

Later, the group had left the limousine at the park and was now walking through the woods to find the haunted mansion. Andy asked, "Are we there yet?"

Sonja answered, "We'll know when we see it, Andy."

Soon after 10 minutes, they arrived at the heavily rusted gates and Colin pointed to something past them as he cried out, "Look, we're here!" The group looked at what the frankenstein boy was seeing and saw that it was an old and rundown three-story mansion.

Sasha said, "So this is the mansion that Hachi was talking about. Looks like this place hasn't been used in years, which is probably quite fitting for the ghosts roaming inside."

Lash told everyone, "Alright everyone, let's go inside and see the ghosts." Then they pushed the gates forward and went to the mansion where they opened the door and walked inside. Everything was a bit dusty inside the lobby. Dust sat on pictures, chairs, the chandelier, the coffee table, the few tripod tables, and etc. Colin had sneezed once after breathing in some of the dust inside. "Oh ghosts, come out and play!" Lash called out to the spirits inside the mansion.

"Hey ghosts, where are ya?" Andy called as he searched underneath a couch.

Sasha went to the light switch on the wall and tried to flip up to 'on', but no electric light in the mansion was turned on. "Figures," she said as this mansion hasn't had its electric bill paid for years.

Kanbei went to the mirror and wiped the dust off of it with his bare hand. Then he looked at the reflection to see if any ghosts appeared. Colin noticed a beautifully crafted bust of a woman on a plinth and went to take a closer look at it to stare at its glamour. *'Wow, she's beautiful,'* he thought with fascination. Then upon closer inspection, he saw a tiny button at the base of the neck. Curious to see what would happen, Colin pushed the button and waited. But then suddenly, a trapdoor opened up underneath him and the frankenstein boy screamed as he fell through before the trapdoor quickly closed up again.

Everyone quickly stopped searching and turned to the bust where Colin used to be. "Colin!" Sasha cried out in fear that something bad might have happened to her little brother.

Lash called out in worry, "Colin, where did you go?!"

Sonja, who had been at the bookshelf and noticed a diary among the books that may have some information about the mansion and possibly the ghosts, had gripped her hand onto the diary and was about to take it with her and investigate the spot where Colin disappeared. But when she pulled the book, the bookshelf and its wall turned around and place Sonja in another room.

The four remaining COs had now lost another one of their own as they stared in shock at the empty wall where Sonja and the bookshelf used to be. "Sonja, no!" Kanbei cried in fright at the disappearance of his daughter.

Andy asked, "Where did they go?"

Sasha started to call out loudly to the missing boy and girl, "Colin, Sonja, if any of you can hear me, please respond!" Then they waited for the replies to come. But unfortunately, there were no spoken words heard from any of them. Sasha sighed, "They're not responding."

Lash said, "Or maybe they can't hear you."

Kanbei suggested a possibility, "Or maybe the ghosts got them!" Then he started to threaten the spirits of the mansion, "Evil wraiths, if you ever lay a finger on my precious child or worse. Then I, Emperor Takeda Kanbei of Yellow Comet, will show you no mercy and unleash all my wrath upon you!"

Andy said to him, "You're really protective of Sonja, aren't you." He admired the emperor's love for his daughter.

Lash yelled at the ghosts, "And I won't let you stupid ghosts take my boyfriend away from me!" She told everyone, "Come on guys, let's search the whole mansion and find them!" She pointed to the eastern hallway & stairs and said, "Sasha will take the stairs that way and I will go that way!" Then she pointed to the western hallway & stairs and said, "Andy, you'll take that hallway and Kanbei will go up those stairs! Everybody, split up now!"

Then Lash and Andy went their separate ways. Sasha was about to go with Lash to find Colin, but she noticed that Kanbei hadn't moved an inch and looked to see what he was doing with the cellphone in his hand. Sasha asked, "Emperor, who are you calling?"

Kanbei answered, "I'm bringing my army here to search this place and rescue Sonja and your brother." He dialed the numbers.

Then the other line rang until a soldier answered it and said, "Hello, this is Yellow Comet army HQ speaking."

Kanbei told the soldier, "This is Emperor Kanbei, please infantry units, battle copters, and tanks to the mansion in the woods near Kumori Park."

"Copy that," the soldier replied before they hang up on each other.

Sasha felt a little uncomfortable with the idea of bringing the army here and asked, "Emperor Kanbei, don't you think that's overdoing it a little? I mean just the police would do fine here."

Kanbei said, "Well can the police outfight a military army? No they can't, because the military's more adept at combat than they are. Which is why I'm bringing them here to fight the ghosts!"

Sasha told him, "There's no such thing as ghosts, Kanbei and everybody knows that."

Kanbei said, "Well ghosts or not, we still need all the help we can get to save Sonja. Now go and find your brother. I'll check upstairs to find Sonja." The two chaperones took their own stairs and began their search.

Meanwhile in the pitch-dark room that Colin had fallen into from the trapdoor, the boy felt aches and pains from landing ungracefully on his butt. He rubbed the spot where he was hurting as he groaned, "Ugh, that hurts!" Then he looked around at the lightless darkness around him and said, "U-uh, where am I? It's so dark in here that I can't even see a thing." Colin wondered how he was going to find his way back to the others without bumping into things in the dark.

Sonja was trying hard to get back to the other side where the others were. She tried putting the diary back in its spot on the bookshelf, but wall didn't flip. Then she tried to take out another book off the shelf, but that didn't have any effect either. Then Sonja took all the books off the shelves to see if the wall would finally turn around, but again nothing happened. The witch girl started to get annoyed and complained, "Ugh, isn't there anyway I can get back to the other side?" Then she noticed a staircase going down at the left corner of the room and calmed down said to herself, "Well if I can't go out the way I came from, then I'll just have to take the stairs instead." Sonja went to the stairs and started to walk down into the basement of the mansion.

At the end of the first hallway, Lash turned left at the corridor and walked through it. She opened the first door nearest her and looked inside. It was a closet that was almost empty, except for the flashlight on the highest shelf, a coat hanging on the clothes bar, and a small cardboard box at the corner. Lash took the flashlight off the shelf so that she could use it to brighten her way in the darkest places of the mansion. Then she checked every room past each door she saw and called, "Sonja, Colin, where are you?" Both of them weren't in any of the rooms she checked. Then she went to the last door and found a staircase that went down into the lower floor. "Hmm, I wonder if Colin's down there," Lash said as she walked down the stairs to see for herself.

At the west area of the mansion, Andy had checked the first three doors while calling for Sonja and Colin, but found that they weren't there. Then he went to the fourth door where he saw in the center room lie a table soccer game consisting of red and blue players. Andy cried out in joy, "Wow cool, they have a game inside!" Then he went to the table and started playing foosball all by himself. He took the ball and placed it in the center of the table. Andy took the two bars in the middle and moved one of

the figures in each of the two teams to the ball. But the blue figure got to the ball first and Andy rotated it in 90 degrees to give the ball a hard kick. Then he quickly took the red goalie bar at the end of the table and had the figure kick the ball to send it over to the blue team's side. Andy made the blue defense row try to kick the ball back to the other side, but then Andy quickly made the red attack row block the ball and kick it into the goal before the blue goalie blocks it. Andy shot his arms up into the air and shouted triumphantly, "Yes! Red team scores!" Then when he was about to play round 2, a sudden reminder popped up in his mind and he started to remember what he was supposed to be doing. "Oh yeah that's right, I have to go and find Sonja and Colin," he said to himself. Then he left the room and went downstairs where he got to the door and went through it.

Meanwhile upstairs, Sasha walked towards the door and turned the knob to push it open. She entered the large bedroom where there was a queen sized bed between two nightstands, a wardrobe, a dresser with a mirror on it, a couple of exotic painted pictures, a chair, a TV, and a bathroom. "Colin, Sonja," she called. Then when no answer came, she suddenly started to think about all this and questioned her, "Wait, why are Kanbei and I upstairs when it's obviously Colin and Sonja are on the first floor or lower. We should've never listened to Lash's plan. I'm going back downstairs." But before she could leave the room, she noticed a shadowy, but familiar figure coming out of the bathroom. The figure returned the stare at Sasha and they looked at each other briefly before the girl asked, "Could it be? Is that you?"

Kanbei opened the door to the library and went inside. The room consisted of walls of bookshelves, a chair with a footstool, a lamp on a round table, a chandelier on the ceiling, and a coffee table. Kanbei called, "Sonja, are you there? It's your father and I've come to save you from those evil ghosts." He waited for the reply to come, but there was only silence. "Sonja," he called again. Then suddenly, one of the bookshelves started to turn around. Kanbei wondered if that was his daughter or the ghosts coming into room. But instead of either of them, he saw two men in dark gray suits with astronaut-like helmets on their heads.

The first soldier said, "Sigh, another boring night like this, eh? Can't believe we have to do this routine every day."

The second soldier said, "I know man, but it's our job. We have to kidnap at least one kid this time and-" Then they both saw Kanbei standing in the library. "Holy cow, that's Kanbei of Yellow Comet, what's he doing here?!" he asked in astonishment.

The first soldier said, "Doesn't matter, let's just shoot him and bring him with us to 'you know who'." Then they took up their guns and aimed them at the emperor. But before either of them could pull the trigger, Kanbei quickly unsheathed his katana and sliced their hands off at the speed of light. The soldiers looked at their bleeding severed arms in astound and the first one shouted, "Oh my god!"

"M-m-m-my hands!" cried the second soldier.

Kanbei pointed his blade at the two Black Hole soldiers and threatened, "And your heads will be next if you Black Hole soldiers don't tell me what you're doing here in this ghost-infested mansion!"

"Ghosts? What ghosts?" asked the second soldier.

The first soldier started giggling and said, "He thinks there's ghosts in the mansion."

The second soldier made an amused smile and replied, "Oh really?" Then they both started laughing in ridicule as they thought how stupid the Yellow Comet was for believing in such myths.

Kanbei glared and started to get angry as he yelled, "Don't laugh, you two! You already forget that I have a sword here and that you two don't have hands to defend yourselves with!"

After being reminded of that, the Black Hole soldiers instantly stopped laughing and became scared again. The first soldier said, "Oh yeah, that's right."

"We're sorry, Mr. Kanbei sir. It's just that you see, we are the ghosts. We roam this mansion every night and day to try and capture anyone who gets inside and-" the second soldier explained before he got kicked in the shin and cried, "Ow!"

The first soldier yelled at his comrade, "Idiot, don't tell him everything!"

"Sorry," the second soldier apologized.

Kanbei demanded an answer, "Where's Sonja? Tell me what you have done with her!"

The second soldier told him, "We didn't see her yet, Kanbei."

The first soldier said, "Yeah, we just took our shift!"

But Kanbei didn't believe them as he yelled, "Liars, I don't believe you! Where are Sonja and Colin? And what are you Black Hole scums scheming this time? Answer me or else!" The Black Hole soldiers stared at the katana in fright as cold sweat started to form on their faces.

Colin tried to give himself the courage to find his way through the darkness by encouraging himself, "A-alright Colin, you can do this. You're a proud Blue Moon commanding officer and b-brave one, too. The ghosts aren't going to get you as long as you tried to get yourself out of here as s-soon as possible." Then he started to wander his way around the dark room at a slow pace while using his hands to feel for things that he might bump into. The boy felt a door knob in front of him with his left hand and he turned it around to open the door. Then he went into the next room, which was also dark as well but had a lot of hallways this time. Colin walked through the maze as he tried to find the stairs that would take him back up to the first floor. But he ended up getting lost in this confusing place. Colin felt the need to call out his friends' names, but kept quiet instead because of his fear that he might attract the ghosts to him.

Soon, he saw a light coming from the north intersection of the maze. Colin went to hide at the corner where he had last turned and looked at the light as he wondered if the bearer of the light was a ghost or not. A familiar voice called, "Colin, where are you?"

Colin recognized the owner of the voice and got out of his hiding spot as he went towards the light. As he went into it, he recognized the figure and asked, "Lash, is that you?"

A happy smile formed on Lash's face as she squealed, "Oh Colin, I'm so glad you're okay! We thought the ghosts had gotten you! So did you see them?"

Colin shook his head and replied, "No, I didn't. I just pushed this tiny button on the bust and then I fell through the trapdoor. That's all."

Lash was disappointed that her boyfriend didn't find any of the ghosts yet and said, "So that's what happened to you. Oh well, let's go find Sonja and the others and see if we can find some ghosts on the way." The two started walking together in this maze to find who and what they were looking for.

Andy came into a dark area and started walking through the heavily dim place that was too obscure for anything to be seen. He constantly bumped and crashed into walls and tripped over a few things that were in his way. He even went past the silent alarm that was hidden within the painting on the wall. Andy said to himself, "Darn, I should've brought a flashlight or a candle with me. Then that way I wouldn't run into walls or anything. I think I better go back." Then he tried to retrace his steps back to where he came from, he unwittingly took some wrong turns and ended up getting lost in the place that was the maze; the same maze where Lash and Colin were in, except that Andy was a lot farther away from them. Andy groaned, "Dang, now I'm lost! I can't find my way back and I can't see a thing in here! This is just my worst luck for today." Then suddenly, a hand grabbed his arm and yanked him over to the figure pulling him. "Aaaahhhh, somebody help! I think the ghosts got me and now they're going to eat me alive!" Andy shouted in panic.

The mysterious stranger in the dark told him, "Calm down Andy, it's only me."

Andy became relieved when he knew whose voice that was and said, "Sonja, it's just you! Don't scare me like that; I actually thought you were a ghost."

Sonja apologized, "Well sorry about that, Andy."

The werewolf boy asked, "Hey, no need to worry about that now. So anyway, how did you find me in a dark place like this?"

Sonja told him, "Need I remind you that my eyes have better night vision than an average human being?" But of course, that didn't mean it was on equal par to a bat's, owl's, or feline's night vision. Her night vision only made things seem a little less dim to her.

Andy asked, "Oh yeah, that's right. So Sonja, think you know a way out of this place?"

Sonja replied, "No, but I thought you would know since you got down here."

Andy said, "Well actually, I'm kinda lost now. So I have no idea how to get out of here." He felt embarrassed for the position he was in.

Sonja sighed in disappointment, "You're so hopeless sometimes, Andy. You know that? Now come, let's see if I can help get us back the way you came from." Then she took Andy's arm and led him through the maze as she tried to find the way out.

Meanwhile at the secret monitor room, two shadowy figures sitting on chairs noticed a wolf-like anthro creature in red clothes walking past the camera and getting himself lost in the maze. The first figure looked at the werewolf and said, "Intruder detected. Unidentified creature wearing Andy's clothes."

The second figure said, "That's because it's not a creature, you simpleton. That is the famous Andy of Orange Star wearing a wolf costume. The young fool must have entered our home uninvited out of curiosity to see what all the deal is with the ghosts of this mansion, not knowing that it is us who are the latter." Then they looked at another monitor and saw Colin and Lash walking through the maze as well. The second figure said with a sinister smile, "And look, we have a couple more of these mice walking into our trap. Let's split up and hunt down our prey like predators, shall we?"

The first figure said, "Initiating capture of enemies: Andy, Lash, and Colin." Then they got off their seats and left the monitor room.

Sasha asked, "Hawke of Black Hole? What are you doing here?"

Hawke said to her, "Funny, that's the kind of question I should be asking you. It's not safe here; you should get yourself and whoever you brought with you out of here."

Sasha guessed, "Is it because of those rumored ghosts in the mansion?"

Hawke told her, "Well yes it is, except that they aren't actual ghosts."

"What do you mean, Hawke?" Sasha asked curiously.

"Do you remember the war in Omega Land?" Hawke asked. "We all thought our old enemies have left the world in peace, but now it seems like they have returned."

Sasha knew what Hawke was talking about and said, "So you mean-"

Hawke interrupted her when he knew what she was about to say and explained, "That's right. But this time, they aren't trying to drain the continent. They're going to use people instead as resources to rejuvenate their boss. They have their soldiers patrol the mansion in hopes of capturing any unfortunate soul to wander inside this place. But the mansion isn't the only place where they get people, sometimes they may go into other areas of Fourside city and kidnap lone people in places without any witnesses."

Sasha inquired, "But how did you know all this without being caught?"

Hawke told her his story, "Because tonight when I was alone, one of them came up to me and tried to chloroform me. But I quickly sensed his movements and knocked him out first before he could do anything. Then I tied him up to a chair at my secret place and tortured him long enough until he was

finally broken and told me all about the Bolt Guard's plans and where they were at. After I killed the man who was no longer useful to me, I went into mansion and started my personal mission to hunt and assassinate them."

Sasha said, "So if Black Hole are the ghosts, then that means..." She realized what was going to happen to her brother and friends if they were caught by the Black Hole soldiers. Everyone was in danger as long they stayed inside the mansion. "We have to go and find the others quickly!" Sasha cried as she feared for the other COs' safety.

"If you're going to search for your comrades, then take this," Hawke said as he tossed her one of his guns.

Sasha caught the gun and asked, "You're giving me a weapon?"

"Yes, it's for your own good if you encounter any of the Bolt Guard's soldiers. Just shoot them if they try to go after you," Hawke said as he started walking out the door.

Sasha briefly watched him go before she stopped him and asked, "Wait, where are you going? I thought it might be better for us to go together if the Bolt Guard has many soldiers inside this place."

Hawke turned down the offer and said, "Actually I prefer to work alone on this one, because I'd rather not have any individuals slow me down. You have friends here, don't you? Maybe you can all help each other get out of here before the Bolt Guard gets to you. Besides, the gun you have in your hands can be used as a defense against them." Then he left the room and walked downstairs into the first floor.

Sasha looked at the gun for a bit as she said to herself, "Yes, I suppose I could use it protect myself and others." Then she went to go and look for Kanbei, so that she could join up with him and work together to find the others.

Sonja and Andy walked on through the maze until she saw a door in sight. Andy asked, "Hey Sonja, are we there yet?"

Sonja asked, "Maybe, but I can see a door up ahead. You did come through a door, correct?"

Andy replied, "Yep, that's how I got here in the first place."

She said, "Well maybe this is where you came from. Let's go in and check." Then she turned the knob and pulled the door open. When they inside the room, Sonja saw how huge this room really was with lots of open spaces and how it almost looked like a heavy equipment garage. Something wasn't right here; why would a mansion have a garage in the basement of the building?

Andy asked, "So Sonja, are we in the right place?"

"No, I don't think so. But the room we're in seems to be odd for a mansion." Sonja told him.

"Odd, how so?" Andy inquired.

Sonja asked him, "Andy, would any normal home estate have a garage at the basement of the building, when it's actually supposed to be on the first floor?"

"No," Andy answered her before he asked, "Wait, so you're saying we're in some sort of garage?"

"Most likely, but let's not worry about it too much for now. Let's get out of this place and look for another way back to the first floor," Sonja said.

Andy asked, "What about Colin? Shouldn't we find him, too?"

Sonja said, "Don't worry, I know the rest of you guys are out looking for him. They probably may have found him by now or not. Let's just get back upstairs and meet them by the entrance." Then when she got back to the door, she found that the knob she was trying to turn wouldn't go all the way around to open the door. "Well, this is unusual; the door that opened and went through doesn't seem to want to open again," Sonja asked confusedly as to wonder why the door wouldn't open again.

"Here, let me try," Andy said as he used both of his hands to feel for the knob. Then he tried to get the knob to turn hard with all his strength, but the door never opened. Andy gave up trying to open the door and said, "Darn, it won't budge!"

Sonja wondered, "I'm curious; how is it that the door suddenly locked on its own when we never did anything to make it that way?"

"Maybe the ghosts locked up in?" Andy guessed.

Sonja said, "I don't think so, the keyhole's is on this side of the door where we're standing in front of and the other side didn't have one. There's no way anyone should be able to lock us in like that."

"So how do we get out of here now?" Andy asked as he wondered if there was another way to get back to the first floor.

"I don't know, but let's search this place and see if we can find another way out," Sonja said to Andy. Then she took back his hand and led him around the area. Then suddenly, a pair of lights started to shine somewhere off from a distance.

Andy smiled happily and cried, "Awesome, there's lights now! Now we can get to see clearly now!"

Sonja quickly shushed him and scolded quietly, "Quiet Andy, we don't know if that's one of our friends or not. You want to get us killed?"

"No," Andy replied quietly.

Then they kept silent as they listened to the sounds of a huge vehicle with treads moving towards them. Sonja noticed a cannon and some machine guns on the tank ahead of them and instantly realized that she and Andy were in danger. "Let's run Andy," Sonja whispered to the boy as she ran away and dragged him along with her.

"Huh, why?" Andy, who didn't see the tanks weapons, asked.

"There's a tank in here trying to kill us. We have to leave now!" Sonja told him.

Andy cried out loud, "Uh oh, that can't be good! Let's make a break for it and go!" Sonja got annoyed with Andy's shout and had to shush the boy again. Then they both started running away faster than ever.

Jugger, the driver of the tank, used his night camera vision to locate the fleeing children in the dark and said, "Targets: Andy of Orange Star and Sonja of Yellow Comet. Initiating machine gun shots now." Then the machine guns aimed at the young COs and started shooting at them. Andy and Sonja became alert as the tank tried to shoot the both of them. The bullets were gaining on them as they tried to flee away from them. One bullet had hit Andy's tail and another had struck Sonja on the back of her right leg.

The witch girl shrieked in pain as she stopped running and fell onto the floor. Andy looked at her fearfully and cried out in worry, "Sonja!" Then he quickly picked up the girl and carried her in bridal style as he quickly ran from the pursuing tank. "Are you alright?" he asked her.

"No, my leg's hurting really bad and your claws are cutting into my skin," Sonja answered him.

"What?!" Andy cried out in bewilderment. He didn't expect his costume's claws to hurt anybody, especially Sonja he was carrying. "How sharp are they, Sonja?" he asked.

"They're sharp as a dagger's blade, Andy. They really hurt," Sonja told him.

"Dang, I didn't think Lash would make a costume like that, but why?" Andy said as he wondered about the way the creator of the costume designed it.

Then Sonja saw a door ahead of them at the end of the long room and pointed to it as she told him, "Andy, there's a door ahead at the dead end! If we reach it now, we'll be able to get out of here safely!"

Andy replied, "Good, then let's get over there and get the heck out of here." He ran full speed ahead in determination to reach the door in time. But then when he got there, he tried to turn the knob

and the door failed to open. "Darn it, this one's locked, too!" Andy yelled. "Now what do we do? We have no way out and that tank's trying to kill us! This is the worst Halloween of my night and now I'll never get to see my friends and family again!" he cried out stressfully at the fact that they were both going to die very soon.

Sonja was feeling the same way Andy was; she was scared to die and sad that she would miss out on all the opportunities her future had for her. *'Father, you were the best person I had in my entire life and I'm sorry that I won't be able to see you again. But if you can hear my thoughts now, then I want you to know that I've always loved you as the caring father you are and I hope that you'll be able to handle the future wars on your own with Sensei and Grimm's help, now that I won't be around to aid you any longer. Please, take care of yourself. And Andy, thanks for trying to save my life again, although this one resulted in failure,'* she thought with closed eyes and tears streaming down her face.

The tank was now 15 feet away from them and Andy looked up at it in awe with his eyes wide with terror and his heart racing with adrenaline. The round and one-eyed robotic driver threw a sleep bomb down at the floor. Andy watched the bomb fall from the tank as he screamed, "Noooooooooooo!" Then the bomb exploded onto the floor and released the sleep gas inside. The kids inhaled the gases and they both started to get drowsy as Andy said groggily, "So tired... must go... to bed." Then he collapsed onto the floor slept on top of the sleeping Sonja.

Jugger looked at the sleeping COs and said, "Target status: sleeping. Proceed to capture enemy now. All doors in area set to unlock." Then he got out of the tank and set foot onto the ground where he took a kid in each arm and opened the door which was now unlocked by his command and exited the room.

Lash and Colin had been walking around the maze for a while now and they haven't seen any sign of Sonja in here. Lash complained, "This is getting boring! I don't see Sonja anywhere in this hell of a maze. Come on Colin, let's go back upstairs and see if the others have found her yet." Then they went to look for the door where she came from and pretty soon, they found it. She tried to turn open the knob, but it was too stubborn to turn all the way. Lash asked in annoyance, "Oh crackers, we've been locked it! Who the heck would want to do something like this to us?"

"The ghosts?" Colin guessed.

Lash agreed with the possibility, "Yeah, you could be right, Colin. They'll definitely do something like this!" Then she started banging her free fist on the door and started yelling, "Open up this door, you stupid ghosts!"

Then came the mysterious and chilly voice, "My my, it seems like we're all going to be trapped like rats in here for the rest of the night."

Both kids were startled by the stranger's sudden presence and Lash whipped around with her flashlight to find the man as she asked, "Huh? Who's there?!" Then her flashlight revealed a familiar enemy in a blue ghostly form.

Colin shouted in surprise, "Oh my gosh, it's Koal and he's a ghost now!"

Lash asked, "Koal?! What's he doing here and when the heck did he die?" She never recalled hearing any news of the Bolt Guard member's death and if the news report channels never made any mention of that, it was probably because nobody cared about the death of the vile little man who had tried to drain all life out of Omega Land, though it would have been great news for the Allied Nation COs to hear.

Koal said to the kids, "You naïve little wretches, I never did die. What you're seeing is a hologram of me. But I am quite upset to see a couple of pests invading our precious home and walking around uninvited like they own the place. Though on the other side, I am quite pleased that I get to have the pleasure of having to catch you mice so that I can feed you to the big cat himself. But I do want to play a little game with you children. I have sent many Black Hole soldiers in the maze to find and capture

you. If you can survive the whole night without getting caught, then in the morning the both of you will be free to go. But should my soldiers successfully nab you, then... Well, you'll see for yourself when you get there."

Lash looked to Colin and cried frantically, "You hear that, Colin? We have run and hide from the soldiers before they get to us! Let's go!" She took the frankenstein boy's hand and started running.

Colin replied, "R-right behind you, Lash." Then the two started running off to find a hiding place.

Koal watched them go with a darkly amused expression on his face and said, "You may run all you want, little Halloween monsters. But you can never hide. Sooner or later, one of my soldiers will find you and then you'll never have the chance of escape. Men, seize them!" Then the dim orange lights in the maze were turned on as the Black Hole soldiers, who had been hiding from the right passage the whole time Koal & the kids were talking to each other, came out and started to pursue the paths the kids had taken.

As Lash and Colin ran, they suddenly saw lights on the ceiling shining dimly. Colin pointed out, "Hey Lash, look! The lights have turned on; I guess this means the mansion did have electricity after all."

Lash said, "Then I guess we won't be needing this flashlight anymore." She threw it away behind them. The vampire and frankenstein monster ran around in the maze and took many turns around the corners.

Colin asked, "So Lash where do you think our hiding spot will be?"

"I don't know, I just thought... Eeek!" Lash said before she saw a pair of Black Hole soldiers at the north passage.

The soldiers heard her scream and took notice of them as they said, "Hey look, it's those kids. Let's get them!"

Colin screamed in fright as he cried, "Ahhh, they've found out us already! What do we do now?"

Lash told him, "What do you think? We just outrun them until they're off our tail! Now let's go before they nab us!" Then they turned left and ran faster than ever to try and shake their pursuers off. But unfortunately, the soldiers had run faster as well in determination to catch up to them. Then they reached one of the maze's intersections and continued to run down west. After passing the intersection, the other black hole soldiers who were at the north and south passages ran ahead to try and grab the children, but they ended up crashing into each other along with the first pursuers and they all hit the floor.

The first soldier of the north group yelled, "Watch where you running, you idiots!"

The second soldier of the south group yelled, "Who's the idiot here, you egghead! You're the ones who crashed into us first!"

The third soldier of the east group yelled, "Oh yeah? How did we know you didn't run into us first, you pea-brained monkey!"

The fourth soldier of the south group yelled, "Go to Hell, you fat butthead!"

Then the Black Hole soldiers continued their pointless argument until a hologram of Koal appeared above them and told them, "Silent, you numbskulls! While you're all bickering in your meaningless arguments, you've been letting your prey slipping out of your claws and going farther away from them. Get back to the chase or else I'll be using you as human sacrifices for Lord Von Bolt."

"Yes commander," the soldiers said to him before they got back up and started running again.

Meanwhile, Lash and Colin had turned right into another passageway and then right again and once more until they hit a dead end. Colin shouted in dismay, "Ah nuts, it's a dead end!"

Lash told him, "Don't worry, it's not over yet. We just have to go back the way we came from and then run to other places." Then after they started going back and turned left, they noticed Black Hole soldiers coming from the corner ahead of them and became desperate as Lash frowned and moaned, "Ah crud!"

One of the soldiers said, "Look there they are, get them!" Then the two kids ran back to the dead end as the soldiers chased them.

Then when the couple got there, Colin shouted in despair, "Nooo, now we're both probably going to die now!"

"I know, Colin," Lash told him as she shared his feelings. "But listen, what I'm going to tell you right now is something I want you to know this and remember for all eternity; though you probably know the idea already. Colin honey, I love you with all my heart and soul! Never let us be separate in the next life, alright?" she confessed her feelings to her boyfriend and gave him a warm affectionate hug.

Colin blushed hot red on his face and hugged back and he replied, "I-I-I love you too, L-Lash."

Then their romantic moment was cut short when the soldiers came into view and said, "There they are! Looks like we've finally cornered them, too. Let's shoot 'em!" Then the soldiers aimed their guns at the two terrified kids and shot tranquilizer darts at them. Lash was shot on her right shoulder, wings, and left arm. While Colin was shot on his chest, leg, and one of his bolts which got knocked off of his neck. Both kids became drowsy as they collapsed on the floor and started sleeping.

One of the soldiers said, "Alright boys, let's take them away!" Then the soldiers picked up and carried the kids out of the maze.

The second soldier answered, "Look we really don't have them. They could still be out wandering around this mansion or maybe the other soldiers got them. And if we caught them, then they would've already been at the lab where they'll have all their youth drained into Von Bolt's body." Then he saw the look of anger and disappointment on his comrade's face behind his helmet and realized that he had unwittingly gave away the top secret to the enemy. "Uh... oops?" the second soldier said with guilt.

The first soldier told him, "You're never going to be a decent Black Hole soldier, you know that." If he still had his hands right now, then his comrade would be getting a hard slap to the face if he wasn't wearing that helmet of his.

Kanbei questioned them, "Ah so that's your plan, eh? Now talk, where is the lab and how can I get it?" He brought the katana up closer to the second soldier's chest and threatened, "Tell me or else!"

The first soldier told the second one, "Come on pal, don't tell him anything this time. We don't want to get in trouble with the Bolt Guard."

Kanbei heard what the first soldier had said and turned on him and put the blade to the man's chest and said, "Oh, so I suppose your slow and painful death protecting the secret would be more important than precious life? Tell me, would you like to suffer getting tons of cuts all over your body, your feet cut off, your eyes poked out or-"

Suddenly the second soldier couldn't stand to hear any more torture that his friend was going to face. So he quickly told Kanbei, "Don't! I know where the lab is. You just have to go through the bookshelf door where we came out by pulling down that big red book over there. Then you walk down the long passageway and at the end of that, the machine will ask for your password. You must say 'Black Doom' or else the guards will come and shoot at you, okay?"

Pleased that he got his answer, Kanbei removed his sword away from the first soldier and replied, "Good, my business is done with you. Now if you'll excuse me, I have this lab to look into and see if Sonja's alright."

Then when he was walking to the bookshelf, Sasha came into the room and said, "Oh Kanbei, there you are. Listen, I have some bad news that you need to hear." Then she noticed the two Black Hole soldiers in the library room and aimed her gun at them as she yelled, "Freeze, Black Hole soldiers!"

"Aahhhh, don't shoot us!" the soldiers cried simultaneously in fright.

Kanbei told her, "Relax Sasha, the soldiers don't have hands anymore to use their weapons to shoot us. You can put your gun away."

Then Sasha looked at the soldiers' arms and saw that they indeed didn't have hands anymore. "Oh, I see," she said. "Anyway Kanbei, there's something I need to tell you about this mansion." Then she told him about the Black Hole soldiers and how they were kidnapping people to transfer their youth into Von Bolt.

Kanbei said to her, "Well, that's almost exactly like what these vermin here told me. Come on Sasha, we must go to the lab and put a stop to their evil plans once and for all! We can use this bookshelf to take us to the other room behind it." Then Sasha went over to him and the emperor pulled down the big red book. The bookshelf started to turn around and send the two COs into the dark passage way with a line of dim lights on the ceiling to light the path. Then they started walking through the long tunnel to get to the lab.

Many minutes later, Andy was slowly opening his eyes as he was regaining all his senses that he had lost during his unconsciousness. "W-where am I?" he asked no one in particular as he started to look around at the strange laboratory he was in. "How did I get here and where's Sonja?" he asked confusedly as he obviously had no clue what was going on. Then looked on his right and saw Sonja, whose hands and feet were bind to a table that was slanted upwards. There were slim tubes with needles pierced through her skin and into her veins on each limb and center of her body. "Sonja!" he cried.

The girl had woken up too and she looked at Andy as she asked, "Andy, is that you?"

Andy said to her, "Yes it's me, Sonja. Now hang on, I'm going to get you off of that table." Then when he tried to move, he found out that he couldn't move his arms and legs at all. "What the heck? What's going on, I can't move!" Andy said in shock.

Sonja told him, "Andy, look at your wrists and ankles, they've been cuffed as well."

Andy did what Sonja told him to do and looked at the cuffs on his wrists and ankles. He also saw that he had the same tubes on him that the witch girl had. He groaned, "Ah darn it! I just hope Lash and Colin aren't in the same place we are." But then he looked to the left and noticed them on the other tables bind and with the tubes on them as he said in dismay, "I just had to say that, didn't I?"

Lash and Colin started waking up as well and the vampire girl asked, "Where the heck are we?"

Colin asked, "I can't move my arms and legs. What's going on?"

Then they all heard an evil feminine laughter and the voice said, "My my, it looks like the little baby monsters have finally woken up from their nap."

The four kids turned their heads to the left and saw the Bolt Guard standing in front of a very elderly frail and dying man sitting on a chair with a glass filled with life-sustaining liquid over his head. There also tubes on him and they were attached to a machine above them where the other kids' tubes were. Andy, who has never seen the Bolt Guard before, asked, "Who are you and what are you trying to do to us?!"

Lash answered for him, "That's the Bolt Guard, Andy! That short fat robot over there is Jugger, the clown-faced freak beside him is Koal, the stuck-up red-haired hag is Kindle, and their crusty old boss is Von Bolt."

Kindle huffed in annoyance, "Hmph, I can't believe a bratty little imp like you had to do the introductions for us."

Koal said with a sadistic smile, "Don't worry Kindle, I believe we can start punishing them now for that curt little tongue of hers."

Colin asked fearfully, "What are you going to do us?!"

Kindle said, "Why we're going to transfer all your youth into Lord Von Bolt, so that he can be young and healthy again. And here's how it works." Then she went over to a large machine and explained, "After we input commands into the computer to start the transfer, the needles pierced into your veins will start sucking out all of the youth inside your body and transfer them via the medical

tubes and send them over to Von Bolt where he'll slowly lose a year off his age from every 1000 drops of youth you have."

Andy asked, "So you're turning us old for the sake of having him look younger?"

Kindle told him, "Precisely, we care a lot about Lord Von Bolt than anyone else in the world, so that's why we're willing to do anything for him, even at the expense of others."

Lash cried in panic, "Noooo, I don't want to be an old hag! Somebody take me off of this thing!"

The Bolt Guard chuckled in amusement as Lash's hysteria and Kindle said, "I'm sorry my little urchin, but I'm afraid you go through with it now. Jugger, start the machine now!"

The robot said, "Jugger follows Kindle's command. Initiating youth transfer now." Then he went over to the computer and was about to press the buttons, when suddenly a bullet shot into the computer screen and destroyed the machine. Everyone in the laboratory became surprised as they stared at the destroyed machine and Jugger said, "Youth transfer machine has been damaged. Process is now impossible."

Kindle asked, "What?! That can't be! Who the heck would do such a thing?!" She was now upset that someone had to go and destroy the machine used to save her lord from dying of old age.

"That would be me," answered the mysterious figure who was coming out of the shadows.

The kids looked at him and recognized who that was as Andy shouted, "Hey, that's Hawke!"

Lash was very happy to see him as she cried, "Oh my gosh, Hawke you're alive! I'm so glad you came and saved us!" Then the cuffs released the kids' hands and feet, as the machine was no longer active to keep them locked, and they dropped flat on the ground.

Sonja's and Colin's mouths were open in surprise as the boy asked, "No way, Hawke is alive?! But I thought he died in Omega Land when that building crashed down on him!"

"How did you survive, Hawke?" Sonja asked him.

Hawke told her, "I'll tell you later when I feel like it. But right now, I have some old enemies here that I need to put an end to once and for all."

Kindle chuckled and said, "Oh how amusing, the plebian here is trying to play hero by assassinating us. Jugger, Koal, take out your weapons. We're going to teach this foolish nimrod a quick lesson he'll never forget in the afterlife."

"With pleasure, my lady," Koal said as he unsheathed his katana.

"Jugger weapons activated," the robot said as the two big buttons on his chest transformed into cannons and his fingers started emitting electricity.

Kindle took out her handgun and aimed it at Hawke as she said, "Now let's see if you can kill all three of us without dying."

The kids were anxious as they knew that Hawke wouldn't be able to exterminate all three of the Bolt Guard without getting killed first. "No!" Andy shouted.

"Not so fast!" shouted a familiar voice of someone who has just entered the lab.

Everybody whipped their heads to the direction of the voice and saw who were standing there. "That's Kanbei!" Andy shouted happily.

"And sis!" cried Colin as he smiled.

Kanbei said, "Now the numbers are even with three against three. Sasha, you shoot that robot over there. Hawke, you take out that wretch." With his blade pointed at Koal, he continued, "And I will deal with that creepy clown over there. Everyone, attack!"

Seeing as Hawke and the chaperones were going to fight the Bolt Guard, Lash decided that they, the kids, should help out, too. She said, "Hey, we can help too, you know!" She stripped the tubes off of her skin. Lash told, "Colin, you're my back-up! I'm going to try and break Jugger's eye so that he can't see anymore. If anything bad happens to me, just get me out of there, alright?"

"Y-yes Lash," Colin said. The boy started to take the tubes and needles out of his skin, but each time he did that, it hurt with a pinch. "Ouch!" he winced.

Then the vampire girl ran over to Jugger from behind and got onto his back as she started to bang on his eye with her fist in an attempt to smash it. Lash yelled at him, "Come on you stupid toaster, go blind already!"

The robot said, "Annoying immature nuisance: Lash of Black Hole. Jugger proceeds to electrocute enemy now." He brought up his electric hands in the air in an attempt to touch the girl and started shock her.

Colin saw what Jugger was about to and shouted in fear for his girlfriend's life, "Lash, no!" Then he started charging towards the robot in a brave attempt to save her at his risk.

Sasha yelled at Jugger, "Don't you dare touch!" She pulled the trigger and shot the robot in the chest.

Jugger's systems started failing when the bullet had hit his main central CPU system. "Alert, alert! Jugger's systems are now malfunction... Damage status: beyond repair... Jugger... is now... dying... *beep*" the robot said his last words before he was completely shut down. Then Colin tackled Jugger and made him collapse on the floor.

Colin caught Lash before she hit the ground and asked her, "Lash, are you alright?"

The vampire girl looked at her boyfriend and replied in an impressed tone, "Yes I am, thanks to you! You were brave back there!"

"Really?!" Colin cried in surprise.

Sasha went over to them and smiled at her brother as she praised, "She's right, Colin. You're usually not the type to put your life at risk, but you just bravely charged at Jugger without worrying about getting electrocuted."

Colin blushed and replied modestly, "T-that was nothing! I just did what I had to do as Lash's back-up."

Kanbei and Koal's swords constantly clashed against each other as they both attempted to slash each other while defending themselves. Koal said to him, "You seem to be a really skilled swordsman yourself, Kanbei. But I do wonder if that will save you from impaled by my sword."

Kanbei told him, "Oh don't worry; it'll you who will get impaled in the end!" He swung his sword again, but only get blocked again.

Hawke aimed his gun at Kindle and told her, "Give it up, Kindle. Jugger's dead now and you've just been outnumbered."

Kindle said, "Oh I think not, Hawke. So that pile of bolts and screws failed to do his job. But I've got back-up plan for that." Then she pointed her gun at Sonja, who flinched, and said, "I want all of you to surrender! If any of you resists, then the little girl here gets it!"

Everybody turned their attention to Kindle and saw that she was threatening to take Sonja's life. "Sonja, no!" Kanbei shouted in worry and fear for his daughter's life. That was when Koal took advantage of Kanbei's distraction and cut him across his abdominal area. Kanbei clutched his wound with his free hand and started clenching his teeth in pain and groaning in pain. Koal grinned sadistically as he watched his opponent faltered.

"Father!" Sonja cried out in shock and worry that her father may have taken a deadly blow.

Kindle snickered at the sight of Kanbei being wounded and said, "Looks like someone's already willing to sacrifice his life for the girl over there. Now if I were you, I'd dropped my weapons and come quietly as prisoners."

Andy started looking at his claws and remembered how sharp they had been to cut Sonja. Then he looked at Kindle and thought, *'No way, we're not going to surrender now. We'll all end up dead, either way. So it's better fight back in this one. If I can get to Kindle quickly before she shoots, then Sonja will be saved. I have to try and take this shot now.'* He planned on getting close to Kindle and attack her with his claws and fangs, which were probably sharp as well. Andy pumped up adrenaline into his body so that he could build up his reaction time and ran towards Kindle as he yelled, "Hey Kindle!"

"What?!" the tall red-haired woman said as she whipped her head to Andy up close to her and the boy started attacking her. He scratched his claws down all over her body and ripped holes into her black dress. Andy also lifted his head up to bite onto the side of her neck and dig his fangs in. Kindle screamed as the werewolf savagely clawed and bit her.

Lash watched Andy attacked Kindle viciously and cheered, "Go Andy go! Turn that ugly red-haired witch into ground meat, so that I can feed her to my dogs later!"

Colin looked at Lash confusedly and asked, "You have dogs at home?"

Koal saw his superior getting mauled by the Orange Star CO as he shouted in worry, "Kindle!" That was when Kanbei took the chance to get his revenge on his foe by slashing his sword across the short man's throat and drawing blood. The dying Koal dropped his katana and collapsed onto the floor where he never moved a muscle again. Von Bolt temporarily woke up and saw the scene in front of him. The old man pushed the red button on his chair to call for reinforcements into the lab before he went back to sleep again.

Kindle yelled, "Aahhhh, get off of me, you savage creature! I'll kill you!" She moved her gun and shot Andy on his back. Then after the boy stopped attack and let go of Kindle's neck, the Bolt Guard woman pushed him off and shot him again on the knee.

"Andy!" the Allied Nation COs shouted as the boy groaned and screamed in pain.

Sasha glared at Kindle and yelled, "You monster, how could you attack an innocent child like that?!"

Kindle retorted, "Innocent? Don't play me for a fool. That vicious and barbaric animal over there tried to make an attempt on my life. So he got what he deserved."

Hawke told her, "And you're not any better either, Kindle. So that means you too deserve death as well." He aimed his gun at her and told her, "Say your prayers quickly, woman."

Suddenly, Black Hole soldiers burst into the lab and they all aimed their guns at the COs. "Ah fiddlesticks!" Colin said in despair.

Kindle said to everyone, "Hahahaha, it seems like the tables have turned once again, Hawke. But this time, I'm not going to show any mercy to any of you. So instead, because all of you have been nuisances the whole time, I'm afraid we're going to have to put you all out of your misery." Then she ordered the soldiers, "Alright men, you know what to do. Pull the triggers and-" Suddenly an explosion occurred and destroyed the ceiling of the laboratory. Everybody, even Kindle and the Black Hole soldiers, screamed out in fright as they all thought they might get caught up into the explosion, but fortunately they didn't.

As clouds of dust and smoke formed around the room, Colin asked, "W-what the heck just happened?!"

"I have no idea," Sasha replied. Soon the clouds vanished and everything became clear again. Everyone looked up at the starry sky and saw that the first and upper floors of the mansion had been completely destroyed as they weren't there anymore. They also saw Yellow Comet battle copters hovering in the sky and tanks over on the cliffs with some infantry soldiers looking down at them.

Kanbei said in a very glad tone, "My army, they've finally arrived."

One of the Yellow Comet soldiers asked, "Commander Kanbei, are you alright?"

Kanbei told them, "Yes we are, thanks to you. But now I need you to destroy Black Hole soldiers before they kill us."

"Right away, commander," another Yellow Comet soldier said. Then battle copters, tanks, and infantry started shooting their machine guns at the Black Hole soldiers below. The Black Hole soldiers tried to fight back against their attackers by shooting back at them, but they were brought down by their enemies' superior firepower. The COs watched with cheer as the Black Hole soldiers were all taken out one by one until they were dead.

Kindle became terrified as she was totally out of ideas and plans on how she was going to save herself and Von Bolt now. "No!" she whimpered.

Hawke looked at Kindle and said, "It's just like what you said a few minutes ago Kindle, the tables have turned once again." Then he pointed his gun at Kindle and held his finger tightly on the trigger.

Kindle begged for mercy as she slowly backed away, "No, no, no! Please Hawke, just spare my life. I'll do anything for you!" Then a pair of hands grabbed her shoulders from behind and she felt sharp dagger-like teeth piercing into her neck.

Life ebbed out of Kindle and went to the netherworld as Lash removed her vampire fangs from the woman's neck and let her drop to the floor. Lash insulted, "Take that, you evil stuck-up witch!"

Hawke watched Kindle die as he said, "Now that all three members of the Bolt Guard are dead, it's time to take out that life-sucking leech and put him out of his misery for good." Then he went over to where Von Bolt was and said, "Happy Halloween, Von Bolt." Hawke was intent on correcting the mistake Jake did on sparing Von Bolt's life by killing the man himself. He aimed at Von Bolt and killed him by shooting him in the chest. He said, "There, my work here is done."

Sasha asked, "So what are you going to do now, Hawke?"

Hawke told her, "I'm going to go home and get some rest. You should take your friends to the hospital now, because they'll need to get treated soon."

Kanbei said to Hawke, "Right, Andy and I should definitely see a doctor now." Then he looked up at the battle copters and asked out loud, "Soldiers, did you bring a transport copter with you?"

The soldier replied, "No, we just thought you might use your limo to take you guys to safety, since you didn't ask for one earlier, commander."

Kanbei asked, "Well then, did you bring a ladder with you?"

"We sure did," the soldier answered. Then the infantry unrolled the rescue ladder down into the lab. Colin was the first to climb up the ladder and then he was followed by Sasha, who in turn was followed by Lash. Next came Kanbei who escorted Sonja to the ladder and let her go up first before he went on after her.

As they climbed up, Kanbei noticed his daughter using only her hands and her left leg to go up in a slightly awkward manner. He asked her, "Sonja, what's wrong with your other leg? Why aren't you using it to climb?"

Sonja told him, "I got shot on that leg when Andy and I were trying to escape a pursuing tank attacking us."

Kanbei said to her, "Then you need to see a doctor as well when we get to the hospital."

Hawke picked up Andy off the floor and carried him up the ladder. The werewolf boy was still in pain as he asked with gritted teeth, "So Hawke, what were you doing here at the mansion?"

Hawke told him, "Just trying to put an end to our old enemies, that's all." Then they all walked all the way back to the limo and got inside. Hawke didn't go in as he decided to walk home alone.

Andy unrolled the window and said his farewell, "Thanks Hawke and Happy Halloween!"

Hawke the lone wolf said, "I don't celebrate Halloween, kid and you can keep your thanks to yourself." He didn't like to take credit of being a hero even if he did save their lives. Then the limo drove out of the park and went to the hospital.