

Part 2: Warm Up

Sky was awoken by rustling in the hotels bathroom, his ears perked slightly only to flatten- "five more minutes mom.....hmm?" -he opened one eye in the darkened room, the sun was just rising over the line of skyscrapers. He glanced at the near by digital clock on the night stand, it read *Five thirty AM*, then he glanced at the bed, it had been made. "B?" -he said still groggy, but the only answer he got with the sound of the door being shut to the room as gently as possible-

B-man made his way down the hallway in the same set of clothing he had before hand, but instead of heading down to street level he made his way up to the roof top of the hotel, it was at least twenty stories tall. Upon reaching the roof top a soft cool breeze greeted him, it may have been nothing more than fifteen degrees at that point. He took in the sight of the city before him then got to his morning routine- *Ok... lets get this started...*

"You're up early" -B-man turned in surprise seeing Winter sitting atop a ventilation shaft cover sipping a cup of green tea- "So, Mind telling "me" where you have been all these years? Why did you really leave?" -B-man began to hop back and forth on his toes warming up his body for the days event- " Does it really matter? I just went to train alright?" -Winter got up slowly- "B, you have grown up but I can sense there is something deep down that you want to express...please?"

-She frowned watched him began his warming up, various punches and kicks, a back flip here and there. " B?" -he didn't respond he seemed too far in the moment, or was he just trying to divert the question. After a few more punches and kicks followed up, finally she lost her cool.-

-Winters ears folded back against her head- "Brandon!" -he turned slowly as she rushed over- "Stop avoiding the issue" -he moved away clearly startled by her emotion- "I told you I went to train, isn't that enough?" -she caught his arm- "you are running away, why? do you feel rejected?" -she saw his brow twitch slightly- "...you went looking for your family didn't you..."-he looked down slowly, as Winter let go B-mans arms fell to his sides defeated-

"I didn't find anything, not even any tombstones." -he made his way over to one of the vent covers and sat down on it, head in his hands- "I went to the hospital and they had no records at all. Not on myself, my mother nor my father. It is like they didn't even exist" -Winter moved over tail swaying in motion with her steps- "so.. when did you find this out? shortly after you left? or not until recently?"-he looked up at her slowly-"only a few months after, so I got back to my training by myself. I met a few fighters, I got my ass handed to me a lot of times..."

-Winter paused- " really? You? but you..wait.. you didn't fight at full strength" -he shook his head- " power, speed, and strength isn't anything if you don't have the skills necessary" -Winter sat down by his side, still holding her cup with both hands.- " you held back to gain experience, alright that is understandable, but you could have written us, or even visited" -B-man shook his head slightly- "No, I...I just didn't have the courage. These past few years, I've fought a lot...if only Sifu was still around I.. could have.." "then you could show him what you've learned" -she finished for him- " that was a while ago B, now you should look to the future. Speaking of which, I will let you finish then we will all have a nice breakfast together"

-she smiled rising to her feet-"I will let you tell Sky in your own time, but please talk with him. Bottling such things up like that will only cause more sadness"-B-man watched as she left the roof top, then got back to his warm up. Winter meanwhile was wondering deep down how much stronger B-man has become, and what sort of personal demons he had to deal with.

A few hours later Sky was up and chomping away at his breakfast, Shadow watched on- "do you have to eat like a Pig?" -Sky took no notice, while Winter just shook her head- "nervous are we? or are you that sure of a win?" -Sky swallowed then leaned back in his chair crossing his arms- "hmm,a win? sure, against B-man?...maybe." - Winter grinned slightly- " I don't know Sky, you may have a tough time with him. I saw some pretty flashy moves during his warm up this morning" -Skys ears perked- " wait? he is still up there?"

Sky looked at the nearest clock- "He's been up there since 5:30? Your kidding me?" -Winter shook her head slightly, then looked over Sky's shoulder watching B-man come over with a tray from the breakfast

bar- "Ah, there he is." -she smiled making room then blinked seeing very little on B-man's plate- "not hungry? it isn't good for you if you don't eat" -B-man shrugged some just having a small selection of fruit- "I wasn't sure what to get really, there is too much to choose from."

Shadow glanced at the clock- "we should hurry up and get going, the opening ceremony will be starting soon." -Sky glanced around some, picking out the most likely people who would be taking part- "a lot of tough looking folks here, this is going to be fun" -a predator like smile came across his face, B-man nibbled slowly as he looked around. He could make out the group from Dixie's Diner in one corner and a few other possible entries.

"So B, some Flashy moves now eh?" -B-man paused in mid chew, then glanced at Winter who gave a sly grin- "that depends on whom is watching...or receiving it." he glanced down at the tray and didn't feel like eating anymore- "Well come on, lets get this over and done with" - the group rose up and began to make their way towards the exit, B-man could feel the eyes on them- "Don't let the pressure get to you B, it's tough being next to a champion" -B-man blinked as they stepped outside- "a Champ? how many times have you won this thing?"

-they moved towards the tour bus for the competitors- "every year since you last entered, this is the first year I will be in the adult line up" -B-man felt like a rock was sinking down into the pit of his stomach- "great...I hoped you haven't gotten full of yourself" -Sky glanced at B-man- "if you didn't let me win the last time, it may have been different"

Both didn't speak to each other for the whole trip to the SkyDome where the tournament was held last when they both had entered. everything was pretty much the same, but with a larger arena to let fighters stretch their legs. "boy, this place hasn't changed at all really."-B-man looked on still impressed by the sight, the dome was wide open this time letting in the natural light.

To the north and south sides of the arena were two sections erected for the fighters, various cleaning personnel were busy getting things ready and tidied up from the juniors division having just been completed the day before. Refreshment stands were also being put up

and stocked as well, Sky couldn't help but look. "I wonder if they will have milkshakes too?" -B-man glanced at Sky blinked- " what's a milkshake? that thing you were drinking at the diner?"

-with a hiss of air brakes the bus came to a stop, the participants filed out in a orderly fashion. "you boys are taking part in this?" -a rhino at least eight feet plus in height looked down at the two- "well, that is the plan." -B-man answered looking up, then glanced around once more at the sheer size of everything. "It's only natural," -Sky piped up sounding confident but border line arrogant- "being the junior champ for so long, I should have it easy with you bunch of slackers"

-Some of the participants looked right on Sky. A couple knew that the Neko was more than just talk, While others merely got back to checking out the arena in preparation for their own matches. B-man looked at Sky- "that was kind of rude." -Sky shrugged some- "it's all part of the game B, you have to "Physic" people out." -B-man looked at Sky for a moment, then turned to the arena scratching the back of his head slightly- "I don't know Sky, better to just have it out in the match really. Then they and others will know what you can do"

"it will be a pleasure to beat your face in, Hooman" -B-man blinked then looked at the bear from the Diner- "let us hope it doesn't come to that" -B-man turned making his way to one of the nearest chairs away from the crowd, Sky followed- "you haven't changed much B, still hate crowds, and bullies." -B-man sat down frowning- "I hope I get to fight him first..."-Sky blinked in surprise- " you what?"

B-man had his eyes focused on the bear with his buddies at the table. "I'll show them not to treat others like insects" -Sky didn't respond as he noticed a slight glow from his friends pupils before fading, He was about to say something when the referee spoke- "Alright people listen up!" -a older man around his late fifties stepped out from behind the tour bus, he was dressed in outfit like something out of boxing match-

As the rules and regulations of the tournament were being read out, the stands were starting to get filled up. Sky noticed Winter and Shadow having ring side seats, he waved to them for a moment before turning back to the presentation. Twenty minutes after finishing the ref looked around- "Any questions? Anything at all?-there was no response-" alright good" -he nodded then looked down at his note

pad- "Fighters in group A. please report to the change rooms" Sky rose up- " Well, lets see what sort of weaklings I am up against" -B-man let off a sigh before turning back to look at the stands, he could not help but think back to when they fought each other years ago.

The opening ceremony was nothing more than a blur to B-man and Sky, the first couple of matches went by in the same fashion. Winter looked around- "rather dull compared to the last few we attended" - Shadow shrugged slightly- "just wait till Sky goes up, the boys a miracle worker." -Winters right ear flickered slightly-" I don't know dear, I don't think we can count out B in this." -Shadow raised an eyebrow slightly- "you really think so? woman's intuition?"

Winter looked at her husband eyes narrowed- "Kept you out of trouble didn't it?" -Shadow blinked- " okay okay okay...but with Sky being a Neko he still has an advantage" -finally Sky's name was called up, he turned to B-man grinning- "watch this, and learn something" -B-man rolled his eyes- "yeah yeah, get going before the arena gets cold" -Sky grinned-"just try not to let it go Cold on your end alright?"

B-man watched as Sky made his way up to steps into the arena, he couldn't help but notice his friends fighting uniform had the usual sort of features a Karate Gi would have but he had the sleeves stop before the shoulder, also the leg fabric was form fitting. As far as foot wear went he had on just a pair slip on shoes, also he didn't have on any of the usual wrist or ankle bands either-

Sky glanced over the arena, then turned to his opponent.-"*lets see what we've got here...*" -the Equine from before made his way up into the arena, massive cords of muscle flexing. the ref made his way over to the two stepped between them- "Alright, keep it clean. you two ready?" -Sky nodded, while the equine snorted, both moved back a good fifteen feet then took their stance.

B-man noted Sky kept his body limber, arms relaxed at each side while having a slight bounce in his legs. The equine on the other hand had a more traditional boxing stance. spectators fell silent- " ready?..."-the ref looked at the two then brought his hand down between them- "Fight!" -the motion was too quick for most to see, Sky shot foreword then backflipped driving his heel into the equines jaw.

B-man noted the impact, it was hard enough to cause the brain to rattle against the insides of the skull causing disorientation, and if that hadn't been enough the head snapping back from the force would cause serious imbalance. A dull thud echoed as the equine landed flat on his back out cold- "Down!" -the ref called, he moved over then looked. "one!...two!..."-he stopped then waved his arms, the gong sounded signalling the end of the match-

Sky held up his arm hand clenched in a fist as he made his way out of the arena, the crowd still in silence. B-man looked over as Sky took his seat- "your turn, but you can pull out of the tournament now if you'd like" -B-man looked at him frowning as his name was called- "Alright B-Man your up!" -the ref called out, B-man managed a quick response. "Not on your life fur ball"

Luck was not with him as he entered the ring, the bear from the diner glared at him then smiled baring his teeth- "oh this will be too sweet" - at seven foot even the bear moved over to the centre of the ring where the ref was waiting- "oh brother..."-B-man rolled his eyes as he joined the ref- "alright you two keep it clean" -B-man nodded while the bear spat on the humans shoe- "try and keep up if you can hoooomaaan"

The ref. frowned, this wasn't going to be nice at all. "*the kids gonna get his ass kicked*" -on cue Winter suddenly was up standing on her chair yelling- "Kick his furry Butt B!" -Shadow looked at her in surprise then glanced around at the spectators who had turned their attention on her- "Dear! please sit down!" -Winter shoved her tail into her husbands mouth-"Make em wish he was at home with his honey pot!"

Sky face palmed- "*real subtle there Queen*" -B-man took his stance, it was the usual Kyo-Kugen, the very same he used when he was training with Sky- "I'm going to rip you apart hooman" -B-man frowned then changing his stance slightly changing his angle of his right arm leave it at waist height as if in a mid left hook, while shifted his weight to his left leg that with further back- "Fighters ready?" -the bear bared his teeth once more- "Fight!"

-taking one swift step foreword the bear planted his right foot foreword and put all his weight into the punch he threw, Sky blinked the bear wasn't just talk he really knew how to fight. There was speed

and power behind the punch, Then reality set in as the bears head jerked backward causing him to crumple to the arena floor, he looked up at B-man wide eyed. "*he back fisted him at that range?*" -he turned his attention to his friend who had retaken the same stance.

The Ref grunted- "er.. one!...two!...three!" -the bear looked up then growled - "lucky shot hooman!" -the ref glanced over at the two then motioned- "fight!" -twice more the bear went down, Sky looked on just able to see from his angle on how his friend was shifting his weight so quickly to deal such a blow. The bear growled now going into a fury of punches and kicks, but they were wild. While having a lot of power and speed didn't make up for the lack of accuracy.

-B-man shifted to dodging but wasn't bothering to block, Winter looked on confused.-"why doesn't he knock him out?" -Shadow rubbing his chin slightly- "isn't that the bear from the diner? you don't suppose..."-Winter grinned- "he is teaching him a.." -her comment was drowned out as the crowd roared, B-man stood there right leg extended having snap kicked the bear upside the head.

Sky stiffened as he could feel a energy build up- "*What the hell is...*"-B-man right leg came out before the bear could even react, being hit more than a dozen times. the bear was being lifted off his feet-"Genei-Kayku!" -while in mid air he spun driving his left heel into the bears side sending him flying out of control to land at the edge of the arena, but as the bear tried to get up he fell out of the ring.

"Out!" -the ref called, the bear looked up in unbridled rage-"You, Son of a Bitch!, I'm gonna fucking kill you!"-moving quickly the ref tried to stop the bear from entering the ring but it was too late, Sky was about to get up when B-man turned back. Sky looked on eyes widening as he felt his friends energy begin to rise sharply "what the hell?" -B-mans right fist started to glow a bright blue flame- "Burn-" -he thrust his arm out as the bear was less than ten feet away- "Knuckle!" -he shot across the floor hitting the bear in the solar plexus causing him to stop in it's tracks, then following it up with a short left handed rising uppercut.

-Sky got up having never seen a move like that before, the crowd went silent as B-man moved out of the ring, while a medical crew and some security guards went into the arena to see to the bear. "Burn

Knuckle?" -he asked as when his friend was in ear shot-" yeah, it was burning wasn't it" -B-man looked over to Sky and was about to say something went Winter tackled them both-"That was incredible!" -a few other guards rushed over-

"Uh, Ma'am! this is for fighters only. I'm sorry but you've have to leave" -Sky looked at Winter rather embarrassed- "uh, Queen, you need to..." -the guards blinked- "Queen?" -Winter turned to them- "sorry, I shall go quietly" -she giggled- "caught in the moment" -then walked off with the guards, tail swaying in excitement- "...she reminds me of you at times" -Skys ears perked then folded back- " that isn't funny..."