

Part 5: Future

Sky stepped out of the bathroom in a fresh pair of clothes, the fight of a few hours ago scrubbed off his body. yet it didn't feel right to be standing there in the winners circle, he got carried away with the fight wanting to prove what he had learned and come up with. Now he just felt dirty, using that slashing move of his without thinking it would be a challenge to his friend to take on.

There was a knock at the door- "It's open!" -Sky called out while packing his things, he was expecting to be jumped on by Winter but it didn't happened. "ready to go Sky? -she asked moving over to B-mans things, Shadow helped her out with the duffle bag. " how is he doing?"-Winter looked at him- "he had to get a transfusion just incase, but he is alright" -Sky was totally surprised when Winter slapped him-

Shadow didn't say anything while Sky just stood there stupefied - "Get out of that rut you are in boy, you think Brandon would want you to be like this? Eh Champ?" -Winter hissed- "come on, get moving and lets go and see him" -Sky blinked a few times- "I...I..." -Winter grabbed Skys arm and dragged him towards the door-"snap out of it already Sky, you are the new champ" Skys ears folded back slightly- "but did I really win?"

The group stopped outside the door after it closed- "What are you talking about?" -Sky looked at her then Shadow- "did I really improve? or am I just chasing a dream?" -Shadow shook his head then chuckled- "here we go, Mr Regrets is going to start his speech" -Winter looked at her husband frowning- "not you too, Sky listen" -she put her hands on his shoulders- " you did your best. that is all you wanted to do, and that is all he wanted from you"

At the Hospital they were surprised to find B-man not in the room, let alone in the hospital when they asked- "oh yeah he said he was hungry, I bought him some food but he was gone. No idea where sorry folks" -Sky blinked then glanced around the room the cleaning staff had just finished- "Well, um...thank you ma'am " -the nurse nodded then got back to her duties, while the three turned making their way out of the hospital- "I guess he went to Dixie's"

Sure enough they were right, B-man was in a booth by himself looking

at the menu. Winter slapped him upside the head- "What do you think you are doing?!" -B-man blinked- "is this is what is known as "a mothers wrath" ? -he looked questionably at Sky- "Don't ask me B, I was always a good boy" -they all took a seat, just as they settled down B-man spoke- "so, will there be any room for me at the kingdom?"

-Shadow and Winter both blinked in surprise-"well, I made a promise right?" -Sky had totally forgotten about the bet they had made- "oh well. umm " -he started to explain what happened just before the match, when he finished Winters mood perked up a bit.- "well then, we will have to go on ahead and make arrangements."

Shadow blinked a few times- "uh, yeah I guess we should head out then after this." -Sky nodded slowly, soon enough their orders arrived. Dixie grinned- "Nice fight there you two, if it wasn't for that wound of yours there B. I think you would have won it." -Sky glanced at B-man slightly still feeling bad for getting carried away during the match-

B-man seemed to feel the tension over the fight, so he changed the subject- "so, what is the Kingdom like now? " -Shadow grinned- "about the same since you left us, but the castle has changed somewhat. That being with the new nursery" -B-man almost spat up his pepsi- "N... Nursery?!" -Sky and B-man both shot up in their seats looking at Winter- "YOU'RE PREGNANT?!"

She blinked leaning back- "y...yes I.. I am , close to three months now.." -Shadow nodded- "as you can tell by her mood swings" -Sky sat back in his chair dumbfounded- " I was so busy training I never realized" -Shadow put his arm around Winters shoulder smiling-"well, it will be almost like it used to be in a few more days won't it? All of us back together again."

They enjoyed their meal and made small talk about the kingdom, B-man mostly asked what had changed and what he should expect- "well before we go, is it alright if I stop over at a shop first?" -Shadow raised an eyebrow- "I don't see why not, what are you going to get?" -B-man glanced over at his duffle bag- "I'd...umm...I'd like to buy another uniform like the one you bought me..."

Sky spoke up- "it's on me, since I shredded up the other one." -B-man

blinked- "It was part of the fight so you don't~" -Sky interrupted- "No, I owe you B for the best fight of my life." -B-man looked down at his plate feeling embarrassed -" I will admit I got carried away with that move of mine..." -Sky nodded to himself- "you...you are better than I am B"

Winter blinked, Shadow almost choked on his food. B-man looked at him in surprise- "How could I be if I lost?" -Sky hissed- "I may have beaten you in speed, and physical height. But you destroyed me in skill" -Winter let off a content sigh- "you two will have another match, once B heals up" -she turned her attention to B-man- " how are your wounds?"

B-man rubbed the back of his head slightly- "I will be alright" -Winter narrowed her eyes, the pupils turning to slits- "I said *"How are your wounds?"* don't avoid the question mister" -B-man and Sky both gulped- "they weren't too deep, as long as I don't move around too much I should be ok" -Shadow raised an eyebrow- "but big enough to leave scars right?"

B-man shrugged some not having a real clue about it- "maybe, maybe not, it isn't as deep of a wound this time, and if I let it heal properly" - Winter nodded softly- "Well, this time it will be different. Come on dear lets get a head start on the boys." -Shadow nodded taking the last bite of his meal then got up, they said their goodbyes then left while B-man and Sky sat for a while longer catching up.

B-man looked down at his drink- "I really don't think I am better than you Sky, I still have a lot to learn" -Sky chuckled- "we both do B, I wonder if that Minotaur is still alive by those caves" -B-man couldn't help but laugh- "yeah, too bad about my wounds. I really wanted to try that new blast I~"-Sky blinked interrupting - "new blast? god, you aren't trying to scare me again are you?"

B-man chuckled some as they got up after paying- "well I went back to the dojo to see what else I could find. and a found a few notes on some other moves Sifu didn't tell us about yet." -Sky nodded, he could understand that portion- "like that, "Chou" er...umm.. what the hell does that mean anyway?" -B-man chuckled again- "Chou, is Japanese for well.. "Super" I guess would be it"

Sky nodded rubbing his chin some, ears flickered a bit- " ah, I see now the super version of our standard melee attack" - they said their goodbyes to Dixie, but just then Skys ears perked as they left the diner- "I stopped yelling the attack names. I found it sort of silly" -B-man shrugged some- "old habit of mine I guess." -Sky smirked- " yeah I bet it is. wait..." -Sky stopped in mid step- "you..."-Sky took on a serious tone as he looked at B-Man — "made a "Chou" version of the Haou ShouKou-Ken?" -B-man nodded slowly-

-Sky shuddered at the thought then stabbed a finger at his friends chest-" when we get to the kingdom you are showing me got it!?" -B-man laughed- "Okay, Okay, Okay!" -they entered the martial arts store and almost hit a huge wall, that "wall" being Damien who was just leaving the store- "Well, Well, Well, the Cha~"-Damien blinked seeing B-man- "you are up already?"

B-man nodded- "for the most part, if I don't make any sudden movements" -Damien nodded then leaned over to Sky slightly- "uhh, has he always been like this?" -Sky cocked an ear at the Rhino- "usually no, but after being hit as hard as he was a few years ago." - Damien blinked a few times as Sky explained about B-mans scar out of ear shot but withheld some details-

"Jeeze, no wonder he could take that much from me" -Damien chuckled some- "Ah well live and learn, hmm?" -Damien smiled- "Ah looking at the uniforms again eh?" -B-man blinked as he had taken out the blood stained uniform he had on during the match- "Well, I would like another one really." -he made his way over to one of the clerks-

Damien glanced back at Sky- "He is alright...no? I mean that was a hell of a wound he has" -Sky shrugged slightly as Damien continued- "he should be in bed resting, not out looking for fighting uniforms" -Sky shrugged some changing the subject-" so where are you headed?" - Damien shrugged some , then hefted his shopping bag- "my usual training ground, it's near a mountain range, but I may forgo it this time"

"oh? that dangerous?" -Damien chuckled- "well it used to be a live volcano" -Sky blinked- " oh I know of the place, I used to go there as well at times." -he rubbed his chin slightly wondering why he had never run into Damien during his training.- "Okay, I'm all ready to go"

-B-man stepped up to them holding a bag-

"They couldn't repair the other one, or wash it because of all the blood." -Sky face palmed- "no one would want to see you in a blood stained uniform B." -B-man stepped out of the shop, they could see him looking around at things. "he is a bit strange isn't he..." -Damien glanced at Sky whom shrugged- "he hasn't had your typical upbringing, and that is putting it mildly"

Damien nodded slowly then shrugged some- "well, I wish you two luck and I will see ya around" -they soon parted ways, Sky couldn't help but wonder what would be in store for them at the kingdom. Or how his friend would adjust to the change. "So I figure we will just take the bus then go by carriage" -B-man blinked- "what is a carriage?" -Sky blinked then bit his tongue, stopping himself to let off a smart ass remark- "umm, it's like a horse and buggy."

"Oh, okay" -B-man nodded once more, still rather clueless about the whole thing- "well, I'd like to get going" -Sky blinked- "you don't want to see more of the city?" -B-man shook his head- "nah, I'd just like to get back to be honest and see what is new" -He paused- "I'd...like to go Home" -Sky smiled understanding, he put an arm around his friends shoulder- "You betcha B, me too" -the sun was just started to set- "me too"

-The bus ride allowed the two to get some more rest, but three quarters of the way the bus came to a stop- "hmm?" -Sky opened one eye to look outside, then glanced as the driver came up to them- "Sorry ladies and gentlemen, but we are having a mechanical fault but it will only take twenty to thirty minutes to repair" -B-man nudged Sky- "lets just walk the rest of the way, it's a nice evening."

-Sky chuckled then got up, B-man followed exiting the bus- "You two sure about this? it's still a while off from where we are" -B-man chuckled- "a regular jog for us, come on Sky" -Sky grinned as the two took off at their version of a normal pace into the forest, taking short cuts towards their destination-

-Sky could not help but reminisce how they used to do this sort of thing when they were younger, as they saw the point where they were supposed to be picked up there was no carriage- "I guess we are

early, lets surprise them!" -Sky smirked- "hey I know there is a field with some wild flowers, we should pick some for Winter"

-B-man nodded - "lead on!" -they both laughed, B-man had never felt to light hearted in a while. After picking the flowers they took a direct route for the kingdom. "hey B! When you heal up I know of a lake near by. great for swimming! even has a waterfall as well!" -B-man laughed- "I could get a great work out!"

Both started to speed up wanting to surprise everyone B-man shouted as they both front flipped over some fallen trees- "Does your grandmother still make that..."-They came over the crest as the kingdom came into view. Both stopped dead in their tracks, Sky was in total shock- "SKY!" -both tore down the hill at breakneck speed, the kingdom in all it's glory was on fire-

-the smell of burning building materials, and smouldering flesh filled their nostrils. Sky started yelling- " No, No! No! Oh God No!" -they reached the outskirts of the village before the castle, dead bodies were strewn everywhere, men, women, children even newborns. Both tried to sense anyone alive. "B...t...They are dead. all of them!" -B-man motioned- "Come on! lets check the castle!"

-part of the large fountain in front of the dual stairway up to the castle reception area was damaged spewing water in various directions, but that didn't stop them as they leapt upwards over five stories and landed- "The Door!" -B-man shouted as the two skidded to a stop from their break neck speed-

-More bodies lay about, some were dismembered horribly- "Sky go up and check on Winter! I'll look around here!" -Sky didn't say anything he was already on the third floor, while B-man looked around he found several other bodies one of them being Skys grandmother- "B..." -he turned as he could see Sky, blood marks and charred remains on his hands- "s...she's dead B..."

-B-man grunted- "What about Shadow?" -Sky was about to say something when they both heard a howling laughter outside, quickly they rushed out onto the large front step and looked over the railing- "B, it...it can't be" -B-mans eyes narrowed on the figure below, the translucent black aura engulfing the figures body was unmistakable-

"Wolf"

-water parted for Wolf as he stood atop of the fountain, his eyes were the same deep blood red. Along with the jet black fur and gleaming white teeth- "B, how. you nailed him head on with a..."-the portion of railing Sky was holding started to crack from his fury, Wolfs smile broadened- "Do you like what I've done with the place boys?"

B-man and Sky split up taking the opposite stairways- "I think the glows of the fire and the charred flesh add more brilliance, rather than the bleak green and yellows" -Sky hissed- "How are are you still alive? Better yet why are you here?!" -B-man frowned as Wolf started to laugh once more- "oh, just one more place on the list to be conquered that is all. if I had known you two were here as well I'd have prepared a welcome party" -B-man stopped at the mid way point as Wolf looked directly at him, seething with anger Wolf growled- "And You... how did you get that much power from such pathetic training?"

Sky let off a growl- "you were just too damned weak when you were in Nights body, Now I am going to rip you to shreds and leave nothing left!" -Sky leapt off going right for Wolf, B-man did the same but at a different angle to catch the demon in another direction- "You are welcomed to try!" -Wolfs aura came to a life that much more as both were pushed back in a different direction.

Sky landed on a different part of the staircase, while B-man was flung backward into the ground. Wolf howled going for B-man first since he was the closest, but was caught off guard as the human pushed off with his hands going into a corkscrew spun upside down- "Rising Tackle!" -Wolfs head snapped back as B-mans left heel collided with the demons chin.

Sky compounded it by the Hien Shipuu-Kayku, the force sent Wolf crashing through the fountain remains but he landed with ease- "hmm, not bad" -B-man and Sky landed in their stances back to back, Wolfs jaw gave a sickening crack as it went into place once more- "B, can you fight without hurting yourself?" -B-man grunted- "lets get this guy"

They both came at Wolf head on who merely grinned- "yes, Yes come at me!" -Sky lashed out with the Hien-ShipuuKayku once more, while

B-man charged in with the Burn Knuckle. Wolf blocked both but soon enough the point was everywhere, they began to attack in unison going for the critical areas of Wolfs body-

Sky hissed leaping over Wolf as he was about to punch him, instead B-man managed to grab onto the demons right arm and lock it in his. Wolf grunted getting B-mans left knee to his stomach before being flung towards Sky who was waiting, "Bastard!" -Sky lashed out with the move he had used before on B-man, only to miss as Wolf phased through him and hit him in the back.

B-man shot past Sky- "Crack Shot!" -he twisted his body having his back towards Wolf, then jumped slightly twisting his body in mid air. his right leg swung out as top of his right foot collided with the demons shoulder- "Haou!" -B-man jerked back leaping into the air as Sky fired off the blast- "ShouKou-Ken!"

-Wolf howled deflecting the blast with a swing of his left arm diverting it towards B-man whom was in mid air- "Whoa Boy!" -B-man thrust his left arm out with his palm open using a sort of Wind force to push him out of the way, he crashed into the remains of a burnt out hut, there was an eruption of energy further down in the village- "Damn it! wait, Where is he?!"

-Sky crashed into the ground sliding, kicking up small rocks and pebbles- "And here I thought you were supposed to be fas~ ouf!" - Wolf was cut off in mid sentence as B-man slammed into his side tackling him into the ground, only to get kicked off and land on his back. Wolf was already up, leg raised as he brought his foot down causing a fissure of energy to open up, heading straight for B-man-

B-man got up his left hand already in a fist- "Power Wave!" -the attack was too little too late, the energies combined but canceled out B-mans attack. Even as he was thrown back Wolf attacked, a snap kick to the face, a thrust kick to the stomach then a axe kick to his jaw. Wolfs heel caught B-man hard sending him crashing into a food cart-

A Cloud of splinters rose up from the impact, then Wolfs right side felt as if it was going to cave in. Skys fist was dug into the demons ribcage with a full force body blow, before Wolf would react he felt his body being lifted up by a blow to the jaw from below. B-man grunted

landing from the uppercut- "You ok B?!" -Sky called out as B-man rolled his right shoulder slightly-

"don't worry about me, lets just get him" -Sky cursed at himself for doing his new attack on his friend- "Just rest here I'll take care of him" -Wolf started to get up, blackened energy started to rise off his body- "Like hell you will!" -Wolf howled out- "You are only delaying the inevitable!" -B-man braced himself for a few seconds against Sky then took his stance-

Both of them took a run at Wolf before he had a chance to gather more energy, once again it was a full out melee. B-man winced getting a full blown round house in the side but held onto Wolfs leg, Sky took a chance and went in full force rising uppercut followed up with a Kou-Ken. Wolf took the brunt of the attack but was clearly becoming out matched-

Wolf howled out enraged as a wall of energy shot up between the two, the force threw the boys backwards. With that Wolf had vanished but his energy force still remained.- "the bastards running come on B! B?" -Sky got up quickly looking around for his friend then spotted him, B-man was slow to get up- "I'm all right..." -He panted holding his right side with his left hand-

"No, you aren't okay B" -Sky pried the hand away, the white cloth of the t-shirt was slowly turning from a light pink with specks of deep red- "my god, your bandages are soaking through." -B-man grunted and began to walk- "lets get going, this is bigger than both of us. If Wolf keeps going more people are going to die" -Sky froze realizing what this meant-

"*we are expendable*" -Neither of them admitted as they started the chase, what happened five years ago was coming back to haunt them- "he is off to the east, what is over there?" -B-man shouted over the noise of the flames- "The volcanos!" -it had "Trap" written all over it but they went anyway-

-The kilometres flew pass as they ran, up ahead a mountain top slowly came into view. Long extinct this area was mostly deserted, apart from the various martial artists who would come to test themselves, either by climbing or entering the labyrinth of caves. Sky had made

the trek many a time, he had never killed before but was starting to wonder about his friend-

"B! We are getting close! Lets lower our energy and try and sneak up on him!" -B-man waved in acknowledgement, both slowed down just on the outer ring before one of the entrances to the cave. "B, I umm." -B-man didn't take his eyes off the cavern-"yeah Sky?" -darkness loomed before them- "Have you ever taken a life before?" -his friends silence was all he needed as a answer, with that they entered.