

# A Tale Of Two Swords

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*Matt Khan and Argol Vazin. Two very different people from two very different worlds. What happens when fate brings them both together to rise up and fight for the ones that they care about? You'll have to read on to find out!*

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# 1 - Prelude

## PRELUDE

Red exited the portal from the Dragon Realm and stepped into the dark, dank cave. According to his contact, this realm was where he would find the underworld. Red looked around and, noticing that there was nothing inhabiting the cave, walked towards the cave entrance. There was a short breeze that waded through his short black hair and caused his blue eyes to dart around the cave in search of the cause of it. When he was satisfied that there was nothing around him he continued walking to the entrance of the cave. He was halfway to the entrance when bandits appeared, blocking his path. Red drew his two katanas thinking that the bandits would surely try and rob him, and the bandits seeing that this strange man seemed to want a fight decided to give him one. Two of the bandits entered the cave while a third called for backup. The two bandits charged at Red expecting an easy fight but they were mistaken. Red parried each bandit's attack with his katanas and, as the bandits fell forward and behind Red, he stabbed each in the back, piercing through each bandit's heart. A few moments later fifteen more bandits appeared at the cave entrance and, upon seeing their comrades' lifeless bodies, ran into the cave with their weapons drawn. They formed a circle around Red to stop him from escaping and slowly closed in on their new enemy. Red knew that even he couldn't fight off all of these bandits but he would die trying. Two of the bandits stepped forward to try and claim the honor of killing such a powerful enemy. The first bandit foolishly tried to attack Red by himself and ended up getting a katana through his stomach. The second bandit simply nodded as a third bandit stepped up behind Red with a dagger poised to kill. The second bandit then lunged at Red to distract him from the third bandit at Red's back. The second bandit may have died as a result of two katanas through each of his kidneys but his distraction had worked and the third bandit was bringing his dagger down to stab Red through the back. The dagger would have met its target but a wolf's howl distracted everyone as they looked to see what had caused the sound. Everyone saw a giant wolf standing there growling and were suddenly struck with so much fear that they couldn't move. The giant wolf took this opportunity to run towards the bandit about to stab Red and pounce on him, taking the man down to the ground. The giant wolf then proceeded to rip out the bandit's jugular before moving on to the nearest bandit. Red let out a sigh of relief when he saw that the wolf was on his side and began slashing at the rest of the bandits. Red and the giant wolf fought together, side by side, until finally all of the bandits were lying on the ground, dead. Red placed his katanas in their sheaths on his back and was about to thank the giant wolf when it turned on him and started growling. The wolf was about to pounce on Red's chest when a man's voice called out.

"RAGNOR, SIT!"

Almost at once the giant wolf sat down and began panting, its tongue lolling all around the place. All of a sudden a man and a woman appeared at the cave entrance and walked in with their weapons drawn. The man wielded two gladius' and the woman was holding a lance. The two walked towards the giant wolf and its ears suddenly stood up. The wolf stood up and happily strolled over towards the two and sat itself down next to the man who patted it on the head and whispered to it, Good job. The woman sat down next to the wolf and began patting it all over and saying he was a good boy. The wolf seemed to love the sudden rush of attention so much that he began licking at the woman's face, making her giggle. The man continued his walk until he had emerged from the shadows of the cave to reveal his short blonde hair and deep blue eyes.

“Who are you?” questioned the man.

“My name is Red Dragon, who would you be?” Red asked back.

“I am Lone Wolf, leader of the Moon Warriors. These two are my companions; Skye Lana and my wolf Ragnor” replied the man.

Lone Wolf looked Red over suspiciously and was about to put his weapons away when a creature lunged out of the portal that Red came through, pinned Wolf to the floor and started licking at the man’s face. Red laughed and eventually told the creature to heel. “What the hell is that thing?” asked Wolf as he picked himself off the ground.

“Haven’t you ever seen a dragon before?” questioned Red.

“I’ve heard tales about them but they say that dragons are massive creatures, this one’s small in comparison” stated Wolf.

“That would be because he’s a baby dragon” Red told him.

Red laughed again as the dragon ran over to the giant wolf and licked its face and then playfully ran off. The giant wolf seeing that it was a game, chased after it in an attempt to lick it back. This sight even made Wolf chuckle to himself.

“So,” began Wolf “where did you come from?”

“I come from the Dragon Realm, I came to this realm through the portal behind me” stated Red.

“Wait a minute, are you saying there are other worlds?” asked Wolf in surprise.

“Millions of them” replied Red.

“Okay well how about you explain this more to me at my manor, it’s just over the hills outside this cave” stated Wolf.

Red, seeing this as a good opportunity to learn more about this realm and its people, decided to go with them.

## 2 - Red's Background

### CHAPTER ONE: RED'S BACKGROUND

Argol Vazin. It was his real name but Red Dragon hadn't used it in such a long time. Argol had grown up as an adopted kid. The boy knew it but it never bothered him because he had two loving parents who cared for him. He had decided that one day he was going to look for his real parents, but until then he was going to enjoy a happy childhood. Growing up, Argol had a few friends but the friend he was closest to was a young girl named Amy. Argol and Amy grew up together. The two were always close to each other but when they started school they made new friends and new interests. Despite this though, the two still stayed close.

During their third year at school, Argol witnessed Amy being attacked by a bully. Argol couldn't bear the sight of Amy being hurt so he ran after the bully who, in the end, turned on Argol. Argol and the bully fought for several moments trading blows, a hit to the jaw and a fist to the stomach, but Argol was no match for the tough bully and soon he was on the ground. The bully walked back over to Amy with his fist clenched, ready to pulverise the girl for what Argol had done to him. Argol took one look at the bully threatening Amy and a fit of rage swept over him. Argol lunged at the bully with outstretched arms. He pinned the bully to the ground and his vision became blurred and red. The next thing Argol can remember was staring at the torn up and bloody body of the bully while people screamed and cried around him. Argol glanced over to Amy who looked a deathly pale, like she had seen a ghost. He looked down at his hands. They were covered in red scales and had turned into claws. Not knowing what to do, Argol fled.

Several hours later, the boy awoke on a comfy bed in a massive room full of elaborate paintings and expensive furniture. Argol got up and walked over to the mirror. He looked at his reflection and saw a frightful creature staring back. Argol screamed. The creature had massive red wings, scaled claws, a red tail and demon-like eyes. Argol kept screaming until he realised that the creature staring back at him was himself. Argol broke down and cried. Moments later the door to the room opened up and an impressive looking man walked in. Argol immediately recognised the man as king Bahu.

\* \* \*

For many years Argol trained under the guidance of Bahu. He learned that he was a Dragon Warrior, a special person who was gifted with dragon abilities and that Bahu was in fact Bahumut, king of the dragons. The others that trained alongside Argol were Malena and Manta. Malena was the daughter of Bahu but Manta was not actually a Dragon Warrior, just an orphan that Bahu had taken under his wing. Malena had blue eyes like Argol and long pink hair that went past her shoulders. Manta had green eyes and long grey, spiky hair. All three became good friends and each had their own strengths. Argol was the fighter and could take down the other two without too much trouble; Malena was the spell caster and easily beat the others when it came down to magic; and as for Manta, he was the weapon smith. Manta made extraordinary weapons and had a particular fascination with guns. Manta could talk for hours on any gun so the other two never bothered to bring up the subject of guns again after they had done so the first time. As Argol reached his teens he decided to venture out and find out about his real parents and his childhood friend Amy. Bahumut understood the boy's quest for information and presented two magnificent katanas to Argol. Bahu told Argol that those swords belonged to his son. Argol looked at the swords in amazement and picked them up. Bahu then told Argol that only his blood could touch the

swords. Argol's heart nearly leapt out of his chest when he realised what Bahu had meant by his words.

\* \* \*

Knowing who his father was had made Argol stay and continue on with his training. Argol soon earned the nickname Red Dragon from his sister Malena and Manta. The two thought that it would strike fear into the hearts of any enemies but Argol, being 19, just laughed at the idea and kept the name anyway. Argol would practice magic with his sister, sure he was good at magic but she would always end up severely hurting him in the end. While Argol and Malena were training, Manta would be tinkering with electronics and creating new weapons. Manta could give full descriptions about any weapon that was placed in his hand and always would before he handed a weapon over to anyone.

One night while Manta was busy making weapons and Argol trained with his sister, a strange visitor appeared. She wore only black and she called herself Shadow. The girl was young, about Argol's age and had long black hair with pale skin and white eyes. For some reason Argol had the feeling that he knew this girl. Argol invited Shadow to stay with them and she accepted. Over time, everybody learnt that she was hiding from someone. Argol and Shadow became good friends. Shadow had feelings for Argol but because of his memories of Amy, he never got too close. Argol and Shadow would trade stories of their past and on one particular evening they talked about their childhood. As the stories went on Argol slowly worked out that this person next to him was his childhood friend Amy by piecing together some of her stories and soon she was aware too. Argol and Amy stayed close to each other for several months in fear of losing each other again until the person who was after Amy appeared at Bahumut's doors one day. The man was a powerful warrior and Argol could not stop him. Argol noticed that the warrior was one of Tiamat's lackeys. Manta watched helplessly as Amy was killed in the most horrible death imaginable; her body disintegrated leaving only a small pile of dust. Argol exploded with a fit of rage and experienced a power he had never felt before. The Blazing claws alight; Argol attacked and killed the warrior. As the warrior died he laughed and said he would one day return. Argol immediately began digging up information on how to get Amy back. He spent countless days within the library of the palace reading books until he came across an old tome. Argol read the book and found out about a realm called Soul Earth, a place where souls go after they leave the body of the corpse. He read on to discover that the realm was actually full of the living and that the souls went to a place called the underworld. There were apparently five weapons of legend within this realm called Underworld Fire, Underworld Cold, Underworld Thunder, Underworld Shadow, and Underworld Light. The weapons would apparently appear as an emblem until placed into the hands of its wielder where it would change into a weapon that the wielder felt most comfortable in using. Argol kept reading to discover that these weapon's powers would always stay the same and that the weapons were separated into two groups. Fire, Cold, and Thunder were placed into the first group as the lower legendary weapons. Shadow and Light were placed into the second group as the upper legendary weapons. The book also read that Shadow and Light had the power to take and restore souls as well as the power over darkness and light. Argol knew that he had to go to this realm and obtain Underworld Light. It was his only hope to get Amy back and finally put Tiamat in her place. Argol told the other two his plan and all three worked together to find a way into Soul Earth.

\* \* \*

"Hey Manta did you get the information for me?"

"Yeah Red, I don't think you'll have to alter much of your battle fatigue just no guns, but everything else is ok" replied the Weapon Smith.

“Great so do you have anything to help me blend in?” asked Red.

“Well there seems to be a group of warriors mentioned in the book that you read. Apparently they are called the Moon Warriors. You might want to stay away from them if you can” replied Manta again.

Red was about to go seek out Malena when the Dragon Mage rounded the corner of the hall and came running up to Red. Malena held out a purple vial and gave it to Red.

“Here, this will create you a portal into Soul Earth, but be careful as it can only be used to get you there, not back again”

Red thanked his sister for the potion and strode off into an empty room. Red murmured an incantation and then threw the potion onto the ground. The vial smashed as it hit the ground and purple smoke filled the room. When the smoke cleared a purple portal was imbedded into the wall that Red was facing. Red took one last look at his surroundings and stepped through.

Red exited the portal from the Dragon Realm and stepped into the dark, dank cave. According to Manta, this realm was where he would find the underworld. Red looked around and, noticing that there was nothing inhabiting the cave, walked towards the cave entrance. What Red didn't notice was a shadowy figure step through the portal after him.

### 3 - Wolf's History

#### CHAPTER TWO: WOLF'S HISTORY

The boy born as Matt Khan has long since been forgotten. He was known now as Lone Wolf and only his friends would survive if they called him Matt. Matt was born in a little cottage surrounded by a big forest and lake in Glasgow. Matt's mother, Denise Khan, was a kind and gentle woman that stayed home to look after Matt while his father, Eric Khan, went out to fish in the local lake. Eric would always bring home three big fish every night for dinner and Matt would go collect the eggs from their chickens for breakfast the next morning. One night though, Denise got pregnant again and eventually gave birth to a second child, which they named Alex. Alex and Matt were 17 months apart in age but still managed to get along well with each other. The family adapted well to the new addition, Matt even taught Alex to bring the eggs inside with him. When the two got a little older they would always talk about one day leaving Scotland and traversing the world in search of adventure. Matt and Alex lived a happy and enjoyable life until their parents disappeared one day and left Matt and Alex to fend for themselves when they were just 15 and 13 years of age. The boys went well for the first few weeks, Alex took out the family boat and went fishing while Matt went into the local forest and hunted small animals. One day, Matt came across a wolf with a broken leg and a magnificent coat of fur. Matt carried the wolf home, sat it on top of the dining table, cleaned the wound, and splintered the leg so that the wolf could walk again. He lowered the wolf off of the table where it turned to him and said, "I am Hati, son of the god Fenrisulfr. You have done a great deed in helping me so I shall make you one of my clan and grant you the abilities of my kind. You shall now be known as Lone Wolf, a member of the Norse". With that, the wolf disappeared into the night. Matt felt incredibly sleepy and tried to stumble over to his bed. It was no use. Matt collapsed on the floor. Alex came back from fishing and tried to wake up his brother but to no avail. So Alex heaved with all his might and lifted his brother onto his bed. He would just have to look after his brother while he slept.

\* \* \*

"Hey, what are you doing?!?! NO...NOOOOOO!!!"

Matt awoke 2 years later in a sweat. He immediately went to see if his brother had come back from fishing yet, thinking that he had only slept for 20 minutes. He walked past the mirror and had a quick glance before he continued on.

"Huh?"

Matt walked back to the mirror and nearly panicked. His facial features had changed slightly and he had grown a light beard across his face. Matt had to find his brother. He raided his father's closet and found a grey tunic with some matching grey pants. Matt slipped them on and found some black braces and black buckled boots to put on. Matt then went over to his father's dark grey hunting cloak and put it on around his neck. He then ran outside.

"ALEX, WHERE ARE YOU?"

Matt didn't hear a reply so ran into the forest. He noticed that his speed had increased drastically.

"What in the world?"

Matt smelt something on the air; it was his brother. Matt wondered how he could smell so clearly and then remembered back to before he had entered the slumber. That wolf, Hati, had said something. I

shall make you one of my clan and grant you the abilities of my kind. The words echoed through his mind. Matt now had the abilities of a wolf. What else had Hati said? You shall now be known as Lone Wolf. Matt thought to himself: Why not? I'll call myself Lone Wolf from now on. I like the sound of that! Matt then realised that he was still trying to find his brother so he followed the scent for miles and travelled all the way to Greece. The scent continued on but a giant door was blocking Matt's way. Matt tried with all his might to open the door until a figure covered in black smoke appeared. A booming voice came from the figure.

"Who are you to try and enter the Underworld?" asked the man.

"I WANT MY BROTHER!!!" Matt yelled in reply.

"And you think I, Hades, am going to give him to you?" said the man in an evil tone.

"I WANT MY BROTHER!!!" Matt yelled again.

Hades saw the anger in the man's eyes and decided that this would be a good chance to manipulate someone into retrieving Underworld Shadow.

"Tell you what" began Hades "If you bring to me a sword called Underworld Shadow then I will give you your brother back".

"If you're so powerful, why don't you go and get it yourself?" asked Matt.

"Well my brother Zeus has bound me to the Underworld. This is as far as I can go. It is like an invisible chain is holding me back and I can't break free. That is where you come in. You fight your way past other warriors and retrieve Underworld Shadow for me" replied Hades in a cool tone.

"But I have no weapons, how will I fight?" questioned Matt.

Hades conjured up two gladius' in their sheaths.

"The gladius in the blue sheath is Underworld Cold and the gladius in the red sheath is Underworld Fire. For dressing purposes, the swords are to be worn on your back in a cross pattern. The sheath of Underworld Cold is to be worn behind the right shoulder while the sheath of Underworld Fire is to be worn behind the left. If worn anywhere else you will begin to feel uneasy and the swords' powers will weaken. The blades of each sword have a unique ability. Underworld Fire is incredibly hot to the touch, while strangely radiating no heat in open air, and will rapidly heat up nearly any liquid or solid substance it is kept in contact with. Underworld Cold is freezing to the touch, while also not radiating cold in open air, and will rapidly chill nearly any liquid or solid substance it is kept in contact with. These two swords will guide you to their brother, Underworld Shadow. Use these swords and bring me back Underworld Shadow...Lone Wolf" and having said that, Hades disappeared in a puff of black smoke.

With that, Matt Khan set off as Lone Wolf on a hunt to find Underworld Shadow and regain his brother's soul.

\* \* \*

It had been 2 years since Matt had set off on the quest to get his brother back and he was now 19. He had learnt to control most of his abilities and had even discovered some new ones. He could now turn into a half-man half-wolf form, which increased his strength and speed. He also found that he could move at super sonic speed for short distances up to 20 metres. Matt called this his teleport ability because he got from one point to another so quickly that it looked like he had teleported. Matt had gathered much information on Underworld Shadow and his sources now led him back to a small town in Scotland where a tournament was being held. The town was small but there was a big stone mansion just outside of it. The prize of the tournament was said to be training from a wise old warrior called Ragnor. Matt didn't feel the need to participate, as he thought that he had all the training he needed, but watched the tournament with great interest. The tournament ring was a stone circle surrounded by a deep moat of water. Matt viewed as each of the contestants entered the ring and battled one another.



He watched the tournament for a while and was about to leave out of boredom when a girl of 18 named Skye Lana caught his eye. She had long black hair and wore purple ring pants along with a green tank top to match her beautiful green eyes. She wielded a basic lance, brown shaft, pointed tip, but she knew how to use it well. She was up against a man nearly twice her size but she took him out within 10 seconds. Matt got more and more fascinated by the girl every time she battled and when she was eventually proclaimed the tournament champion Matt knew he had to talk to her. Ragnor awarded the girl with a small bag of gold and the opportunity to train at his mansion. Skye saw no reason to not accept the training and walked back to the mansion with Ragnor. Matt surveyed them as they left and noted where the windows of the mansion were. He was going to talk to that girl.

Matt waited until nightfall came before breaking into the mansion. He used a grappling hook to pull himself up to one of the windows and leapt quietly through it. He hit the ground with a soft 'thud' and quickly ran to the one place where a training ground would likely be, in the basement. Matt was correct and found a secret passageway into an underground cave lit with torches. Matt saw a lot of training equipment there such as leather punching bags, straw practice dummies and weights. He snuck silently through the cave, not disturbing the people training until he found the girl he was looking for. Matt was about to tap the girl on the shoulder when one of cave's guards spotted him and sounded the alarm. Within seconds guards surrounded him. The girl ran off and decided to let the guards handle the intruder. Matt quickly got in multiple slashes while the guards were trying to circle him and managed to defeat 2 guards. This just angered the rest of them who all rushed in and attacked him at the same time. Matt tried his best to put up a defence but multiple cuts started appearing on his body. Matt let out a howl of anger and morphed into his wolf form, knocking back 10 guards as he did so. The 3 guards that remained by Matt's side were eventually sent flying backwards with one swing of Matt's hand. He let out another howl as the guards surrounded him again. They were all about to attack when a shout was heard.

"ENOUGH!!"

The guards nearest to the source of the shout cleared a path as an old man stepped into the circle. Ragnor was dressed in a purple silk garment, probably the clothes he wore to bed. It seemed that all the noise had woken the man up. Ragnor looked Matt over carefully while he was changing back into his human form.

"Interesting. You change into a wolf form yet you are not a werewolf for two simple reasons. One, you seem to be able to control when you turn into a wolf. Two, You retain your human mind while in this form"

Ragnor looked the man over once more.

"Come, we have much to speak of"

\* \* \*

Matt had been training with Skye for just under a year now. The two had become close and often pushed each other to the limit when training. The two would rely on each other to solve a problem or just to spar for a few rounds. They were Ragnor's two top students and on their graduation day, Ragnor pulled the two aside and brought them into the den of the mansion. The den was decorated with lush red velvet on the floor and had many expensive paintings surrounding the walls. The most standout feature of the room was the old stone fireplace surrounded by two couches and a chair. Ragnor sat down in the single chair while Matt and Skye shared one of the couches. Ragnor looked at the two and thought that they made a good couple. He knew that Skye liked Matt because of the look she got in her eyes when they were near each other, but as for Matt...well his face was always hard to read. Ragnor then remembered why he was there and told the two how proud he was of them and how much progress they

had made. He then went on to tell them that he was dying.

“There is something I have to tell the both of you...I was a werewolf. I rid myself of the curse by trapping my powers into that painting of me you see hanging above that fireplace. Every full moon the picture turns into a werewolf. Must be one of the side affects”

Matt already knew this. It was why Ragnor had asked him so many questions about his wolf form that night. Skye wasn't shocked either, as she had seen the painting on a full moon once, but still continued to listen.

“I have decided to take one last trip into the woods. It is where I belong. I won't be coming back so I wanted to leave you both something” Ragnor said.

To Matt he left the mansion, along with the Moon Warriors. He said that Matt was a vigorous trainer and would be able to push the Moon Warriors to their limit. Matt just gave a simple nod and Ragnor looked over to Skye. Ragnor stood up from his chair and left the room. He appeared moments later with a brilliantly made lance in his hand. The lance had been made particularly for Skye, as it was a straight white lance shaft with two snakes intertwining each other designed along it. The point of the lance was made to look like a unicorn's horn and was emitting a faint white glow. Skye accepted the lance with her thanks.

Matt and Skye looked on as their master left the village to die in the woods where he belonged. It was about 1 month later, on a rainy day, when a large wolf appeared at the front door of the mansion. Matt let it in and sensed that this wolf was somehow familiar. The wolf trotted through the house and entered the den where it curled up underneath the fireplace. Matt followed the wolf and suddenly realised who this wolf was. It seemed that his master had been reincarnated as a wolf. Matt called to it.

“Ragnor, here boy”

The giant wolf instantly stood up, walked over to Matt and licked his hand. Matt took the wolf down into the cave and began training him...

\* \* \*

Matt had trained the Moon Warriors for a month now and felt that he could now leave them for extended periods to hunt for information on Underworld Shadow, while his top student Vivian took over. Matt never left anywhere without Skye and Ragnor by his side. Matt had heard that some bandits had sat up base in a cave nearby his mansion so he and his companions went out to investigate it. They stopped just before the cave and heard a fight happening on the inside. Matt looked into the cave and saw a warrior wielding two katanas battling against the bandits.

“Ragnor, go help him out”

The wolf howled as it entered the cave and fought side by side with the strange warrior until all of the bandits were dead. The strange warrior placed his katanas in their sheaths on his back and was about to thank the giant wolf when it turned on him and started growling. The wolf was about to pounce on his chest when Matt called out.

“RAGNOR, SIT!”

Almost at once the giant wolf sat down and began panting, its tongue lolling all around the place. Matt and Skye appeared at the cave entrance and walked in with their weapons drawn...

## 4 - A Similar Cause

### CHAPTER THREE: A SIMILAR CAUSE

Red was welcomed into the mansion by the smell of a roast cooking. It tantalised him until he began to drool over the delicious smell. Matt looked at Red's face and grinned widely.

"Smells good doesn't it?" asked Matt, though he needed no answer.

Matt and Skye showed Red into the dining room where a massive table made of oak stood, surrounded by twelve comfy looking chairs. Matt sat down at the head of the table and beckoned Red and Skye to sit on either side of him. Skye took her usual seat to the right of Matt so Red sat down on the man's left. Ragnor sat down on the floor next to Matt while seven other people came walking into the dining room and seating themselves at the table. All of the people that entered looked at the newcomer, Red, but trusted their leader's decision to bring the man into the house and so didn't question him. Once everyone was seated, Matt got up and headed into the nearest room. A few minutes passed and Skye got up and headed into the room too. Red was puzzled but after a few moments he saw why the two had gone into the other room. They came back out with massive plates of food followed by another woman who was also carrying food. On the main plate there was a succulent looking pig surrounded by roast potatoes, roast carrots and lettuce. Other plates contained chicken, turkey, more roast potatoes, roast lamb and a variety of vegetables. Matt entered the kitchen once more and came out with plates and cutlery. Skye took the cutlery off his hands and started at one end of the table giving everyone a knife and fork. Matt started at the other end and placed a plate in front of everyone until everyone had a plate and cutlery. The three people were about to sit down when the woman that had come out of the kitchen suddenly cried out.

"Don't start yet! I forgot the gravy!"

"Sit down Vivian, you've already cooked us this wonderful meal" stated Matt

"Well I can't take all the credit; you went out and got me the lamb and pig"

"Just sit down and let me get it"

With that, Matt teleported into the kitchen and came back out with 3 jugs of gravy and placed them on the table.

"Now we can eat" said Vivian

"Not yet. We have to give thanks" corrected Matt.

By this time Red was about to die. There was this lovely pile of food on the table and he couldn't eat it yet. Matt said a quick little prayer in a language that only Ragnor seemed to understand, because after Matt had finished the wolf let out a quick bark and then everyone began to eat. Matt watched as everyone dug into the meal and disappeared into the kitchen once more. This time he reappeared with a big leg of ham and tossed it to Ragnor who caught it in his mouth and lay down on the ground munching at it. Matt calmly walked over to his seat and served himself a load of roast potatoes with gravy and began eating.

\* \* \*

Dinner had finished now and everyone sat there rubbing his or her stomachs. There was one potato left and Red reached for it. Matt was too quick though and stuffed the potato in his mouth before Red had a chance. Red just looked at Matt who grinned from ear to ear. Red looked over at Skye who told him a

simple answer.

“He loves his potatoes”

Red sat in his chair and sulked for a bit until Matt caught his attention.

“So Red, shall we spar?” asked Matt

Red looked at him confused.

“I’ve always said that you can tell what kind of a person someone is by fighting them”

Red thought about the idea for a second and then gave a quick nod. He wanted to find out about how this warrior fought and if he was worthy to be told the truth. Matt got up from the table and led everyone down into the caves below. He showed Red into a small smooth circle outlined by padding. The two stood facing each other for a moment before they both drew their weapons and lunged at each other. The sound of their swords meeting deafened everybody’s ears. Matt fought quickly, moving his swords with speed but also grace. It was like his swords were on a constant move. Every change in direction seemed to flow together somehow. Red fought with endurance, taking all of the blows thrown at him and dishing out some punishment of his own. Matt struck Red’s shoulder and sent him to the ground in pain. Matt jumped into the air bringing his swords down. Red blocked the incoming attack with one of his katanas and used the other to cut into Matt’s side. Matt roared with pain and lunged at Red recklessly. Red roundhouse kicked Matt in the face sending him flying into the nearest wall. Matt used his legs to push off of the wall just before he collided with it, lunging at Red. The two men’s swords met again. They each had their first swords blocking the others and their second swords at each other’s throats. “It seems we are evenly matched Red Dragon” stated Matt.

“Indeed” agreed Red.

The two stared at each other for another moment and then sheathed their weapons. The two shook hands and then bowed to the rest of the Moon Warriors who were now cheering furiously. They had never seen someone match the power level of Lone Wolf before and seeing a fight like that was a once in a lifetime opportunity for them. Matt smirked at the others and Red laughed as Ragnor and Inferno ran around in circles, it was truly a sight to behold.

“You are a person who fights with honour, but there is something about your past that troubles you” stated Matt.

Red looked at him for a moment, amazed that Wolf could truly tell what kind of person someone is by fighting them.

“I think that is best left for a private discussion” Red answered.

Matt took the hint and left the others to train while he and Red entered the den of the mansion and sat down. Matt sat at the two-person couch while Red seated himself in a comfy chair.

“So...what has had you eating yourself alive?”

Red told Wolf about his past, describing Amy’s death with such extreme detail that it made Wolf want to throw up. He then told Wolf how he had found out about this realm called Soul Earth that possessed a means that might be able to bring Amy back and defeat an evil wyrm lord named Tiamat. Wolf didn’t know what a wyrm was but the words “evil” and “lord” gave him a clear idea of what kind of a person Tiamat was.

“So you came to this realm in search of a way to bring back Amy? Well I guess we are more alike then I thought” Wolf said.

Red looked at him in puzzlement until Wolf spoke again.

“I think I should tell you about my history too”

There was a creak at the door and Wolf sniffed the air. He then went to the door and opened it. There sat Skye and Ragnor, listening in on the conversation.

“How much did you hear?” asked Wolf.

“Well we only heard you say ‘I think I should tell you about my history too’ and well...I got a bit excited.

You've never told anyone about your past before. Not even me or Ragnor. I was trying to lean against the door and listen in better when the stupid floorboard gave me away" replied Skye.

Matt looked at her. Looked past her beautiful green eyes and into her soul. She was telling the truth.

Matt let out a sigh.

"I suppose its time I told you two as well. Alright come on in"

He waved a hand toward one of the couches and sat down. Ragnor immediately jumped up on the seat next to Matt leaving nowhere for Skye to sit. She looked around the room for a bit as if hoping for another chair to magically appear, then, giving up, sat down on Matt's lap. Matt blushed a bit but quickly busied himself by recounting what he could of his childhood, his slumber, his meet with Hades, and his invitation to the Moon Warriors. After he was finished Skye was staring at him, shocked.

"You had a brother?!?!"

"Yes" replied Matt.

It was all he could say. He didn't like talking about his brother. It brought up emotions and painful memories that he would rather forget. Red just nodded though.

"So we are two of a kind with a similar cause then." Red stated.

Wolf simply nodded.

"How about we help each other out? It might do us some good" suggested Red.

Matt thought about this for a while. The two would be able to help each other get back the people they had lost.

"It's a deal then?" asked Red, holding out his hand.

Matt took Red's hand and shook it.

"Deal"

## 5 - Divide And Conquer

### CHAPTER FOUR: DIVIDE AND CONQUER

For a few months now, Red and Inferno had stayed at Matt's mansion. Everyday, Inferno went out hunting for small animals with Ragnor while Matt and Red trained in the caves. For some reason the two could never out power each other and always ended up in a tie. The other Moon Warriors watched as the two fought and would always cheer furiously when the battle ended, each battle was always different and it entertained them all immensely. After the battle had finished Matt would tell the others to get back to their training and would leave Vivian in charge. Matt and Red would then go hunting and would try and find Ragnor and Inferno. When they eventually did catch up to the two animals, they were usually either rolling around play fighting or trying to chase the other's tail. Matt and Red would then bring the two inside and sit down at the table just in time to have lunch. All was going well until Red announced that he would be leaving at one such lunch.

"What?!?! Why?" questioned Matt.

"I have a lead and I need to follow it, for Amy" Red replied.

Matt understood Red's drive all too well and the following day he bid farewell to his new friend. Red went to Europe in search of his contact, unaware that Matt was following him. When Red eventually came across the house of his contact, he saw that it was engulfed in flames. Red turned into his dragon form so that he would not be hurt by the flames and entered the house. After several minutes of searching, Red came across what looked like a werewolf, although it didn't have the murderous presence of one. The wolf creature immediately attacked, but Red shielded himself and fought back. The two fought for what seemed like an eternity, parrying each other's attacks, evading swings, taking blows. Red eventually noticed the way this wolf creature fought and stopped. He took a step back and then changed into a human again. The wolf creature looked shocked and did the same thing.

"I see why they call you Red Dragon" said the man.

"The same goes for you Lone Wolf" replied Red.

The two traded smirks and then searched the rest of the place, unaware of the shadowy figure watching them.

\* \* \*

Lone Wolf and Red Dragon separated. Red went to London to follow a different lead and Wolf went back to Glasgow to check up on the Moon Warriors. As Red approached London a young man and woman stopped him. The couple was of an asian appearance. The man was bald and wore an orange garb. His weapon looked like a pitchfork but it had the three prongs at each end of the staff. The woman had long brown hair that reached down past her shoulder blades and wore a purple silk brassiere and violent purple tights. The only weapon she seemed to have was a chinese sword with a pink ribbon attached to the hilt. The woman greeted him cheerfully while the man just stood back and relaxed.

"Hey there! Where are you going?" asked the woman.

"Uh hi, and you are?" Red asked back.

"My name's Lotus and this is my bodyguard Spade" replied the woman

"Hi I'm Argol, I'm going to London to meet someone" Red stated

"Great so are we, let's travel together!" suggested Lotus.

“Lotus, he may not wish to travel with us” Spade pointed out.

“No I’m cool, it’s good to travel with friendly people” said Red cheerfully.

The three travellers shared stories about themselves. Red had to alter a few things so he did not let on about his actual realm; he also never told them about being called Red Dragon. On their arrival, Red split from the other two and went searching for information, while Spade and Lotus decided to go to the local arena. It did not take Red long to pick up on the local gossip. After hearing about a woman with magic powers Red decided to look into it. He was about to give up when he came across a strange man who told Red the location of her manor and that the woman was one of Tiamat’s lackeys. Red thanked the strange man and headed for the location of this woman until he soon came across her manor. Red knocked on the door and waited until it opened. A beautiful woman with short blonde hair wearing only a pink bathrobe stood there yawning. Red, sensing the evil aura around her, drew his katanas and attacked. The woman dodged the attack and ran to the nearest table where she picked up a knife and threw it at Red. The knife hit his chest. He was bleeding. Badly. The knife had only just missed his heart but the blood loss would soon be too much so Red had to finish this fight quickly. The woman picked up another knife and threw it. She was too late though; Red was already on the move. He flipped over her and when she turned around to face him he had a sword at her throat.

“Where’s Tiamat?” Red asked angrily.

“Talked to any strange men lately?” she asked.

Red ignored the coincidence and continued the interrogation. He wasn’t that good at playing good cop, bad cop.

“Tell me what you know or I will end you!” shouted Red.

“So what did he tell you about me? That I was evil? Or did he say I knew something about what you want?” asked the woman.

“You know that man?” Red questioned.

“Well he is my brother so yes, I know him. We’re twins. Seems that he fooled you” she said.

“But why would he do that?” Red asked.

“Because he wants me dead. With me dead he inherits all of our parent’s fortune instead of just half. He always was the greedy type”

“So he’s the evil one?”

“Yes. Now kindly remove your sword from my throat!” she shouted.

\* \* \*

The woman Red now knew as Summer told him what she knew when he explained his situation. She agreed to join with Red in his search eventually but she had other things to do first. As Red left the manor, he caught a glimpse of a dark figure watching him from a nearby roof but when he turned to get a clear view of the figure, it vanished. Later that night he met up with Spade and Lotus. They had just returned from the arena and Lotus was wounded by an inhuman monster that struck her with its claws. Spade and Red took care of her wound and Lotus told Red what happened. Her opponent was called Red Dragon and he had wings, claws, a tail and demon like eyes. Red was shocked about this. This doppelganger also had the same dragon mark, the mark that each dragon warrior possessed. Red could not take this so he headed for the arena after getting Summer in hopes of finding this doppelganger. What waited for him was chaos, dead bodies lay left right and centre and two fierce warriors fought amongst the bodies. Red easily picked out his doppelganger. The second warrior was none other than his best friend Manta. He had a sword with a blood red blade, which showed that the blade was made from dragonite. Manta lunged at the doppelganger driving the sword deep in its chest. The doppelganger hit the ground with a soft thud and Manta bowed in respect to his best friend.

"Damn it Red, you got yourself possessed by Underworld Shadow. You were like a brother to me. I will not forgive that bloody sword, I will destroy it for you" Manta said.

"It's funny; no one shows their true feelings for you until you die"

"What would you know?" snapped Manta.

"Well unlike most people I just witnessed my own death" Red stated.

Manta turned around and saw his friend alive, healthy and not possessed.

"What...if you're there who did I just kill?" asked a now confused Manta

"A doppelganger sent to stop me from getting closer to the weapons"

"You bastard warn me before you do a thing like that. If you do that again I will kill you!" shouted Manta.

Red chuckled and the two smirked at each other. A mysterious warrior watched everything that happened but Red, expecting this, noticed the figure and chased it down. The chase only lasted a few minutes before Red had the warrior trapped. Manta came rushing in as Red conjured a flame, which illuminated the warrior's face.

"Holy shoot, you're dead!" cried Red in surprise.

"Funny, I don't feel dead" replied the warrior.

"It can't be, I saw you die with my own eyes!" protested Manta.

"Well, I'm back"



## 6 - A Fresh Scent

### CHAPTER FIVE: A FRESH SCENT

By now, Matt had reached Glasgow and was knocking on the door of his mansion. The door opened to reveal a ghost white Skye and the giant black wolf Ragnor. Skye threw her arms around Matt and began crying.

“Don’t you ever leave without me again! I thought that you had...had...”

Matt prised her arms from around his neck and wiped the tears from her eyes with his thumbs.

“I’m sorry, I had to track Red, I needed to find out where he was going”

“Well then why didn’t you tell me?” sobbed Skye.

Matt had an answer for this but he thought it best to not tell her that he thought she would slow him down. Instead, he thought of a different excuse.

“I didn’t have time. Red left in such a hurry that I had to leave without telling anybody” he replied quickly.

Matt hoped that she would buy it, even though he knew she didn’t. He never could bring himself to tell a good lie around her for some reason. Skye knew the real reason but decided not to bring the issue up.

“Well at least you’re back now” Skye said as she hugged him once more and then lead him into the mansion.

“We can’t stay long though, I picked up a scent while tracking Red” Matt stated.

This stopped Skye in her tracks. Ragnor had been about to leave but he knew that Matt had said the wrong thing and decided to stick around for the show.

“Why, what has this scent got to do with anything?” asked Skye in a stern voice.

Matt thought about not telling her for a second but then soon realised who he was dealing with and told her.

“The scent I picked up, it was an evil presence that was working for Underworld Shadow. The person was female I think and she was bathed in the stench of the weapon”

Skye stared at him for a second before finally speaking again.

“Well then, what are we waiting for? Let’s get going!”

Skye patted Ragnor on the head as she strode past him and picked up her lance. Ragnor sat there lolling his tongue, he was always happy when the three of them went travelling together. Meanwhile, Matt teleported down to the training cave and gathered the rest of the Moon Warriors.

“Alright everyone, I need you all to follow me as closely as you can without being seen” Matt told them.

“Where are we going?” asked a young man called Jenk.

“That’s not something I actually know” replied Matt.

The Moon Warriors were briefed on what Matt actually did know and where he had last smelt the scent. The Moon Warriors were like a family to Matt. To fully explain this you have to know the graduation ritual that all of the Moon Warriors go through when they have completed their basic training. For the ritual, the Moon Warriors are sent out into the local forest where all of the students split up to find their own personal shrine. These shrines come from the heavens and can only be seen by the person that discovers them, which is what makes them so important. Each shrine is dedicated to a different entity of the night or moon. If the students pray there they are granted powers related to that entity.

Unfortunately, some students have never returned and are said to have been absorbed by the forest.

The few students that survive then return upon finding their shrine and demonstrate their new abilities to

the leader of the Moon Warriors. What makes the current batch of Moon Warriors so special is that they all returned from the forest. There were currently ten Moon Warriors in total. There was of course Matt and Skye followed by eight others. Each Moon Warrior had their own position within the group as well as their own entity. The males were Anon the Shield Master who worshipped the Armadillo, Kin the Mage who worshipped the Big-eared bat, Gear the Archer who worshipped the Hedgehog, as well as Jenk the Monk who worshipped the Coyote. The females of the group were Vivian the Master Thief who worshipped the Owl, Rose the Ninja who worshipped the Heron, Celina the Tanker who worshipped the White Rhino, and Kyte the Scrapper who worshipped the Leopard. The Moon Warriors were always looking out for each other and all of them got along well. Sure, they had some arguments, but they always ended up resolving them in the end. There were also only two pets within the mansion. One of them was Ragnor with his black fur while the other was another wolf called Hex with white fur. Matt gave Hex to Vivian when she had graduated as the best out of the other eight Moon Warriors. The two immediately got along which Matt liked to see. That meant that there was twelve Moon Warriors in total, twelve friends under the leadership of Matt Khan now heading out to Europe in search of a woman working for Underworld Shadow.

“And remember, stay hidden until I give you the signal” Matt ordered.

\* \* \*

The group had travelled for a day now and had just crossed the borderline to Europe. Matt sniffed the air.

“It seems that our friend has moved further to the north”

Skye nodded and the group started to head further towards the coastline. They walked for what felt like half of the day until they reached a small lake in the middle of a large forest. Light was fading fast now so there was no use continuing on right now.

“We’ll set up camp for the night!” Matt yelled out to the hidden Moon Warriors. He then sat down next to the lake and watched the sun set in the sky. Ragnor trotted over with Skye and the two sat by his side.

“It’s beautiful isn’t it?” remarked Skye.

Matt looked at her as she was watching the sun set. There was something about her, something that seemed to make him feel comfortable and warm inside. At that moment Skye looked over at him and he cleared his throat.

“Um...ahhh...we should get some sleep” Matt said uncomfortably.

Skye lay down five metres from the water’s edge and gazed up into the trees. Matt sat up against one such tree and closed his eyes. He had been asleep for ten minutes when he opened his eyes and noticed that Skye had huddled up against him and was shivering. Matt took off his cloak and placed it over her. He then morphed into his wolf form to give Skye something warm to cling on to. Skye reshuffled her position and snuggled up to him. Matt smiled and then closed his eyes again.

When he awoke in the morning Skye was still clinging to him for warmth so he changed back into his human form and grabbed his cloak from Skye. Matt moved her slightly and whispered her name into her ear until she opened her eyes.

“Good morning” Matt said cheerfully as she smiled and rubbed her eyes. She noticed that he was sitting there with her huddled against him.

“Sorry, it was just so cold last night and...”

Matt just laughed and stood up.

“Don’t worry about it” chuckled Matt. He didn’t mind having her sleep against him. She was after all, a beautiful young woman. He had actually had the best nights sleep with her there, then he had since his

parents went missing. And then it hit him like a horse bucking. He had feelings for Skye. That's why he enjoyed her company so much and why he caught himself looking at her on many occasions. He looked down to see Ragnor licking at his hand.

"Thanks" he muttered before gathering his wits and moving the group out.

\* \* \*

They travelled north for another two days until Matt picked up a stronger version of the scent and they began heading east. They travelled for another half a day before setting up camp again and resting for the night. Another group had also camped nearby and were known for being a bunch of hot heads. Matt sat down and looked over in the direction of the other group. He couldn't see them but he could smell them. Skye looked at him with concern as he stared into the darkness of the forest.

"What is it?" She asked.

"There are people in this forest shrouded by the stench of Underworld Shadow" Matt replied.

"Do you think they are after us?" questioned Skye.

"I don't know, its hard to say. We should be careful just in case"

The evil presence grew stronger as it approached the camp. Matt could pick up voices and noticed that there were six people within the other group, three male and three female. Matt decided to investigate the voices. He travelled through the woods as if he lived in them. As he got closer, he noticed that one of the voices was not there anymore. He sniffed the air and looked up in time to see a man jump at him from a branch in one of the trees with his weapons drawn.

## 7 - New And Old

### CHAPTER SIX: NEW AND OLD

Manta gasped and Red went deathly pale. The two were now staring at the person that had died before their eyes so many years ago. Summer finally arrived at the scene.

“How is this possible? We saw you die so many years ago!” stated a confused Red.

“I have already died once, I can’t die twice” said Amy in a cool tone.

Red couldn’t help but look her over. He noticed that she still cut her black hair so that it remained short. She was wearing a ruby red ball gown with elbow length white gloves and what looked like high heels made from diamonds. Amy noticed him looking at her and followed his eyes.

“Yes, they’re made of diamonds” explained Amy.

“Where did you get the outfit?” asked Red.

“That is not important at the moment. What is important is that Tiamat has sent her agents to this realm to retrieve some of the Underworld weapons. We need to stop her”

“Wait, how do you know this?” Red questioned.

“Isn’t it obvious?” asked Summer. “She is an agent for this Tiamat that is why she tried to run”

“Think what you want, I’m just trying to help” pouted Amy.

Manta thought that it would be best to bring the conversation back on track.

“Do you know where any of the weapons are?”

“I only know that Underworld Shadow is in the possession of a beast named Demon. It was supposed to be my assignment to retrieve the weapon from him” replied Amy.

“So do you know anything about the other weapons?” asked Red.

“No. I was only told about Underworld Shadow”

“Well then I guess we are going after Underworld Shadow, lead the way” Red stated as he pointed forward.

\* \* \*

For days Red, Manta, Amy, and Summer made their way east. Red and Amy talked about their years apart while they travelled. Amy was now a mercenary still going under the name Shadow. She had been sent to this realm to retrieve Underworld Shadow for Tiamat but eventually ran off and joined a group of assassins. The only details she left out were how she had been sent to this realm and why she was still alive. Red didn’t bother asking though because he didn’t want Amy to get scared off by a confronting question. Manta wasn’t so lucky. With Summer’s attitude and knowledge of alchemy, he fell in love with her instantly. Manta tried proposing to her several times but she always turned him down and gave him a death threat.

On their third day of travel they came across a young woman wearing a tight blue body suit and wearing her long red hair in a ponytail. She had an evil presence around her and Amy seemed to take a lot of notice to this woman.

“Hey Shadow, I see you got some prey” sneered the woman.

“Viper you know better than that, now go back to your master before he gets upset” said Amy.

“You will be sorry you ever crossed me!” yelled Viper as she swung her weapons out in front of her. Her weapons seemed to be two scythes but with 30cm handles and 20cm blades. Amy faced Tira and

pressed a small button under one of her left ball glove. The button triggered her dress to transform. The gloves extended to the shoulders and merged with the ball gown. The gown became tight and ran down her legs, merging with her slippers that had turned into high-heeled boots. The gloves grew 5cm nails out of each of the fingers and then the whole body suit turned red. Red looked at the red body suit that had once been a red ball gown in amazement.

“Wow. That’s cool”

Amy smiled at him and then just stared at Viper with an unemotional look on her face. Viper just smiled as if it was a game and made the first move. She jumped into the air and came flying down twirling her scythes in front of her. Amy moved to the right dodging the attack and high kicked Viper, sending her flying backwards. Viper recovered and swung her scythes, knocking Amy off balance. Amy sweep kicked Viper but she managed to avoid it by flipping backwards. Amy used the time to get up and began spinning continuously on one point in 360-degree circles until Viper eventually became overpowered and fell to the ground. Red and Manta moved in and pinned Viper to the ground.

“Hahahahaha, you’ve beaten me again Shadow. I guess I’m just no match for you” chuckled Viper.

“You’re too over confident, that’s why you never beat me”

“What’s going on here?” asked Red.

“Well Argol, this is my sworn sister from the secret assassin’s guild called Birds of Prey” explained Amy.

Red and Manta immediately let Viper go and helped her from the ground.

“Wait I read about them. Didn’t they disband though?” Manta asked.

“About a month ago, yes. But I live to kill so it doesn’t matter who I work for” replied Viper.

“So do you know anything about a beast called Demon?” asked Red.

“He’s my master, I’m helping him to gain the five weapons of legend” replied Viper in a proud tone.

“Well we need to...speak with Demon, would you join us and take us to him?” asked Red.

“Fine, but light is fading so we may as well camp here for the night”

A warrior known to be a solitary man was not far away from Red’s party. He travelled with a young woman and a faithful companion. The three had set up camp as the night was closing in. The woman looked at her friend with concern as he stared of into the darkness of the forest.

“What is it?” She asked.

“There are people in this forest shrouded by the stench of Underworld Shadow” Matt replied.

“Do you think they are after us?” questioned Skye.

“I don’t know, its hard to say. We should be careful just in case”

The evil presence grew stronger as it approached the camp. Matt could pick up voices and noticed that there were six people within the other group, three male and three female. Matt decided to investigate the voices. He travelled through the woods as if he lived in them. As he got closer, he noticed that one of the voices was not there anymore. He sniffed the air and looked up in time to see Red jump at him from a branch in one of the trees with his weapons drawn.

“Hey Wolf, fancy meeting you here”

Matt jumped to his right to dodge the attack and punched Red in gut.

“Nice try, but you can’t match my speed” stated Matt.

Red kicked at Matt but he back flipped and ran into the forest. Red chased after him and found him in a small clearing. Matt howled like a wolf, releasing a blast of white energy, and began to change into his wolf form. Matt’s vest absorbed into his chest, his swords absorbed into his back, and he grew wolf ears as well as fur all over his body. Red gathered his own energy and began his morphing process. He grew a tail, talons, and his swords morphed into wings. Red dragon and Lone Wolf stared each other down and flexed their clawed hands. Red lunged at Wolf but he ducked behind him and clawed at his back. Red opened his wing and took flight, taking wolf with him. Red flew around in circles until Wolf became

dizzy. He landed and then the two began fighting on solid ground again. The two evaded each other's attacks and after a while Wolf reverted to his human form and drew his two gladius swords. Red also changed back and drew his twin katanas. They both attacked again, but their blades clashed in the middle.

"Damn, another draw!" shouted Matt.

"You stole the words right out of my mouth" said Red as he smiled.

"Wipe that grin off your face" Matt threatened as the two of them sheathed their weapons.

"Whatever you say scary wolf" Red chuckled sarcastically.

"Anyway..." started Matt, ignoring the wolf comment. "Why do I sense an evil presence amongst your group?"

"The newest member in our party is an assassin who loves to kill" Red stated as if it was completely normal.

"Right..." said Matt as he stared down at Red as if he was crazy.

Red returned to his party while Matt went to check up on Skye and Ragnor. Matt had only just finished explaining what had happened, when Red and his party came through the forest and decided to set up camp with him. Red introduced all of his party to Matt, Skye, and Ragnor and then they all sat around a campfire that Red secretly lit when no one was looking. Skye and Amy had instantly become friends and the two were now talking about what quirks Red and Matt had. There was something about Amy that Matt didn't trust, so he made sure that Skye always stayed close to him. Other than that, the rest of the group got along fine and they all stayed up late, talking into the night...

## 8 - A Demon, A God, And A Bitch In Red

### CHAPTER SEVEN: A DEMON, A GOD, AND A dog IN RED

Using Matt's smell and Viper's direction sense, the party made it across the sea to China and were now standing outside a magnificent temple surrounded by a beautiful garden. Red and Matt left the rest of the group outside and entered alone. They were soon stopped by a bunch of guards, but instead of being rational and talking to them, Matt and Red drew their weapons. To make matters worse, the guards summoned reinforcements and soon guards were circling Matt and Red while archers positioned themselves along the temple walls.

"Well this should be fun" stated Red.

"If this is fun for you, remind me never to do any more fun activities with you again" remarked Matt.

"Oh well, we all have our own opinions"

"Yeah, but your's are just messed up" Matt said.

The guards parted to let their captain into the circle. Red laughed hard when he saw her familiar face.

"Hi Argol! Fancy meeting you here!" said Lotus cheerfully.

"Hey. What are you doing here?" asked Red.

"I was called back to duty" replied Lotus.

"So how's Spade?" Red questioned.

"Will you stop chit-chatting and get her to call of the guards!" shouted Matt.

"Sorry. Guards, leave these two for Spade and me" ordered Lotus.

Spade walked in shortly after the guards and the archers had left.

"What do you say Spade, you and me verse these two?" asked Lotus.

"Oh hey Argol...yeah I will join" replied Spade.

"Argol? They called you Argol?" laughed Matt.

"Well it is my name. Maybe you should start calling me by it as well!" Red retorted.

"Fine. But not only do you have messed up opinions, but you also have messed up friends too...wait, that means I'm messed up!" Matt stated.

"Well I wasn't going to say anything but..." Red started.

"Can we get on with this?" interrupted Spade.

Lotus and Spade drew their weapons and faced Argol and Matt, ready to fight. Matt and Argol nodded at each other and then they too drew their weapons. Matt didn't know what to expect because he had never met these two until now, but he was prepared for anything. Spade made the first move by running at Argol, but at the last minute he planted one of the pitchfork's ends into the ground and, using the momentum, lifted himself into the air above Argol and came striking down.

Matt moved to stop this but Lotus jumped in his path and proceeded to slash away at him. Matt delivered a powerful kick to Lotus, who fell to the ground. When Matt moved closer she sprang up, catching Matt off guard, and cutting into his shoulder. Argol had dodged Spade's attack but was not prepared for his next move, which involved Spade twirling his double pitchfork around in front of him. Spade's move knocked Argol to the ground but he hit the ground falling backwards, so he rolled using the momentum and got straight back to his feet. Unfortunately, he was unaware of Lotus waiting for him. She used the hilt of her sword to break Argol's nose, making him fall to the ground next to Matt.

"Argol, we need to learn to work together like these two" said Matt.

Argol wiped the blood from his face.

"Let's just finish this okay"

Matt got up, took his cloak off, and threw it to the ground. Argol was shocked that Matt wasn't shifting, but understood why, so he got up with his katanas in hand. Argol and Matt looked at each other, nodded, and ran at their targets. Both Spade and Lotus braced themselves, but at the last moment Matt jumped at Spade and Argol dived straight at Lotus. Lotus, slightly surprised, only just managed to avoid Argol, but he rolled forward between her legs and got up behind her. He then grabbed her and whistled; throwing Lotus at Matt. Matt knocked Spade to the ground and gave Lotus a roundhouse kick to her stomach. Spade was back on his feet, but Matt used his gladius' to grab his pitchfork and wrench it out of Spade's grasp. Lotus was up again but she had lost her sword. Argol and Matt looked at the two, sheathed their weapons, and Matt grabbed his cloak.

"Great fight, but you have to expect the unexpected. That is why Red and myself beat you" Matt stated. Spade looked over at Argol from on the ground.

"Why does this man call you Red?" asked Spade as Argol helped him up

"My alias is Red dragon" explained Argol.

Lotus got up with help from Matt.

"Wait, wasn't that guy at the arena called Red dragon?" questioned Lotus.

Matt looked at his friend.

"What are they talking about?"

At that point, a loud groan interrupted the conversation and Viper sat on the ground pouting.

"I thought you were going to kill them"

Amy sat down next to Viper.

"Haha, Viper you are so predictable, but I must say that was an amusing fight"

Summer and Skye just stood up next to Amy.

"Forget about the fight, I want to know more about this impostor" stated Skye.

"Fine, Manta and I will tell you all about it" said Red reluctantly.

Argol began to explain the event that took place several days ago. He told them about Tiamat and the dark agents, and with every word Viper had a powerful hatred overcome her. Amy noticed this and laughed at the thought of this happening to Viper. After Argol finished, Viper jumped up stamping her feet on the ground.

"If she wants Underworld Shadow that bad, she will have to go through me first. I will do anything for my master, so I will protect it from that beast!" shouted Viper.

Amy burst out into laughter and everybody else just looked at her in shock. Argol had a puzzled look on his face.

"Did she just say Underworld Shadow was her master?" asked Argol.

"Yes, she did. She works for Demon and Underworld Shadow, killing anyone else who pursues that damn sword" explained Matt.

"Whoa, you knew about this and didn't tell anyone?" questioned Argol.

"She has not shown any hostility so I decided it would be safe" said Matt in a casual tone.

Argol shook his head disappointedly at Matt.

"Yeah but you didn't tell me, what if I ended up alone with her?"

Viper snuck up behind red and grabbed him by the waist.

"You need not worry about me, you are helping me take down my master's enemies" explained Viper.

"Well anyway, we'd better get to that sword as soon as possible.

\* \* \*

That night the party stayed in the security of the garden. In the morning Argol awoke only to find Viper



missing.

“Well I guess she has her reasons” shrugged Argol.

The party bid farewell to Lotus and Spade and headed south. The party moved across a town shadowed by rumours of a strange man lurking around. Summer stayed in hopes of putting her brother to rest.

Amy, Matt, Skye, Argol, and Manta continued forward to Europe. Amy walked up next to Argol

“So where are we going? We have been travelling for days and we haven’t found anything”

“I know, I know, but something tells me we are almost there” explained Argol.

Skye gave an annoyed moan.

“Almost where, are we near Demon?” she asked.

“Yeah, I started to pick up a stronger scent of Underworld Shadow earlier on. It’s getting stronger with every step” Matt stated.

The party arrived at a dark forest covered by a strange mist. Matt and Argol lead the way through it and soon they found themselves facing a huge cathedral. Once inside echoes of a fierce battle surrounded them, the sound of steel clashing with steel, and the cries and shouts of two people desperate to kill each other. All five of them ran and entered into an opened up room facing out to a magnificent lake. In the centre of the room, an ape-like beast wearing gold armour fought with a knight in blue armour. Argol could easily tell that the beast was Demon, but the knight in blue armour was unknown to him. Demon shielded himself from an attack by the knight and forced him back. Demon growled and charged at the knight, who tried to brace himself. The knight wasn’t strong enough and soon slumped to the ground with a fatal wound. Demon faced his new opponents.

“Mwahahahaha, you shall all perish!” he yelled in a husky voice.

A cloaked figure appeared and walked toward the scene.

“I think not. I have come too far to allow Underworld Shadow out of my sight”

Matt recognized the figure and clenched his fists

“Hades, what are you doing here?” Matt asked as Hades removed his cloak

“I was able to trick Zeus into releasing me from the underworld. What a fool he was!” replied Hades.

Demon just stood there laughing.

“What is a god going to do? Even you can’t match my power!” he protested.

“Boys, boys, enough of this. You can just forget about that sword because I will be taking it”

Everyone turned toward the newcomer. It was a woman. She had long blond hair and a perfect figure.

She wore a red dress and she carried two Sais. Argol drew his katanas and sneered at the woman.

“Well if it isn’t the dog in red”

## 9 - Hallelujah

### CHAPTER EIGHT: HALLELUJAH

“Now, now Argol, is that any way to treat a lady?” mocked the woman.

“You took Amy away from me once Tiamat; I won’t let you harm her again!”

Meanwhile, Matt was arguing with Hades.

“Hades, give me back my brother you bastard!”

“And why would I do that? You don’t have Underworld Shadow!” Hades replied in a cruel manner.

“Damn you Hades, damn you to hell!” yelled Matt as he drew his weapons and charged at the god.

“Precisely...” muttered Hades.

The battle had now finally broken out. Matt, with the help of Ragnor, was now fighting against Hades; Argol was protecting Amy from Tiamat, while Amy, Manta, and Skye lunged at Demon.

“You will meet your doom here today!” shouted Demon.

Matt was moving in a flurry now, trying to get any attack in on Hades. The god just stood there with two short swords, blocking all of the incoming attacks. Matt’s anger wasn’t enough to get a hit in, he needed to focus more. Argol and Tiamat were both battling frantically, both trying to kill the other quickly and end the battle. Argol managed to gain some ground by cutting deeply into Tiamat’s shoulder. The cut was deep but seemed to heal almost instantly before Argol’s very eyes.

“Fool! You forget that all dragons and wyverns have regeneration abilities!”

Argol remembered, he just needed to hold her off. Demon wasn’t doing so well though. Manta and Skye were attacking him from the front while Amy was on his back, trying to stab him in the head. Demon was a big creature, about eight foot, but he was slow. It also didn’t help that Underworld Shadow was a large mace, and took a while to swing. Amy managed to hold on to Demon’s back with one hand while he was struggling and stab him with the claws on her other. Demon howled in pain before knocking Amy off his back and fleeing the scene.

“He can run pretty fast when he wants to” commented Skye as they tried to catch up with him.

Demon just turned around, swung his mace in an arc, and sent the three flying backwards into the nearest wall, sending them unconscious. Hades disappeared in a puff of black smoke, just as Matt and Ragnor were about to get a hit in. Tiamat noticed that Demon had fled and pulled a potion out of her bag.

“See you around Argol” she teased.

Tiamat threw the potion to the ground and it created a small portal. She stepped backwards into it so that she could keep defending herself from Argol. Before she had completely gone through, Argol managed to disarm her, tossing her weapons to one side. Tiamat cursed and pulled her arms through the portal, closing it behind her before Argol could follow.

“Dammit!” cursed Argol and Matt at the same time.

Matt immediately tended to Skye while Argol woke up Manta and Amy. Matt tried to wake Skye up but when he couldn’t tears started to roll down his face. Ragnor trotted over to Skye and began licking at her hand until she eventually woke up and patted him on the head. Matt began to smile as she opened her eyes and stared at him.

“You actually had me worried” said Matt.

Skye gave out a faint chuckle before clutching her side in pain.

“I had you worried? Maybe I should get hurt more often to get some attention” Skye replied.

Matt laughed but then stopped as Skye kissed him lightly on the cheek. The two stared into each other's eyes for a moment before Matt cupped Skye's face in his right hand and kissed her. Her lips were warm and he could taste his salty tears on them as they trickled down his face. By now, Manta, Amy, and Argol were all watching the show in awe. Manta leaned over to Argol and whispered in his ear. "Five gold says they stop if I clear my throat"

"You're on" Argol whispered back.

Manta then proceeded to clear his throat, but the two still continued to lock lips. Manta looked over at Argol who held up five fingers and mouthed I win. All three of them waited for something to separate Matt and Skye, until Ragnor lay down and placed his head on Skye's lap. The two smiled at each other and then pulled away.

"They finally stopped, hallelujah!" Amy remarked as Manta handed five gold over to Argol.

Matt just grinned and rubbed the back of his head.

"Hehe, sorry..."

Argol placed the gold into the bag he kept inside his armour.

"No need to apologize, we all had front row seats to the show" replied Argol.

Matt laughed and Skye giggled but then clutched her side. Matt lifted up her top and felt the bottom of her ribcage, causing some comments by the other two men.

"Quiet you lot. There seems to be no broken ribs but there is a big bruise near your stomach" stated Matt.

He pulled the shirt down and then helped Skye to her feet. Following their lead, Manta, Amy, Argol, and Ragnor stood up too. Argol noticed that one of Tiamat's Sais was flowing with electricity. He picked it up and it changed into a katana.

"Underworld Thunder" he muttered.

Argol showed the weapon to Matt who decided to hold on to it for later.

"Well what now?" asked Manta.

"We follow the scent of Demon, it is most likely that Hades or Tiamat have followed him too so we need to move fast" Matt replied.

\* \* \*

The group travelled for days until they had finally reached Scotland again.

"Why do they always come knocking on MY doorstep?" complained Matt as they entered the forest just outside of Matt's cottage.

"Quit whining you baby" teased Skye as she kissed him on the cheek.

If she had known why he had been complaining, she wouldn't have teased him. Being near his original home brought back the painful memories that contained the dark secret of Matt's past. He tried to act casual but Skye knew there was something wrong with him, something she knew he would eventually tell her within time. They traversed through the massive forest for hours before coming upon a large clearing and taking a break.

"We need to be prepared, how about a practice fight? Me against Argol, Skye against Amy, and Ragnor against....hey, where's Inferno?" asked Matt.

Argol looked around but then felt a strange presence.

"There is a group of people out there, they might be a band of thieves but they seem too skilful and they have a deep bond between them" stated Argol.

A bush nearby moved and Argol went to inspect it. When he was close enough a white wolf jumped out and tackled him to the ground. Matt went over to the wolf that was now licking at Argol's face.

"That's right..." muttered Matt before shouting into the distance, "You can come out now guys, good

job! I forgot you were following us!"

A young woman emerged from the bushes followed by seven other people.

"Well done" commented Matt as the white wolf jumped off of Argol and sat down next to Vivian.

"Sorry Red, Hex is a bit playful" apologized Vivian as she helped Argol off of the ground.

"It's Argol, and don't worry about it, I'm fine"

"You've got leaves on your butt" shouted Amy, who was laughing with Manta and Skye.

Argol brushed them off, pulled a crystal out of his armour, and set it alight with a breath of fire.

"What is that thing doing and why doesn't it burn?" asked Matt.

"I'm gathering my family. This crystal absorbs fire and spreads it to the other crystals it is connected with, they then glow and the dragon warriors then come to my position. They should also bring Inferno with them because he has a crystal of his own" Argol replied.

"Fancy! I guess we'll have to wait a while for your warriors to get here" said Matt.

As he finished talking a whoosh was heard overhead and moments later some of the Dragon Warriors were starting to land.

"Maybe not" remarked Matt as the last Dragon Warrior landed with Inferno by her side. All of the Dragon Warriors then changed into their human forms.

"Sis, what are you doing here?" Argol asked.

The last Dragon Warrior walked over to Argol and came face to face with him.

"I wrecked a pair of shoes and my new dress changing into a dragon because I thought you were in trouble!" shouted Argol's sister.

Argol looked down to see what was left of her high heels attached to her bare feet.

"Malena, you need clothes like my armour that allows me to morph without damage to it" replied Argol.

"Oh ok, the next time you are in danger I will take my time to change!" Malena yelled back.

"You two remind me of my brother and me when we were younger. I'd give anything to have him back" sighed Matt.

Matt mustered up what he could, put on a smile, and stuck out his hand to greet Malena.

"Nice to meet you"

Malena looked down at his hand with a look of mild disgust.

"Whoever you are, you may have gained my brother's trust but you have yet to earn mine"

Matt kept his hand in place.

"My name is Matt Khan and I am the leader of the Moon Warriors" replied Matt.

"WHAT?!?! Argol, I told you to avoid them!" shouted Manta as he walked over.

"Well his wolf saved my life so I'm pretty sure he's not evil!" replied Argol in an annoyed tone.

By this time Skye was fuming with anger and stepped in front of Malena.

"Matt is a kind man who is loyal to his friends, so you just watch what you say!" she shouted at Malena.

Things were getting heated so Matt intervened.

"Well there's only one way to get rid of this anger...the Moon Warriors take on the Dragon Warriors!"

## 10 - When A Spar Turns Into A Fight

### CHAPTER NINE: WHEN A SPAR TURNS INTO A FIGHT

Matt knew that it was a good plan. They could all spar and vent their anger out through their fighting.

“How about you introduce us to the Dragon Warriors Argol?” suggested Matt.

Argol lined up the Dragon Warriors and Matt did the same for the Moon Warriors.

“These are the Dragon Warriors. Each can transform into a type of dragon and has a certain position within the group. First we have myself of course, followed by my sister, Malena Vazin the princess mage who is a supreme dragon, Sai the archer who is an ice dragon, Ashlin the sniper who is a thunder dragon, Kiva the ninja who is a water dragon, Razza the samurai who is also a water dragon, Leon the lancer who is a wind dragon, Kain the barbarian who is an earth dragon, Sage the dark knight who is a dark dragon, and finally Cyrus the paladin who is a light dragon” Argol stated proudly

“Plus you have Amy, Manta, and Inferno” said Matt.

“And who is on your team?” asked Argol.

“Well I’m not going to go into as much detail as you did, but we have myself, Skye, Anon, Vivian, Kin, Rose, Gear, Kyte, Celina, and last is Jenk” replied Matt.

“Well you do have Ragnor and Hex as well” Argol pointed out.

With that, the Moon Warriors arranged themselves so that they could attack the person facing them while the Dragon Warriors stayed in one spot.

“Ready?” asked Matt

“You bet!” replied Argol excitedly.

“On my count then...GO!”

The two groups charged at each other. Matt and Argol were about to lock blades but at the last minute Malena stepped in and challenged Matt.

“Bring it on!” shouted Matt.

Sage and Cyrus were fighting alongside Razza because they were the youngest in the group. Celina saw the three huddled together and drew out her scythes, charging at them in her Rhino form. Skye was taking on Amy who had already activated her body suit and was ready to battle. Hex was helping Vivian take on Kiva and the archers were firing from their bows, while the rest of the Moon Warriors took on Argol. Matt was trying not to hurt Malena, but she was charging at him like mad, casting spells at him and trying to hit him.

“I’m too fast to be hit with your magic” stated Matt, but as he said it a lightning bolt hit him in the shoulder.

“You were saying?” mocked Malena.

“I was saying that I’ve been holding back, don’t make me hurt you!” replied Matt.

Meanwhile, Argol had knocked out Kyte, but was having trouble defending himself from attacks.

“Dragon Warriors! Take to the skies!”

Suddenly, all Dragon Warriors morphed and started flying around. Malena stayed on the ground and was kicked into a tree by Matt. Amy was still fighting Skye, Manta had taken a nap, and Inferno was flying around in circles teasing Ragnor.

“Rose, Kin, Vivian, get up there and bring them down!” ordered Matt.

Vivian sprouted owl wings and began using her wave swords to try and take down some of the Dragon Warriors. Kin flew around with his bat wings and used his sonic gloves to send out waves of sound,

deafening Kain and sending him to the ground. Meanwhile, Rose was hovering with her heron wings and using her Shurikens to damage the wings of Sai and Ashlin and send them to the ground.

“Gear, help them out!” ordered Matt again.

Gear morphed into his hedgehog form and grew spines along the back of his arms and his back. He pulled out one of the spines and placed it into his bow. A split second later he had pinned together the wings of Argol, making him plummet to the ground. Eventually most of the Dragon Warriors were on the ground and only three were still in the air fighting against Rose, Kin, and Vivian. Malena was about to cast a fireball when Matt kicked her into the nearest tree, knocking her out. Matt then proceeded to take on Kain and Leon who were waiting for him. Matt quickly slashed at the two but they remained there, unaffected. He then remembered that a dragon’s greatest strength lies within their endurance but it was too late, Kain cut deeply into Matt’s left shoulder with his battleaxes and Leon swung his lance around to hit Matt. He was too slow and Matt ended up ducking the lance and then sweep kicked Leon onto his back. Matt then brought his weapons up to block Kain’s incoming battleaxes.

“Wrong move cutting into my shoulder there”

Matt kicked Kain in the side and, when he curled in pain, punched him in the gut. Argol charged at Anon, who managed to block his attack and get a hit in. Argol fell to the ground in pain but then rolled out of the way just in time to avoid another blow to the gut. Argol then picked up his katanas and lunged at Anon again, this time cutting into Anon’s side. Manta was still napping when Hex landed on him. The wolf growled and began chasing after Manta who began screaming. Inferno heard him and tackled Hex, as he was about to take a bite out of Manta.

“I owe you big time Inferno” Manta said as he dodged out of the way of Ragnor. Ragnor ignored Manta and pounced on Inferno, taking him out of the air and taking the fight to the ground. Inferno bit Ragnor on the tail and then flew off. The wolf then began running around in circles, trying to catch something that was permanently fixed to his behind. Manta chuckled at the sight but then cowered in fear when Ragnor stopped chasing his tail, and started chasing him. Celina was still fighting against Sage, Cyrus, and Razza and the three were beginning to win. She then made a mental note not to take on three people again after they all kicked her at once and sent her flying into the air. Kin managed to catch Celina but she was still in her Rhino form and weighed more than his wings could carry. The two plummeted to the ground but didn’t end up colliding because Rose and Vivian grabbed them and placed them gently upon the ground.

“Thanks” muttered Kin as he collapsed from exhaustion.

Skye swung her lance and hit Amy in the side with such force that it sent Amy to the ground in extreme pain. That was when it all went wrong. For some reason Argol couldn’t help himself. The sight of Amy being hurt sent him into a fit of rage. His katanas lit up with flames as he charged at Skye who blocked his incoming attacks with her lance. Skye disarmed him easily because he wasn’t focussing but that didn’t stop him. He grabbed her lance and then spun her round, making her collide into the nearest tree.

“A bit rough” commented Skye as she tried to get up from the ground.

Argol grabbed her and punched her near the stomach, the place where she had a big bruise. Skye let out a cry of pain and coughed up some blood.

“What’s the matter with you?” she asked, crying in pain.

Everyone else stopped in their tracks. Malena woke up to the sight of everyone staring at Argol in shock. She ran over to him and pulled on his arm.

“Stop it! You’re seriously hurting her!” Malena cried.

Argol just tossed Malena to one side and then continued on. By this time Matt was shaking with rage.

“Get away from her!” he shouted to Argol.

Argol didn’t listen and instead picked Skye up by her throat.

“Stop it! You’re choking her!” yelled Matt.

Argol squeezed tighter and Malena let out a squeal. Matt's eyes began to glow white as he removed Underworld Thunder and held it up in the air. A black cloud formed over it as multiple bolts of lightning erupted from it and hit all of the Dragon Warriors, sending them unconscious. Matt placed it back in its sheath and grabbed Fire and Cold.

"YOU BASTARD!!"

Matt lunged at Argol with Underworld Cold aiming straight for the Dragon Warrior's heart. Matt then thought about what he was doing and changed the course of the blade, stabbing it into Argol's leg. Argol roared with pain but began to calm down when Matt activated Cold, chilling Argol's blood and making him drop Skye. Matt continued the process until Argol was completely frozen in ice and then he rushed over to Skye. She was still breathing and clinged onto Matt when he sat down next to her.

"It...was my...fault. Don't...hate him...for it, he was...just protecting...the one he loves" Skye managed to say.

Matt wiped the blood from her bottom lip with his thumb and then got back up. He placed Underworld Fire on the frozen Argol and thawed him out. Argol immediately began to apologize, saying that he had lost Amy once and he didn't want to see her go again. Matt understood but he was still angry at what Argol had done.

"Amy is not who you think she is!" shouted Matt.

Argol looked at him confused.

"You'll have to find out the hard way..."

Argol looked even more confused but didn't bother asking what Matt meant. He immediately went around, waking up all of the Dragon Warriors and then tending to Amy.

"Oh, and if you hurt Skye again...I'll kill you"

# 11 - The Truth Hurts

## CHAPTER TEN: THE TRUTH HURTS

Matt sent the Moon Warriors back to the mansion and Argol told the Dragon Warriors to go with them. Malena though was being stubborn so Argol was forced to take her with them. The group continued travelling through the forest, following Matt's lead. The bruise near Skye's stomach had healed up nicely and Amy was told what had happened.

"...so, uh, yeah, Matt thawed me out eventually and then I apologized" explained Argol.

"You make it sound so simple" snarled Matt.

"I said I was sorry!" protested Argol.

"I was kidding you idiot!" laughed Matt.

"Yeah, haha, real hilarious!"

It was beginning to grow darker now. The forest was dark enough during the day but at night it was pitch black and you couldn't see where you were going.

"There's a spot further up where we can camp the night" stated Matt.

Sure enough, in the next clearing was a small cottage and next to it was a medium sized lake. The clearing had no branches or leaves covering it so that the sunlight or moonlight could shine down into it. Matt felt uneasy about being back at his old home but they needed somewhere to camp, and this was the only inhabitable place nearby. Matt approached the cottage and saw the grave that he had erected in honour of his brother. It was just a small wooden cross with the name 'Alex Khan' written on it.

Matt checked under the doormat and used the key he found there to open the front door. The inside looked just as he had left it.

"In case you were wondering this is my old house. I hope you don't mind sharing bedrooms and beds because there are only three in here, all with double beds. I will take my old bedroom, who ever whites to join me is welcome, although I would prefer Skye's company" said Matt.

Everyone looked amazed that the man could say so much without taking a breath.

"Alright then, who's bunking with whom?" Argol asked.

Skye immediately went with Matt and Argol and Amy shared Alex's room. Ragnar and Inferno stayed in the den, next to the fireplace where a bright orange flame was now burning.

"So...I guess we're sleeping together" Manta said to Malena.

"Don't talk to me" she replied.

"I guess that means I'm sleeping on the floor then?"

"Absolutely"

\* \* \*

The next day Matt got up early and knelt down beside his brother's grave.

"I will get you back"

Skye woke up and noticed that Matt was missing so she walked outside and found him near the grave. Matt began blinking back tears as Skye sat down next to him.

"How did he die?" she asked.

"Now that's the worst memory I have. The day after I had entered the slumber Hades possessed my body. The three seers told him that one day I would have the power to gain Underworld Shadow so he



tried to use my body. The problem was that Hati's magic made it so that my body could not leave the forest until my slumber was finished, so instead he forced me to kill my own brother, knowing that I would eventually seek him out and do anything to get him back. I could see what I was doing but I couldn't control myself. When I first woke up from the slumber I thought it was all a bad dream but it wasn't....it wasn't"

Matt broke down on Skye's shoulder and she hugged him until he could stand again.

"Its okay, you will get your brother back" Skye reassured him.

Just from what she said gave Matt hope that he would get his brother back.

When everyone was awake the group moved out and eventually found what they were looking for. Demon. Matt immediately lunged at the beast and stabbed it repeatedly while it tried to take a swing at him. Argol was about to join in when Amy snuck up behind Matt and kicked him with the heel of her shoe. Matt fell to the ground in pain.

"What the hell?" questioned Matt.

"Amy?!?! What are you doing?" asked Argol.

"The name's Shadow!" replied Amy in an evil tone.

Matt quietly got up and cut off the arm of Demon that was wielding Underworld Shadow. The beast would've screamed in pain but Matt froze it and then grabbed Underworld Shadow. The mace immediately turned into a pure black gladius. Shadow took one look at Matt and the new weapon and then ran off.

"Manta, go warn the Dragon Warriors" ordered Argol.

Manta took off in the direction of Matt's mansion as Argol and Malena turned into their dragon forms.

"We need to go after her" Matt said.

Matt changed into his wolf form and sheathed Underworld Shadow. He now had four of the five legendary weapons.

"Skye, you can ride on the back of Inferno" stated Argol.

Matt ran after Shadow followed by Ragnor. Argol and Malena quickly took to the air and followed him, leaving Skye standing there.

"Okay then"

Skye got on the back of the dragon and held on for dear life as it zoomed after the group. Matt kept running after the scent of Shadow but soon stopped in his tracks.

"What's wrong?" asked Argol.

"It's Hades, he's here" replied Matt.

"We may as well go after him instead" said Argol.

Matt took off again and kept running until he came across a hooded figure. Argol and Malena landed next to him and Skye eventually landed shoving something into her pocket.

"Giving you trouble is he?" asked Argol.

Skye just nodded and then they all stood there waiting for the hooded figure to do something. The figure took off his hood and withdrew two blades. One was gunmetal grey and the other was blood red.

"Hades! Why do you have a Wolfram blade?" asked Matt.

"Yeah, and where did you get the Dragonite one?" Argol questioned.

Hades held up the grey Wolfram sword and then the red Dragonite one.

"Hehe, you fools. I do not need to explain myself to mortals" replied Hades in a cool tone.

"Give me my brother Hades and I will give you this..."

Matt unsheathed Underworld Shadow and showed it off.

"It's a fair deal, c'mon" said Matt.

Hades raised his Wolfram sword.

"I don't think so"

Argol walked toward Hades but he slashed at him with the blade. A cut appeared in Argol's side and it wasn't healing.

"What the hell?" Argol questioned as he fell to the ground clutching his wound.

Argol looked at his wound.

"How could this be, Wolfram can't affect my regeneration!" stated Argol.

Hades just laughed.

"Wolfram is only a coating mortal!"

"But Wolfram has to be pure or its effect is not as great!" protested Matt.

Hades laughed again.

"You foolish mutt, don't you think I know this. I made a Dragonite sword and coated it with Wolfram!"

Matt smirked.

"Good news for me then! Only a weapon made of pure Wolfram can stop my regeneration abilities. This weapon should only slow my regeneration by half. So what's it gonna be now Hades? The sword or your demise?" asked Matt

"Oh that is real good, you don't get the full affect but I still do! Oh well I can manage" Argol said as he got up from the ground and drew his katanas.

"So it's all up to you Hades. Do you want the sword I hold in my hand as much as you say you do, or would you rather die trying to obtain it? Because if you choose to die trying I'll be pretty angry about the little deal we had being broken" stated Matt

Hades rushed forward at Matt who just held his ground. Argol had to sit down because his wound was preventing him from fighting. Matt looked down at Underworld Shadow.

"Hmmm, may as well test this baby out"

Matt swung the sword as Hades came charging, breaking the Dragonite and Wolfram swords and cutting deeply into Hades' side.

"Well, well, well Hades, you want to reconsider my offer?" asked Matt.

Hades looked at Underworld Shadow and then attacked again. Matt avoided his attack and was about to hit Hades when an unseen force knocked him back. Matt looked around and saw Shadow standing there.

"We can't have you killing a god now can we?"

Argol stood up and faced her.

"Shadow, you're mine!"

Hades tried to charge at Matt again but he easily dodged it and managed to cut off Hades' legs with a massive swing.

"GIVE ME MY BROTHER OR YOU WILL PERISH!!!" yelled Matt as held Underworld Shadow at Hades' throat.

Shadow stabbed her claws into Argol and he fell on the ground, barely conscious. Before he lost consciousness he saw someone walking toward the battle.

"Amy...I'm...sorry" said Argol as he drifted off.

Shadow walked over to Matt and kicked him in the side.

"Dammit! Everyone, keep her busy!" Matt yelled.

Malena, Inferno, Skye, and Ragnor surrounded Shadow and prevented her from attacking Matt.

"Hades you have five seconds to hand over my brother if you want to live. One...five. Oh well, guess times up" said Matt as he brought down Underworld Shadow to kill the god.

## 12 - Taking A Stand

### CHAPTER ELEVEN: TAKING A STAND

Argol awoke several hours later in a daze. He opened his eyes slowly and took in his surroundings. He appeared to be in the bed of a small room with the sunlight peering in through the nearest window. Argol tried to lift his left arm but didn't seem to be able to. He soon noticed why though. Malena had fallen asleep on his arm with Inferno on her lap. She seemed to be sleeping well so Argol didn't bother to wake her. Argol noticed that Matt was sitting in a straw chair over in the corner with Underworld Shadow in his hands and Ragnor lying by his side. He seemed to be mumbling something and Argol could only just make out a few words.

"My one chance...I failed...my brother...never again"

Argol pondered what else Matt had said but at that moment his sister stirred. She stared up into her brother's eyes before grabbing him by the neck and hugging him.

"You're choking me sis" Argol said.

Malena immediately let him out of her hold.

"Thank god you're alright" stated Malena.

"Yeah. What happened out there?" asked Argol.

"Matt decided to save you instead and let Hades get away" Malena replied.

"What about Amy? I saw her just before I fainted" Argol stated.

"Of course you did she stabbed you!" Malena shouted.

Argol looked over to Matt for support.

"You must have seen her, she was the one that stopped Shadow, I saw her do it!" protested Argol.

Malena looked at her brother and shook her head.

"You were in pain, you were just seeing things" soothed Malena.

Argol looked over at Matt again.

"Maybe Hades can solve this" suggested Argol.

Skye entered the room and looked over at Argol. When he looked over at her she quickly averted his gaze and sat down in a chair next to Matt. Matt sensed there was something amiss and looked into Skye's eyes.

"What are you hiding?" questioned Matt.

"N-n-nothing" Skye stuttered.

"Spit it out, what are you hiding?" Matt asked.

Skye looked over at Argol and then over at Inferno.

"Inferno isn't going to get you out of this one Skye" said Argol.

Skye and Inferno stared at each other for a while until Skye nodded and pulled a pendant out of her pant pocket. Argol immediately recognised it.

"That's Amy's! Where did you get it?" Argol asked.

"Amy gave it to me to give to you later. I suppose now will do" replied Skye as she handed Argol the pendant.

Argol took it in his hands and then looked to Inferno.

"It can't be..."

Everyone seemed to know what was going on except a confused Matt.

"What's going on? Sure, I'm the one who can sense the deceit but I'm always the last one to know"

what the deceits about!” Matt shouted.

As Matt finished shouting Inferno jumped off of Malena’s lap and moved into the middle of the room. Inferno began to glow and grew larger. At the end of the process Amy was standing in the middle of the room.

“Hi everyone” said the cheery young woman.

Matt gripped the arms of his chair.

“HOLY NORSE LIGHTS FROM THE HEVENS ABOVE, IT’S A GIRL!!!”

Amy looked at Matt and laughed.

“Well you’re quick to state the obvious. On to more important things though. I can’t stay like this for long but I will tell you what’s going on. Shadow is nothing but literally my shadow. She took my body and I was forced into the body of an unborn dragon. This isn’t the first time this has happened though, but I am different” said Amy as she looked over at Ragnor.

“And how exactly are you different from Ragnor?” Matt asked.

“Well first of all I can do this and secondly my body is still alive. Now about your brother. It is still possible to save him but we have to attack the Underworld” Amy replied.

“Finally you’re speaking my language; a full on assault” cried Matt in happiness.

“Settle down wolf-boy, we need to gather the troops first” stated Argol.

Malena did the honours of igniting a crystal and sending the message to the Dragon Warriors. After ten minutes there was a swoop heard overhead and everyone went outside to greet the Dragon Warriors. Matt was surprised to find that the Moon Warriors had been flown there by the Dragon Warriors.

“Where’s Manta?” asked Matt.

“He stayed back at the mansion. Said something about finishing some infernal contraption” replied Vivian.

Matt went about informing the Moon Warriors and Dragon Warriors of the plan while Argol and Amy went back inside.

“You know, now that I think about it you as Inferno never liked Shadow much” Argol said.

“Hehe. Yeah, but she never noticed” laughed Amy.

Argol looked out of the cottage window at Matt rallying up the clans.

“Why do you want to make a direct attack?” Argol asked Amy.

“To bring Shadow down, she is the real threat” replied Amy.

At that moment Matt walked in through the front door.

“Okay, well when you guys are ready we can move out!” said Matt enthusiastically.

Argol was both happy and scared for his friend. He was happy because Matt had never been so happy in the time that the two had met each other. At the same time he was also scared because his friend was happy about storming the Underworld. Amy noticed the look on Argol’s face and pulled him aside. She then noticed that Matt was still there and shooed him away.

“I’ve got to speak with Argol privately”

Matt quickly scurried out of the cottage and Amy closed the door behind him. She looked around as if trying to find someone and then faced Argol again.

“He’ll be fine Argol, don’t worry about him” said Amy soothingly.

“How can I not? He’s happy about storming the frigging Underworld! What kind of sick person is happy about that?” shouted Argol.

Matt, who had been standing just outside the door and listening in on the conversation, suddenly burst through the door shouting.

“THE KIND OF PERSON TRYING TO GET BACK WHAT THEY HAVE LEFT OF THEIR FAMILY!!!”

Argol thought that he could have died at that very moment. Amy saw that he wasn’t going to say anything so she stepped in.

“You” she said, pointing to Matt “Settle down. We are going to get your brother back so be good. Argol, you need to stop worrying about him. He only wants his brother back. Now, let’s get moving, I can’t stay like this for too much longer and I want to be able to kick Shadow’s arse”

Argol and Matt both laughed at this and the three went outside to address the two groups of warriors. The two groups lined up to listen to what their leaders had to say. Argol addressed them first.

“Today we storm the Underworld. We hope to defeat Shadow and gain back Alex Khan. But there is also more to today, because today is the unity of two very different groups, drawn together by a similar cause!”

Both of the groups began cheering profusely and then Matt stepped up next to Argol and began speaking.

“I’m not going to lie to you. This will be a difficult mission. We will need to be on our guard at all times. If you look out for each other when in battle we will not lose anyone. We will strike down all our enemies until we reach our goal!”

They all cheered loudly as the two groups were led onward to Greece. The road was long and treacherous, there were demons popping up everywhere, trying to stop them from reaching their goal. They all pushed on though until they stood atop a hill and viewed the scene of hundreds of demons guarding the door to the Underworld.

“This is it. Make sure you work together and we will make it past them” ordered Matt.

Everyone said their goodbyes to each other just in case and then drew their weapons.

“CHARGE!!!”

## 13 - When You Win You Lose

### CHAPTER TWELVE: WHEN YOU WIN YOU LOSE

Everyone charged down the hill, waving their weapons about and shouting battle cries. The demons turned to face the group of warriors and began to brace themselves for the oncoming onslaught. The demons all withdrew pitchforks and formed a circle around a woman in black.

“Shadow!” cried Amy.

Shadow grinned as she lifted a hand and pointed at the two groups charging down the hill.

“Kill them!”

The demons charged up the hill on her orders and clashed swords with the humans. The sound of steel on steel was ear deafening and Matt; having sensitive ears; fell to the ground clutching them. Skye quickly moved in front of him, defending him from demons until he was able to stand up and fight for himself.

“Thanks” said Matt quickly as he began hacking through demons.

Meanwhile, Amy had taken it upon herself to defeat Shadow. Amy weaved her way through the demons, carefully dodging any pitchforks until she came face to face with Shadow.

“Well if it isn’t my other half” commented Shadow.

Amy noticed that since revealing her true identity, Shadow’s bodysuit had turned black. Amy pressed the button under her glove to form a red bodysuit around her. Claws grew from her gloves as she flexed her fingers.

“Let’s do this” Amy said.

The two women charged at each other and slashed furiously. They managed to badly tear up each other’s bodysuits within minutes before scratching into flesh. Argol was slashing his way over to Amy so that he could help her but kept getting delayed by demons.

“Get out of my way!” Argol yelled.

After deciding that she’d had enough, Shadow ran away from Amy. Amy chased her down until she had pinned her on a cliff.

“Nowhere to run Shadow”

Amy stabbed her claws into Shadow and then span her around. Amy withdrew her claws from Shadow and sent her flying. At the last second, Shadow grabbed Amy’s right arm. The momentum from Amy’s throw forced them both off of the cliff. Argol arrived in time to see Amy go over.

“NOOOO!”

Argol broke down on his knees and began sobbing.

“I was too la...”

Argol broke off in mid-sentence as he heard a weird sound. He looked over the cliff edge and saw Amy clinging to one of the rocks. He quickly pulled her up and was about to hug her when he noticed that she was naked. Argol blushed and called to Matt.

“Matt, we need some help here!”

Matt appeared within seconds and saw the situation. He blushed and quickly looked away.

“Not looking...”

Amy laughed a bit.

“I’m kind of cold here” she complained.

Matt took off his vest and tried to hand it to Amy, but because he had his back turned he ended up

waving it around a bit. Amy took the vest from his flailing hand and pulled it over her head.

“What about the bottom half?” asked Argol

Matt handed Amy his cloak and she wrapped it around her waist to form a sarong.

“Thank you” said Amy as she stood up.

Argol stood up too and hugged Amy.

“What happened?” he asked.

“Well I was able to grab onto a ledge on the way over the cliff but Shadow wasn’t so lucky and she plummeted to her death. With her dead I have my own body again” replied Amy.

Argol smiled and hugged her tighter. Matt didn’t want to ruin their moment so he guarded the two from demons as the rest of the group finished them off. Matt stabbed the last demon through the head as it was charging at Argol and Amy.

“Let that be a lesson to the rest of you...uglies”

Argol and Amy finally finished their embrace and the group moved over to the door of the Underworld. Argol and Matt tried to pull the doors open but they wouldn’t budge. Argol and Matt looked at the doors for a few minutes before Argol stabbed his katanas into the locks and set them alight. The locks soon melted and the two of them easily pushed open the door.

“Hello-o” said Matt eerily as the group moved forward into the Underworld.

His voice echoed off the cavernous walls and a low growl replied. Everyone looked on as a giant creature stirred in the shadows. As it moved into the light, Argol immediately recognized it.

“Cerberus”

The three headed dog growled at the group as its snake tail tried to snap at them. Ragnor began barking at the beast to be met with three simultaneous barks that were much louder than his.

“Oh crap” Matt said.

Matt withdrew Underworld Cold and Underworld Shadow from their sheaths and sped up the dog’s front right paw. Argol took to the air and began distracting the beast while Matt stabbed into the middle head. Cerberus didn’t even flinch and its tail wrapped itself around Matt’s legs and threw him into one of the walls.

“Run!” shouted Argol.

The group began running towards the next room as Argol kept distracting Cerberus. When he thought everyone had moved to the next room, Argol followed.

“Shut the door!” Argol yelled.

The group began closing the doors as Argol flew through them.

“What about Matt?” cried Skye.

Sure enough Matt was still in the other room unconscious from his impact with the wall. Skye ran out into the room and a white glow surrounded her. When it had faded she was in what looked like a centurion form. She had a human upper half but the legs of a horse. Everyone guessed the horse part to be unicorn because it was a glimmering white and Skye had a horn growing from her head. She galloped over to Matt and threw him on her back. She then quickly ran back to the other room as the group closed the doors behind her and bolted them. Matt regained consciousness as Cerberus began barging on the door. Skye let Matt get off of her back and then changed back to her human form. Matt kissed her as thanks and the group made sounds like “oo” and “ahhh” until they eventually stopped.

“Let’s get moving” ordered Argol.

The group moved along a winding hallway until it eventually forked into three different parts.

“Where to now?” asked Amy.

Matt sniffed the air and then sped down the right lane.

“Where’s he going?” Skye asked.

Argol grew his wings and then took flight after Matt. Matt took a left, a right, another right, and a left. He

came across a long, dark room full of large columns. Argol appeared next to Matt a few seconds later and the two entered the room without saying a word. They traveled all the way down the room until Argol spoke up.

“Manta?”

A huge creature moved in the shadows.

“Argol is that you? I drank one of the potions that Malena left behind. It turned me into a beast! Nah, just kidding!” replied Manta as he stepped out of the shadows in a robotic dragon.

“You arse!” Argol said as he crawled up to the cockpit of the robot and punched Manta in the left arm.

“Aww come on, you have to admit it was funny” whined Manta.

Matt just stood there in awe.

“WE ARE SUPPOSED TO BE FINDING MY BROTHER!” yelled Matt before he sped out of the door and went down another winding hallway.

“What crawled up his arse and died?” questioned Manta.

Matt took a left, a right, and a left with Argol not far behind until he came across a room with a glowing green round pool in the middle of it. Matt leaned over the edge and saw millions of souls floating around in it.

“Well he has to be in here” said Matt.

Argol arrived just in time to see Matt dive into the pool. Matt sniffed the water and swam over to one of the souls. It was his brother but he had aged since they had last met and looked about 18. As soon as Matt grabbed his brother’s hand millions of other souls began attacking him in confusion. Matt quickly swam to the surface and his brother’s soul jumped straight into Argol. Matt looked in confusion as Argol fell to the ground.

“To get your brother back we have to give him a body, my body” said Argol.

“What? No! There has to be another way!” protested Matt.

“Don’t worry. This will be only temporary. My sister will know what to do”

“Damn you Argol. Fine, until we meet again then” said Matt as the two shook hands and Argol went limp, closing his eyes.

Argol’s eyes reopened seconds later.

“Hello brother”



## 14 - The Separation

### CHAPTER THIRTEEN: THE SEPARATION

Matt stared at Argol in disbelief.

“Alex?”

Argol nodded and Matt knew that he had his brother back, even if he was in somebody else’s body.

“Alex!” said Matt happily as he hugged his brother around the neck.

Alex pulled away and Matt knew immediately what the problem was.

“Alex, it wasn’t me. Well it was me, but I was being possessed! I couldn’t stop that bastard Hades from making me kill you!” protested Matt.

“I know,” replied Alex “I’ve seen what lengths you have gone to rescue me from the soul pool, and I must say I’m impressed. It’s just the fact that it was you were the one that brought the sword down and killed me that worries me. I’ll be fine in time though”

“I suppose I can understand that” Matt said.

The two of them stood up and Matt sniffed the air.

“We should probably find Argol’s sister and tell her what happened” said Matt in a gloomy tone.

“Is she hot?” asked Alex.

“Do you really think that’s an appropriate question for a time like this?” Matt asked back.

“Yes”

“Idiot”

The two of them laughed it off as Matt led the way back to the group. When they came within sight of the others Skye immediately stepped forward and began yelling.

“Where the hell have you been Matt? You left us all here with no guide! Next time tell us where you are going first!”

Matt apologized and hugged her until she calmed down. Amy ran up to Alex and wrapped her arms around him.

“I missed you” she said as she kissed him.

As soon as she had done it, Amy knew there was something wrong. She stepped back from Alex and wiped her mouth.

“You’re not Argol!”

“See that’s the thing,” began Matt “Argol sort of gave up his body to my brother and said that Malena would know what to do”

Amy and Malena began yelling simultaneously at Matt. He just stood there, trying to figure out what they were saying and watched as they began yelling at Alex. Eventually the two of them calmed down and paced the room.

“So what do we do?” asked Matt.

“We need to make a new body for your brother to inhabit” replied Malena.

“And how do we do that?” Matt questioned.

“Well first of all we need clay and lots of it. After that we need a heart, a brain, and a few other ingredients that I have here on my belt” Malena said.

“Alright then. There’s a lot of clay near my mansion so we should probably head back there” suggested Matt.

Malena nodded and the group moved out of the Underworld after finding Manta and informing him of

what happened. They travelled for a few days before they saw the sight of the Moon Warriors mansion. "It's good to be home" stated Matt as he took in a whiff of fresh air.

"No time for settling down, we are getting straight to work" Malena said.

"Okay then killjoy. I want both clans to go out and gather as much clay as they can and bring it back here. Skye, I want you to grab a table to hold everything. Alex, go out and find a brain, there are sheep nearby. I'll go out and get a heart while Malena and Amy set up" ordered Matt.

Everyone nodded and set to work. Alex walked for a bit before coming across the sheep. He decided that he would be stealthy and try to blend in with the animals by pretending to be one of them.

"BAAA"

Alex jumped around and made noises like a sheep until he was close enough to a group of them. He then drew one of the katanas from his back and sliced through one of them.

"Sheep are so stupid; they're almost as stupid as sheep"

Alex listened to himself and noticed what he had said wrong.

"Dammit!"

Meanwhile, Matt had retrieved the heart from a cow and brang it back to Malena.

"Just put it on the table!" yelled Malena as she pushed it away from her face and held her nose.

The others came back with a very large amount of clay and placed it on the table.

"That should be enough" said Malena.

Eventually, Alex came back with a sheep's brain in his hand.

"Good, now we have to make a rough outline of a body" stated Malena.

Everyone set to work making a clay model of a body. Matt tried to make fingers but Malena stopped him saying that they didn't need to make details such as fingers, toes, or facial features. Matt nodded and went on to making feet. When they were done they all took a step back to view their work.

"Looks good" said Matt.

"Well now we need to put the brain in the head and the heart in the chest" Malena stated.

Matt and Alex opened up the head and chest and carefully placed the organs inside when they were in the right position they sealed over the holes with more clay. Malena sprinkled some powder over the body and began chanting.

"Inhabito, Soulious, Separatus, Organo!"

As the final words were said Alex's soul was seen flying out of Argol's body and into the one made from clay. A flash of light occurred and when it cleared Alex was lying on the table. He had spiky dark brown hair, medium side burns, soft facial features, and blue eyes like his brother. He was wearing a tan tunic with matching tan pants and dark brown boots. Alex looked around and surveyed everyone as if for the first time and then jumped off the table as Argol recovered and stood up. Malena and Amy hugged Argol while Matt hugged his brother.

"It's good to see you in the flesh" said Matt as he hugged even tighter.

"You can stop smothering me, it's kinda fruity" stated Alex.

Matt stepped back and punched him playfully in the arm. Amy and Malena stopped hugging Argol and everyone began staring at Matt's brother. Matt and Alex sensed the awkwardness so Matt straightened up and introduced him.

"Everybody, this is my brother Alex Khan" he said proudly.

"He's cute" whispered Malena to Skye.

The group all said hello and shook hands with Alex. Argol went up to him and shook hands too.

"Look, thanks for lending me your body" thanked Alex as he handed Argol a small pendant shaped like the sun.

The pendant immediately turned into a white katana and Argol knew it was Underworld Light.

"Consider it a gift" said Alex as Argol sheathed the weapon.

The two of them stared at each other for a minute before moving on to talk to other people. Malena approached Alex soon after.

“So you’re wolf boy’s brother?” asked Malena.

“Yep” replied Alex.

“So does that mean you turn into anything as well?” she questioned.

“No. But I would like to be able to” answered Alex.

“I can make that happen, for a price” said Malena in a cool tone.

“Name it”

“Kiss me” stated Malena.

Alex hesitated for a moment before french-kissing Malena. Everyone paused and looked at them for a while before looking away and returning to their conversations.

“You’re good. You get bonus points for that one” said Malena with a giggle.

Malena pulled out a potion and gave it to Alex.

“The effects of it will take an hour to kick in” she stated as Alex chugged the whole thing.

After talking some more the group decided to go on the offensive again and track down Hades and Tiamat.

“What will I do for weapons?” asked Alex.

Matt handed him Underworld Fire and Underworld Thunder.

“Keep them, I have other weapons”

Alex watched as Fire turned into a war hammer and Thunder turned into an axe.

“Nice”

The rest of the night was spent inside the mansion figuring out ways to track the two enemies.

“We will find Hades and Tiamat and when we do, we will destroy them!”

# 15 - You Stand Before Me

## CHAPTER FOURTEEN: YOU STAND BEFORE ME

Everyone slept well into the day and it wasn't until noon that the first of them began to wake up and cook breakfast. Matt left the mansion for a bit and came back with a dead pig and some eggs. "Mmm, bacon and eggs" said Alex sleepily as he wandered past Matt who was standing in the doorway.

Matt went into the kitchen and with the help of Vivian and Skye he carved the pig into thin bacon strips and cooked them. The three of them then scrambled some eggs and put them in four different bowls. "Should be enough for everyone" remarked Matt as they set the table and placed the food down. The smell of the cooked bacon managed to wake the rest of the group up and make them drift over to the table where they grabbed a plate, helped themselves, and then went back to whatever room they had been sleeping in.

"What? No one wants to talk?" joked Matt as Argol headed back to his room.

The only response Matt got was a moan so he decided to just help himself and sit down at the table with Vivian and Skye.

"Maybe it was a bad idea to have let everybody have so much wine last night" commented Skye as Amy sat down at the table.

"Yeah. My head feels like it could explode. So why are you three so perky?" asked Amy as she shovelled scrambled eggs onto her plate.

"We didn't drink" answered the three in unison.

Amy just looked at them and decided that she didn't want to be around such perky people when she felt so bad.

"Well get better soon, we leave tonight!" shouted Matt as Amy walked out the dining room door.

\* \* \*

By the time nightfall came everyone had recovered from their hangovers and were ready to take down Hades and Tiamat. Matt got his vest and cloak back from Amy who had burrowed an outfit from Skye. Everyone packed their weapons and head off, following the lead of Matt and Argol.

"So where are we going?" Argol asked Matt.

"Back to the cathedral in Europe. I have picked up the scent of both Tiamat and Hades, they are both there, ready to fight us" replied Matt.

"Oh. Okay" said Argol.

The group travelled as fast as they could, reaching Europe by midnight and getting to the cathedral about an hour later.

"I guess this is really it" stated Matt as everyone stood in awe of the cathedral.

"This is where it ends" said Argol.

"Well," said Matt as he turned to face the rest of the group "This is what we have worked towards. Prepare yourselves, anything could happen here"

Everyone hugged each other and then moved forwards. Matt and Argol stepped into the cathedral first and looked around. It had changed a lot since the last time they were here. It seemed that the two villains had renovated the place, turning it into a dark, dank palace. Amy was next to go into the

cathedral but an invisible wall stopped her. Matt and Argol turned around in time to see two massive trolls appear from nowhere and attack the group. The two of them tried to run back out and help them but the invisible wall prevented them from doing so and they could only watch. Alex came up to the doorway.

“Go on, we can take them!” he shouted.

Alex turned around to fight the trolls and a swinging club narrowly missed him. Matt tried to burst through the invisible wall but Argol stopped him.

“We have to end this right now!”

Matt backed away from the wall when he saw his brother turn into a bear-like form and maul one of the trolls.

“Thank you Malena” shouted Alex over the battlefield as he tested out his new ability.

Matt decided his brother would be able to handle himself so he and Argol ran up the cathedral’s steps and entered into a throne room. The room was painted a very dark gold colour and had two thrones within the middle of it. Sitting in the thrones were Tiamat and Hades.

“Welcome Mutt!” greeted Hades as he stared Matt down with an emotionless look.

Tiamat just nodded at Argol who acknowledged her and nodded back, throwing in a comment while he was at it.

“dog”

Matt and Argol drew their swords as Tiamat and Hades stood up from their thrones.

“I see you have Underworld Light with you” said Tiamat as she noticed the glowing white katana in Argol’s right hand.

“A gift from a soul” sneered Argol as he looked over at Hades.

“Ah yes, the mutt’s brother is alive and well again. That will soon change when we defeat you though!” stated Hades evilly.

“You will never get the chance!” shouted Matt.

Hades and Tiamat just laughed and then drew their weapons as well. Hades had rebuilt the Dragonite and Wolfram swords while Tiamat had acquired a new pair of sais.

“Prepare to die!” yelled Hades.

Argol and Matt charged at them but were soon stopped by a metal cage falling on top of them and trapping them within its bars.

“Dammit!” shouted Matt as he punched the bars.

Argol began launching fireballs out through the cage at Tiamat who dodged them and launched a few back herself.

“Fool” remarked Argol as her fireballs melted through some of the bars and created a hole out of the cage.

Matt and Argol quickly climbed out through the hole and sped towards their opponents. Matt went after Hades while Argol launched himself at Tiamat. Tiamat threw one of her sais which landed in Argol’s left shoulder. He stopped for a moment and then pulled the blade out and threw it back at her. It hit her in the leg and sent her into a kneeling position from the pain. Meanwhile, Matt was using his speed to attack Hades from different angles so that he didn’t have time to block the incoming slashes and stabs. Hades and Tiamat knew they were losing so they quickly fled to another part of the cathedral.

“Come back and fight us you cowards” shouted Matt as he and Argol ran after them.

Matt and Argol followed them up a flight of two hundred stairs until they came into a large attic full of dust and old treasure chests. One of the treasure chests was moving around and had little bits of light creeping from its cracks. Argol and Matt looked at each other and then lifted the lid of the chest. They were sucked through a portal and spit out onto a floating platform in the sky.

“This isn’t good” Matt commented.

The two of them looked around for a bit until Hades and Tiamat appeared out of nowhere.

“This is it. No place to run or hide. It ends now!” Argol shouted as he and Matt charged at Tiamat and Hades.

Hades called fourth some souls to detain Matt for a bit while Tiamat hurled fireballs at Argol. Both Matt and Argol managed to sidestep the attacks and continue their charges. Matt and Argol yelled as Underworld Shadow and Underworld Light collided with Hades’ and Tiamat’s blades. A flash of blinding light erupted from the weapons and screams were heard throughout every continent. When the flash of light died down two figures were seen walking away from the battle with cuts and bruises.

## 16 - Epilogue

### EPILOGUE

Malena ran through the halls of her father's palace until she came upon a lone room with a purple portal in it. She remembered how she had followed Argol through it when he had first gone to Soul Earth. She had sealed it behind her but then created a new one a while after.

"I'm late!" exclaimed Malena as she prepared the parcel in her hand and then ran through the portal. She came out in a small closet with a tiny light bulb flashing on and off. She patted her hair down and then opened the closet door and stepped out.

"You made it!" cried Skye excitedly as she ran up to Malena and hugged her around the neck.

"Wouldn't miss it for the world!" stated Malena.

Skye showed Malena into the dining room where everyone else had been partying and chatting away. The Moon Warriors and Dragon Warriors had been mingling and greeted Malena with a cheer when she placed the parcel on a table next to a bunch of other parcels. Two men weaved their way through the crowd until they stood face to face with Malena. The first one kissed her while the second waited around.

"Come on, hurry the kiss up" said Argol as he waited impatiently.

Malena and Alex pulled away and grinned.

"Hey, it is my birthday" replied Alex.

"Yeah whatever"

Amy pushed her way through the group and put her arms around Argol's waist. Music started playing and she pulled at his arm.

"Let's dance"

Argol reluctantly followed her into the middle of the room where they began dancing.

"They've got the right idea" said Alex as he and Malena began dancing as well.

Skye sat down and watched everyone else. She had been lonely ever since Matt had gone.

Suddenly Matt came through the kitchen doors with a grin on his face.

"Where were you?" asked Skye.

"Making the cake in the kitchen" replied Matt as he swooped her off her feet and carried her to the dance floor.

She giggled with excitement as he placed her down and they began dancing.

"I missed you" she said as the slow music began to play.

"I was only gone for fifteen minutes" he replied as he placed her arms around his neck and moved closer.

"I know, but I still missed you"

"I missed you too"

The two of them kissed and then Skye rested her head on Matt's shoulders.

"I'm pregnant" she whispered so that only he could hear.

"Are you serious?" asked Matt.

She nodded and he smiled.

"That's great news"

Skye smiled at his response and the two of them continued dancing until the music stopped. Matt quickly rushed back into the kitchen and came out with a large chocolate cake with white icing. Everyone stood around the table as Alex sat down with Malena and stared at the delicious cake.

“Looks fabulous” stated Alex.

“Let’s hope it tastes as good as it looks” said Matt.

Alex read out the gold writing on the top of the cake.

“Happy 19th Birthday Brother Bear”

Next to the writing was a picture of a bear made from brown icing.

“Well make a wish and blow out the candles” Malena said.

Alex closed his eyes, made a wish and blew out the candles. Skye then handed him a kitchen knife.

“Don’t touch the bottom” warned Argol as Alex sliced into the cake.

“So what did you wish for?” asked Malena.

To beat Matt at a game of Caber Toss...

“Nothing special” Alex replied with a smile.

“Hey Alex, after cake do you want to play a game of Caber Toss?” Matt asked.

“Yes I do, yes I do...”