



chapter 14:
zanom vs
carrot

INT. THE WORLD BELT ARENA - AFTERNOON

The crowd CHEERS emphatically as Jarod kicks off the World Belt Tournament.

NARRATOR

Last time on Chronic Boom, Zanom had a long day of waiting ahead of him. His defense alone had earned him entry to the World Belt Tournament's Quarterfinals. However, Ky and Rynan aren't the only ones watching him. Something's rotten on the planet of Baldur!

JAROD

Now, it's time to kick off the opening ceremony!

Drums BLARE as Carrot and Zanom enter the arena ring.

CARROT

Heh! You ready for this?

ZANOM

Don't hold back on my account!

The drums stop.

JAROD

Match One of the World Belt Tournament pits Carrot of Planet Fajita against Zanom Danvers of Planet Roma! Ready?

Zanom and Carrot stare each other down.

Rynan and Ky watch closely from behind the ring entrance.

In the stadium, Sora and Runa watch intently. Ken grabs a book from Halo; Halo sulks and watches with indifference.

Carrot smiles.

JAROD

Fight!

Carrot disappears from sight and reappears directly in front of Zanom.

Zanom jumps over Carrot's fist and tries to kick him in the face, but Carrot is just a mirage. Zanom lands.

ZANOM

What?

Carrot reappears behind Zanom and kicks him in the back. Zanom breaks into tiny ice fragments.

CARROT

That's... That's a new one.

Carrot senses something and dodges moments before a giant icicle slams into the ring where he had been standing, leaving a small crater on impact.

Some people in the crowd look above the ring, while others point and gasp.

Carrot looks up to meet their gaze. He's surprised to find Zanom floating in the air.

CARROT

I didn't expect this to escalate that quickly.

ZANOM

I didn't expect you to have held out on us at the Preliminaries.

CARROT

Heh. There's more to me than you're seeing even now, friend.

ZANOM

Preaching to the choir. End the warm-up?

CARROT

I was hoping you'd say that.

JAROD

Whoa! Ladies and gentlemen! This battle hasn't even begun yet! Watch out! This could get brutal!

ZANOM

Don't hold out on me, now.

CARROT

Wouldn't dream of it.

Carrot gathers his energy and transforms into a giant orange orangutan with green hair on his head.

CARROT

(ROAR)

How do you like this, friend? Ha, ha, ha! Try to beat me, now!

JAROD

In the event that the arena is destroyed during this fight, it is at this time we would like to extend our deepest gratitude to this year's corporate sponsor, the Mafudorn Corporation! I'd like to remind Mafudorn CEO, Draven Mafudorn, that we hold a 90-year guarantee on this arena! Please keep that in mind when you charge us for construction! Thank you!

Runa sits and sulks in her seat.

RUNA

What a jerk! He should be more focused on doing his job than kissing up to the sponsors.

Zanom shoots a glare over at Jarod. Jarod shrinks.

ZANOM

You might make more money if you do your freaking job and stop brown-nosing the clientele.

Jarod nods nervously.

ZANOM

I guess I should warn you about the flaws of such a transformation.

CARROT

Oh? What's that?

Zanom powers up and focuses his energy into his fist.

ZANOM

Your speed can't keep up with your size. That'll be your downfall.
Also...

Zanom teleports behind Carrot and lets forth a shockwave of energy from his fist into the back of Carrot's knee that topples the giant orangutan-like fighter.

ZANOM
You're top heavy.

Carrot transforms back into his original form to avoid falling out of the ring.

He flips over in mid-air and lands on his feet inside the ring, though his knee wobbles from his landing. Carrot almost kneels to keep his balance.

CARROT
Cheap shot! I guess I'll have to bring out my next form to beat you. I was really hoping I wouldn't have to bring this out just yet.

ZANOM
Heh. Here I thought this was going to be an easy win...

Ryan and Ky watch Zanom closely.

RYNAN
He's not even breaking a sweat, but look at Carrot.

KY
Hmm?

RYNAN
Carrot's going all out, but Zanom's just beginning. I don't think we're going to see much of Zanom from this fight. Not this one; not today.

CARROT
A smart-ass, huh? We'll see if you're still so cool when you're crawling on the floor for the next week or two...

Zanom poses in a fighting stance.

ZANOM
We'll see about that.

JAROD
Carrot still has another form he plans on using to defeat Zanom! Will this one be any more successful than the last one?

CARROT

Shut up! You're breaking my concentration! Where were we? Oh, right! I was going to...

Zanom suckerpunches Carrot in the face. Carrot goes down and holds his face.

CARROT

My nose! I think I taste blood!

Carrot rolls out of the way of Zanom's foot and stands up, holding his nose.

CARROT

That better not be broken!

Carrot removes his hands from his face and reveals a very swollen nose. At least it isn't broken.

The crowd winces.

SORA

That poor guy! He never even stood a chance!

KEN

You can thank Gozu for that one. He was insistent that Zanom not give his enemies opportunities like that.

Carrot gathers even more energy than last time and begins to glow. His hair grows long and turns green. An orange aura surrounds his body.

CARROT

This is what I like to call my Super Veggie form.

ZANOM

I think it's only fair to warn you. I can do something like that, too.

CARROT

What? You're bluffing!

Rynan and Ky perk up.

RYNAN

Here we go...

KY

Now it gets interesting...

JAROD

Wow, folks! Zanom has just stated he has his own transformation! With any luck, we'll be able to see this transforma...

Zanom powers up and nearly blows Jarod off the arena ring.

Rynan and Ky brace themselves for the copious amounts of energy Zanom puts out.

Zanom ROARS as he transforms into Aizen.

AIZEN

You can call this form, Aizen.

CARROT

That... That energy... I don't know if I can even compare to that.

Aizen zooms into Carrot's face in the blink of an eye and disappears just as quickly. Carrot looks around.

JAROD

Amazing! Zanom, or Aizen, or whoever he calls himself now, has just vanished.

CARROT

I can't even follow where he went!

Carrot tunes in to an attack from behind and dodges moments before Aizen lands on cracked tiles.

JAROD

Uh... Hey! You guys are going to leave the ring intact, right?

CARROT

Shut up, would ya! I'm tryn'a focus, here!

AIZEN

Your problem is clear. You take too long to fight; your concentration is nonexistent. You need more meditation in your training.

Carrot fires off an energy beam at Aizen. Aizen deflects it back at him.

CARROT

But... But... That was my Carrot
Destruction Wave! Nothing can
defeat that!

Aizen jumps in the air.

AIZEN

Hey! Dodge it, moron!

Carrot snaps back to reality and jumps back, out of the way
of his own blast.

AIZEN

Ryuu!

Rynan and Ky almost faint.

RYNAN

I know that attack! He couldn't
possibly know it!

KY

He's a Demonic Hybrid. Surely
nobody would've taught him that
technique. I mean, who'd be dumb
enough?

AIZEN

Baku!

RYNAN

He's actually going through with
it!

KY

Hit the deck!

AIZEN

Ha!

Aizen fires off the Ryuubakuha Wave at Carrot, completely
taking him off-guard.

As Carrot jumps in the air to dodge the attack, Aizen swoops
behind him and knees him in the spine.

Carrot instantly transforms back into his base form and
starts to drop to the ground.

Aizen transforms back into Zanom, catches Carrot, and gently
places him on the ring floor.

ZANOM
Start the count.

JAROD
Huh... Oh! Right!

Jarod runs over to Carrot.

JAROD
Hey, uh... Is he gonna be all right?

ZANOM
He'll be sore for a couple days. When he wakes up, just tell him to get some rest and ease himself back into training.

JAROD
Oh... Uh, okay, but... He looks like you've really knocked him out. Judges?

Zanom looks over at Rynan and Ky glaring at him.

JAROD
The judges have ruled a Total Knock Out! Zanom Danvers of Roma wins Day 1 of the World Belt Tournament! And what a day it was! Let's hope the rest of the Tournament will be just as eventful! We'll see you back here, tomorrow, folks!

INT. THE WORLD BELT ARENA - BACKSTAGE - MOMENTS LATER

Zanom walks past Rynan and Ky as he exits the ring.

RYNAN
Hey!

ZANOM
Save it for the ring, Yoni Rynan. I don't wish to kill you, nor anyone else I don't have to. That satisfy you?

Zanom's words stun Rynan, while Ky slams Zanom into the wall.

KY
What did you just call him, Demon?

ZANOM

Watch your tongue, Kami Ky. We're on the same playing field. You want to know so much about me these past few days? We need to talk. Roma's future depends on it.

RYNAN

What are you getting at, Zanom?

ZANOM

I'm afraid if I tell you everything now, I won't be able to test your limits as accurately as I wanted to.

KY

We saw you out there. What business does a Demonic Hybrid have with the Kamis?

ZANOM

If you saw me out there, you would know I purposefully didn't kill Carrot and told the officials how to care for his wounds.

RYNAN

He has a point, Ky. I sensed it in him at that moment. He knows something we don't.

ZANOM

Dig deeper.

Ky slams Zanom into the wall again.

KY

Who are you? Really?

ZANOM

Can't you tell? Haven't you figured it out yet? A demon trained in a Go-Ken, who fights with ice? What does that sound like to you?

Rynan turns pale.

RYNAN

Ky, let him go.

Zanom smirks.

KY

But...

RYNAN

Let. Him. Go. Now.

KY

Why should I? Just because he
knows... Seigo-Ken...

Ky turns pale and unhands Zanom.

ZANOM

Allow me to formally introduce
myself. My name is Zanom Danvers of
Roma, Kami of Seigoku.

NARRATOR

The cat's out of the bag! Zanom has
revealed his big secret to Rynan
and Ky, but what's running through
his mind after defeating Carrot?
Will the reunion of Kamis mean more
manpower against the Crystal
Dragons? And what effect does this
have on the rest of the Tournament?
Find out next time on Chronic Boom!

FADE OUT