

chapter 11:
No Time Like
the Present



INT. ROMA POLICE STATION - GENE STRATOS'S OFFICE - MORNING

The office is huge in a feng shui sort of way. Not much occupies the room; merely Gene's mahogany desk.

Gene sits at his desk with Zanom, Kari, Sora, Ken, Halo, and Jaina. The seven of them each hold a cup of coffee.

GENE

So, what happens now?

KEN

I guess Zanom and Kari go back to their own timeline, right?

Zanom winces. Kari notices, and a worried look strikes her face.

KARI

We are going back, right?

SORA

So, you've figured it out, too...

KARI

Figured what out?

Kari looks back at Zanom, who MUMBLES into his coffee.

KARI

Don't tell me...

Zanom takes a gulp.

ZANOM

I don't know quite how to say this, but...

A beat.

KEN

You're not going back, are you?

SORA

The future timeline has been erased. Super Yinaku rewrote a bifurcation point, and wiped out everything after that point.

Kari loses her composure for a beat.

KARI

Wah! What are you saying?

ZANOM

There's no future timeline to go back to; we're all that's left.

A beat.

ZANOM

I've been talking with Vayelan about what you... about things, Gene.

Zanom gets up and closes the door.

GENE

Ah, yes. And?

ZANOM

The good news is Kari and I are back in the Yugokan Codex. Apparently, it happened when the Kami Pearls reactivated.

GENE

And the bad news?

ZANOM

Those things we talked about that night?

GENE

Yeah? What about them?

ZANOM

Vayelan says that they're not Demonic. They're something else, entirely.

KEN

Can we take them?

ZANOM

It's not that simple. He seems to think we need the other Kamis. We don't even know where they all are, let alone who.

JAINA

I'm one, you're one, and Kari's one. That's half.

ZANOM

No dice. The Crystal Dragons are too powerful. Aizen may not be enough, this time.

Silence cuts the room, as this revelation takes everyone back.

HALO

How can we hope to beat these things?

KEN

Time out. Did you say the Crystal Dragons? Like Rahab, the Aquamarine Dragon?

ZANOM

That's what Vayelan said.

KEN

We're in big trouble...

SORA

What do you know about them, Ken?

KEN

If what Vayelan said is true, we need to find the other Kamis fast, and even then, we might not come out of this alive.

GENE

I'll keep a special look-out for any activity. If I see anything, I'll let you know.

ZANOM

Thanks.

Kari rests her head on Zanom's shoulder.

KARI

I don't like this, babe.

HALO

How much time do we have?

ZANOM

Not long.

SORA

It's been three months. Why haven't we seen any activity yet?

KEN

Dragons are different from Demons. They can't be detected by the same means.

JAINA

So then, what are we supposed to do?

ZANOM

We wait.

Everybody turns to look at Zanom with audible surprise.

ZANOM

They're planning something big. I can sense it. This is my realm, now. I can sense the energies within it; even theirs. It's nowhere near what it should be, but it's there. I'd say we have about four or five years before they reveal themselves. Let's use that time wisely.

KARI

Right.

KEN

Gozu and Mezu are only two of six Zannojas. I'd recommend Kari and Jani find their corresponding Zannojas and start training. Zanom and I will search for the remaining Kamis.

SORA

Wait! One of those Kami Pearls hit me in the stomach. That might just give us an edge once baby Zankyo is born!

ZANOM

You're not naming him after me?

SORA

I can't. You're stuck here. It'd be too weird and confusing.

KEN
What color was it?

SORA
Red.

KEN
Once he's born, I have to train him.

SORA
He'll be a baby!

ZANOM
He's right... You're both right, actually. He does need training, but wait until we're ready.

KEN
Huh?

SORA
Zanom, what gives?

ZANOM
A Demon's power manifests after three years of age. It'll be much easier to train him if we wait.

Sora fidgets and looks at Ken, then back at Zanom.

SORA
Fine. But don't get him killed, all right?

ZANOM
I'll do my best. I can't make any promises. You know that.

Sora SIGHS and sips her coffee.

CUT TO:

INT. DIAMONTEN TEMPLE - ALTAR

Vayelan meditates by the altar pool. Gozu and Mezu stand and watch him.

MEZU
He's been like this for two months. I'm starting to get worried.

GOZU
Something happened. I can sense a
great danger on Roma.

MEZU
Isn't there anything we can do?

GOZU
Until we receive orders from the
new Kamis, we cannot act.

Vayelan twitches as he meditates.

MEZU
Then, perhaps, the Cosmos may not
recover from this one?

GOZU
That's a distinct possibility.

Both Gozu and Mezu look back at Vayelan, who continues to
sit, deep in meditation. Vayelan begins MUTTERING INAUDIBLY
to himself as he meditates.

FADE TO BLACK.