

CHRONIC BOOM

chapter 12:
the world
belt begins

INT. DIAMONTEN TEMPLE - ALTAR - AFTERNOON

Gozu and Mezu sit on the floor, sleeping, while Vayelan still sits and meditates by the altar pool, twitching.

Gozu and Mezu suddenly open their eyes and stand at guard.

Zanom, Kari, and Jaina teleport in.

GOZU

Oh. It's you schmucks again. I see you've...

Gozu notices Jaina.

GOZU

Why is she here? Are you insane?

Mezu crosses over to Jaina.

MEZU

This is sacred ground, and you wish to defile it again, demon?

KARI

It's a long story, but we need to speak with Vayelan right away.

ZANOM

It's an emergency.

GOZU

I did not teach you the ways of Seigo-ken just so you could barge in here and...

ZANOM

How dare you speak to a Kami like that!

GOZU

Kami? But they...

A beat.

MEZU

I think they're right... I can sense zenkai in them.

GOZU

My apologies, my lord!

Gozu kneels.

GOZU

However, Kami Vayelan has been meditating for six months straight. We begin to grow concerned.

ANGLE: VAYELAN MEDITATES AND TWITCHES.

MEZU

He's been muttering like that for the past five months. We have no way of knowing for what purpose he does this. We just know it can't be good.

GOZU

How may we be of service to you?

DISSOLVE TO

INT. DIAMONTEN TEMPLE - TRAINING GROUNDS - LATER

Gozu and Mezu sit outside with Kari and Jaina. Zanom stands.

GOZU

So... The Seventh Generation has finally awakened...

ZANOM

Kari and Jaina need the same level of training you gave Ken and I. The faster the better.

Mezu shakes her head.

MEZU

Unfortunately, we cannot be the ones to train them. However, we know of two other Zannojas who will be able to.

GOZU

Kari must train under Kaze, and Jaina must train under Hoshi. Given the Kami zenkai you've been entrusted with, this is the only option.

ZANOM

I was hoping Kami Vayelan could point me out to the other two Kamis.

GOZU

That, I may be of help with. There is an annual tournament called the World Belt. Perhaps, you've heard of it. Different fighters from around the galaxy compete to see who's the strongest in the galaxy. I believe you may stand a chance of finding them there.

ZANOM

Thank you. Where is it at?

Gozu and Mezu exchange concerned glances.

CUT TO:

INT. RUNA'S APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM

Runa's living room is much nicer than Sora's in that it's roomier and holds more expensive knickknacks.

Sora sits on the couch. She is very pregnant. Ken stands behind it, his arms folded. Halo sits in the corner, reading another trashy romance novel, "FOR THE LOVE OF GODOR." Zanom stands before Sora.

SORA

You want to go to Baldur? Are you mad? That's halfway across the galaxy! That's not even a safe part of the galaxy!

KEN

I'd have to agree with your mother on this one, Zanom. It sounds too dangerous. You haven't even fully mastered your Aizen form yet, let alone your zenkai.

ZANOM

It's the only way to find the other Kamis! I have to go.

Ken SIGHS.

KEN

At least don't go by yourself.

SORA

Are you both crazy? You'll both get yourselves killed!

Halo puts down the book.

HALO

It seems to me that we have no other option. If you would like, I'll go with him for safety in numbers.

KEN

I don't think this is a good time for updating your dating profile, Halo.

HALO

I'm stung! How can you say such a thing like that about me?

Zanom walks over and picks up the book Halo was reading.

HALO

Hey!

ZANOM

It's surprisingly easy when you read crap like this.

HALO

Touche!

RUNA (O.S.)

Why don't we all go? It'll be fun!

Everyone turns around toward the kitchen door to find Runa standing there. Zanom and Sora turn pale.

SORA

How long have you been standing there?

RUNA

Long enough.

A beat.

RUNA

I know who you are, Zanom. I can see the family resemblance in your face. You're from the future?

Zanom hangs his head and nods.

SORA

His timeline was erased during the incident that burned down my apartment building last year. So, he's stuck here. Permanently.

RUNA

That's terrible! I'm so sorry!

A beat.

RUNA

Oh, my gosh! The thing I said when we first met... I tried to date my nephew!

ZANOM

Yeah, I still have nightmares from that, by the way...

RUNA

I am so sorry, Zanom!

ZANOM

So, if you know all of what's going on, you know how important it is that we find the other Kamis.

RUNA

I don't think it's safe by yourself, but you gotta do what you gotta do.

SORA

Runa!

KEN

I hate to say it, Sora, but she's right. We don't stand a chance against the Crystal Dragons without them.

SORA

What about Kari and Jaina? Are they going, too?

ZANOM

No, they're receiving training from their respective Zannojas.

SORA

I'm not hearing this!

KEN

Sora, as much as it gives me a bad taste in my mouth to say this, Zanom is capable of looking after himself. It's you and Runa I'm worried about.

HALO

I figure that's what we can go for. To keep them safe, so that Zanom can focus on the tournament.

SORA

I don't like this.

CUT TO:

EXT. BALDUR - THE WORLD BELT ARENA - DAY

Baldur is a large red planet almost resembling Jupiter in size and appearance from space.

Many docking stations adorn the outer orbit of the planet. Each docking station has a trail of starcraft lined up for miles, waiting for entry to Baldur.

The Hando Star Runner inches closer to their docking station.

SORA (O.S.)

I don't like this one bit.

I/E. THE STAR RUNNER

Ken drives, while the others ride in the back seat.

RUNA

Hey, we're almost there.

SORA

I've got a fiancée, a son, and a baby on the way to think about, Runa. Getting there is the problem.

KEN

Okay, guys, we're in! Everybody out.

SORA

This is going to end badly. I know it.

HALO

You'll be fine. Your baby will be fine.

SORA

And what if I give birth a month early?

ZANOM

That actually did happen with me. It's a possibility. You have a genetic predisposition to premature birthing.

RUNA

Aunt Fernie had that, too.

Zanom shudders.

ZANOM

There's a face that didn't age well. Of all the family that didn't survive Yinaku, she lived.

SORA

Zanom, that's very rude of you! I can believe it, but that's no excuse for inappropriate behavior around the baby. He can hear what we're saying, you know.

ZANOM

Sorry, Mom.

INT. BALDUR - THE WORLD BELT ARENA - EVENING

Zanom talks with Customs. They point in various directions. Zanom pulls out a map, and Customs points to a spot on the map and points toward an elevator.

ZANOM

Thank you.

CUSTOMS

Good luck!

On his way back to Runa and Sora, A MAN IN ORANGE, sporting unruly, black hair bumps into Zanom.

MAN IN ORANGE

Sorry! Gotta run!

The man in orange floats off, bouncing off various objects

as he makes his way down the crowded hallway.

Runa and Sora walk up to Zanom, still watching the man in orange.

SORA
What's up with that guy?

ZANOM
Dunno. I have the strangest feeling
about that guy...

RUNA
Is he a...

ZANOM
No, he's not a Kami. That much I
can tell.

SORA
Eh, forget it. Did you register
yet?

ZANOM
I'm going to do that now. You two
should find Ken and Halo and get to
the hotel.

RUNA
Is that what you want?

ZANOM
No, you two just need the rest.

Runa and Sora yawn in unison. Zanom heads off to register as a contestant.

RUNA
How does he do that?

SORA
I'll never understand it, myself.

Runa and Sora walk off. Two fighters watch them leave.

KY
You heard what they said, too,
right?

RYNAN
About the Kamis?

KY

I wonder what they could want with us?

RYNAN

Who knows. Let's keep an eye on them.

RYNAN, 19, wears a silver gi and stands as tall as Zanom. KY, 23, wears a teal gi and stands as tall as Runa - still tall, but not as tall as Zanom.

Rynan has black tiger stripes on his face, and Ky sports a wolf's tail.

INT. BALDUR - REGISTRATION KIOSK - LATER

Zanom stands at a kiosk, filling out a stack of forms. A STAFF OFFICIAL helps him fill out the paperwork.

STAFF OFFICIAL

Initials here, here, and... Sign here. Do you have any special training you'd like us to highlight for the crowd?

ZANOM

I was trained in Seigo-ken.

STAFF OFFICIAL

Ooh! Another Kami! This should be fun!

ZANOM

You mean there are more here?

STAFF OFFICIAL

I can't tell you who they are, specifically, but there are two others. One trained in Zengo-ken, and the other trained in Kigo-ken. That's all I can tell you.

ZANOM

Thank you so much! You don't know how much that just helped me!

STAFF OFFICIAL

Well, I'm glad I could help. ...And you're all set. You report for the preliminaries tomorrow morning at nine sharp.

ZANOM

Thank you.

STAFF OFFICIAL

Thank you, Kami Zanom.

ZANOM

Yeah, about that...

STAFF OFFICIAL

Mums the word!

ZANOM

Thanks.

Zanom passes by Rynan and Ky as he turns to leave. They stare at each other for a fraction of a second, but time seems to stop for them.

ZANOM

(internal)

Bingo! Got 'em.

RYNAN

(internal)

Why do I suddenly feel like something bad is about to happen, and it has something to do with this man?

KY

(internal)

Something isn't right with this man. Better be on my guard.

NARRATOR

Now that Zanom has found the other two Kamis, will he be able to convince them to join forces against the Crystal Dragons? Who was the Man in Orange? And what impending danger awaits for this year's World Belt Tournament? Is it the Crystal Dragons? Find out the answers to these questions and more on Chronic Boom!

FADE TO BLACK.