



chapter 18:
PURE RAGE

INT. THE WORLD BELT ARENA - CONCESSION STANDS - EVENING

Ken, Rynan, and Halo fly toward the Security Control Room.

Ikarin's aura pulsates throughout the arena. Rynan, Ken, and Halo stop dead in their tracks.

RYNAN

What the holy Jigoku was that?

KEN

Get everyone out of here, now.

RYNAN

What?

KEN

Now! Go! Get everyone to safety
while he's still contained! Halo!
Go warn the others!

HALO

Right!

Halo turns around and flies off to warn everyone.

RYNAN

Ken, is it? Level with me. What are
we dealing with? Zanom's aura just
darkened and I'm reading no
inhibitions on him, whatsoever.
What just happened?

Ken hangs his head.

RYNAN

Tell me!

NARRATOR

Last time on Chronic Boom, Rynan
and Aizen escaped the safety
shields around the ring and
thwarted the terrorists's plan!
Both Runa and Sora are safe! But an
eleventh-hour ploy to eliminate
Aizen resulted in Ikarin's
reemergence. Oh, no! Will Rynan be
able to keep the spectators safe
and defeat Ikarin? Find out today
on Chronic Boom!

Rynan grabs Ken by the collar.

RYNAN

Listen to me, Ken! These people have been put through enough danger today! If there's something else that's going to put them in more danger, I need to know, so I can stop it!

Rynan lets go of Ken and starts to fly over toward Ikarin.

KEN

Wait!

Rynan stops to let Ken catch up to him.

KEN

He's become overwhelmed by a mental state of Ikarin. He's very powerful, but he can't think rationally while he's in this state of mind. The only way to stop it is to calm him down.

RYNAN

He's done this before?

KEN

Twice, actually.

RYNAN

How many people tend to survive?

KEN

On average... None, or close to it.

RYNAN

Shit! You're telling me this, now?

KEN

We thought he overcame it with intense training.

RYNAN

Obviously, this intense emotional distress didn't help matters, did it?

Rynan teleports to Ikarin.

Ikarin tries to claw at him, but Rynan dodges.

Rynan grapples with Ikarin and teleports the two of them to...

INT. THE WORLD BELT ARENA - RING

JAROD

Huh? Hey! You guys ready to restart the match? I'm not sure how many people are going to come back after that whole incident, but...

Rynan powers up and fires a blast of energy, burying Ikarin into the ring.

RYNAN

What are you waiting for? Get those shields back online! You're in great danger!

JRAVIRTZ (O.S.)

The safety grid's still fried. Your opponent did a number on it. I'll need, like, ten more minutes on it, at least.

RYNAN

We don't have that long!

A dark burst of energy and flames shoots up from the hole in the middle of the arena.

Rynan dodges back as Ikarin lunges out of the hole at him.

RYNAN

Dammit! I gotta think of something fast!

Ikarin ROARS as the amount of energy he puts out starts to shake the entire arena.

JAROD

Oh my Godor! I'm gonna die! I'm gonna die, and it's gonna... I think I just peed a little...

JRAVIRTZ

Eh.

JAROD

Eh? What do you mean, "Eh?" Do you not understand what's going to happen to us?

JRAVIRTZ

Eh. I've seen worse. And by the way, you call that a pee stain?

JAROD
Now's not the time, Jravirtz!

JRAVIRTZ
Eh.

JAROD
Stop saying that!

EXT. THE WORLD BELT ARENA - EVENING

Several planets' police forces are in the process of arresting the few remaining terrorists either Ikarin has left alive or who actually heeded the call to arms.

Gene Stratos of Roma takes a statement from Runa.

RUNA
...And that point, I figured I'd better do what he said and run.

GENE
Anything else you'd like to add, Ms. Danvers?

RUNA
His eyes. There was a look of pure vengeance in his eyes. He... I could tell he was going for blood.

GENE
Thank you, Ms. Danvers. I believe that's everything we'll need for now. Is... Is Sora around? I need to give her some information.

SORA (O.S.)
I'm right here, General.

Sora walks up behind them.

SORA
I already gave my statement to your colleagues. You said something about information?

The ground starts shaking violently under their feet. Sora starts to fall, but Gene and Runa catch her.

RUNA
Sora! Are you okay?

SORA
Yeah. I'm fine. Thank you.

GENE
The hell was that?

Ken flies up to them.

KEN
Sora! Runa! Get everyone out of
here, now! Ikarin's back!

A beat.

KEN
Oh. Hello, General Stratos. I
didn't realize you'd be here.

GENE
That tends to happen when there's a
terrorist situation. You said
someone named Ikarin is back?

RUNA
Sora, why are you so pale? Is this
bad? This is bad, isn't it? How bad
is it?

SORA
Ikarin is Zanom's pure Demonic
form. He comes out when Zanom's
emotions overtake him.

RUNA
Like when a terrorist tries to kill
his aunt and his pregnant mother?

SORA
I have an idea. Runa, come with me.
Ken, have Halo help Gene get
everyone to safety.

Sora runs off, back inside the arena.

RUNA
Sora! Wait a minute!

INT. THE WORLD BELT ARENA - RING - A FEW MINUTES LATER

Runa chases Sora into the ring. She catches up and grabs her
sister, stopping her.

RUNA

Sora! Stop! It's too dangerous here!

SORA

This is our only chance to...

RUNA

Would you at least tell me your plan first?

SORA

We have to calm him down to turn him back into Zanom, right?

RUNA

Okay... Go on...

SORA

He became Ikarin out of anger and fear for our safety. So, if we can convince him that we're all right...

RUNA

You really think that's going to work?

SORA

What do we have to lose?

RUNA

How about our lives? Try thinking of that before you go risking them again.

SORA

Runa... That's my son, and he needs us. Just like we needed him a few hours ago.

A beat.

Runa SIGHS.

RUNA

What do I have to do?

SORA

Just follow my lead.

Rynan struggles to dodge Ikarin's attacks, as they become more and more accurate, powerful, and savage.

Sora and Runa run up to Jarod and Jravirtz.

JAROD

Hey! You can't be here!

RUNA

You wanna calm him down?

JAROD

Please do. He scares me...

RUNA

Then listen to her... Did you pee yourself?

JAROD

I am a coward. I am the first to admit that. I am a coward who gets great workman's comp benefits.

JRAVIRTZ

Just do what ya gotta do.

SORA

Zanom!

Ikarin turns his attention to Sora.

RYNAN

Oh, come on!

SORA

Zanom, listen to me. It's your mother, Sora! I'm okay! Look! Runa's here, too!

Sora nudges Runa.

RUNA

You rescued me, Zanom! I'm alive thanks to you! We're safe! You don't have to be afraid, anymore!

RYNAN

Do you really think this is going to...

Ikarin starts to step back from Sora.

RYNAN

Then again, what do I know...

SORA

You can calm down, now! Take a deep breath! We're here for you!

RUNA

We're safe! Look! See? Your mother and I are unharmed! The people who threatened us have been arrested! It's over! It's over, Zanom! We won!

Ikarin starts to flicker back to his base state of mind.

JAROD

What is going on here? Are you following this?

JRAVIRTZ

Shush! I wanna hear how this plays out.

RYNAN

That's it, Zanom. Listen to them. They're your family. They only have your best interest in mind.

Ikarin ROARS and powers up to his fullest extent. The roof starts to cave in.

Sora and Runa SCREAM. Jarod covers his head.

An energy blast destroys the debris that would have landed on them.

Rynan looks over to the stadium seats and smiles.

RYNAN

It's about time you woke up, jack-ass!

Sora and Runa turn to follow Rynan's gaze and see Foxtrot and Ky standing in the seats, smoke steaming from their hands.

KY

You didn't think we'd miss all the fun, did you?

FOXTROT

I've spent the last four hours trying to wake him up.

KY

Shut up!

Ikarin's aura turns from black to white to red and starts to die down. When the wind clears, Zanom falls to his fists and knees, PANTING HEAVILY.

Sora and Runa run onto the ring to help him up. Sora gives him a big hug.

SORA

Welcome back, Zanom. I knew you could overcome it.

ZANOM

What happened? The last thing I remember is rescuing Aunt Runa.

RYNAN

You seriously don't recall any of it?

ZANOM

No. Please. Tell me what happened.

SORA

You became Ikarin again.

ZANOM

Oh, Godor! Is everybody okay? Did I hurt anyone?

RYNAN

There's something I need to show you...

INT. THE WORLD BELT ARENA - CONCESSION STANDS

Rynan takes the group through the concession stand area along the way toward the Security Control Room.

Corpses of would-be terrorists and some innocent spectators' limbs litter the floors. Zanom closes his eyes and hangs his head in shame.

INT. THE WORLD BELT ARENA - SECURITY CONTROL ROOM

The corpses of the three terrorists who kidnapped Runa are now burned and charred into unrecognizable lumps on the floor.

Zanom seems disgusted with his own actions.

ZANOM

I did this. All of this.

RYNAN

I'm afraid so, Zanom. I know this is a difficult truth to face, but you need to face it if you're ever going to fully overcome your emotions.

Zanom drops to his knees.

ZANOM

What am I?

RUNA

You were under extreme emotional distress. It wasn't your fault.

SORA

If you want to blame anybody, blame whoever hired those terrorists. They should pay for what they've caused!

ZANOM

I'm no better. I'm just as responsible for my actions as Ikarin.

RYNAN

It would be wise to learn from this. What went wrong here, today? Figure that out, and work to prevent it in the future.

NARRATOR

For the first time in history, Zanom was able to overcome Ikarin on his own without the use of special techniques. As Zanom mulls the consequences of his actions as Ikarin, there's still the matter of the World Belt Tournament's Final Round. Who will win the World Belt Tournament on Baldur? Find out on the epic conclusion of the World Belt Tournament Saga, next time on Chronic Boom!

FADE OUT