

Episode XVIII: The Seal

Rushing along, feet slopping against the wet sand, through the mud, down the shores. Monte, laughing with a single flip over a fallen tree, landing to the other side and bolting faster, “Come on guys, you’re too slow!”

“We don’t all have super speed jerko!”

“Yeah I know and you know I love that Amber, haha!”

“Keep in pace man, remember we need Sam to take this guy on and if we alert him it could complicate things!”

“Aye, I know what I’m doing mate, I won’t alert nobody!”

“Your grammar hurts my head!”

“Sorry Sam, I don’t like being formal so I’ll be free when outside of school!”

“He’s just a kid at heart.”

“Aren’t we all? Heh heh, this is pretty fun for a job, plus they pay us now.”

“Yeah, it’s sweet to have a paycheck like this.”

“I get cash.”

“WHAT!?”

“Like, does that really surprise you?”

“No it’s the fact that you need to be paid at all. We’re taking minimum wage because, while we don’t care for doing this to get paid, we need to so we don’t have to get jobs and let that interfere with our work. You’re clearly just being greedy.”

“Or like, maybe I don’t want to rely on my parents?”

“That doesn’t seem- oh whatever Amber, so long as you do your part I guess right? Haha!”

Continuing, the group of five down and down the shoreline, ahead the rocky coast meaning that they were now closer to their destination, the Gillman’s lair. Ahead, crashing against the rocky shores, high waves of about twelve feet. Spilling over, echoing in return from the waves, the sound of the splashes, sand being taken out back into the lake.

Taking halt, arms out to direct a stop, Derrick’s eyes darting around, and a nod, “This is it... somewhere in here is the lair of the Gillman.”

“Should we split up and search?”

“Tch... I... I don’t know... we could cover more ground... alright. Dilan and Amber, Monte and Sam, then myself. We’ll yell if we find what we’re looking for alright?”

“Right.”

“Mmm.”

“Ya.”

“Like, whatever.”

“Break.”

The five splitting up into their groupings would then walk away from one another, one group along the shores, one along though heading into the rocks, then one to the present area to comb it.

Derrick, being the one to comb the present and outliers of the rocks would move swiftly, eyes darting left and right with his run, leaping right ahead, then to the left going ahead, moving as much as possible, seeing as much as possible, though with no apparent luck.

“Darn...”

Minutes going by and still nothing, left, and right, repeat.

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Further down searching the middle grounds of the rocks, Amber and Dilan, at a slow pace. Dilan looking right, Amber to the left, their steps in sync, a sigh leaving Dilan followed by a yawn.

“Like, don’t even think about falling asleep on me.”

“Wasn’t gonna...”

“Like, sure you weren’t.”

“Could you stop saying like a million times? It gets annoying.”

“Oh no you didn’t just shut up boy.”

“Like, make me. Like, ya know like, I don’t know like yeah like like like.”

“... That is kind of annoying...”

“Yeah.”

“Alright.”

“Wah!”

CRASH!!!

Turning back, a laugh came from Amber, lying on the ground Dilan having tripped over a rock.

“Shut up.”

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Searching the shore, twenty minutes in, Monte and Sam. Her head turning left to the right and back, Monte with sharp glances left and right. The slipping of rocks as with a leap and drop, Sam would go over a mini crack that could have been a tripper. Monte glancing back at it and then looking forward, neither saying a word... at least, not at first.

“So...”

“Hmm?”

“... Telekinesis is pretty interesting?”

“Oh uh... thanks. Yeah, I guess.”

Continued walking, nothing.

“So... how do you do sports with super speed?”

“Eh... carefully. Can’t show off too much of my ability, people might get suspicious.”

“Ah...”

“... So did you see the game yesterday?”

“I’m not into sports.”

“Oh... man, sorry but this pairing sucks.”

“Agreed.”

“Next time you should just go with Dilan since you’re both brainiacs, then I can just bug Amber and Derrick can do his thing.”

“Works for me.”

“INFERNACUS ENCHANTOCUS!” came a yell, a loud divine echoing behind it, catching their attention quickly with a look forward, ahead an explosion of light over a small hill, mostly a burst of fire. Sam looking to Monte, Monte looking to Sam, both nodding, then rushing forward.

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Bubbling water, flames dancing round, wood crackling, sparks sent adrift. Wind howling against a large echoing opening, flared back out yet again, a cloaked man standing before a cauldron the color black with inner greens, looking deep inside, slightly nodding with a book in hand, “Hmph... too much... then I’ll just add this and finish it I suppose.”

His hand flickering forward and a puff, smoke blasting out from the sprinkling of a silver powder, the color turning red then to gold, his nod with a step back, “That should do it. Now to dump it into the lake and the rest will be history, game over.”

“I don’t think so!”

Dropping down right behind, two people with a blue aura, Sam and Monte. Monte standing ready to charge, Sam at attention looking at the stranger.

“Hmph... this one again... and a new one. Beat it kids, I have work to do.”

“You’re coming with us creep.”

“I don’t have time for this... be gone.”

Immediately, phasing clouds of white would appear, swirling into existence.

“It’s the ghosts!”

The strange man, crossing his arms, would nod, “Last time you barely got away. Let’s see how you do this time.”

“Sam, this is where you shine. Last time we couldn’t get through these things no matter how hard we tried.”

“Easy enough...”

The ghosts approaching as her eyes gathered a blue aura, nearing to strike when immediately, coming to a halt just before them breaking away with the gray glow of her eyes. The cloaked man looking around, hand out only to receive a slight shock, “Gah, what is this!?”

“Telekinetic box, intended to separate you from everything else. I had a hunch, based on the descriptions, you can turn these things solid to hit us and then let them slip through things. So, I figured I would use the box to capture you.”

“No way!”

“You can’t control them now that you’re in a separate space. About the only thing of yours you can communicate with is yourself and us so long as I let the box let you speak. Alright... Monte, knock that potion onto the ground before something silly happens.”

“No, you can’t!” came the shout and a smack upon the wall. With a nod, walking over, Monte placing both hands upon pushing.

“NO!!!”

SPLASH!!!

Running liquid across the rocks and drifting back. The cloaked man dropping against the wall, shouting, “You fools, have you any idea what you’ve just done!?”

“Saved the day?” came the comment of Monte looking at him.

“More like ruined the day, that was a potion for a seal you fool.”

“A seal? For what-”

“-A seal for the Octo King!”

“Octo King?”

Pulling back the hood and dropping the cloak, the man would reveal himself to be wearing a black jumpsuit with a skull painted on the chest, black hair, brown eyes, and dark skin, “The thing people call the Gillman!”

“Wait then... you’re not the Gillman?”

“No, I’m not. I’m the Ghoul Master, Jebb is the name. And the Octo King is a sentient octopus monster.”

“Wait so then-”

“Yeah, you just dumped the sealing formula. I was going to dump it in the lake to keep them asleep but now you just ruined the entire thing. It’ll take weeks to remake that formula!”

“Maybe not... Sam, can you use your powers to separate the potion from everything else?”

“Yeah I mean... I can try but I never have before.”

“Try it.”

Eyes shut, soon to glow violet... slowly from the ground, bubbles and droplets, then mass spheres of the gold concoction, quickly pouring out of the ground and swarming towards and slapping down right inside the lake. Ghoul Master, slowly stepping back, nerves easing, Monte stepping up beside a concentrating Sam for several seconds until the last of it moving as a tail right into the water, the gold serum slowly spreading out and disappearing beneath the waves.

“That seal liquid acts like shock, it should spread and keep them asleep.”

“That’s a relief...”

“I’m surprised you trusted me considering I was a *creep* as you said.”

“Actually, I can tell if a person is lying or not using my telepathic powers. I could tell you were being honest.”

“And on that note... why are you here anyway? There hasn’t been a drop of trouble here in decades.”

“We received a report of Gillman attacking people and causing trouble here... you were the only supernatural entity here so we just assumed that-”

“Eh... yeah, maybe in the surrounding lakes, which is why I came here. It’ll spread for about a week after being poured but it should keep things secure here in the great lakes.”

“We also were looking for one of Edgelord Zaraka’s minions who hit us with a spell of bad luck... HQ thinks it might be The Goblin King.”

“Goblin King? Hmm... I remember helping ONUS with that guy... small scale stuff isn’t his deal though, if it’s bad luck it’s probably just some tricks played by Gremlin King and his tools.”

“Gremlin King?”

“A little trickster that causes a lot of trouble on people which makes them stronger.”

“Then it must have been him that caused Dilan and myself trouble back then.”

“Hmm... tell ONUS to watch for reports then. That little trickster will show himself eventually.”

“We’d best be off then.”

“One more thing before you go... tell your boss that I’ll have another batch of seal ready for Zaraka within a month.”

“Seal... for Zaraka?”

“How do you think we stopped him the first time? Galakin and the other leaders forged weapons out of my seal potion and trapped him that way, same thing they used on the Goblin King. Though it’ll be a few weeks to prepare.”

“We’ll be certain to tell her!”

“Excellent. I’ll call her when it’s ready. Safe travels kids.”

“See ya... oh boy Monte, this is great. If this stuff works we can stop Zaraka, that’ll be wonderful!”

“Things have been going too well so far... Zaraka won’t take it easy on us forever Sam. That’s the day we need to wait for.

Episode XIX: The Bait

Dust settling, smoke drifting, grass blowing in the wind, a lot of smoke drifting off into the sunny blue sky without an actual cloud in sight. Standing around, walking around, running around, several individuals, most in ONUS gear, the five DreamScapers, Damerick, and other unknown entities.

“And so he was going to use the Pixies to make a Pixie Dust to turn inanimate objects into servants to rule the west coast. Gnome King intended to then bring mostly just lawn ornaments to life to harvest more Pixie dust using the pixies, to make a bigger army, then take over the entire world to free all lawn gnomes.”

“Ingenious plan... if he hadn't gotten caught that is.”

“Gah, I would have gotten away with it... I should have gotten away with it!!”

“Tough break Gnome King, you enslaved the Pixies so it was only a matter of time before one got loose to inform us of what you were up to.”

“DARN YOU!!!!” he then yelled being drug away.

“Good work DreamScapers, yet another villain behind bars now.”

“Yeah!”

“This is almost becoming too easy... I was expecting this job to be a lot more painful.”

“You would think since you kids are dealing with monsters and such but activity has been on the decline lately other than Zaraka. If not for him, half of the field team might be out of the job.”

“That’s crazy!”

“I mean, that’s just life ya know. Anyways, I think you’ve all done a splendid job so far... why not take the rest of today off? We’ll handle the cleanup work the Gnome King left us with.”

“Thanks Damerick.”

“Anytime Sam.”

“So do you guys want to do anything?” Monte in turn questioned, the group of five moving away from the scene towards a new limo parked just on the edge of the field.

“I don’t know... go to bed?”

“You can be so lazy at times Dilan. It’s not even five yet.”

“It’s five o’clock somewhere.”

“Eh whatever... what about you Derrick?”

“Chores to do, lawn needs cutting, trees need tending, yada yada.”

“Ah... Amber?”

“Like, daddy is picking out a new car.”

“What happened to not wanting to rely on your parents?”

“A car is a car man.”

“Mhmm... and Sam?”

“Can’t, I have more research work to do on the Gremlin King.”

“You guys are all lame!”

With that, all of them would break out into laughter continuing, soon to get in the limo, ready to roll, ready to leave and do their own things once more, be them whatever they desire for the group or alone.

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The limo, slowly pulling to a halt next to a yellow house, a flower filled yard, door opening automatically and out would walk Sam, turning back, “Thanks for the ride Flavo.”

“Of course milady. See you again.”

Door shutting, the limo pulling out and driving off, Sam turning to the house and stepping forward though on the porch, Stark, his head glancing up at the sight of Sam with a bland expression bearing witness.

“Stark?”

“Sam... we need to talk.”

“Oh uh... alright,” she murmured approaching, “What about?”

“Sam... we’ve been friends for forever... though lately I feel like you’ve been blowing me off these last few weeks... ever since you started hanging out with the others.”

“Huh?”

“We used to do things Sam... I just wanted to ask you about what’s going on.”

“Nothing at all Stark, I’ve just been very busy.”

“Hmph... I can tell that was a lie. You guys are up to something.”

“I... I can’t say.”

“Can’t... or won’t?”

“Stark.”

“I will find out Sam,” came his mutter, standing and walking down the driveway, turning back once on the sidewalk, “You’ve changed... and I will find out why.”

With those words, he’d then walk down the sidewalk, disappearing with the next turn, leaving Sam to only look and ponder.

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Clicking and clacking on a keyboard, a monitor blaring in the night, Sam’s gaze locked tight to a monitor attached to a computer, scrolling up and down page after page. Typing, she’d insert ‘Gremlin King’ into the search bar, continuing to read. A phone, sitting next to her, would remain still, reflecting the light of the screen back up as once more she searched for yet another page.

A sigh, soon to escape her, “Man... this is taking forever... where are you Gremlin King...”

Pushing the wall, chair rolling back, she’d top and collapse upon her bed, staring up at the ceiling quite content with a sigh, “You are somewhere... or was it just a one time job for you? No... we need some form of bait for you wouldn’t we? Or... was that truly just an unnatural natural coincidence... unnatural natural coincidence? Heh, wow. Hmm...”

Blinking, still staring, it would take not more but a split second and immediately she'd fly, "That's it, bait!"

Flying up, quickly rushing to the desk, hands slammed down and phone flying up, a slight ringing in the following seconds until, "Derrick, call the others, I just figured out how to catch our Gremlin friend... yeah, I need to contact Damerick too... uh huh, I figured we could use bait... yeah, I know but what if we spread a rumor that say, we're working on a device to help fight Zaraka, he might send in the Gremlin King to sabotage it, then we spring a trap. I know, right!? Alright, we'll be able to take him with that. Uh huh, alright, bye."

Episode XX: Federal Investigation: Criminality Afoot?

Blue skies and a ringing bell, a crowd of shuffling youngsters on the move, ten in the morning. Sam on her way towards the library, Dilan and Monte not far behind, Derrick waiting inside and Amber waiting by a locker, quick to follow.

“So like, what is it Sam?”

“I think I know how to bait the Gremlin King out of hiding. I told Damerick and Derrick already. I think if we bait and say we are going to build something to take out Zaraka we could be able to lure out the Gremlin and trap it.”

“You think it would work?”

“Like, what if it really was just bad luck?”

“We’ve learned a lot lately but I can safely say luck is one thing that doesn’t exist, only little devils that can make this worse. I know it’d work based on how Zaraka thinks based on the books. He’ll send the Gremlin King out to sabotage everything since he’s proven himself, which his when we ambush him.”

“I mean... I guess that could work.”

“Haha, I like how you’re thinking Sammy.”

“Yeah... this should work. We’ll have to meet up with Damerick later to really put this into motion then.”

“Just one problem...”

“What?”

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A knock on a wood door, the creaking of it as it'd open, inside a decent sized office with a wood desk, filing cabinets, a double monitor computer, notes scattered, and an older looking man in a chair who would in turn look forward confused.

“Mr. Gespahcas?”

“Er... yes?”

“We’re with the Federal Bureau of Investigations, our director was supposed to contact you and inform you of our arrival, which was confirmed.”

“Oh uh, yes yes, right ahem er... about-”

“As was discussed you don’t need to be made aware of anything other than a simple investigation on the premise of strange activity being reported in the area which we intend to get to the bottom of.”

“Er... alright uh... as I said, you will have our full cooperation.”

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“Yeah, the FBI got summoned.”

“How did that even happen!?”

“Supposedly someone saw some weird stuff and reported it... likely linked to our friend the Gremlin King.”

“So what, like, do we do now?”

“Without Victoria’s connections it’s hard to say... we’ll have to tread carefully.”

“Like, why?”

“Because we can’t get rid of them if we get caught. This will have to be pure stealth. I suggest we each do our own investigation around the clock for now. We’ll meet in the old library after school to discuss this further... till then, keep a low profile.”

“Right.”

“Ya.”

The sound of the bell, the five nodding and quickly scattering off to their classes, off in a corner though staring at the five with people moving away from him, Stark, his eyes narrowed, writing down in a notebook old library.

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Monte and Sam, both arriving at class, a lecture course filled with thirty-two people, a teacher, and an assistant, the teacher standing ready to begin the day.

“Good morning class. Today we’re going to be working towards your final projects for your respective classes. As you all know, today-”

The door opening, a man in a suit, hair combed back, ear piece in with a wire to a chest pocket and shades, walking inside with two others dressed similarly behind him.

“Ahem eh, good afternoon ma’am, we’re here to evaluate your class.”

“What is this nonsense that you’re going on about? Who do you think you are barging into my classroom like this.”

“Ma’am I could have you arrested now SIT DOWN!!!”

She’d take a step back, looking at the man, hands clenched into fists, frustrated.

“Heh heh, now, which of you lot is the instructor?” he’d say looking at the class, though immediately everyone would point to the woman he had just yelled at. Turning, he’d take a step back himself, “Oh, that’s- unfortunate. My apologies.”

“Grrr... who do you people think you are!?”

“We’re with the Federal Bur-, er... we’re with the teaching summit, like I said, to evaluate your class.”

“Teaching summit? I... I didn’t realize you were coming!”

“That’s ok ma’am, it’s a surprise inspection,” came the voice of the second one.

“Uh... ok? Er... so class, today we will be going over the-”

“Pst... hey, Monte.”

“Yeah?”

“These guys aren’t with the teaching summit, if there even is a teaching summit. I bet they’re those FBI guys.”

“Ya think? Heh, what a couple of idiots.”

“Yeah, we’ll have to tell the others. That third guy is giving me a weird vibe though and-”

“Samantha, you are the star of the course, would you care to share your thesis with the class?”

“Oh uh, sure!”

The agents would stand back against a wall, looking at one another, then to Sam, watching closely.

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The lunch bell ringing, students murmuring and shouting, laughter in the halls, the five meeting back up heading for the lunch room.

“So, how was it Monte, Sam? I heard you two had a couple of weird guys in suits visit class today.”

“Ugh, the most trash cover up story. Those were the guys.”

“Yeah. Monte had to ask though to be sure so who knows if anyone else will figure it out.”

“Shut up Sam, I totally knew the entire time!”

“Like, they were in my English class too. They asked half the class random questions.”

“They were in my gym class claiming to be fitness analysis people. They checked out all of us and questioned two of our weaker athletes who were doing better than normal.”

“So... they’re looking for abnormal people then or strange people who can do what we do.”

“Yeah... someone tipped them off then.”

“But who?”

“Not sure but we’ll figure it out eventually.”

“Unfortunately.”

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Another bell ringing and another batch rushing into room one five nine. All taking their seats, Sam and Derrick among this bunch. In their seats, both looking forward, the same three in suits with shades would sit in metal chairs with pencils and clipboards holding paper. All three looking around the room completely ignoring the teacher, their pencils tapping as the instructor began the lesson for the day.

With a sigh, Sam taking her own notes would begin to scratch down some notes on the lesson, though Derrick not taking his eyes off at all, “(Hmm... just what are these guys after? And why are they so- so lame?)”

“Derrick.”

“Yes Ms. Gristle?”

“Tell me what the sum of two and a third of X in this equation is?”

“Hmm. I believe that would be twelve and a half?”

“Correct.”

Glancing back upon them, the three would look to Derrick and draft their notes, though two looking down, the third remaining with his head up, light glimmering off his bald head. Blinking, his eyes perking, he’d see a slight red glow behind the shades while sitting back down, shaking it off with a simple shrug.

Sam with a glance up, a sigh leaving her, “(These guys aren’t that bright. Sure they might fool people who don’t know why the FBI would be here, who in turn would not think of them as FBI but they should know the guys they’re after, namely us, would

be more than capable of catching onto that. Oh well, can't be helped I guess. Hopefully they just pick up and get out after a week or so.)”

Continuing on, all would begin to open their books to page five fourteen, more equations waiting, “Please have this completed two class periods from now, thank you.”

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“It’s commonplace in history for societies to believe in the supernatural, dating back thousands of years, some attributing such things to the Gods they worshiped or simple mishap, even claiming it as an act of the devil. Though in modern days there is a lot of discrepancy about this subject. Many today still claim sightings of ghosts and the unnatural or rather supernatural-”

Monte, Derrick, and Dilan all together in the same class at a table, Dilan’s face planted down upon the table, Monte dozing off, and Derrick reading his notes half asleep, the entire class carrying a similar vibe with, once more, the three agents at the front of the room, and then, the ringing of the bell.

Students standing, yawning, chattering, all moving towards the door as the three kept writing their notes, Derrick and company the last to walk by as the bald headed one would glance forward.

“Man what a load of ducks and chickens, not a single one of them stands out.”

“Guess we can get back to the office now then and come back tomorrow eh?”

“You guys go on ahead, I want to do a little extra investigating.”

“Eh, whatever you say man.”

The two standing up and walking out, teacher approaching the third, “So uh, how was that then?”

He’d say nothing, standing and turning to face the teacher, a red glow coming from his shades with a flash of color, a single thrust of the arm forward and static sent flying, crashing against a wall and sliding down, the teacher now lay unconscious, the bald agent smirking with the pulse behind his shades fading, turning and walking out of the room, “Successful.”

Episode XXI: The Last Enforcer! Gremlins In The House!!

The ringing of the bell, the final toll of the day, students pouring out of the main doors laughing and shouting along the sidewalks. Off to the left, a big tree, it being here where Derrick stood with his back against the tree and his arms crossed. Soon to walk up, Dilan and Sam.

“Hey Derrick!”

“Oh, Sam, Dilan, hey.”

“You ready for this man?”

“Of course Dilan, of course.”

“Good to hear that broseph!”

Approaching behind Monte and Amber, stopping behind with the others turning around.

“So we all know the plan then right?”

“Yeah, I already told Flavo what we were planning so he should have his informants pass off the information. I also reserved the gym for after school today so we could prepare.”

“Excellent. Then we’re about ready to begin this then. The Gremlin King will probably catch wind and come to sabotage our work After that we can capture him and put this to an end.”

“We need to be careful though don’t forget. The Gremlin King is a dangerous trickster that nearly severely injured Sam and myself.”

“Don’t worry, we’ve got precautions in place for that. You’ll see.”

“Hmm... alright. So we move tonight then.”

“Right.”

“So how many more of these guys are there that work for Zaraka?”

“According to Ms. Galakin, there are about three more that slipped out of the portal with him including the Gremlin King. So after tonight there will only be three major threats left.”

“Well then see you guys later.”

“Right.”

“Mmm.”

The five, nodding to each other, their steps echoing apart from one another going in separate directions heading home though unknown to them the fact that they were not the only ones present as two in suits stepped out of some bushes, “Did you hear that?”

“Yeah, those kids are up to something.”

“I wonder what.”

“Well then we just have to wait and see, heh heh. I can smell that promotion already!”

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The clock spinning, the hours flying: four, five, six, seven, eight, nine, ten, eleven, eleven fifty-five. The gym, dark with lights off, not a soul to be seen though five would be present, five behind the bleachers.

“Hey, isn’t it about time?”

“Yeah, don’t worry about it Amber. Flavo did his job now we have to do ours.”

“I’m just asking because I hate this boring waiting around thing.”

“No need to worry... he’ll be here.”

A metal door clanging, creaking open, then footsteps, all five turning their heads,

“It’s time, get ready!”

Ducking down, looking at the main doors, now they await... and wait... and wait... seconds to minutes going by. Four after twelve and nothing, sweat forming on Derrick’s head from the stress of waiting, Dilan’s eyes shaking with sleep deprivation, Amber’s bored gaze, Monte and Sam looking serious forward... and then, the door handles would crack and turn visibly, all five now on guard with them flying open.

Inside walked a figure... though a rather small one about two feet tall, its ears long and pointed, eyes taking half the face, scales covering all but its white underbelly and then snake eyes glimmering in the dark with a crown atop its head.

“Hyuck hyuck hyuck, this is it, this is where I’ll finally make my mark!”

Stepping in the little guy would look around, eyes glowing though shock quick to flood them, “What the what, where’s the stupid device!?”

The lights popping on, an audible bang, his head snapping right to then see the five DreamScapers.

“So we finally meet, Gremlin King.”

“Gah, you’re those rats I tried to get rid of!”

“That’s right, friends of the girl here whom you put in the hospital. It’s over Gremlin King, for you and your master!”

“Master? What you talking about fool? I am my own master!”

“You don’t work for Zaraka?”

“Lordy lordy no sir no, that guy has a donut for a brain, why would I work for him? I just want to sabotage you ONUS guys cuz I want the bounty for it.”

“Hmph... then you aren’t worth our time.”

“What’s that!?”

“FREEZE!!!”

The doors slamming open, two men in suits rushing in quickly, “You’re all under arrest for- wha?”

Both looking forward, seeing Gremlin King as he whipped around, gasping, “GAH, what the what!?”

“Is that... a Gremlin?”

“Don’t know?”

“Oh great, those FBI guys again.”

“GAH!!!”

“HRGH-”

Both then dropping to their knees and collapsing forward, grunting, the third agent standing behind with his shades exhibiting a red glow looking forward, black aura exploding around him.

“Hey hey hey who are these dipsticks!? Who is that guy!? What’s going on!?!?!?!?”

The five DreamScapers quickly standing ready, now looking forward, Monte and Dilan grunting with anticipation, the rest sighing.

“Looks like we found Zaraka’s minion.”

A high pitched roar leaving the mouth of the bald agent and then a blinding flash of orange electricity surging out, followed swiftly by an explosion of compressed air and then the collapse of several ceiling panels.

“Whoa, this guy has some serious power!”

“I don’t know what ya’ll and he are but imma have my dream realized. Come at me bro!”

“Sam, you take that Gremlin guy, your powers are better suited for it. We’ll handle this other guy. Let’s move!” Derrick quickly barked, rushing left and curving around going towards the agent, followed swiftly by the others, leaving Sam to turn and face the Gremlin King.

“What I get one and he gets four?! Boy how does that work!?”

“Because I’m all it’ll take to take you down.”

“I like your spunk kiddo, let’s go, I’ll cause you so much bad luck they’ll put ya back in for another week!”

“I need to get you back for that don’t I? Come on then!”

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Rushing ahead and with a leap up, Derrick's eyes glistening with courage, he'd launch himself down through the air spin kicking vertically, "Hyaaaaa!!!!!!" The Agent's hand going up and then a clap, the foot slamming atop the hand which then gripped hard. A swing back and a toss forward, Derrick being launched right at Dilan crashing into him, Amber moving up in front, her scream flying out super sonic level at the Agent.

Monte with a kick off the ground sent soaring into the air, spinning towards the ceiling, a small clang and his form bolting down at the Agent, doing the same spin kick as Derrick while Amber's scream would impact as a diversion. Much to his surprise, the sound of another clap, the Agent's left fist shot into his gut, Monte flying off and crashing into the bleachers.

"Hmph..."

Derrick standing, Dilan beside holding his side.

"Man, this guy is strong. He took a kick from me and withstood Amber's scream!"

"Yes but that's not all, HAVE IT, HRRRRRRRGHYAAAAA!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!"

Orange lightning blasting from the Agent's palms would slam into Dilan, Amber, and Derrick, sparks flying followed by smaller scale explosions, the three being flung back by the blasts, "GYAH!!!" "NUAAAA-" "AEYIII!!" all crashing down back behind where they originally stood, laying to then stand, their eyes all wide and a pained expression on all of them.

"Man, this guy is something else!"

In a single blink, sparks would fly from the Agent's palm and then blow outward, the Agent flying back and crashing right into a wall, groaning, Derrick's eyes narrowing, "Hey, what just happened Derrick?!"

"I-I don't know. That's where I kicked him."

"Hey, maybe he has a power to negate kinetic force though maybe it isn't perfect!"

"Hmm... Dilan might be right actually the more I think about it. Which means... just keep hammering away at him guys, let's go!!"

Charging forward, they'd quickly reenter the battle, Amber firing off yet another scream.

-

A collapsing floor panel, then a ceiling panel, benches picked up and flung only to be shot down by the panels, Sam bolting away from the bleachers as they in turn came crumbling down, clanging along the ground with the Gremlin King leaping high into the air, landing on his feet laughing, hand waving with another set of panels dropping over Sam's head.

"Come now young one, is that the best you can do!?"

"Far from creep!"

Her eyes glowing red, the ceiling panels above her head glowing red, stopped in place without a single bit of movement, leaving the Gremlin King standing dumbfounded, "How even!?"

"It's your turn to scream buddy!"

“I think not.”

With the snap of his fingers, a blast blew right below Sam, sending panel flying everywhere, a gas line far below in the basement having just ruptured with fire flying up.

“Sam!” came the shout of Derrick, locked in combat yet with the Agent, Gremlin King slowly walking up to Sam, pinned below rubble, surprised with a gasp.

“My game child, now take thi-”

SLAP!!!

“NYAR-”

A poof of purple dust, a book slamming shut right where the Gremlin King stood, the dust clearing with sparkles to quickly show standing in place, Stark.

“Stark?!”

“Sam... you looked like you needed a hand there.”

Her eyes widening a bit then a smile forming, her head shaking, “Heh... I had that actually, just wanted to wait for him to get closer,” she in turn murmured, the rubble flying off of her quickly with a light blue glow, Stark holding a hand out and quick to help her up.

“So... this is what you’ve been up to then.”

“Yeah, I-I couldn’t-”

“It’s fine Sam.”

CRASH!!

Crashing through the bleachers and into the wall, the Agent groaning slopping down with his head hanging out cold, breathing a touch heavily Monte, coughing, “How’s that!?”

A smile from Sam with her glance to Stark, nodding, “It’s done then... thank you Stark. I have a lot to tell you.”

-

Sirens blaring, men in yellow suits with hard hats running all over dragging hoses, shooting water into the fires. Standing off to the side as fire fighters continued to enter, men in suits dragging the Agent away and another carrying the book found where Gremlin King last was, Damerick standing with the DreamScapers, “I must say that was a reckless plan to lure Gremlin King out here of all places, it’ll cost us a fortune to keep the emergency service people quiet. Though I will say, trapping him in that book was genius.”

“Thanks but it wasn’t us, it was Stark. I guess he just knew that Gremlins could be trapped in them.”

“So what’s going to happen to Stark?”

“We’ve already taken him to have his memory wiped, he won’t remember any of this. As for those two FBI agents you found, we delivered them to a hospital. They don’t remember a thing I guess so, we’ll leave that alone for now. Great work taking down Slayer Master though, who knew Zaraka would send him as an extra FBI agent.”

“Slayer Master?”

“One of Zaraka’s stealth guys. He is able to absorb impacts though can be overloaded as you discovered.”

“So... what’s next Damerick? Like, what comes next?”

“Well... Zaraka is clearly interested in taking you guys out and now he has just three cards to play. Two of his own and or finding a new helper.”

“Any idea who his last two players are or where he could get help?”

“No, I am not aware Sam but I’m sure in time you kids will find out. You should all run home, you’ve had a long night. Leave the cleanup work to us.”

With nods, the five would turn, walking out of the building beyond the doors, continuing towards the sidewalk, all relieved that it was done, all but one, Sam’s eyes gazing upon the moon, glistening, wondering, sighing...

Episode XXII: Death Cometh To Town- The Final Warning!!

Running down the sidewalk, people running screaming, pushing against the stream of people the five DreamScapers with Derrick in the lead, a cellphone in his hand with Monte, Sam, Dilan, and Amber behind him.

“So what’s the hubbub this time Derrick?!”

“We got a call about some guy in a hood with a scythe terrorizing people at random.”

“Sounds like another Nightmare, that’s the third one this week!”

“Aye, it can’t be that bad, am I right?”

“I see the area up ahead!”

Turning around a corner and rushing out onto the pavement, right ahead of them a man in black garment, hooded, with a scythe on his back, turning round now with his sky blue eyes looking upon the DreamScapers.

“Who are you!?”

“Who am I? Who are you, agents of the enemy perhaps!?” he’d shout, scythe grabbed and pulled from his back, “I am Vrock the Death Reaper and I’ve come to exterminate all who dare to oppose us!”

“So you’re working with that guy eh?!”

“Derrick, be ready, this guy seems a bit stronger than the other baddies we’ve fought up until now.”

“Yeah I can tell. His power seems overwhelming even at this distance but nonetheless we have to try Dilan, this guy is a threat of some kind and it is our job to clean him up!”

With a glance left, Sam’s eyes glowing, a sky blue aura forming around a car as it was quickly picked up and then a glance back forward towards Vrock, it’d launch itself right off the ground and at Vrock himself.

His eyes widening, “What the-” he’d mutter, then with a single leap fly up with a kick off the ground, eyes widening again as a shriek blew right into him, Monte and Derrick rushing below him as Amber’s wail flew right into, blowing him back while also ruffling his cloak, sending the Death Reaper flying back.

Skidding to a stop below, both bolting up with a strong leap, positioned right below the impact could be heard, Vrock flying sky high above via a kick from Derrick with Monte flying higher due to his acceleration power, getting right above Vrock and hanging there as he flew, then CRACK!!!

Down the leg came, slamming right into Vrock’s back, an explosion of pressure as the Death Reaper blew down and slam through the pavement two seconds after impact, leaving both Monte and Derrick to drop.

Feet dropping, all looking forward, Dilan would yawn walking up, “Man, why can’t my power be offensive like that?”

A crater in the ground, pavement blown everywhere with just dust and some smoke drifting, no sign of Vrock at first till after it settled, standing there now coughing,

the Death Reaper looked ahead with a grin, “Well well, you kids have some bite I’ll give you that BUT- it’ll take more than that to finish the likes of me off. Now, let’s get to the fun!!”

Black aura flying out of Vrock, a pressure falling on all five with their legs wobbling; Dilan, Sam, and Amber the first to drop to their knees, followed next by Monte, “Guys, what’s- urk,” Derrick questioning till dropping himself, Vrock slowly approaching, “Nice ain’t it? That’s my Death Aura. It takes the will out of your body leaving you open to me, myself, and my scythe here... so, who goes first?”

“Tch, JERK!” came the bark of Amber.

“Alrighty kiddo, you first.”

Scythe raised high into the air, ready to swing down, everyone shouting Amber’s name as it came down only for it to stop.

CLASP!

Turning his head left, surprise filling Vrock’s face, “Lady Galakin?!”

The aura shutting off, the DreamScapers dropping flat, breathing heavily, Amber passing out from shock, right beside Vrock, Victoria Galakin whose eyes would be locked to his, “Vrock, we need to talk.”

“Ms. Galakin- what are you... who is this guy?!” came the grunt of Monte, pushing himself up.

“This is Vrock, one of our own S-class. Pardon me guys but we need to talk.”

In a blur of movement, both would disappear, leaving Monte to drop once again, aid workers from ONUS quickly rushing towards them with medical supplies.

-

“You know I can’t let you hurt our DreamScapers right?”

“I told you I’m sorry, I’m just a little on edge and after being attacked by those things in public I just-”

“Oh... forget it. So, Vrock, what have you learned?”

“Well,” he’d murmur, a long pause following for several seconds, his voice continuing soon enough after, “Nothing good I’m afraid. After visiting around the underworld, I can safely say that it won’t be long until Zaraka starts making some official moves. There are rumors going around that he’ll send *him* in.”

“Not good.”

“Those kids of yours, are they as good as you thought? They managed to sneak in a few good hits before I got serious, though they won’t be able to stop Zaraka at this rate.”

“And my powers haven’t regenerated yet which means they likely won’t again until those kids lose them. The sealing technique no longer works either.”

“Then I guess all we can do now is hope that those kids will improve before it’s too late.”

“Yeah... we can only hope...”

-

“GYAHHHHHHHHH!!!!!!!!!!!!!!”

A flash of lightning in the sky with storm clouds rolling in, lightning flashing illuminating the entrance to a cave, the winds howling, **“YOU IDIOTS ARE USELESS TO ME, BEATEN BY A PACK OF RATS, GYAHHHHHHHHHHHHHHH!!!!!!!!!!!!!!”**

“Milord, please, calm down! Your power will lead ONUS right to our doorstep!”

“I DO NOT CARE, WHY ARE MY MINIONS BEING DEFEATED BY MERE CHILDREN!? I DARE NOT UNDERSTAND, GYAHHHHHHHHHHH!!!!!!!!!!!!!!”

“Milord, please, we can still get-”

“YOU FOOL, NONE OF YOU CAN DO THIS, I’LL GO THERE AND DO THE JOB MYSELF!!”

“Master wait, you aren’t at full power yet, you can’t go!”

“GET OUT OF MY WAY!!!”

CRASH!!

“Heh heh, look at you Zaraka, my Edge Lord and master, have you no control?”

Darkness spreading from the wall, a pair of golden orange eyes appearing within the shadow slowly moving forward.

“Gah, so it’s you!! How dare you talk back to me like that!? Why are you here? SPEAK!!”

“I am here because I can settle this problem of yours, once and for all.”

“Oh really!? You when all of my other minions have fallen so easily?!”

*“Don’t dare to lump me with that filth, I am leagues beyond. I guarantee it
EdgeLord Zaraka. I will not fail.”*

**“GAH!!! So be it... take them if you wish but do not expect to come back here
alive should you fail, I want those DreamScapers destroyed!”**

*“Heh, consider it done, EdgeLord Zaraka. Not a single being among them will be
able to stop my rampage.”*

“Heh, HAHAAHAHAHAHA!!! See to it then, Goblin King!!!”

Episode XXIII: Ghosts and Goblins

Three Weeks Later...

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October 24th, 20xx...

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“NYAHAHAHAHAHAAA, you humans will BOW to me!!”

People running screaming, a small town of shacks with a forest nearby, a small Gremlin standing in the middle of the town square with several orbs of yellow light floating around, launching outward in all directions slamming into buildings causing blasts.

“HAHAHAHAHAHA!!!”

“Hey you, that’s enough!”

“Eh!?”

Turning left the Gremlin would laugh once more, five people rushing up, “A couple of kids, telling me that it’s enough!? Charming! Run along kiddies, you don’t stand a chance against me!”

“Man why are they always so stupid.”

“Hey, I’ll handle this one.”

“Alright Monte.”

“Eh?”

CRASH!!

KAPOW!!!

Crackling wood and a collapse of debris, Monte standing right where the Gremlin had stood, smirking, "That's that."

-

Yet another bell ringing with students in their seats, sighing audible with a teacher approaching their desk, study hall. In this study hall, the five sat together, of course with two FBI Agents up front observing them.

"Are you sure those guys don't know what we are?" Dilan would often ask.

"Positive and if they do they can't prove it," Sam would usually reply.

Today though, it was different, the Agents with note books studying the rest of the class.

"Man, I tell you what guys, I'm sick of getting called out for all these stupid assignments. The last three weeks have been nothing but boring jobs."

"What do you expect? We've learned to use our powers. These guys aren't going to be much from here on out."

"Yeah, haha, remember that time with Gator Tator? That was a let down at the end."

"Yeah, haha, you're telling me. I was expecting more but this has uh, this has been boring more or less. I wish something fun would happen."

Screaming could quickly be heard in the hall, door still open as a kid would run by yelling, the entire room standing with the two Agents bolting out, Sam looking to Monte, “Wish granted, let’s go!”

“Right!”

Quickly bolting forward along the side, the five would rush out of the room followed by others, the teacher yelling poking his head out, “You five, get back her- what the devil!?”

Running through the hallway, three three foot green men with loin cloths and pointed green ears, red eyed, laughing chasing fives students down the hall.

“Holy toledo!”

Running down the hall, bolting into a lightning fast sprint, Monte above would drop down with a round house, knocking the three off against a wall, the students looking back though still running as the little men crashed, grunting, then passing out.

“What are these guys supposed to be?”

“Goblins I think?”

“Sam might be right, Dilan, call this in. Monte, good work, we need to keep moving.”

“Right!”

Running past Dilan the rest went, turning down a hallway leaving Dilan there looking, “Yeah alright thanks!”

-

Laughter heard, more Goblins visible through the halls, papers flying and lockers being smashed, kids sent flying through the air crashing into each other only to quickly get up and scatter away.

SHATTER!!

Amber's screech rushing out crashing into the Goblins, sending them flying out a window with Monte, Derrick, and Sam catching up to her quickly, the four nodding to each other to then follow outside, leaping out the window onto the ground, running forward into the courtyard, skidding to a halt seeing a group of eight, all facing and laughing.

"Great, more jokes. This won't take more than two secon-"

"I wouldn't be so sure about that, Young DreamScaper!"

All looking up into the sky as bolts of lightning slammed down, blowing both the Goblins and DreamScapers away from each other, crashing into the walls with an explosion going off at the source of impact.

"Gah, what was that?!"

"I don't know but I think we're about to find out!"

"*Hehahahahahahaha!*" came a voice, echoing, a figure slowly dropping down and stepping, silver iron boots, ruby baggy kimono robes with chestplate armor on the front, the face of a demon on the front with alligator skulls attached to the shoulders, a set of large green outlined dark red wings bearing spikes, long brown horns, green skin, red eyes, a wide smile, and long silver hair with two long stands to the sides and a pony tail

to the back with a skull designed crown atop his head, eyes glowing as with a blink, it would reveal a set of six eyes per side before opening back up into a single eye.

The wings retracting and fading away, *“So you’re the troublesome little pests who have defied EdgeLord Zaraka for all this time and prevented his global conquest. HA!! What a pitiful little joke yet very illuminating.”*

“Gah, who is this guy?!”

“His sneak attack got us pretty good-”

“He took out his own guys with that attack!”

“Heh, allow me to introduce myself then if that’s how you are. I am known simply as the Goblin King though for you my name is Zalazar, do well to remember the title and my name.”

“What, this is the Goblin King!?”

“No way!”

“Guys, stand ready!! This is by far no ordinary villain or Nightmare.”

“Derrick, we need to go now, remember what Ms. Galakin said?”

“Yeah... but as it stands, we can’t leave this guy alone or he might destroy the entire town. He must be stopped!”

“Heehahahahahaha, well if you insist on getting in our way then I have no choice but to take you.”

Aura bursting out of him with electricity, his laugh echoing, arms spread open welcoming an attack, ready for anything.

Episode XXIV: Zaraka's Strongest

“HYAAAAA!!!” came the yell of Monte, his foot swinging down at the Goblin King, his grin continuing with a look up to Monte as the kick connected, slamming down right atop Goblin King's left shoulder via Monte's right, a smile spreading though soon to shock, staring and seeing Goblin King bend only a slight bit.

“How GULLIBLE!”

Left arm out with the palm held, a burst of electricity flying out and blasting clear into Monte, his yell heard as blasts flew from his front from the electricity, spiraling away and crashing onto the ground with a roll, Derrick rushing in next with a leap, round house kicking, “HYAH, TAKE THAT!”

“Oh please, DO GO ON!!”

Turning, his right hand out catching and grabbing onto Derrick's ankle, a jolt of electricity quickly flew through as the Goblin King released his grip, Derrick sent flying and screaming crashing into the branches of a tree, Amber's wail flying in next followed by fragments of the wall with a light blue outline being propelled faster by the wail.

“You got me a present!? Don't mind if I do!” came his laugh, both hands out with a pulse launching, blocking the wail somehow holding it right in place, as well as making the wall debris stop in place, pulling his arms in, *“But let me just return to SENDER!”*

Thrusting them out, the wail backlog launching back with the wall fragments at both girls, the wail blowing the ground apart and launching Amber, with Sam barely

dodging the returned rocks, yelling out as the blast of the rebounded wail struck her right as well.

Both rolling, slowly standing, along with Derrick and Monte, all looking forward to the Goblin King, his grin wide even still, *“Oh come on now, you are the young brats that have defeated the best of Zaraka’s pets!? What a joke!”*

“Gah, Derrick, like, nothing we throw at him is working!”

“I can see that Amber, I’m still trying to figure this out.”

“Our powers, we need to hit him harder!”

“But how Monte?”

“Hmm, perhaps I can give you all an idea?”

Their eyes widening, all darting back around and then quickly backing away as right behind them now stood the Goblin King.

“How’d he get behind us!?”

“How? How indeed. The better question is, when are you going to take this SERIOUSLY!?”

His hands held out and in response of the DreamScapers movements a flurry of strikes forward from a vast distance, claw strikes slamming into jabbing through, though not a drop spilled as merely their spirits are attacked, explosions of their spirit’s energy flying out as all four blew back yelling, crashing and rolling, *“And now, the FINISHER, HRRRAAAA!”*

Now a blast of lightning sent forward striking all four and another blast engulfing, all sent rolling out yelling, crashing against the school building, moaning in pain, “Guh... I can’t feel my legs.”

“My sides hurt, what did he do to us?!”

“Ouch... that wasn’t stealing our strength or sabotaging us or anything, he, he did something to us.”

“Hahaha, do you ACTUALLY believe I would stoop so low as to only attack you for your energy. The enemies you’ve faced up till now, while true, just steal the energy of the living, are NOTHING compared to the likes of me. I can reach into and damage your souls. I am known as a Dream Eater after all and after that flurry, I would be surprised to see any of you get up again so how about we just finish this eh!?”

Lighting surging all around the Goblin King, his laugh echoing, though then a quick grunt, looking right and quickly leaping to the left, barely dodging a fire blast exploding right where he stood, *“Gah, now what have we here eh!?”*

Stepping down in place, three individuals, Flare, Damerick, and an older looking man, flower petals scattering as behind them stepped down Victoria Galakin.

“Brother!”

“Hah, so the kiddos couldn’t cut it and now you’re bringing in the best you’ve got!? Well I admire your strategy though they hardly put a dent in me.”

“Damerick, let’s shut this guy up once and for all!”

“With pleasure Flare. Sindra, let’s go!”

All three bolting forward with a mere flash of light, the Goblin King leaping back with a yowl now completely amused, Victoria standing arms crossed watching, Derrick's eyes wide.

“Hyah, HAA, HRRRAAAAAA!!!!!!”

Deflecting a sword, then a fire blast, then a variety of sealing daggers, blowing them all away with a colossal explosion of energy, leaping back discharging lightning quickly at the three, though the one known as Sindra stepping forward with a sword quickly catching the lightning like a lightning rod.

“Hah, not bad DreamScapers!”

Behind, wave of fire quickly washing forward, the Goblin King turning around with a wave of his arms firing off a twisting torrent of wind quick to absorb and blast the fire right back at the source, Flare, only to then be struck in the back to yowl with moderate pain as a blast of energy crashed forward.

KAPOW!!

“HRAAAAA, you wretch!”

Turning back around blowing the energy away with a wave of his arms, leaping to the left skidding across the ground upon landing, now facing the enemy laughing.

“In-incredible. Those three are holding him off!”

“Hahaha, this is truly thrilling to fight three old pros like you guys! I will admit if I act careless here it will be the end of me although I must admit that I am not here for you, nor am I apparently here for the brats you stand guard over. Hahaha, they aren't

even worth the time of day for me to destroy, at least not personally, hahaha. Zaraka will enjoy this report no doubt.”

“What are you saying Goblin King?”

“I’m saying that you all no longer hold an interest though you need not worry. While I am taking this opportunity to fall back for now, I’ve seen enough to be able to implement my own plans. I’ll let you off for now but know this DreamScapers of ONUS, times are changing. In no time at all, not even you will be able to stop us from taking over this world. Until then, have a ball! HAHAAHAHAHA!!”

An explosion of lightning, in that single instant, Goblin King would be gone, having disappeared with the flash, Derrick looking up at the sky as the fires burn around, “That guy... is just too strong... he was still holding back, I know it!”

Episode XXV: Legend of the Goblin

Two days later...

-

Tick

Tock

Tick

Tock

The ticking of a clock, a white room, several blue stained glass windows, posters and curtains all over the room. Along the beds, monitors on rolling stands everywhere with plenty of wires, this room resembling a massive hospital wing to some form of building. Sitting on some of the beds, the five DreamScapers bandaged.

Derrick, his arms in casts with patches across his face and upper arms, Sam with bandage around her forehead, Dilan with multiple patches in sections of three, Monte in a half body cast, and Amber with several wraps herself. A woman, walking back and forth between the five with two sitting in chairs nearby, “There, that should do it for the treatment therapy. Now if you’d take a bit to let the toxins injected into you to do their thing you can be out of here within an hour.”

“Just one hour and our body’s will be completely healed?! That’s incredible!”

“Well, it’s only because of the type of wounds. Nightmare creatures like that just tear away at your life energy typically and don’t cause actual wounds. The body isn’t

physically hurt but it still takes time to heal. The toxins I had you all drink accelerate the recovery time.”

“Awesome!”

“Galakin,” came the growl of Derrick, her gaze crossing his, “I want you to tell us everything about that guy. Hold nothing back. We already had a bit about him explained to us but I want to know more.”

A sigh leaving her, her head shaking, “It can’t be avoided anymore since you all lost to him already... the Goblin King, known also as Zalazar, as you’ve heard from Damerick, is one of the most powerful Nightmares that EdgeLord Zaraka has with him right now, said to be as strong as an EdgeLord, with the power over elements, super abilities, and ability to control the darkness in a person’s heart. You also were told that he can fight some of the best of us.”

All five nodding, standing now, looking around, she’d nod, “The Nightmare World is host to a variety of creatures like him and those you’ve fought, the strongest of which are granted the title of EdgeLord. Over the years, we’ve had our fair share of confrontations with the EdgeLords while we’ve gone into the Nightmare World to try and stop them before they could come and stop us. Those with the title are famous for their power, though, they are not the only ones.”

A glance down, a sigh, then another glance forward, “They are known as Enforcers or Generals of their world, beings too powerful for any lone DreamScaper or ONUS Operative. There are many like the Goblin King; some of the more famous ones are

Generals Bronxz, Uondra, Zander, Cratasius, and Zalazar. In fact, he might be EdgeLord level; Zaraka might be one of the weakest EdgeLords but some who have fought both of them claim the Goblin King is stronger. Two generations ago we had another squad of DreamScapers, about ten years older than you guys, who came before Damerick. Like you they had defeated and captured many Nightmares, arguably our best squad of the era... that is, until they met Goblin King Zalazar. Zalazar in a single night buckled our forces and defeated all of the DreamScapers of that generation in one battle.”

“What!?”

“No way, he defeated them?”

“How does that happen?!”

“It happened because we underestimated Zalazar. We aren’t even sure if the intelligence we gathered about him being the weakest General is accurate. Some people who fought him have also fought Zaraka and have claimed that Zalazar is stronger.”

“Tch, that guy, he wasn’t even serious when he battled us. He brushed off our attacks like they were nothing.”

“I’ll never forget his power myself.”

“... you kids have no idea what sort of a monster Zalazar is. He was a part of Zaraka’s invading forces once upon a time and took on several of us himself. We never did get him to go serious, mostly because we managed to seal Zaraka away. For

whatever reason, Zalazar chose to retreat rather than continue to fight. He's no ordinary Nightmare, that's for certain."

"So... there's truly no way to stop a guy like that is there?"

"At your current levels no, I suppose not."

"Man, this is totally not good."

"If Zaraka decides to just cause trouble with that guy, we'll never be able to win."

"At the current rate of things, is there any hope?"

"Heh... how unusual to hear you guys doubting yourselves, you especially brother."

"What do you mean by that Damerick?"

"Your elder brother is right Derrick. You all see it as hopeless but you've yet to really begin to learn about your powers have you?"

"What do you mean?"

"You've only recently acquired them so I don't expect you to notice it yet. Heh... if you'll excuse us for now actually, there's something I must tend to."

"Oh, ok?"

"See you Ms. Galakin."

Damerick standing, following after with the others leaving the five in the room as the door shut.

"What do you think she meant?"

"I have no idea to be honest with you..."

-

“Victoria, do you honestly think these guys can become true DreamScapers?”

“Yes, Damerick, I do. They have a lot of potential out of all the candidates that I’ve seen. Our section is dealing with a big matter right now with Zaraka and now Zalazar.”

“Our section? Wait, do you mean-”

“Possibly, yes. The Goblin King retreated when victory could’ve been his, which means he has something else in mind. I don’t know what as that monster loves to play games but we need to be ready. I have a few calls to make, one of which is to get that school to allow the kids to take their test in the next four days, the day right before the thirty-first. I have no doubt that the enemy will launch an attack on the following day, one that could do a lot of damage to the town potentially. If that happens, we might lose our opportunity with them and go back to square one.”

“You’re serious about taking them in then?”

“The situation has changed Damerick. These kids were chosen by fate to come to us. We must handle this now. The longer Zaraka and Zalazar are on the loose, the more likely it is that their power will awaken other EdgeLords and break more seals. We can not allow this to happen. If we don’t stop it now then I fear the outcome for this world. I have but one more test for them and should they pass then it’ll be time.”

Episode XXVI: Final Exam

The bell ringing, for these five, what would be the final time of the year. A clock ticking, the final time of the year for them as well. A conference room, tables off to the side and desks put in their place across the room, a window taking up most of one wall, upwards of twenty-two students within this room. The DreamScapers in the corner talking, then the rest scattered around laughing and discussing.

A sign at the front of the room, '*Special Testing: TODAY!!*' it read.

“Man, can you believe it?”

“I know, Ms. Galakin got us into the Special Program to take this thing early.”

“Oh I wasn’t talking about that Sam, I was talking about her enrolling us in their academy this winter. That’s awesome!”

“Do you think we can actually unlock some form of new power?”

“Who knows, we were granted our powers by Ms. Galakin so anything is possible.”

“Good because we focus too heavily on hand to hand combat. Against guys like that Goblin King we need something else if we can’t punch them harder.”

“Punch them harder, really? Monte, I hope that’s all you unlock, I will laugh.”

“Shut up Derrick, haha. If I can one shot the Goblin King with a single punch, I’d be good.”

“Right? Haha!”

The door opening, an older lady walking in standing at the front, turning to face the students, glancing around, and then a cough, “Ahem... students, take your seats wherever you’d like please.”

Scrambling, all would comply and be seated.

“Now, you’ve all been enrolled into this Test Out Early Examination, known as the T.O.E.E., because the school thinks you are both ready and have to be graduated early. I however could care less. I am here to simply pass and or fail you. Yes, I realize I said pass *and* or fail you, and that’s because I can do both. Now, take up your pencils and be ready as I pass this out.”

Papers being handed out, the teacher walking by, several pages in thickness as for about a minute she moves around before taking up the front, “Now, you’ll all have two hours to take the exam. Succeed... and well, you won’t have to return until next year for school. If you have any questions, don’t bother asking, I’m not here to help. Now, I suggest you get to-”

Screaming heard, the glass shattering to the room, the instructor falling over with a few of the desks flopping, shock filling everyones faces and with a slight glance towards the window, a pack of Imps, laughing and floating, flying in with their pitchforks.

Two bat wings black in color flexed up and two smaller ones flexing down, four arms spreading out dark red in color with claws showing, black lines spread round, and two massive horns growing upwards with long white hair flying round wildly red eyes with green pupils staring back at the kids, “RAAAAAAAA!!!!!!”

“Imp King!” came the shout of Dilan.

“What? No way!”

“OH YES WAY SAMANTHA. YOU ALL GOT ME LOCKED UP LAST TIME. THIS TIME WILL BE DIFFERENT, I HAVE ESCAPED NOW FOR MY REVENGE!! IMPS, CHARGE!”

Snickering, thirty-three Imps flying right in at the five all standing now, Amber unleashing a sonic shriek at the window impacting many of them and the Imp King, blowing all of them out as the students quickly flew out of the room through the doors. Amber’s shriek stopping with Derrick and Monte flying outside. The Imps, slowly rising back up, only to receive a kick from Monte and a punch from Derrick, yowling as they’d launch back.

“HYAH!”

“HYIAI!!”

Yelling, they’d be launched back crashing, one by one being beat by the DreamScapers, though just as the Imp King himself stood, he’d be slammed by a desk sending him flying back with other tables and desks crashing into the Imps taking them out. In the blink of an eye, several of the Imps would be quick to attack their own, their eyes glowing red with Dilan’s.

“HYAH, HEEYA, NYAH!!”

Derrick rushing, quickly punching away at and kicking Imp King, several shots with the King’s wings deflecting most of the strikes, then a single knee to the gut

sending him flying, followed next by another desk and a wall slamming into him, throwing him through a glass window into a shed, “BAHHH!!!” came his yell, the shed collapsing right atop him.

“Did we get him?”

“HRAAA!!!” came the yell, the shed blowing apart, the Imp King hovering in the air, eyes glowing.

“That answer your question?”

“Oh I’m so ANGRY!!! HOW DARE YOU KIDS!?”

GAAAAAAAAAAHHHHHHHHHHHH!!!!!!!”

Lightning flying out, surprising all only to then take a step back, Amber taking a step forward shrieking, the lightning flying right back and slamming into Imp King, his yell audible and then his form launching back, crashing into the rubble, groaning.

“We got him!”

“I doubt it, he’s probably not done.”

“Except I think that’s more than enough,” came a voice, one very familiar to them, the voice of the instructor stepping forward, “Well done. From the report I received, last time you couldn’t even touch his second form and yet, here you are, able to take him like it’s nothing.”

“Your report? Who are you??”

“I am an Agent of ONUS. The true purpose of today was to test you against a foe you had already lost to to see how far you’ve come. We released the Imp King with

orders. If he attacked you and was able to help this test along, we'd shave time off his sentence. I am pleased to announce you all passed."

"But what about the test?"

"Test? Ha, our bosses already paid off the school and told them it was a government issue. You all are now moving on to your Junior Year of highschool next year. And I am pleased to say that starting next week Monday, you'll be brought to our own academy to receive special training to prepare you for anything to come. Congratulations, I didn't think it'd be so easy for you."

"ALRIGHT!!!"

"This is awesome!!"

"Yeah, good job kids," came the mutter of the Imp King hovering now back in his first form, "Ugh... I don't want to fight them again."

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"GYAH, YOU'RE BACK HERE!? EXPLAIN YOURSELF GOBLIN KING!!"

"Not to worry EdgeLord Zaraka. My attack on them was a test of sorts to see how I could proceed. Now I'm pleased I have my ticket," came his chuckle, a glowing green orb in hand with a yellow core, *"It's time for those DreamScapers to see what true power really is, I guarantee success for there will be no way they can stop me at their current levels. They and ONUS will fall before my true power as this is merely the beginning... count on it!"*