

Cyberspace

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Submitted: February 1, 2007

Updated: September 16, 2008

Thanks for the FAC members putting up with my retarded questions just to be in this story!

Chris was just minding his own business playing in the woods when a wormhole sends him flying into the world of FAC.....

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1 - Intro (short)

It was a cold winter day in Arlington. A boy by the name of Chris walked in the woods by himself. Obviously bored he began doing stupid things. First he tried hitting a bird out of a tree. Then he tried chasing a coyote. And the last thing he did was probably the dumbest thing ever. He tried walking across a river.

Now granted it had been negative and single digits all week. Low chance of falling in right? Right? Well we're all wrong! This is what happened...

Chris walked up to the frozen river in curiosity and boredom. He took a rock, about the size of a basketball, to the river edge and set it on the ice. He pushed it and watched it slide across the river with no trouble.

"Must be ready to walk on." he thought out loud. He took a deep breath, and took his first step. "So far so good."

Step. "I think I can do this..."

CRACK!

Chris immediately did the first thing that popped into his head. He ran.

"Oh crap!" he yelled out as the ground underneath him collapsed underneath him. He looked down to what was supposed to be water, but instead found a swirl of dark colors. He was immediately sucked into the hole of swirling darkness.

Flashes of black lightning zinged past his head, the area began spinning. He just wanted it all to stop. There was a large blinding light and then, nothing.

He opened his eyes to see what looked like the woods he knows but instead of winter, it was summer.

"What just happened?" He mumbled. There was a loud shriek coming from above him. He looked up to see something circling above him. Whatever it was, it was big, black, and frightening. Chris's head began to get dizzy. His eyes began to close as the monster descended...

different technique this time.

-PX

2 - Alternate Earth

When Chris passed out he was having a dream that he was on a very very fast merry-go-round that was flying high in the sky. He tried to hold on to his seat but he flew off and started falling toward the ground. A few feet before he hit, he was woken up. It was night in what looked like the woods he fell through the ice. A large inhuman figure loomed over-top of him. A calming voice filled the air.

"Are you ok?" Someone asked. Chris looked around but could barely see because it was so dark. "I saw you spawn through a wormhole. Annoying little things."

Chris's vision began to adjust to the darkness. He looked where the figure was. It looked like a monster from a nightmare he had. His eyes widened in fear. The monster opened it's mouth to speak but Chris assumed it was about to strike. Immediately he got up and ran. He didn't make it very far because he tripped over what he found to be it's tail.

"It's ok. Your safe with me." It told him.

"Yeah, right" Chris mumbled. "You just saved me for desert didn't you?" The monster shook it's head.

"Humans taste very nasty and tough." It said in a child-like manner. It stood up on all-fours and walked towards him. He noticed it looked exactly like a dragon. As it approached him, he backed away. "Who are you? More importantly *what* are you?" He asked. It didn't answer. As a matter of fact it kept getting closer. "Stay away!" He commanded. This time it listened. "Answer my questions or I'll....I uh.." Chris had not the slightest clue what to threaten to something was was seven times his size and stronger than a pick-up truck. The monster chuckled.

"Or what? You're going to punch me? Tell you what, I'll tell you all about me and I'll still let you hit me however you like. No weapons." It told him. Chris stood there wondering if this thing was toying with him or not. "My name is Cynder and I'm a dragoness. I saw you fall from the sky while I was flying so I carried you here from the river you fell in." Chris let everything sink in.

A dragoness? Yeah right. Lets play along with her for a little while. "What about my hit?" He asked her. She walked up to him and said "Go ahead."

Chris ccurled his hand into a fist and said "Oh yeah this is gonna hurt...." He swung his fist and made contact. It felt like hitting a brick wall.

"Didn't feel it." she said. She curled around him forming a circle and said "good night" then fell asleep

3 - Dragons, Furrries, Hybrids Oh My! Part 1

Chris woke up leaning against a tree, Cynder nowhere in sight. *Ha! I knew it was just a weird dream.* He thought. He stood up and stretched out. He took a good look around to see that he wasn't where he started. Everything was different. The plants, the ground, even the air. It has the slightest odor of burning fuel. *What's burning?* He asked himself. He headed in the general direction, looking for the source when an acorn beamed him in the back of the head.

"Ow!" He shrieked. He rubbed his hand where the acorn hit and picked up his walking pace to try and loose whatever was behind him. He kept a sharp eye and ear out for any kind of movement but didn't pick up anything. He began to get the feeling that he lost it when another acorn hit him in the same spot. "Augh! God that hurt!" He shrieked again. He looked around and again found nothing. "Ok this is getting retarded. Come on out!" He commanded. He listened for a moment and thought he hear a giggle. "I know your there!" He yelled. Nothing. He heard lots and lots of nothing.

This time he went at an almost sprinting pace. Everything was yet again calm when an orange seemed to randomly fly out of a tree and hit him in the face. It hit so hard that some of the orange oils squeezed out of the skin and bled into his eyes. Chris screamed in agony as the orange oils burned his eyes.

"THAT'S IT! CUT IT OUT!" He screamed, fighting back tears. Suddenly someone burst out laughing in the trees. The oils temporarily distorted his vision so he couldn't see that someone was standing a few feet away from him.

"Hey are you ok?" A giggling voice asked. Chris kept rubbing his eyes trying to shake off the embarrassment.

"No! Somebody keeps hitting me with acorns and oranges!" He cried. He could tell by the person that it is a girl. Chris's vision cleared rather quickly but the pain still remained. He looked in front of him to see what looked like a fox standing on its hind legs and wearing clothes. She had a an interesting appearance of dark blue jeans with a little chain on the side, a red T-shirt that says "I Have Rabies", and a big grin. Her orange and cream fur had a somewhat faint glow in the sunlight.

"Oh! That was me. I saw you just sitting there and I just had to get you!" She giggled. Chris gave her a burning stare and stomped past her muttering something under his breath. She giggled again and began to tail him from a distance. He followed the strong smell of fuel until he reached a clearing by a gas plant. Several containment units full of flammable liquids towered over them. Waaaaay across the gas plant was a busy road. *A road! I'm saved!* He thought. He ran into the gas plant unaware that something else was watching them.

He ran for a long time before the fox girl caught up to him. Chris turned to her and asked "Why are you following me? Better yet who are you?" The girl smiled and responded in a happy voice.

"My name's Julia! What's yours?" Chris was satisfied with her answer but she didn't answer the most important question.

"Ok. My name is Chris. My last name is not important but you didn't tell me why your following me." Chris said. She stood there thinking for a moment and came out with a "I dunno. I just am."

He was about to ask where he was but before he opened his mouth, there was a loud explosion. *A gas plant fire? That means we only have a few minuets before this place goes boom!* He panicked. He looked to Julia and said "Time to go!" He grabbed her by her wrist and ran with her trying to keep balance.

"Wh-what's going on?" She asked.

Another explosion.

"The plant is on fire and it will make the biggest fireball you ever saw with you in it if we don't get out fast!" Chris explained while running. There were about three more explosions before the exit came into view. *Thank God! We're gonna live!* He thought. Just before they got close enough to say "Yes we made it!", a large mechanical dragon landed at the exit.

"You can't be serious!" Julia yelled.

"We're gonna die!" Chris cried. He collapsed to the ground sobbing when a hand grabbed him and stood him up.

"We aren't gonna die! Just let me handle him. Head for the exit." Julia commanded. Chris looked at her as if she escaped from the psycho-ward.

"Are you crazy?! Did you know that there is a mechanical dragon standing in the way?!? ARE YOU BLIND?" Chris babbled. She didn't say anything while she reached into her pocket. "Ok. If I die, you stay away from my funreal!" He said. He took a deep breath, and made a break for the door. The guard roared and began to gather energy in its metallic maw. Chris closed his eyes and waited for the beam of energy to make contact, but instead there was a small explosion. The dragon yelped in pain. Chris opened his eyes to see that Julia somehow had a bazooka in her hands and was firing. "Where the heck did she get that from?" He mumbled to himself. She fired off a rocket and unbelievably pulled a rocket out of her pocket! "How the heck did she do that?!" He asked himself. She, without any problems, destroyed the guard and made it to the exit. The two ran a little extra distance to be safe just in time to see the big boom.

Chris let everything sink in when he suddenly burst with excitement. "YEAH! That was like an action movie or Metroid Prime 2 or somethin!"

Julia gave him a "what the...?" stare signaling Chris to shut up. He apologized for the strange but she didn't accept it because she says that he was just like her.

After a long walk along the road they found, they ended up in a large city called Saffaron City. Tall buildings loomed overtop them giving Chris the familiar feeling of Arlington's downtown. The city was full of people that looked like Julia. Chris leaned over and whispered in her ear asking what the heck is going on. She didn't answer his question but she said "Let's stop and get something to eat. All that shooting works up an appetite!" She said with a smile. They walked into what looked like a common restaurant.

Not quite like a McDonalds yet not quite a crusine either. Like.....Red Lobster...

Music played in the background muffling the clinks and clanks of silverware. Chris sat down in front of the counter next to what looked like a wolf with a blue shirt and brown-ish pants. He had piercings in his ears, eyebrow, and God knows where else. He had a small ponytail in the back and a black choker around his neck. There was something about this guy. Out of all the other guys he saw, this one really stood out.

The wolf glanced at him but did nothing more than drink from a bottle. *Must be a beer of some sort. Keep an eye on him in case he goes crazy from drinking too much.* Chris told himself.

"You want anything?" Julia asked Chris. He was in a sort of a daydream so he didn't pay attention to Julia.

"Chris, you with us on F.A.C.?" She asked. Chris snapped out of his roaming state and said:

"Oh...uh I guess a glass of water."

"Is that all?"

"Yes. I'm pretty sure."

After a about a minuet or two Julia slid his glass to him. He stared at it for a moment before he chugged it. It felt ice cold and refreshing after running from an exploding gas plant. He looked to the wolf again to see he had done the same with his bottle. He set the bottle to the side and asked for another one. He

repeated the same process two more times before he began to look dizzy.

"One more.." He said to the waiter. The waiter nodded then left to get another bottle. Chris turned his head to ask her something but was stopped by someone trying to get his attention.

"Hey...hey you! Human boy." A voice whispered. Chris turned around to see that the wolf he was looking at earlier was talking to him. "Where you from?" he asked.

"Uh...Arlington. You?" Chris asked. He knew that if this guy got hold of the last bottle he ordered, he would be plastered and would try to do something stupid. He knew he had to do something stupid first. The waiter walked up to the wolf and was about to give him the bottle when Chris snatched the bottle from the waiter's hand.

"I think that isn't a smart move. You may end up hurting someone and not know it." He told him. "But before I say anything else, My name is Chris."

A look of anger filled the wolf's face. "My name is Croc and I'm going to punch you in the face if you don't give that back."

Chris had to drum up an idea before he gets splattered all over the wall. *You could give him back the bottle or test to see if he's a bluffer.....I think I'll go with choice B*

screen pauses

Project X: Silly Chris! Use your noggin!!

Weirdo: Keep rolling, X...

screen continues

Chris said a very dumb thing. "No, I won't give it back but I will give you the money for it." He looked behind him to see Julia shaking her head 'no'.

"On second thought, here." He concluded by giving him the bottle. Croc snatched the bottle and popped off the lid.

"No wonder there are hardly any humans here. They're so darn stupid..." He mumbled before he drained the bottle of its contents. The expression on Croc's face looked almost depressing and angry at the same time.

Now Chris having experience of dealing with people that have totally plastered themselves with alcohol knows that they have serious mood swings.

"I have to say, you're kind of an annoying little fellow." Croc stated, spinning the empty bottle on the table. Chris was confused.

"Why do you say that?"

Croc stood up out of his seat. "Because you're a dirty thief with an attitude, that's why."

"When was that? I don't remember..." Chris asked in a sarcastic voice. He stood up also. He looked to Julia who was wide-eyed in fear. She was shaking her head no and mouthing off the words "Don't do it!" This time Chris didn't listen.

"You tryin' to pick a fight with me, boy?" Croc growled.

screen Pauses

Project X: Not being at the top of your game: \$700

Destroyed Gas plant: a couple million.

A good old fashioned butt kickin': Priceless

4 - Meet "them"

Chris and Croc stared each other down for a moment before Julia suggested that they take this outside. "The restaurant would sue and the police wouldn't tolerate it." She said. The two walked outside. It was getting dark, perfect for cover. Croc led them to a field.

"Wait until dark. Then we can get this over with." Croc somewhat mumbled. For some reason he could walk straight, sit straight, but he couldn't *stand* straight. *Must be the beer messing with his balance. Maybe, if i'm lucky, he would have forgotten about everything that happened at the restaurant and I won't have to fight him.* Chris thought. The three waited for the sunset to pass but as that happened, Croc seemed to doze off.

So did Julia. It was happening like some kind of magic. As a matter of fact, Chris noticed an unusual odor in the air. It smelled like a mix between bubblegum and vanilla. Chris looked around and noticed that the field was forming a very heavy, pink, fog. Chris began to feel woozy, and tired. He finally realized what the mysterious fog was.

"Sleepy Gas!" Chris exclaimed. He turned to run but he bumped into something, more like someone. He looked to see who he bumped into. When it grabbed him by the neck, crushing his windpipe. Chris kicked and gasped for air but no matter how hard he tried to breathe in, no air entered. He was starting to black out when someone let out a battle cry. There was a spray of warm liquid which somehow caused the person to let him go. Chris felt flat on his back, gasping for air for a moment when someone asked if he was ok.

"*gasp* Ye-yesssss" Chris managed to squeeze out. A white tiger neko stood in front of him.

"Let me help you up." The neko offered. Chris stood up on his own and coughed, still trying to recover.

"My name is Riley. We should leave immediately. Cynder's Drones are attacking!"

The name struck Chris like a nuke on a city. *Cynder! That black dragoness I met last night. She's behind all this?* He wondered. He looked to where his strangler was standing to not find a body, but a pink pile of slush. It was kinda hot to the touch and felt fairly slimy.

"Come on! Let's get out of here!" Riley commanded. Chris hesitated for a moment, then ran up to Riley.

"Here, you'll need this." He said, handing Chris a sword. "Give it back when we get out of this mess."

Chris pulled the sword out of its sheath. The steel blade gave a reflection of himself. *Look at yourself. Scared and clueless. Suck it up you wimp and fight!* He coached himself. He ran over to where Croc and Julia passed out. He was about to pick up Julia when he noticed something. She looked like she had really taken a beating. He looked over to Croc who also looked like he had been in a fight. "What's going on?" He asked Riley. "Why do they look so busted up?" Riley picked Croc up and carried him on his shoulder.

"Nightmare Fog. It gives you a violent situation while you sleep that feels and looks so real, your mind makes it real. Not let's get out of here before we get sent into 'Horrorville' along with your friends!" He explained. Chris picked Julia up, who was surprisingly lightweight, and carried her on his shoulder as well. The two walked through the fog. Not a drone in sight, by the moment....

Suddenly something started forming in front of him. He stood and watched the process until a fully black, anthro dragon stood in front of him. It had full body armor that shined blue around the edges. The drone hissed and tried to grab him. Chris backed away but bumped into another one. It hissed as well snapping its jaws at Julia. Chris pulled the sword that Riley gave him from its sheath and waved it at the drones. They both hissed and backed away. "Yeah you better run!" He taunted. The drones melted into the ground, allowing him to pass. He continued in one direction until he reached a clearing. The fog

faded away as soon as Chris exited almost as if he were the cause of it. Riley stood by a lamp post. "What took you so long? I was waiting here for like fifteen minutes!" Riley barked. "I thought you were dead! Now if you don't mind I would like my sword." He said, motioning him to give him his sword. Chris handed him the sword. "Now we can send these two back to where they came from."

"You mean like where they live?" Chris asked. Riley nodded.

"Yeah, something like that. I know where these two live. I'll take Croc while you take Julia, Ok?" Riley asked. Chris nodded.

"But I don't know where Julia lives." Chris complained. Riley pulled out a slip of paper with an address on it.

"I haven't really got her address down pat but I can manage. Take this." He said, handing him the slip. And like that, he walked away.

Chris examined the slip and read several signs before he started walking. He took a few steps before he heard what sounded like someone was following him. "Who's there?" Chris squeaked. The steps got closer and closer. Suddenly a small pair of purple eyes formed in the shadows. "Hello?" Chris called out. "Hello." The shadow echoed. The small figure walked out into the open. It was a normal dragon. It had purple scales, yellow and red wings, jagged horns, all of the dragony characteristics. His eyes gave a soft glow. "Hi! My name is Spyro!" The dragon said in a joyful voice. Chris looked at the dragon as if he had been hit in the head, very hard. "You look lost. Can I help?" Spyro asked.

"What? Just being the good samaritan?" Chris asked in a vile tone.

screen pauses

Project_X: Poor boy is losing his mind.

Kitty Fox: I thought he lost his years ago....

Screen continues

"Wellll. If you don't want my help, I'll be on my way then." Spyro said, threatening to fly away.

"NO!. I mean, don't go away. I need directions." Chris begged. Spyro nodded and asked for a location. Chris showed him the slip. Spyro led the way to Julia's house.

Meanwhile another dragon loomed overhead. Its blue scales glistened in the moonlight. "I've finally found him. Now just how can I stop him?"

5 - Dragons, Furies, Hybrids Oh My! Part 2

Chris and Spyro walked throughout the streets of the city, searching for Julia's house completely unaware they are being watched. "Are you sure this is the right way? This road takes us to the outskirts." Chris asked. Spyro didn't reply. "Spyro!" Chris said in a louder tone. Spyro snapped out of his daydream. "Huh? Oh, yes this is the right way." He replied. He suddenly stopped in his tracks. Chris was confused. "Why did you stop? C'mon! We need to move!" Chris said. "Not yet. Somebody is here. I can feel it. We need to stay on high alert." Spyro warned.

* * *

Meanwhile, on the roof. The dragon watching mainly the boy. "Humans have caused too much trouble as is. I can't let this one act up." He said to himself. He noticed that the two have been exposed to Nightmare Gas because of the slight aura on the boy that shined in the moonlight. "So she's gone that low, eh? I guess this one can be helped." He said to himself. He muttered a few magic words and vanished...

* * *

The two walked quietly and cautiously through the unusually quiet city. Chris looked at the cellphone in his pocket to see it was about 11:00 PM which reminded him on how sleepy he was. He yawned once, then looked to Spyro. "How much farther?" he asked.

"About a mile." Spyro said. "Not much farther."

Suddenly, a voice called out to them. "Stop. I want to help you get to your destination." The voice said. The two looked behind them to see yet another dragon behind them. His blue scales had a faint glow in the moonlight. "My name is Azikstar."

Chris interrupted and said. "Your is what Aziktar?"

"Azikstar. There's an 'S' in there." Azikstar corrected. "It looks like you two could use some help. Where are you headed?"

"We where taking this girl home when you showed up." Spyro said. "By the way my name is Spyro and what was your name again?" He asked looking towards Chris.

"My name is Chris. My last name isn't important." Chris introduced himself. "Here is where we need to go." He said while pointing to a spot on the map. Azikstar stared at the spot a moment, then said "Done." Azikstar muttered something under his breath, then started blowing a bubble of blue light. The bubble absorbed Chris and Spyro then popped leaving no sign of them.

"I will be watching you Chris. Sometime, somehow, Your gonna screw up." Azikstar said to himself. "And I'll be there."

* * *

Another bubble formed in front of Julia's house, then popped making Chris and Spyro appear.

"Did he just teleport us?" Chris asked himself. "No matter. We need to get her inside and fast." He said. The two hurried up to the door when they started hearing a patterned noise.

Whump...Whump...Whump...Whump

"What is that?" Chris asked outloud.

"Sounds like a pair of wings." Spyro said. The sound grew louder followed by gusts of wind.

WHUMP...WHUMP...WHUMP...Whump

"Get inside the house!" Chris commanded.

"Who made you the boss?" Spyro asked.

"Just try and get inside." Chris said.

THUD! The ground vibrated slightly

"It sounds like it came from the back yard." Chris said. He first opened the door to Julia's house and stepped inside.

"Wait for me!" Spyro yelped. He roamed the house until she reached a bedroom. Chris set Julia in her bed. "She looks so bad." Chris touched her forehead to almost burn himself. "Oh no! he's starting to overheat! I need to find something cold before she ends up dying!" Chris said to himself. He turned to walk away but before he reached the door, Julia started coughing. Some of the gas from the raid started coming out of her mouth. "That's it!" Chris exclaimed. Spyro, who was in another room, heard him.

"What's it?" he asked.

"I know how to cure Julia!" Chris exclaimed again. He carefully lifted her head off her pillow, then started pulling in the threads holding the pillow together. "I...can't...break them." Chris grunted. He pulled harder and harder until he heard the strings snap. "got it." He said to himself. He grabbed a feather from inside the pillow, then started tickleing Julia's nose.

AHHCHOO!

Tons of the gases flew out of her mouth and nose. He continued this until there was none left. "I wonder. Why am I not effected by this gas?" Chris asked himself. "Better go see what was outside."

Chris walked outside to see what was there in the backyard when suddenly something very heavy landed on him, pinning him to the ground. Chris looked up to see yet ANOTHER dragon had pinned him to the ground. "Give me one good reason why I shouldn't crush you!" The dragon said.

"What...for?" Chris grunted. The pressure was causing him to speak in a stressed tone.

"For hurting Julia!" The dragon said. Judging by the dragon's voice, it was a girl.

Chris was totally confused. "I...didn't..hurt her. I...was ...helping...Nightmare Gas" He managed to say.

The pressured eased up, then tensed up again. "I don't believe you." She said.

"I'm telling the truth!" Chris pleaded. "You have to believe me!"

She obviously wasn't buying it. "Humor me." She said.

"The park in the City." Chris said.

She thought about it a moment, then said. "Your coming with me.." She let go, then quickly grabbed him before he could even think about running. She took flight and arrived where he last was in a matter of minuets. She landed in the park and noticed the scent of the nightmare gas.

"Hmm. I guess you where telling the truth." She said. "My name is Shugotenshi. Sorry for causing you trouble." She said.

"Shugotenshi, eh?" Chris said. "My name is Chris. My last name is not important."

6 - The Horrors of the Human Mind

After Chris cleared his name of harming Julia, he took the time to examine his 'finger-pointer', Shugotenshi. She had a brilliant coating of turquoise scales on her body and blue scales on her belly. As he looked, a question popped in his head. "Say, can you breathe fire?" He asked.

She nodded. "Yup. It's blue." She answered. "Just think. If you were lying, you would have been covered in it!" She giggled.

Chris let out a nervous laugh while picturing himself engulfed in flames running in circles screaming 'OH MY GOD I'M ON FIRE!!' He yawned a bit and looked at his cell phone clock. *Sheesh! It's 12:01! I need to get to bed.* He thought. He turned to Shugo and asked. "Can we go back now? I'm very tired."

Shugo nodded and picked Chris up in her hand. Chris frowned. "What's the matter?" She asked.

"Can't I ride on your back or somethin'? I'm afraid you might squish me or somethin' bad like that will happen." He complained.

"Nope. You'll fall asleep and slide off." She explained then took off. After about a minuet's worth of flight time passed before he found himself sound asleep.

The nightmare gas was still in his system and had enough time to create an absolutely horrifying dream. This was his dream.

He 'awoke' on the ground in some sort of aircraft hanger. He looked around and notice that it was empty. "How did I get here?" he asked himself. He took about three steps from where he was originally standing before a fireball came from above and landed where his foot was headed to. He quickly step back and looked above to see Croc, a demonic grin on his face. This Croc, however, was different. He was green and had wings. His eyes looked a glowing white. The thing that really caught his attention was the fireball hovering in his hand. "Cut it out Croc! You could have really hurt me!" Chris barked. Croc chuckled.

"You mean like this?" He said. He jumped off the ledge he was standing on and tossed the fireball in his hand. Chris easily jumped out of the way and warned him again. "I don't want to have to fight you. If I do, I'll have to beat the living daylights out of you."

Croc laughed and charged at him again, punching him in the gut. Chris was knocked over by the unusually powerful blow. He groaned and held his stomach in pain. "I haven't been hit that hard in my whole life! This guy is crazy!" He said to himself. He started to run away until he ran into Shugotenshi. "Oh shugo! Am I glad to see you! You've gotta help me! I'm being chased by this scary looking guy and I need help!" He pleaded. He looked closely to see that she too had the strange glowing white eyes. He took a step back, then ran as fast as he could across the airfield. He heard a WHOOSH sound coming from behind him. He looked back to see a huge wave of blue flames closing in, fast. He turned a sharp left and narrowly escaped the attack. He looked in front of him to see Spyro and Julia together, also with the possessed looking eyes. The good new was, they were too busy fighting each other to notice Chris. Chris turned and ran to find some kind of escape vehicle. He eventually ran into a jet. He quickly jumped into the cockpit and prayed that he wouldn't crash. He ignited the engines and headed for the landing strip. Suddenly a horde of fireballs and blue flames hit the jet. Chris screamed as some of the blue flames licked his face. He quickly hit the throttle and pulled back slightly on the control stick to take off. He somehow managed to keep control of the plane. After a few minuets, a familiar bubble formed on the nose of his plane. Azikstar appeared on his plane, his weight causing the plane to nosedive. Before

Chris could even scream, Azikstar thrust his arm into the cockpit and pulled Chris out. Chris pounded on Azikstar's head futilely. Azikstar quickly put Chris in his mouth, then snapped his jaws shut.

7 - The Girl With Goggles

Shugo was sound asleep with Chris by her side because she couldn't get him to wake up and go inside himself. Chris was doing an unusual amount of squirming in his sleep. Shugo awoke to see Chris lazily batting her head. "What are you doing?" She whispered. "Sleep walking?" She brushed him aside and noticed something unusual. His face turned red, then white. He was desperately gasping for air, his body stiff as a board. Shugo gasped in confusion and fear. "Julia! Something's wrong! Come look!" She called. Julia ran outside looking tired and rubbing her nose for obvious reasons. "What's going on?" Julia asked. "What's wrong?" "This boy I found." Shugo said, now starting to panic "I thought he attacked you so I took him to the site you where gassed at and I decided to take him home with me but since he didn't wake up, I let him stay with me and while we were sleeping, he started sleepwalking so I brushed him aside and I think I hurt him real bad!" She ran on. Julia examined Chris's body. "I don't think this is your fault." Julia explained. "This looks like the gas. Humans are more resistant to this than we are. The only thing is, the gas can only harm us. To a human, this gas is deadly." She explained.

* * * Chris could feel that Azikstar's teeth had sunk in very deep. The pain was so overwhelming that he couldn't even scream. Azikstar jumped off the junked, unmanned jet that Chris was somehow flying. He flew to the ground, away from the jet's explosion. When he touched ground, the pressure from his jaws increased. * * * "What do you mean it's fatal?!" Shugo asked.

"Humans are a little more delicate than us. Too hot would kill them along with too cold. Too much stress, too little or too much water, and a whole lot more could kill them." Julia continued. "But...I don't know what to do." A voice from very close behind spoke. "I can help." Julia jumped to see Azikstar close behind. "Sheesh you scared the crap out of me!" Julia yelled. Azikstar stepped back. "If you don't want my help..." He taunted. Julia quickly retaliated. "Yes we do!" She exploded. "Just tell us how-" Azikstar walked past her. "Or you can help yourself..." she said nervously. He walks by his side, chanted a something under his breath, then backed away. "He's back to normal. He should wake up as if from a....well a nightmare." He said with an expression that can be translated as 'Duh!'. He sat by the sleeping boy. "Three, two, one." He counted. Chris sat up gasping for air. Shugo spoke first "Relax, Chris." She said. "It was just a dream." Chris, in a way, refused to calm down. He turned around to see Azikstar, his attacker. He quickly jumped up and ran away. "Quick! Get him somebody before he gets lost! There's a full moon tonight!!" Julia exploded. Azikstar quickly bounded to pounce on him but missed by a few inches. Chris kept running and running...and running...and running until he ran into a small forest. He stopped and rested. He needed it. He woke up the next morning lying on the ground by a large tree. He let his vision focus to see someone lying next to him. He took time to look this person over. It was a dragoness anthro. She was red and surprisingly pernese (Meaning she has protective skin rather than scales.) He touched her shoulder which caused her to stir a little. Chris backed up and rose to his feet. He walked to the girl's front to get a good look at her. She wore a red cut-off shirt, blue jeans, and for some reason there was a pair of goggles resting on her forehead. She mumbled something, and then started to open her eyes. They were an odd color. There was a beautiful ring of green on the inside, and a ring with a just as pretty sapphire. She slowly rose up, stretched a bit while yawning then looked at Chris with wide and fearful eyes. "It's ok! I'm a good guy!" Chris spoke up.

8 - The Demon Within

Chris quickly jumped to defend himself. "No! Wait! I'm one of the good guys!" he said. The girl started to back up. "Why are you so afraid of me? It not like I'm gonna-" Before he finished the sentence, she quickly swiped him with the claws on her fingertips in the face. The poor boy yelped and took a few steps backwards covering his face with his hands. She started to creep towards him with a different expression on her face; an almost apologetic expression. "Oh! I'm sorry. I thought you were someone else." She said while reaching out to pull his hands from his face. "Let me see how bad it is." She pulled his hands away to see the damage. Only three of her fingers did any damage. The two outer marks were very shallow like a paper cut while the middle strike was still not too deep but deep enough to draw blood and cause a little panic. "How does it feel?" She asked. "It kinda stings like a burn." Chris replied. "Who did you think I was? The boogey man?" She thought for a moment, then for some reason, sniffed the air around him. "Croc." She said. "Croc the Hybrid." Chris was somewhat confused. "Isn't he that wolf that has piercings everywhere and drinks too much?" He asked. She nodded. "A bit of a harsh way to put it but yes." She answered. "Why are you so afraid of him?" He asked. She gave him a grim look. "Why are you NOT afraid of him is more like the question." She said. "Croc is one of the scariest guys in town. He can be a good guy most of the time but like every other person who gets carried away with their drinking, they start acting crazy." She explained. "Of course." Chris interrupted. "Anyways Croc is different. When someone gets drunk, they have mood swings." She started. "Yet again, of course" Chris interrupted again. "Anyways when Croc get depressed, he turns into a dragon. That isn't anything to worry about." The girl explained. She paused, and then continued again. "But when he gets mad, he turns into his demon form. It's where his wolf DNA and dragon DNA collide into each other and creates a whole new monster we call the hybrid form." "Half dragon, half wolf, all bad, eh?" Chris asked. "Yup." She said. "Well how can I avoid this demon Croc?" Chris asked. "Don't get him angry." The girl told him. She suddenly looked surprised. "We never really introduced ourselves have we? My name is Ayane." She said. "Ayane." Chris mirrored. "That's a pretty name. Are you from Japan?" He asked. Ayane looked puzzled. "Japan...? Where's that?" She asked. "Oh. Right. I'm not at home on Earth." He mumbled. She laughed. "Earth?" She giggled. She sat next to him with a smile on her face. "Your on it silly!" The words struck Chris like a freight train. "I'm.....I'm already here?" He asked. She nodded and wrapped an arm around his shoulder. "That's not possible...." "You look like you've been through a lot. You fell that way too." She pointed out. "You also look like you haven't had a good rest in a long time."

She was right. Back home, Chris was really stressed about schoolwork and often stayed up late to finish it. He hasn't slept very well in at least a month. Ayane gently shifted Chris into an almost hugging pose. "Rest. You deserve it." And just like that. He passed out. That night he dreamed about this, "Zero Earth". "Where am I really? How am I going to get back? Even if I do get back, can I visit this place when I want? Who is this girl and why is she so nice to me for cryin' out loud?!" There's an old question saying that some questions will never be answered. But which one?

9 - Stolen Merchandise

ris awoke in the same location, the girl still clutching him but sound asleep. He nudged her and asked her a question. "Who are you?" She slightly opened her eyes and groaned a bit. "I'm your older sister in this realm..." She mumbled. "If you die in this realm, the other version of you will share the same fate in less than twenty hours." "Then why are you holding me like you're my girlfriend?" Chris asked.

"You're kinda creeping me out." The girl yawned. "Try to reach out." She said while freeing one of his arms. Chris reached out about three feet before it felt like he was touching a giant soap bubble. A red shield appeared in front of him. "How are you doing that?" Chris said in shock. The girl simply giggled. "What's your name?"

"Ayane." She responded. She completely released him from her grip. "Shhh! Do you hear that?" She whispered. Chris shock his head. There was a long silence. "Wolf Drones..." She growled. "How many types of drones are there?" Chris asked. "I ran into dragon drones yesterday." Ayane started guiding Chris through the woods. Chris looked around as they moved across the terrain. "This is looking awfully familiar..." Chris mumbled to himself. "Good." Ayane budded in on his thinking. "Now do you mind telling me where we are?" The two can hear footsteps approaching. "Near the gas plant that exploded a couple of days ago." Chris quickly responded. Ayane nodded and kept moving forward. Suddenly there was the sound of something hitting the ground. Just behind Chris' foot was an oversized shuriken. "Oh my God! You've gotta be kidding me!!" Chris shouted. "Darn it, Chris! Run!" Ayane scolded. "What?" "Just run you idiot!" Just after that, there was a 'whoosh!' sound, followed by several large shuriken hitting the ground. The two ducked and jumped over vines and fallen trees until they reached the destroyed gas plant. The place was completely charred from the explosion. "Just what I needed. An open area." Ayane sighed in relief. "Now, how many types of drone are there?" Chris asked. Ayane muttered something hateful under her breath. "There are Wolf drones. They are like ninjas. Dragon drones, they are like soldiers. The girl drones are the stronger ones. There are Giga drones, they look like non-anthro dragons and serve as supreme guards."

"I ran into one of those too." Chris interrupted. Ayane laughed. "And lived? No way!" She denied "Anyways. There are one more type of drone, a shadow drone. They take the shape and ability of every person they defeat." "Sounds rough. Now where is the anthro version of me?" Chris asked. "I'll take you to him. His name is Daisuke and he's a yellow wolf." Ayane explained. "Yellow?" Chris asked. "Did he live in a desert?" "No. It's a genetic mix-up." She said. She pushed on something near her collar bone and suddenly two rods burst from he back. Chris was stunned, confused, and confused all at the same time. *screen pauses* Project X: Now no matter what you do, KEEP READING. This next section is pg so don't freak out* Screen continues* "What ARE you?" He asked. "I normally don't show people this but." She said while lifting her shirt up. Chris quickly shielded his eyes. "Dude! I didn't want to see that!" He shouted. "Just look you dork." She commanded. Chris slowly uncovered his eyes. "What the....?" Was his first reaction. She was part mechanical. Or at least, that's the way she appeared to be. "You're a cyborg?" She shook her head. "It's armor. I stole it from Cynder, or at least part of it. It allows me to fly, even though I don't have wings." She explained. She let her shirt down, then grabbed Chris by his wrists. "Now grab my wrists." She said. Chris did as told. "And we're off!" She said. She started floating in the air. They flew on to the city and from that point walked. They arrived to a white house that looked somewhat new. "This is your, er...., our house?" Chris asked. Ayane nodded and unlocked the door.

10 - The Riot Attack!

When the two walked inside, the first words to break the silence was... "Daisuke!" Ayane called. There was a silence. "Must be asleep." She said to Chris. She walked through a series of rooms, Chris closely behind. "Who's Daisuke?" Chris asked. Ayane silently laughed. "If I'm your Zero Earth sister, who do you think Daisuke is?" She giggled. Chris gave a moment's thinking, then it struck him. "Me? You mean Daisuke is me on Zero Earth?" He asked. She nodded and walked up the stairs. Before he looked for Daisuke, he took time to observe his surroundings. The house was kept fairly clean, the hallways were spacious and covered in white paint. Chris roamed down the hallways until he heard a TV. He made a quick right, then walked down the hallway. He noticed a blue aura coming from the third room on the right. He slowly walked inside and whispered, "Daisuke... Daisuke are you in here?" He noticed that someone was on the couch. He walked around front of it to see who or what was on the couch. He took a second to look the couch over. A yellow wolf anthro laying on his side, gently snoring. "Psst!" Chris whispered. The wolf didn't budge. "PSSST! Hey! Are you Daisuke?!" He whispered again while tapping him on the shoulder. The wolf grumbled and rolled over lazily. "Go away, Ayane." The wolf mumbled. Chris cocked his head to one side. "I'm not Ayane, smart one." Chris snapped. "Now are you Daisuke or not?" The wolf stood up, stretched while yawning revealing powerful looking fangs, then looked at the clock, then at Chris. "Did Ayane bring you in?" The wolf asked. "Yes." Chris responded. "Now could you please answer my question." "Yes. My name is Daisuke." He responded. "Now why did you need to know that at 2:45am?!" "Because I'm your Zero Earth twin." Chris told him. Daisuke shook his head. "Oh great. Now they are coming after you too." Daisuke mumbled. Chris automatically assumed Cynder and her crew. "Yeah, I've noticed...." Chris complained. Daisuke wandered off into the hallway, then came back with a blanket. "Here," He said while tossing it to him. "Use this. You can sleep on the floor tonight." Chris had no problem with sleeping on the floor because every time he spends the night at a friend's house, he ends up having to do that anyways. After a few hours of sleep, there was a constant thudding coming from outside. Chris woke up and decided to go outside. He eyes widened to the sight of Shugo trying to attack something. He ran closer from behind, to avoid detection, then peered around her to see what she was trying to hit. He saw a red dot running toward and another one running along side. "Shugo! You better stop right now!" One yelled. Chris could identify this voice as Julia. Shugo ignored this command and decided to breathe a large column of blue flames at the two of them. The two obviously did not get hit by the blast but did call it close. Chris rushed to their side and noticed Ayane and Spyro with her. "What happened?! Why is Shugo trying to kill you guys?" He asked. Spyro spoke first, completely out of breath. "Cynder –pant- attacked Shugo –pant – with her tail spike." He panted. He took a deep breath, and continued. "Her tail spike was glowing yellow! She struck Shugo with it and ran away. Immediately after, Shugo attacked us!"

11 - Fear Is Poisonous

Shugo roared at the group. Chris tauntingly waved his hand over his nose. "Whew! Breath mint please!" He snickered. Shugo shook her head, and the mark went away.

"Hey! My breath does no-..." Shugo started to say but the mark came back and she backhanded Chris with blinding speed, but surprisingly, not much force. It was just enough to knock him back a few feet. She growled at him and raised a paw over his head, threatening to crush him. Julia retaliated.

"STOOOOOP!" She screamed. The mark on Shugo's head started to shine brightly. She stepped back and winced as if she was struck in the head. "Fight it Shugo! You can do it!" Julia encouraged. Shugo layed down on the ground, putting her paws over her head.

"I.....I.....can't do it..." Shugo mumbled.

"Yes you can! Cynder's just trying to mess with your head! KICK HER OUT!" Julia encouraged again, this time sounding more like a command than encouragement. The light on Shugo's head flew off of her as if she was burning it. It slowly took the shape of Cynder and then it started to speak.

"It seems I've underestimated you friend, Shugotenshi. She has a very strong mind. Perhaps, we should meet in person, since none of you are even good enough to possess." Cynder said in a prideful tone. She then took the shape of a portal. "Enter when your ready....Ready to die at least."

Ayane bolted towards the portal. "C'mon! We can take her!" She said. Suddenly she stopped to notice a familiar blue bubble appear in front of her. It disappeared, Azikstar now standing there, blocking her path.

"That's close enough! You aren't ready to face Cynder. None of you are, including me." Azikstar explained. "Odds are, there's either an ambush or a trap on the other end and you know that. Rally up some more allies, and then come back here. And Chris..."

Chris sat up, his head throbbing from the blow. "What?" He asked.

"Get a weapon or something. You're completely useless..." Azikstar said strongly but truthfully. Chris was only human after all. Just then, Daisuke waked out of the house yawning.

"What did I miss?" He asked lazily. "Looks like a fight happened. Too bad I wasn't in it. Makes me mad that I sleep like a rock..." Ayane smiled a mischievous smile.

"Oh Daisuke..." She called, almost seductively. "There's a bigger fight coming up and we need someone as strong and fast as you." Daisuke stretched out his whole body before answering.

"I'm your man." He said. Julia turned to Azikstar. The grin on her facial expression simply screamed 'In Your Face!' Azilstar, however, was not impressed.

"You'll need more than just five to face Cynder." He grumbled.

"You mean seven." A voice corrected from the shadows of a building. Out walked Riley and Croc. "I'm coming too. That Cynder girl is very annoying and needs to be taught a thing or two." Riley said. Croc nodded in agreement.

"Let's not forget me! I want to go too!" Spyro begged. Julia laughed.

"That's eight, not including you. Let us through Azikstar!" She demanded. Azikstar growled, bearing fangs.

"Shut up! There's still one missing person that you haven't met yet. I really think you should get her to join your group. We'll search for her later. For now, get some sleep everyone, we have a big day ahead of us." He said. Azikstar turned around. "And in case you're tempted..." He said a few magic words and a barrier appeared around the portal. "There. Nothing goes in or out."

* * *

Later on that night, everyone stayed the night at Ayane and Daisuke's house. Thankfully they had enough room to fit even Shugo in a large outside room. They decided on who is sleeping with who by having everyone count off: one, two, and three. It ended up: Riley, Ayane, and Azikstar slept in the living room. Shugo, Julia, and Chris slept in the outer room. Croc, Daisuke, and Spyro slept in the guest room. Ayane was getting ready for the night by changing into some pajamas when Chris opened her bedroom door at the wrong time. She had her back turned but was busy changing shirts. Chris was going to ask her where she said he was sleeping that night, since he forgot. But all he got to say was: "Ayane I forgo-...." before he went dead silent. Ayane only turned her head. She had an almost black expression on her face.

"Knock much?" She asked. Chris' face turned red in embarrassment.

"Lock the door much?" He fired back at her. He then closed the door, and then turned around to face Croc. His presence startled him. "How long have you been standing there?!" He asked.

"Long enough to know that you know absolutely *nothing* about women..." Croc laughed. He simply walked away to his way to his room. Chris sighed in total embarrassment and walked outside to the outer room. The outer room looked like a huge garage with carpet and a second level. Shugo was already curled up and half asleep. Her half-opened eyes focused on Chris as he walked into the room. She didn't say much to him since she was already talking to Julia. Chris didn't eavesdrop on their conversation due to the risk that Shugo could kill him if she sneezed on him wrong. Julia was leaned up against Shugo's side with a blanket to cover her. The two looked so happy to keep each other company. Chris sighed and walked towards the ladder to go to the second floor.

He managed to climb a couple of step when he heard, "You aren't going to sleep by yourself are you?" Shugo asked. He turned to see that both Julia and Shugo looked at him oddly. "Come sleep with us. It's pretty cold up there." Chris nodded and climbed down the ladder. He approached Shugo with caution. Shugo watched the fearful human. *He doesn't trust me...* she thought. *I guess I really scared him that night.* She recalled the time she tackled him, thinking he was a threat. She looked at herself in her mind. *I don't blame him. I would have been scared too.*

Chris sat next to Julia, but didn't lean against Shugo as she did. "What's wrong?" Julia asked. "You still afraid of Shugo?" Chris sat quietly, his head hung low. Julia shrugged, then went to sleep. Shugo looked to Chris and wondered outloud. "Hey, Chris..." Shugo started. "What's it like being....lost? I've never experienced it like the way you are now."

Chris sighed. "Like being a survivor of the end of the world...."

12 - Gateway To Cyberspace

Several houses down the road was another house that housed our last member. On a couch slept a blue dragoness anthro. Her body, covered in scars from previous encounters with hostile beings. She squirmed a little in her sleep, as if something was touching her. She slowly opened her eyes and allowed her vision to adjust. She looked down to see that what looked almost like black slime was slowly engulfing her. She quickly punched it, only to find that the slime was very sticky. She screamed for help, but no one could hear her through the night sky. She slashed at it with her claws using her free hand but it got stuck too. It seemed to make it 'angry' because it only sped up its pace of devouring her. She screamed and tugged on her hands in vain and could only watch as the blob worked its way up her entire body in seconds. It started to cover her head when she screamed again, only to give the blob a chance to get into her mouth. She struggled to get air...

She then woke up.

Golden sunrays streamed through the blinds of her living room when she awoke. She sat up on her couch, panting as if the dream was real. All over her body, she felt a tingling sensation. "That was...actually kinda scary." She whispered to herself. She stretched, as she always does, and then switched into some new clothes. She ate some breakfast and went outside to walk off her nightmare. She turned left, the direction of the other's stay. As she walked down the sidewalk, she noticed the portal from before. She stared at it for a moment, and then turned to the house next to her. "It may be early, but this is unusual." She said to herself. She walked up to the door and knocked. The door creaked open slowly, almost like a horror movie. Ayane stood in the doorway, still rubbing her eyes. "Sorry to bother you so early but..." The dragoness paused her sentence to point to the portal. "How long has that been there?"

"It's ok." Ayane assured. "It's 9:30am. I was about to wake up anyways. But about that portal, it's been there all night. It leads to the headquarters of the person behind the drone and the gas plant. We would have gone in, but we don't have enough people." Ayane noticed the bandages on her visitor's forearms. She stared for a minute or so, then remembered that she forgot to introduce herself. "By the way, My name is Ayane Nagano." She said, holding a hand out.

"My name is Shadow Ironclaw," Shadow introduced and shook Ayane's hand. "Pleasure to meet you." Ayane showed her into the house and they sat down in the living room.

"People are still asleep so keep your voice down." Ayane whispered. She stared at Shadow's bandages again and spoke without speaking. "What happened to your arms?"

Suddenly, a pair of blades shot from her right wrist. "That's what happened. I have wrist blades." Shadow explained. Ayane's eyes lit up like Christmas lights.

"You can fight right? Will you help us stop Cynder?" She asked. Shadow retracted her wrist blade and rested her head in one of her hands. She let out a 'Hmmm...' before answering.

"I can help."

Ayane kicked Azikstar, knowing that his scales would cushion the blow. "Did you hear that?" Ayane bragged. Azikstar groaned and opened his eyes halfway. "I know you've been awake for an hour now. "Yes....I heard...." He mumbled. "I guess we can go now..." He slowly stood up and stretched cat-like. Riley woke up shortly afterwards.

"All I can say is that when it comes to breakfast, you'll have to fend for yourself." Ayane shrugged. "I don't know what you guys want, and I doubt that I can satisfy someone like Shugo or Azikstar."

Meanwhile, in the outer room, Chris and Julia rested on Shugo's forepaws. Shugo woke up first and

yawned.

“Wake up you two. I think I see the others leaving the house....” Shugo said as she gently dropped the two on the ground. They both slept for a few seconds longer before suddenly snapping awake.

“You said they’re what, Shugo?” Julia asked in shock. Shugo directed her attention to the house.

“I can see them leaving the house. They must have woken up before us.”

“Ya think?” Chris added. The three quickly made their way to the front to see Croc, Riley, Ayane, Daisuke, Azikstar, and a newcomer where headed to the portal, battle ready.

“Quick! We have to catch them!” Shugo panted as she ran. She, and the others, where out of gas from not eating breakfast as normal.

“Wait!” Julia commanded, not to Croc and the others, but to Chris and Shugo. “I’m to hungry to go in and fight....” She said as she clutched her growling stomach. Chris and Shugo felt the same way. “We better eat something first before going into a fight that we may not even stand a chance in.”

The three agreed and decided to eat before going into the portal...

13 - Imperial Maze: Shugotenshi and Chris

After the three ate their meal they headed for the portal. It swirled in a circular motion, like a whirlpool out of water.

"Well....This is it..." Chris gulped. Julia walked into the portal as if they were an everyday thing.

"Your next Chris." Shugo said while giving him a nudge. Chris stood frozen, not knowing what untold horrors may be on the other end. Shugo knew that he couldn't move, so she took action. She snagged Chris by his shirt collar by using her teeth and carried him in. He squirmed a little at first, but then found it a little comfortable. On the other side of the portal was what looked like, a dark hallway. The floors were tiled in white and purple. The walls were painted white as well as the ceiling. To Chris, this seemed awkwardly familiar. Not just the area, but the time of day. Shugo dropped Chris onto the ground and sighed. "Not what I had in mind on the other side."

"Sc-....School, at night?" Chris mumbled to himself. Shugo lowered her head to Chris' level, which seemed shorter than usual.

"Where did you say we are again?" She asked. Chris looked Shugo over for a moment. She seemed smaller than her normal self.

"Shugo! You've shrunk!" He exclaimed while pointing at her. She was now about the size of a fully grown stallion. Shugo looked herself over and nodded.

"I think I did...." She said "But how?" She quickly remembered that Chris didn't answer her question.

"That's beside the point. Now where did you say we are?"

"At my school in my homeworld." Chris explained. Just then, a noise was heard. It sounded like growling. Shugo looked at Chris with wide eyes. "Lemme guess: there's something terrible behind us." She quickly snatched Chris in her teeth again and whirled him around onto her back.

"Just shut up and hang on tight to me!" She yelled, then took off like a rocket. The initial takeoff was so sudden that it almost threw Chris off.

"What is it?" Chris asked. Just then, a familiar gigantic shurikan hit a door panel as Shugo ran through. "Nevermind...." Chris sighed. They ran throughout the building, trying to escape but couldn't. They ran down a long stretch of hallway that eventually led to the gym. In the middle of the gym was, what looked like a pair of gauntlets. Chris leaned over and snatched them as Shugo ran past them. A note was attached.

Your stuck in something called the "imperial maze", one that has supposedly has no exit. If you're reading this, then I and my group have been captured. All except that "Shadow" girl. She plowed through all of Cynder's drones as if they were all made of paper! It was amazing.

Anyways, about the gauntlets; remember that chest armor I showed you before? These gauntlets are the second piece of the full body armor known as "Chronoforce". With these gloves, you can steal energy from an enemy and shoot it back at them. Isn't that helpful? I did this because I knew that you didn't stop by to get any weapons.

Your "Sister"

~Ayane

Chris rolled eyes. "That is so Ayane...." He mumbled. He then noticed the P.S.

P.S. Get captured or else you'll be wandering forever! Besides, we have an escape plan...

"Get captured!? On purpose!?" Shugo said in outrage. "That's crazy! Who knows what they'll do to

us!”

“Let them do it...” Chris mumbled again. Shugo stepped in front of him.

“You want me to what?” She asked.

“Let them do it! Ayane knows what she’s doing, ok? Just let them take us...” Chris said with a but of frustration and stubbornness. Shugo opened her mouth to protest, but then fell silent. She sighed and turned her head to the now still-standing drones. Chris and Shugo simply stood still as the drones approached. One was a wolf drone, the other a dragon drone. The dragon approached Chris, hissing and bearing its fangs. It pulled out a circular disc that was adhesive on one end. The dragon slapped it on his chest so hard, he was almost knocked off his feet. The adhesive was so wet, it diffused through his shirt and stuck to his bare chest. It may have been wet, but it was extremely strong. He tugged on it a little, but the tension was so strong, he thought he would end up ripping off the skin on his chest. The wolf slapped a similar disk to the top of Shugo’s head. The two drones started to walk away, carrying something odd in their hands. Suddenly, an unknown force yanked them both forward. Chris jumped forward in pain from the tension of his chest. A warp gate opened into front of them and the two were dragged in...

14 - Imperial Maze: Shadow Ironclaw

With the others purposely captured, only Shadow remained. She was in somebody's farmhouse that had country spread for miles and miles. Not a person to call help to, not a building in sight. Earlier she saw the others get captured and noticed something about when Cynder's drones normally appear. They only seem to appear when they *stood still*. She toyed with the idea, standing still to simply swing her wrist blades backwards and cut the head off a drone, leaving a pink, gooey mess on the floor. Like everyone else, she didn't know what the strange pink glob was made of. She poked it once, but didn't bother to mess with it again. *Feels almost like whipped cream*. She thought. *Now to save those other guys. I know they are still worth something*. With that said in her mind, she stood still, coaxing the drones out of their hiding. 10 minutes passed by.[br]

Nothing happened. 15 minutes passed.[br]

Still nothing. She spun and swung, only to hear the whiff of her blade cut the air. She then looked up, only to find a ladybug fluttering in the air by a lamp. She sighed and sat down in a nearby rocking chair. As soon as she did, the air suddenly got very cold. So cold she could see her breath. She shivered and looked around with wide eyes. "W-...what's going on!?" She asked herself and leaped out of her chair and headed out the door. In shock in disbelief she saw Shugotenshi curled up in the grass.[br]

"Oh! Hello, Shadow. I was just waiting for you." She said. Shadow turned and glanced at the house to see that half of it was frozen solid in a block of ice. She then turned back to Shugo. "Is....there something wrong?"[br]

"Who are you? I know you aren't that Shugo, girl. She can't breathe ice!" Shadow pointed out and immediately lunged at her. The fake Shugo vanished before Shadow even got close to her. Just then, a drone appeared in front of Shadow with the adhesive disk. She swatted it away and grabbed it. The drone grabbed her by the arm, only to have the capture disk slapped on to his face. The warp gate opened and she grinned. "Now to get Cynder." She mumbled to herself and walked through.[br]

[br]
On the other side, everything looked cyber and grid-like. It appeared to be downtown Giga City, only cybernetic. "What is this place?" Shadow mumbled to herself. Nobody was in sight as far as the eye could see. "HELLO!!!" she called out. Her voice echoed throughout the large buildings, but for a long time, nobody answered. Then...[br]

"AAAH! *grunt* SHADOW! Help! I'm stuck!" a voice called out. Shadow looked all over the place. The voice seemed to be coming from everywhere.[br]

"Where are you!?" She asked; another long pause.[br]

"I'm inside the shop next to you! I'm stuck on the wall!" The voice cried again, this time weaker and more desperate. Shadow turned to the left to see an office building. *That's not a shop*. She thought to herself. She turned right to see some kind of gift shop. She ran through the door and checked all of the walls. In the very back of the shop was Azikstar, suspended to the wall by a familiar black sludge. It was slowly consuming his entire body, just like it did to her in her dream. "Don't touch it! It'll pull you in with me and we'll both get stuck together." Azikstar warned. Shadow looked around the shop at different items she could use to pull him out with. She then stumbled upon a metal rod. She grabbed it, then handed one end to Azikstar.[br]

“Hold on to it and try to push away from the wall. I’m gonna pull you out.” She explained and then yanked on the pole. The sludge made a ripping sound and tore a little on the edges. It reformed and the sludge turned green. Azikstar moaned in pain. “What’s wrong?” She asked.[br]

“I....I can’t....move...anymore. This stuff is....squeezing really tight.” He growled, trying to fight his resistance. Shadow yanked again, this time it wouldn’t move at all. She growled and slashed it with her wrist blade. *Maybe since the blob’s color changed, it’ll act differently when I hit it.* She thought. Just as she wanted it to, the blob slit in two and released Azikstar. He fell to the ground with a loud thud. He didn’t move for a moment, but then slowly stood to his feet. He panted a little from the tension that was put on his chest, then started heading towards the door.[br]

“Let’s find the others, shall we?” He suggested. Shadow nodded and trailed behind him out of the shop. Just then, a familiar laughter filled the air.[br]

“Cynder!” They said at the same time. They immediately looked up to see Cynder standing on the roof of a smaller building, making her look huge.[br]

“Do you like it?” She asked. “Welcome to my wonderland of control and power. I can control ANTHING in this environment; even you two.” The two gulped and turned to run, only to run into Cynder standing in their path.[br]

She’s fast! Azikstar thought. Just then, an intense pain struck the two’s minds and they both dropped to the ground, unconscious. Cynder then approached Shadow’s lifeless body.[br]

“I hope you can walk with two legs;” She whispered in her ear. “Azikstar...”[br]