

Dragons of the future 2

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Basically, some of the experiences Jack has when he takes his rightful place as dragon of the wind 80 years ahead of the time he meets those 'xiaolin losers'.

Only Clay and Omi are still alive of the original 4.

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1 - De ja vu...

The atmosphere of the temple was peaceful, quiet, comforting. The perfect time to take a nap.

At least in the eyes of this elderly cowboy, the last dragon of earth.

But he had to be resilient- it was his turn to watch and test them, to help them to think like warriors- Because after all what was the point of tests if you didn't learn anything?

He smiled as the inheritor of his element, Lee dodged the various traps of the obstacle course with ease as the other young dragons cheered him on-
Sasha dragon of water
Michael dragon of fire
and... Jack Spicer dragon of the wind.

It had been 80 years since he'd been told, 80 years since he'd last seen the boy- before he'd travelled from that time with the infamous sands of time to now and yet he still felt shocked.

After all, who would have thought that Jack Spicer, the boy who regularly annoyed and attacked them all those years ago- didn't even belong in that time?

Or that he was a destined xiaolin dragon of the future?

Of course the future was now the present he supposed.

Tearing his eyes off the children he gazed into the blue azure sky.
Where HAD all those years gone?

He hadn't even realised until a year ago when Master Xao told him that Sasha, Omi's granddaughter and little Lee, the boy who'd lived in this temple all his life would be taking their respective places... since Kimiko...

The ex dragon of the earth shifted uncomfortably. Poor Kimiko. It had just been her time.

He could almost laugh if it wasn't so depressing. How many years had they fought evil? How many times had they gotten THAT close to dying at the hands of Chase Young and other enemies?

And then she died peacefully in her sleep.

This had resulted in the need of new dragons, for ALL the elements- not just fire, Kimikos- for the special formations which they all formed together, only worked in that particular team. They couldn't just say, have Michael in their team to fight in her place- it just didn't work like that.

Besides in a few years, they'd also be gone- and where would that leave him?

The children... he really should be watching...

He glanced back, and noticed Lee pass through the finish line with ease- stuffed animal in hand.

Sasha stopped her watch and laughed "Well done Lee you beat my time by 2 seconds!"

Sasha- Omi's granddaughter, and inheritor of water- his own. So like Omi in some ways but in other ways so different. When the 2 stood side by side people could not believe they were actually related- he was short, she was tall. She had long flowing black hair and light skin despite her life in Australia- where for 10 months of the year until recently- she'd been raised.

In terms of personality was where she shared something of Omi's- she wasn't as boastful or proud as he was at that age (thank goodness). But she seemed to have had no doubt over her abilities and whenever there was room for improvement in the others, she didn't fail to point it out.

She didn't mean it rudely, she just meant to help- the boys realised that in the group and took heed of her words- most of the time(the realising AND listening parts), though of course not always.

But she also knew positive reinforcement usually worked better- something Omi hadn't learned until much later in life- as well as tact.

She was also slightly naive as Omi had been, about good and evil- she insisted like he had there was good in everyone- at least DEEP down. Though again, her naivety did not scale the extreme heights Omi's had.

Clay guessed she saw herself as the leader as Omi had done when they'd first met. She was motherly and kept the boys in line... a bit like Kimiko actually come to think of that.

Kimiko, the now passed on dragon of fire- HER elemental heir Michael, a boy from Africa slapped Lee on the back "You win again! you're starting to make us look bad, can't you just lose... for once?" he said jokingly.

Michael, the tall boy from Nigeria for the most part was good natured, but like Kimiko and his element he had a fiery temper. He had a strong sense of justice.

At first he had been wary, as had Lee about letting Jack into their 'family'. Particularity since the boy was an evil genius not so long ago.

But Sasha trusted him and eventually, he'd grown to do so- they were now friends.

But of course Jack had already felt the tail end of his temperment when both he and Sasha had accidently broken his phone while fiddling with it in the lab.

"We were just trying to upgrad- AAAAAAAAAAAAAHHH!" The cowboy smirked at first when he had heard that girly scream- it suprised him actually, how much he'd grown to miss it.

Lee the Chinese earth dragon said proudly to his firey companion "Never going to happen my friend".

Too proud. The cowboy worried. Lee, having been brought up in the temple all his life, like Omi was proof that personality did not result from genetics- but environment. Like Omi had been, he was FAR too used to being the best. He was the spitting image of Dashi which sometimes made people wonder if they were realted in some way- but no-one could be sure.

He'd known Sasha since he was a baby, but until recently he'd always been MILES ahead- likely since

she only came to the temple in the summer.

But both she and Michael, in the past year since they'd become permanent residents had achieved great gains in their fighting techniques- so now his head start was becoming smaller- which could Clay could tell worried him.

So any victory, however small soon became and ego trip.

He sometimes rushed head on into battle- trying to get whatever problem it was done quickly- he often forgot that as earth dragon sometimes you'd have to stop and think, no matter how many times Clay told him.

"Okay Jack You're up" said Sasha

The young goth, dressed in xiaolin garb, but with his patented goggles and make up still present, as ever walked slowly to the start/finish line.

"I think my title is safe" smirked Lee to her

"You don't know that- who knows what I'll do!" grinned Jack waving his arms manically

"Puh. You're not even an apprentice yet...OW!!" he yelled as Sasha smacked him "What was that for?!"

"Stop being a moron- he may surprise you."

"What with all the secret training you've been giving him? Excuse me but who was the last to make apprentice out of us 3...?"

Sasha gritted her teeth. The fact the Lee had been first and Michael and followed soon after was a sore point for her. It almost made her understand why Uncle Raimundo had once gone heylin for a while. Almost.

"Even I have to agree with Lee, you couldn't turn him into an expert in a MONTH" said Michael.

"You know! None of this helping!" complained Jack

"Just ignore them Jack-o, besides a 'fearful mouth flaps endlessly'"

"You are sooo related to Omi"

"Dude, I KNOW, will you please get over the shock? Its been a month- and yes I'm related to a 'cheeseball' as you say- just get over it!" she laughed "Now are you ready?"

He took a stance and nodded.

"Go!"

Clay almost collapsed with shock and laughter as the oh so familiar scene played before him "De ja vu..."

he murmured (a word he'd heard Kimiko say alot when younger) as Jack went over and instead of completing the course, grabbed the stuffed animal adn went back to the line grinning.

Sasha stopped her stop watch "VICTORY!!" she yelled, as both she and Michael cracked up- with Lee looking outraged.

"I wish I'd thought of that!" giggled Michael

"But that's cheating!" Lee said, annoyed to say the least.

"Sorry mate I didn't see the point of doing all that kicking, spinning stuff if I didn't have to... I mean the toy was just THERE- why bother?"

He smiled as he watched the dragons of water and fire continue to laugh- so he jumped onto them- causing all 3 children to laugh even louder.

"Its not funny! This is serious!"

"Oh get over yourself Lee" snorted Michael "It's NOT that big a deal- its not a real contest..."

"We are here to fight evil! NOT to make jokes...."

Then Clay decided to intervene "But what Jack did was right... you 3- why don't you all take a break? I'll talk to this partner"

The 3 did not need to be told twice- they all ran out into the clearing beside the temple and collapsed underneath a huge tree to share more jokes- which had been planted by Raimundo himself when he had become leader... its branches seemed to twist and turn into the sky as if trying to sup water from the clouds, rather than the ground.

Lee was stumped- this was Clay, the predecessor of his own element- what he said was... law practically.

"Huh?"

"Hes learned that sometimes you have to..."

"Stop and think... yeah sure" Lee muttered "I know..."

"You think you know... you are hearing what I am saying little partner but you're not really listening...."

Lee gave him a tortured look. The cowboy smiled kindly, adjusting his beloved hat.

"Now go- join your friends- I think you all deserve the rest of the day off."

Lee gave a small smile and dashed of to reach his comrades telling them the good news. Soon the 4 had a mock battle, with Jack and Sasha wrestling each other as they rolled down the hill, before

collapsing at the bottom laughing.

Clay smiled, it was hard to believe that THIS was the same Jack- laughing like a normal child and having fun with children his own age.

He had a better life then he'd ever had before coming to the future.

But sometimes Clay wondered whether the darkness would ever return to him- whether he'd ever turn to evil once more. And true on the outside he seemed happy- but was he?

He had not met Chase Young since traveliing and it was only a matter of time... and Chase would likely be more interested in him now since he was a chosen dragon- and well his friendship with Sasha WAS still a major plus, despite dispelling the immortal into the ying yang world 80 years ago.

But as Sasha had told him, he would escape and so he had- without anyone knowing how.

And who knew what other evil was there waiting and watching these 4 seemingly normal children, planning goodness knows what?

2 - NOT weak

Jack breathed in the humid air as he sat on the roof of the Xiaolin temple. He glanced at his watch- it was precisley 1.32am.

Why couldn't he sleep? He wondered to himself. He didn't know- there was something in the air, a feeling of unease that he couldn't shake off- but what?

Confusion? Perhaps, it had been a month since he'd joined the side of good after almost a lifetime of evil. Why had he agreed so readily to join Sasha? Why had he so easily accepted his fate as a xiaolin dragon? She was his friend- his best friend, he knew that- he couldn't ask for anyone better.

But something didn't feel right. It may have just been time travel shock- there is nothing more shocking than seeing people of your own age on a day to day basis look so... OLD.

Perhaps it was the ghosts of Kimiko and Raimundo which haunted him...

When Sasha had told him Kimiko had died almost a year ago, he was shocked, suprised. Even though she'd been old... you never really think of such things happeneing. It made you appreciate your own mortality, and that life was something that couldn't be wasted...

And then Raimundo had died a week within him joining- it was if it was a sign- now that the new dragon of the wind had come to his rightful place he could surrender his fight and embrace the eternal slumber without worry.

Damn noble Raimundo.

Jack gazed upon the 2 newest graves, which he could see from his vantage point- he'd never really fully recieved Raimundo's own reaction to him joining and of course never even had a chance to know what Kimiko truely thought.

And if he had stayed within their time- his grave would be somewhere right at this moment likely...

Geez he though, Even for a goth I am morbid.

"Jack?" said a voice. He knew who it was.

"Hey, Sasha"

"What are you doing here?"

"Thinking."

She didn't say a word and neither did he, but they really didn't have to, she followed his gaze to the

graveyard and simply sighed.

"You'll have to let them go Jack... its the only way that we'll be able to move on... though of course I'm having some trouble myself..." she trailed off, her eyes glistening.

She wiped them back feriously "Don't cry you idiot" she whispered to herself. But Jack heard her every word.

He gave her a look which was a mix of confusion and concern.

"I am NOT weak" she said to him sharply

"Never said you were"

"I WASN'T crying"

"I never said- but you were"

"Warriors do not cry, or show weakness... they stay to the task at hand" but her voice was quavering.

"Its okay to cry, it helps sometimes... you know let it all out and stuff..." Sasha stared "Listen, no-one knows more than me about wearing their emotions on the outside- fear is one I know well" he laughed slightly "But showing that you miss them doesn't make you weak... if anything it shows you're brave enough to show them."

Sasha smiled, "Thanks..."

"Why would you think yourself weak anyway?"

She turned away. "Oh... you know."

"Because you're a girl?"

Sasha smacked him "OUCH!!"

"Shhhhhhhh you'll wake everyone up!" she hissed "And... no not really its just... I sometimes think not good enough... in general..."

Jack raised an eyebrow "Remember who you're talking to? The guy you help teach- ie help humiliate on a regular basis? YOU not good enough?"

"But you're a beginner Jack, this stuff is NEW to you... but I'm not getting better as fast as I'd like to- Lee and Michael are obviously miles ahead... and its only a matter of time before you eventually out do ME to..." she looked away "I wish my grandfather hadn't been a dragon, let alone my own element to boot..."

"There were many times I wished that to" Jack laughed, only half joking "But what do you mean?"

"Because I'm Omi's relative, people expect me to get all this stuff right away- its alot of pressure Jack in

case you haven't noticed, entering the family business- its like they think greatness is inherited or something... its not- trust me, I know."

"What a load of crap" said Jack.

"Excuse me?!"

"Well first off, that stuff about saying you're not great- hello?! You're at the same rank as the others- apprentice, I know you were last out of them but being last doesn't mean anything- you're equal.

Plus I see you regularly trounce Michael at least in sparring- in your cases water DEFINITLY puts out fire, and you've done it with Lee too occasionally- I'M the one who regualrly gets their butt kicked... but then I'm new like you said I guess...

Also Xao picked YOU to teach me, not the others YOU- because you were the best choice..."

"Really? I thought YOU had picked me"

"I didn't... but then I guess I would have chosen you anyway." he smiled, his pure white face being betrayed by a pink flush- he was glad it was dark. "And also, Omi? Trust me he wasn't ALWAYS a full dragon- he had his faults, and I sometimes got a kick out o exploiting that- as did others. EVERYONE has one."

She smiled at him "Thanks Jack..."

They both lay on the roof, and gazed at the stars above them- they 2 young children, on one small planet practically drowning in the size of the universe. They felt both small and important at the same time- was that even possible?

"I'm never going to get to sleep now" said Sasha "You?"

"Nope"

"Well since I'm such a fantastic teacher... we could practice for a while."

Jack made to get up "But not yet" she said "Lets lose ourselves in the sky a bit more..."

3 - Stranger and a thing called Desire

The 4 young apprentices congregated at their usual hang out- by Raimundo's tree. For some reason Sasha and Jack were extra chummy today, though Lee did not know why. She just seemed happier, which the dragon of earth was glad of- he had had the feeling something was bothering her, and not just because of Raimundo's departure.

He'd felt sadness too- for he had known her just as long as she had- more so even, since he'd lived in the temple a longer total amount of time, and Raimundo stayed 6 months of the year in the temple- whereas living 6 months of his normal life... at least he had done, before Kimiko had died the last year.

Then he hadn't left the temple- it was as if he was waiting, waiting to join her and needed to be near her grave for as long as possible. For his wife Kimiko.

Yes they had gotten married, and had been blest with a son and 2 grandchildren- all in Japan. Jack couldn't have BEEN more suprised at that, but then, he'd met them before those feelings had even come to light.

Lee looked on as Jack chattered with the other 2.

Lee hadn't trusted him before he'd come. When Master Omi had told him, after Sasha had left- that he was in fact evil in his time, he'd been angry and disturbed along with Michael at the thought of their overly trusting female companion going to collect him- who knew what would happen?

Sasha hadn't told them much of what had actually happened. Just that he'd 'Proved himself worthy'.

Michael had given in and opened himself to friendship with the boy, Lee had been much harder to crack. But he had done it.

Lee was not one for change- as with most earth dragons, he was traditional and had a very black and white view of the world- not realising there was a million shades of grey in between... or even the possibility that people could change in the first place.

True, the boy still irked him at times, he could be lazy and showed fear far too easily, but through Sasha he could see potential- not just as a worthy ally- but a worthy friend.

His heart now held a place for 3 xiaolin dragons, not just 2, just like the others had.

Jack was unaware, so far of what this truly meant and its honour- but he would, in time.

The 4 young children were in various positions around the tree- Jack and Lee were both leaning against it, Michael was hanging upside down from the lower, twisted branches and Sasha was lying on the grass gazing into the sky- she seemed to be doing that alot. Why did she feel the need to look up so often? Omi pondered.

The old monk suddenly felt sleepy... he could just shut his eyes...

Then his head shot up again- had he dozed off? He glanced back at the children and noticed 2- his own granddaughter and Jack were missing.

His overprotective senses kicked in and he raised himself from the bench- Dojo wrapped around his neck as he slowly went round to search for the pair.

"You know, what you are doing probably violates privacy laws" said the dragon

"She is my son's child Dojo." he said as if offering an explanation

"You know... you really should trust them more- so far NOTHING has happened- they don't even know you're there... and would it even be that bad.."

Omi shook his head, slightly in exasperation over Dojo not understanding, and partly in himself. Because truly- would it be that bad?

But he still saw her as the little girl who at 5 just started becoming interested in his job, not a 14 year old, now taking his place in saving the world... with 3 boys of the same age.

It amazed him still, at how welcoming Kimiko's father had been- after all she had ended up married to one of them...

Omi shook himself, and making sure he was properly concealed watched as the pair sparred together.

"No no Jack like THIS"

Jack tried to take the stance she showed him, but it wasn't quite right.

"Jack, your butt is hanging out"

"What?! It is not!!"

"Oh come on look it's just ASKING to be kicked, sticking out like that..." she went behind him placed her hand on it and pushed it forward with her hand. The contact made Jack turn RASPBERRY.

Omi's overprotective side growled slightly. He knew Sasha was just helping him... but well Jack obviously had other things in mind.

"Ok..." he mumbled, "Now what?"

"Attack me, and DON'T hold back this time... honestly I can TELL you can do it, but I get the impression you aren't-"

"But I don't WANT to hit you" he complained "I mean you're my friend..."

"Listen Jack, you've got to push those feelings aside for now... besides you WON'T hurt me- I'm showing

you how to deflect basic Kick attack moves this time, instead of giving them."

Omi's slightly darker side smiled as he saw Jack sprawling on the ground, after she had grabbed his leg and tossed him into the air. But he soon frowned as Dojo said "See? The girl can take care of herself if she wants to. Particularly against HIM."

Jack continued to grown, his eyes closed. "Jack?" She said sounding worried "Jack- are you okay?! I didn't throw you THAT hard did I...?"

She knelt down over him. Suddenly he stopped moaning and yelled "Tickle attack!!"

"Agggggghhh!" she yelled out in suprise and started to bend over giggling helplessly "No... no fair..." she laughed breathless as he continued is 'merciless' attack.

"Well, what did you expect? thought we learning about deception yesterday..." he laughed along with her. He gave his pateneted evil laugh- but in an obviously jokey way.

Eventually however, Sasha gained composure, as he let out that laugh. "NOW IT'S YOUR TURN!!" she yelled- yes now Jack was the 'helpless' one.

Omi raised an eyebrow. Such odd fighting techniques. Still, what did he expect- Spicer WAS still pretty good when it came to deception.

Soon it turned to wrestling and Jack ended up on top of her. Exhausted, they stopped for a moment, and both soon reddened when they realised what they looked like.

"Um..." said Sasha as Jack's mouth made its way closer to hers...

"So my young dragons in training! How goes the... uh training!". Jack flew himself off Sasha- still both the colour of beetroot. Omi said nothing about what he'd seen- oh he KNEW alright... he'd just managed to stop it in time.

"Party pooper" muttered Dojo to him- who'd been eating popcorn which appeared from nowhere "It was Just getting good..." Omi snapped his mouth shut.

"Um..." said Sasha "Sorry, we were training... but I guess we grew tempted to goof off for a few minutes... sorry"

"You must learn not to distract yourselves young ones, perhaps I shall teach you for a while..."

And so things returned to normal- but still Jack gave her a few fleeting looks which she tried very hard not to return.

'Why did Omi have to come RIGHT then' he cursed to himself 'He always seems to come at the wrong moments... or the right ones I guess depending on how you look at it...'

The three started shadow boxing, and then Old Omi took great delight in fighting Jack- perhaps being

harder on the beginner than necessary.

Fathers may be crazy about their daughters, particularly their only daughters but only granddaughters?
Even worse...

The stranger watched with interest at the scene before him from the depths of the forest.
So the rumours about the Spicer boy had been true had they?

It amazed him, that that fool had turned out to be the keeper of as of then unlocked power... wind
dragon... interesting.

And he had just so obviously witnessed proof of the boys greatest desire.

But how could he use it?

Desire- now that was one thing he knew how to mess with, along with Jealousy. And even after his
'transformation'. He was still Spicer, he knew that.

But he would have to be careful. He did NOT want another Chase Young or Raimundo- who would
eventually betray him in the end. He'd learned from his mistakes- it was unwise to act too rashly; all too
often he'd been so over eager with turning people to the heylin ways that he'd become blind to other
things- and thus was easily tricked.

So he'd just watch.

For now.

But of course he wasn't the only one...

4 - Growing up and illusions

3 months later...

"Jack! Look out!!" yelled Lee as he lay on the ground, bleeding with Michael, as the giant rock hand sprung from the ground. Jack dodged it with ease- all his training with Sasha had begun to show, and he was grateful for that.

He had to get to it, he had to get to that puzzle box before Wuya destroyed it... Omi wasn't around to make another one, he was safely put away with the other monks- no it was just the 4 young dragons left to defend themselves. Their first real, serious battle. It was terrifying for the other dragons- and Jack as well, but it wasn't HIS first time against her.

It was the others first time meeting her and they were unsure of her ways, so they looked to Jack to tell them, and to lead them at least part of the way and give them information about her- which he did.

"Sasha!" he yelled "Now!!"

The young water apprentice aimed a kick at the heylin witch who immediately cast a spell "REVERSING MIRROR!" Sasha yelled, although effective in deflecting the attack, Wuya dodged it and the mirror broke. She then summoned a spell, binding both her legs and arms together.

But then she grew confused when she saw her smiling.

"Big mistake" she grinned looking over her shoulder.

Wuya glanced behind her, and screamed as she was sucked into the puzzle box, held by Jack.

After such an intense battle, the silence seemed almost deafening afterwards. Only Jack asked "Now how do we make sure she doesn't get out again?"

Sasha took the golden tiger claws from her bag, "I think I've got one... it's a bit cliché though...."

In an instant, the deed was done but not before the dragons of water and wind took their injured comrades to the temple infirmary. The 4 cheered with much happiness as they told of their victory.

But Master Xao dampened their spirits slightly by telling off Michael and Lee for their foolishness- they had had, at first, ignored what Jack had said, which had resulted in their injuries- they had tried merely to beat her up, like they usually did with less dangerous villains not listening to him as he warned her of her power. It was particularly embarrassing for Lee, being earth dragon and wuya's powers... well involving his own element.

After his telling off of the pair, he went to congratulate warmly the others for their victory- particularly Jack.

"For you have proven yourself ready, young monk, you shall receive this Sash- you have now made it to apprentice level, as with the others"

The 4 laughed and cheered, with Michael saying "It's about time!", resulting in punches from Sasha, though she knew he didn't really mean it.

"And Sasha, you've taught Jack well, I wouldn't be surprised if you too, soon shall rise to Wudai warrior, it is not yet time, but I believe you'll rise faster than we ever imagined... congratulations you have also done well"

Omi watched with Clay in the background as they hugged their friend "It's almost too hard to believe little partner huh?"

"You could say that."

"They're growing up I guess now, pretty soon? They won't need us..."

The old monk sighed Although it should be a happy time, he couldn't help but feel sad too, it was true they WERE growing up, and Sasha had proved that maybe she DIDN'T need her grandfather to fight her battles anymore. Oh yes, the torch had probably been fully passed now.

But that still didn't mean that he would leave her alone with the boys for any long amount of time. He thought. Particularly Jack, no matter how many times Dojo teased him for it.

Michael and Lee had ordered them to go outside, to have some fun for a while and Xiao agreed, the boys had to rest and besides, they deserved the rest of the day off.

Giving them a 5 minute head start, he followed behind them, making sure he wasn't spotted. But then... he lost them in the forest. Where had they gone? "Sasha?" he hissed to himself "Where are you?"

But he couldn't find them.

Jack and Sasha glanced around, was whoever that was following them, still following? It was unnerving.

They'd felt a while ago that someone had been watching them, but they didn't know who. Well Jack had an idea, but he didn't want to tell her. Because that would mean giving his theory on why- something he Definitely didn't want to do.

The pair then sat within a clearing , and gazed into the sky, it seemed to be their 'thing/ now to look up into the sky, no-one knew why, not even themselves.

Mmmmm, the Bean pondered to himself, perhaps now was the time to unleash his new assistant... yes she could be trusted he supposed, and was in his control, perhaps now was the time to introduce them...with himself there, just to watch over of course...

"Moby morpher!" he murmured, turning himself into a young man. He gazed onto a puddle- he could pass off for her twin brother... now there was a thought...

Now all he needed was some dirt and the illusion would be set...

5 - Flying away

Clay couldn't help but chuckle as his friend paced the temple grounds. He reminded him of himself- when his daughter went on her first date- worried, confused, determined to hate the boy who had taken her by the arm.

Of course, Sasha was just friends with Jack- nothing more, oh they deeply cared for each other... but nothing more than that, right?

Right?

Now he was questioning himself... and the elderly cowboy shuddered slightly. If any of HIS female relatives or friends had been acquainted with Spicer in that way, he would worry. Despite proving himself in battle... he was still... Jack Spicer.

But no, despite what Jack MAY feel- Sasha didn't...

Right?

Right?! Now he was getting worried. But It had been only a half hour... what could you do in a half hour...?

Oh goodness no... he groaned to himself- he did NOT need that kind of mental image flashing up. No, Sasha wasn't like that and Jack... wasn't exactly Casanova himself was he? The Texan smirked to himself.

No, Omi was getting het up over a big heap of nothing really. And he told Omi so

"Honestly partner, you're buggier than a June bug in July- she'll be fine, they'll BOTH be fine, and it's not probably what you think..."

Omi snapped his head up to observe his large friend "And how do you know what I was thinking?"

"I've known you for... how long? 80 years out of the 96 of my life... I think I know a thing or two about you little buddy"

"80 years... oh I am sooo old..."

"Thanks- if you remember I'm 4 years older- what does that make me?" he laughed "We're old, get over it- it happens to everyone, well almost everyone, if you're lucky..."

"What is so lucky about becoming weaker? What is so lucky about first seeing your only child not need you anymore and see the same happen to THEIR children?... I know there is still Kenny... but he's in a whole different continent to us... when Sasha first came to stay here to train... I felt... useful again"

His old, sad wise eyes gazed upon the landscape "Sometimes... I wish she was 5 again..."

"Are you saying you want HER youth back or yours?" questioned Clay

"Huh?"

"No offence, but what you are saying is kind of... selfish. Your children grow up, and THEIR children grow up- it is only natural, we get old, and eventually we have to leave this place, but not before we leave our mark. Which we have Omi, and we are still stamping over it as we breathe and even for a time after we die... you've LEFT your most important mark- in Sasha- the new water dragon, she is your legacy, and she has much potential as Xao said... but she'll never do that if you don't let her fly- she'll never get anywhere with you watching her every move... Xao had to practically lock you up today in the basement when you refused to stay behind while the children fought Wuya..."

"They are still only children..." murmured Omi "I know, in a few years they won't be- but still... simply children"

"I know" his friend answered "But remember so were we"

The 2 children in question soon grew bored.

"Want to fly somewhere?" Jack offered. "We could go up to the village if you wanted or- anywhere actually, we're free for oh...." he glanced at his watch "About 7teen hours"

"SEVENTEEN?"

"Well he did say the REST OF THE DAY, which means midnight, so... yeah..."

She rolled her eyes "Trust you to get that from it, clever though- we WOULD be technically within the rules to do so... but lets make it 16 eh? So we, have time to get back...but it may be a good idea to get the others in an hour or 2- face it you'll be sick of the sight of me and ONLY me after a while "

"Well, the sun is about to rise" said Jack "I said that, the first time I cam here, sometime 'd watch in from the mountains- how about there? It will kill some time"

"Sure"

He turned on his helibot, and tried not to spaz in shock a little as Sasha held on tight to him, it still felt, unnatural- although wuya, as flesh had sometimes ridden on him- this was different somehow. 'Shut up hormones' he said inwardly as they flew into the misty air,

Hannibal and his accomplace smiled, it was perhaps time, now, to pay the temple a visit... oh the chaos they would cause would be simply delicious- and from what they heard, they had just enough time to cause the first sparks of mistrust... all they had to do was to act dumb...for her Hannibal admitted, wouldn't be so difficult to do...

Such a fool, was this girl, for ignoring the warnings, for turning to him, still, she had her skills he supposed- and her stupidity, in fact was some what of a blessing, it meant controlling her was that much easier.

A fool and their money is soon parted was an old saying. But for Hannibal, it was a fool and their freedom.

6 - 2 children and mixed reactions

The 2 boys sat outside on the bench that Clay and Omi had just vacated. Even though Sasha had sent them a text message, saying that they'd be back in an hour to pick them up they didn't feel like resting until then- despite her pleas to do so, they weren't THAT bad.

All they had was a sprained arm each, and a little blood loss- something which nowadays could be healed in a matter of hours rather than weeks, they SHOULD be about healed whenever they came back.

Besides, Inside it was so, boring, at least outside they could have a change of scenery, watch nature for a while as they waited.

It was just starting to get warmer, as the sun rose. The fire dragon, Michael, breathed a sigh, even at this early time- just before 7AM. They could tell it was going to be one of those, hot bothersome days that even he, with his element had trouble getting through. Perhaps they could get Dojo to fly them up North for a little while... he thought jealously, of how comfortable the dragons of wind and water must be- up there on the mountains...

His head snapped up, he musn't think of where they were- Dragon Omi might be using the mind reader Conch...

It irked him at how the old monk didn't trust his own flesh and blood- that he felt the need to try and rescue her all the time. He knew he just cared- they ALL did, but Sasha was perfectly capable of taking care of herself. She'd proved that today along with Jack.

He breathed slowly, no, he MUSN'T lose his temper, she'd already done that with him (Omi) today- just before they had left "I am not a damn baby!!" she'd yelled at him "I'm a xiaolin apprentice, get over it!!"

She hadn't been proud at her words, but they had been bubbling inside her for some time. She did NOT need him tearing up the mountain trying to 'catch' her out.

Michael knew Jack felt, something more than friendship for Sasha, but he didn't know about her- did she? If she did, he truly didn't see the problem with it. In fact he'd think it was great... well as long as they didn't break up or anything... and Lee might be a problem- he had somewhat a crush on his childhood friend as well. Maybe, he didn't know for sure.

He liked Jack, but Michael thought he was slightly jealous of all the time she spent with him.

Wait... who was that in the distance? Even Clay and Omi stopped to stare for a while. A girl... and a boy, both blond haired with the deepest blue eyes you could imagine- siblings?

The girl was... beautiful, and Michael could tell Lee thought so too- judging by HIS reaction- which was falling over the bench in shock from the sight of her. But there was dirt covering the boy a bit... why?.....

they gaped in horror as the girl collapsed. Her friend/brother(?) stepped over her and began to sob-
"Someone help us please!"

10 minutes later...

The girl sat up in bed beaming, she was already looking a bit better- the boy, who DID turn out to be her brother from what he said was called Tony, the girl Lydia. And started telling her off "You should have told me you were feeling faint! We may have got those two kids to help us!"

The girl giggled slightly, "Well... I didn't feel it was right disturbing them like that..."

"What do you mean?" asked Omi a little sharply "What children?"

"They weren't really KIDS, they were teenagers- a girl and a boy..." she laughed slightly "And they seemed to be having way too much fun if you know what I mean"

"Where were they? What did they look like?"

Even the boy smiled at that "On the mountain... we just came from there... we had gotten lost from our family... we're tourists by the way... and well it was kind of hard to see their faces..." he snorted "But the girl had black hair and the boy's was the brightest red I've ever seen..."

This statement had mixed reactions, Michael and Lee's mouths slammed to the floor in shock, Clay just looked... well slightly dazed and Omi..? The face of pure horror. He was just about to let loose a huge amount of profanities when Dojo came out.

"Shen gong wu alert people!!"

7 - That stuff was medicinal...

Sasha stretched her arms out as she sat against a rock over the mountain face, as the sun rose higher in the sky- the magical mist surrounding the land beneath and around them beginning to disappear. Almost pure silence- apart from bird song could be heard. Jack was dozing slightly, his thumb in his mouth, beside her- the exhaustion of the previous nights battle taking its toll.

She smiled. He looked so innocent when he was asleep.

Hard to believe the path of life he previously had.

I should do this more often she thought to herself as she closed her own eyes. Allowing the peacefulness to overtake her and calm her.

She hadn't felt this peaceful in a while... not in meditation even, I mean who would when you're stuck in a room with 3 sweaty (from practice) guys and your grandfather with incense blocking your senses? It made her more uncomfortable really rather than calm her down... no it seemed the air from the trees of this mountain top and the forest were her drug... maybe next time- she'd take the others here too...

Or maybe not. She felt compelled to deny her grandfather, at least this place for a while- she wanted to avoid him, after her outburst they hadn't really spoken.

Sometimes she hated the fact that one of the important lessons taught were to respect the ways of the elders. Because they weren't always right- were they?

If she had been born a boy- would things be different? She didn't know. It was hard to say when you were the only girl in the group.

Kimiko would understand that she thought smiling out of both happiness and sadness.

"Of course..." said a voice "It IS difficult being the only girl..."

Sasha blinked her eyes open in shock- Jack, blissfully ignorant seemed to sleep on, she noticed his head was on her shoulder, though she'd been so 'out of it' (for lack of a better phrase) she hadn't noticed.

"Hello?" she asked caustiously.

She stood up, being careful not to stir Jack and walked around a little while- but no-one was there.

Sasha held her head- "Girl, you are going mad..."

"Talking to yourself is the first sign of insanity you know" said someone behind her. "I've done it alot myself"

She gave a small shriek "JACK!! Geez, you nearly made me crap my pants"

"Nice image, thanks, good to know the skills are starting to kick in though- what are you doing?"

"I thought I heard...someone"

"Who?"

she shrugged. "I've got this weird feeling though that I should be able to tell you but somehow I can't...I think I may have imagined it..."

Jack shook his head "Weird" he let out a yawn

"Poor little diddums sleepy huh?"

"Hey! We were up all night last night! We can't ALL survive on only 4 hours of sleep- how the hell you can I'll never know- and what's with the diddums?" he said slightly outraged.

"You looked so cute when you were asleep I decided that would be your name- like a little baby" she smiled as he went red from frustration.

"I am NOT cute when I sleep..." (though he wondered why he was even arguing that point).

"Who's cute?" asked someone.

"I think I could take a wild guess said" said another

"DOJO! What are you doing here?" she asked her reptilian friend, with the other dragon's perched along his back. But her smile faltered. Why were they looking at them like that?

"What?" she asked. She looked at Jack, but he seemed not to have gotten on to the nudge Lee was giving Michael and the wayward glance from Dojo- who was smirking- in fact they all were... what the...

"Lets just say- we're on to you and your little secret" Michael whispered to her alone- out of Jack's earshot "And your Grandpa is pissed putting it midely... oooh girl are YOU in for it...."

She gave a face that clearly said - what the hell? But he said no more...

Grrr... stupid boys. What secret?

She began to panic- as a teenage girl she OBVIOUSLY had secrets... who didn't? Had they been looking through her mat area?!

Had they read her online diary... oh no...

She shook her head- she'd think of it later.

"So... there's a new wu out? It's been a while... what is it?"

"The water jug of growth- basically? The reverse of the changing chopsticks- this one wu will make you as big as the tallest tree... though of course there are downsides... you can't use your element for instance in that state... it is a water elemental wu though like the title- you'd fill it with your own element and pour it over your head

"Cool, where is it hidden?"

"Paris France... also known as the city of LOOOVVVEEE" said Lee in a mocking sing song voice.

"Did you guys get into Clay's stash AGAIN? i told YOU THAT STUFF WAS MEDICINAL..but only for HIM not YOU, what is up with you two?"

"Still playing actress I see? Ah well, that makes it more fun I guess"

Sasha groaned- if the guys weren't high, they were going nuts... like she was with the hearing voices and all... would Jack be next?

Well he was already a little mad anyway...

Sasha suddenly felt very sorry for the world if THEY had to be the ones to save it...

8 - Monument

Sasha Me amie! cried the brown haired girl. It is, as they say, Great to see you! In her exclamation of pure joy at seeing her old Australian friend and attempts to reach her (as well as 2 of the 3 boys also riding on Dojo's back) she almost fell off the balcony from which she was standing.

She didn't though, which was just as well, a French girl falling from a 5 story building would have made quite a mess.

Woah Marie! said Sasha. Be careful! It's great to see you too but calm down- the neighbours will talk. She smiled as she hopped off the dragon herself landing beside her as they hugged and chattered excitedly in a mixture of French and English.

Of course the neighbours already were- Several old ladies and men, along with young mothers tightly gripping their children were pointing, shaking their heads and speaking in raised voices in French to each other. Although Jack knew a bit of French, it was hard to make out what they were saying, they were speaking too quickly for them- but he got the gist of it- they weren't happy.

Who could blame them? It wasn't everyday a giant flying lizard came to their part of the world with 4 youths on their back.

And the next to last time that had happened (with Omi and co) it had resulted in the Louvre almost being destroyed by Clay's element.

And the last time a wu activated here, with the present dragons (before Jack had joined)&.it wasn't pretty and once again was in the Louvre. As far as they were concerned, people who flew giant lizards didn't like art for some reason&

But that's another story.

Another of those Shen gong wu me amie? No way& not again

Possible! (way!) smiled Sasha. And I thought I might as well see you while we're at it! she smiled. I knew you'd kill me if I didn't ask you to join in anyway&

The French girl's blue eyes shimmered in joy as she jumped onto the huge reptile. She laughed as Dojo winched slightly- although she didn't look it, she was strong. Oh and by the way Jack, this is Marie - she's a good friend of mine, Clay and her granddad were friends- Marie this is Jack, - a new member to the team!

But he means a bit more to her than that& muttered Lee under his breath, causing Michael to snigger.

Marie raised her eyebrows to the remark- though the two the comment was obviously about seemed unaware of what he said. Michael's ears pinkened as he fell under her gaze- he always felt

uncomfortable around her, he wasn't sure why though&

So where exactly is it Dojo? said Jack to the reptile

PLEASE don't say the Louvre- in case you've forgotten, that would be kind of awkward& said Sasha

Huh? said Jack.

You don't want to know- trust me said Lee glaring at Michael

HEY! It wasn't my fault!

Excuse me?! Exactly who set fire to the Italian wing? You almost destroyed the Mona Lisa for crying out- said Sasha

Well if that stupid wannabe witch hadn't&

And so the argument started. They didn't even here Dojo say Actually its near the Arc de Triomphe& as he turned in that direction.

Jack looked over at Marie with a confused look and coughed So& uhhh you've met Josephine huh?

Josephine& just in case you're wondering is like Jack himself probably was to the previous dragons. Only except, her fan girl intentions also extended to Wuya as well as Chase.

She wanted to be a powerful heylin witch like wuya was- and although she got an A+ for effort& she well& wasn't very good. If she had any real magical abilities at all (and this was doubtful) she was keeping them well hidden, that was for sure.

As a result she had decided the wu were the way to go in achieving her aims.

It still embarrassed Jack how much she reminded him of himself.

He felt sorry for her and could definitely relate to how she probably felt he mused.

Then Jack realised he'd broken out of consciousness practically, in mid conversation and was now staring at Sasha for some reason. He looked to Marie to apologise and was shocked when she winked at him mischievously.

Great. Now even she knew.

He had the feeling the whole world but Sasha knew somehow& or maybe wanted to know he thought, slightly depressingly.

They were there, at the magnificent monument, even from above it looked impressive, it alone gave a feeling of grandeur only out done by the Cathedral& but then Jack thought, that was kind of the whole point of it being built in the first place&.

At the first sight of the reptile the people screamed; buses screeched to a halt and were abandoned as people ran as fast as they could from the monument. The feeling of the air was electric from the mass hysteria, the 5 children and dragon just sat there, slightly stunned at the reaction- all alone.

Oh come on! I know I had a rough night but I don't look that bad& do I? he snivelled slightly as he shrank and Sasha gave him a comforting hug.

After around half an hour of searching&

I FOUND IT! yelled Jack as he glanced to the top.

Turning on his helipack he flew up towards the white and black jug- but let out a groan as he saw the tanned hand gripping the opposite handle.

Josephine& I challenge you to a Xiaolin showdown& he growled as his friends yelled at the girl facing him.

What the 7 individuals didn't know was they weren't alone- far from it in fact&.

9 - A showdown and nasty surprise

"Okay Jackie name the game" the blonde girl snarled, her Southern US drawl only further irritating him.

Of course, she was someone he could use all his 'hick' insults against with which he hadn't had the chance to use On Clay... and even recycle old ones (hey, coming up with original insults is harder than you'd think)

"I think I'll let the little lady pick" he smirked "May I suggest however cow tipping... or spitting? Whatever is your best skill..."

Her green eyes flashed in anger.

"Fine, the game is... hide and seek... you have to find me before the timer runs out after counting to 50... if you don't I win... I wager the monkey staff..."

"I wager the jetbootsu..."

Both of them together yelled "Lets go XIAOLIN SHOWDOWN- GONG YI TEMPI!!!"

Immediately the arena around them changed- the arc de triomphe creaked and raised in awkward places, and trees sprung from the cracks they created- forming a forest. Immediately, out of nowhere a blindfold enveloped Jack's eyes- after just under a minute it was lifted and she was out of sight. He glanced at the timer... it looked like he didn't have much time...

"Jetbootsu!" he yelled- hearing shouts of encouragement from his friends he smiled... it still felt odd to see people in xiaolin robes wanting him to win... in fact it was odd seeing ANYONE want him to win... perhaps it always would. It was nice but at the same time, meant more pressure than usual.

The young teenager began to sweat as he flew and walked upside down tree branches searching as time continued to pass by... monkey... a monkey... where had he always thought of when he'd used that wu...? Then he smiled... of course...

"Ah ha!! Caught you monkey breath!!!" he laughed as he found her among banana trees, stuffing her face... too predictable...

Jack. Having won, expected to be greeted with praise instead recieved a far less welcoming sound... it was his friends screaming and yelling... from beside the tomb of the unknown soldier from the sounds of it...

Quickly the boy raced around the corner to his destination- his foe, with interest followed. The pair stood rooted to their spots at the shock before them.

Hooded figures... wWho were they...? To hell with that, WHAT were they? Jack wondered as he noticed

the half feathered and scaled hand of one of them pressed Lee onto the ground- unable to move for the weight of it sitting atop of him- his other friends were in similar situations- Dojo was knocked out cold and cast aside.

At first he could only stare in shock- unable to fathom what was going on.

Then- the one which held Ssaha drew his/her (it's) fingernail across her cheek- blood seeped through from the small wound- the creature- whatever it was sucked on it and smiled- and Jack could swear under the shadow of the hood it was smiling...

The void of emotion he'd been unable to fill due to his confusion and disbelief was then taken up... by pure rage...

"jackbots attack!!"

10 - Creatures and memories

In the time Jack had followed Sasha to discover his calling 6 months ago. He'd learned alot.

He'd learned to fight from Sasha.

He'd learned what true friendship was from the other dragons and Lee in particular.

He'd even learned alot more practical jokes from Michael (much to Lee's and Sasha's horror- lets just say last week one got their sandals waked on their insoles and the other had their hair dyed bright tangerine for a week...)

But he also learned alot more by himself and with the 3 scientists which resided in the temple- mainly in his main field of strength- robotics, it slightly unnerved his fellow dragons how good he actually was- being no more than a year older than Sasha, the youngest of them all.

He acted like a total goofball and yet had the I.Q of 157. It was hard to contemplate at times that the same guy who liked to shoot chocolate pudding out his nose for kicks (and thus make Lee barf, Sasha roll her eyes and Michael laugh outrageously), the same guy who in his first 2 weeks yelled at his chop sticks every meal time(after years of the knife and fork, he'd found it difficult) was the same person who could create such machines- every time they fought he seemed to have come up with some new upgrade- it didn't stop them from blowing up easily (some things are sacred), but it meant that they could do alot more DAMAGE than before.

This time he'd programmed the robots to sense his emotions- and his alone. They would act out their attack on the one who would enrage him the most- after he said his patented phrase of course.

And so his 5 robots enraged their attack solely one of these... "creatures"... whatever they were. The one on top of Sasha...

The creature was taken by suprise and was slammed against the monuments wall causing a large crack to form as 2 of the robots exploded.

"Great..." though Jack "I just damaged a national monument" he sweatdropped as he though of 1000's of Parisians knocking on the temple door in order to get a piece of him.

But he'd think about that later as he joined her as she freed Michael and Marie- Jack freeing Lee.

"What the frig are those things?!" growled Michael as the 3 remaining Jack bots encircled them between the creatures.

"Interesting... you caught us by suprise young dragon of the wind... but it won't happen again" muttered one of the 6 "things"

They could talk?

And English no less- with a South English accent?!

But then again- was that so unbelievable as a BEAN in China with a southern U.S state accent?

My Life is too weird... thought Jack as all of his friends sweatdropped as another started speaking French to Marie... in an Irish accent*.

No matter... no matter how strange this was the 5 all knew what to do- they must fight. For it was the only way to get out of this.

They readied themselves from battle...

Weeeeeooooowwww Weeeewwwwoooo- it was the police!

If they were honest, they had been expecting them sooner than this...

The 6 "things" suddenly seemed to decide to call it a day- and disappeared without the teenagers even realising... they all laughed nervously to one another- glancing at the large crack on the opposite wall, the soot and oil everywhere will robot parts strewn across the floor...

Okay... how were they going to explain this?

"Quick hop on!" hissed Dojo, he was awake!

"Dojo!!" Lee cried "Are you okay...?"

"Tearful reunions later, climb on!!"

He tore through the air at top speeds darting out of the way of the various buildings- narrowly missing the Eiffel tower as he dropped Marie off- so quickly she barely heard the shouts of Byyyyyyeeee as they were all carried away from her.

'It couldn't be...' the dragon thought as the children held on for dear life as he sped on 'could it?'

Josephine looked to the sky from her hiding place, as her foes ran away.

'Cowards...' she thought to herself, not really sure if she was thinking of the creatures or the people disappearing from her eyes.

The creatures? She knew exactly what they were- and she had a big hunch at who sent them too...

She gripped her fists in rage as she watched the police surround the monument; just a few hundred yards from where she was standing...

They would pay this person... it had been years since they had last met... but the memory of their last memory burned like the scorching sun above within her memory... as if it had happened yesterday...

(A/N *- I'm Irish and for my first 3 years of secondary school I learned French... I even recorded myself to practice oral and listening... let me tell you French in my accent is really strange! - I can't do accents well at all... o_0;)

11 - *insert high pitched scream*

Well, did it work?

I am sorry my mistress... they got away...the 2 girls were there though as you said... one of which was in battle...we did catch one but I was thrown off by these strange machines...the leader stated scratching his feathered head in frustration.

What? The two girls are still alive?

Yes... my mistress...I sensed the aura from them...the non dragon was not far... but she also disappeared...

The blond female flicked her hair from her face in irritation- she may have only been 13 but her eyes showed the wisdom of someone many times her own age... cruel and sadistic as she was the creature flinched as she moved her hands and waited for the blow...

To his surprise she turned to the window and simply murmured "Leave now... they will be coming soon... I will brief you with a new plan later...I'll be living with one of them now and shall be ready to strike when the time is right... Hannibal will not be pleased..." she growled

Her minion stopped as he heard his mistress's voice

"Oh and tell the others..."

"Yes my mistress?"

"That if they fail again my punishment will be swift and merciless" she said coldly as she twisted a bright glow within her hands.

He nodded and flew into the sky- she watching as he disappeared from sight.

Despite the failure she smiled... after all all they had to do according to the prophecy was break the ties of the 2 girls... that didn't necessarily mean death... with this she could have some fun with them...watch them suffer before she struck her knife and twisted it for good measure...

She let out a quiet chuckle- as those foolish older monks were in the next room, sleeping...

A tingle of anticipation hung in the air... who knew what could happen?

"What the hell were those things Dojo?" said Michael angrily "And why did they attack us?"

"We must wait until we get to the temple"

"Why?" asked Sasha innocently as she clung for dear life.

"BECAUSE IT IS THE ONLY PLACE WE CAN TALK OPENLY YOU FOOL!!" he yelled.

Sasha pouted, her feelings slightly hurt- but admittedly it had been a stupid question to ask- it was true there was evil watching them almost everywhere- except perhaps the temple- where objects such as the all seeing eye had trouble looking upon...thanks to Master Fung's last gift in his life...

As they entered the grounds Sasha immediately hopped off and dashed to her Grandfather's room "Gramps!!" she yelled "Wake up!! Big problem!!"

"YOU'VE GOT THAT RIGHT YOUNG LADY!!" She heard him screech out from behind the door.

In an instant both she and Jack were having their ears twisted by the old monk... Lee and Michael looked shocked and then remembered why he was acting like this... suddenly the teasing Michael had given her didn't seem so funny...

"Owwwww" she groaned in pain

Jack screaming practically next to her didn't help either- 'Geez he's high pitched' she grumbled to herself

"What did I do?" moaned Jack "If this is about me using robots to do our chores I'm sorry!! It seemed like a good idea at the time..."

Omi's face blinked and then he yelled "YOU'VE BEEN USING ROBOTS TO DO YOUR CHORES?!"

The birds in the air screeched in fright at the outburst of the monk and the yells of the two teenagers.

The blond children, partially hidden in the temples shade smiled- until Omi saw them.

"NOW SAY HELLO TO OUR GUESTS... AND GET OUT OF MY SIGHTS THE BOTH OF YOU!! I'II" he cleared his throat "Think of a punishment later"

"But grandpa we have something important to tell you!"

The old monk frowned "Fine. What is it?" he said breathing unevenly not noticing the squirrel that was heading his way...