Hikari Warriors

By misty6

Submitted: November 13, 2005 Updated: October 10, 2006

Michelle and her best Friend Emily have gotting into trouble before, but noting like this. Secrets, strange elemental powers, demons and masters. Will the two of them remain friends till the end?

Provided by Fanart Central.

http://www.fanart-central.net/stories/user/misty6/23024/Hikari-Warriors

Chapter 1 - School Day	2
Chapter 2 - The First Encounter	5
Chapter 3 - Shocks' Explination	8
Chapter 4 - Secret Crushes	12
Chapter 5 - The Dance/First Battle	19
Chapter 6 - Aftermath	25
Chapter 7 - Michelle's Tiny Secret	28
Chapter 8 - Training or is it?	31
Chapter 9 - The kinda True Story	36
Chapter 10 - Wind Master- Fezui	40

1 - School Day

Chapter 1

"Hey, Emily, we have physics next don't we?" Michelle, a blue eyes, light brown haired girl, with golden highlights running through her pony tail, and of average hight, said to her friend while walking backwards. Her friend, Emily, was a smaller girl, not by much though, with gray eyes, and black hair, with a few blue streaks running through her long hair.

"Yeah we do. Can you try not to fall asleep every time. Filling you in on the stuff you missed gets annoying after a while," Emily sighed. Michelle just laughed.

"So has anyone asked you to the dance yet?" Michelle changed the subject. Emily kindof glared at her. "No, have you gotten any invites?" Emily looked at her suspisiously.

"No, I just wanted to make sure you didn't get one before me!" Michelle grinned. Emily hit her over the head, then dashed into their Physics room they had just approached.

"Hey!" Michelle ran in after her. Emily was already in her seat, looking innocent. Michelle gave her an awkward look and sat next to her. Then they both started to giggle.

"Okay, who started it today?" A boy sitting at the table next to them asked. He was a lot taller than Michelle, and had light brown hair. His gray eyes made him look mysterious and serious, when he actually wasnt. His name was Sean. Next to him was another goof-off, Brian. He was blonde with deep green eyes, and only a little taller than Michelle and Emily. They were all really good friends.

"Emily this time. She hit me in the head!" Michelle pretended to whine. Emily hit her over the head again.

"I did not. You just imagined something like that happening!" Emily laughed. Sean and Brian started to laugh. Then the second bell rang, which ment the start of class so they all went quiet while the rest of the students and the teacher filed in.

Mr. Keste was defenatly not their favorit teacher, but he was better than others. He had one of those nasily voices that you wish would just shut up after a while. He liked to lecture a lot, which is why Michelle often fell asleep. The class draged on like always, talking about trains and cars and other stuff like that.

The end of class came when the bell rang for first lunch. Emily looked over at Michelle. She had her head down between arms. Emily sighed and nudged Michelle's arm just a bit. She didn't move.

"Don't worry, I got it." Sean got up and moved over towards Emily. "If you can get him up for me!" Sean pointed to Brian, who was face first in his book.

"Okay, you got a deal." Emily smiled. They traded places. Sean continued to nudge Michelle, while Emily shook awake Brian.

"The answer is 27!" Michelle jumped up when Sean tried to tickle her. Sean kept tickling her though, and soon Michelle was on the floor lauging.

"Stop! Hahaa, please, hahaha, stop!" Michelle tried pleading while controling her laughter. Sean grinned, but then stopped. He helped her up off the floor.

"Brian is out! I can't get him to wake up at all!" Emily said, defeat in her voice.

"Hmm, I got an idea!" Sean had that evil glint in his eye. Emily back off and went over to Michelle, who was clutching her sides from laughing so hard. Sean went over to the faucet and put some cold water in a cup. He slowly walked over to Brian, who had started snoring.

"When I dump this, run for the cafateria, got it!" Sean signaled to the girls. They both nodded. Sean

then took the book out from under Brian's head and dumped the cold water on his head and down his neck. Michelle and Emily made a break for the door at that time, and were just out of ear shot to hear Brian curse out loud.

Michelle and Emily made it to lunch with half-an-hour left before next period started. Emily saved their seats as Michelle went up to go buy the pizza that the cafateria was serving. Brian and Sean soon joined her. Brian's hair was all wet, and Sean couldn't stop snickering.

"That wasn't nice Sean. You couldn't have just shook me awake or something?" Brian said annoyed as they waited in line.

"No, not really. You wouldn't wake up when Emily tried, so we went to drastic measures." Sean had an evil grin on his face. Michelle couldn't help but laugh.

"Yeah, at least he didn't tickle you to the groud!" Michelle elbowed Sean right in the gut. Sean just laughed. They all got their pizza and went to join Emily.

"I see you woke up." Emily teased Brian as the three of the sat down.

"So what are you guys up to this weekend?" Sean asked.

"Well, tonight I'm going to adopt a cat. I finaly wore my mom down!" Michelle smiled.

"Oh, can I come with you? I love to see all the animals at the shelter. I feel so bad for them!" Emily said. Michelle smiled at her friend, which ment a definate yes.

"Do you guys want to come too. You can help me pick out the perfect cat!" Michelle looked at Sean, expectingly. His cheeks turned a shade of red and he put his hand behind his head. He looked like he was going to say yes, but then Brian jabbed him in the ribs.

"We can't. We have more important things we have to do. I mean we'd love to but we really can't!" Brian tried to explain while was Emily glaring at him. Emily sighed, but didn't ask them what their plans were. Sean nodded his head in agreement with Brian, but he looked a little upset about it though.

"Oh, thats ok. You'll have to come see it sometime then!" Michelle just smiled. She was completely oblivious to the fact that Sean couldn't stop blushing as he looked at Michelle. Emily definatly notice though, and she started to grin.

"Cards?" Michelle pulled out her favorit deck of cards from her bag. Just as she put them on the table, the bell rang for the end of lunch. "Okay, now that was inconvinent!" Michelle grumbled. She put the cards back into her bag and got up to leave. Sean finall snapped out of his daze, and Emily giggled a little at the though. Brian just sighed. Michelle looked back at them with a puzzled innocent look.

"Come on Emily. Pre-Cal class for us!" Michelle smiled. Emily just shook her head.

"Sometimes you are so dense!" Emily caught up to Michelle. They waved by to the boys, who were heading to a metal shop class.

"What are you talking about. I was nice enough to ask them to come along too. I mean we have been friends since like pre-K!" Michelle looked puzzled. Emily just shook her head.

"Just forget it." Emily smiled. "So what kind of cat are you looking to get?" She changed the subject. "I don't know. I'm going to look around, and what ever one I like the best I'll get I guess. Oh, my mom said no Siamese though, she really doesn't like those!" Michelle laughed. Emily laughed too.

"Yeah I can see why. Those kind of cats always get into a lot of trouble!" Emily laughed. The rest of that day flew by, with both of them eagerly awaiting the trip to the local pet store. At final bell, Michelle waited for Emily outside her locker.

"Come on! I can't wait to get there!" Michelle was getting really excited.

"I know I know. Hold on while I get all my stuff, sheesh!" Emily rolled her eyes at Michelle's six-year-old behavior.

"Well, if you don't hurry up, I'm leaving without you!" Michelle started to skip down the hall, away from Emily. Emily slammed her locker and ran after Michelle, who had started running when Emily's locker slammed.

Wait for me!!!" Emily called after her.	

2 - The First Encounter

Chapter 2

"Well, I guess we are here?" Michelle looked at up at the small brown building they were standing in front of. It was called 'Lincon's Pet Destany'. Emily and Michelle just stared at it for a while. "How come I never remembered that this place was here?" Emily asked, looking up and down the street.

"I think its new. I heard the old place ran out of money and had to sell." Michelle shrugged and opened the door. A little bell clanged as the door was pushed open. They both walked into a very dark atmosphere. The place seemed to glow a bit, with this weird dingy animal smell that was expected. They could see a lot of cages lined up against the walls, with little eyes peering through the bars. The strange thing was that none of the animals were making any sounds.

"Michelle, this place is creeping me out, just a little bit." Emily said, nervously walking behind Michelle. Michelle was a little creeped out by all the silent animals that just watched them walk by.

"May I help you girls?" A cherful voice sounded from behind them. Both of them jumped a little and turned around. A very tall women with pale blue hair was smiling at them. She was wearing a plain white shirt with a pair of faded blue jeans. It also looked like she was wearing dark blue mountain climbing boots on her feet. Michelle and Emily just stared at her for a few seconds, till Michelle snapped out of her trance.

"Um, yeah. I am looking ot adopt a cat. Do you have any?" Michelle asked in a small, trying to hide her fear, voice. The lady looked Michelle over very thouroghly, like she was looking for something specific. "Ah, I think I have the perfect cat, just for you!" She giggled and led the two frightened girls near the back of the store. There were several smaller cages where they were, about five of them. They approached two of them, where they could see two cats. One was a grayish color, with very unique yellow markings. The other was also gray, but had blue markings on it. They didn't get to see the blue one very weel, because the lady stood infront of them, and opened the cage with the yellow cat. She pulled it out and held it like it was a percious thing.

"This cat should suit you well, what do you think?" The lady handed the cat into Michelle's arms. The cat immetatly started to purr and rub its head on Michelle's arm.

"He's adorable, but why does he have these weird markings?" Michelle said, pointing out the yellow lightning bolt shaped stripes on the cat.

"Its because he's a really rare breed. There are only six who exist in this world." The lady explained. Michelle and Emily just looked at her funny.

"Follow me to the counter and we'll get you all set up to go home." She headed towards the front of the store, to the counter. She ducked into a back room behind it, while Michelle, Emily, and the cat slowly made their way there too.

"Right now, you get this free goodie bag with an adoption," She said cheerfully, placing a small bag on the counter infront of Michelle. Michelle pulled some money out of her pocket while Emily held the cat. "Thank-you, and I know I will be seeing you again!" The lady winked at Michelle as the girls left. The bell chimed again as the door closed behind them. Michelle was carring her cat again, and it was still purring.

"That was a weird store!" Emily exclaimed. Michelle nodded her head, while patting her cat. They stoped at the intersection and waited for the cars to pass. Just then, the cat started to growel, and fight

in Michelle's arms. Michelle let it go, and it sped down the street. Michelle and Emily looked at eachother then took off after it.

They ended up chasing that cat through several back alleys they never though existed. They found it sitting causualy infront of a large old rotten barn. It looked like it was waiting for them to catch up. He sat there staring as the girls ran up to him, and bent over on their knees to catch their breath.

"Michelle, do you know where we are?" Emily asked, leaning against the barn.

"I have no idea, but its creeping me out!" Michelle said as a chill went down her spine. She bent down to pick up the cat, but he got up and walked into the barn by the partialy opened door.

"Oh no! Come on Emily, we have to go after it!" Michelle stodd up and opened the door wider so they could pass through.

"I don't know Michelle, this place is giving me the creeps even more now!" Emily crossed her hands like she was uncomfortable.

"I know, but theres something special about that cat, and I want it back! I paid fifty bucks for him!" Michelle went inside. Emily just sighed and followed her friend inside. She was looking at the ground until she bumped into Michelle, who had randomly stopped.

"Why'd you stop?" Emily asked.

"Shh, there are people in here!" Michelle whispered. She pointed to the celing, where there were four people, just floating there. Two were a greenish color, with vine-like things sticking out of their head where there should have been hair. Their skin was also a blueish-green color, and they had a leaf-like pattern on it also.

The other two were defenatly guys, dressed in weird outfits. They wore white shirts and pants, but one guy had red boots and the lower half of his sleeves were red. Also the bottom of his shirt was red in a design that Michelle couldn't quite make out. The other guy was the same, except that everything that was red was now a deep brown color. The brown guy had blonde hair and the red guy had brown. They also looked like they had matching color masks over just their eyes.

"Who are those guys, and what are those things infront of them?" Emily asked, sortof crouching behind Michelle.

"I don't know, but your nails are digging into my shoulder!" Michelle hissed. Emily let go immetiatly, blushing a bit out of emmbarassment.

"You guys should just go home! You're no match for the Vine Twins!" One of the green things said, pointing to the guys.

"We aren't the ones running away everytime Kaji gets in an attack!" The brown guy laughed. Both green things glared at him.

"Leave them be. If they want to leave let them, as long as they never come back again!" The red guy pointed his finger at them, and the Twins both flinched, grabbing eachother. The red guy laughed and then pointed at the window, where he set part of the barn on fire. Michelle and Emily both gasped really loudly. The twins both looked down, and smiled. The guys just looked confused.

The twins both took of at incredable speed, Michelle and Emily didn't even see them move, but the guys suposivly did. They reappeared behind Emily. Both girls screamed and turned around facing them. They were definatly female, considering their chests. Their eyes were a deep forset green, that matched their vine-hair. The leaf pattern on their skin, they notice, was only on their legs and arms. Their outfits were made completely out of leaves and twigs.

Emily started to back up slowly, pushing Michelle farther into the barn. The guys above them didn't react fast enough, and soon Michelle and Emily were completely wrapped in vines that the Twins had produced from from their hands. They lifted both girls into the air, where they began to scream. The twins placed their hands over Emily and Michelle's mouths to quiet them.

"Now what are you going to do?" The lady holding Michelle asked the red guy. The red guys eyes lit up

in fury as he saw who she was holding. The other lady flew up infront of the brown guy, who had the same reaction to Emily.

"Leave them alone! They have nothing to do with you or us!" The red guy yelled. The brown guy let out a growl from deep in his throat.

"I don't think so. They had to have wandered in here for a reason. I think they are involved with you, and you are just hiding it. We are taking them back to Lord Zel for examining." Emily's lady laughed. "And if you try to follow us, we will kill them instead!" They started to fly out of a broken sky light that they had probably come in in the first place. The girls trid so hard to break free, but the more they struggled, the tighter the vines would become. Emily finaly got fustrated enough that she bit the lady's hand that was keeping her mouth shut.

"You little wench! How dare you bite me!" The lady yelled, letting Emily's mouth go. Emily screamed, very loudly. Michelle noticed the brown and red guy argueing, but when Emily screamed, the brown guy gave up on the red guy and flew after them.

"Give me Emily back, now!" He demanded. The lady had covered Emily's mouth again, but this time with a vine.

"So you do know them." Michelle's lady said with a sly voice. "That changes everything. Sis, I think we should just kill them here on the spot!" Michelle's lady said, looking over to the other. She nodded her head in agreement. Michelle and Emily's eyes got wide with fear as the vines around them got tighter and tighter. Michelle finally got her mouth free and screamed in pain. This time the red guy reacted with such fury.

"Let her go now!" The red guy yelled. He was sorounded with a fire aura, and his eyes were glowing red. The vine ladies stoped squeezing them for a second, but kept backing up, away from the red guy. "I said, let! Her! Go!" He screamed, shooting a blast of flames from him hands directly at the vines holding the girls. The vines then erupted in flames, making the girls flip out even more. What was worse was the fact that the vine ladies also became engulfed in flames. They began to scream in a ver high pitched voice. Michelle thought she was going to be deaf after if she lived. Emily noticed it first, but Michelle caught on soon enough, that they weren't getting burnt by the flames. They could feel the heat, but that was it, no burning, no pain, no nothing.

"AHHHH!!!" Michelle screamed as the vines keeping her in the air burnt up and snapped, dropping her from atleast twenty feet in the air. Emily's had snapped too, but the brown guy had caught her right when they snapped.

"Get her Kaji!" The brown guy yelled at the red guy, who seemed to be in a trance. He shook his head and dove after Michelle. Michelle closed her eyes as she fell. Then, she felt something catch her and carry her upwards. She slowly opened her eyes and saw grayish red ones staring right back into them. "Are you okay?" He asking in a gentil voice. Michelle blushed.

"Yeah, I'm alright I think, thank-you." Michelle saw that Kaji was blushing just a bit as well.

"I better get you back on the ground. I see you have a friend down there waiting for you." Kaji smiled, pointing to the ground where Michelle's cat was looking up meowing. He touched down on the ground, next to the brown guy. Then he placed Michelle gentily on the ground next to Emily.

"I'm sorry you two got involved in this. Please, you can't tell anyone else about what happened here. Not that they would belive you anyways." The brown guy explained. Michelle and Emily were so shocked, all they could do was nod their head.

"Okay, we have to go now. Oh, and I think we saw a couple of your friends coming this way in a hurry, so I'm sure you will be fine getting home." Kaji explained. They both nodded their heads and flew out the door, leaving the two girls just sitting there, with a cat in Michelle's lap.

3 - Shocks' Explination

Chapter 3

"Um, Michelle, can you explain everything that just happened, because it all flew by way too fast!" Emily sighed. Michelle was just staring into a wall across from her. She shook her head no, and then looked at her cat, which was back to purring in her lap.

"Hurry up Brain, I think they are in here!" Someone yelled from outside the door. Michelle and Emily hugged eachother, in fear it was one of the monsters again. The barn door opened slowly, creaking loudly to both girls. They closed their eyes and waited for the worst. Michelle felt a hand on her shoulder, then soft words in her ears.

"Want some cake for dinner?" The words said. Michelle's eyes snapped open extreamly fast and she saw Sean bending down, resting his hand on her shoulder.

"Sean, is that you?" Michelle asked, so unsure. His eyes were so soft and caring when Michelle looked into them, she couldnt be unsure anymore. She instantly jumped on him and hugged him. Behind her, Emily was doing the same thing to Brian. Sean's face turned bright red, and he looked at Brian, who was also confused. The girls finnally let go, giving the boys time to breath.

"Are you guys ok? You look terrified, and you felt terrified as well!" Brian said, rotating his shoulder, pretending it was hurt or out of place.

"We just had the worst experience in the world! But even if we told you, there is no way you would belive us!" Michelle gasped. Sean just looked at her, then tried to calm her down.

"Michelle, take deep breaths!" Sean said, as Michelle started to hyperventalate. Michelle soon calmed down.

"Come on, we should get you two home." Brian helped Emily to her feet. Sean did the same with Michelle. Michelle still had a tight grip on her cat as well. It was clinging to her arm anyways, like it didn't want to leave her.

"Your cat looks like its had a heart attack?" Sean asked, noticing the cat finally. Michelle just looked down at it, then started to slowly pet it on its back, making it relax a little.

"Its quite cute you know, with the yellow stripes like that." Sean smiled at Michelle.

"Yeah, the pet store owner said he was a rare breed. I don't know what I'm going to call him yet though," Michelle said, as Sean led her back outside. Emily and Bria were close behind them. They walked home in silence, and Sean and Brian kept their arms wraped around the girls. They stopped outside Michelle's house first, since it was the nearest one. Emily live two houses down from her, and Sean two the other way. Brian lived more in the center of town compared to the rest of them. Sean walked her to the door, while Emily and Brain kept going to her house.

"Are you going to be okay? Do you want me to stay with you for a while?" He asked, worry filling his eyes. Michelle shook her head.

"No, I'll be fine. Thank you for coming to find us." She went to open her door, when Sean leaned in and kissed her on the cheek lightly.

"Okay then. I'll see you at school tommorow." With that he turned and left. Michelle just stood there, face as red as a ripe tomato, with her hand clenched to the door knob. She woke up from her daze when her cat bit her in the hand!

"Ow! That hurt you little rascle!" Michelle flicked him on the nose. Then she pushed herself inside and headed for her room. "Mom I'm home!" She called out.

"Okay. I left you some pizza on the table in your room. Make sure you get your homwork done and don't spend all night playing with your cat ok!" Her mom said as Michelle passed the kitchen.

"Okay, thanks." Michelle smiled and headed to her room. When she got inside, she put the cat on her bed, which had a beautiful yellow quilt on it. That cat walked in a few cirlcles before settling down and making itself comfortable. Michelle found her backpack where she left it, by her desk, which had warm pizza in a paper plate sitting on it as well as a small computer.

"Oh, I should get you something to eat as well. I'll go see if we have any milk in the fridge." Michelle realized, running back to th kitchen. The cat loooked around for the small bag Michelle had dropped on the bed with him. He stuck his head inside and pulled out its contents. There was a yellow collar with a small crystal enbedded in the front of it. The next object was a small golden yellow box, with a black switch on the side. He grabbed the collar with the best ability he could, and squeezed his head into it. He then shook his head to adjust it properly on his neck. Then he made sure the box was infront of him, as he layed back down again.

"I'm back. I brough you a smal bowl of milk. After today I think we could both use some comfort food." Michelle closed the door behind her, and placed the bowl of milk on the floor. The cat jumped down and went to lap up the milk. Michelle took a bite out of her pizza, and watched that cat enjoy his dinner. "Sean was acting a bit weird today as well. I wonder why he was so worried about me. He's never cared that much before, and that kiss, even though it was nice, it was really random!" Michelle said to no onw. "Now, what should I call you?" Michelle asked not expecting an answer.

"You could call me Shocks, cause thats the name the gods gave me." The cat said. Michelle dropped the pizza onto the floor, and stared at the cat. He licked his fur clean of any exces milk that might have formed around his mouth.

"Yes, thats right. I can talk. Could since I was a kitten, about one hundered years ago in this world." Shocks meowed. Michelle just kept staring. Finally she moved.

"Okay, am I on one of those shows that prank you at the end! First the weird alien creatures, now a talking cat. I think I must have hit my head back in that barn!" Michelle shook her head in disbelife. "No, you might have hit your head, but this is all true. My name is Shocks, and I am to be your gaurdian, or guide from now on." He smiled. Yes the cat smiled. Michelle's eye twitched a little, mostly in disbelife. "Wait, gaurdian, Gods? I am so confused right now!" Michelle panicked, backing against the wall to get away from the cat. Shocks shook his head, like he was disapointed.

"I thought this was going to be a lot easier than this. Okay, listen carefully. You are one of the five chosen warriors, destined to defend this world from the evil forces of the Dark World." He paused, seeing Michelle starting to freak out again. "How about I just show you, okay." Shocks hopped back onto the bed, grabbed the yellow box in his mouth, then took a large leap and landed in Michelle's lap. Michelle looked like she was going to pass out from surprise. He droped the box in her hand, then jumped off her lap and sat down infront of her.

"Okay, now what I want you to do is open the box using that switch on the side. If you see a small piece of a yellow crystal, then I've chosen the right person for once!" He purred. Michelle just stared at the box in her hand.

"Okay, maybe I'll wake up after this." Michelle smiled, deciding to play along, thinking she'll just wake up in the morning from a bad dream. She pressed the button on the side, making the box flip open. When fully opened, it looked like a crudly shaped yellow lightning bolt. Inside was all white, with a small, yellow crystal in the center. It looked like it was just the top half of a whole diamond shape crystal. "Wow, this is really pretty! It must have cost a fourtune?" She looked at Shocks, expecting an answer. "Actually no. It was specially made by the ancient gods, so incase something like what happened one hundered years ago happenes again, the warriors would be able to rise again. One of them just happens to be you!" He grinned.

"Okay, I have no idea what your talking about, but I get to keep this right?" Shocks nodded his head to her response.

"Now I want you to say Lightning, like you mean it." He instructed.

"Okay, but this isn't going to hurt me is it?" She looked at him. He shook his head. So Michelle took a deep breath, "Lightning!"

The crystal glowed a bit, then streams of lightning bolts came out and surrounded Michelle, who was so surprised she dropped the box. After the lightning bolts had completely surrounded her, a bright light formed, compleatl engulfing Michelle, blocking her from veiw. Michelle shreaked a little, which let Shocks know she was still okay. He backed up a little while this was all happening, like he expected it.

When the light faded, Michelle was still sitting on the floor, but the clothes she was wearing before had been changed, and now she was wearing a yellow strip of cloth made of special material, on her face, mostly over her eyes. Her eyes had aslo changed. Now they were a mix of her normal deep blue, and a golden yellow, with the yellow being a lot more dominate.

Her outfit was similar to the guys' outfits that she had seen in the barn earyer today. One big diffrence was that her outfit was yellow, with a lightning bolt pattern at the bottom of the shirt. The boots on her feet felt a lot lighter than they looked, and were very flexable, but very sturdy at the same time. The cloth the clothes were made out of felt the same as the mask on her face. It didn't feel like anything she had ever worn before. So flexable, yet strong and durable, sortof like armor.

"AH!!! What am I wearing! Where did my clothes go! Whats going on!" Michelle started to freak out. Shocks just chuckled, which annoyed Michelle even more. "Okay, I want some answers and I want them now!" She stared the cat directly in the eyes. Shocks just grinned before answering, like he had been waiting for this moment for a long time. He had that kind of glint in his eyes.

"You are Denko, the Lightning Master, on of the protector of the Light Earth. As I said before, you are destined to help save this world from the evils of the invading Dark World." He tried to explain. Michelle wasn't exactly listening, but playing with her clothes, and messing with her boots, to see how flexable they were. Shocks growled a bit to get her attention, which it did.

"I'm trying to explain to you whats going on. Sheesh you have a short attention span!" Shocks yelled at her. Michelle stuck her tounge out at the cat. He groaned.

"You remember those two guys in the barn earlyer? You are going to need to know them, because your life might be in their hands one day!" Michelle shut up after that comment. "Thats what I thought. The red one's name is Kaji, the Fire Master. The brown one's name is Riku, the Earth Master. They are going to be your partners from now on, but never tell them your human identity. It may save your life." Michelle just looked at him like he was crazy.

"So, when you say Fire Master, he actually can shoot fire. Cause I did see him do that right?" Michelle asked. Shocks nodded his head. "And you said I was the Lightning Master right? Does that mean I can shoot lightning?" Shocks nodded his head again. "I don't belive you!" She crossed her arms. "I don't really belive any of this actually." Shocks just shook his head.

"Okay then. How about a demonstration." He looked around the room and spotted Michelle's reading lamp. "Point your finger at the lamp, concentrate hard, and I'm sure something cool will happen." He grinned. Michelle looked at him funny, but did what he said, pointing her finger at the lamp. As she concentrated, a small spark of lightning left her finger tip and hit the lightbulb, shattering it into a million pieces and scattering those pieces all over her bed and floor.

"Ekk!!" Michelle screamed, holding her hand as far away from her face as she could. "Did I just do that!!!???" Shocks chuckled.

"Yup. And that wasn't even a fraction of your power. With my teachings you'll be able to control your powers, and help against the Dark Empire."

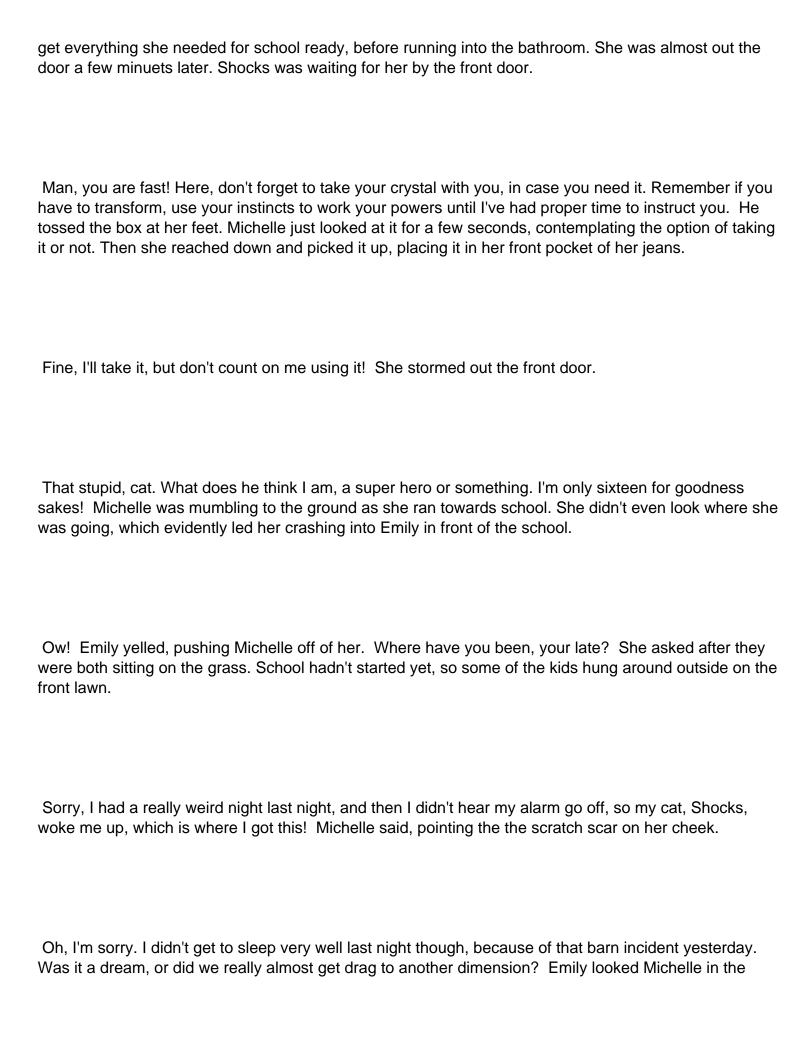
"Okay okay okay!!! Just tell me how to change back, please!" Michelle pleaded. Shocks just laughed

again, then looked Michelle in the eye.

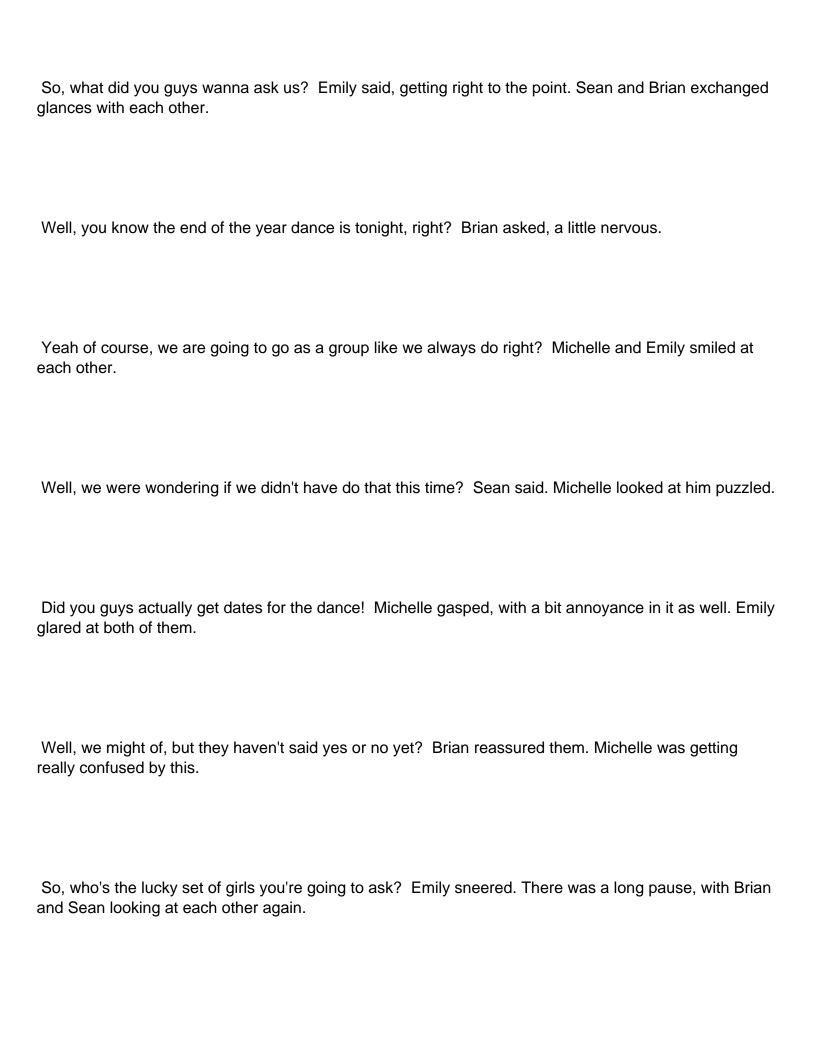
- "What would you do if I said you couldn't change back?" He grinned at her. Michelle's eyes lit up in fear.
- "What do you mean I can't change back!!?" Michelle freaked, grabbing the cat by the collar.
- "Michelle, is everything okay in there. I heard something break!" Her mom asked, knocking on Michelle's bedroom door.
- "Uh... yeah. Everything is fine. I just broke something that all. I'll clean it up don't worry!" Michelle yelled, relaxing her hand just enough so that Shocks was able to wriggle free.
- "Okay, as long as your not hurt. Try to be more careful next time!" She heard her mom walk back towards the kitchen.
- "Your really quick with that arent you?" Shocks looked amazed. Michelle turned back around and glared at him. "Okay okay. All you have to do is say your human name with force." Shocks grunted, losing all the fun he was poking at.
- "Michelle!" Michelle said, just as Shocks had told her too. The light formed around her again, ending in ribbons of lightning forming back into the yellow box, which bounced on the carpeted floor.
- "That was scary! Don't make me do it again ok!" Michelle said, leaving the box gingerly on the floor. Shocks just shook his head, dissapointed.
- "But you're going to have to, wether you want to or not. The Light Earth is going to need your help!" He growled.
- "Heh, I'm going to go to bed, and when I wake up tommorow, this whole day will have been a really bad dream!" Michelle undressed and put on her pajamas for the night. Completely ignoring Shocks, she jumped on her bed and drowned her face in her pillow, falling into a light sleep filled with nightmeres of the barn scene.

4 - Secret Crushes

Chapter 4
Michelle woke up the next morning from a swift scratch across the face. She jumped up quickly, knocking her cat onto the floor in surprise.
Ow! That hurt! Michelle rubbed her face, wiping off the small traces of blood that had started appearing from the scratch.
Sorry, but you weren't waking up and your alarm was annoying me. Shocks said from the side of the bed. Michelle froze. Then she looked at the cat.
It wasn't just a bad dream last night was it? She stared at him. He nodded his head. Michelle sighed, becoming a bit depressed.
Get out of bed already! You are going to be late for school if you don't, and shut that annoying alarm off please! Shocks growled a bit. Michelle looked over at her clock, and then gasped. It was almost seven-thirty. School was going to start very soon. She shut her annoying buzzing alarm off, and raced to



eyes. Michelle touched the pocket where her crystal box was.
Yeah, it was real. I wanna find out who that red guy was. I think he's kind of cute, and I want to say thank-you! Michelle said, changing the subject.
Speaking of guys, Sean and Brian wanted us to meet them in the Physics room early today, they had something to ask us? Emily said. They both gave each other weird looks, then burst out laughing.
Well, lets go then! We have Physics first today anyways. Michelle groaned at the last part. Emily got up first, then helped Michelle off the ground. They dashed to their lockers and then headed up to the science wing to their physics classroom.
When they got there, Sean and Brian were talking softly to each other in the back of the room, where they normally sat. Sean heard the door open and looked to see Michelle and Emily walking towards them.
There you guys are, we were starting to get worried! Sean exclaimed, jumping up a bit.
No, you were getting worried, I was getting a bit board. Brian laughed. Michelle and Emily snickered as well as Sean's face turned a little red.





And I say yes to you Sean. I'd love to be your date! Michelle said. The guys' faces lit up with extreme happiness.
Awesome! I'll pick you up at seven then! Sean said, very happy. Brian said the same thing to Emily. They all ate their lunch in silence, going into a game of cards after that.
Emily and Michelle walked home together, talking about the days events.
Oh wow, I knew Sean was starting to crush on you, but I never new Brian had anything for me! That was a huge shock! Emily said. Michelle looked at Emily with a blank stare.
You knew Sean was starting to crush on me? And you didn't tell me!!! She yelled, with annoyance in her voice.
It was sooo obvious I thought you already knew. Emily teased. Michelle's face turned red from embarrassment and stupidity.
Maybe I did, maybe I didn't! She said. Emily laughed.

If you knew, you wouldn't have looked so shocked when I mentioned it! She slapped Michelle on the back. They stopped outside Emily's house. Well, I guess I'll see you tonight then. This is so exciting! She giggles and ran down her drive-way, waving behind her back. Michelle waved, then started at a jog to her house.

5 - The Dance/First Battle

Chapter 5

Shocks, I'm home! She yelled in the house. The cat came running up to her, purring as he rubbed against her leg. Wow, you do act like a normal cat? Michelle said, sounding a bit puzzled.

Whats that supposed to mean! He growled at her. She just laughed and continued to her room. Shocks followed her.

So tonight, I was thinking of starting a bit of your training, so you can understand how to use your powers, Shocks said.

No thanks. I have a dance to go to tonight, and I actually have a date! She squeaked as she said the last part. Shocks looked like he was gonna get a head ach.

You can't! The Dark Empire is planning on another attack against the Light Earth! You are going to be needed! He yelled at her. Michelle was ignoring him, going straight for her closet. After a few minuets of throwing stuff around, she finally found what she was looking for. Holding it up to her neck and letting it hang, the dress was a light blue, with white flowers everywhere.

What do you think Shocks, its the only one I own, but I think Sean will like it anyways? She twirled around with it. Shocks just shook his head.

Are you even listening to me at all! I swear something might be wrong with you in your head! He scratched at her bare foot. Michelle jumped back, and ended up falling backwards onto her bed. Ow!!! Why did you do that! Michelle yelled at him, throwing a pillow. Shocks nimbly doged it, jumping on top of it, knocking it to the ground.

Listen to me! There is going to be an attack tonight, I don't know when, and I don't know where, so I think its a bad idea for you to go to that dance tonight! Especially since you don't know how to use your powers yet! He growled. Michelle stared right back him.

I told you last night, I don't what to do that ever again! She yelled at him. He jumped up on the bed, and looked Michelle in the eyes.

You don't have a choise! I've been searching for you for about a year now, ever since I came to this world after the first attack by the Dark Empire! Your going to help Kaji and Riku tonight, even if I have to drag you there! Michelle looked him straight in the eyes.

I'm going to the dance tonight! I don't care what you say! She growled back at him. They stood in a locked staring contest for a few minutes, before Shocks sighed and dropped his head.

We aren't getting anywhere arguing like this. He shook his head. How about a compromise. You go to the dance tonight, if you promise to leave when I call you. You never know, the attack might be way after the dance, or you might be done before you have to leave.

Fine. I guess I can try it once. And your right, arguing doesn't seem to get us anywhere. Michelle sighed. So, go ahead and teach me what you can now. I can do my homework tommorow or something. She hung her dress on the door handle of her closet and sat down on the floor, and listened to Shocks explain the works of her electrical power. Several hours past, and there was no sign of the attack that Shocks had talked about. The time for the dance was getting closer, and Michelle's short attention span had kicked in a while ago.

Are we done yet? I have to start getting ready for the dance! Michelle whined. Shocks rolled his eyes. Yeah, I guess we are done for tonight. Don't forget to bring your crystal tonight though, I have a bad feeling about this, he said. He jumped up on the bed, and laied down on Michelle's pillows. Michelle went to the bathroom and changed into her dress, came back and did her hair.

I think I'll let it down tonight. I haven't done that in a long time! She was so cheerful. Shocks just chuckled.

I don't know who this Sean guy is yet, but he's gonna be a very lucky guy tonight! Michelle's face turned bright red from his compliment. Before she could retaliate, or thank him, the door bell rang, making Michelle jump a bit.

Oh, thats him! Michelle ran out of the room, making sure she had her crystal box with her. Opening the door, Sean was waiting there with a single red rose in his hand. When he saw Michelle, he handed it to her. Michelle thanked him, and they walked to the school together.

They met up with Brian and Emily, who were waiting for them outside the door. Brian and Sean exchanged happy glances, and Michelle and Emily giggle. Sean and Brian were both wearing suits, that made them look more mature than they actually were. Sean was wearing a red bow tie, as red as the rose he gave Michelle, and Brian was wearing a pretty plain black one. Emily's dress was a dark blue, with a light blue pattern along the bottom.

Shall we go inside now? Brian said, pulling the dance tickets from his pocket. He handed two to Sean. In a minute, I wanna ask Michelle something before we go inside, we'll meet you in there. Michelle looked at Emily with a puzzled face, and all Emily could do as return that very same face. Brian led her inside, while Sean led Michelle out to one of the benches infront of the school.

What do you wanna ask me Sean? Michelle asked as she sat down.

Can you promise me something? He was llooking her straight in the eyes. His pale grey eyes mixing in with her bright sky blue eyes.

Uh, sure? Michelle said, cautiously.

I need you to promise me, no matter what happens tonight, you wont leave me. I need to know that you'll stay here no matter what! He was grasping her by the shoulders now. He was so serious that he was starting to scare Michelle.

Yeah, I can promise you that. Michelle said, still feeling a bit akward. Sean's face changed from the hard serious look he was using, to a happier, more excited look.

Okay then! Lets go enjoy the dance! He got up, and held out his arm for her to take, and then entered the school gymnasium where the dance was being held. Inside, near the back was a few rows of round tables, near a drink bar. The DJ was next to that. The dance floor was already pack with people dancing to the fast songs that were playing.

The rest of the night went smooth. They would dance together for a while, then meet up with Emily and Brian and they would sit and talk for a while. Soon, the dance was coming to a close, and so far, both of the boys had been skipping all the slow dances that seemed to pop up.

Okay boys and girls, this is the last slow dance of the night, so grab your partners and hit the dance floor! The DJ's voice rang out over the sound system. Sean and Brain exchanged glances with eachother again, the got up from their seats.

Lets dance, what do you say? Brian asked Emily, holding out his hand. Emily took it with a smile, and they went and started dancing.

Shall we join them Michelle? Sean asked.

Could we? Michelle's eyes lit up. She had been waiting to slow dance all night. She got up and followed Sean to the floor, where they took up the stance, and started dancing in circles.

This has been the best night of my life! Michelle said, burrowing her head into Sean's chest. Sean's face turned bright red with embarassment and joy.

Mine too! He smiled. He held her tight, making Michelle blush as well. As the song neared its end, Michelle looked up at Sean, and Sean looked at her. He leaned in to kiss her, but pulled back quickly with a growl as something beeped in his pocket. Sean pushed Michelle away for a bit, then reached into his pocket, turning his back to Michelle.

I'm sorry Michelle, someone important just paged me. I'll be right back, as soon as I can, please don't leave without me! He dashed off into the main lobby of the gym. Michelle just stood there, baffled at what just happened. When she finally snapped out of her daze, she noticed Emily sitting by herself at the table they had ther stuff at. Michelle quickly went over and sat with her.

What happened with you? Michelle asked, sitting next to her friend. Emily looked up, having the same dazed look that Michelle had a few seconds ago.

Well, Brian was holding me really tight, it was so nice, but then his pager went off, and he dashed away. Emily hung her head. Michelle gave her a real confused look.

Thats weird, Sean did almost the same thing... Michelle stopped as she heard something buzz in her purse. Oh, no! She said softly, so Emily didn't hear her. Emily was now giving Michelle a puzzled look, since she had ended in the middle of her sentence.

I'm sorry Emily, my mom wanted me to call her right before the dance ended! I'll be right back! Michelle grabbed her purse and ran towards the bathrooms in the lobby.

Wait, Michelle, your mom works Friday nights! Emily called after her. She was really confused about what was going on now. She just sighed, and grabbed herself another drink and listened to the music. In the bathroom, Michelle hid in the farthest stall from the door, then pulled the yellow box out of her purse.

Its about time you answer! We have trouble! Shocks voice yelled at her.

Shh, we are in the bathroom! She hissed at him. What do you want?

Just as I thought, there is a Dark Empire warrior here, and you wont belive where she is? He sounded seriouse. Just then, there was a huge crashing noise coming from the gym.

I think I just found out. Grrr, what a way to ruin this perfect night! Michelle stood up as everyone in the bathroom ran out screaming. I hope I remember how to do this! She took a deep breath and closed her eyes.

Lightning! She said deeply. The ribbons of lightning flowed from the crystal, once again surrounding her. As soon as they completely swirled around her did they produce the blinding white light that blocked her from veiw. When it faded, Michelle had transformed into Denko. The transformation had also redun her hair, putting it up in a braid, like it had been earlyer, with a lightningbolt shaped tie to keep it up.

Okay, focus Michelle. Remember what Shocks told you, and get this over with! Denko pushed herself off the ground, and walked towards the bathroom door. She was amazed at how light her clothes felt, even though by touch they felt extreamly strong. Even her boots felt flexable enough to do almost anything in. Peaking out the door, she saw a mob of people trying to leave the school. Looking around quickly, she couldn't see Emily, Brian, or Sean anywere. When she caught and opening, she ran into the gym where she steped in a huge puddle of water, about ankil deep.

What the...? Denko said, lifting her boots out of the water and looking around. The last few dancers were fleaing the area. There was a bit of moonlight shining through a hole in the celing of the gym, and all the lights had shorted out as well. Standing in the moonlight was the second weirdest thing Denko had ever seen. It was a blue woman, floating about a foot off the ground. She had a mermaid green tail, which was waving around like it was actually in water. Her body was completely blue, and her hair was made of a very deep-green seaweed. Covering her chest was sea-shells, and here eyes were a deep red. She looked like a fairy tale character gone completely bad.

Who are you? Someone said from above her. Denko whirled around and looked up to see the brown guy from the barn staring down at her. His eyes widened and he grabbed her by the shoulders and threw her to the left, putting himself on top of her, while a huge waterball exploded right where she had been standing.

Be careful! She's really dangerous! He scolded her. Michelle just looked at him, and thought he reminded her of someone.

Sorry, she paused, Are you Riku, the Earth Master? She asked. He nodded his head. And who are you? You're dressed like us. Could you be Denko! He said, with a slight gasp. Um, yeah I am. I'm supposed to help you and Kaji, I think I said that right, fight these evil peple attacking our town... or something like that, Denko said, not very sure of herself. Riku looked around quickly, but then ducked as another waterball, followed by maniacle laughter, erupted next to them. Kaji! Kaji, Denko is here! He got off of her, and sprinted to the other side, dissapearing into the darkened corner. Denko shook herself off, not that it helped much cause she was now drenched in water. The water lady and Denko locked eye contact.

So, your the newest pain I have been sent to deal with! You looks so pathetic! She let out a loud laugh. Denko was trying to ring some of the water out of her shirt, but it wasn't helping at all. When she looked up, she bearly missed getting hit by another waterball. Denko yelped in surprise and leaped to one side, tripping over herself. The water lady looked like she was going to die from laughter. Denko gritted her teeth, and climbed back to her feet. She was dripping wet again.

You ruined my perfect dance! Denko yelled at her. Closing her eyes, she focused on the lightning within herself, just as Shocks had instructed. Holding her hands out, she formed a small electric ball and threw it at the water lady. It hit her on the arm, and she let out a huge screech that filled the gymnasium. Denko fell down on one knee, also crying out in pain. She had electricuted herself just a bit, and since she hadn't undergone proper training yet, she was vulnerable to herself, also because she was soaking wet it hurt even more.

Ah, it hurts! Denko said through her teeth. She slowly pushed herself off the ground again. The water lady had stoped screeching, and was now laughing again.

My, my, you are hurting yourself!? Ha... how pathetic! You aren't even worth my patience! She stopped after she heard a splash. Denko heard it too, and looked around. What Denko saw, she was really not happy about. Emily was there, trying to get out of the room without being noticed, but had accidently stepped into a larger puddle and made a splash. The water lady grinned, and flew right over to Emily without thinking twice.

No!! Emily!!! Denko cried, running towards them, but slid to a stop as the water lady held the struggling, and shocked Emily out in front of her like a sheild. No! Leave her alone! Denko yelled. The water lady just kept laughing.

You shock me again, and your little human friend here gets it too, along with yourself! She laughed. Denko was now getting really annoyed by her laugh. Denko gritted her teeth together, trying to think of a way out of this. Emily was now crying for help in the clutches of that evil woman.

Denko, we'll distract her, get Emily away from her! Riku appeared behind Denko, and the red guy, Kaji too.

What do you mean? She asked, spinning around to face them.

Just watch, and when you see an opening, get in there and grab that poor girl ok?! Kaji instructed. His voice was so gentile and demanding at the same time. There was a lot more familiatiry in his voice than Riku had. Denko looked into his eyes, which were red with a hint of grey. She nodded her head, and the two guys were up and flying again. They flew circles around the water lady, making her swing Emily around like a rag doll sheild. Denko watched carefully, then, she saw it when the water lady flung Emily to the left, trying to hit Kaji, that she let go, and Emily went flying. Denko took off at a run and found herself sliding on the water on the other side of the room, and she ended up slamming into the falling Emily, sending both of them crashing into the wall near an exit door.

Ouch, Denko said, slowly sliding to the floor, with Emily on top of her. Emily had tears of fright rolling down her cheeks.

Denko! Get her out of here! Riku yelled, throwing part of the gym floor at the water lady, who blasted it like it was nothing. Denko slowly pulled herself off the ground, then helped Emily out of the room. Sitting

her down outside in the lobby, she saw Shocks waddle up with another cat.

Denko! What are you doing out here! Get your butt back in there and help them! He growled at her. Emily's eyes got wide with fear, and shock as she reconized the cat. She looked up at Denko, who had just realized that Emily was catching on.

Okay! Going! She ran back in the gym, just as Emily was about to say something. Phew, that was close. Maybe taking Emily to the pet store yesterday was a bad idea. But how was I supposed to know I was adopting a talking cat! She yelled at herself. Just then, looking into the gym, she saw Kaji laying on the groud, not moving, and Riku bearly standing up.

Denko, help us please. We aren't that effective against a water element, Riku said between deep breaths. Then he fell face first on the ground, and the annoying maniacle laughter was heard towards Denko's right. Denko turned her head and glared.

Why are you doing this. We never did anything to you?! Denko yelled at her. The water lady looked Denko over.

Its not intentionally what you did, its what your predisessors and that damned Hikari did to us! Banishing us into a world worth nothing. We deserve so much better, and thats what our queen belives and wants for us! Thats why we've come to this world, so we can switch completely, and these pathetic humans, who live in such luxery, can't feel the torcher we've lived in for so long! Her annoying laughter was gone. Denko became confused, but angry.

I still don't like you right now! Denko shot electricity straight from her hand, like a beam. She felt the electricity travel up her arm, causeing her a lot of pain, but she didn't stop. The water lady shot out a stream of water, holing back Denko's beam. The more the water lady pushed Denko's attack back, the more pain occured in her arm. Soon she was crying out in pain, and stopped the attack all together. She flew backwards as the stream of highly pressurized water hit her chest, slamming her into the wall and pinning her. Denko had a really hard time breathing, because of the pressure on her chest. She had also lost all feeling in her right arm, which was the one that performed the attack.

I have you now! You may posses the elemental power to beat me, but you can bearly control it, let alone use it! Her annoying laugh came back at that point. She moved closer and closer to Denko, causeing the pressure to increase. When she was close enough, she stoped the water, but grabbed Denko around the neck.

I've never killed before, but I've heard from my brother, that killing a human is quite enjoyable! She squeezed tighter, making Denko start to kick and struggle for air.

Put her down! Another female voice yelled from behind the water lady. The gym doors had flung open with a bang. Denko could bearly see who it was. It was a girl about her age, dark hair with blue stripes. She was wearing basically the same out fit as the rest of them, but her color was blue, and the patterns on her shirt looked like waves.

Who are you to demand something of me! She looked the girl over. I sence you posses the element of water, because your energy signiture is close to mine! She growled. She smacked Denko against the wall again then dropped her. Denko started to bleed in the back of her head, where it was smashed against the wall, and part of her headband was falling off, but not completely. The other girl freaked out and ran to Denko's side.

Are you okay? She asked, helping Denko up.

I'm fine, but I still can't feel my right arm. Denko winced as her arm fell limp. She held herself up with her left on the girls shoulder. The annoying laughter came up again, as the lady watched the two girls help eachother.

This aught to be easy. The only one who could possibly kill me is to weak to do anything! This should be no problem for me. She pretended to strech her fingers, like she was warming up for a quick fight. I may be injoured, but I'm not out yet! Denko stood up straight, taking her comment as a major insult.

Denko, how about I distract her long enough for you to get one strong shot on her. Do you think you'll be able to handle it? She asked.

I still have my left arm! Denko grinned at her. The new girl nodded her head, then ran out forward and dodged a water ball. Denko took deep breaths, and watched the new girl dodged all the attack, trying to make an opening for Denko. Then, just as the girl got sent flying by a water ball, Denko saw her opening. She raised her left hand and poured all the energy she could find left in her body, and shot a very painful electrical charge, hitting the water lady directly in the chest. She screamed out in pain, that was probably a lot stronger than the pain Denko was feeling at the moment. Denko fell forward onto her knees as she saw the water lady turn to dust right before her eyes. The new girl came running over, after seeing that everthing was safe, and the guys were finally waking up.

Here, let me help you up! The new girl said, lending Denko a hand. Seeing that she still had the use of her left arm, she reached up and let the new girl help her off the floor.

Whats your name? I've noticed you already know mine, Denko asked.

Umm.... oh what was it? She mumbled to herself. Oh right! I'm Mizuu, the Water Master! She smiled, as Riku and Kaji walked over, like they had been compeatly revitalized.

Looks like the new recruts can handle a beating as much as Riku can. Kaji chuckled. Denko forced a smile, and looked down at her limp arm.

Don't worry, once you've becomed trained with your element, that wont happen anymore. He smiled. His smile really made her feel better, for some strange reason. They hardly knew eachother, yet Denko felt something special.

You two look worn out, why don't you head home, and we'll clean up this mess before the police show up. You gave us a lot of help tonight, and we hope to see you in the future! Riku said, patting Mizuu on the back. Mizuu and Denko nodded their heads, and headed for the door.

6 - Aftermath

Chapter 6

The two girls were greeted in the lobby by two cats. One was Shocks, who immetiatly brushed up against Denko's leg. The other cat was a she-cat, gray like Shocks, but had blue spots on her pelt. This cat went straight to Mizuu, who picked her up. Just then, Denko's knees gave out from under her, causeing her to fall forward.

Ow! Denko mumbled, as she laid on the floor. With her right arm still unusable, she wasn't able to catch herself.

Denko! Shocks licked her face, but Denko just didn't have the strength to push herself off the ground. Miche... Denko! Mizuu yelled. Shocks looked up at Mizuu and glared at her. Denko started to laugh. I knew it was you! I just knew it from a feeling I had since this fight started. Denko slowly put hersef in a sitting position. Mizuu was smiling, and helped her sit down.

We have a hard time keeping stuff from each other don't we!? Mizuu said, chuckling.

Yeah, we do. Its like we can invade each others minds! Denko smiled. She got to her knees slowly. Michelle Transform! She said with bearly any breath. The bright light sourounded her, then faded, causeing the streams of yellow ribbons to appear again, and then form themselves into Michelle's crystal box. Michelle was now sitting there, in her dress, and her hair was down again.

So, is that how you change back? Mizuu asked. Michelle nodded her head.

Okay, let me try now, Mizuu said, taking a deep breath. Emily transform! The white light appeared around Mizuu this time. As it faded, blue ribbons that looked like streams of water formed around her, and turned into a waterdrop shaped box. The looked at eachother and started to laugh.

Ah, ow! Michelle double over in pain. She also realized she still couldn't use her right arm. It still hurts. And I can't move my arm! I can't go home like this! Michelle panicked. Emily looked around, thinking quickly.

Why don't you stay at my house tonight. My mom should be working tonight, and she loves you so I don't think she would mind? Emily stood up, brushing her own dress off. She picked up her box off the floor. Michelle grabbed her, then looked at Shocks.

Well, since you know eachother, maybe training you would be a lot easier with a sparing partner. He smiled. Oh, Michelle, this is Bubbles. She's Mizuu's protector, like I'm Denko's. Shocks expained. Bubbles nodded her head to Michelle.

Its great to finally meet Denko, She said. Her voice was pure, and very soft like. She rubbed her head against Shocks' muzzle.

Okay, lets get out of here! Michelle smiled, then tried to get up. Emily lent a hand, and finally they were heading back towards Emily's house. When they got there, it was really quiet inside. Emily pushed the door open, and turned on the light, reviling a kitchen.

Lets go up to my room if you can make it, so we can put some band-aids on those bleeding scratches of yours! Emily smiled, closing the door behind her. The cats ran off ahead, using their nose to find Emily's room.

The back of my head really hurts though. Michelle passed her hand over her wound, leaving a lot of blood on her hand. Eww! She wiped it on her dress.

Don't do that! Blood stains! Emily yelled at her. Michelle stuck her tounge out at her, but she stopped. They reached Emily's room, and Emily pushed Michelle on the floor, while she hopped onto the bed. You still have a set of clothes here from last time. My mom washed them for you. Emily pulled a gym

bag out from under her bed. Why don't you take a shower or something, then we'll bandage you up! Emily threw the back at Michelle, who fell over from the impact.

Fine, but please be more gentile, sheesh! Michelle got up and limped a little to the bathroom. After she left, Emily let out a long sigh.

What is going on!? She fell backwards onto her bed. She heard the cats purring on the floor. Okay, you guy's have to tell me what exactly is going on around here! First the green people in that wearhouse, now a mermaid thing in our gym! What is going on!? She yelled at the cats. Bubble jumped up on the bed, and walked onto Emily's chest.

We'll tell you everything later, when you're both more ready, She purred. Emily sighed and hit her head against the pillow.

Thats not really helping. I am so parinoid right now! Can you tell if someone is going to attack me!? She asked, sitting up. Bubbles jumped to the side to avoide getting thrown off.

Yes, we can tell. We can tell when something enters this world that shouln't be here. They all posses different energy signatures than the people of this world, so its easy. You'll be able to do it one day too, cause the original Mizuu had a knack for it. Bubbles smiled. Emily just sighed. They all heard the water shut off in the bathroom. Michelle walked back in the room wearing weekend clothes, a ripped t-shirt, and worn out jeans.

I feel a bit better now, but I'm wicked tired! Michelle yawned, streching her arm out. But I still can't feel my arm. She sighed. Looking down at it.

It will wear off. You just over shocked your nerves in that arm. Give it a few days rest and it'll be as good as new. Shocks said, rubbing up against Michelle's leg.

How about we put it in a sling right now? It'll take some dead weight off your shoulder! Emily grinned. Michelle glared at Emily, but then laughed.

Okay, and maybe a band-aid for the scratch behind my head, I think it might still be bleeding. Michelle smiled. Emily sighed and shook her head. She jumped off the bed and headed for the bathroom, with Bubbles tailing her.

Shock, am I really going to be able to use my arm again? Michelle sighed. The cat nipped her on the fingers. Ow! What was that for? She yelled at him.

You sound hopeless. Of course you'll be able to use your arm again. Once we finish part of your training, this wont happen ever again either. It only happened this time because you were rushed into using your powers without proper instructions. If Emily had used her powers, she would have felt exhausted, and unable to move. Her arm probably would have went numb too, after exahusting the power from her body. Shocks explained. Michelle picked her arm up and placed it in her lap so it was more comfortable. Emily came back in by now, carring a first-aid kit, and a broken arm sling.

Lets fix you up now! She squated down next to Michelle. Michelle put the sling on, and it really did take some weight off her shoulder. Emily started to wrap Michelle's head in gauze, so the cut in the back would stay covered.

Wow, that was a pretty deep cut! What did you do?! Shocks said, as he saw the cut for the first time. That mermaid had grabbed me around the neck and slammed me against a broken piece of the wall! Well, maybe it wasn't broken before she slammed me against it. Michelle sighed. Shocks twitched a bit at the thought. Michelle just glared at him. Emily was repacking the first-aid kit.

Well, its getting pretty late, why don't we get some sleep! Emily said, leaving the room to put the stuff away. When she came back, closing the door quietly behind her, she saw that Michelle had falled asleep leaning against the footboard of her bed. Emily sighed, grabbed a blanket on her bed and placed it around Michelle's body, then hopped into her own bed. Bubbles jumped up and snuggled next to Emily's head.

Everything is so confusing lately. Thats the second time someone saved my life in two days! I wonder if

Michelle is confused as I am? She sighed, petting Bubbles on the head.

You will be fine. You're taking it quiet well for someone who was just thrown into all this chaos. The original Mizuu always seemed calm and collected in times of crisis or confusion too. Maybe its just who you are. Bubbles purred, making herself comfortable.

I guess. I need to hear the whole story, but sleep would be nice right now, Emily yawned, then turned out the light for her room, drifting into sleep herself.

7 - Michelle's Tiny Secret

Chapter 7

The morning came around quickly, and Emily could smell pancakes cooking in the kitchen. She slowly rolled out off bed and streatched her arms. Looking around, she saw Bubble curled up with Shocks in the corner of the room, and Michelle was still asleep, but had fallen over onto the floor in the middle of the night. Grabbing her clothes, Emily changed in the bathroom and then procceded to the kitchen. There was a note on the table, alonge with a large stack of freshly made panckes. Emily picked up the note and read it aloud to herself.

'Hey Emily,

Sorry, they called me into work this morning. I noticed that Michelle stayed over last night, so I made you guys some pancakes. Enjoy, and tell Michelle I said hi!' Thats just like mom, Emily laughed. She put the note back down, then looked down the hall as she heard a couple sets of footsteps. Michelle walked into the room, yawning and streatching her good arm.

Something smells good! Did you make pancakes? Michelle said, skipping into the kitchen once she saw the food.

No, mom made them. She had to leave early again this morning, and dads on a business trip this weekend, so we have the house to ourselves this morning! Emily cheered. She grabbed a couple plates from the cabinate and set them up on the table, while Michelle tried her best to get a few things from the fridge, but was having a hard time. The cats showed up after smelling the food as well.

Michelle, let me help you! Emily said, rushing over. Together they were able to get the stuff all set up. Shocks rubbed against Michelle's leg.

Oh, you guys probably want some breakfast too, right? What do talking cats normally eat? Emily asked, pulling a couple bowls out of the cabinate.

Milk, or any kind of fish for me please, Bubbles purred.

I like milk, but I will eat almost anything. My favorite Light Earth treat though is Doughnuts! They are so sweet! Shocks purred very loudly. Michelle could feel the purr through her leg.

Hehe, sorry, we don't have any doughnuts, how about a pancake with syrup on it. And for Bubbles, I'll get you a bowl of milk. Emily smiled. She put a pancake and poured syrup on it, then placed it on the floor, where Shocks immetiatly started to chow down. Emily then poured some milk in another bowl and placed it on the floor for Bubbles.

Yay! Pancakes! Michelle started digging in. Emily laughed, sitting down to eat herself. They both ate quickly, and then had to wait while the cats took their sweet time. Emily tapped her foot impationtly. Bubbles licked her lips and then cleaned off her paws.

Okay, I think I'm ready! She said, streatching her legs. Emily's eyes lit up. Michelle just shrugged, not really understanding what the grey cat ment. Shocks finished up his last bit, then proceded to lick the syrup off his paws.

Lets go in the living room, it'll be more comfortable there anyways. Emily said, cleaning up the table. Michelle helped out the best she could, but Emily shooed her away into the living room. Michelle sat down on the couch, and the two cats made themselves comfertable on the other end. Emily came in and sat in the giant arm chair on the other side of the room.

So, lets start from the beginning and work our way here! Emily said. Bubbles let out a small sigh and licked her front paws.

I think we should wait till we meet the others first too explain. We kinda made a promise to eachother

that we would. But with recent events I'm sure that wont be long from now. Bubbles sighed, apologeticly.

Thats not fair!! How long will that take!? Emily sighed.

Not sure, but please, bear with us, a promise is a promise. Bubbles answered.

Yeah, with monster starting to appear in our world, it means Queen Holli must have found a way to come between the dimentions. She probably has created her own army, and has a lot more henchmen and stuff, but we wouldnt know. I haven't been to our home world in two hundred Light Earth years! He finished. Michelle and Emily had very blank stares on their face.

Are you seriouse! You guys are over two hundred years old! Michelle gasped. Shocks nodded his head.

But, where do we fall into all of this? Emily asked. Bubbles nodded her head.

We think you are the reincarnations of the original four warriors. You showed signs of these powers by being able to see the crystals, and by not being so surprised by the monsters that have been appearing, like they are a flashback from your memory. She explained. Except Michelle of course, since Denko was never originally found, but we know that they had to be there somewhere, so maybe she is. Bubbles shrugged her shoulders.

Emily just sat there and thougt about it, but Michelle's short attention span kicked in, and she was soon playing with a piece of string she pulled off of the couch. Shocks was watching the piece of string, then his cat instinct kicked in, and he started to play with it like a little kitten.

Oh wow, those two are more similar than I thought. Bubbles laughed. Emily looked at Michelle, a bit annoyed.

Michelle, how can you even be doing that when our lives just got turned upside-down! Man, you can't stay focused on anything can you! Emily picked up the pillow next to her and threw it at Michelle, who was knocked over by the surprising blow.

Hey! What was that for? Michelle asked, picking herself off the floor.

Your stupid attention span! Class, homework, now this, sheesh Michelle stay focused for once! Emily yellled at her.

And you shouldn't get all hyped up over this. I'm just gonna take it one step at a time! I'm the one who saved your life last night, at the loss of my arm! Michelle yelled back. Emily just sighed.

There's no point in us argueing. That's not exactly what we should be doing right now. I think we need to find this protal the monsters are coming through, and seal it up! Emily suggested. Shocks shook his head.

Its not that easy. The portals are generated. That means they can appear whenever they need them too, there isn't one stable portal that leads to the other world. Kaji and Riku have already tried looking for it, or thats what Flare and Stone told me. Shocks sighed. Emily sighed as wel.

I'm out of ideas then. Michelle, can you think of anything? Michelle just shrugged her shoulders.

Not really. I really don't want any part of this at all, but look how that turned out. Michelle stuck her tonge out. Emily threw another pillow at Michelle, but she caught it with her good hand, then chucked it back. Just leave me alone okay! She yelled at Emily. Shocks had watched her reaction time to the pillow, and found it very impressive. Michelle got up and stormed out of the room.

Is she always like that? Bubbles asked Emily.

Sometimes. Only when she's in a really bad mood. She'll blow over it in time, just leave her alone for a while, Emily suggested. Shocks seemed very intrested in Michelle's behavior, and snuck out after her. He doesn't listen very well either, Bubbles sighed as she caught him leaving out of the corner of her eye.

Michelle had found herself a nice place to lay down on Emily's front lawn. She sighed as she looked up towards the crisp blue sky. A single white cloud floated over head, and it just seemed to hover there, like

it wanted Michelle to see it. She watched it for a while, sighing as it moved on.

Maybe I should tell Emily, Michelle sighed, rolling onto her good side for a moment. When she did, she saw Shocks right in her face, also sitting and looking into the sky.

What should you tell Emily? He looked down at her. Michelle rolled back onto her back and sighed again.

I have a secret that I've been keeping from her since we met. I was ashamed of it when I was little, so I never told anyone. After my dad passed away I just denied it. Michelle closed her eyes. But now its starting to come back to me, and I've been having these strange visions lately, when I day dream and stuff, like I'm a princess in a large scary looking castle. Maybe its just me sleeping in myth class again. Michelle laughed at herself.

And what exactly is this secret? Shocks licked her face. Michelle sat up slowly and looked at the cat. What she didn't notice was that Bubbles and Emily were spying on them from the open doorway.

I was.... Michelle paused, looking down at the ground, I was adopted, when I was about two years old. The agency said they found me at their doorstep, no note, no nothing. I was wrapped in a dark yellow blanket, asleep. Michelle was trying not to think about it to hard, so she wouldn't cry. Emily gasped really loudly, which made Michelle spin around.

You were adopted! Why didn't you tell me! Michelle... Emily walked towards her, but Michelle was horrified.

You weren't supposed to know! Please, forget what you heard! I was lying, that was a spur of the moment! Michelle jumped to her feet and started to back away.

But Michelle, its nothing to be ashamed of! Your still you aren't you! Come back here, please! Emily started to chase her into the street, where Michelle was running off to.

Shocks, why did you do that! Bubbles scolded him. Shocks just looked at her.

I didn't do it on purpose, she did it herself. I think it was something that was really bothering her, but I'm glad she got it off her chest. Something like that would have distracted her a lot during her battles. Shocks licked his paws. Then his head darted towards the left, and Bubbles felt it too.

A portal just opened! We have to get the girls over there!

8 - Training... or is it?

Chapter 8

Where are we going in such a rush? Emily asked, chasing after Bubbles and Shocks, with Michelle next to her.

A new portal just opened, and unless you want to end up like Michelle, we have to train you both just a bit so that you are immuned to your powers! Bubbles said, taking a left onto a dirt road.

What! Already! How much time do we have? Emily asked.

About an hour before its fully open. So hurry and keep up! Shocks hissed at Michelle, who was slowing down a bit. They came to a small clearing, that seemed to be invisable to the town. There was also a small hut in the corner, near a line of trees, and on the other side was a small pond.

Where are we? Michelle asked, as they finnally stopped running. She looked around, amazed that she had never seen this before.

This place is really beautiful! Why have I never noticed it before? Emily asked, as amazed as Michelle was.

Its because its a secret place, and only certain people are allowed in. Everyone else who walks by only sees and empty plot of land, covering in garbage. Bubbles explained. Shocks nodded his head.

Okay, now both of you transform please. Shocks instructed. Michelle let out a huge sigh, and reached into her pocket.

Water! Emily said, holding out her crystal. The blue and white light came and went, and now she was Mizuu.

Lightning! Michelle said reluctantly, and then Denko appeared. The sling had dissapeared, so Denko's arm hung limply by her side.

Okay, that's going to be annoying! Denko hissed at her limp arm. Shocks just laughed.

Denko, come with me to this side, we don't want you to get to close to Mizuu, since she is weak against your element! Shocks had bit down on the bottom of Denko's pants and was dragging her more towards the tree line, where Bubbles was leading Mizuu to the pond.

Okay okay! I'm coming sheesh! Denko shook off her cat, and followed him by his side.

Okay, first thing you need to do is be able to focus on your energy, sortof like what you did in your room last night. It's easy to do this by focusing on one thing, and trying to only get a certain amount of lightning to hit it, Shocks instructed. Denko nodded her head. For the next twenty minuets or so, both Denko and Mizuu went through numbing pain, trying to handle their powers. Mizuu had been able to form a bubble of water around her body like a sheild, and Denko had been able to do the same with stripes of lightning.

You guys learn pretty fast. You have compleate control over your powers! Shocks said, very impressed. Denko and Mizuu were back together again, and a bit exausted as well. They were both sitting on the gound, panting a bit, trying to catch their breath and get back some of their strength.

It was pretty easy, I though? Denko said, who was not as tired as Mizuu.

Speak for yourself! That was really hard! Mizuu sighed.

So now that you can contorl your powers, lets show you how to use them properly! Bubbles said, with a big grin. This is my favorit part of the training.

Is this when we learn to fly?! Denko asked anxiously.

Yes, of course. Flying is and essential thing to learn, especailly if you wanna keep up with Kaji and Riku. Shocks sighed. Denko put a huge grin on her face.

This is going to be awsome! I couldn't wait to learn to fly when I saw them again at school! Denko danced around. Shocks just shook his head like he was either embarassed or disapointed.

You get so excited over little things. Lets hurry up and get this done so we can head over to the portal and help Kaji and Riku send the deamon back to the Dark world. Shocks growled.

So they began their instructions again. It was a lot different than when they were trying to harness their energy. Denko had a hard time at first, compared to Mizuu, who was floating far above the trees before Denko caught on.

This is so hard! Can't you make it a bit easier, like Bubbles is for Mizuu!? Denko hissed as they went on to practicing their powers again, forming attacks and stuff like that.

No! Denko wasn't around the original time when we trained the others. This is as hard for you as it is to me! Shocks slamed his front paw on the ground in annoyance. Now, try it again! Denko sighed, but she did what she was told. Soon, the two of them had mastered the basics of their powers.

I think thats about all we can teach you in the time we have. Right now we have to get over to the portal! It's almost fully open, and will be open completely by the time we get there, Bubbles sighed.

Should we change back, or just fly there? Mizuu asked, stitting down to rest a bit. Denko was lying on her back panting.

You guys must be exhausted. Why don't you change back, and we'll walk there, so you can replenish your energy. Shocks jumped up onto Denko's stomach, making Denko jump in surprise.

Oh, get off, that hurt! Denko shoved him off. Michelle transform. Michelle appeared, still as exhausted as she was before, clutching her yellow box in her left hand. Her sling was back as well. Can I just stay here?

No, and we have to get going! The portal has fully opened now, we have to find that area quickly! Shocks sank his teeth into Michelle's pants, trying to drag her.

Come on Michelle, we'll get to see Riku and Kaji again! Emily winked. Michelle jumped right up on her feet.

I forgot about that! Lets get going then! Shocks was flung off her pants and onto the grass as Michelle and Emily started at a run towards the exit. Bubbles cleared her throat.

Do either of you know where you are going? She asked. Michelle and Emily stopped dead in their tracks. They looked at eachother, then back at their cats innocently.

No, not really! Michelle said, trying not to sound like an idiot. Emily just looked around nevously. Shocks sighed, and dashed out infront of them.

Lets go, and try to keep up! He growled. Emily and Michelle nodded their heads and followed the cats out of the meadow area and back into their town. They basically ran back towards the abandonded ware house again, but instead of going inside, they ran right past it. They ended up in an old junkyard that was bearly used any more. There were mounds of old, crushed up cars. The towers made sortof a labryinth through the junkyard. Emily twitched a bit, and stopped suddenly.

I can feel something werid. Its like a strong force pulling me in. Emily explained, looking around. Michelle gave her a puzzled look. She couldn't sence anything in the area except that she felt someone was watching her.

They have already started the battle without you, deep inside the junkyard, I can feel their powers clashing! Bubbles explained. That might be what you are feeling Emily. Emily nodded her head. She pulled out her box and opened it up. Her blue crystal glimmered in the sunlight.

Water! She yelled. She became Mizuu as soon as the light faded. She nodded her head towards Michelle, who was digging in her pocket for her own box. Pulling it out, she opened it.

Lightning! She yelled, and Denko appeared from the light. The two girls nodded at eachother, and ran into the maze. Once inside, Mizuu could feel the presence of Riku and Kaji, so she lead the way, Denko following right behind her, making sure her arm didn't show like it was injured.

Oh wow, look at that! Denko cried, seeing the sparks fly out from a pillar of cars.

It must be an Electric Deamon or something! Mizuu guessed. There was a slight worry in the tone of her voice, and Denko senced it.

Don't worry, I wont let it touch you! Denko grinned. Mizuu nodded her head, and they continued again, this time Denko took the lead. They pulled out into a large clearing, and there they saw the battle. Riku was flinging vines around everywhere, and Kaji was doing his best to dodge the random blue lightning bolts that were coming down from the sky. Looking up, they saw a spikey wolf like creature. Every time it howeled, another lightning bolt came flying towards one of them.

HA!!! Denko jumped out and fired one of her own lightning bolts at the wolf. It shook its head, then growled, glaring down at Denko.

There you guys are! We were afraid you weren't going to show. Kaji rushed over to them.

Yes, sorry we are late. Mizuu said. Denko was over with Riku, blasting away at the deamon.

Theres not really much I can do, since its weakness is earth. Kaji pointed to Riku. He gets very determinded when he's in charge. Kaji sighed. Mizuu laughed a little.

Doesn't look like its bothering Denko too much. She pointed out. Denko was dodging the lightning bolts as much as Riku was, even with her injured arm. She was actually getting in more hits that Riku was. Its just a weak, class one deamon. Maybe they think we are weakening or something. Kaji explained.

Then, Denko got nailed right in the head with a lightningbolt. She went flying backwards into a pile of cars, getting locked inside one of the cars as the door closed after she was inside.

Denko! Mizuu yelled, running over to her aid. Kaji ran back and helped keep the attention off of Mizuu and Denko.

How's it going? He asked Riku.

Not to good. I can bearly land a hit on it. Denko has been hitting it the most, but we know her attacks are bearly affecting it, I think thats why its letting her hit it. Riku was taking deep breaths. He was starting to get exhausted from using his powers so much. This may be a class one deamon, but its quite smart for one.

Kaji nodded his head, and put a sheild up as the deamon continued attacking again. Back at the car Mizuu was pulling Denko out.

Ow, that really hurt! Denko said, doing her best to get out. Her injured arm wasn't helping at all. Come on Denko, get up already. Mizuu scowled. With one last pull, Denko was freed from the car. They went rolling backwards, right up next to Riku and Kaji.

Move you two! He's starting up his final attack! Kaji yelled as his sheild shattered into thin air. He flew backwards from the after effect of the attack. Looking up, Denko saw the wolf throw its head back, and let out a large howle, charging up an enormouse amount of electrical energy. It all collected into a large ball above its head. It seemed to be drawing power from everything electrical in the area, including Denko.

Mizuu, somethings wrong, I feel so weak! Denko didn't get up when Mizuu did.

We have to move, now! Mizuu yelled at her. But it was too late, the wolf launched its attack. It moved to fast for even Riku or Kaji to stop it now. It nailed Mizuu right in the back, as she stood over Denko. She let out a death defying screem, as the electricity coarsed through her body, amplifying each second from her water power.

Mizuu! No! Denko reached up and grabbed her shoulder as she fell, struggling to hold her up with one weak arm. She felt the electricity flowing though her, and knowing if it stayed there, it was going to kill her best friend. Not even knowing what she was doing, Denko closed her eyes, and slowly drain the electricity from Mizuu's body, into her own, regaining her own strength as well. Soon, there was bearly any left, so she was going to be okay. Denko stood up, with a limp Mizuu leaning on her shoulder. Okay, now you've made me really mad! Denko hissed at the wolf. It sounded like it was laughing at her.

You can't hurt me with your pathetic electrical attacks! I'll just absorb them like I have been doing. Its voice was a low growling, but Denko understood it. Denko slowly lowered Mizuu onto the ground, away from the wolf, who was still floating far above their heads. There was an aura growing around Denko's body as well, and her power was greatly increasing.

Kaji, watch her please. I have a score to settle with this demon. With that, Denko took off into the air, flying like she had been taught how to do it her whole life.

Okay, you and me, right now! Denko got right in the wolves face, scaring it half to death. It just snarled at Denko, and tried to bite her. She dodge easily, punching him good in the face with her good arm. Then she did an aerial back-flip, kicking him with both feet as she did. This startled the deamon so much, he lost his consentration and fell to the ground. Riku immetiatly jumped on it, pilling rock ontop of it. They all watched it disinergrated, as its energy became part of the wind.

Denko felt her body become heavy and weak, and she plumited towads the ground, also losing her concentration. She felt someone catch her in mid-fall, and when she looked up, Kaji was smiling back at her.

I've got you don't worry. He said gentaly. Something in his voice seemed familiar to Denko, but she didn't say anything. They reached the ground, and Denko stood up on her own, a bit wobbly, but she was okay. Instantly, she ran over to where Mizuu lay, and kneeled beside her. She was still unconsious, but she was breathing more normally now, and her pulse seemed to have gone back to normal. Denko sighed in relife, and lied down herself, completely exhausted.

Great job Denko! You really pulled through today! I didn't think I was ever going to be able to get a stong hit on that thing! Riku jumped around for joy. Denko just nodded her head.

Your arm is still injured, isn't it? Kaji asked, kneeling down beside the girls. Denko struggled to get herself back to a sitting position.

Yeah, it is. It'll probably be like this for a few weeks. I can still fight though, it just slows me down a bit! Denko forced a smile. Kaji laughed at her.

Its okay. I'm glad the two of you showed up though. We are a team now, so we should work like one. Kaji helped her stand up. They heard Mizuu groan a bit, and her eyes opened slowly.

Where am I? Mom? Michelle? She said slowly. Instantly, Denko jumped down to get near her. Mizuu you are okay! Denko hugged her.

I think so. But my back really hurts! That is you right Michelle? She asked. Denko emitiatly looked around nervousely. Then she answered in a very soft whisper.

Yes, it is, but remember, you are Mizuu right now, and I'm Denko! Mizuu's eyes got wide at that point. Oh crap, I forgot! She sat up slowly, but it had been too late. The boys were looking at the suspiciously. Wait, you two know eachother!? Riku hissed. Denko turned around and nodded her head.

Right after the school gym incidednt. We kind of had it figured out anyways while we were fighting. Denko tried to explain. Her face was turning red in embarassment.

So, is your name really Michelle? Kaji asked, he seemed really curiouse. Denko looked around, a bit nervouse.

Uh, maybe! She smiled.

Why don't you all just introduce yourselves. Since you are going to be a team, you might as well know your other identities as well. A voice said from behind a pile of cars. Four cats approached them from that area, led by a black cat with red paws. Behind him was a pure brown cat, then Bubbles and Shocks. Denko sighed in relife again, then closed her eyes.

Michelle, Transform! The light sourounded her, and the cleared, leaving her on the ground in her human form. Her jeans and shirt were the same as she had put on that morning.

Ah! You are who I thought you were! Sean Transform! Kaji yelled. The light cleared and Sean stood there, in all his glory.

Sean!!! Michelle gasped.

I had a feeling it was you, when I flew up and caught you as you fell. You were so relaxed, like you've been in that situation before. He grinned.

Emily transform! Mizuu yelled. Emily stayed on the ground, even after she changed back.

Oh, it still hurts! Emily whined. Bubbles ran over to her to look her over. She licked Emily's face as well, hoping it would confort her.

Brian transform! Riku yelled. After changing back, he immetiatly ran over to Emily and knelt beside her. So, you do all know eachother. That's kindof weird? The brown cat commented. Shocks nodded his head, wanting to say something, but Michelle just noticed he was carrying something in his mouth.

My sling! Oh, thank you Shocks! Shocks brought it over to her, then spat along the ground.

It tastes nasty, like sweat and dirty gym socks. He shook his head at the thought. Michelle chuckled and scratched him behind the ears, which made him purr a bit.

No matter how much you try not to be, your still a cat on the inside. Michelle grinned at him. He hissed a bit, but just went to licking his paws. Michelle adjusted her sling, and pulled her arm through it slowly. Michelle, what happened exactly to your arm. I know it was injured in the battle against the mermaid deamon, but how exactly did it happen. I didn't see it hit you there at all!? Sean knelt down beside Michelle.

Well... that was my first fight. And I was kindof rushed into it, so I wasn't trained on how to use my powers properly, so they kindof backfired on me. My lightning fried all the nerves in my arm. Shocks said I was lucky it didn't go any futher than it did. Michelle smiled. Sean looked like he was going to have a heart attack. His face had turned white a bit while she told her story.

Sean, are you okay? Michelle asked. His eyes came back into focus, and he shook his head. Yeah I'm fine. Just spaced out a bit! He smiled.

Ow! Brian that hurts! There was also a smacking sound coming from behind them. Brian had tried to pick Emily up, but it still hurt, so she smacked him in the face when he wouldn't put her down. Michelle started laughing, and went over to help her friend out.

Brian, just put her back down on the ground ok! Michelle yelled at him. He sighed and stood Emily up. She smacked him again, but just playfully behind the head.

I think we should walk you girls home, you look exhausted. Brain smirked. Sean nodded his head, but he had a more serious look on his face.

Yes, why don't we meet at the meadow tommorow a little after noon. We need to talk a bit more about your powers and the history and stuff. The black cat explain. It had such a powerful, leading voice. It noticed that Emily and Michelle were staring at it.

My name is Flare. I'm Kaji's gaurdian cat. The brown one over there is Stone, Riku's gaurdian cat. He explained. Shocks snickered a bit. Michelle just nudged him with her foot.

Ok, nice to meet you! Emily smiled.

Lets get going already, I'm tired too! Brian yawned. Emily glared at him, but then she nodded her head, agreeing with him.

Yes lets please. I need to lie down again. Michelle got closer to her, so Emily could lean on her shoulder, which she did. Sean nodded his head, and they all headed back to town.

9 - The kinda True Story

Chapter 9

Michelle had stayed at Emily's house again that night, and soon, all rested up, the four of them met at the meadow. They all sat in a small circle, where Michelle and Brian could be seen nodding off, as usual. Shocks jumped into Michelle's lap, bring her back to attention.

Stay awake. We are explaning more things to you! He growled at her. Michelle just waved her hand like she didn't really care, which made Emily smack her in the back of the head.

Hey! I'm listening! Michelle yelled at her. Emily just shrugged. Flare cleared his throat to get everyones attention again.

As I was saying, the deamons will keep coming until we defeate their master, who is probably safely in the Dark world. I know he is starting to realize that his minions are not returning home, so we might be in for an encounter with this deamon master very soon. Flare went on.

But will we even stand a chance if he shows up any time soon? I mean, Sean and I can probably handle ourselves, but the girls bearly know what they are doing! Brian said, breaking through his trance as well. Everyone went quiet for a while, thinking about it.

I can handle myself. I learn something new each time I transform. Michelle boasted.

You have been making things up every single time. Shocks said under his breath. Michelle's face turned a bit on the reddish side. Emily laughed a little.

Well, I'm grateful for it. Who knew she could pull electricity from other peoples body. Emily said. Shocks looked at Emily blankly, then up at Michelle, who smiled. He go off Michelle's lap and went over to sit next to Bubbles.

I actually think someone needs to tell us the whole story now. Flare promised me he would once we found more people. Sean spoke up, looking at his cat. Flare let out a long sigh and called a cat huddle. I don't see why they wont tell us. Isn't there only one more person missing. I think its Fezui am I right? Sean asked Brian. Brian stared at him blankly.

Uh, yeah, whatever you say. Brian said, blankly. Sean shook his head. The cat huddle ended at that point, and the four of them wandered into the center of their little circle.

I guess we'll tell you the story now. I did promise Sean that we would tell it, but we are still missing Fezui and Whirl, but I think we all agreed its better without him. Flare growled. Bubbles stepped up. Okay, basically the story starts like this...

A long time ago, the Earth was one world. It was ruled by the Kingdom of Light, a righteous King, and understanding Queen. One day, the Queen had a child, but there was something different about this child that puzzled all their nurses. The child let off an evil aura, her hair was midnight black, and her eyes were like empty pits. One nurse advised the King and Queen to get rid of the child, but they would not hear it. They loved the child with all their heart. They named her Molli.

As Molli grew, her parents couldn't see the evil growing within her. She tried to avoid her parents all together. One day, she discovered she could use a magical power. She was about sixteen at this time. She would practice it in secret, till she completely learned to control it, which took years.

Finally, the day came. Her parents were having her party, making her the official heir to the throne. She just let loose on her parents, killing them both on the spot. Having just had the party, she instantly became the new Queen. The land was forced into a dark age. Everyone feared her, and her mysterious powers. Soon she had gathered a close group of followers, who also had received some mysterious powers.

A decade passed like this. Many tried to revolt, but nothing ever worked against Molli, she was just too powerful. There was one thing though that Molli realized, and was afraid of. She was still mortal. Even though she had these powers, she would someday die a human death of old age. She needed an heir to keep her Kingdom alive and the way she wanted it.

To this day know one knows who the father was, knowing Molli's streak she probably killed him after he got her pregnant. Her followers could tell she was carrying a child, what they didn't know was that she was carrying two. Molli gave birth to a set of twins, both girls. One, the older one, had beautiful blond hair, and deep sapphire eyes. The other had deep, blood red hair, and the same eyes as her mother. Each one had an aura, but the older one had a different aura than her mother or sister. She had more of a gentile, lighter presence than her sister, who was almost exactly as her mother was when she was born. They were named Lily and Holli.

Molli knew that Lily might be a problem with her plan, so she entrusted one of her favorite nurses with her. The nurse took very good care of Lily, not raising her in the ways of her mother though, but in the ways her grandparents would have been proud of. Lily grew up to be kind, loving, and gentile to the people in her Kingdom.

Holli on the other hand, followed in her mothers footsteps, even inheriting some of her powers. She was evil right down to the bones. She hated her sister with all her might. Because Lily was the older one, she was first in line for the throne. Holli went to her mother about this, but Molli was already formulating a plan.

One night, when Lily and her nurse were coming back from a ride through the country, they were ambushed by thieves and robbers. They aimed to kill both of them, but at that moment Lily's powers awoken. She blasted them all away using Light magic, opposed to her mother and sisters Dark magic. The two of them knew that the thieves had been sent by Molli, and went into hiding, pretending they were dead.

Back at the castle, Holli and her mother both believed that the two of them were dead, and threw a party, celebrating Holli becoming the heir to the throne. They thanked Kaen, the God of Flame, and didn't worship Koori, the Goddess of Ice, at all.

Kaen and Koori were the divine spirits that governed the land for centuries. It has been said that they sometimes take human for to personally inspect the way the world is working. But ever since Molli had taken reign, Koori, the Goddess of Ice, had all but been forgotten. She was the nicer of the two Gods, granting peace and prosperity on the land, while Kaen was the one who spiked emotions and gave people reasons and things.

Anyways, out in their secluded cabin. Lily and the nurse were slowly working on developing Lily's powers. They both hoped that it would allow them to take back the Kingdom and make it a peaceful place again. Every night Lily would go out to her special spot and pray to both Koori and Kaen, asking them for help to restore order to their messed up world.

Koori heard her plea, and created us, the five cats. Each cat was designed to search out their element in a single person and training them to use it. These were people born of special powers as well, but their powers lay dormant, where Molli couldn't find them.

We all found our respected humans, except for one. Shocks was supposed to find Denko, the Lighting user. But that person was no where to be found. Finally we gave up when Princess Lily called us all together.

We all headed to the castle together, where Princess Lily barged in and demanded her right to the throne. There was a feirce battle, with the elemental warriors fighting Molli's followers, and Lily took on her mother one on one. Finally, the battle drew to a close and almost all the dark warriors had run off. Now it was a stand off between a weakening Lily, and queen Molli. The battle ended with Lily completely defeating her mother. Molli parished that day.

One thing that Lily had forgoten was her sister. Holli appeared behind the tired Lily. Holli defeated all the Light Warriors, and came close to destroying her sister. Then, Lily prayed one last time to Koori, and Koori then again answered her prayers. Everyone who followed the old king and queen, and were miserable in the dark world, were moved into a new, Light World. Koori made this world to help restore the balance. But it took every last drop of life energy that princess Lily had in her. She also revived the lost light warriors and sent them to the new world, to establish a new order and things.

Holli became trapped in the new Dark World, with her followers. She swore revenge on the Light world, saying she would get it back one day, and rule the whole Earth like she was suppose to. Now its rumored that she has had kids herself, but we dont know who they are or how powerful they are, or if there is even more than one. All we know is that she found a way to pass through demensions and is looking to conqure this world. You have all been reincarnated from the original Light warriors to help protect this world from Queen Holli's minions.

And thats basically how the story goes. There are bits a pieces I might have left out, but I think the basics are fine for now. Bubbles bowed. The four kids just sat there staring. They could not believe what they had just heard, and what they had gotten themselves into.

You guys were chose through destany, other than that we don't know why. We belive the Goddess Koori has her hand in this as well, but we can't prove it. Also, we aren't exactly sure where Michelle's powers came from, since we never found Denko in the past. Flare explained, putting his piece in. Shocks was sulking over by the pond, and Stone looked like he was napping.

So what your saying is that there is this other world thats trying to take over our world, because originally it used to be one world ruled by the Royal line that rules the other world? Sean was the first one to speak.

In a nut shell, yeah thats basically it. Flare answered.

I knew getting involved in this was a bad idea. Michelle grumbled.

What puzzles me is that the four of you have known eachother since kindergarten, am I right? I wonder if its a coincidence that you were all picked. Bubbles said quizically.

Well, Michelle and I have known eachother since pre-K, but we met Sean and Brian in the second grade I believe. Emily corrected her. Shocks came back over and sat next to Michelle. He hoped into her lap and leaned up to her ear.

Maybe you should tell everyone about that thiing yo told me earlier today. He whispered. Michelle's eyes lit up.

No! I don't want anyone else to know! Michelle yelled at Shocks, startling everyone else in the group. Michelle's face turned a shade of red.

What was that about? Brian asked. Sean sent her a puzzled look as well.

Its nothing, don't worry about it. Michelle looked away. Brian and Sean sent a questioning look at Emily, who just shook her head, pretending not to know either. Michelle picked up Shocks and carried him over to the other side of the pond, away from the group.

Why should I tell them? I don't want anyone else to know. And besides, I don't think it has any signifigance to do with this war thing at all. Michelle grumbled.

I don't know. Emily seemed extreamly shocked when she heard. I was just thinking that maybe your other friends should know too. Shocks responded stubbornly.

They don't need to know, and as long as Emily keeps her mouth shut the will never know! Michelle said corsely. Why did I tell you in the first place. She shook her head.

Thats what puzzles me too. Why would you tell me first, instead of Emily, or Sean? Shocks looked her in the eyes. Michelle just stared back at him, astonished and confused as well. Just then Shocks twitched a bit and looked back over at the group.

Michelle get back over here! We have a problem! Sean yelled over to them. Emily was already on her

feet and fishing in her pocket. Michelle got back up slowly, balancing on her good arm, and ran back over to them.

What's up? She asked noticing everyones frantic faces.

Another deamon came into our world while we were talking! We have to get over there fast!

10 - Wind Master- Fezui

Chapter 10

They arrived at the old abandoned barn again. Everyone had transformed and flown over as fast as they could. Mizuu and Denko felt a little uneasy being back at this place.

So, the portals only seem to open in certain locations. Maybe if we can locate all of them we can be more prepared. Kaji examined, noticing the fact that they had been there before.

So, where is it? Riku asked, landing and looking around.

It's not here anymore. There's no energy signal at all. Mizuu said, landing next to Riku. Kaji landed as well, bent on searching inside the barn. Denko felt something different though. It wasn't an evil presence, which is what puzzled her the most.

She flew up to the roof, landing quietly. Walking around, she kept herself half floating so not to break the roof any further. As she reached the otherside, she heard an unfamiliar voice. She ducked down behind a broken piece of wood, and peered around it.

I can't believe that deamon was so easy. This solo super hero thing is working out great! A confident female voice arose.

Yeah. We'll be able to protect this world without the help of the others. I always knew Fezui was the strongest of the warriors. A more courser, grumpier voice answered. There was a girl, same age as Denko, sitting on the edge of the roof. She had a white cat in her lap. Her outfit was exactly like Denko's also, but she had gray boots and swirl like markings on her shirt. She had long silver flowing hair, and the cat had silver tipped paws and tail.

Fezui, wasn't that the wind guy? Denko whispered to herself. Just then the wood gave underneith her, and she tumbled into the heart of the barn. Not even thinking about flying she tumbled faster, and finally landed ontop of Kaji.

Ow! Denko, you really have to stop doing things like that. He grumbled from under her. Or at least scream to let me know your coming! Denko blushed a bit, getting off him slowly.

Who's there!? Fezui flew into the barn, carrying her cat. Kaji scarmbled to his feet and jumped infront of Denko.

Who are you? Kaji demanded. Are you friend or foe? The woman turned and looked at them. Her white mask matched her brownish silver eyes benith it.

Wouldn t you like to know. She took up a defensive stance. Kaji looked at her puzzled.

Denko, stay behind me. He hissed as Fezui lifted off the ground, floating only a few inches high. She took off at full speed, and as she closed in on Kaji, she swung her foot in an arc kick.

Wind Kick! She yelled. As her foot missed Kaji completely, a backlash of wind energy slashed across his chest. His shirt ripped open and a very neat line of blood formed across the bear part of his chest. Fezui spun to a stop then landed back on the ground gracefully. Kaji grabbed at his chest in pain. Kaji are you alright!? Denko gasped.

I m fine. Stay behind me, you wont be able to do much with one arm! He hissed again, but his voice had a lot of anger in it. Denko growled in her throat in anger, but she knew he was right, which made her more upset as well. Kaji stepped forward towards the woman.

You must be Fezui, the Wind Master. Why are you attacking us, we are supposed to be a group. Kaji created a fireball in his hand.

Yeah, I m Fezui. You must be Kaji, judging by that pathetic fireball you call an attack. She laughed. She had a real nice voice, very older, and incharge kind of voice. She didn t look any older than Kaji or

Denko though. Kaji threw his fireball at her, but she flicked her hand and a strong gust of wind blew it off course, making it hit the side of the barn behind her.

Like I said, pathetic. I don;t want to join a pathetic group, with a leader who doesn t even know the full potential of his powers. She laughed again. She held her hand out, and very faintly you could see a ball of wind form, like Kaji s fireball.

I beleive this is the attack you just used on me. So level two. I m on a level so advanced from you, you don t stand a chance against me. She clenched her fist around the energy, and Denko saw it stretch out into a long string or rope. You could bearly see it though, because it was made of wind, but now it had a silver glow to it, letting Denko and Kaji see it clearly.

What are you doing? Kaji said, guarding himself.

Testing you. She charged forwards, brandishing her whip-like attack. Kaji jumped into the air, just avoiding the whip s tip. It left a deep gash in the dirt infront of Denko. Denko jumped back a bit, but continued watching. Kaji flew higher into the air, till they were in the rafters area. Fezui looked down at Denko, then smiled and flew up after him.

Ill deal with you later. Denko snorted, getting to her feet again. She didn t like watching very much. Kaji created a sword of pure fire, and charged towards Fezui. Fezui used her whip to keep him away from her. She slashed at Kaji s arms, shreading his shirt. Kaji couldn t get anywhere near her. He was bleeding pretty badly now too. Finally he gave up with the sword and started slashing out with waves of fire, like what Fezui did with her foot, but he was doing it with his whole arm, trying to get better accuracy.

Ah! Geeze I m starting to hate you more! Fezui said as part of her sleeve got singed. Kaji kept at it, knowing that as long as she was on the defencive she wouldn t be able to attack. He was so wrong. On his next attack, Fezui started up a weird whirlwind like thing, spinning large amounts of wind energy around her, capturing all of Kaji s fire in this twister. She slowly slipped out of the twister area, keeping the wind spinning.

Elemental Twister! She yelled, throwing the swirling wind and fire back at Kaji at increadable speed. Denko couldn't stand it anymore. She flew up between Kaji and the wind, held out her good hand and blasted it with lightning. She held it in position for a good half a minute, before throwing it completely back at Fezui. It nailed her dead on, Fezui was to surprised to dodge. She fell to the ground and started laughing.

Well, that was certanly a surprise. You re a feisty little dog aren t you. She growled, directing her temper at Denko. Kaji, exhauseted, fell to the ground as well. Denko floated to the ground, very irritated. You are supposed to be on our side! This is stupid, fighting amungst our selves! She yelled at both Kaji and Fezui. Kaji was too exhausted to argue back.

Hey, what do you mean, on our side ? I work solo here. She looked Denko over, and stared at her right arm.

You arm doesn t work does it? Fezui said slyly. Denko kept a firm glare on her.

Yes, my right arm doesn t work. But my left arm and my feet still work, so unless you keep quiet I m going to shove one of them down your throat! Denko growled. Fezui waved her hands innocently. Fine, whatever. No more attacking. You are a powerful one aren t you, being able to throw back my Elemental Twister like that. Fezui got to her feet, brushing off her pants. Just then, Riku and Mizuu can running into the barn.

What s going on in here? We saw sparks and stuff, and the barn had caught on fire? Riku asked, looking around. Fezui and Denko kept their eyes locked on eachother.

Fezui has been nice enough to show us her powers. Kaji explained, slowly sitting up. All four cats filed into the center area, and Fezui s cat came out from behind a bale of hay.

Whirl. Haven t seen you in a while. Flare stepped forward. There seemed to be tension between them.

Heh, do you think I d hang around you losers to find my human! Hah, yeah right! Whirl said. He was very stuck up. He looked around at the other cats, and his eyes lit up when he saw Bubbles.

Hey there. He cozied right up next to her. Shocks fur on his back sprung up. Why didn t you stay with me, we could of had a lot more fun than you could have with those losers. Whirl rubbed his head on Bubbles. She shrugged him off.

Stay away from me Whirl. She hissed a bit. Shocks calmed down a bit.

Denko, whats going on? Mizuu walked over to her friend, who was still staring Fezui down.

Nothing. Nothing, its over. Denko shook her head when Mizuu touched her shoulder, snapping her out of her trance.

So, Kaji got his butt kicked and had to be saved by Denko. That s what I m seeing here. Riku joked. Thats basically how it happened. Fezui said, walking over to Riku. She passed her hand under his chin. Riku got chills down his spine, and Mizuu glared at her ferosiously. She leaned over and whispered in Denko s ear.

I really don t like her.

Me either, don t worry. She beat the snot out of Kaji without even trying. Denko whispered back.

Then how did you stop her? Mizuu teased. Denko threw a joking glare at her, then they both laughed. The other three just looked at them funny. Kaji sighed and stood up.

Ignore them. They have this weird relationship. Riku explained to Fezui, while pushing her away from himself. So Kaji, did either you or Denko find that deamon?

I took care of the deamon a while ago. You guys were to slow getting here. Fezui laughed. Riku looked astonished.

By yourself? I ve only seen Denko do that, but Mizuu did end up helping a little. Riku though about it. Oh, a dumb blond, just my type! Fezui said, passing her hand through his hair quickly. Denko grabbed the back of Mizuu s shirt before she could have done anything stupid.

Mizuu, stop getting so worked up. We re just friends with the guys remember, and beside, he s not that stupid anyways. Denko whispered. That calmed Mizuu down enough that Denko let her go.

So, where are you from? Kaji asked Fezui, standing up slowly. Fezui looked at him awkwardly, but then smiled and backed away from Riku.

Katie transform! She said. The light appeared, and when it faded, standing there was a silver haired girl, with hazel colored eyes.

My name is Katie. I m from the city right outside this stupid town. I only come here when the portals open, because Whirl said I had to. Right now I m on a mission to find Princess Hikari. She can make these stupid powers go away and I can go back to being a normal person again! Katie explained. The others looked at eachother, and all decided to transform back as well.

Princess Hikari? She died over fifty years ago creating the Light World! Bubbles exclaimed, a bit confused. Whirl snorted a bit, like he was laughing.

You guys haven t talked to Liz thats why. She said that Queen Holli did have another set of twins. The eldest became Princess Yami, just like her mother used to be, but only Liz knows where the younger twin went, since she was the nurse responsible for getting rid of her. Whirl explained. All four of the other cats just stared.

Holli did have children! And twins no doubt. The other twin, I m betting, possesed the Light element, that probably why Holli wanted to get rid of it. Flare said, trying to put the pieces.

Wait. If she s related to Queen Holli, wouldn't she have Yami in her name instead of Hikari? Emily asked, having a seat on the ground to listen better. The other kids did the same, except for Katie. Not exactly. Hikari and Yami are just titles we gave them to seperate them from eachother. They indeed do share the same blood, but one twin gains Light power, Hikari, and the other twin gains Dark power, Yami. Queen Holli was probably trying to prevent another repeate of what her sister had caused. Flare

explained.

This probably explains why the deamons are attacking this world. Either Queen Holli is positive that Princess Hikari is dead, or the Princess is somewhere in this world. Whirl finished with a smirk.

If she s alive, and we can find her, it would be a great help to our side. Sean figured out. Flare nodded his head.

But that s if she s alive. Liz was pretty sure she was alive, but she wouldn't tell us where she was. Katie said, irritated. I'm sure she can take my powers away.

Why do you want to take your powers away? Michelle asked, curiouse.

Because. This killing deamon thing is interfearing with my normal life! All I want is my normal life back, hang with my friends, go to the movies, stuff like that. I don't want to have to worry about the world being destroyed! She growled.

Heh, I feel the same way. I don t want this role anymore than you do. Michelle sighed. The other three just nodded their head.

So, if we find this Princess, get her to help us, get rid of the Yami people, war s over! Brian summed it up, trying to bring spirits up. Sean just glared at him. Brian shrugged his shoulder.

It s not that easy. We still have to find her. She could be anywhere in this world! Bubbles sighed. Emily went to thinking about something. Her eyes lit up.

Liz! I bet she would know the area that we should look in! If we show her that we have all joined together, maybe she Il give us a hint or something? Emily suggested.

Yeah, but how are we going to find her? I only met her when I found Whirl in an alley way behind some buildings. Katie snorted. Emily had a grin on her face.

I beleive me and Michelle have met her as well, but she didn t give us any advise. Michelle looked over at Emily in surprise.

Where? I don't remember meeting anyon... Michelle trailed off as a thought passed through her mind. The Pet Store!! She gasped. Emily nodded her head. Thats where we got Shocks, and that cat next to him, now that I remember it, was Bubbles! Bubbles nodded her head as well.

I was glad when you brought Emily in with you. Made my search alot easier. Bubbles smiled.

So, thats where Liz is. I wonder what other role she plays in all this. Stone said, a bit skeptical.

So thats our plan. We II go see her tommorow after school, hopefully she s still there. Sean said, standing up and brushing his pants off. They all agreed with him, even Katie.