just wished she would be a *little* bit nicer to him, and *maybe* he'll respect her.

"You know what, I've had it with you!!!" said Tyson. "I am not moving from this spot."

"What?!"

Tyson sat on the ground, crossing his legs and arms. "I am not moving. I don't care if you attack me."

"Fine with me!" Faith charged at him.

At first Tyson thought she wouldn't do it, but she didn't stop. She kicked him and he fell hard. "Oof! What's the big idea?!"

"That is what you get for your incompetence." She kept on attacking.

Now, Tyson had no choice but to defend himself. Faith punched, he blocked, Faith kicked, he jumped.

Finally, Faith decided they should rest for a few minutes. Tyson sat down and drank some coffee. He sipped it enjoyably and sighed. He looked towards the right and saw Faith training by herself.

Faith was using a move that Tyson thought was very powerful. She folded her hands together, sticking out her forefingers like a gun. She concentrated energy into her

fingertips and released it as a laser. It hit a large boulder ahead and blew it up completely.

Tyson went to her. "Wow. That was amazing." he said with a positive tone.

Faith looked at him, a little bit surprised. It was a while since he said anything positive about her. She looked at him a little bit differently. Since he's so interested, she might as well teach him.

"It is called the Energy Shot. Well, it's simple, really. Watch my hands." She folded her hands and extended her forefingers. "First, put your fingers together like this."

"Okay." Tyson said, following her.

"Then, concentrate all the energy from your body into your finger tips." She gathered energy and released it at the boulder. Bam! It exploded.

"Okay." Tyson tried hard to put all the energy into his fingertips. It was very difficult keeping it in one spot so small. It took a lot of focus, but he did it.

"Good. Now aim and release it."

Tyson let go and screamed. Bang! The Energy Shot hit the air, missing the boulder.

"You completely missed."

"I know, I know."

"Here, let me help you."

Tyson folded his hands again and stuck out his forefingers like a gun. Faith stood behind him and grabbed his hands, helping him concentrate with the energy. Her head was next to his. Tyson thought her hands were warm and soft. He couldn't help but stare at her face and blush.

"Are you ready?"

Tyson snapped out of it. "Uh, yes!"

"Okay, let it go."

Bang! The shot hit the rock and exploded.

"Congratulations. You did it!"

"Wow, I did. With your help."

"All you need is some practice."

Just outside of the castle, the other heroes were training as hard as Tyson was. They fought with each other on the fields. Macintosh attacked Darian with fast, efficient punches, and Darian dodged skillfully. Nebula and Zelfire exchanged kicks. King Midas watched them, his hands behind him, observing carefully their movements.

Lisa watched them from the trees, smiling. (Wow. They've been training so hard. But is it enough?)

"Alright." said Midas. All the warriors stopped. "Time to take a break."

Mac: "Good. Phew, am I tired."

Neb: "Darn. I was just getting started."

Zelfire: "Your majesty..."

"Yes?"

"No offense, but I feel like you have not taught us anything new."

Nebula: "I agree with Zelfire. I do not feel any stronger than I was before."

Midas closed his eyes, then opened them. "Very well then. If you feel you are ready for the challenge, then come with me into the castle." He walked inside.

The four warriors followed him, curious as to what he was going to do.

Inside one of the smaller rooms inside the castle, Midas instructed the warriors to sit down. They all sat down in front of him, crossed legs and hands on their knees. Midas also sat in the same position.

"My fellow warriors...let me ask you a question." asked the old man.

They paid close attention.

"Do you want to become strong?"

"Yes!" Nebula answered hastily. The answer to that question is as obvious as his name is. Not knowing how Tyson is training right now makes him curious and frustrated. Nebula and his brother always kept up with each other. Or rather, Nebula is trying to get ahead of Tyson.

"We do, your highness." Darian answered. He wanted revenge badly. For his kingdom and his people. And he also wanted to show off to a certain someone.

Macintosh just didn't want to be left out in the dust.

Zelfire did not answer out loud. He had his own reasons for becoming strong. It goes way back.

Midas: "Very well."

The warriors waited for what he had to say.

Midas: "In order to become strong, you must know yourselves."

Mac: "What do you mean by that?"

"What do you think I mean?"

Zelfire: "I know myself better than anybody. What is it that you are trying to say, your highness? I don't like riddles."

Midas: "I see. But patience is everything. I will prepare to take you to a place you've never seen before. It is all around us, yet we cannot see it. Nor can we touch it. It is called the **Spirit World**."

Darian: "The spirit world?"

Midas: "You have heard of it, I presume?"

"Yes. Some one told me about it a long time ago. Does it actually exist?"

"Yes, inside each one of us. Now, close your eyes."

They did as he instructed.

"I want you to relax your bodies. Breathe normally. Inhale, exhale. Try not to think. Keep your mind clear."

Nebula: "What exactly are you trying to do, your highness?"

"Just listen. Do not interrupt me. Now, relax and pretend that you are not here. Imagine yourself in a different surrounding. Picture it in your mind." Midas closed his eyes. He started chanting some sorcery spell and his body was glowing blue. Spiritual energy in the form of waves appeared. The warriors' bodies then started glowing.

Nebula: (Something weird is happening to me...is this part of his plan?)

Darian: (Is this going to help us? Is this the way to the spirit world?)

Pow! Ace just punched a soldier in the face. "Tell me! Who is responsible for all this?" Ace asked, grabbing the guy by his collar.

The soldier screamed nervously. "It's...it's...Vega! He's the one who commanded us to do this."

Marianna: "Then he is the one who ordered the destruction of Almerak?"

"Yes! Yes!"

Ace let him go and fell on the ground. "Vega?"

"So, it is true."

Ace: "You know of this this Vega?"

"He's a demon who drains energy from human beings. I've only heard about him before. But now I'm sure he's the one at fault. But can we do anything to stop him..."

Nebula opened his eyes and looked around. He was no longer in the castle. In fact, he was no longer in the area he just was. The others were gone and he was by himself. The ground was dry and cracked. Weird shaped boulders and mountains were seen. Nebula wondered if this dry, barren wasteland was where he was supposed to be.

"This is the spirit world?" He looked at his hands. They looked real. He touched his face. They felt real. He was amazed at how this was done. Is it a trick? An illusion? Where is he?

Zelfire had the same reaction as Nebula did when he first laid eyes on this world. There was nothing but dry land. Not a shadow of life. The wind blew and could be heard clearly. He walked into the valley between two mountains, not knowing it was a dead end ahead.

"There is nothing here. Maybe King Midas took us to the wrong place?"

Above, a shadow figure observed him carefully. He jumped down and Zelfire detected him.

"Who's there?!"

"Who's there?" The shadow landed in front of him, staring at him with eyes of hatred.

"Who are you?"

The shadow transformed into Zelfire's image. "Who are you?"

"What the..."

A shadow landed in front of Nebula. He was as shocked as Zelfire. Nebula got into fighting position, ready to defend himself. The shadow did not seem worried at all.

"What? I couldn't sense it! How come?"

The being transformed into Nebula, making an exact copy of his appearance, including his clothes. Not a detail was missing.

"What the hell is this?"

The shadow Nebula attacked, punching fiercely. Nebula dodged, moving his body side to side and stepping backward. The shadow kicked, Nebula dodged. The shadow drew back his fist and put all his power into one punch and let it out. Nebula jumped up and landed behind him. The shadow turned around and Nebula punched his face. Pow! S. Nebula tottered backward, trying not to fall. Nebula charged and kicked, S. Nebula ducked and jumped into the air.

Nebula: (He's as fast as I am!) He flew up and attacked.

S. Nebula evaded all his attacks, and then countered with a flying kick to his stomach. Wham!

Nebula: (He knows all my moves!)

The shadow smiled at his misfortune.

"Whatever you are, you are not me!" He gathered energy and fired a blast.

S. Nebula blocked it with his palm.

"Alright, take this!" he screamed, charging with his fist.

"Is this some kind of joke?" Zell asked as he stared at the person who looks like him. "Tell me, who are you?"

The shadow did not respond. It just stared back at him with eyes of hatred. Zelfire kept on wondering what's going on, and suddenly, without any warning, the shadow kicked. Zelfire's instincts allowed him to duck and avoid a fatal blow. The shadow punched repeatedly and Zelfire blocked. Pow pow bam!

They jumped away from each other at the same time. They both used the Energy Blast and their energies collided - boom!

Zell: (What? He knows my moves too? Is he a carbon copy of me?)

S. Zelfire laughed evilly as he powered up. Zell ran to the side.

The shadow warrior chased him, and they ran parallel to each other. Suddenly, he vanished and Zell stopped, startled.

"Where did he go?" He looked above and S. Zelfire was about to kick him. Wham! He was hit badly. He kept on getting hit and was too slow to respond. Pow! Pow! Pow!

Nebula got hit badly. He wiped blood from his mouth. "Alright, let's see you copy this! Nebula Blast!"

S. Nebula also used the same move, and Nebula was shocked as he gathered energy.

"No!" he yelled.

They fired and the blasts exploded. Boom!

As Macintosh walked about in this strange world, he saw a shadow copy of himself land in front of him. And Darian faced the same thing. The warriors prepared to face themselves. Macintosh kept fighting, thinking something like this is impossible.

S. Zelfire unleashed a combo of punches that left Zell senseless. Within two seconds he was punched five times, in the face and chest, and he fell. S. Zelfire attacked again. Zell blocked with his arms crossed, that protected his face but didn't protect his arms. Pom! Pom!

"Ahh! Oof. Uuh."

S. Zelfire kicked him. Whack. Zell fell off the cliff and landed on a pillar. The pillar was as high as the sky, and when he looked below, he could not see land. Maybe there was no ground at all.

S. Zelfire landed in front of him and laughed.

(So this is Midas's test, eh? Fighting one's self is probably the hardest thing to do. Especially an evil form of yourself.)

S. Zelfire prepared to use the Energy Blast. He smiled evilly as he got energy.

Zell stood up and was not scared a bit. (Fine then, let's see if I can defeat myself.)

As Neb coughed and wiped the dust off his clothes, S. Nebula hit him. Whack! He was hit many more times, and he tried to ignore the pain.

"I don't care...what you can do, but you're not me!" he shouted. He attacked wildly like a mad animal. S. Nebula blocked, but the punch was so hard he was knocked into a mountain. Neb charged and punched, S. Nebula jumped away just in time. Neb ended up making a crack on the wall. He took his fist out angrily. "You - are - not - me! You die!" He attacked and S. Nebula blocked desperately. Suddenly, he made an uppercut and punched his evil self into the air, then fired an Energy Bomb. Kabam! Only dust was left.

Zell: "You might look like me, you fight like me, but you are not me! You're just a copy!"

S. Zelfire only grinned and laughed.

"If I cannot defeat even myself, then how will I face my enemies?" He powered up.

S. Zelfire charged. Zell punched him and he fell. Wham. The shadow warrior was angry and charged again. Zell jumped to the side, the shadow punched forward, but missed, and Zell's hands hit the ground and he used it as a spring and used his legs

and kicked the shadow's back. Whack. The shadow was fast and his palms touched the ground and he landed on his feet. Zell also landed on his feet, then turned around and did a flying kick, hitting the shadow straight in the chest. Kram! S. Zelfire fell off the pillar and his scream echoed. He disappeared into the clouds.

Zell panted for breath, being thankful it was over.

Suddenly, everybody woke up. They were back in the castle.

Macintosh: "What the hell was that?"

Zell: "It's over already, huh?"

Neb: "I almost didn't make it. Is this what you call training?"

Midas: "I must congratulate you. All of you managed to overcome the obstacle of the facing yourself."

Darian: "Will we really become stronger this way?"

"Yes. Fighting in the spirit world makes a warrior strong on the outside and inside. Victory depends on you. But we still have a long way to go."

Kabam! Tyson used another Energy Shot. He's starting to get the hang of it. And he did it all without Faith's help. Well, she taught him the basics, and after that he learned it on his own.

(I wonder how the others are doing?) Then he assured himself. (I bet they're doing just fine.) He smiled and went back to the house.

14: Berserk.

Contents

Tyson snored as he slept like a pig on his sleeping bag. Faith came in and yelled "Wake up!"

"Five more minutes..." he mumbled sleepily.

She repeated it a second time, and decided to wake him up with something other than words. She came back with a bucket of water. Splash!

He swallowed some water and coughed. "Hey, what's the big idea?!"

"It's 7 AM! Get up you bum."

"Can't you give me just five minutes?"

"I won't give you another second. Get up and get ready for training."

Tyson wondered if he could survive. Maybe it's time he woke up by himself...

That idea escaped his mind as he brushed his teeth and washed his face. The next thing he knew, he was outside with Faith.

"Okay, for today's training, it is a simple task."

"Name it."

She led him to another spot. "See this rock? Break it."

"Ha, that's too easy. I thought you had a challenge for me." he said in a cocky tone.

"Do it without using your energy."

"What?" he asked. "Why can't I use my energy?"

"Because I said so. Are you up to it?"

"Of course I am!" He pounded his fists, then ran at the boulder and punched it. Wham! His fist made a hole and there were cracks around it. "See? Nothing to it."

Faith: "Great. You only cracked it. I said break it. Into tiny pieces."

"What?!"

"Not so easy anymore, isn't it?"

"That is insane, Faith, uh, I mean master. Why would anyone want to do that?"

"Because that is part of your training, numbskull! Now do it!"

"Fine." He kept on punching the boulder until it was smashed into tiny pieces.

"See? I did it."

"You did worse than I expected, but oh well, I guess that will have to do. See all those rocks?" She pointed ahead. "Break all of them."

"Are you crazy? That could take forever."

"That will be today's training. Don't come back to me until you've broken them all into tiny pieces." She left.

Tyson was in disbelief. "Who does she think she is?! Does she expect me to do this insane task?" He kept on complaining to himself, and eventually realized that he had no choice. The sooner done, the sooner he can rest.

It took him the whole day to finish the job. All the boulders were now little pebbles, and his hands were tired and bruised. He had to put bandages around them. It was evening and the sky was dark. He went towards the lake and dunked his hands into the water. They felt much better.

"Stupid Faith! This is all her fault." He kept on saying bad things about her.

"Huh?" Suddenly, Tyson sensed a strange energy signal from a distance. What could it be, he thought. As he focused on the signal, he discovered that it was very strong, and it wasn't one person. "Such strong ki...I have to tell Faith!" He ran towards the other lake.

Faith was taking a bath in the lake. He came and became embarrassed.

"Faith...uhh...sorry." he said, turning around.

Faith screamed and covered herself. "What are you doing here?!"

"I sense something in the mountain. It could be Vega's troops."

"Then let's go." she said, touching his shoulder.

He was afraid to look at her, but then realized she was already dressed. "Right."

The cave was darker than Tyson had expected. They took each step cautiously.

"Are you sure you sensed they were here?" she asked.

"Yes, I told you. Why would I lie?"

"I don't sense a thing. Maybe you need your senses trained too."

Suddenly, a blast came from the darkness, hitting the wall behind Faith. Rocks fell on her and buried her. "Faith!" screamed Tyson. "Oh my God!" He removed the rocks worriedly. He stopped as the bad guys were seen. "Uhh..."

Goldark, Zai, Dragoneous, and Leo showed up.

Leo: "Well, looky what we have here? A sayan."

Dragoneous: "Ooh, a friend of the princess."

Goldark: "And he is stupid enough to defy the Society? Ha!"

They laughed.

Tyson: "You guys work for Vega?"

Goldark: "Isn't that obvious? You puny little man!"

Dragoneous: "Awww man, I thought this would at least be a challenge. Beating up this guy isn't going to be fun."

Tyson was surrounded, but he hated being mocked. He was in more danger than he knew. They laughed at him. Tyson charged and punched, but Goldark blocked him. Goldark hit him in the stomach, knocking him back and on his knees.

"Why you!"

Leo knocked Tyson on the back. Whack. Tyke jumped to the air to, and the bad dudes followed. They all attacked him together and he fought back the best he could, but he was hit and couldn't make a hit. Goldark slammed him on the ground, rendering him unconscious.

Leo kicked him. "Heh, what a stupid man."

Zai stopped him. "Enough. We must continue our mission."

Dragoneous: "Now the good part begins." He put a chip on Tyson's neck.

Goldark: "Yeah. Ha ha. Just wait till he wakes up."

The rocks on top of Faith blasted away and she got up. "Alright, now I'm mad. Who did this?" She sensed nobody...then she sensed an injured Tyson. She went into the tunnel and found him not moving. "Tyson? You alright?" She lightly hit his face. "Tyson?"

He moaned and his eyes opened. He looked perfectly normal, but then he snapped and tried to choke her. She grabbed his hands and moved away.

"What do you think you're doing?!"

Tyson made no answer. He approached with hatred in his eyes. Those were not his eyes, Faith noticed. They were different.

"Tyson, do you recognize me?"

He punched. She dodged.

"What happened to you?" She ducked a fist. "Who did this?!" She jumped away from a kick. "Can you hear me at all?!"

Tyson appeared behind her and hit her. Wham. She kicked his chin. His head faced up, then went back straight, and he stared at her. His eyes scared Faith. He punched, she flew away.

"He's gone berserk!" she said to herself.

He shot energy balls while chasing her. She landed on a pillar and he landed on the same pillar. Suddenly, she saw the cause of this trouble – the computer chip stuck to his neck. Maybe one quick movement will allow her to take it, she thought.

They hit each other, and while Faith was trying to get the chip, Tyson's aim was to kill. Faith jumped to another pillar for defense. Tyson fired an energy ball. Faith blocked, and it hurt a bit.

"You have to do better than that!"

Tyson grunted and formed the **Energy Disk** on his palms. He threw them at her. She jumped up, avoiding them, but they were on a round trip back. They hit the spikes on the ceiling, and they fell off, and Faith looked up and knew danger. She got out of the way and the spikes hit the ground.

Faith threw a rose at him; he caught it and crushed it in his palm. He suddenly charged at her and slammed her against the wall. This was a bad situation. Because of some stupid chip, Tyson's gone insane and is after her life. What kind of prank is this?

Meanwhile, Ace and Marianna were still traveling in the forest...

Marianna was leading the way, since she was more familiar with the area. Ace was wondering if they were lost. He asked her two times already, but she did not answer directly. He asked again.

"Are we lost?"

"Lost? No way. Would I get us lost?" she said.

"How should I know?"

She suddenly covered his mouth and dragged him behind the bushes. "Shhh! Soldiers!"

He removed her hand from his mouth. "Where?" he whispered.

"There." she whispered, pointing ahead.

They saw two soldiers in gray uniforms talking to each other. A third and fourth soldier showed up.

A: "What is up?"

B: "Goro is defeated and injured."

A: "What? You are kidding."

B: "No. He was hit by an arrow."

A: "Who did it?"

B: "Some damn villagers in Sumni. It is a part of Almerak."

A: "Are they on the run?"

B: "We believe so. Keep an eye out."

Marianna: "Are they talking about us?"

Ace: "Who else can it be? Let's get them."

"Wait. There's four of them and two of us. We need a plan."

"Alright. We'll surprise two of them, and take the other two head on. I'll go up that tree."

"Okay. I'll be ready to shoot."

Ace crawled towards the tall tree and climbed, trying not to make a sound. He crawled to the very tip of the branch stealthily. He could see the top of soldiers and imagine himself jumping on them.

Marianna looked at him. He made an "ok" sign with his fingers. Then she made the "ok" sign.

The soldiers continued their chat. Somehow, the subject of conversation changed from Goro to 'let's take a day off.'

Marianna grabbed an arrow in the patch on her back and loaded into the bow. She took careful aim and shot it. Twang! Stab! A was hit in the chest. "Argh!" The other three quickly searched for the source. Ace jumped and hit B. He lost consciousness instantly.

C: "An ambush!" He attacked Ace, but got beat up with two hits.

D drew a sword and slashed. Ace blocked it with his sword, Marianna shot another arrow and hit him at the heart. He died.

Ace: "Got them!"

Marianna: "More coming!"

They looked to the distance and saw at least ten of them running this way.

"Oh crap. You're kidding me."

"We might as well fight them."

The soldiers charged at them like a mob. The heroes fought as they came. Suddenly, a white tiger jumped from behind them and landed. "Roar!" She was fierce looking and had black and white stripes. She jumped on a soldier (who was about to slash Marianna) and roared while on top of him. The soldier squirmed in fear.

Marianna: "Sabre? Is that you?"

The tiger roared as if she understood her question.

Ace: "What...what the hell is that?"

"It's just Sabre."

"You know this animal?"

"Can't we talk about this later? We've got our hands full." she replied while fighting.

With the soldiers beaten, the heroes were safe.

Marianna: "Come herem, Sabre."

The tiger went to her obediently. It curled its head to her leg and went around her. She petted its head.

"You two seem very close. Is this your pet?" Ace asked.

"Pet? No, Sabre is my friend. When we were little, me and my best friend found her injured and we took care of her." Then she said to Sabre: "Isn't that right, girl?"

The tiger let out a soft sound.

"We've been friends for many years. Sabre, say hello to my new friend, Ace."
The tiger went towards Ace. He stepped backwards defensively. "Get a-away from me."

"Don't tell me you're afraid of tigers?" Marianna said mockingly.

"I just hate big animals...with big teeth."

"But Sabre is different. She's obedient and nice."

"I just don't like tigers." Sabre went around him and rubbed its head on his leg.

"I think she likes you." Marianna said, laughing.

"Not funny." Ace said, squirming. "C'mon, let's get moving."

Faith: "Tyson, stop this at once!"

He did not listen at all, in fact, he did not hear what she said. He just kept on attacking her like an enemy. To him, it made no difference. Faith could see the madness in his eyes; they were wide open and emotionless.

As she dodged, she retreated and her back was against the wall. He grabbed her neck and lifted her up. She was choking and struggling to get free. Her legs kicked him violently, but he did not even budge. She reached for his neck while hers was being crushed. Reach! She grabbed the damn chip and ripped it off his skin. He let her go, she fell, and he grabbed his head in agony. He screamed like an ape and lost consciousness. Faith panted for breath, touching her poor neck.

"This is cause of this. No doubt it's Vega's scheme to ruin the training." She crushed the chip.

The danger was over. It was all quiet. Faith looked at Tyson, who was sleeping peacefully. She was relieved and glad. She couldn't help but stare at his face. There was something about it that kept her attention. She sighed and lifted him up, carrying his arm over her shoulder. Even for a warrior, it was not easy for a woman to carry a man. By the time they got the house, she was tired.

She set him on the sleeping bag and pulled the blanket to his shoulders. Faith's eyes kept staring at him. "Good night, Tyson." she said silently. Then she kissed his forehead, and then left the room.

The night was dark and quiet. Owls hooted and crows squawked. Ace, Marianna, and their tiger companion sat by the open campfire. Sabre opened its mouth widely to yawn, showing its sharp frontal teeth.

"So where are we headed for tomorrow?" Ace asked, using a stick to pick his tooth.

"I heard from the soldiers that we can find Vega at **Death Mountain**."

"Vega...I've heard his name quite a few times. I'd like to know who exactly is this important person."

"He is pretty important alright...and hated as well." Marianna said. He's the leader of the Dark Society. He is the cause of all our troubles. When we get to Death Mountain, we will find him."

"Tomorrow will be another day."

"Yes. Indeed." Marianna said, looking at the sky.

Sitting inside the **Millennium Spaceship** was no other than Vega, pulling all the strings of the Dark Society. With his absolute control over it and his carefully devised plans, nothing was going to stop him.

Some say he's a demon, others say he's an alien. Others say it doesn't matter what he is, he is a monster. He is never seen without his face mask, and not even the Big Four have seen his true face. Sitting on his mechanical chair, his eyes glowed red. Wires

were attached all over to his body, and they connected to energy crystals, placed around him. Day and night he absorbs energy.

"One of our camps was attacked?"

"Yes, sire. Two people did it. We have yet to identify them."

"Hmmm. More resistance? These people just do not get it. I cannot afford to have resistance at both dimensions."

By now, Ace was lying lazily on the ground, head resting on his hand, elbow on the ground. The stick was still in his mouth, and he yawned.

Marianna kept looking at the black sky. She could imagine Vega's face covering the sky, laughing and scheming like a bastard. (You've destroyed my home. And killed my friends. I swear it Vega, you will pay.)

Vega: "No matter what they do, all resistance is futile."

Marianna: (Mark my words. I **will** kill you.)

15: Train Hard.

Contents

Dawn came. Birds chirped. Tyson woke and stretched. Damn, he felt tired. He didn't remember doing anything last night, but he was dog tired. He yawned and stretched.

Faith came in. "Congratulations. You finally learned to wake up by yourself."

"It's thanks to your 'treatment' of getting me up everyday." he said jokingly. She left, then he said, "Wait."

"What is it?"

"What happened last night? I don't remember a thing."

"Nothing. You just hit your head, that's all. Nothing special."

"Ohh." Tyson said, rubbing his head hazily.

Sapphire had just received the news he had expected, but the results were not what he expected or wanted.

Nimrod: "I thought you took care of them."

Goldark: "We did, and we did it good. They should've killed each other by now."

Dragoneous: "Yeah! It was a brilliant plan, boss."

Leo: "We sure showed them."

"But they're not dead." Sapphire said, breaking their mood. "In fact, they are quite alive and well."

Zai: "We underestimated them."

Nimrod: "Never mind that. It was a minor setback. We have other work to do. So much to destroy, so little time..."

Zai: "I request permission to be excused from this."

Sapphire: "What? You don't want to join us in the fun?"

Zai did not answer.

Leo: "What a party pooper. If you don't want to be a part of it, that's fine."

Sapphire understood Zai's request. He knew something that only he and Zai had knowledge of. "Very well. You are dismissed until I ask for you again."

Goldark was about to say something as Zai left, but Sapphire stopped him, and he became silent.

Although Tyson did not feel like himself all day, he had no choice but to train. He just felt that Faith's training was a little too strict. No, not a **little** strict, but very strict. Yeah, ok, we have to save the world, he thought, but that does not mean he has to go through to hell to do so? Since when does saving the world require this type of training?

"I'm tired. Can we rest?"

"Rest?!! No! Absolutely not. How could you even ask that. You've got a lot of nerve." Faith hollered. She was tired of his complaining by now.

"Can't we rest for just one day? One lousy day."

"No!" She attacked.

He fought back, but not with 100% efficiency. She could see that he was not doing as he usually did.

"What is wrong with you? You can do better than this!" she scolded.

"Geez, I said I'm tired."

"Tired? If you're tired, you must keep fighting. You're a sayan, aren't you?" She punched.

Tyson blocked, and he was offended by her comment. "Sayans get tired too."

She kicked and he ducked. "Listen Tyson," She fired an energy ball and he dodged. "As long as you're training under me-" She let out a million punches, "you-" Faith kicked his chin, "will not rest until-" **Pow**, "I-", **Pow**, "say-", **Pow**, "so! Got it?"

"Yes master." said the fallen Tyson.

"Achoo!"

"Careful, you might catch a cold." Marianna said. It was just an hour after dawn. The fire had burned out. Everybody in the party was awake.

Ace wiped his nose. "I'm fine." He was tucked in his sleeping bag.

Marianna folded her back and had Sabre carry it. "It's not heavy, is it?" Sabre roared softly. "Good girl." She petted the tiger.

About an hour later (after getting breakfast for three), they continued traveling by foot.

Ace: "Man...how long are we going to get there?"

"I told you. At least one week. Stop asking the same question."

"It feels like a year."

"You're exaggerating." After a moment of silence, Marianna asked: "Are you in a hurry?"

"Yes, in fact I am. I told you that Almerak was my home. I can't wait to kill the bastards who destroyed my home."

"I see. I am just as angry as you are." Marianna said.

"No, I am much, much, more angrier than you are." He held a fist. "I haven't been home in ten years! I just came back and...and..."

"I'm sorry."

"It's okay."

"By the way...which part of Almerak did you live in? Cuz I've never seen you before."

"It's not surprising. I was just a kid ten years ago."

"Me too."

About a minute later, Ace stopped. Marianna stopped with him, wondering what was wrong. Sabre, seeing her two masters stop, she used the chance to take a break.

"Marianna--"

"Yes?"

"When the Society attacked...there were survivors, right? Where did the survivors run to?"

"I don't know. Honestly. I wish I knew."

"Marianna...to tell you the truth...I came back to Almerak to visit someone I love."

"Someone you love?" she repeated in surprise.

"It's my sister."

"Oh..."

He took out a golden locket. It was completely gold, even the chains. It was 100% pure gold. He opened it, and inside was a picture of a young boy and girl. "This is her picture ten years ago."

"Awww she's cute. And is that boy you?"

"Yes. I long to see my sister. We haven't seen in ten years. Ten whole years. I miss her very much."

"I'm really sorry. I think she'd be glad to see you too."

"This locket we received on our birthday. We both have one of these, and they're identical. Our father gave it to us."

"Your sister has one just like this?"

"Yup." Then he sighed. "I wish I could find her."

Marianna thought the girl looked familiar. Hauntingly familiar. Then she shook the thought away, thinking it can't be her. "I don't know. Maybe she's dead. I wouldn't keep my hopes up. I hope you don't misunderstand me."

"No. I have a feeling she's alive. I will find her. Time will allow me."

"Well, I do hope you find her. Wherever she is." she said, smiling.

The other members of the alliance were training hard. They have much at stake. Two dimensions, to be exact. As usual, Midas led the group into meditation, taking them into the spirit world. The first time they were taken to that "magical" place, it was very enlightening for them. But of course, they only need to fight their shadows once. They never want to go through that again.

Everyone thought that spirit worldly training was interesting and useful...except for Nebula. He's still skeptical.

"Your highness...don't tell me we have to go through that routine again?" Neb said.

Everyone looked at him silently, each with their own thoughts and doubts, but afraid to speak up.

Midas: "Hmm?"

Neb: "I'm sorry, but I just don't see how sitting on our asses and meditating is going to help us. I loved the 'fighting my shadow' exercise and all, but I don't think that will make me stronger than I already am."

Midas: "It is not surprising to hear those words from someone who's never been to the spirit world. Nebula, being physically strong is not enough. You have to be mentally strong as well."

"I **am** mentally strong." he said in a cocky way. "I never let my opponents psyche me out."

"That is not what I mean. When you are stronger spiritually, you will be stronger physically. The energy that you use - it is called your ki. It is because of your **sixth sense**."

Neb: "Tell me something I don't know."

Darian: "Please, why are you being so impolite? His highness is a wise man. He's more experienced than-"

Midas did a hand signal, tell him to stop. "So, young man, you think you know everything? Do you know what it will take to increase the ki flow in your body?"

Neb: "Well, uhhh..."

Midas: "So how will you become strong? The body cannot work without the mind. And likewise, the mind cannot work without the body. The two must act as one."

Neb: "Uhhh..."

Midas: "The point of spirit world is to increase your spiritual awareness. Which will increase the power of your mind. If you do not think it is effective, then I ask to attack me." He stood up.

"Say what?"

"I said attack me." Midas said.

"Fine." Neb replied. He took a deep breath, and charged. Wham! Whack! Neb attacked fiercely, as Midas went defensive. Nebula noticed something different in his movements - they were faster and more smooth. Midas fired a ball, and Neb jumped away, doing somersaults and landing. "Whoa...no way."

"If you have improved this much, imagine what more training can do?"

Zelfire: "Astounding."

Macintosh: "Unbelievable."

Neb: "Well...I gotta admit...this is pretty cool!"

Faith and Tyson were both tired. Faith was sweating. She saw that continuing this training was hopeless. "Let's rest. Let's end it as is for today." There was disappointment and hopelessness in her voice, but Tyson did not notice. He was just glad to take a break.

It was dusk. The sky became dark.

Faith sat by herself on the edge of the lake, with her head buried between her arms, and her legs folded.

Tyson went to see her - not for any special reason, or that he cared- to see how she was doing. Huh? That's strange, she's sitting by herself. He could not see her face, but he knew she was sad. It looked like she was crying. Was she? He went closer to make sure.

"Faith?" he asked.

"Go away."

She did sound like crying.

"Is something the matter?"

"Go away!! *sob* "

He sat down next to her.

She looked at him to say: "I said leave me alone!" Then she hid her face in her arms and knees.

"Come on. You can tell me what's wrong. If you let it out, it will be easier. If there is a problem, just let it out. You will feel much better." He touched her shoulder.

"I...I miss my home."

"Oh. I see."

"*Sob* At this rate...we'll never be able to win!" she said.

"I know we can see your home again. I know it. We can work together."

She grabbed his shoulder and cried on it. He put his arm around her and let her weep.

After she let herself pour out everything.

"Thank you, Tyson." Faith said, wiping her eyes. I feel much better now."

"I'm glad to be of help." Indeed, those words were spoken from truth. Now Tyson appreciates her a little bit more. After all this brutal training with her stupid rules, he thought of her as a tyrant. But seeing her weep makes her realize that she's just a girl. A girl without a home who needs help.

Everyone's training hard. But will this be enough to handle the deadly brothers Nimrod and Sapphire?

16: Hearts Unite.

Contents

As the training continued, Tyson and Faith's relationship continue to become bitter. Tyson wished she'd be more 'nice' and show some respect once in a while. And Faith just wanted him to stop complaining and act 'more mature.' Over that time, nothing much had resolved, and each day it seemed like they kept on having more and more problems.

However, since last night, Tyson thought that their relationship had changed for the better. She cried and cried like a child. He was able to help her, and he was glad. She might appreciate him more, he thought, but he was wrong. Oh, very wrong.

"So, how ya doing?" he asked casually.

"I'm fine. And you're five minutes late."

"Uhhh..."

Her tone was strict just like before. Her attitude towards him did not change a damn bit. "I was just about to splash you again. You know every second counts, don't you?"

"C'mon, Faith, it's only five minutes. It won't change the world."

"Every second matters!!! And don't you 'Faith' me! It's master, got it?"

He was pissed. "Oh I see. Is that how things are?"

"You know the rules? Don't you, hmmm?"

"Alright, fine, let's train."

They fought as usual.

When they finished, Faith was not happy with the results. "What the heck was that? You call yourself a warrior?"

"What is wrong now?!"

"You barely hit me twice."

"Yeah? I almost knocked you out."

"Through the whole day, you hit me only two times!"

"So?"

"This is hopeless." She slapped her forehead. "God, why is this happening?!"

"Hey, you know what, why don't you show some respect once in a while? It helps."

"Respect? I would if you deserve it." She went into the house.

Tyson followed her. "We have to talk. Seriously."

"About?"

"The way things are...are not working."

"Maybe it's your own fault. Have you ever thought about that?"

Tyson was pissed off. "Me?! Why do you always blame me? Can't you say one goddam word of encouragement at least once in a while?"

"What's the point? I think training you was a complete waste of time."

That did it alright. Their arguing became more and more serious, and they could not stop now.

"You know what?" Tyson said. "I'm really tired of your yapping and yelling. Can't you say one good thing to me for once?"

"I would if there is anything good to say about you!"

"Oh that's it! I came here to train, not degrade myself and get disrespected."

"If you hate it so much, why don't you just leave?"

"Fine!"

"Fine!"

They turned away from each other. Tyson went to his room to pack up. He was so angry he did not think about the consequences.

Faith went to her room and banged the desk. Deep down inside, she wished he'd stay and they stopped arguing, but her mouth was faster than her heart. She sighed and sat down.

"Stupid Faith! Stupid woman!" Tyson muttered as he packed his stuff. He left the house. As he looked back, he vowed to himself not to come back. Then he heard sobbing. Crying. Where did it come from? He went towards the house, sticking to the wall, and peeked from the corner. He saw Faith crying, standing next to Lady. Seeing her so sad...was it his fault? He began to feel guilty.

"Why?" Faith said. "Why did he have to be so hasty?" She was crying and tears dripped down her face. "He does not know how I feel. Doesn't he know that the training was for his own good?" Faith sighed. She touched Lady's face, and the horse made a whining sound. "Oh Lady. You're my only true friend."

Tyson listened to every word with full attention.

"Why can't he just cooperate? I know I was a little rough, but it's for his own good. Doesn't he know my intentions? He treats me like I'm some kind of evil teacher. I wish...I wish I could tell him how I really feel about him." She put her face to Lady's, touching the horse's fur. It was comforting and fluffy.

Faith opened the door and went into the room, hoping Tyson was still there, but he wasn't. The room was empty and quiet. She was sad and her eyes started to get wet. She closed the door.

"Hey Faith!" said Tyson from the hallway, waving.

She was shocked to see him there. The light in her eyes completely changed. "You're...still here?"

"Well, of course. I wouldn't want to leave. I still have some training to complete."

"I t-thought you left for good."

"Of course not. Not after what you said." he blurted out.

"After what I said? What do you mean?"

"Uhhh...nothing..."

"Tell me! What do you mean?"

"Aha...nothing! I just want to umm...finish my training."

"Did you...spy on me last night?"

"What? How did you know?"

"You..." She slapped him. Then she looked at the floor, then gasped.

"I wasn't trying to spy or anything...I'm sorry..."

"That means...you...know everything! What...what am I going to do now?!"

Silence. Tyson grabbed her shoulders and she gasped. "Hey, I want you to know this: no matter what happens, I'll be there for you. And...if we work together, we can do anything."

She gasped with wide open eyes. Her large, shaking eyes looked in his and they stared for a moment. Then they kissed on the lips. It was nothing they ever felt before. They felt each other's love and tenderness in that long kiss. They let go of each other and hugged tightly, not saying a word.

In that one moment, all the bitterness and misunderstandings went away. Nothing will be the same.

Outside, Tyson stood by the lake and threw rocks into it. Faith came out of the house and watched them. She approached him and by then he threw three rocks. He did not seem sad or happy, just troubled. Maybe his mind was full of thoughts?

She stood next to him silently. Minutes later, she broke the silence. "Tyson?"

"Yeah."

"Do you have something on your mind?" Tyson asked.

"Yeah, in fact, I've got a lot on my mind. I've never been so confused." Faith said.

"Confused? Most of the time I'm confused." he said, and they both laughed.

"Have you ever been...ummm..."

"What?"

"Have you ever been in love?"

"Have you?" he asked back.

"I don't know. Tyson...I've never been kissed by a man before. What happened was...my first time."

"Naturally. You're a princess."

They sat down.

"You are my first love, Tyson. And only." She put her head on his shoulder. He put an arm around her.

They stayed like that for half the night.

Eventually, they went back to sleep. Tyson laid his head on his hands, unable to sleep or even close his eyes. There was a knock. Knock knock.

"Come in."

Faith came in, with her sleeping bag. "Can I sleep here tonight?" she asked shyly. "It's kind of lonely in there alone."

He felt his heart beating. "Ummm...of course...it's your house." He just realized that was a stupid answer.

She set the bag next to him about a foot away. She got tucked in.

"Can't sleep either, eh?" he said.

"No. How can I possibly sleep?"

"Bored?"

"Kind of."

They went on chatting, and time passed by quicker than they expected. Tyson stuck out his left arm and Faith stuck out her right arm, and their hands held each other's. They turned and looked at each other and smiled.

While Tyson and Faith were lost in their emotions, the other heroes continued training diligently. Lisa did what she could to help, making food for them during their

breaks. Everyone appreciated it. They knew she was busy with her job and all, but she spent a lot of time with them.

Once again in spirit world, Nebula fought against Darian. Zelfire's partner was Macintosh. Although he's a newbie, Zelfire thought he's a quick learner and a good fighting partner. Midas just watched them get stronger, and that's satisfying for him.

For the first time ever, Faith did not wake Tyson up. Even she slept late. When they woke up sometime near the noon, they were in no mood to train.

"Hey, let's take a break just for today." she said.

"Uhhh...ok."

So it was decided, no questions asked. Faith once said that she never made exceptions, but she proved herself wrong.

Tyson went to sit by himself on a cliff and wandered into deep thought. He went back to the forest at night. "Faith?" He was surprised to find her in the bath, and his face turned red and he turned around.

"Tyson? Oh it's you."

"Sorry..." he said in embarrassment.

She just laughed. "Wanna join me in the bath?" she asked seductively.

Tyson was shocked. "Uhhh, I think I have something to do." He began to walk away, then Faith grabbed his leg and pulled him into the water. "Ahhh!" Splash.

She laughed and giggled.

He was wet. "Alright, I'll get you for that!" He took off his clothes.

Then Faith splashed water on him and laughed.

"Hey! Ahh!" He covered his face. "Alright, I'm gonna get you! Here I come!" He splashed at her and they splashed each other. Suddenly, Tyson held his breath and went into the water.

Faith did not see where he went and became scared. "Tyson? Tyson?"

He suddenly came up in front of her and grabbed her arms and she gasped.

"I've got you now! You're a bad girl."

"You got me. Are you going to punish me?" she asked.

"You bet." He kissed her lips. They kissed passionately and he let go of her hands and grabbed her shoulders.

"Tyson, oh Tyson..."

He kissed her shoulders and her neck all over, and her hands were around his neck and she moaned as he stuck his head between her breasts.

They continued throughout the night, and eventually stopped and rested. Faith sat in the water with her back leaning against Tyson, and her legs bending, her knees above the water. Tyson was holding her breast with his hands, and her hands were on his. Her head was leaning against his as he kissed her shoulders. He sniffed her hair and kissed the back of her neck.

"Tyson?"

"Yes?"

"Aren't the stars beautiful?"

The sky was dark, and the stars glittered against the darkness. It was like a picture in a dream, only more real.

"Yes, they are." he answered. "But not as beautiful as you."

She turned her head to look at him, and they were face to face. They kissed on the lips briefly. "Tyson, can you make me a promise?"

"Yes, anything."

"Promise me...promise me you'll stay by my side forever."

"I promise."

That night seemed to be especially bright. The whole world seemed to disappear, and they were the only two people in the world. Two people from two different dimensions, with two different personalities. But somehow they ended together anyway.

The emotional conflict between these two has finally come to an outstanding conclusion. The other heroes continued their fruitful training. But Sapphire's goons continue wrecking havoc and causing trouble, stealing people's energy. And on other front, Marianna and Ace and Sabre continue their journey for revenge. What is their connection to our heroes? Will these two parties survive long enough to run into each other?

17: Clear Minds.

Contents

Tyson woke up and yawned. Today felt like a different day. In fact, it was. Surprise, Faith didn't wake him up – for once! He had the best sleep last night, and he got up and stretched.

He went to the kitchen sleepily and was surprised to find Faith cooking.

"Breakfast is almost ready." she said sweetly.

He sat down by the table and waited. She came a minute later with a dish of pancakes.

"Here you go. For my special someone." She put the plate in front of him.

"Oh gee, you shouldn't have."

"Go ahead, eat it."

"It looks great." He took a fork and stuck it in the top pancake, then lifted it up. Faith watched him without blinking, waiting for his opinion.

He put it into his mouth and chewed. It tasted horrible! Tyson struggled with it, trying not to show a bad face. He gulped it all down with one swallow.

"How was it?" Faith asked, with bright, glittering eyes.

Tyson just could not hurt her feelings, and he became uneasy looking at her. "It's terrific!"

"Great. Have some more. Eat the whole thing."

He tucked his shirt, sweating and chuckling. "I'm not hungry..."

"Come on, I worked hard on it. If it's good then eat it." She put the plate in front of his face.

"No, really...I'm really full."

"It's...it's bad, isn't it?!" she said.

"Uhhhh...no, that's not true at all."

"You're lying!" Faith screamed. She went to the sink and cried.

"Faith..."

"*Sob* What kind of woman am I? I can't even cook! *Sob* "

Tyson touched her shoulders. "Faith...it's a just a small, minute thing."

"No! It's a big problem!"

"You've got other characteristics that I like about you. I don't mind that, Faith. It doesn't mean a thing."

"Really?" she said, wiping her tears.

He nodded.

The couple sat by the river, which looked most beautiful at that time of day.

Tyson noticed Faith was quiet, which was unusual for her. "Got something on your mind?"

"Just thinking about someone. Someone I haven't seen in a long, long time."

"Oh? Who could it be?"

She took out a golden locket and opened it. Inside was a picture of a young boy and girl. Tyson could guess that little girl was Faith. It's so obvious. "This is my brother."

"Ohhh..."

"My father gave us these lockets on our **tenth birthday**. We both have one exactly identical. I've never went anywhere without this."

"Where is your brother?" he asked.

"He ran away from home when we were just kids. I haven't seen him since then."

"Wow...you must miss him, don't you?"

"I've searched for him but I never found him. Nobody knows where he is. And now that Almerak is destroyed...I don't know if we can meet again."

"Don't despair. Lost siblings always find each other. It's only a matter of time."

"I hope so."

"I know so."

And since the night he made the promise, they had slept in the same room every night. They slept closer and closer to each other, until that night, when Tyson got into her sleeping bag, on top of her.

"Hey, it's not fair." she said. "You crossed your side."

He kissed her lips, and their hands touched and tightened. Soon, they were both naked and under the blanket, having intimate sex.

Faith and Tyson were on a cliff above the river, not too high and not too low. The ground they stood on was a small stream of water that fell down the cliff, which was the waterfall.

"Are you ready?" Faith asked, smiling.

"You know I am." Tyson replied confidently. Things have changed now, yep, a lot has changed. Their relationship as master and student was no longer bitter and full of hate, but the complete opposite, full of trust and love, and this worked better for them.

Despite that they had become lovers, Faith made it clear that it must not interfere with their training. So they agreed.

They fought like they usually do, without holding anything back. Wham. Bam. Pow Whack. Vroom. Bash. Chop. Whack. Suddenly, Tyson almost fell over the edge. He was losing balance, and struggling to keep steady, swaying back and forth. Faith quickly ran to him and grabbed his hand, but he fell, dragging her along. They splashed into the water.

They walked towards the shallow water and rested. Even though it was a bad thing to happen, they laughed happily. Faith rinsed her hair, while Tyson rinsed his shirt.

Tyson: "That sure was fun."

"Yeah."

Faith laughed heartily. Suddenly, they looked into each other's eyes and something clicked. They grabbed each other and kissed wildly, smacking on the lips with passion. Faith lay on the shallow water, which was about the level of her ears.

Tyson was on top and they stared in the eyes, and then kissed. They removed their clothes and let out the passion inside.

That's how it had been since the day Tyson made the promise. It was an important day to both of them, and they will never forget it.

Meanwhile, in the other dimension, Ace, Marianna, and Sabre were still traveling. It seemed that Marianna had the wrong directions. When they realized it, they were shocked and angered.

"I knew we were lost." Ace complained.

"Everybody said that this was Death Mountain."

"Well, they were wrong."

"Vega is smarter than I thought." Marianna said. "This is all a scam. He kept the location of his base a secret, and what was public knowledge is false."

"Damn, so we don't know where the real Death Mountain is?" Ace asked.

"Nope. We'll just have to find it ourselves."

"Find it?! How!?"

"We'll get some clues. Come on. There's a village just ahead."

"Hmmm, alright."

Throughout their adventures, they beat up soldiers, visited some villages, and just walked through forests. Missing their goal was frustrating, but they believed they **will** find Vega.

Midas watched as the heroes trained, smiling on the inside and outside. He was satisfied with the results. The warriors trained hard as they promised, and grew strong. Maybe they have a chance after all, he thought.

This time Nebula fought Zelfire, while Macintosh had Darian as his sparring partner. Lisa watched them cheerfully, making their lunches.

Pow! Whack! Tyson ran through the woods, searching in all directions for the enemy. He saw a shadow jumped around the trees, from branch to branch, but it was too fast to make it what it was. Suddenly, Faith did a flying kick, coming from behind. Tyson turned around and jumped away. Whoosh.

"Yahh!" Faith attacked with karate chops and lethal kicks. Tyson dodged, then blocked her chops, and punched. Faith ducked, then kicked, Tyson jumped away from her leg, and landed. She threw a rose, and he dodged. The rose hit the tree - twang.

They ran, keeping up with each other. "How am I doing?"

"You're doing great."

They jumped and kicked. Whack. Tyson landed, but lost sight of her. He searched carefully with his eyes and ears, but did not find a thing. "Where could she be?"

Suddenly, Faith appeared from above and landed in his arms. "I got you." she said.

"No, I got you."

"No, I got you."

"Let's call it a draw." They kissed on the lips.

Since they wasted much time fooling around, the couple decided to train for the night, and they did. They spent the whole night fighting - doing nothing but fighting. They were tired but happy. That was the important part.

Finally, their bitter relationship had evolved into something else, something better, something sweet, and romantic. It was not officially announced, but Faith let Tyson call her name instead of master.

So the young couple fought and fought, knowing they will become stronger. It was almost dawn. The sun was just above the horizon, giving the earth a bright glow. The darkness of the forest regained its color, the trees became green, the river became clear, and birds chirped. Sounds of their hits echoed throughout the forest. Never before had their minds been as clear as now, as their happiness showed in their eyes.

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Summary

Contents

The heroes have to face the Dark Society, a secret army organized by sayans from another dimension, under the leadership of the powerful and mysterious Vega. His goal is to gather all the energy he needs from humans to fulfill his goal of uniting the two dimensions. Tyson and the gang team up with warriors from the second dimension, former victims of Vega's tyranny. Included is the beautiful Princess Faith, but it seems she has intentions of her own. Even with new allies, will the heroes be able to stop Vega's tyranny?