



CHRONIC BOOM

chapter 31:
The Battle of
the Blues

zanom faces off against
seija zural, the blue
duchess.

EXT. WASHINGTON, D.C. - LATE AFTERNOON

Zanom and Seija begin their battle. The Capitol Building's roof has been blown off.

Seija clearly has control of the battle, as she SLAMS Zanom through the steps below.

SEIJA

You're not giving me your all!

Seija dives for another attack on Zanom.

Zanom barely manages to climb out of the rubble that used to be the Capitol Building steps.

ZANOM

Believe me. Yes, I am.

Zanom dodges Seija's arial attack.

SEIJA

Then, boy is your dimension in trouble...

Zanom lets out a large RyuuBakuHa wave.

Seija extends her hand, and the wave disintegrates.

SEIJA

Now, where might you have learned this one? Hmmm? Is Riodama Zettai still alive?

Sen. Oubar and Tom watch from the entryway into the Capitol Building.

SEN. OUBAR

Who's Riodama Zettai?

Ken walks up behind them.

KEN

Riodama Zettai was a powerful Shaman a few Common Centuries ago. He was widely believed to have died, but there was a conspiracy theory just as old that he only went into hiding after the final battle with Kagejuro.

TOM

What does that have to do with this?

ZANOM

Riodama Zettai is still alive. He's gotta be pushing 300-or-so years, though.

SEIJA

That explains how you would know a technique that was supposed to have died with him...

Seija smirks.

SEIJA

No matter. Unless you can produce your full power now...

Seija fires a death beam from her finger. It strikes Zanom through his stomach.

ZANOM

(GAUGH!)

Zanom covers his wound with his hand.

ZANOM

I... I didn't even see that coming...

SEIJA

Looks like you have to die. Oh, well.

A beat.

SEIJA

If only you would have given me your fullest, you could have lived.

ZANOM

I keep telling you that I am!

Seija disappears, and Zanom flies into the Washington Monument. She reappears where Zanom had been with her foot in the air, as if she had just kicked him.

SEIJA

(lunging for another attack)

Don't lie to me!

ZANOM

(struggling)

I'm... Not...

Seija punches him clear through the Monument. Zanom bounces across the steps of the Lincoln Monument. The Washington Monument topples from the damage.

SEIJA

I know I sensed a Riodynn here!
You're him! The one who defeated
Onyx!

ZANOM

I defeated him, but I don't know
what I did to enable that Aura you
want.

Seija appears and grabs Zanom's arm. Zanom HOWLS in pain. Seija throws him back across the pool behind what once was the Washington Monument.

SEIJA

Why even fight me, at this point?
What convictions do you still have
left? This isn't a game, Zanom
Danvers of Roma! Lose this battle,
and you lose everything you've ever
known!

ZANOM

I've already lost the world I knew.
I won't let you take this one, too!

Zanom powers up into a green Aura, CACKLING with silver lightning.

Seija stares a beat.

SEIJA

(laughing)

You're close, but just pushing your
Aizen to its limits isn't going to
be enough!

Seija goes in for another strike, but Zanom sidesteps it.

SEIJA

Wha... What just happened?

Several images flash through Zanom's mind:

Yume, Kari, Zankyo, Sora, and the version of Sora from his timeline.

A voice calls out in Zanom's mind:

VOICE

To give your all, you must be your
all. The purest you, the truest
you. Once you can do this, Zanom,
you will know the type of power
that can threaten realities... or
save them...

Zanom takes a deep breath and closes his eyes.

VOICE

Look into your deepest self, Zanom.
What do you see?

Zanom opens his eyes. They glow with an intense silver glow.

Seija frowns.

SEIJA

Don't you ignore me!

Zanom skin hardens into diamond scales before shattering into
his true form.

His skin is a pale gray, his eyes an icy blue. Zanom's hair
has turned white.

In a bright blue flash, Zanom powers up his true power.

ZANOM

Fine. I won't.

Seija flies backward, as Zanom's new energy raises the water
from the pool.

Zanom moves his hand, and the water separates like the Sea of
Reeds.

Seija stops herself in midair, but she instantly hits the
ground. Zanom appears in her place.

SEIJA

What?

Zanom notices a glint of light in her forehead. He appears in
front of Seija.

SEIJA

Wha... What?

Zanom puts his hand over Seija's forehead. A large, black
seed swarming with a golden energy appears and disintegrates.

Seija SCREAMS in agony.

SEIJA
(screaming)
What did you just do?

ZANOM
You were possessed. Now you're not.
You're welcome.

A beat.

ZANOM
I'm putting everything back.

SEIJA
Back? What does that mean?

ZANOM
I'm putting everything back to the
way it was before you came.

A bright white flash blinds Seija.

When the flash dissipates, they are standing inside...

THE UNITED STATES SENATE FLOOR

True to his word, it's as if time was rewound to the moment
Seija first interrupted the hearing.

Everybody Seija had killed or injured are now alive and
healed. All damage to the building is repaired.

ZANOM
Now, if you'll excuse me...

Zanom turns to Halo.

HALO
(confused)
I thought I was dead a moment
ago...

ZANOM
If you EVER break her heart, I will
come for you.

The room fills with a blue energy.

ZANOM
You wanted my all. Well, here it
is.

Zanom reverts back to his base form and collapses on his knees.

SEIJA
(with Yinaku's voice)
Too bad. You almost could've won.

Zanom PANTS, trying to catch his breath.

SEIJA
(with Yinaku's voice)
Die.

With his last ounce of strength, Zanom grabs Seija's foot as she's about to kick his face.

A bright wave of energy surges through Seija. Yinaku's voice is heard SCREAMING in agony before Seija faints into Zanom's arms.

CLIVE
Wait... Did... Did you just defeat
the Blue Duchess?

ZANOM
(still catching his
breath)
She... She was... possessed by
Yinaku. I just purified his essence
out of her body.

CLIVE
You realize what you've done,
right?

ZANOM
Proved her innocence?

TOM
I'd say you just made Clive's job
that much harder.

HALO
How's that?

CLIVE
IDCON now has to restore order to
all the dimensions the Blue Duchess
had conquered.

KEN
Um... Didn't she say something
before about something attacking
Nightcroft?

EXT. IDCON HEADQUARTERS - EARLY EVENING

MADAME DIRECTOR ELIZABETH NIGHTCROFT'S decapitated corpse lies on the ground.

MUFFLED SCREAMS can be heard from inside HQ. A LOW GROWL and LOUD GURGLING follow suit.

Zanom and Clive teleport to the scene.

ZANOM
(to Clive)
Stay here.

Zanom enters the building, but comes out immediately after.

CLIVE
Well...

Zanom shakes his head.

ZANOM
No survivors. Whatever it was isn't there now.

CLIVE
Get some rest. You must've had one hell of a fight.
(over comlink)
Tom... Get your unit. We're going to need everyone we have.

ZANOM
What's wrong? What did all this, Clive?

CLIVE
Go get some rest.

Zanom grabs Clive by the collar.

ZANOM
Tell me now, Baxter! What are we dealing with?

CLIVE
I'm not entirely sure yet, but...

A beat.

CLIVE

I think your presence initiated the
Butterfly Effect, and we need one
hell of a net to stop it.

FADE TO BLACK.

CLIVE

How much do you know about the
Gauron idols?