

# CHRONIC BOOM

chapter 13:  
the strongest  
in the galaxy

INT. BALDUR - REGISTRATION KIOSK - EVENING

Zanom stands as he readies to leave the kiosk. Rynan and Ky stand before him. Both parties stare at each other.

NARRATOR

Last time on Chronic Boom, Zanom entered the World Belt Tournament to find the remaining two Kamis, and it seems as if he's found them. But are they friends or foes?

A glimmer of light twinkles in Zanom's eye.

KY

Eh?

ZANOM

Excuse me.

A beat.

Rynan and Ky step aside.

KY

Oh! Sorry about that! Heh, heh!

Zanom walks past them without stopping to look at them.

ZANOM

It's all right.

This surprises Ky, who watches Zanom walk away.

KY

Well... Not much of a people person, is he?

Rynan walks up to the Staff Official.

STAFF OFFICIAL

Forget something, boys?

RYNAN

What can you tell me about that man?

STAFF OFFICIAL

I can only tell you his name. He asked for everything else to be kept a secret. Sorry.

RYNAN

Then, what is his name?

STAFF OFFICIAL

His name is Zanom Danvers. That's about all I'm allowed to tell you, right now. Do you three know each other, or somethin'?

RYNAN

I have a feeling we will soon enough.

STAFF OFFICIAL

That's strange, Rynan. He was asking questions about you guys, too. You want me to dig around for you?

RYNAN

No, that won't be necessary, Foxtrot.

Ky walks up.

FOXTROT

Hey, bro! What's up?

KY

I've got a weird vibe from that guy. What'd you guys pick up?

RYNAN

Foxtrot's holding out on us.

FOXTROT

Hey, I don't wanna lose my job, here! I gotta pay for the Shamanic training somehow.

KY

Anything you can tell us?

FOXTROT

You'll find out soon enough.

RYNAN

What's his style.

FOXTROT

Oddly enough, it's a Go-ken.

RYNAN

Interesting. How's a guy like that end up learning a Go-ken style mysticism?

FOXTROT

Beats me, but you're kinda holding  
up my line.

Foxtrot points behind Rynan and Ky. An angry mob has lined  
up behind them, patiently waiting their turn to register.

RYNAN

Whoops! Sorry 'bout that!

Rynan and Ky exit the line, grinning nervously.

FOXTROT

May I help the next fighter?

INT. THE WORLD BELT ARENA - MORNING

Thousands of fighters fill a crowded stadium arena. A  
commentator, JAROD DIZON, 27, speaks to the crowd over a  
microphone and the public address system.

Among the fighters in the packed stadium seats are Zanom,  
Rynan, Ky, and the man in orange from the day before.

Zanom has exchanged his trademark black gis and silver  
undershirt for blue gis and silver shoes.

JAROD

Hello! My name is Jarod Dizon! I'm  
a native to this wonderful planet  
of Baldur, and this is my third  
year working the World Belt  
Tournament! I'll also serve as your  
referee!

Two fighters in the audience whisper to each other. Jarod  
continues over them, but it sounds like muffled "blahs."

FIGHTER #1

Are you sure this is a good mark?  
What if they all gang up on us?  
We're screwed!

FIGHTER #2

Remember the plan. We're just here  
to scope out the biggest threats  
and eliminate them. Most of these  
people are gonna leave by the end  
of tomorrow, anyway.

JAROD

So, with that out of the way, let's  
get started!

The crowd of fighters CHEER at the top of their lungs.

Jarod tosses the microphone up into the air, catches it behind his back, and spins it up to his mouth. The display is quite impressive, but it's all empty flair.

JAROD

Onto the Preliminary Rounds!  
Remember! You lose if you lose  
consciousness, fall out of bounds,  
or give up! New this year, you are  
disqualified if you murder your  
opponent! We don't want a repeat of  
last year's Bakuo Sansa Incident!  
With that, all weapons must be  
approved by Tournament officials  
prior to your match starting this  
year, or you will be disqualified!  
There will be no exceptions to this  
rule! Who's ready?

The crowd CHEERS again, but Zanom seems more focused on Rynan and Ky.

ZANOM

(internal)

This is gonna be an interesting  
day...

EXT. BALDURIAN MARKET - LATER

Sora and Runa walk through a bazaar, which resembles a market one could find in the Middle East on Earth.

RUNA

This is so amazing! The scenery is  
beautiful!

Runa notices Sora focusing on something else.

RUNA

Honey, he'll be okay.

SORA

Hmm? Oh, I know. It's just... It's  
three-thirty. Why haven't we heard  
from Ken or Halo yet?

RUNA

They have to get through thousands of fighters today. This could take all day before they get to Zanom. I'm sure the moment Zanom's done, we'll hear from Ken and Halo.

SORA

Thanks, Runa.

RUNA

That's what sisters are for, isn't it?

A beat.

RUNA

Ooh! Wouldn't that look divine in the baby's nursery?

Sora's expression flattens.

SORA

Way to stay focused, Runa.

Sora looks back toward the arena in the distance.

SORA

(internal)

Stay safe, Zanom...

CUT TO:

INT. THE WORLD BELT ARENA - AFTERNOON

The man in orange punches a large ogre in the gut. The ogre drops his axe and topples over out of bounds.

JAROD

Winner! Number 48,390, Carrot! Next up, we have number 48,391 vs number 48,392!

Zanom looks at his number slip.

ZANOM

(internal)

Great! Number 67,324. Might as well be serving number 3...

Rynan watches Zanom sit back and exhale a bored SIGH.

RYNAN

That Zanom guy is too comfortable and relaxed. I don't like it.

KY

Maybe he's just bored.

RYNAN

That's just it, though! Where are we?

KY

The World Belt...

RYNAN

Exactly. Doesn't that excite you? Don't you want to see who makes it to the first round of the tournament?

KY

Yeah...

RYNAN

That guy... He's like... He just doesn't care! Why? What's he hiding up his sleeve?

Zanom sneezes at a distance and looks over to them. Rynan and Ky panic for a moment. Zanom waves to them. They awkwardly wave back.

JAROD

Winner!

RYNAN

He's way too relaxed for his surroundings.

KY

Maybe he'll lose. It might cost him.

RYNAN

Him? A master of a Go-ken fighting style? I doubt it.

JAROD

Will number 48,394 please report to the arena! You have 60 seconds before you are automatically disqualified!

RYNAN

48,394?

KY

Hey, isn't that you?

RYNAN

Shit!

Rynan stands up and floats down to the arena.

RYNAN

I'm right here!

Ky watches Zanom perk up as Rynan enters the arena.

KY

Hmm?

Zanom sits on the edge of his seat as Rynan's match begins.

KY

(internal)

That's odd. He looked like he  
couldn't care less, a moment ago.  
Now, he's totally engrossed in it.  
What are you at, Zanom Danvers?

INT. THE HOTEL ROOM - EVENING

Sora and Runa enter the room with an assortment of packages and bags from the bazaar.

Ken watches the closed circuit news footage of the preliminary rounds. Halo, of course, reads a trashy romance novel.

SORA

Any word about Zanom?

HALO

That's what he's still watching  
for.

RUNA

Wait! Zanom still hasn't fought  
yet?

KEN

Shush! His number's finally up!

Ken turns up the volume on the TV. Everyone huddles around to watch.



NEWS REPORTER

...Vs number 67,324, Zanom Danvers.  
This should be an easy one, folks.  
Zanom's up against a Gylark five  
times his size, unarmed. Buu-Rytami  
has a sword longer than Zanom's  
height! I really don't see Zanom  
getting through this one...

Sora turns pale.

NEWS REPORTER

Oh, my lord! What the hell just  
happened? I don't even know how to  
describe it! Buu-Rytami swung his  
sword and cut himself in the face!

Ken LAUGHS hysterically.

RUNA

Shush! I can't hear!

Ken regains his composure.

KEN

Sorry.

NEWS REPORTER

Buu-Rytami jumps for an aerial  
assault... Zanom Danvers dodges. We  
have seen very little movement from  
Zanom Danvers this entire match,  
folks.

KEN

Oh, for the love of Godor! Just  
finish this, already!

NEWS REPORTER

...And it's over!

HALO

Huh. That's convenient.

## NEWS REPORTER

Number 67,324, Zanom Danvers has decidedly won despite hardly moving at all. In a display that can only be seen to be described, Buu-Rytami lunged at Zanom Danvers, only to slide out of bounds. Either Buu-Rytami's having an off day, or Zanom Daniels is just that good.

Ken turns off the TV, as Sora nearly faints.

KEN

Sora! Are you okay?

RUNA

C'mon. Let's get you to bed. You could use some rest. We'll let you know if he scored well enough in the morning.

SORA

I... I'm fine. Really.

RUNA

Sora, you're sweating profusely!

KEN

I don't like the looks of this...

SORA

Really, guys. I'm fine. I'm just a little tired.

RUNA

You didn't really eat enough today.

KEN

And you hardly slept at all, last night.

SORA

Really...

HALO

I'm going for a food run. Anybody want anything?

SORA

I could go for some cheeseburgers and ice-cream.

RUNA

I'll go get that for you. I know  
what you like.

Halo and Runa leave the hotel room.

SORA

Why do I feel like I just got  
played like Zanom?

KEN

Because you did, Sweetie.

SORA

I really don't feel so good.

KEN

Maybe if you eat something, you'll  
feel better.

INT. THE WORLD BELT ARENA - NIGHT

The fighters have been reduced to half the numbers seen  
before. Jarod addresses the crowd.

JAROD

And now the moment you all have  
waited so patiently for! It's time  
to reveal who gets to compete for  
this year's World Belt!

Jarod tosses the microphone again.

JAROD

Damn, I'm good. As you all know,  
only eight of the 35,704 left  
sitting here, tonight, are  
advancing to the Quarterfinals of  
the World Belt Tournament, this  
year! This will be determined by  
the top eight scores as determined  
by our judges! During your  
preliminary fights, we have  
calculated and assigned a numerical  
value to each contestant based on  
his or her fighting performance!  
Only the top eight will be  
announced! And they are as  
follows...

Rynan stares at Zanom. Ky stares at Rynan. Zanom yawns.

RYNAN

Dammit!

JAROD

I'm sorry, but I haven't even started listing them off yet! Please wait until I'm finished before you swear! Thank you!

RYNAN

Sorry!

Other fighters turn to stare at Rynan. Rynan shrinks in his seat. Ky face-palms.

JAROD

Number 8! Contestant 48,390, Carrot, with a numerical score of 87!

Carrot, the man in orange, jumps up and CHEERS.

CARROT

Yes! I made it!

JAROD

Number 7! Contestant...

Fighter #1 talks with his friend again.

FIGHTER #1

(whispering)

This is taking way too long. Just spit it out already.

FIGHTER #2

(whispering)

Patience! You heard what the boss said. We have to report back with the names of the ones who pose the biggest threat to the operation.

FIGHTER #1

(whispering)

It's not like we're going to take them out, now, or anything. So, why are we even here?

JAROD

Number 3! Contestant 24,811, Ky Himura with a numerical score of 96!

Ky stands up and starts a victory dance, but Rynan pulls him down.

JAROD

Number 2! Contestant 48,394, Rynan  
Dorvid with a numerical score of  
98!

Ky pats Rynan on the back.

KY

Way to go, Rynan!

Rynan pulls Ky's arm down.

RYNAN

(whispering)

You idiot! Now he knows both our  
names!

KY

(whispering)

So, what? We know his.

RYNAN

(whispering)

We've lost the element of surprise.  
We knew his name, but he didn't  
know ours until you just did that!

Zanom's ear flickers. He grins.

JAROD

And we almost didn't know what to  
make of this one, but the judges  
voted to allow it based on his  
defense alone! Number 1! Contestant  
67,324, Zanom Danvers with a  
perfect numerical score of 100!  
That's a first for any contestant  
at the World Belt Tournament!  
Congratulations to the eight I've  
just announced! The rest of you are  
welcome to stay and watch the  
tournament play out over the next  
week! Good luck to all of you who  
have advanced!

The crowd starts to dissipate. Rynan sulks.

RYNAN

Not only did he beat me by two points, but he got a perfect score. Is this just a game to him? Look at him, over there!

Zanom rubs his eyes and yawns.

RYNAN

The little shit can't even stay awake, for crying out loud!

KY

I can sense something familiar about him.

RYNAN

Familiar? We just met him!

KY

I can't explain it, but I think he's hiding something big from us, and I'm not entirely sure it's a bad thing.

RYNAN

That doesn't explain all the questions about us?

KY

Hey, we asked a ton of questions about him, too.

A beat.

Rynan SIGHS.

RYNAN

I hate it when you're right. Best to just watch to see what he does.

KY

Sounds good to me. You know, you might have gotten a better score, yourself, if you weren't so obsessed.

RYNAN

Don't start.

The shady fighters watch Zanom leave the arena.

FIGHTER #1

That guy's a definite threat.  
Number 2 isn't that much better,  
either.

FIGHTER #2

Stick to the plan. We'll just tell  
the boss to ice 'em. That's all.

FIGHTER #1

I hope you're right about this. We  
can't afford to screw this up. Not  
here. Not now.

INT. THE HOTEL ROOM - LATER

Sora eats a cheeseburger while Runa keeps her company. Ken  
is still glued to the TV. Halo turns another page in his  
romance novel.

A THUD knocks at the door.

Everybody turns to look at the door as it opens. Zanom  
stands on the other side, half-asleep.

SORA

Zanom!

Halo puts the book down and joins Ken in greeting Zanom at  
the door.

ZANOM

I'm just bed to going, now. Which  
way is the sleep?

KEN

How'd you do? Are you in?

RUNA

Perfect score. He did amazing!

ZANOM

Huh? How'd you aunt that, know  
Runa?

SORA

Okay, that one was on purpose.

ZANOM

Might 'a been.

RUNA

I just saw it on the news channel.  
I am so proud of you, Zanom!

SORA

You look exhausted.

ZANOM

I guess it was a lot of excitement  
for such a long day.

KEN

I'll bet. Go get some sleep.

ZANOM

Good idea. I gotta be up at eight  
tomorrow for the match assignment.

RUNA

Match assignment?

ZANOM

It's when I find out who fights who  
and what day.

SORA

They didn't tell you yet?

ZANOM

Nope.

SORA

Go get some rest.

ZANOM

Already on it.

Zanom heads into his bedroom. Another THUD.

ZANOM (O.S.)

I'm okay! I just missed the bed!

KEN

I wonder if he found the other  
Kamis yet?

RUNA

I guess we'll have to find out  
tomorrow.

HALO

I think we already have our answer  
to that question.



RUNA

What? But how?

HALO

Think about it. He would've been too agitated to sleep if he didn't, right?

KEN

Got a point, there.

HALO

I think his calm demeanor says it all. He knows who they are, and I'll have a hunch they're two of the quarterfinalists in the tournament.

SORA

Sounds about right.

KEN

He must be so excited for this. Both of them in one spot, and he gets to test their abilities on the spot.

HALO

It's the Demonic blood in him. He can't resist a good fight. Zankyo's going to be the same way.

RUNA

Demonic? My nephew has Demonic blood?

SORA

It's a long story, actually...

INT. THE WORLD BELT ARENA - MORNING

Zanom and the other seven fighters stand at attention, while Jarod briefs them without his microphone, for once.

JAROD

Okay, so you're all going to draw a number between one and four out of this box. If your number matches another fighter's, you will fight that contestant on the day of that fight. The first fight starts today at noon. Okay? Let's get started, then. Uh, Carrot. Carrot, you're up first.

Carrot walks up to the box of numbers.

Rynan's eye glimmers, and time stops.

Rynan runs up to the box and hands Carrot a ball that reads, "1" on it. Rynan runs back to his spot. Time resumes.

JAROD

Okay, so you fight today at noon. Zanom Danvers, you're up. We're going in alphabetical order, folks.

Zanom walks up to the box.

Another glimmer in Rynan's eye, and time stops again.

Rynan runs up to the box and hands Zanom another ball that reads, "1" on it. Once again, Rynan returns to his place, and time resumes.

JAROD

Wow! What are the odds? Are we randomizing this? Zanom, you fight Carrot today at noon. You two better go prepare yourselves. We'll come find you with the match assignments when we have them.

Zanom and Carrot exit the arena, and the next contestant is called.

KY

(whispering)

Why'd you do that?

RYNAN

(whispering)

I wanted to check him out before either of us have to fight him.

KY  
(whispering)  
Give me number 2, and you take  
number 3. That way, we don't face  
each other until the finals, and we  
get two chances to take him down.

RYNAN  
(whispering)  
Right.

JAROD  
Ky Himura, come grab you're number.

Ky walks up to the box.

Rynan works his magic. Ky gets number 2. Time resumes.

JAROD  
Number 2. Okay.

DISSOLVE TO

INT. THE WORLD BELT ARENA - LATER

Jarod finishes with the final fighter.

JAROD  
Okay, so the final roster for the  
rest of you looks like this!

INSERT: SPLIT SCREEN OF KY AND HIS OPPONENT.

JAROD  
Day 2 will be Ky Himura vs  
Jeicebaga.

INSERT: SPLIT SCREEN OF RYNAN AND HIS OPPONENT.

JAROD  
Day 3 will be Rynan Dorvid vs  
Mettus Dio.

INSERT: SPLIT SCREEN OF THE FINAL TWO OPPONENTS.

JAROD  
Day 4 will be Furyzu vs Jeiku.

The fighters begin to disperse.

JAROD

You may watch each match from behind the arena, though once you've been eliminated, so has your restricted-access pass. Got it?

The fighters ignore him and walk out.

JAROD

Okay, then!

INT. BALDURIAN MARKET - BACK ROOM - LATER

The two shady fighters report back to their cohorts.

FIGHTER #1

I'm telling you, this guy is pure trouble. He got a perfect score based entirely on his defense. He's rock solid.

FIGHTER #2

Chances are he and the other guy... Eh, what's it, eh... Rynan Dorvid, that's it! Chances are those two are gonna go all the way. Why don't we just wait until the final round to do it. They'll be stuck in the fight, and the rest should be gone by then. It should be perfect, Boss.

The boss, ONYX, sits obscured by shadows. He puffs on a cigarette and blows the smoke out.

ONYX

Fair enough. We wait. Ruby, kill these men. Their use to me have expired.

RUBY (O.S.)

As you wish, Onyx.

FIGHTER #2

Hey, wait a minute! We did everything you asked!

ONYX

(chuckling)

I know.

A red light fills the back room. When it dissipates, the shady fighters lie lifeless on the floor.

ONYX

Let this be a warning to the rest  
of you. Don't let your use to me  
expire. You have six days to  
prepare this heist. Don't screw it  
up.

Onyx stands up and turns around. He is still enshrouded by shadows the entire time. Nobody gets a good look at his face.

INT. THE WORLD BELT ARENA - AFTERNOON

Jarod stands on the arena floor, ready to begin the World Belt Tournament.

The arena seats are packed with cheering spectators, ready to burst into a riot at a moment's notice.

JAROD

Okay, ladies and gentlemen! Let's  
get this show on the road! Welcome  
to this year's...

Jarod tosses the microphone again. It looks flashier with each time he does it.

JAROD

World Belt Tournament!

The crowd CHEERS emphatically.

NARRATOR

As the World Belt Tournament  
officially gets under way, a  
sinister plot hatches under their  
noses. Who are Onyx and Ruby, and  
what are they planning? Can Zanom  
stop them from whatever it is?  
Carrot scored the lowest of the  
contestants, but will this really  
be an easy win for Zanom and his  
perfect score? Or is there more to  
Carrot than he's letting on? Find  
out next time as Zanom fights  
Carrot on Chronic Boom!