

# CHRONIC BOOM

## chapter 30: The Demon Trials

chaos erupts on earth  
amidst congressional  
hearings.

INT. UNITED STATES SENATE FLOOR - MORNING

Zanom, Jaina, and Kari sit before a panel of senators. Camera crews and reporters fill the Capitol Building to capacity as their camera flashes seem to brighten the room to a near-blinding extent.

The rest of the group, excluding Rynan and Ky, observe from behind Zanom, Jaina, and Kari. Amongst the United States military lining the room for added security are Clive and Tom.

NARRATOR

For the past three days, Zanom has had to endure the most probing questions the Mortals of Earth have had for him. What began as defense hearings had quickly devolved into heated debates over the extent of civil liberties for Demons and others like Zanom, who are their half-Mortal descendants.

SEN. GILMANN

Mr. Danvers, we have heard your testimony about this...

(reading through his notes)

Vayelan Domba, the Wise... You realize your testimony has troubling implications for our understanding of human history as Mortals of this planet Earth?

ZANOM

Well Senator, I'm terribly sorry if the facts go against two millennia of accepted theological myths most of Earth's Mortals choose to believe based on the writings of a man who existed 40 to 50 years after his own death. Back where I come from, we call that a zombie.

Kari and Jaina both nudge Zanom.

KARI

(whispering)

Zanom!

JAINA

(whispering)

What are you trying to do, get us all killed?

ZANOM

In all seriousness, Senator, I'm very worried about it, too.

SEN. GILMANN

You are?

KARI AND JAINA

(in unison)

You are?

ZANOM

(annoyed, but composed)

I am.

Zanom shoots a sharp glare at Kari. Kari backs down. Jaina smirks.

ZANOM

You see, Vayelan's confessions not only contradict your religious beliefs on Earth, but they have much more dire implications for the Cosmos as we, the Kamis and Shamans of Roma, understand it.

SEN. GILMANN

In what way would that be, Mr. Danvers?

ZANOM

Godor was previously believed to be the creator of what we perceive to be "the Cosmos."

SEN. GILMANN

Yes, I believe we've already established that yesterday.

SEN. MATTHEWS

Extensively, I might add. That was a very stimulating twelve hours.

ZANOM

Yes, but, if what Vayelan said is true, as I believe it to be...

SEN. RUSH

Ah, yes... The Diamond Dragon incident you testified to on Wednesday afternoon.

ZANOM

It's apparent that not everything  
in our history books is entirely  
accurate either.

KARI

Zanom... Sweetie... Stop now.  
Thanks...

ZANOM

Let's say Godor was, for lack of a  
better word, God...

JAINA

...

KARI

...Or keep going. That's good,  
too...

ZANOM

Why would God's body no longer  
function after using His power? How  
could that be possible? Isn't He  
supposed to be All Powerful?

MUTTERING erupts amongst the observers.

ZANOM

What I'm trying to say is... It's  
entirely possible that the Cosmos  
as we know it may not have been  
"created" by Godor as many ancient  
translations have suggested.

JAINA

Zanom!

KARI

(chastising Zanom)  
Are you for real, right now?

ZANOM

I'm very real, right now. I might  
be the only real thing in  
existence, right now.

SEN. OUBAR

I hope you're getting to something  
tangible, Mr. Danvers...

ZANOM

Hear me out, Senator... Something had to have existed prior to Godor that was much more powerful than him. That being... That's God.

SEN. MATTHEWS

Very logical presumption, Mr. Danvers. However, we have what's called Separation of Church and State in this government. I'm afraid we can't simply rewrite our laws to allow for...

Zanom stands up and SLAMS his hands on the table before him.

ZANOM

With all due respect, Senators!

KARI

Zanom, not here... Not now.

ZANOM

You claim such a separation exists, but half your citizens clearly express feelings of disparagement and harassment by the other half on the basis of "religious freedoms" codified into your laws and landmark judicial cases that leave the door open to the suggestion that your government is clearly influenced by one religion in particular despite its legal framework specifically mentioning that no religion shall hold preference over another! To make such a claim is a blatant lie to your own constituency and self-delusion at best!

SEN. GILMANN

Mr. Danvers! You will sit down, right now!

JAINA

Zanom, just do what he says...

KARI

Please, Zanom...

Zanom's eyes start to glow golden as he regains his composure and sits. He closes his eyes and reopens them. His eyes are their normal color and intensity now.

ANGLE: CLIVE AND TOM ON THE SIDELINES.

TOM

So... What exactly is going on  
between you and Kihana?

CLIVE

What's going on between you and  
Jaina?

TOM

I'm serious, Clive?

CLIVE

So am I.

TOM

There's nothing going on between  
Jaina and I. Absolutely nothi...

Jaina starts to faint but catches herself and holds her head  
in pain. She breathes heavily, trying to catch her breath.

KARI

Jaina? Are you okay?

JAINA

Yeah. I... I just...

Jaina collapses on the Senate floor.

TOM

Jaina!

CLIVE

Absolutely nothing, huh?

TOM

Shut up, Clive!

Tom rushes over to Jaina. Her eyes glaze over.

JAINA

Kari...

Kari kneels down beside Jaina.

KARI

What is it? Stay with us, Jaina!

JAINA

I'm sorry... I...

Zanom watches on, paralyzed.

TOM  
Come on, stay with it!

JAINA  
I... tried my best...

KARI  
Jaina! What's wrong? Talk to us!

JAINA  
I'm... glad... you're okay...

Kari pulls back, crying.

KARI  
Zanom...

ZANOM  
(gripped with fear and  
emotion)  
I heard it, too...

SEN. GILMANN  
What? What do you hear? She needs  
medical attention. That's what I  
hear.

SEN. MATTHEWS  
Do we have the capabilities  
required to treat the demonic body?

SEN. RUSH  
Should we even try? I mean, she is  
a Youkai, after all...

SEN. OUBAR  
Listen to yourselves! We need to do  
something! If we don't, we're no  
better than our preconceptions!

TOM  
Zanom? Kari? What's going on?

KARI  
(hysterical)  
She... That's what... sister...

ZANOM  
Those were her sister, Yume's final  
words just before her death.

TOM  
What?

ZANOM

It's a...  
(frowns)  
It's a long story.

Jaina closes her eyes.

KARI

No! Yume!

TOM

Kari... Kari! It's okay. She just  
fainted.

INT. UNITED STATES SENATE FLOOR - AFTERNOON

Some time has passed. Jaina and Kari are no longer present in the hearing. Zanom is still visibly rattled from the morning's events.

ZANOM

...And that's how Kari and I ended  
up in this time period.

SEN. OUBAR

It stands to reason that your  
father, Yinaku, used Yume as a  
basis to create Jaina.

ZANOM

That's what I gain from it.

SEN. RUSH

She has committed crimes of her own  
free will as Jaina Riggs. She will  
have to serve time accordingly.

ZANOM

So, now you're the judge and jury?

SEN. RUSH

Watch your tone with me, Mr.  
Danvers!

SEN. OUBAR

I happen to agree with his  
sentiment, Senator. You can't just  
convict a foreign being without a  
trial. And what's that to say of  
her involvement in the capture and  
defeat of Yinaku? Surely, you  
forget the United States was never  
involved in any of these events.



To convict without a fair trial is to spark intergalactic controversy.

SEN. RUSH

Oh, get off it, Oubar! Why do you insist on taking to these... Hell-spawns'... defense, anyway? Don't you see this is just the beginning of the end times? The horsemen of the apocalypse are coming, and here's their leader!

Sen. Rush emphatically points at Zanom.

ZANOM

I'd like to take this moment to point out that I just saved your asses from the apocalypse. So, if you're done disparaging me because of what essentially boils down to my blood-type...

SEN. RUSH

You stay out of this! You will speak only when we require it of you! Do you understand, vile monster?

ZANOM

Is that the best you can come up with?

Zanom's eyes begin glowing golden again.

SEN. GILMANN

Enough of this! All of you! We just wanted to verify the safety of our borders, and so far, all we've verified is that we're more of a threat to us than they are!

ZANOM

Look, if you want to put someone on trial, rake Halo Miller over the coals...

HALO (O.S.)

Leave me out of this!

ZANOM

Should've thought about that before sleeping with my ex!

HALO (O.S.)  
 Hey, it's not like you were the one  
 who broke up with her, or  
 anything...

Zanom's eyes glow intensely golden.

ZANOM  
 Oh... It's personal, now, scrub!

Halo teleports down into Zanom's face.

HALO  
 Don't. Ever. Call me that.

ZANOM  
 Rubba-dub-dub. You're a scrub in a  
 tub.

Halo powers up and sucker-punches Zanom across the Senate  
 floor.

HALO  
 Time to flush you down the drain,  
 ya little shit!

SEIJA (O.S.)  
 Well... I guess I'm just in time  
 for the show.

SEIJA, a pale, blue woman with dark, purple hair, appears on  
 the Senate floor.

Clive instantly tenses. His jovial demeanor is gone, replaced  
 by a gravely serious attitude.

SEIJA  
 I should've made some popcorn...

CLIVE  
 (under his breath)  
 Damn! Not in public... Not now...

SEN. RUSH  
 Jesus Christ! They're breeding! How  
 many of these things did you bring  
 with you? I've had enough of this!

SEN. OUBAR  
 So have I! I'm ending this now! All  
 members present in favor of  
 censuring Senator Rush from this  
 committee.

Senators Matthews, Oubar, and Gilmann all raise their hands.

SENATORS IN FAVOR

Aye!

SEN. OUBAR

All oppose!

SEN. RUSH

Nay!

SEN. OUBAR

Motion carries. You are dismissed,  
Senator.

SEN. RUSH

Now, wait just one moment...

Senator Rush collapses to the ground with a hole through his chest.

Seija suddenly holds his heart in her hand.

SEIJA

I think this would've been more  
effective, boys...

Seija crushes Senator Rush's heart in her fist. Blood  
spatters across the Senate floor.

Clive stands motionless in fear, as bystanders are too  
awestruck to process what just happened in front of them.

SEIJA

Come now, Clive... You know you  
don't have what it takes to bring  
me down.

Clive reaches for his intercom.

SEIJA

Oh, I wouldn't...

Seija suddenly stands in Clive's face. Clive takes a moment  
to process this before quickly taking a step back.

Seija takes the intercom from Clive's hand.

SEIJA

They already have their hands full.  
Seems someone... or something...  
bit Liz's head clean off.

CLIVE  
(shouting)  
What did you do to Madame Director  
Nightcroft?

SEIJA  
What didn't I do? After all, I am  
the Blue Duchess... I have a  
reputation to keep up...

Seija turns around.

SEIJA  
You.

Zanom powers up with a dark, angry aura and charges back into  
the room at Halo.

ZANOM  
You wanna try that again, you  
little...

Seija fires a death beam at Halo, shooting right through his  
lung.

SEIJA  
There. Problem solved.

Zanom stops in mid-flight and powers down.

ZANOM  
The hell!

SEIJA  
You wanted to kill him, right?

ZANOM  
(emphatically)  
NO!

SEIJA  
But you were fighting each other,  
were you not?

ZANOM  
We were just fighting out our  
differences.

SEIJA  
I'll never understand you Lower-  
Cosmic beings...

CLIVE

Zanom, leave this one to me! She's utterly dangerous!

ZANOM

Who is she?

CLIVE

Seija Zural, the Blue Duchess. She's slaughtered trillions across various dimensions in the cruelest ways imaginable just because she was bored that day.

Seija blushes.

SEIJA

Stop! At least take me to dinner, first...

ZANOM

I see we're proud of this pathology...

SEIJA

Marry me!

ZANOM

Subtle...

SEIJA

Of all the dimensions I've conquered, I've never seen or heard of anyone in the Lower Realms who could even come close to Divine Aura. Yet, here we are...

ZANOM

Divine?

SEIJA

As in Godor Yoru, the first master of Divinity? Hello! Is this thing on?

Clive transforms into his Tydra form, and instantly hits the ground, seizing.

ZANOM

Clive!

SEIJA

Oh, don't worry. He's just dying. NBD.

ZANOM  
I'll show you NBD!

SEIJA  
I'd rather you show me that blue  
Aura of yours.

ZANOM  
And what if I can't?

SEIJA  
Well, that's a your dimension  
problem, now isn't it?

Zanom's eyes widen with fear.

FADE TO BLACK.

SEIJA  
Don't you want to play with me?