



someone must repair
the flow of time, but
who's it going to be?

INT. IDCON HEADQUARTERS - SITUATION ROOM - EVENING

Zanom and Clive stand anxiously in the room. It is a large room with many seats surrounding a large, round table. Many computer monitors line the walls.

Kari enters with Yume.

KARI
Seija's regained consciousness.

CLIVE
Is that a good thing?

ZANOM
Maybe she can help us figure out what's going on.

YUME
Well, what do we know, so far?

ZANOM
From what I can tell, I borked the time stream when Kari and I first arrived in this timeline.

CLIVE
Time stream? More like the Temporal Web.

KARI
Temporal Web?

Clive types a few commands into a terminal.

A convoluted mess of lines and dots appear over the table.

CLIVE
Most people think of the concept of time as a straight line. However, each time the line forks off, it can go in an infinite number of directions. So we can think of the passage of time as an infinite number of branches forming an entire web of timelines and bifurcation points, each one connected to any number of other timelines and bifurcation points.

Yume holds her head.

YUME

I just came back from the dead. I'm not ready for this level of metaphysics.

ZANOM

It's simple. Entropy keeps the web moving forward. Yet, Kari and I found a way to move backward along the branch that connects our timeline with this one. The question is how do we fix it?

A blue light flashes, as a portal opens and Seija steps through.

SEIJA

Perhaps, I may be of assistance.

CLIVE

(GROWNLING)

SEIJA

Easy, buddy-boy. I come in peace.

ZANOM

What can we do to restore the flux between the two timelines?

SEIJA

Well, it seems the branch connecting them has been severed through a series of actions and events, each of which, should never have happened. The only way I know of restoring this branch is to send somebody who already exists in both timelines through a backdoor route to the point when the branch was severed. This person should then be able to alter the course of events so that the branch never severs.

YUME

Well, who exists in both timelines?

Kari and Zanom look at each other with sadness.

ZANOM

It's gotta be me. Zankyo is me in this timeline. I haven't died in the other.

KARI
What about me?

Zanom crosses the room and holds Kari in an embrace.

ZANOM
You don't exist yet in this
timeline, and Yume died in the
other one. It has to be me.

SEIJA
It's one-way, Zanom. There's no
returning through the web.

KARI
Zanom... I...

ZANOM
I know. I love you, too.

Kari kisses Zanom.

KARI
Go do what you have to do.
(crying)
Save us. Like you were always meant
to do...

Zanom holds Kari an extra beat before letting go.

SEIJA
It's now or never. And there's no
mulligans, either.

CLIVE
All right, people! We get one shot
at this. Zanom, do you know what
you need to do?

ZANOM
I have an educated guess. If I can
keep Yinaku from crossing over, I
can close the portal and stop the
branch from severing.

CLIVE
Duchess?

SEIJA
Call me Seija. Please.

CLIVE
(SIGH)
Seija, if you would...

Seija's eyes glow and Zanom disappears in a flash of bright light.

Seija and Yume collapse.

KARI
Yume!

SEIJA
It's the time flux. It's getting worse. At this rate, both timelines will end up erased!

KARI
He'll do it.

CLIVE
He better. For all our sakes.

EXT. SINAI - KIGOKAN RUINS - NIGHT

INSERT: KIGOKAN RUINS, 3-17-546 CC

INSERT: THE BIFURCATION POINT

Zanom reappears in the moment Yinaku backlashes Zanom's Hellfire attack.

Yinaku starts to pull out the Diamond of Time, but Zanom stays focused this time.

ZANOM
Oh, no you don't!

Zanom powers into his Aizen aura, and Yinaku is taken aback by this unexpected development.

YINAKU
Where'd you get this much power all of a sudden?

ZANOM
Not about to tell you!

Zanom warps behind Yinaku and punches him in the back of his kidney. Yinaku stumbles forward, coughing blood.

YINAKU
Why you petulant, little rodent!

Zanom grabs Yinaku's face and slams him to the ground. He powers into his Yoru aura and begins to gather energy in his palm.

ZANOM
It ends now!

Zanom purifies Yinaku into dust, which then fades away.

KARI (O.S.)
Zanom! What just happened? He disappeared from our sensors completely.

Zanom powers down and collapses from exhaustion.

KARI (O.S.)
Zanom? Zanom!

ZANOM
(out of breath)
It's okay. I got him. It's finally over.

Zanom rolls over on the ground and watches the portal in the sky close as it fades away.

INT. REBEL HEADQUARTERS - EARLY MORNING

Zanom enters the bunker with Kari. Sora is already waiting.

SORA
What the hell was THAT?

ZANOM
It's hard to explain, but I think I just saved two timelines from imploding.

SORA
Zanom...

Zanom braces himself for a beat.

SORA
Good work.

ZANOM
We need to scan for remaining threats.

SORA
Such as...

ZANOM
The Crystal Dragons.

Sora almost faints.

SORA
The WHAT?

ZANOM
I'll fill you in, but after what I
went through in the other timeline,
I can take them.

KARI
I'm so lost, right now...

ZANOM
There's also one other important
matter I need to attend to. How
soon can we arrange a transport to
Sol?

KARI
What's on Sol? It's a desolated
wasteland.

ZANOM
I kinda need to go alone.

SORA
Kari, if you would give us a
moment...

Kari exits the bunker, looking back at Zanom as she leaves.

SORA
All right, something's up. Spill
it.

ZANOM
I received training from Vayelan,
the Wise in the other timeline.
He's the Diamond Dragon. He helped
us defeat the others, but he died
in the process. Turns out we're
distant descendants of his.

SORA
You want to continue training?

ZANOM
There's so much about myself I
don't fully understand. He may be
able to help me.

SORA

Go.

ZANOM

I... Thank you.

SORA

I'll look forward to reading your field report before you leave.

Kari re-enters the bunker.

KARI

Is everything okay in here? It got quiet.

SORA

Run a scan for the Crystal Dragons. Use Zanom's energy signature for a base.

KARI

What?

SORA

Did I stutter?

KARI

No, Ma'am! On it!

Kari types some commands into a terminal.

SORA

What happens if we find them?

ZANOM

I'll deal with them. Lure them away from Roma so it can heal. Finish them off elsewhere.

A beat.

KARI

Scan complete. Nothing. Wait!

Sora piques her interest with a frown.

KARI

Two readings. One is Zanom, and the other is on Sol.

SORA

Sounds like you prevented whatever it was you went through.

ZANOM

Good. I'll have that field report to you by this afternoon.

SORA

We'll run some reconnaissance just to double-check ourselves. In the meantime, I'll arrange that transport. Dismissed.

INT. IDCON HEADQUARTERS - SITUATION ROOM - EVENING

INSERT: WASHINGTON, D.C., 518 CC

Kari regains consciousness on the floor with Seija and Yume. Clive pulls himself up with a chair for support.

CLIVE

He did it.

KARI

I told you he would.

SEIJA

You still have a piece of him to remember him by...

Seija points to Kari's stomach. Kari blushes.

KARI

Wait! Am I...

SEIJA

I sense a girl in your future.

KARI

You can tell what it is?

SEIJA

I can see a lot of things you're unable to see.

CLIVE

So, what happens to you guys now?

SEIJA

I'm going to make amends with the dimensions I've conquered.

KARI

I'm probably going to stay with Sora and Runa.

Yume SIGHS HEAVILY a beat.

KARI

Yume?

YUME

I'm not going with you.

KARI

What?

YUME

I caused so much trouble as
Jaina... I just... I have to help
undo the damage that I've caused.

KARI

Yume...

YUME

I'm starting with Earth. Then, I'll
make my way back to Roma when I can
earn its forgiveness.

CLIVE

Well, that's settled. I'm going to
go to the break room. I think I'm
going to need one helluva nap
before I can process THIS kind of a
field report.

Tom Baker enters the Situation Room.

TOM

Hey... Everyone all right in here?

Yume blushes awkwardly as Tom holds her hand.

YUME

(GIGGLING)

Yeah...

KARI

Well... Look at you guys!

Tom and Yume blush harder and pull away from each other.

YUME

Kari...

KARI

You like each other! That's so cute
and romantic!

YUME
Get out!

KARI
Okay... I'll leave you two to it.

Kari exits the Situation Room.

YUME
Now, where were we?

TOM
I think we were about to kiss.

YUME
I think I can do that...

INT. RUNA'S APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - LATER

Sora plays with Zankyo. Runa and Ken try to set up a playpen.

RUNA
(reading from
instructions)
Insert Linchpin A into Socket B.

KEN
(struggling with parts)
Socket B?

RUNA
That's what it says.

KEN
There is no Socket B. The only
sockets I see are... Oh! Here it
is!

SORA
I didn't know it was so involved!

RUNA
So, did you guys set a date yet?

SORA
We were thinking of next year,
maybe in the Spring.

Kari enters. She is showing.

KARI
Hey. Is Halo done with the new crib
yet?

KEN

Now there is a wedding I just have to see.

SORA

Do you think Zankyo is going to have any memories of this whole thing?

Halo enters from the back hallway.

HALO

I hope not. It was scary enough when I found out he's a Riodynn. I'd hate to incur that wrath again.

Halo crosses over to Kari and pecks her on the cheek.

HALO

Hear anything from Yume yet?

KARI

She's almost done Basic Training. Her Drill Instructor is afraid of her.

HALO

Sounds about right.

KEN

I wonder what Seija's up to these days...

INT. YUGOKAN CODEX - SAME TIME

Seija lies on the ground, unconscious. An OMINOUS FIGURE looms over her.

OMINOUS FIGURE

We have the girl. Now what do we do with her?

A similar voice to Zankyo's calls out.

VOICE (O.S.)

I think I have a few ideas...

FADE OUT.

The story continues in Cosmic Boom!