



chapter 20:
the newest
kami

EXT. THE WORLD BELT ARENA - PARKING LOT - NIGHT

Zanom, Ken, and Halo begin their trek back to the Star Runner.

NARRATOR

Last time on Chronic Boom, Zanom won the World Belt Tournament on Baldur! But now, Sora is going into labor one month early! This is indeed a special occasion, but will Kari and Jaina be able to make it in time to witness the youngest Kami's birth? Welcome Zankyo Danvers into the world today on Chronic Boom!

ZANOM

To be honest, I have no idea how that happened. I just went on auto-pilot or something.

HALO

You mean, you have no recollection of how you won?

ZANOM

I just blacked out. All I cared about in that moment was making sure Mom was okay.

KEN

Interesting...

FLASH SHUMWAY, 24, ambushes Zanom with a camera crew and pushes a microphone in his face. Flash stands at 5'11" and wears a sharp, tailored suit. He looks quite dashing, in fact.

Zanom stumbles back a beat.

FLASH

Hello, and welcome back! We're here outside the World Belt Arena on Baldur with the mass murderer, Zanom Danvers. Zanom, what do you have to say for yourself after ruthlessly slaughtering all of these innocent people?

ZANOM

Let's get this straight. You think I'm capable of committing a horrifying mass murder and slaughtering innocent people, and yet you want to piss me off? You sure you don't want to rethink that line of questioning?

FLASH

You heard it here, first, folks! My life has just been threatened by terrorist, Zanom Danvers!

ZANOM

Hey! I never said anything of the sort!

KEN

If you'd done your research, you'd know Zanom saved these people from the terrorists!

FLASH

Or so the police would have us believe...

ZANOM

I don't know what you think you're getting at, but if you don't stop this slander, I'll...

FLASH

Careful, now. The cameras are rolling...

Zanom gets in Flash's face.

ZANOM

I don't have time for these games! My mother is about to give birth, and I can't afford to miss this!

FLASH

How do you think she feels, knowing her son is a terrorist psychopath?

Zanom starts to charge his chi for an attack, but Gene walks up behind him, putting his hand on Zanom's shoulder.

GENE

Okay! Break it up, people! We are in the middle of a crime scene investigation. The last thing we need is another crime to deal with while investigating the first one. Go to your mother, Zanom. We've already got your statement.

Zanom storms away through the parking lot. Ken and Halo reluctantly follow him.

FLASH

Hey! We're not done our interview!

GENE

And you... This is a restricted area.

FLASH

Hey, you can't censor the free press! That's a violation of my rights! The people have a right to know what happened here today!

GENE

Which, I may remind you, we are still investigating. I recommend you leave this area at once before I arrest you for interfering with a police investigation.

FLASH

I think we have everything we need to run our story. C'mon, guys. The fuzz says he have to leave.

Flash and his camera crew turn and walk away. Gene's gaze follows them.

INT. SINAI GENERAL HOSPITAL - WAITING ROOM - MORNING

Ken and Halo wait anxiously in the waiting room. Halo reads a new book, "50 Nights of Twilight." A sticker on the cover labels the book an "International Best-seller."

KEN

I wonder if Zanom's having any luck locating Kari and Jaina...

HALO
 Worrying isn't going to change anything. He'll find them when he finds them. Right now, there's someone more important to focus on, and she could use someone to help her through this.

Ken stands up.

KEN
 You're right! I can do this! I can handle anything!

A NURSE exits the delivery room.

NURSE
 Is there a Ken Luna here?

Ken turns pale and starts to slouch.

KEN
 Except this! I cannot handle any of this!

Ken starts to run away, but Halo grabs the back of his jacket and pulls him back without missing a beat.

HALO
 What did we just talk about?

Halo flips a page.

KEN
 I know, but...

NURSE
 We get this all the time.

The nurse leans in to whisper to Halo.

NURSE
 Not everybody is necessarily father material, if you know what I mean...

Ken stops struggling and turns around.

KEN
 Hey, now! I'm not even the father!

NURSE
 Sure, you aren't...

HALO
He really isn't. The father died
right after.

NURSE
Oh.

A beat.

NURSE
Oh! I'm really sorry! I didn't
mean...

Ken waves his hand.

KEN
Forget about it. Is there a
problem?

NURSE
No. No, she just wanted you with
her is all.

Halo puts down his book.

HALO
How is she doing?

NURSE
I can't discuss that with
non-family members. Are you
related?

HALO
No, I suppose not.

NURSE
Sorry, but I can't talk to you
about her condition, then.

KEN
Condition?

Ken looks at Halo, then back at the nurse before walking
into...

THE DELIVERY ROOM

Runa holds Sora's hand as she lies on the hospital bed,
barely conscious.

KEN
Sora?

SORA
Ken? Please don't leave again.

KEN
I never left.

SORA
Yes, you did.

KEN
When?

SORA
You and Zanom left to train with
Vayelan.

KEN
That was almost a year ago.

SORA
I never should've gone with Auron.
I'm so sorry!

KEN
It's okay. We didn't know.

SORA
I was...

Sora winces and SCREAMS in agony.

SORA
I was... was just so mad that you
left, too. I'm so sorry. I was
trying to make you jealous. I never
meant for any of this...

Ken turns to the nurse.

KEN
Can we get a moment, please?

The nurse exits the room.

KEN
It had to happen, Sora. You know it
as well as I do. If you didn't
sleep with him, Zanom wouldn't have
been born in this timeline.

RUNA
Okay, I'm lost...

SORA
It's...
(gasping)
It's a long story.

KEN
What's this about your "condition?"

RUNA
She put her pregnancy at risk with
all the stress on Baldur.

KEN
At risk? In what way?

RUNA
She suffered from a minor heart
attack on the ambulance ride over.

Ken stands silent for a beat.

He looks over at Sora, then back at Runa.

KEN
Is the...

RUNA
Everybody's fine, now. They already
checked the little one out. He's
fine. Sora's going to be fine, too,
if she just relaxes a bit.

KEN
You know we have to tell Zanom.

SORA
Where is Zanom?

KEN
He went to find Kari and Jaina
yesterday.

SORA
They're not here?

KEN
Sadly, no.

SORA
(SCREAMS OF AGONY)
It's coming! Get them here now!

INT. SINAI GENERAL HOSPITAL - WAITING ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Halo sits, still reading his romance novel. He puts the book away and stands up.

Zanom, Kari, and Jaina teleport in.

HALO
Oh, good. You're finally back.
We're about to have company, but
only family members can enter.

Zanom and Jaina run through the door to the delivery room.

Halo gives Kari a hug.

HALO
Welcome back, Kari.

KARI
Great to be back. I missed you.

HALO
How's training?

KARI
We finished a few days ago. We just
weren't expecting Sora to go into
labor so soon.

Ken pokes his head out the delivery room door.

KEN
Hey, it's time! Hurry up, or you'll
miss it!

CUT TO:

BLACKNESS

SORA (V.O.)
(LOUD SCREAM)

A baby CRIES LOUDLY.

INT. SINAI GENERAL HOSPITAL - HOSPITAL ROOM - AFTERNOON

Sora holds the baby wrapped in a blanket. Everyone is crowded around her.

ZANOM
Zankyo?

SORA
I figured if I named him his true
name, it'd get too confusing.

ZANOM

He needs to know who he is. You know that.

SORA

When he's ready. It's a lot to take in for a small child. He may not understand.

ZANOM

And what happens if we wait too long to tell him? He's going to find out eventually, whether we're the ones who tell him or not.

SORA

(annoyed)

Zanom...

ZANOM

Look, all I'm saying is we don't know how he'll take it. The sooner he knows, the sooner we can deal with it. That's all.

SORA

I'm your mother, Zanom. I know you didn't have much of a childhood...

ZANOM

Hmph!

SORA

But I want to do better for Zankyo. If that means we hold off on his reality a bit longer, then that's what it takes. Do you understand me, Zanom?

Zanom looks at his mother. For a brief moment, he sees Sora as he knew her in his original timeline.

SORA

Zanom? Are you okay? You look like you've seen a ghost.

Zanom shakes his head.

ZANOM

I think I need some fresh air.

Zanom leaves the room.

EXT. SINAI GENERAL HOSPITAL - PARKING LOT - AFTERNOON

Zanom sits atop the Star Runner, smoking a cigarette. Kari walks up to him.

KARI
Since when did you start smoking again?

ZANOM
Don't start.

KARI
I thought you quit after...

ZANOM
It's been a long week.

Kari climbs up next to him.

KARI
Care to talk about it?

ZANOM
(SIGH)
Not really, but I know you won't rest until I do.

KARI
What happened this week, Babe?
Rumors are going around the hospital like crazy.

ZANOM
Ikarin came back during a terrorist attack. I may or may not have killed some innocent people during the incident.

KARI
I thought you trained to...

ZANOM
Yeah, well... So did I.

Zanom takes another drag on his cigarette.

ZANOM
In the hospital room, just now... I saw Mom.

KARI
She did just give birth.

ZANOM

No, I mean with the eye-patch and everything... From our timeline.

KARI

Our timeline?

ZANOM

I don't know what to make of anything anymore. I just watched my mother give birth to myself.

Kari gives Zanom a tight hug.

KARI

It's okay. It's over now.

ZANOM

No. It's only starting. I was wrong about the time we had left. We don't have a few years; we're already out of time.

Kari looks up at Zanom. He shakes off his cigarette and takes another drag.

ZANOM

They've already made the first move. Now it's up to us to figure out what the next one is and stop it before they can make it.

A look of fear takes Kari's face. She buries her face in Zanom's shoulder.

NARRATOR

Kami Zankyo Danvers has finally been born! Now with all six Kamis accounted for, there's not a second to spare! If what Zanom says is true, the Crystal Dragons are already on the offensive! Will the Kamis be able to stop them in time to prevent another tragedy? And what of Zankyo's destiny? Will he ever know his connection with Zanom? Find out next time on Chronic Boom!

FADE OUT