

[David Lance POV]

Goal in mind, I used my rings to try and locate all the lanterns in the known universe, but as hard as I tried, nothing came. Meaning I was either being blocked from getting that information, or there were no lanterns left.

The latter of the two seemed very unlikely so that only left option A, the lanterns were hiding from me.

Which was a very reasonable decision on their part, considering that the last time we ever saw each other I had no qualms about tearing them apart.

In any case, this complicated things a little bit. After all, if I couldn't find the Lanterns then how in hell would I recruit them for this?

It's not like I had a way to locate them without the rings.

...

I didn't... but I knew someone who did.

Wioska.

Her ability to sense Ki meant she could locate individuals with ease across the universe.

“I guess I’m recruiting Wioska into this.”

I have a feeling this won’t be fun for me, at all. I foresee a lot of pain in my very near future.

[One Hour Later.]

Within an hour of flying or so, I arrived at Wioska's planet, and just as I had foreseen, pain was on my table. See, the moment I arrived at the planet, Wioska launched an all-out assault on me, sending blows raining down on top of me like a calamitous storm.

I tried my best to fight her off, or at the very least defend myself. Alas, she once again proved how outclassed I was, meaning I was like before left defenseless.

Trying to endure, I took on a defensive stance, but even then, every hit she landed, which was every hit she threw, felt like a jolt of painful electricity going through my body as the fight dragged on mercilessly.

“I am deeply disappointed, I expected more from you,” Wioska said, finally coming to a stop. “Maybe I ought to train you again, this time until you can defeat me.”

“I missed you too,” I replied, making no attempt to disguise my sarcastic tone.

“Why are you here, David?” Wioska inquired, leaning forward.

“I need your help,” I replied, feeling my sore body cry for help. Thankfully I had the Blue Lantern ring, meaning I could heal myself.

“Narrow it down more, I’m very skillful, so that doesn’t answer a thing,” Wioska said, taking a seat on the ground, her legs crossed.

“I’ll get to the point. I’m preparing to fight Darkseid and Brainiac. Unfortunately for me, I can’t fight them both alone, at least not with their vast armies supporting them, so I need you in order to find some people, people that are hiding from me,” I explained.

Wioska thought for a few moments before giving me her answer. “I see, so you came for my help, seeing I can sense

others, not a bad reasoning. Very well, I'll help you, but I won't do it for free."

Never expected her to, even so... I can't imagine what her price will be. I mean, no matter how much I try, I can't think of a thing she could want that she couldn't get herself.

"A fight," Wioska said, still smiling.

"A fight?" I asked.

"Yes, when the time is right, that's what I want, a fight. You and I, one-on-one until one of us dies," Wioska said. "That will be my price for helping you."

"I'm sorry, but I can't see your angle here... I can't defeat you or even offer you a decent fight," I said, and then it hit me. When the time is right, she wanted me to come if I ever reached her level to fight her.

"So, do we have a deal?" Wioska asked, not missing a beat.

"Yes," I nodded. "Can I ask you something, why a fight to the death?"

"That's something you'll have to figure out on your own and believe me, you will figure it out, eventually," Wioska said, giving me a comforting smile. "Now, let's get started."

I had no idea what she meant by that, but I had no time to question her motives or goals, I had a war to win and little time to make with.

[Raven/Rachel Roth - POV]

Lucifer had transported us to a place within a mountain, and upon entering, it was almost overwhelming how much mana lay in front of me.

It was different than anything I had ever felt.

Runes were inscribed into the walls, reflecting an archaic language; enchantments seemed to sparkle in the air, flooding the atmosphere with life.

"What brings you two here?" A voice spoke, getting my attention.

“Obviously not the decor,” Lucifer replied.

Ignoring Lucifer, I turned to the one who had spoken one, it was an old man, weathered by time but with a glint in his eyes that revealed a knowledge far beyond what I could perceive.

Instinctively, I knew he was not native to this realm, his attunement to the arcane was impossible to achieve as a mortal.

This strange being sat upon a chair as if he were holding court amongst us; behind him were two statues made of stone that appeared to fiercely guard him, whether they were real or just illusions I couldn't tell.

“Are you the wizard Shazam?” I asked.

“No, he’s just an ordinary old man living inside of a cave without an entrance... or an exit... Of course he is Shazam,” Lucifer sighed, rolling his eyes a bit as he took a step forward. “The name is Lucifer Morningstar, the pleasure is all yours.”

The old man chuckled. “Excuse this old man, but aren’t you a bit too... qualified for whatever is happening?”

“Thank you for noticing, it’s nice to be acknowledged, seeing as someone can’t accept my lingerie expertise help!” Lucifer replied, giving me a side look.

“I... ok, so, what brings you here young lady?” Shazam asked, seeming a bit confused now.

“The world needs Shazam, now more than ever,” I replied.