

Mat & Sparkle: Spirit Saga

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Mat leaves Sparkle to search for the other spirits. New characters are introduced, and Sparkle learns who she is. An epic tale of action and romance. Part 2 of 7.

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21. Return of the Dark Princess

Dark Mat: "Hmm, I sense a dark being heading this way. And another being... one between light and dark."

Brocko: "Master, she has been released. The Dark Princess has returned."

The stone door opened, and Dark Sparkle walked in. Brocko turned and kneeled, but Dark Mat just stood there.

Dark Sparkle: "Ah, Dark Mat. It's an honor to meet you."

Dark Mat: "The same for you, too, Your Highness."

Dark Sparkle: "Thanks to you, your other self has released me, but we cannot celebrate yet. We must seek the other holders of the sacred triangles, Maxi and Sari."

Dark Mat: "The beings that walk in the twilight. Created by the separation of the light and dark halves. I will dispatch the Phantom Knights to retrieve them." *laughs evilly*

Outside the temple, a girl with blond hair and a white dress was eavesdropping on them. She had the same finned ears that Sparkle had, and she wore a pendant with a golden triangle.

Girl: "Oh no. They know who I am." *runs away* "I need help to stop them. I need Maxi."

22. Mysterious Girl

Mat: *yawns* "I'm bored. Wish that some monsters appeared right now."

Hanon: "Uh, Mat? I think your wish came true. Look!"

Twilight Stalkers blocked their path. This time, they looked like white swordfish, with jagged fins and noses. They swirled around, waiting for the first attack. Mat swam upwards, hoping that they were dumb enough to follow. It worked. Hanon grabbed one by the tail and slammed it against another.

Mat: (Whoa. Maybe by merging with me, she inherited some of my fighting ability.) "Nice one!"

Mat swam downward, but the twilight beasts were still tailing him. Just before he hit the sea floor, he changed direction, and watched his foes slam into the ground. After the dust cleared, all that was left was a small dent in the ground.

Mat: *laughing* "Gets 'em every time, ha ha."

Hanon: "That was a nice maneuver, and funny, too."

Girl: "SOMEONE HELP!!!"

Mat: "This day just keeps gettin' better and better. Let's go!"

Mat and Hanon ran to where the cry for help came from. A blond-haired girl was cornered by a suit of armor with an eye on the back. Mat wasn't one to not help a girl in trouble. He leapt at the armor and knocked it down.

Girl: "Oh, thank you. That was very brave of you."

Mat: "You'd better hide! It's gonna get pretty rough."

The armor summoned a black ball of energy, and fired it at the girl. Hanon ran toward it and smashed it back at the armor. Mat snuck around until he was behind the cursed armor. Just as the energy ball was about to hit it, he used a Reverse Spin Kick and stunned it.

The black ball collided with the armor, sending it back to Mat. He deflected with a Spin Kick, sending it back to Hanon. She did the same. It was like playing Table Tennis, only the ball was a living suit of armor.

Mat: "Oh ho, COWABUNGA!!!"

He slashed the eye several times. The armor fell apart, and the eye disappeared. The girl walked toward him with a relieved, yet worried look on her face. She had a white dress, and fin-like ears, just like Sparkle, and she wore a pendant with a big golden triangle.

Mat: "That... was... aw-w-wesome."

Girl: "Don't you know what you took on?"

Mat: "Uh, a living suit of armor with an eye on its back?"

Girl: "You just defeated a Phantom Knight! They are very skilled and strong."

Hanon: "Wow. I thought they were destroyed a long time ago. Thanks for the info, uh..."

Girl: "My name is Sari."

Mat: "Okay. Hey, Sari, why don't you come with us for a while?"

Sari: "I can't. I'm looking for someone important, and I have to do this alone."

Sari ran off without saying goodbye. Mat just stood there, watching her run. Hanon starting walking in a different direction.

Hanon: "Mat, we gotta go."

Mat: "Huh, where are we headin'?"

Hanon: "We have to go to the Wisdom Temple and get my weapon. There might be more Phantom Knights around."

Mat: "OK. Maybe we'll see Sari again. I wonder who her friend is, though?"

23. Monster-infested Town

As Mat and Hanon travelled, they saw strange underwater towns, all of them without people. Something was wrong when they arrived in a western-like town.

Mat: "This is the fifth town that's been deserted so far. Something's not right."

Hanon: "Weird. There's a strong energy coming from this town. The same energy from my wand. It's here!"

A little goblin-like thing ran from a building nearby. It saw them, and let out a loud screech. More of them appeared, some even jumped out from windows. Most of them were holding clubs or spears.

Mat: "Well, it looks like these varmints want us a showdown. I say we give'em one."

Hanon: "Ready when you are."

Mat summoned his slingshot, and put on a cowboy hat that was laying nearby. Hanon jumped up, and bounced off each goblin that went after her. They kept swinging their weapons, but Mat was too quick. He kept firing bullets or blowing them away with extreme breakdance moves.

Every time Mat or Hanon beat one, more joined the brawl. One of them held a tiny wand with a winged star on it. A blade of energy came from the wand.

Hanon: "Hey, that one has my wand! Let's get him!"

Several arrows flew past them, striking all the goblins. Behind them was a boy that almost looked like Mat, except he wore two shirts. His second shirt was like one of those shirts you can undo in case you got too warm. In his hand, he held a weird looking crossbow with the trigger up front and a handle on the back. Just above the bow part of the weapon, there was a blade on it.

Mat: "Who is that sharpshooter?"

Hanon: "I'm not sure, but he looks a lot like you."

The mystery boy then pointed his weapon at Mat. But something stopped him. He looked at the back of his hand, and noticed that a symbol appeared. The exact same that Mat had: three triangles, one of them with a gold color.

Boy: "He... he has the second symbol. Is that boy the one?"

Out of nowhere, a mermaid in a waitress outfit wandered outside. She yelled out at the the buildings, and more merfolk appeared, most of them wearing western or cowboy clothing. All three of them were surprised.

Mat: "Whoa, I thought this place was a ghost town 'til those monsters showed up."

Waitress: "Oh, thank you for getting rid of those foul beasts. Who are you?"

Mat: "He he, name's Mat. The girl over there is Hanon."

Boy: "I'm Maxi. You may know me as 'The Phantom Slayer'."

Waitress: "Sorry, none of us have ever heard of ya. What brings you here, anyway?"

Hanon: "Me and Mat are searching for, uh, some friends of mine."

Before Mat could say anything, most of the females were crowding him, wanting him to stay, planning for the future. Hanon leapt over the frenzy and pulled him out, but when she grabbed his hand, he felt something odd. After she let go, Mat fell down and fainted.

Hanon: "Ah, Mat! What happened?!"

One Girl: "Quick, let's bring him inside."

A while later, he finally woke up, only to notice one of those crazed mermaids kissing him. He was so surprised, he felt like getting the heck outta there.

Mat: "Oh, geez, what's going on?" (Wait, I remember now. It finally came back after all these years!) "Hey, thanks, Hanon."

Hanon: "Huh, what did I do?"

Mat: "You helped me recover something very important. A special memory from a long time ago. I thought I lost it forever."

Blond-hair Girl: "Ooh, maybe it's about one of us."

Black-hair Girl: "It couldn't be. We've never seen him before."

Mat: "Girls, if you're that curious, I'll tell you what it was about. Just gather around and listen."

24. A Tale Once Forgetten

Since this chapter is about Mat's special memory, he will narrate until his story is finished

Mat: About seven years ago, back on Earth, I was on a giant ferry boat going to see a few friends. I was about half my size now, and I wore a special outfit. It was similar to the tunic I'm wearing now, only smaller and it came with an elf cap that hung back.

Blond-hair Girl: "I bet you looked so cute then."

Mat: Yeah, anyway, I was completely bored. The only thing I could do was lay on the ground and watch the sky. Even on the ferry, I just stared at the sky. I needed excitement, and I got it. On the way to the island, the waves started ramming the boat. My parents were on the other side of the boat's deck. A giant wave was heading straight for them. I didn't want to lose them, so I shoved them to the side.

Blue-hair Girl: "That is exciting."

Mat: Unfortunately, the wave crashed on me, pulling me into the ocean. I grabbed on the edge of the deck as I slid off. My hands were cold and soaked. I couldn't hold on for long. My mom tried to stop me from falling off. But it was too late. I fell overboard, into the raging ocean below.

Black-hair Girl: "Couldn't you breathe then?"

Mat: No. On Earth, I can't breathe underwater. I thought it was over for me, 'til I heard a faint melody. When I heard it, I felt something flow into me, and I could breathe. A figure swam up to me, and you can guess what I saw.

Blond-hair Girl: "What did you see?"

Mat: I saw a mermaid. She had long, pink hair, finned ears, a dress that was attached to her tail, and she was so cute. She looked happy to see me. I couldn't stop blushing.

Young Mat: "Uh....., hi?"

Young Girl: "Hello. Do you wanna play with me?"

Young Mat: "I'd like to, but I need to go back to my parents. They must be worried."

Mat: I then realized that parents would think I'm dead, and I was lonely, so I went off with her. We had a good time. She took me to an undersea cave she used as a hideout. It was so pretty, like something from a fairy tale. There was a small part of the cave that was filled with air.

Blue-hair Girl: "Wow! What was in there?"

Mat: All I saw in that part was sand and a beautiful mirror with a name on the bottom. This

memory was with a lot of firsts for me: The first time I saw a mermaid, swam in the ocean, breathing underwater, and the first time I saw her.

Black-hair Girl: "Her? Who are you talking about?"

Mat: "Sparkle. Augh, how could I forget?!"

Orange-hair Girl: "Sparkle? Is she the mermaid you met?"

Mat: Yeah. Anyway, back to the story. I told her what my life was like before I met her. I don't know why, but then, Sparkle just decided to hold my hand. I was starting to get nervous, but at the same time, I felt slightly awed.

Young Sparkle: "This is the only time I've ever brought someone here. I think it's a sign. A sign of love."

Mat: By the time we left, it was still night. There was a full moon hanging in the dark sky. I found a beach near a town. We were still holding hands, even on the beach.

Blond-hair Girl: "Ahh, young love. They say it never lasts."

They all let out a lovesick sigh.

Mat: Uh... okay. Well, we fell asleep on the soft sand, and Sparkle cuddled up right next to me. When morning came, a loud ship horn scared us up. The ferry boat that I fell off of was docking nearby. Before I left, I carried Sparkle to the water. She gave me two things: A little flute shaped like a pointed oval with a small mouthpiece and five holes, and a kiss on the cheek.

Young Sparkle: "Will I see you again, Mat?"

Young Mat: "I'll jump off on the way back. Bye for now."

Mat: I was able to meet up with my parents just as they got off. I told them about my adventure with my new friend, Sparkle. They never believed me, until I showed them the flute. It was actually called an Ocarina. My father still didn't believe me. After the visit, we got back on the boat. I waited until night fell. I was playing the ocarina like a pro. I was playing the song I heard before. When the time was right, I jumped off.

Red-hair Girl: "Aw, isn't there any action?"

Mat: Actually, yeah. There is. Me and Sparkle were playing when this explosion blew us away. I surfaced, only to see a bunch of flying saucers above. They were firing giant lasers everywhere. One of them flew near and used a tractor beam on Sparkle. She was pulled in, and I followed. Inside, I noticed these weird blue aliens carrying a giant fish bowl, with Sparkle inside. I chased after them, but I slammed into a metal door. I found my friend a while later, but those alien guys trapped us.

Orange-hair Girl: "Keep going. We want to hear the ending."

Mat: All right, all right. I found a sword nearby and fought them. There was a lot of blood shed. Then this big one with armor and a laser gun burst in. He was the leader, so we were in the mother ship. I was tired from getting rid of his followers, but I still beat him. I freed Sparkle and ran to the exit while holding her in my arms. Luckily, the ship had crashed, so we did it. We got away. I found the boat my parents were on, and I introduced them to Sparkle. That was the last time I saw her 'til I came to Tidus.

Girls: "Wow, great story. Can ya tell us more?"

Mat: "Next time I come here, I'll have some more stories. We gotta go."

Mat and Hanon were on the outskirts of town when those lovesick mermaids swam after them.

Mat: "Aw, crap! Let's get outta here!"

25. Captured Spirit

It took a while, but the two got away from those girls. They stopped to rest until it didn't hurt to breathe.

Hanon: "What is up with them?"

Mat: "It's called Rabid Fangirl Disease. Mostly caused by noticing someone famous nearby. Good thing I'm not really into love, or I'd let 'em catch me."

???: "I'm glad they did not catch you, young hero."

Behind them was a green spirit with the shape of a mermaid with long, straight hair. She phased in, then out of Mat as a girl with long, dark green hair, a white shirt, and jeans.

???: "My new, body, it is from a girl named Rina, is it not?"

Mat: "Uh, yeah. I guess this means I now have two of the spirits, and you want to be called Rina, right?"

Rina: That isn't how the Courage Warrior used to talk, but you are right. If you are the next in the bloodline, then answer this question: In which hand do you wield your sword?"

Mat: "I'm ambidexterous, meaning I use either hand equally, but as a swordsman, I use my left."

Rina: "You have proven yourself. I had my doubts, but not anymore. Each of the bloodline used their sword in their left hand."

They were ready to leave, but a black portal opened, and a metal hand reached out and grabbed Rina. It pulled her in, and the portal was about to close.

Hanon: "Mat! What do we do?"

Mat: "We go through that portal and get Rina back. Let's go, Hanon!"

Mat grabbed Hanon's arm and rushed into the portal. At the other end was an endless desert. The sun shined brightly.

Hanon: "It's so hot here. Where are we?"

Mat didn't answer. He was surveying the landscape. It felt very familiar, then he realized where they were.

Mat: "It's Egypt...., Hanon, we're back. We're back on Earth!"

Hanon: "What?! But where?"

Mat: "The desert country of Egypt. I've always wanted to come here when I was younger."

A loud rumbling noise broke their conversation. What looked like an ancient warship rose out of the sand and went airborne. It was too high when they caught up. Mat was determined to save Rina, so he summoned his Air Board. Hanon sat side-saddle at the back end, while Mat surfed up front. Eventually, they saw a pyramid in the distance. Mat used the pyramid as a ramp and they flew at the flying fortress. Hanon grabbed his leg in case she fell off. It was a rough landing, but they got on the fortress.

Mat: "Where's this thing going, anyway?"

Hanon: "I'm guessing that large, gray structure below us."

Underneath the warship was a large, metal tower. It landed on the tower's peak. Nearby, there were a few boxes. One of them was big enough to fit both of them in.

Mat: "I've got an idea, but I don't know if you'll like it."

Hanon: "What's your plan, Mat?"

Mat: "I'm thinking we can fit in that giant box over there. But if someone tips it over, it might hurt or..., maybe I shouldn't tell ya."

Hanon: "What? What might happen?"

Mat: "We could end up kissing by accident, and I've been kissed enough." *shudders*

Hanon: "Oh well. Let's get in."

26. Dimension Factory

Inside the box they hid in, the two waited, and waited, and waited. Then Mat fell asleep, until something outside tipped the box. He didn't like what was happening until it happened. He was right. By accident, Hanon's lips fell into Mat's.

Mat(muffled): "Aw, not again!"

The box they were in broke apart with a sudden impact. They were inside the tower. On the inside, it looked like a hi-tech space station, with security cameras and robots carrying blowtorches.

Hanon: "Oh my. What is this place?"

Mat: "I feel like we skipped about 500 years into the futu--"

Hanon: "Huh? Mat?"

Mat: "Hide behide that wall! Someone's coming."

Two robots with wheels were rolling down the corridor, chatting.

Robot1: "THE MASTERS WILL BE PLEASED WITH OUR MOST RECENT ACCOMPLISHMENT."

Robot2: "WHO KNEW THAT THE GIRL WAS A SPIRIT IN DISGUISE. THE POWER THAT SHE WIELDS WILL BE A PERFECT ENERGY SOURCE FOR THE FACTORY."

Mat(whispering): "A factory? Maybe we'll learn more from those idiots if we follow.

Hanon: "Are you sure? What if they--"

Mat: "Shh. You want them to spot us?!"

They followed the robots, hiding if they got too close.

Robot2: "I FORGET, WHERE IS THE GENERATOR ROOM AGAIN?"

Robot1: "IT IS AT THE THE BASE OF THE TOWER, BUT THE LEAD ROBOT HAS THE KEY CARD FOR IT."

Mat(mimic's robot voice): "AND HOW COULD ONE DEFEAT IT?"

Robot1: "SIMPLE. ONE MUST OPEN THE BODY TO REVEAL THE CORE, THEN THEY MUST-- WAIT A MINUTE. WHO HAS SUBMITTED THAT RECENT QUESTION?"

Mat & Hanon: "Surprise!" *destroys the robots*

Mat: "For artificial intelligence, they ain't that smart, he he."

Hanon: "Now we know where Rina is, but where's the lead robot?"

Mat: "Robots slowly lose power, so I'm guessing a recharging station, maybe near the generator room. Let's split up and search for it. What kind of spells can you use?"

Hanon: "Uh, I think I have a healing spell, a fire spell, a water spell, and a lightning spell. Why?"

Mat: "There might be more cameras or robots around. A good shock might destroy or disable 'em."

Mat took one hallway, and Hanon took another. Anytime she saw a security cam, she jolted it and kept going. They searched many rooms, and explored many floors, but neither of them found the station. Mat got into a scrap with quite a few robots, some with powerful lasers. He trashed them, and found a key. (no, not a card key)

Mat met up with Hanon a while later. She found a door that had a keyhole in it. Mat unlocked it and the door slid open. Inside was a big robot with a switch on its head. In its chestplate was a card with a barcode on it.

Mat: "I believe we found the right robot. Let's get that key and cheese it!"

An alarm went off, and the big robot activated, and began moving. Its eyes glowed a dark red.

Mat: "Oh, come on! What'd I do now?!"

The two prepared for a rough battle. The robot swung its heavily armored arms and fired homing missiles from its shoulders. Mat ran in front of Hanon and activated his shield. Each missile exploded on the shield, but didn't hit them. He held out his hands, and fired a blast of energy. The armor was badly damaged, and the card key fell out.

Hanon: "I'll get the key. Can you distract it?"

Mat: "Now that I can do."

Mat rushed into the fray, and tripped the robot from behind. Hanon got the card key, and summoned the blade from her wand. The robot quickly got up and grabbed her. Mat reacted and sliced at the hand until she could move her arms. With one good slice, she cut off the robot's hand and several fluids started gushing out.

Mat: "Hanon, now's your chance! Shock its fluids with a thunder spell."

Hanon: "Right! UNLEASH THE POWER OF THUNDER!!"

The fluids caught fire and the electric attacked travelled into the robot's core. As a last attempt, it pinned them to the floor and activated a self-destruct mode. Was it over for them?

Mat: "No. I WON'T FAIL!!!"

(Warning: This is a Sonic and DBZ rip-off)

It was his last chance. He pulled out the Aqua Star and gripped it tight. An explosion of light blew back the robot. When the light faded, Hanon saw that Mat had transformed. He went into a Super Form. (Check ch 4 in the previous story for the details)

Hanon: "M-Mat? You..., you've--"

Super Mat: "Yes. Hanon, if you thought I was mad before, you're mistaken. Watch as I destroy him as SUPER WARRIOR MAT!!!"

He ripped off the plating like it was paper, revealing the core. His sword had changed too! It was more majestic and powerful. Super Mat flew upward and built up power in the sword.

Super Mat: "I'll show you! SUPER BLAST, DESTROY!!!!!"

From the tip of his sword, he let loose a giant blast at the robot. The blast engulfed and completely obliterated the robot, and left a giant hole in the floor. Satisfied, he reverted to normal and put away the star.

Mat: "Hanon, I don't want you to be scared of me. When I did that, I hesitated because I thought you would be taken along with that foe. But if I didn't destroy it, we would be killed."

Hanon: "Mat....., I am scared."

Mat: "Which is why I have decided to use the star only as a last resort. Let's keep going. I made a shortcut with that giant hole..., and..., I'm sorry I almost vaporized you."

Hanon: "Oh, Mat..." *hugs him*

The hole made a direct route to a big door with a slot for the card key. Hanon swiped it, and it opened. Inside was a hole that looked bottomless. They jumped in. At the end of the hole was a very big room with a huge machine at one side. Mat summoned his GripShot and fired it at the roof. Hanon held onto him as he lowered himself gently.

Mat: "So this is the Generator Room. That means Rina's here."

Hanon: "And that must be the generator."

Rina: "Mat! Hanon!"

Mat: "Rina?! Where are you?"

Rina: "I'm inside this thing, but be careful. It can defend itself."

Suddenly, a giant robotic arm moved, and another one began to move. A lot of lights turned on,

and what seemed like an angry, robotic face lit up.

Hanon: *gasps*

Mat: "It's alive. It's alliiiiive."

The generator began sucking energy from Rina. Mat had finally lost it, and began ripping part after part, trying to save her. One of the arms swatted him against a wall. Hanon kept dodging and attacking the other arm.

Mat: (Damn it, I'm still tired from that last fight. I need my Healer ability.) "Hope this works. Activate Healer!"

The green light expelled all of the pain from him and gave him the will to fight on. He protected Hanon again with his shield, but this time, he countered and made the machine hit itself. The impact bore a hole, revealing a shatter-proof glass container with Rina inside.

Mat: "Hanon! This time, you distract it! I'm getting Rina out, then we can finish this, once and for all!"

Try as he might, no matter how many punches or kicks, he couldn't even crack it. Fed up, he grabbed his sword and sliced it with one hit, then kicked off the top part. Without Rina, the generator should have shut down, but didn't. It kept on attacking.

Hanon: "What's going on? Shouldn't it have powered down?"

Mat: "It still has an energy source, and I think I know how to stop it."

Rina: "How?"

Mat: "Overheat its reactor and make it go ka-blooley."

Rina: "Good plan. I'll help out."

Mat: "But, you don't have a weapon."

Hanon: "She doesn't need one. Rina's very strong and skilled."

Just with one kick, Rina destroyed one of the arms. She looked proud at what she did.

Mat(mimics Mario): "...Mamma Mia."

Mat ignored the thought and rushed into the machine. The reactor wasn't far from where Rina was held. He summoned his Fire Boomerang and made it circle around the reactor until a warning alarm went off. He ran out, grabbing Hanon and Rina, and absorbing them into his body. The result was a blue and a green aura around his arms that made him three times stronger.

Mat: (Now to get out of this time bomb. Crap, I shoulda thought about that before. Guess I'll go

with my gut and maybe punch a hole in the wall.)

His gut feeling steered him right. One punch, and BAM! An escape route leading outside. Just as he got outside, the generator exploded, and the whole place came down. Hanon and Rina phased out of him. Mat just started breakdancing to their victory.

Rina: "That was a good idea. Using our auras to increase your own strength and break through the wall. The last warrior excelled at planning strategies. Let's go and find the last spirit."

Mat: "Rina, what were they doing that needed you, anyway?"

Rina: "They needed my spiritual energy to create portals to suck in magma and transport it so it falls into the ocean."

Mat: "By doing that, they would've sealed off the oceans, or the lack of magma would cause Earth to implode and collapse. We just saved the planet. The question now is: How do we get back to Tidus?"

Hanon: "Easy. With two of us, we can open a dimensional portal to almost any world. Let's do it, Rina!"

Mat: "I'm glad you're on my side."

Hanon and Rina filled the Courage Sword with magic, and Mat fired a beam that created a portal. A portal back to Tidus. Back to Sparkle.

Mat: "So this is the power that the king spoke of. Sweeeeeeeet."

Now with Rina, the Spirit Mermaid of Courage, on his team, Mat was ready to tackle anything that stood in their way!

27. Dark Sparkle's Plan

In the Desert Temple, Dark Sparkle was reading an ancient scroll telling of an unstoppable force not from this world, the Death Asteroid. Feared by all, it can shatter any and all worlds on command. She loathed Tidus so much that she wanted to destroy it.

Dark Mat: "Have you found the scroll you needed?"

Dark Sparkle: "Yes. Soon, this planet will cease to exist. Everyone would be forced to Dark Tidus, where we would rule over all."

Dark Mat: "I like the way your evil mind works. But, what about those so-called heroes, Mat and Sparkle?"

Dark Sparkle: "Hmm, those two were how we were created, but they are useless now."

Brocko: "My lady, sorry to disturb you, but there's some things you need to know."

Dark Sparkle: "What things?"

Brocko: "First, we have located the second Power symbol. A boy named Elias found it recently. Secondly, that other boy, Mat, he has followers, each with a spiritual aura."

Dark Sparkle: "I think I know what he's doing. He's looking for the Spirit Mermaids. The same spirits that imprisoned me 13 years ago. Brocko, see to it he fails. Which spirits do he have now?"

Brocko: "He has the Spirits of Wisdom and Courage, each with a physical form. The last spirit is being held by another group that opposes us."

Dark Sparkle: "That's it! Brocko, get your followers. Your mission is to take the Spirit of Power back from the opposition, and I don't care how you do it, then rid us of that warrior, Mat!"

Brocko: "As you wish, my lady."

Dark Sparkle: "Elias, why does that name sound familiar?"

Dark Mat: "The other you would know him better. You see, Elias is Sparkle's older brother. Him and Mat had teamed up only once, but that was a long time ago, during the invasion. He's not the only one who wields a Power symbol."

Dark Sparkle: "Who has the first symbol, then?"

Dark Mat: "I'm the wielder of the first Power symbol."

In the throne room, Fyriax and Airius were training, and Sirenair was playing the harp on her

staff, until Brocko walked in.

Brocko: "Everyone, we have a new objective."

Fyriax: "Finally! I need outta this prison."

Sirenair: *yawns* "What's our job?"

Brocko: "We capture the Spirit of Power, then eliminate Mat. We must not fail, understand?"

Sirenair, Fyriax, and Airius: "YES SIR!"

28. Annual Tournament

Sparkle and Ray were taking a stroll through the chinatown area of Tidus City when Ray spotted a poster for a tournament. Every year, the chinatown area would host a tourney for the strongest and most skilled fighters. Ray had attended and won the last tourney.

Ray: "Ha! I remember destroying the competition last time. Hey, Sparkle, How about cheering for me this time?"

Sparkle: "No way! I'm gonna enter, too! I want to try out my new skills, and this tournament will let me."

Ray: "Alright, but don't whine if ya lose."

Sparkle: "I won't." *winks*

They hurried and registered. Many others entered, so they staged a few preliminary rounds. Only 16 made it in. Both Ray and Sparkle made it.

Ray: "Looks like we're both in. Nice job out there."

Sparkle: "Thanks. Those guys were rough."

???: "Well, Ray. Looks like you got a girlfriend. Hold on, is that you, sis?"

The man stepped out of the darkness. He had short, dark blue hair, a general's uniform, and finned ears. Unlike Sparkle's, his were longer, sharper, and had a different color. Sparkle ran up to and hugged him.

Sparkle: "Elias! It's so great to see you again."

Elias: "I'm glad that you're still safe. Why are you still wearing that dress, or have you forgotten what it can do?"

Ray: "What're you talking about?"

Sparkle: "I forgot to tell you. My dress is magical. It can morph into almost any kind of outfit." *snaps fingers*

Sparkle's dress became a tank top and loose-legged pants. This made it easier for her to run, skate, or kick. It also made her look stylish. The intercom announced that the first match was about to start.

Elias: "Looks like it's my turn. See ya."

Elias' match didn't take long. When it was over, he didn't even have a scratch. When Ray's turn

came, Sparkle snuck out to watch. Ray just delivered one fierce kick, and his opponent flew out of the ring. Finally, after the semi-last match for Round 1, Sparkle walked out to the ring. Her opponent was some guy in a karate outfit.

Opponent1: "If I win this match, will you go out with me?"

Sparkle: "No way! My heart belongs to someone else."

Announcer: "Fighters, ready....., BEGIN!"

The karate guy delivered a Roundhouse Kick, but Sparkle ducked and jabbed him in the chest. Before he could recover, she grabbed his wrist and slammed him against the floor.

Opponent1: "You are strong, young miss. But I will not lose."

He quickly got up and delivered a Karate Chop. BAM! Then, he flew at her with a Flying Kick. Sparkle rolled out of the way. Her opponent flew out of bounds and landed on the grass.

Announcer: "Wow, and it looks like the winner is Ms. Sparkle Advent."

Opponent1: "No. I have failed. I have been dishonored."

Sparkle: "Hey. Next time, don't ask a girl out during a tourney."

Back in the waiting room, Ray was relaxing, and Elias left for his next match. The other fighters began cheering for her as she walked in.

Fighter1: "Way to kick some sense into him."

Sparkle: "Huh? What do ya mean?"

Fighter2: "That guy usually sounds like an obedient student, but he's a big flirt. Anytime he sees a cute girl, he tries to show off and get a date. It's embarrassing for guys like us."

Elias returned from his match, but this time, he looked a little beat up. Sparkle went to his side and helped him.

Sparkle: "Brother, what happened?"

Elias: "My opponent was very fast, but I still won."

Announcer(intercom): "Sorry for the interruption, contestants, but the next match between Ray and Harvey has been cancelled. Our staff discovered that Harvey won his last match by cheating with the use of hypnotism. He has been disqualified, so Ray moves on to the semi-finals, along with Elias. That is all."

Ray: "Sounds like we get to face off, eh, Elias?"

Elias: "Heh, Don't expect me to take it easy on ya. Hey, sis, don't worry about me. I knew the

day when we would battle would come, and today might be the day."

Sparkle went out for her next match. It was a quick victory. Finally, the time came for Ray and Elias' match. Both were ready for what the other could dish out.

Announcer: "Fighters, ready. then....., BEGIN!"

Both of them stopped each other's attacks while dealing out their own. The match was really intense, but Elias slipped behind Ray and thrust his elbow at him. POW! He crashed out of the ring. The champion was defeated, but he accepted the loss and vowed to train harder. Sparkle rushed out for her semi-final battle. Her opponent was also a female, and a speedy one, too!

Opponent2: "So, you're that guy's little sister. It doesn't matter, I will be the one who faces him."

Announcer: "Fighters, ready. then....., BEGIN!"

Sparkle's opponent zoomed around in small circles, trying to confuse her. She countered by doing a Roundhouse Kick in the opposite rotation. Her opponent slammed into her leg, and sent rolling out of bounds.

Announcer: "And a One-hit KO places Sparkle in the final round against her own brother. What a co-winky-dink this is."

Sparkle: (Well, Elias. It's time. Time to prove how strong I've become. I will win.)

Elias: (Sister, you've matured since last I saw you. This battle will see if you are ready for what lies ahead.)

Meanwhile, a black figure stood on one of the pillars near the stage. It watched as Elias entered the ring. The figure was actually Dark Sparkle. She watched as they readied themselves for battle.

Dark Sparkle: "So, the siblings are going to fight. We can't have that, now can we?" *vanishes*

Sparkle and Elias charged at each other, when Dark Sparkle appeared between them and stopped them with a barrier. Elias seemed shocked. Sparkle was mad.

Sparkle: "You again?! I thought Mat took care of you."

Announcer: "Hey! You are interfering with an official--"

She just glared at him, and he was tossed away by telekinesis. The audience panicked and bolted out of the arena.

Dark Sparkle: "Elias, why don't you give your dark sister the sacred triangle you have, and I'll leave quietly."

Elias: "Grr..., over my dead body!"

Dark Sparkle: "More like over your POSSESSED BODY!"

A black aura engulfed Elias, and a ghostly figure latched itself onto his back. Dark Sparkle just laughed at Sparkle's misery and anger. She summoned her staff and lunged at the black princess. Her dark self just yawned and created another barrier.

Dark Sparkle: "Don't waste your time with me, Princess. If you do, who will save the city? Now, my minion, eradicate this city and all who oppose!" *vanishes*

The possessed Elias let himself get absorbed by the phantom. It flew high above the city and began a bombardment of black lasers. Sparkle flew after it and tried to attack. Nothing, not even a solid blow.

Sparkle: *taps bracelet* "Sorry, brother. WISDOW ARROW, FIRE!!"

The arrow didn't pierce him, but the force was hard enough to expel him from the ghost. She flew after and caught Elias. Thanks to her magic sandals, she gently set him on a pillar, then went back to stop the phantom.

Sparkle: "You..., spirits of the dead who attack others will not be forgiven."

It swatted her away like a fly. She kept charging at it, but got slapped over and over. The phantom then turned around and chased Sparkle. She fired many arrows, but they phased right through it.

Sparkle: (I don't get it. How can it hit me when I can't.) "Is it all over for me?"

A burst of lightning shot up and stopped it. Then, a figure shot through it. Whatever hit it was very fast.

Sparkle: "There's only one person who can go that fast. He's back!"

Sure enough, Mat flew to her side on his air board, the auras of Hanon and Rina giving him the energy he needed.

Mat: "Thought you'd finish this party without me, eh, Spark?"

Sparkle: "Mat! You're back. But how did--"

Mat: "Simple. It's a ghost, so it's made of dark spiritual energy, which I detected. So, we should fight back with light spiritual energy, courtesy of my new allies, the Spirit Mermaids."

Sparkle: "Okay, I get it. Let's finish it off. What's the plan?"

Mat: *pulls out Hanon's wand* "First, you fire a barrage of arrows, then I'll use Hanon's wand to supercharge them with fire. In short, we get to use fire arrows."

Sparkle nodded, and starting firing. Mat used the wand and transformed her arrows into their fire arrows. The ghost couldn't handle the fire arrows. They kept firing until it faded from

existence. Sparkle hugged Mat and starting kissing him on the cheek.

Mat: "Augh. I know that you're happy to see me, but is this necessary?"

A while later, Mat explained what had happened, and why he came. Sparkle told him that she also had remembered what happened seven years ago. She began to cry tears of joy. But this joy wouldn't last. Mat hadn't completed his mission yet, but he promised to stay for a few days.

Elsewhere, Elias came to, and noticed a symbol on his hand. It had protected him while he was possessed, and it expelled the darkness from the ghost.

Elias: "Those dark beings, they're ready to make a move. They're after the celestial power of the gods. They cannot succeed!"

29. Birthday Bash

(Warning: This chapter has a lot of talk scenes)

A few days after the tournament, everyone had calmed down. But not for long. Ray introduced his team to Mat, but most of them already knew him. One of his best friends, Sean, was there. He was younger than Mat, but was just as rude. Then, there was Ryan, Mat's cousin. He was half his height, and liked exploring with him when he was around. And then, there was that girl again, Amy. The same girl that helped him get into the temple, except her hair was longer then.

Finally, there was another girl, about Ryan's height. Her name was Maria. She had light blue hair, wore a top and a flower skirt. She had this big pink bow she wore that looked like cat ears, and these small bracelets that had a machine on them.

Everyone was getting ready for a special event. Sparkle's 15th birthday was only a few days away. Mat, Hanon, and Rina went out looking for a present, and a suitable place for a party.

Rina: "So, you actually kissed Mat?"

Hanon: "It was by accident, but yeah. He didn't like that."

Rina: "I see. I don't think he's the type that wants a girlfriend, huh?"

???: "Hello, ladies. Might I interest you with some martial art techniques?"

Rina walked up and punched him in the gut. He fell to his knees.

???: "Is... that a ... no?"

Rina: "Sorry. We're busy."

Mat: (Yep, just like I remember her.)

They met up with Sparkle later on. For some reason, she was in a cheerful mood.

Mat: "So, anything catch your interest?"

Sparkle: "Not yet, but I heard there was a racing event on the 11th."

Mat: "So?"

Sparkle: "That's on my birthday. Ooh, I can't wait."

Mat: "Oh, I get it now. What kind of race?"

Sparkle: "I think it was a go-kart race."

Mat: "G-g-g-go-karts?!" (Aw, crap. I thought this day would never come, but it did.)

Sparkle: "What's wrong?"

Mat: "I, ...I, I kinda have a thing for go-karts. Last time I raced in one, I almost fell out, and yeah, I had my safety belt on. I never went in one ever since."

Sparkle: "Ohhhh. I didn't know."

Back at the base, on the outskirts of the city, Maxi was waiting for them. He didn't have his crossbow ready.

Maxi: "We meet again."

Mat: "Why are you here, Maxi?"

Maxi: "I need you to help me. I'm looking for a girl named Sari. Have you seen her?"

Mat: "I did more than see her. I saved her from getting killed."

Sparkle: "Who is this 'Sari'?"

Mat: "Sari is a girl that we found that was being hunted. The weird about her is, she's a half-mermaid, too."

Maxi: "Your friend should know who she is, like you should know who I am."

Mat: "I'll help you, but only when I leave. Right now, we have other plans."

Maxi just left. There was something about him that Mat didn't like. Then, the announcer from the tournament ran toward them at a fast pace. He held a red belt in his hand.

Announcer(out of breath): "I'm so glad... I found you. I told the mayor of your efforts to save the city..., so he requested that you take this." *hands Sparkle the belt*

Sparkle: "Uh, thanks. What is it?"

Announcer: That is no ordinary belt, miss. That is a Gyro Belt. When used, it allows the wearer to spin at an incredible velocity. You could pulverize metal easily."

Sparkle: "Uhhhh?"

Mat: "You spin fast enough that you become a living tornado that can destroy almost anything."

Sparkle: "Nice, and just in time for my birthday, too!"

???: "Aha, there you are, thief."

Above, five figures shot down, creating a crater on impact. Rina stepped back. Each figure looked like a person wearing a futuristic suit of armor. Four of them were male, each with a different color of armor. The female lashed out at them.

Mat: "What the?! Who are these guys?"

Rina: "No. Not them again."

Hanon: "Rina, are those--"

Rina: "Yes. They are the ones that captured me."

???: "Well, well. Look who it is. That freakin' idiot and his spirit pal."

Mat: *powers up* "WHAT DID YOU JUST CALL ME?!"

???: "So, you're the Courage Warrior I heard about. Figures that he would be with the Princess."

Sparkle: "WILL EVERYONE STOP CALLING ME A PRINCESS?!"

???: "Enough of this! You, hand over the spirits! We need them for our plan."

Rina: "Why do you need us?"

???: "It's because of what that boy did to our supreme leader, seven years ago."

Mat: "No. The invasion. Not them again."

Rina: "You know these guys, Mat?"

Mat: "Yeah. They called themselves the Light Destroyers. I couldn't remember them 'cause of the armor."

???: "That's not all that's new. Check this out."

Each one of them held up an arm, and their claws morphed into a laser sword. They readied themselves for an intense battle.

???: "We are the Light Destroyers!"

???: "We crush all who oppose us!"

???: "We shroud worlds with darkness!"

???: "We show no mercy!"

???: "Prepare for the afterlife!"

???: "I think not!"

Brocko and his followers rose up from a portal nearby. Each one had their weapons out.

Mat: "Oh, great. Not these guys again."

Brocko: "Relax, boy. We're not after you today. These 'Light Destroyers' are interfering with our mission."

Airius: "Alright, you armored freaks, I'm gonna spill all of your blood, and slice up your remains."

???: "Yo, I don't know who ya are, but nobody talks to us like that, missy."

Airius: "WHAT WAS THAT YOU JUST SAID!?!?!"

Mat: "Oh man, if they start brawling, they'll destroy the entire city, and--"

Hanon: "TIME FREEZE!"

Everything went grey, and froze in place, except for Mat. Hanon ran out, wearing some kind of costume. It had padding covering the elbows, a long skirt, a big red gem on the chest, and was green and yellow. She waved her wand, and both Brocko's team and the Light Destroyers were warped far away from the city dome. She waved it again and everyone could move again.

Mat: "Wow, that's a new one. And what's with the new duds?"

Hanon: "Last time I had a body, King Tidus gave me this in case I had to travel for a long time. There's an outfit for each of the spirits."

Sparkle: "Oh. Where'd you send them?"

Hanon: "Who knows? At least it's a long way from here, right?"

The next day, back at the base, Mat explained about what happened yesterday, what with the Light Destroyers, Brocko showing up, all that kind of jazz. He noticed that Ryan and Maria weren't around.

Ray: "Those two are probably at the beach dome. They've been going there a lot lately."

Sean: "I think they go there to make out." *laughs*

Mat and Ray gave him an annoyed look, and Sparkle decided to head out again, when Rina stopped her.

Rina: "Hold on. Before you go, me and Hanon have something for you."

Hanon and Rina pointed at her armband and fired a small beam at it. Its black color faded into a crystal clear camouflage. The bad qualities faded with the color, but she still had her strength.

Hanon: "That cursed armband has been purified, for now. We need the last spirit to remove it,

though."

Mat: "Looks like you can breathe in water again, Spark. How about testing it at the beach dome?"

Sparkle: "Okay. Let's go."

The dome wasn't far from the base, plus there was a tube system connecting all of the domes for easy access. The best part about it was you could jet through them. The beach dome looked just like a regular seashore, with the seashack, waves, everything.

Sparkle: "Can ya just look the other way for a sec, okay?"

Mat: "Uh, sure."

He turned around, and Sparkle just snapped her fingers. The only thing Mat saw was a quick flash from behind.

Mat: (If she's doing what I think she's doing, I'm gonna lose it.)

Sparkle: "Reeeeady."

Yep, Mat was right. There she was, in a blue bathing suit. She also had these fin things sticking out from her arms.

Sparkle: "So, am I cute, or what?"

Mat: (Yep, I lost it.) *jaw drops* "...Mamma Mia."

Sparkle: "I'll take that as a yes. C'mon."

Mat sat down at the edge of the shore and Sparkle dove in. She didn't come up for a few minutes, but when she did, Ryan and Maria followed. Ryan hadn't changed, but Maria had a green swimsuit on. When they got out, Mat was at the juice bar, sipping on some iced tea.

Mat: "So, how did it go?"

Sparkle: "Look who I found asleep on the seabed."

Maria: *laughs* "Guess we lost track of time, huh?"

Ryan: "It feels great to breathe underwater. Aren't you coming?"

Mat: "No thanks. Besides, I just had a drink. ..., aw, the heck wit that. Let's-a go."

They had a great time, until Mat got chased out, by some familiar faces he helped.

Mat: "Aaaaaaaaah, crap! Not you rabid girls again!"

Yep, those mermaids he saved a while back found him again. (From Ch 23-24) This time, they found out how to turn human so he couldn't get away. Mat was almost at the base when they caught up. Luckily, he had enough sugar in his body to help him get away. Finally, he lost them in the city, near a dollar store.

Mat: *panting* "Whew, lost them."

Store Clerk: "You sound exhausted. What happened?"

Mat: "I just had rabid fangirls tailing me from the beach dome. Last time I saw them, I saved their town."

Store Clerk: "Well, that's a shocker. Not often do I see a hero walk in here. In any case, are you here to purchase something today?"

Mat: "Depends. What should I get this girl I know for her birthday?"

Store Clerk: "How old is your friend?"

Mat: "She turns 15 tomorrow."

Sparkle: "There you are, Mat."

Store Clerk: "Ah, Miss Sparkle, back again?"

Sparkle walked in, wearing her street outfit. Mat was about to cheese it again until he turned and noticed her.

Mat: "Oh, heh. For a sec, I thought you were one of those--"

Fangirl1: "There he is! Let's get him!"

Mat: "Ah, not again! See ya, Spark!" *runs away*

Fangirl2: "Stop running and marry me already!"

Mat: "Are you outta your mind?! I'm too young to get married!"

As a last attempt to get away, he unleashed his Air Board. Sparkle chased after them on her Air Skates. Eventually, she caught up and helped him escape to the base. Night fell when they got back.

Mat: *panting* "Sorry about... earlier. Those girls... have been... tailing me for a while... since I cleared their town's... monster problem."

Sparkle: *panting* "No problem. I'm gonna sleep in the tank tonight, save my energy for tomorrow."

Mat: "A tank?! Where?"

Sparkle showed him the tank out back. It was actually a fish tank that looked like a pool with a glass roof over it.

Mat: "Oh, that kind of tank. I thought you meant an army tank."

Sparkle: "They made it for Amy, but she sleeps somewhere in the beach dome every night."
yawns "Night." *jumps in*

Mat laid near the tank, looking up at the simulated night sky. Occasionally, he looked down in the tank, seeing if his friend was still asleep. The glass roof provided a clear view to the bottom, just in case something happened down there.

Mat: (Y'know, I never knew how cute she looks when sleeping. I don't want to leave her, but I have to. The score is me with two spirits, and one with the Light Destroyers.) *yawns* "I better get some sleep."

For some reason, he climbed into the tank and laid near Sparkle, probably because tomorrow was also the day he had to leave for the last spirit. While sleeping, he had a dream where him and Sparkle were walking through a forest. A temple rose up from the distance, covered in moss and vines. Above the entrance, there was a statue of Rina in spirit form, wearing some kind of armor over its hands. A saber-like blade stuck out from the armor. On the door, there was a giant green triangle. Near the temple was a cavern that shined like the night sky on the inside. Inside, Sparkle walked up to Mat, they laid down, and she hugged him.

When they woke up, him and Sparkle were hugging, just like in the dream. It felt nice, but embarrassing at the same time.

Mat: "Whooooa, that was freaky. Just like in my dream."

Sparkle: "Uh, let's not talk about this again, okay?"

Mat: "Deal."

Sean: "Heh, Mat, you sly dog, you."

Mat: "WHAT THE?! SEAN?!"

Sean: "Well, if you two are finished, Ray signed up all of us for the race, except for Hanon."

At the racing dome, there was a huge crowd waiting for the race to start. In this race, racers were paired up and had to share a car. Each race car had two seats, quality parts, and a wicked nitro booster. Hanon was over at the pit stop, in a cheerleading outfit, and the announcer guy from earlier was back.

Announcer: "All righty, everyone. We have now selected the pairings for today's event. Up first, Ray and Amy!"

Amy: "Okay, that's a shocker."

Announcer: "Our next pairing is Rina, and the youngest member of the rescue team, Maria!"

Maria: "Do you know how to drive one of these?"

Rina: "I used Mat's memories to take on this form, so I think I know how."

Announcer: "Sean and Ryan as our semi-last pair."

Sean: "Aw, man. Why didn't I get Rina?!"

Announcer: "And our last match-up, two friends that go way back, Mat and Sparkle!"

Mat: "Somehow, I saw this coming."

Announcer: "Now, I'll explain how this tag team system works. Each team has a driver and a passenger. The passenger shifts gears, works the acceleration and brakes, and can use the nitrous boost, while the driver just steers and avoids traps set on the tracks. Okay, enough talk. Let's begin!"

All the racers climbed in their cars, and Hanon walked out, holding the starting flag.

Hanon: "All right, everyone, I want a nice, exciting race. Ready, set, and....., GO!!"

Mat: "Now! Floor it!"

The race begun with a chaotic start, with Mat's car taking the lead, while Ray's followed closely behind. Amy shifted to a higher gear, and they pulled ahead.

Mat: "So that's how they wanna play, huh? Let's shift to a higher gear."

Sparkle: "Right. Let's see how fast this thing can go."

Mat's car caught up with Ray's. They were neck and neck when Sean's car pulled ahead, followed by Rina's.

Ray: "What?! C'mon, we gotta catch up!"

Mat: "Grr, there's no way I'll lose to them. No one will destroy my rep as the fastest person."

At the same time, Sparkle and Amy activated their nitro boosters. Blue flames shot out of their exhaust pipes as they boosted ahead. Ryan and Maria turned on their nitro boosters and caught up. Up ahead was a fork in the road. One path lead to a giant loop that worked as a shortcut, while the other one lead to a series of steel bridges.

Mat: "Hey, feeling like defying gravity again?"

Meanwhile, at the finish line, everyone, including Hanon, was watching the giant LCD screen. They noticed that the car Mat and Sparkle were in was heading for the loop.

Announcer: "I didn't think anyone was crazy enough now, but I've been proven wrong. You only get one chance to make it through the loop, and few have tried."

Hanon: "Come on, Mat. Show us the speed you're known for."

The other racers took the path with the bridges, but Mat was going to do it. He was going to ride across the loop.

Mat: "Spark, activate the nitro when I say, got it?"

Sparkle: "Okay. I trust you. I'll switch to the higher gear, just to be safe."

The extra speed was enough to get a great start on the loop. They had to wait until the time was just right.

Mat: "NOW! HIT IT!"

The boost was more than enough to clear the loop, but that wasn't all. At the end of the loop was a ramp. They flew off, and soared over the others.

Ray: "What?!"

Rina: "His car..., it's flying."

Sean: "Dude, he's gone cuckoo. You'd have to be completely wacked to try that again."

Mat: "Brace yourself! It's gonna be a rough landing."

Their tires almost burst open from the landing, but at least they cleared all of the turns. The others weren't going to lose like that, so they all turned on their nitrous boosters. All that was left was cross the finish line.

Hanon: "Ah, here they come!"

Announcer: "Wow! It's so close. It looks like it'll be a photo finish!"

They all crossed the finish line, but no one could see who won. The officials examined the shots taken very carefully. It took a while, so everyone could recover from the intense rush of adrenaline.

Sparkle: "Now I know why you didn't like go-kart racing. Next time, we'll have a beach party."

Announcer: "O-kay, I have just received the results from the officials. The winners are....., Mat and Sparkle!!"

Hanon: "All right, Mat! You won!"

Mat: "Hey, it wasn't just me. Save some glory for Sparkle, too."

The announcer handed them a huge trophy, which they held it up high. After the crowds left, Mat, Hanon, Rina, and Sparkle headed to the city dome's exit.

Mat: "Well, we have to go. I promise I'll be back, with all three spirits. I hope you've had a good birthday."

Sparkle: "I..., I have something for you, but it'll have to wait until you return."

Rina: "I'm glad to have met you, Sparkle. Be careful on your missions."

Sparkle: "I will. Good luck."

Mat: "All right, guys. This our last chance! The score is two to one. This time, it's all or nothing. Hanon, Rina, let's go!"

Hanon: "Yeah."

Rina: "Let's end this!"

Using the launch system in the exit door, the trio blasted back into the aquatic world. It was time to invade the Light Destroyers' warship!

30. Undead Region

Mat: "AW, NOT AGAIN! WILL YOU LEAVE US ALONE?!"

Yes, that pack of lovesick girls were after our hero again. No matter where they went, he kept getting tailed. Nearby, Sari was resting, until Mat passed by and noticed her.

Mat: "Saaaaaari! I could use some help here!"

Elsewhere, Maxi was checking around when he noticed a lot of shoeprints in the sand facing westward. Most of them had faded, like a strong current was following them.

Maxi: "Hmm...., these are Mat's. What's he up to now?"

He ran in the direction the prints were facing until they ended at a small, old house. Inside, Mat was trying to catch his breath again. Sari was there, too.

Maxi: "Yes! Finally, I found you, Sari!"

Sari: "Oh, Maxi. Uh, I can explain why--"

Maxi: "You don't have to. Our friend got chased by a group of girls, and you helped him get away."

Mat: "You... must be... psychic." *sighs* "Thanks for bailing me out, Sari."

Hanon: "There you are! We've been looking for you everywhere!"

Outside, Hanon and Rina were just standing there, looking quite ticked off. Behind them, the water around turned a cloudy green. Strange moaning voices surrounded them. Then, this very wrinkly figure walked toward them, and it had followers. Maxi pulled out his crossbow and shot one, but it kept walking.

Mat: "Ah, zombies! Let's get outta here!"

Rina: "Go! I'll hold them off."

Mat: "What?! Rina, you can't beat them. They're immortal."

Rina: "I feel it. They have dark spiritual energy. The same kind that ghost had."

Hanon: "Mat, get those two away from here!"

Mat: "Right! Good luck!"

Hanon: "All right, you undead freaks! Come and get me!"

As they ran, Twilight Stalkers appeared and surrounded Sari. Finally, something inside her snapped. She tore off the pendant and gripped it tight, summoning a card shooter, and a bunch of blank cards. She put it on her wrist and loaded the cards. One of the Stalkers fired a lightning shot at her, but she launched a card at it. They collided, but the card absorbed the attack and fired it back. It fluttered to the ground.

Mat: "Whoa! Remind me not to get her mad."

Sari went and picked up the card. It had a picture of the attack on it, and below it, there was an inscription that said 'Twilight Lightning'. She threw it, and it transformed into the same attack, wiping out the others.

Sari: "Wow, did I do that?"

Rina walked toward them, and she looked like someone tried to kill her.

Rina: "Guys, we have a problem. Those zombies grabbed Hanon and dragged her into an old tomb. I tried to stop them, but the entrance sealed itself before I could reach her."

Maxi: "Where is this tomb?"

Rina: "At a graveyard, straight through the miasma."

Mat immediately ran into the miasma with his sword in hand. His irises glowed a bright yellow, and he could see a huge amount of energy gathered at a big rock surrounded by a circle of tombstones. A large stone door blocked the way in. He jumped back, and fired his Courage Blast at it. The door collapsed and he rushed in.

Inside, the tunnel was pitch black. You couldn't see a thing. Mat's eyes hadn't reverted to normal, so he could see in the darkness. As he followed the energy, he stopped at a fork. There were three ways to go, and all three emitted the same amount of energy.

Mat: "Damn, which way do I go?" *sighs* "Guess I have to try all of them."

The left corridor lead to a big room with a black figure. It looked up, and shot at Mat. He slashed at it, but it warped back to where it stood, except this time, it became a copy of him, but its eyes were pure black.

Mat Clone: "Thanks for the body. Now, I'll take your life and allies."

Mat: "I won't lose to a fake!"

Mat lunged at the clone, but it warped and shot a black blast at him. It kept firing blast after blast, but Mat used the water around to dodge. Then, his Gravity Devices started sparking. They were only water-proof for a while, and he had been underwater for a long time. His shoes became electrified. The fake Mat charged at him, but Mat stopped him with a fierce kick. Upon the collision, the fake Mat got zapped and paralyzed.

Mat: "Electric power..., aw, yeah. Let's see how he likes this!"

Mat unleashed a flurry of powerful kicks and slashes. The fake Mat couldn't fight back because of the paralysis, and finally exploded. Tiny grey squares of energy burst from the explosion and disappeared. The door opened and the others rushed in. Rina had found a small key made of stone and fused it with one of Sari's cards.

Mat: "Oh, hey guys. Ya mind tellin' me what going on, and why my eyesight turned weird?"

Rina: "Your bloodline has been able to see the aura of others. This power, the Aura Sight, has been awakened in you, Mat."

Maxi: "That's why your eye color turned yellow."

???: "Aha. I have found you, Spirit of Courage!"

A black hand rose up and pulled Rina through the floor. This time, Mat was ready. He jumped at Rina and grabbed her arm, but he was pulled in, too. Two more hands grabbed Maxi and Sari, and pulled them in.

31. The Final Spirit: The True Enemy Appears

Sparkle: "C'mon, Mat! Let's go swimming!"

Mat: "Hey, Sparkle, wait up! Where are we going?"

Sparkle: "To Tidus Castle. I want to become a princess!"

Mat: "What!?! Wait, Sparkle! Don't--" *gasps* "Sparkle, watch out!"

Sparkle: "NOOOOOOOOOOO!"

Mat: "SPAARRRKLLLE!"

Mat woke up quickly. He was inside some kind of jail cell. He felt cold, and wet. Apparently, he was wasn't underwater anymore, but he was still in the tomb. His Aura Sight had vanished, and he could see normally.

Mat: "No...., Sparkle. I need to get out of here!"

???: "Thank god! You're awake."

A girl was sitting next to him. She had light brown hair, with long bangs, and ribbons that made her hair look shorter. (Sorry, it's hard to describe the hair.) She wore a white shirt with a red star, a jean skirt, and long boots, and she had brown eyes. (Can't forget the face details.)

Mat: "L-L-Luchia?! Okay, I'm still dreaming."

Luchia: "I'm afraid not, Mat. Like the others, I used your memories to gain this body and the name Luchia. I'm the Spirit Mermaid of Power."

Mat: "The Spirit of, wait, where're the others?"

Luchia: "The Light Destroyers took them to the deepest part of the tomb, and they stole my powers and my weapon. We have to rescue them, but we need to escape."

Mat triggered his Aura Sight, and the iron bars vanished, but Luchia could still see them. She walked up to him and just snapped her fingers. The chains binding Mat to the wall broke. He tore them off and walked toward the bars.

Mat: (Let's hope this works.)

As he walked, he passed through the bars. Luchia followed and smashed through the wall, leading to a small corridor. At the end of it was a red and yellow chest. Mat took out his sword and slashed the lock open. Inside was a sword with a blue blade that split into two blades, and a pink sphere that phased into Luchia.

Luchia: *exhales* "It's good to be back! Come on, I'll lead the way!"

She grabbed her sword and ran back to the cell. Mat kicked the door opened and Luchia ran ahead, with Mat close behind. Many zombies stood in the way, but with her sword, she cleared a path, and this time, the zombies didn't get up.

Mat: "Whoa, how did you..."

Luchia: "My Power Blade can cut through and repel darkness. It was forged for those who it deemed worthy."

After fighting through the countless undead, they found a big room with a large symbol on the floor, but more iron bars stopped them. Hanon and Rina were there, but they were in their spirit forms. Luchia transformed into her spirit form, and phased through them. Her spirit form was a glowing pink silhouette of a mermaid with two long pigtails. (I think that's what they are.) She pulled a lever nearby and the bars rose up. The symbol below them glowed a dark blue, and a figure in armor rose from the ground. Its armor was covered in crimson blood, with an old, shredded cape, and had a dragon skull for a helmet, to cover its face.

???: "Well, well. It's you again."

Mat: "I never thought we'd meet again, Taiga."

Taiga: "You thought wrong, boy. As you can see, I have a new body to house my soul, so I should thank you. These spirits you collected have activated the revival symbol we stand on now."

Mat: "So the tomb, the spirits..., I've been set up!"

Hanon(Spirit): "I'm sorry. I thought this room had been destroyed."

Taiga: "Now that I am free, I have no use for these spirits, or you!"

Mat: "So it's a rematch ya want. This time, we'll destroy your soul as well!"

All three spirits transformed back and drew their weapons (Except for, Rina, who still does not have hers yet). Mat and Taiga charged at each other, but the symbol blew them back, and six more beings flew out. The black light faded, and six fierce dragons appeared, each a different color: Black, Red, Blue, Yellow, Brown, and Green. Five of them warped away, and the other one snarled. Its black eyes shot a blast at Taiga, but he also warped away. Then, it turned toward Mat and the others.

Mat: "Holy Mamma-Mia! That thing's huge!"

Luchia: "We gotta take down that dragon! Ready, Mat?"

Mat: "Almost. Hanon, Rina, merge with me!"

With their combined strength, the two lunged at the dark dragon. It shot black flames at them, but Luchia held out her sword and cut right through. Mat circled behind it, bounced off its tail, and shot a lightning bolt with his new power. Luchia spun at it with a drilling motion. But the dragon whacked her away with its jagged arms, and shot black flames all around.

Mat: "This thing's more powerful than all those other damn beasts I destroyed. I've got no choice! I'm going super form!!" *pulls out the Aqua Star* "Luchia, get out of here!"

Luchia reverted to spirit form and flew out of the tomb. Mat gripped the star tight, and exploded into his super form. (Ch 4, if you forgot.) He stepped back a bit, and readied his ultimate move.

Super Mat: "LET'S GO! SUPER BLAST, DESTROY!!!"

His attack was a lot more powerful as the blast had blue and green spirals that added a fatal effect. The black dragon got blasted against a wall, and ignited into black flames. As a last attempt, it tried to and grabbed him. The dragon planned to take Mat with it, but the light he exerted was too much. It let go, and finally burned into nothing.

Super Mat: "Now to get out..., but how?"

The ceiling began falling apart. The battle was so chaotic that the room began to crumble. A red portal opened up nearby, and Luchia jumped out from it.

Luchia: "Hurry! The whole place is coming down!"

Mat reverted to normal and jumped in after Luchia. The portal opened up away from the tomb as it imploded on itself. Hanon and Rina phased out, and they felt weak from the battle. Something came from the portal. A small, black medal with a carving of a continent. From some reason, Mat felt depressed and sat down.

Rina: "Luchia, something's wrong. Mat is always proud when he defeats a huge monster."

Luchia: "It's about that dream he had. In it, his best friend, Sparkle, got killed. He feels like it will happen or has happened. He has to go back and protect her."

Mat: "You're right, Luchia. I have to go to Tidus City and prevent what might happen!"

32. Holocaust in the City

Tidus City was perfectly normal, until Taiga showed up. When Mat and the spirits arrived, the whole place was in ruins.

Hanon: "How...., how could he do this?"

Mat: "Last time we brawled, I was almost killed. He's very powerful." (I didn't think he was this powerful. I hope everyone evacuated in time.)

Mat noticed a big bow attached to light blue hair nearby, under a pile of rocks and bricks. Only one girl he knew had it: Maria. He shifted all the rubble and found her, with Ryan and Amy. All three had fainted, and they were seriously wounded. Mat held out his hand and used his Healer on them. Luchia ran off to find any others, while Hanon tended to the ones they found.

Rina: "I can't believe he'd do this! Mat, I..., I need to go and calm myself."

Ray: "Hey, Mat! We've got trouble!"

Ray lead them to a destroyed building nearby. Maxi was inside, but something was bothering him. He only felt this way if something had happened to Sari. What was worse was that the symbol on his hand was beginning to fade.

Maxi: "I swear to god that @^%\$@#% is going to die when I find him."

Hanon: "Mat, his aura is fading. We had to do something, fast."

Mat: "Yeah." *turns to Maxi* "Hey, Maxi. Whatever you need, I'll assist you, but I need to know what happened."

Maxi: "This armored guy kidnapped her. He's got Sari."

Mat: "What?!"

Maxi: "Not only that, he stole the sacred triangle I possess. It allows me to exist without you. Mat, you and I are one."

Mat: "What are you--"

Maxi: "You need to know this. I am you. A twilit you."

Mat was at a loss of words. Learning who he was shocked him.

Maxi: "Now, he's after some 'coruscate'. What was he talking about?"

Mat: *gasps* "No. He's after Sparkle! Guys, we gotta find her!"

Ray: "She's at the beach dome, but she doesn't know about the attack. Get to her side, Mat! We'll find the others!"

Mat: "Right! She's in danger!"

He raced off on his WindSurfer toward the dome. Luckily, the transport tube was still open. He found Sparkle at the water's edge.

Sparkle: "Oh, hi, Mat! C'mon, let's go swimming!"

Mat: "Spark, wait! We've got a crisis at the city!"

Sparkle: "I know. I want to prevent it, so I have to go to Tidus Castle."

Mat: "Wait, how come..., oh no, its happening. Sparkle, get behind me!"

Just like in the dream, a huge beam was fired at her. Mat intercepted with his magic shield and stopped it. Behind it was Taiga. He held an executioner's sword, and a large shield.

Taiga: "You again! Get out of the way, and give me that princess!"

Mat: "No! I won't let you near 'Princess Sparkle!'"

Sparkle: (They know who I am.) "Mat..."

Mat: "Get out of here, Sparkle! I'm ending this now!"

Sparkle: "No. This time, we fight as a team." *summons staff* "Princess or not, I won't back away."

Taiga: "With this new body, I will not be defeated. Come at me, heroes!"

Mat pulled out the Aqua Star and held it up, but Sparkle decided to join in by putting her hand on the star as well. A massive shockwave burst forth as they went super. This was the first time Mat had seen Sparkle in super form. Like Mat, her hair turned a golden color, except only the two tails in her hair rose up, and her eye color changed, but her's turned red, but unlike him, Sparkle sprouted angel wings on her back.

Super Sparkle: "Ready, partner?"

Super Mat: "Oh yeah. Let's go!!"

They flew at Taiga and readied their weapons. Mat circled around and unleashed a Super Spin from behind, while Sparkle went with a frontal assault. All that Taiga did was rotate once, and his sword smashed into them. Then he flew and started slashing at Mat. Sparkle pressed a button on her belt and she turned into a raging gold tornado and aimed at Taiga. BAM! A direct hit stuns him long enough for Mat to do a counterattack. The Aqua Star appeared and split into the seven shards that swirled around and paralyzed Taiga. Then he unleashed a fury of slashes

and sonic spins, with a devastating finishing blow.

Back at the destroyed city, everyone had gathered in the building when an explosion caused it to cave in. Outside, the Light Destroyers were flying around and demolishing pretty much anything in sight. Everyone got out safely, and in time to see their attackers.

Destroyer Red: "I figured there was some stragglers. Where's that green kid?"

Ray: "Why should I tell you?!"

Hanon: "Hmm....., AH, MAT!"

Luchia: "What is it?"

Hanon: "Those guys are a distraction. Mat and Sparkle are in danger! Luchia, Rina, we need to find them!"

Luchia & Rina: "Right!"

At the other dome, Taiga had stripped Mat and Sparkle of their Super Forms and kept trying to grab the exhausted princess, when Hanon and the other spirits came and smashed him with an Axe Kick. Mat absorbed all three and then his arms flared with a golden aura. He dashed at the stunned opponent and began a series of attacks. (Basically, he goes DBZ Burst Mode style on him.) Ray dashed in and joins the party with his flaming nunchuks and they create their own team attack: Tag Rush.

Destroyer Black: "Hey, the leader needs us! Come on!"

Taiga: "Don't worry about me. It's time! Do it!"

Destroyer Red rushes at and grabs Sparkle from behind, and escapes through a secret opening in the water. The other Destroyers and Taiga warped away to their warship. Mat chases after him with blinding speed, with Ray close behind. D. Red (Thought I'd shorten it) morphed his free claw into a machine gun and began firing at the two. Mat's rage triggered something inside, and he warped underneath D. Red and throws a strong Uppercut. Strong enough to free Sparkle and stop her captor.

Sparkle: "It's time. Mat, unleash your ultimate ability!"

Mat: "IT'S OVER, RED! DARK DESTROYER!!!"

His sword swung itself while he continuously tackled D. Red at light speed and ended with an explosion that completely eliminated him, armor and all. Just as Mat recovered his energy, Taiga grabbed Sparkle and warped back to the warship above. Him and Ray watched helplessly as it took off. Luchia and the others caught up a while later.

Luchia: "What happened here?"

Ray: "They did it. They got her."

Ryan: "No..."

Maxi: "They're... heading for.... Storm Peak! Mat..., chase after them!"

Mat: "I can't. But, we can!" *holds out left hand* "Maxi, I need you for this, so I'm giving you my sacred triangle!"

Hanon: "What?! If you do that, you won't be able to wield the Courage Sword anymore!"

Mat: "I know, but I have no choice."

Maxi approached him, ready to accept the triangle. Mat concentrated hard and released it, and the sword he carried faded away. Maxi was able to absorb it and return to normal, but this time, he was the one to carry the Courage Sword.

Maxi: "Thanks. And I know a way to repay you. Spirits, don't you have something to give your savior?"

Luchia: "Oh yeah. The Tidus Blade. With all three spirits, we can summon the legendary sword. Hanon, Rina."

The three reverted to their spirit forms and began swimming rapidly around Mat. A blue and silver sword with a sharp fin on the hilt appeared in his hand. It felt more powerful than the Courage Sword, and filled him with hope. With his determination, he jumped on a big rock and held up his new sword.

Mat: "All right, everyone. When we board that ship, show no mercy!!"

33. Spirit of the Heart

D. Black: "You're dead meat, buddy!"

Destroyer Black had tracked down our group of heroes, which they called themselves the Tidus Brigade, and started another chase. Apparently, he learned that D. Red got eliminated, and he was out for revenge.

Mat: "Man, this guy doesn't give up!"

Hanon: (We have to hold him off.) "Go! Me and Luchia will stop him."

Rina: "Not without me, you won't!"

All three spirits transformed and created a whirlpool around D. Black, allowing the others to escape. They were near a village when something flashed above them. A girl floated down, and into Mat's arms. Her body was covered by a silvery-blue light, which gave off a big energy pulse.

Ryan: "Who, or what, is that?"

Maxi: "A Spirit Heart. When a girl, or sometimes a magical boy, is on the verge of death, this entity forms. Sometimes, a Spirit Heart can save itself by absorbing its own physical body. But there's a catch to that."

Sean: "What catch?"

Maxi: "When the body is absorbed, the chances for finding the gate to the afterlife are greatly increased. Once past the gate, with or without the body, it's game over."

Mat: "Whoa! Hey, twilit me, you've got some explaining to do, but after we get to the village."

Mat dashed toward the village, keeping the Spirit Heart in his arms. He found an empty tavern nearby, and went in to dry off. (Whoops, better explain that. You see, each underwater town or village has a special generator that keeps water from flooding into any buildings, but allows merfolk to float around, just like when in water. Also works as a hydro-electric generator.) He placed the girl on a table and sat near her. A black-haired boy named Kyle walked up to them.

Kyle: "Oh, I can revive this girl for you."

Mat: "Really?! Wait, how?"

Kyle: "I built a revival machine to try and resurrect my mother, but I was too late. Problem is, it's got a few kinks I need to iron out."

Mat: "If ya want, I'd like to help out. I have a way with how machines work."

Kyle brought the machine he had been working on, while Mat grabbed some tools. When they got back, the spirit had woken up, and was sitting near the spot where Mat put her. Her eyes glowed with the same color of light. When she tried to talk, she spoke in a different language, but the only word she said in english was "Chi".

Kyle: "Do you know what she said, Mat?"

Mat: "I understood the 'Chi' part. Maybe that's her name. We'll find out after we get this thing running."

As they worked, the spirit kept watching Kyle, but then she looked toward the door. Luchia rushed in, and she looked pretty beat up.

Luchia: "Mat, we've got big trouble. Black's heading your way right now!"

Mat: "What?!?! I thought..., wait, where's Hanon and Rina?"

Luchia: "They're still out there."

Kyle: "Go with her. I'll finish the machine!"

Mat: "Right! Luchia, merge with me!"

The fusion with Luchia made his arms burn with a firey red aura. He summoned the Tidus Blade and dashed out. They confronted each other in the outskirts.

D. Black: "I guess you're ready to brawl. Why not before, boy?"

Mat: "First off, it's not 'boy', and second, I had to help a girl in need. Good enough for you, 'alien freak'?"

D. Black: "Bad choice of words."

His arms flared up with Hanon and Rina's auras. Mat then became enraged and charged at D. Black. Problem was, the Tidus Blade was heavy, and made swinging it difficult. But he fixed that problem with a Helm Splitter. (Those of you who own Twilight Princess know what I'm talking about.)

Mat: "Damn, this sword's too heavy for me! Let's finish this with super sonic 'fisticuffs'!"

D. Black: "Fine with me, except I don't have hands. I have claws!"

Kyle had just finished the revival machine when Mat slammed Black near the tavern and went in for a final blow. Black dodges at the last second, and they go into Burst Mode. (Super-fast DBZ fighting) All the townsfolk rush out just as Mat slams Black skyward, hard enough to release Hanon and Rina.

D. Black: "Whoa, this kid's got power. Just how much? I'll check with my power scanner.!"
gasps "IT'S OVER NINE THOOOOOOOUUSAAAAAAAANNNNNNNNDD!!!"

D. Yellow: "WHAT?! NINE-THOUSAND?!"

Destroyer Yellow materialized nearby and stopped Mat with his 'bulky' armor and tossed him downward.

D. Black: "Yellow, back off! This is my fight!"

D. Yellow: "Nuh-uh. Our leader has given us a new mission. No time to play with him!"

Yellow grabbed Black's arm and teleported back to the warship. Mat wanted to chase them, but he was badly damaged. Not severely, but too much to continue. Just then, that girl, Chi (I hope that's her name), ran up to and dragged him to the tavern. The others had gathered inside when they burst in. Kyle hooked up a few wires on her arms and legs and got the device ready.

Chi(?): "skgrnid dfdhgr eioxcf Chi."

Ryan: "What is she saying? I can't understand her."

Maxi: "It's a special language that only Spirit Hearts can use. It replaces any other language that person knows."

Kyle: "All right, we're good to go. Are you ready?"

She nodded her head as he pulled a lever. The light around her began to swirl and separate, then it burst into nothing. Her hair was still silvery-blue, but not covered with light, and she had a cherry red eye color. She also wore a pink swimsuit with a pendant of a waterdrop. She walked up to Kyle and hugged him gently.

Chi: "Hello, everyone. I am Chi. Thank you for returning me to normal, especially you, Kyle."

She spoke with an a voice of innocence, and rested her head on his shoulder. Sean was about to make a crude joke, but everyone shot him a mean look, telling him to be quiet.

Kyle: *blushes* "Hey, give some thanks to Mat. He found you and brought you here."

Mat: "Eh, I don't mind. Hate to say it, but I think she likes you, and I don't mean as a friend." (I wonder if Princess Sparkle feels the same way about me.)

Kyle: "Hey!"

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In the core of the Desert Temple, Dark Mat was ready to launch an assault against the Tidus Brigade when Dark Sparkle stormed in.

Dark Mat: "Does something trouble you, Princess?"

Dark Sparkle: "Yeah! Those Light Destroyers now have my light self, and those dragons I

locked up are loose! Do you know what would happen if all six dragons got defeated?!"

Dark Mat: "Sadly, I don't know. I never knew about the dragons."

Dark Sparkle: "Each of those dragons possesses a medal. If someone gets all six, the portal to the planet Hyrula opens, and that means they can find the Master Sword! Come! We're going to Storm Peak!"

Just as she opened the portal, one of the six dragons burst up from the floor. Its body was covered in stone armor.

Dark Mat: "Allow me, Dark Princess."

All it took was one blow to the neck to fell the beast. It ignited into light brown flames, and a brown medal flew into his hands. It had a carving of a continent on one side, and an 'R' on the other.

Dark Mat: "Very interesting. This medal has the land of Holodrum on it." *evil snicker*

.....

Chi: "Sure. I know where Storm Peak is."

Mat: "Think you can lead us there?"

Chi: "I could, but not yet. Until you reach the surface, the only way up Storm Peak is to swim. It's too steep to climb."

Mat: "And, how is that a problem?"

Chi: "I..., I can't swim. I never learned how."

Mat: "Hmmm...., I'll fix that problem for ya. We just need something that can float., wait here." *dashes out*

Kyle: "So, you need some cash to get a beach ball?"

Mat: "Yeah. It's so she can learn to swim. What's the currency out here?"

Kyle: "We use small gems that are triangle-shaped. Green ones are worth 1, blue are worth 5, yellow, 10, red, 25, and purple, 50. Then, there's the slightly larger ones. Same colors, but worth twice as much, and finally, the gold color. It's worth 1000 gems."

Mat: "Whoa! Didn't need a lecture."

Kyle: "There's a store nearby. The guy who owns it just got a big, green ball in. It costs about 75 gems. I'll give you the cash, but you gotta tell her I bought it, OK?"

Mat: "Fine."

Kyle gives him a few red gems, and he speeds off toward the store to get the ball. When he got back, he noticed Chi was on the roof, staring into space.

Mat: "Hey, Chi. How'd you get up there? I thought you said you couldn't swim."

Chi: I jumped up here. Don't you remember we're lighter when underwater?"

Mat: (Oh yeah. The whole 'buoyancy' thing.) "Anyways, I brought something that Kyle got ya."

Back inside, Mat handed her the ball, and she began inflating it. About half-way there, he held it halfway in the water, and let it fill a bit with water, then let her finish inflating it.

Chi: "Are you sure this will work, Mat?"

Mat: "Only one way to find out."

Chi held onto the ball as she walked out of the tavern. Then, the ball began to float, lifting her along with it. There was enough water in it to keep it floating, and to make sure it didn't keep rising.

Mat: "All right, now that you're off the ground, let's try something simple: The Flutter Kick. I show you how."

Mat jumps up and shows her how to do it. She follows him and tries to keep up. Later, he teaches her other swimming techniques he knew, including a Double Jump. At dusk, she was swimming just fine. She didn't even need the ball, but she liked it so much, she kept it.

Chi: "Thanks for teaching me how to swim."

Mat: "Sure. I got bored, and we really need to get to Storm Peak."

Chi: "Why?"

Mat: "Well, these guys that aren't from this world kidnapped my childhood friend, Sparkle. They have a floating ship that's at Storm Peak. Me and the Tidus Brigade are going after it to rescue her. Chi, don't tell anyone this, but Sparkle is actually a princess."

Kyle: "Hey, what's going on? I'm trying to sleep here!"

Mat: "Anyways, you'd better get some rest, Chi. I'll stand guard tonight."

Outside, Mat kept staring upwards, thinking about Sparkle. Last time, when Taiga captured her, he wanted the Ocarina she gave him. He looked at the blue gem on his special glove. He scrolled through the items he had obtained during his travels, but there was one item in the gem that he didn't find anywhere. He summoned it, but then recognized it. It was the Ocarina that Sparkle gave him.

Mat: (Now I get it. Taiga's trying to finish what he started. He still thinks Princess Sparkle has it.

But, why does he want it?)

34. Dragon Chase at Storm Peak

After preparing for the long road ahead, and grabbing some breakfast, our heroes, along with Chi, set out for the hazardous Storm Peak.

Mat: "Hey, Chi, grab on!"

Chi: "Why, Mat?"

Mat: "I've got a need for speed, and I need you to give me directions."

Hanon: "Hey, what about us?"

Mat: "I'll leave a strong current as I run. Just follow it, and you guys'll catch up."

Chi grabbed both of his arms, and was whisked away with Mat's speed. A powerful current formed as he ran, dragging the others as they swam. There were many beasts along the path, but Mat kept running, letting his current deal with them. They came to a stop at a chasm, and on the other side, the base of Storm Peak. Chi let go and swam upwards, but Mat decided to pull off a series of Double Jumps to ascend.

Chi: (Show-off.)

They found a smooth, flat spot at the shore to rest and dry off, but it was raining like crazy. Then, someone familiar fluttered toward them.

Mat: "Y'know, until now, I thought that Tidus Pillar was the only place above water. Weird, huh?"

Twilie: "Hey, Mat!"

Mat: "That voice....., Twilie!"

The tiny green ball of light with wings flew toward them, but a blast of wind shot her and Chi into the water. Above, one of the six dragons circled them. It was green with a dark green pattern around its body. The force of the blast, along with the impact had knocked out Chi. As she floated there, a blue dragon rose up from below and held her in its hand.

Mat: "Ah, Chi! Let her go!"

He pulled out the Aqua Star, but then Dark Sparkle rushed out from a portal nearby and shattered it back into the 7 shards. Luckily, he was able to snag the Wind and Water shards, but the other 5 flew in different directions.

Mat: "The Dark Sparkle?!"

Dark Sparkle: "Surprised to see me?"

The green dragon intervened by swooping down at them, but they moved out of the way. Mat noticed that the blue dragon was flying away with Chi.

Dark Sparkle: "Is she that important?"

Mat: "....., yeah."

Dark Sparkle: "I won't stop you, but don't you die on me. Beating you's my job."

Mat(sarcastically): "Just don't pick your teeth with its bones."

Mat knew he couldn't run fast enough on water, even with the Wind Shard's power, so he used the Water Shard to become AquaMat. In this form, his hair turned blue, his shoes were enhanced, so he could walk, or run on water, and he could shift water for all sorts of moves.

Mat(Water): "All right, dragon, it's on!" *chases the dragon*

The dragon turned around and shot blasts of water and ice at him, but he held out his hand and created a spiraling path that lead to its head and jumped at it with a long jump. The dragon let out a fierce roar that created pillars of water and shockwaves to trip him up. Mat bounced off the pillars and surrounded himself with spinning water. He launched himself at the dragon's arm, hoping to free Chi.

Mat(Water): "Let's see how you like my Water Jet!"

His Water Jet move connected, but didn't do much. He was able to keep up the attack until it let go of her. Mat stopped the assault to rescue her. Finally, she woke up to see Mat still chasing the dragon. He noticed an old tome with a blue cover in her hands.

Chi: "Ohh..., Mat, what happened to you?"

Mat(Water): "I'll explain later. Right now, I've got a dragon to destroy!"

Just then, Mat heard a voice in his thoughts. A glowing blue line had connected his mind with the dragon's.

Dragon: (He who holds the sword of the king, your determination to save the ones you care for, have earned you the right to face me in battle. We dragons of the elements were sealed in the underworld because we contained the way to the Master Sword.)

Mat(Water): (You mean, this was all a setup?!)

Dragon: (A test, to see if you could handle anything that is yet to come. If you and your group can best all of us, Hyrula will open its gateway. Now, to battle, young heroes!)

Chi: "Mat..."

Mat: "Hey, Chi. Ever wanted to brawl against someone?"

Chi: "You want me to help you?"

Mat: "No..., I want you to fight alongside me, as equals."

Chi: "Really?!"

A sword appeared in her hand, but Mat could not believe what he saw. It was the exact same sword he used to destroy Taiga. The dragon nodded its head. Chi opened the tome and used a spell that let her copy the Water Jet move Mat used and together, they defeated it. It spoke into their minds one last time.

Dragon: (Well done, heroes. I entrust the Labyrnna medal to you.)

The dragon burst into blue flames and vanished, leaving a blue medal. Once Mat touched it, he heard a beautiful singing voice. For some reason, his Magic Shield activated by itself, but this time, the swirling shield crystallized and attached itself to the gem on his glove. Even with the shield on his arm, his hand was still free, so he could use the other gem on his glove to summon his arsenal.

Mat(Water): "This song..." (Maybe I should use the Ocarina.)

He summoned his Ocarina and played the song a few times. As he played, his tunic changed color, from green to blue.

Mat(Water): "Whoa! My tunic! That song I played..." (Why does it sound so familiar?) "Chi, let's head back. The others should be at the mountain right about now."

Chi: "Okay."

When they got back, the others were waiting, but at the same time, Dark Sparkle had just got the medal from the other dragon.

Dark Sparkle: "Ah ha ha, that makes two Dragon Medals! Only four left to--"

Mat(water): "I think you mean two left."

Twilie: "Huh? I don't get what's going on."

Mat(Water): "Me, Chi, and the Spirit Mermaids have taken down two dragons, while she's bragging that her side has destroyed two dragons as well. Prove it by showing me your medals, Dark Princess!"

Dark Sparkle: "Here! I have the medals of the Earth and Wind dragons!"

Mat(Water): "And I have the medals of the Shadow and Water dragons!"

Dark Sparkle: "I see. I've got an idea. You and I battle! Winner gets all 4 medals. Win by disarming the other, got it?"

Mat: *reverts to normal* "A gamble, eh? Sure, I'm game. Just give me a few minutes."

Dark Sparkle: "Fine. Just walk into the portal when you're ready." *opens portal*

Mat: "Hey, Maxi, come here."

Maxi: "What?"

Mat: "Sorry, man, but I need my sword back. The Tidus Blade is too heavy for me."

Maxi: "Are you sure? You know will happen to me without it."

Mat: "That's why I have this!" *pulls out a card*

Maxi: "One of Sari's cards! How did--"

Mat: "I saw it on the way here. I figured if I bind you to the card, you won't need a sacred triangle anymore. Want to test my theory?"

Maxi: "Fine! But if I fade into nothing, I'll tear your mind apart!"

Maxi held out his hand, and released the triangle back to Mat. Then, Mat pressed the card against Maxi, and his picture appeared on it. Maxi stopped fading and felt like his old self again.

Mat: *gives him the card* "Whatever you do, don't lose it. Guard it with you life!"

Maxi: "I will. Now go and take her down!"

35. Braving the Dark Storm

(For the battle part, play SSBB: Final Destination music, and read slowly to make it more epic.)

After walking through the portal that Dark Sparkle opened, Mat found himself on an octagonal arena floating in space. He knew it wasn't real, just a battlefield she had created.

Mat: "Nice place."

Dark Sparkle: "Glad you approve. I created this with just a portion of my power. But, before we battle, how about we add to the wager, hmm?"

Mat: "Go ahead, lay it on me!"

Dark Sparkle: "Same rules as before, but if you should win, I'll assist you until we get Sparkle back, but in the event that I win, the Spirit Mermaids will belong to me. Also, falling off the stage and out of the field will be counted as a loss. Have we got a deal?"

Mat: *thinks about it* "Let's get this party started!"

Mat draws out the Courage Sword and charges up a Spin Slash, but she just stood their, unwrapping a ribbon she had on her arm. When he fired himself, the ribbon tied itself around him.

Mat: "Huh, what the?!"

Dark Sparkle: "Surprised? I command this cursed ribbon with my mind and it obeys. This is my weapon of choice."

She grabbed the ribbon and slammed him against the arena, and zapped him with black lightning that coursed through the ribbon to him.

Mat: "How... do I get... out of... this?" (Wait, the ribbon. It connects me with..., that's it!)

When he got some footing, Mat went into a horizontal spin, which released him from the ribbon, and launch a counterattack. He slams her upwards with a Somersault Kick, follows with a take-down vertical slash, and finishes the combo with his Courage Blast. After all that, she only had one bruise.

Dark Sparkle: "Bravo. You actually managed to damage me. You must have a high power level."

Mat: "Hell yeah, it's over 9000!"

Dark Sparkle: "What?! 9000?!" (Time to get serious. With a power level that high, he could destroy me.)

Dark Sparkle launches her ribbon at Mat's sword, and ties around it, then she starts to pull

hard. At the same time, he tries to pull hard enough that she'll let go. As they pulled, the ribbon snapped in two, and caused Mat to fall over, and Dark Sparkle to fall off and out of the arena. Without her, the field was dispelled. She layed there as he claimed the medals.

Mat: "Looks like I win, and you know what that means, Dark Princess."

Dark Sparkle: "Fine, but I'm not sticking around." *gives him a small harp* "Play this when you get on the ship. I'll help then, and only then!"

She just vanishes into thin air as everyone congratulates him, even Maxi.

Mat: "Alright, guys, enough. We'll celebrate later. Right now, we have a mountain to climb!"

Chi: "Mat, I'm sorry. I can't go with you."

Mat: "How come, Chi?"

Chi: "I, I don't think I'm ready for this. And even if I was, how will we get to the ship?"

Mat: "Oh yeah, I never thought about it. The only ones that could reach it are the spirits, considering my Gravity Devices aren't working right."

Kyle: "Maybe there's another way. Can I see them for a sec?"

Mat takes the devices off and hands them to Kyle. A few minutes later, he gives them back. They looked brand new. When Mat turned them on, by putting his heels together, he was able to fly again.

Mat: "Hey, thanks, man!"

Kyle: "No prob. Quick reminder, though. They need to be at full power to fly, and the longer you're airborne, the longer they take to charge. I've added a few more functions like Mid-Air Jumping, and--"

Mat: "Okay, okay, don't need a lecture. I figure them out myself."

Kyle: "All right, but I was getting to the good part. They charge as you walk, run or fight."

Mat: "Sweet! That'll help a lot."

Hanon: "We should get going. Let's head up through the caves."

Mat: "Okay. Hanon, Rina, Luchia, it's up to us now. Let's go get Sparkle back!"

Spirits: "Right!"

36. Volcanic Cavern

The caves inside Storm Peak were unusually warm and dry, but for some reason, it bothered Mat as him and the spirits explored. At the end of the first tunnel, they came across a magma pit.

Mat: "Well, that explains the heat wave in here."

Hanon: "I've seen this before. What kind of mountain is this?"

Mat: "A volcano. And by the look of things, an active one. Watch your step, girls."

As they walked carefully, one of Mat's crystals started flashing, and they heard Kyle's voice from it.

Kyle: "Hey, guys."

Mat: "Kyle?! How're you doing that?"

Kyle: "Special communicator. I slipped it under the crystal while you were sawing logs. I'm picking up some high temperature readings from your location. Where are you guys, anyway?"

Luchia: "An active volcano."

Kyle: "What?! A volcano?! I thought you guys were in Storm Peak!"

Mat: "Apparently, Storm Peak is a volcano. So, why'd you call, anyway?"

Kyle: "You'll need a crash course on those devices. There's a tiny dial on the left heel to switch modes. Turn it to Gravity Jump and then just jump. You'll go farther and higher, and it can be used anytime."

Mat turns the dial and takes a long jump over the pit. The devices kicked in and he soars over. The others went into spirit form and followed. Next up, a large room with a switch on the ceiling.

Kyle: "Now let's try the Mid-Air Jump. The amount of charge left determines the number of jumps possible. At full, you can do five high jumps. Think of this as double-jumping when underwater.

Mat: "Ooh, I'm gonna like this."

He only could do four, but was able to hit the switch. Some rocks from the wall poked out, making a ladder. As they climbed, the room began to shake, and magma flowed in from the previous room below. Mat summoned his GripShot and fired at the ceiling, and the others grabbed onto him while it retracted.

Mat: "I'm thinking you girls should stay in me for a while. It be easier on all of us."

Mat retreated them into his body and ran like crazy through a winding tunnel until he came across a gold chest. Inside was a gold bracelet with an reddish-orange jewel. When he placed it on his wrist, he felt a fire inside of him ignite.

Mat: "Hey, I recognize this. It's a Flame Bracelet. It makes the wearer stronger and allows them to use and withstand fire magic. Niiice."

Kyle: "Focus! Remember, you're walking in an active death trap. Hurry, and don't let those shoes touch the magma!"

Mat: "Why didn't you tell me that in the first place?!"

Mat transformed with the Wind Shard and ran up the cave wall. His feet moved so fast that they reached full power. He switched them to Flight mode and the boosters kicked in, giving him a huge speed burst. Enough to escape the rising magma. Firey boulders shot out with incredible force. One crashed and detonated something huge nearby. Taiga's warship fell from the clouds and crashed on the shoreline.

Mat(Wind): "Yeah! I found it! Watch out, Taiga! I'll end this charade and get Princess Sparkle back! I swear it on my very existence!"

37. The Doomship Raid

(Thanks to Lanayru, or Morgan, or Lanny, or whatever you wanna call her, I was able to start this up again.)

Taiga's ship had taken some major external damage and had crashed near Storm Peak, an active volcano surrounded by storm clouds. Upon crash impact, Sparkle was tossed out through a rip in the hull. Mat and the spirits had just come down from the summit when he noticed her. She ran over to him and quickly kissed him. To their surprise, he kissed back. Sadly, they knew this blissful moment wouldn't last. Taiga and his minions were still after the ocarina she gave him.

Sparkle: "I missed you so much, Mat!"

Mat: "I missed you, too. Every night, I couldn't sleep because I worried about you, Sparkle."

Hanon: "Um, I'd hate to spoil this reunion, but we're not finished yet."

Mat: "I know. Sparkle, go to the village near here and wait for me. I'll make sure Taiga regrets kidnapping you."

Just as they let go, a black crystal forms around her and flies to the warship. Then Taiga appears at the top, holding the crystal, and a bullhorn.

Taiga: "You think I'm just as weak as last time?! Well, you're wrong! During the time I was dead, I had learned about the forbidden spells of the mystical arts. But, in order to use them, I need the princess of this planet, and that ocarina!"

Mat: "SO?! ALL I WANT IS MY FRIEND BACK! YOU CAN HAVE THE OCARINA FOR ALL I CARE!!"

Taiga: "If you want her back, then come in my Doomship and get her!"

The symbol on his hand glowed brightly, and he went super, this time, without the Aqua Star. He flew at Taiga, but he warped back inside, taking Sparkle with him. Mat flew to the rip in the hull. But before he could go in, a familiar foe attacked him from the side. It was D. Red.

Super Mat: "What?! I thought I eliminated you!"

D. Red: "You really think I was finished with that attack back then?! You are so dense."

Super Mat: (Dammit, I thought I wiped him out last time. I need back-up.)

He pulled out Dark Sparkle's harp and played it. Then, she came out from a black portal nearby. Seeing her, D. Red fired a flare that summoned the other Destroyers. She just shrugged her shoulders.

Dark Sparkle: *yawns* "Only five of you? I'd better go easy."

Mat flew in and searched through every inch on the ship. On the inside it looked just like the inside of that tower in Egypt, only with more robots and different rooms. In one room, it looked like a luxury hotel room with a hot tub.

Super Mat: "Ohhh-kay, that guy's got some issues."

As he checked around, the whole ship began shaking. He looked out a window and noticed that the Doomship was rising back into the sky. As it rose, Mat's super form started to fade. Finally, he came to a different room that reminded him of that generator room from the factory. At the other end was Sari, but something was wrong with her. Just as he approached, a black figure shot down. It was the same figure from the tomb. This time, it had a black sword with the same shape as his Courage Sword.

Fake Mat: "Next time, actually finish me off."

It moved so fast that it couldn't be seen. It stopped right behind him, with its sword right at his neck. But then, something grabbed the back of its neck and had gripped it tight.

???: "Swing that weapon, and I'll snap your neck!"

Mat looked back to see a man with finned ears and a uniform clenching at the faker's neck very tightly. Elias had returned to help him. One of his arms revealed a blade-like fin sticking out. Mat used his free arm and jabbed his elbow into its chest, releasing him.

Super Mat: "He's all yours, Elias."

He mercilessly smashed it from all sides, and went DBZ on it. After a lot of beating, he threw the faker at Mat, who had charged up power in his sword.

Super Mat: "SUPER KAITENGIRI!!!"

His attack made it burst into those small black squares that vanished, but it had drained his super form and caused him to revert. He then rushed to Sari.

Sari(weakly): "Mat..., my cards,bond me with..."

Mat knew what she needed. To use a card and bond her to it. He pressed it against her forehead and concentrated hard. When he finished, she had been absorbed into the card, which was shown with a mystical picture of her on it. He stored it and continued searching the Doomship. They came to a dark room that looked like a huge battlefield. At the other end was Taiga with Sparkle.

Elias: "You! I thought you were destroyed!"

Taiga: "It's good to see some faces from seven years ago. I trust you brought the ocarina, boy."

Mat: "I told you! First, give back Sparkle!"

Taiga threw the crystal at them. Mat could see inside it, and he saw that she was unconscious. With a closer look, he saw tiny bubbles come from her mouth, then he checked her arm. The armband was black again.

Mat: "OK, THAT'S GOING TOO FAR!"

Elias: "Doing inhumane things like that..., I will show you NO MERCY!! Mat, take my sister and get off this ship!"

Mat: "Right! But remember, we need to get Maxi's and Sari's sacred triangles back."

Mat held the crystal tightly and ran to the deck. Elias turned to Taiga and ran at him swiftly. But, something shot at them. The Fake Mat stabbed Taiga, causing him to drop the golden triangles. It then held out two fingers, and rolled them back. A third triangle phased out from Elias. It then started to laugh.

Fake Mat: "Finally, I have them. I will make the Tidusian Triforce my own!"

Out on the deck, Mat stopped and released the Spirit Mermaids from himself. He then planted the crystal right-side up and pointed his sword at it. The deck was being pelted with heavy rain, making it easy to bore through as he pushed it into the hull.

Mat: "Spirits, grant me the power to release Princess Sparkle!"

Each spirit transferred light energy to the sword, and he fired a small beam that caused the crystal to shatter and release her. Water burst out as it broke. She just laid there, almost lifeless.

Mat: (She needs air. I've never done the 'Kiss of Life' before, but it might be the only way.)

Mat quickly started blowing into her mouth. He made sure to plug her nose so air couldn't escape.

Mat: (Come on. Breathe.)

She finally started coughing up water. He hugged her tightly and started to tear up.

Sparkle(weakly): "M..., Mat. Thank you."

Mat: "I'll always be there for you. But, right now, we gotta get off this ship!"

Sparkle: "Why? While I was on there, I was having a great time. These robots treated me so kindly. But it didn't feel right unless you were here, Mat."

Mat: "We'll come back soon, but first, we have to leave. Spirits, return!"

They phased back into him quickly. Just as they did, the fake Mat burst out, carrying the Tidusian Triforce. It stared at them with an evil grin.

Mat: "WHAT?! THE TRIFORCE?!" (I thought it was just made up. Wait, my symbol...)

The symbol on his left hand was exactly the same shape as the Triforce, except only the bottom-right triangle was lit. He had the same symbol that his favorite character, Link, had.

Mat: "Wait, he's got the full Triforce, so why do I have the Triforce of Courage? Something's not right."

Its eyes glowed, and caused an explosion that blew them off the Doomship, and made them plummet to the planet's surface below.

Fake Mat: "What'd I tell you? Finish me off before I escape. As punishment, I shall let you rot on the black world. Triforce of this world, send them to Dark Tidus!"

A black rip of time and space opened below Mat and Sparkle as they fell. He tried to turn on his Gravity Devices, but they fell through before he could use them. The rip closed as it laughed loudly.

Fake Mat: "See ya never, you lovebirds." *evil snicker*

38. World of Evil

Dark Tidus, a world without light, covered by clouds of restless souls that produced dark light. Dark light allowed sight, but was not actual light itself. The planet was almost uninhabitable, due to a curse. Mat and Sparkle looked around the barren wasteland that was the planet.

Mat: "So this is Dark Tidus."

The atmosphere around them made it sound like they were in a tunnel. Sparkle noticed he was still looking at the symbol on his hand. Then he asked her if he could check out her hand symbol.

Sparkle: "Is something wrong?"

Mat: "Uh-huh. If that faker has the Triforce, then why do we still have these symbols on our hands?"

Sparkle: "I don't know. But right now, we should find a way off this world. It's making me feel uneasy."

Mat: "Right. Maybe someone still lives here, and could tell us how to get off this rock."

Mat jumped down into the water below, but rose up quickly. He started coughing up water. Sparkle transformed into her mermaid form and tried, but even she couldn't breathe below the surface.

Mat: "Something's screwing with my body! I can't breathe underwater now!"

Sparkle: "Same here. Even as a mermaid, it won't let me breathe!"

They crawled out of the water quickly. Somehow, this planet stole the power to breathe underwater. Mat thought that they could never get back to Tidus. But, he remembered that Hanon and Rina allowed him to rip through time and space to return from Earth. He tried to call them out, but he couldn't. The only choice they had left was to find an open portal. They were about to begin searching when a yellow spirit appeared. It had the shape of a man wearing a majestic crown.

???: "Warrior of Courage, you and the Princess must go to the pillar, but the entrance is deep below the water's surface. I don't know how to reach it, but you must go there and climb to the peak. A portal will take you back and restore your powers. Good luck, heroes."

Mat: "Wait! Who are you?"

???: "I will reveal myself when the time comes. Farewell."

It vanished before he could speak. He noticed that something far away was sticking upwards.

The dark clouds parted around it, and something shined at the tip, like a beacon.

Mat: "Of course. That pillar, and Tidus Pillar are the same. This planet is the opposite of Tidus. The two are like a coin."

Sparkle: "You're right. Tidus gives us the power to breathe underwater, but this planet takes away that power. Even if opposite, they are still the same."

Mat: "If we go by this rule, we can navigate Dark Tidus easily. C'mon, to the Pillar!"

Both of them summoned their Air Gear (You know, Mat's board and Sparkle's skates.), and raced off to the pillar. They stopped on the island to try and figure out how to get inside. He flew around and tried to find a hidden switch, but an energy field forced him back. He flew higher and noticed a glowing white circle at the top. Even up there, the field stopped him. He descended to think of another way in.

Sparkle: "Remember, that spirit told us the way in was underwater. Mind if I check down there?"

Mat: "Ok, but be careful. I want both of us alive when we leave."

She took a big breath and jumped in. Luckily, her Star Pendant had enough energy left for a transformation. She surfaced about a minute later.

Sparkle: "It's open, but it goes even deeper when you enter."

Mat: "Great! Adds to the fun. Especially since we can use that 'thing' I stole from Taiga. But I need you so we can use it."

He summoned a pair of scuba tanks from his crystal that carried his other items, along with a scuba vest to carry them. Mat felt glad he had taken scuba lessons, otherwise he couldn't strap the vest on Sparkle and attach the tanks.

Sparkle: "It's... a little heavy."

Mat: "I know. Had a hard time with it when I first used one. Can't even float when wearing this." *prepares air tanks* "There. We're set. Now stay calm and breathe normally, and I don't mean through your nose."

Sparkle: "What if I fall down a bottomless hole, and drag you with me?"

Mat: *summons GripShot* "That's why I'll have the GripShot out. It's got a long reach. But, to ensure we make it, we better hold hands."

Sparkle: "Wait, what?!"

Mat: "It's not what you're thinking right now. I don't wanna lose you. Now come on."

She quickly held his hand and they jumped in. As she held it, she began blushing. Mat made sure not to rush through and wear her out. The entrance was a bit long, but with the GripShot,

they swiftly came to a room with a black chest. Inside was a large key with an eye carved into the handle. Mat placed it in a hole nearby that opened a door, but also turned on a powerful current.

The current was so strong, it literally swept them off their feet. Just as they were pulled in, he quickly grabbed the key. They were carried through a twisting and turning tunnel until they were spat out into the same room. But, in an area above the water. Sparkle felt relieved to breathe normal air again.

Sparkle: "Wow! What a rush!"

Mat: "Yeah! Cowabunga!"

Sparkle: "Um, can I take these off now?"

Mat: "Alright, alright, I'll un-strap you."

Finally, she could move again. Wearing those felt like lugging two giant bricks of lead on her back. As she caught her breath, Mat stared up through a large hole in the ceiling. A tile hung from a chain at the top of the hole. It had a weird pattern on it.

Mat: "Hey, Spark, grab my hand. I got an idea!"

She held it tight as he fired the GripShot at the tile and pulled them to it. The chain itself hung from the top of the pillar. The room they were in was the pillar itself. Sparkle felt the magical essence inside her grow, and her sandals began sparkling again. Her powers had returned and she could fly again. But for Mat, he couldn't fly yet, and there was no staircase he could climb.

Lucky for him, though, there were a lot of those special tiles scattered on the walls. He began tweaking with it so the arrowhead wouldn't open when fired then switched his devices to Gravity Jump. He started off with a high jump and fired at one of the tiles. He bounced off the wall and fired at another one, and kept repeating until they reached the top.

Mat: "That... was... sweet!"

Sparkle: "Wow. That was some nice acrobatics, Mat."

The peak of the pillar looked just like the peak of Tidus Pillar. They held hands once again as they walked into the light. A light blue crystal surrounded them as they rose up from the ground. As they rose, the king spoke to them from nowhere.

King Tidus: "Congradulations, young heroes. Princess Sparkle, now is the time to take your place as Princess of Tidus. Courage Warrior, you shall escort her through Tidus Castle until she obtains the Water Tiara. This is your final trial. But beware, for a yellow dragon is waiting for you there."

Mat: (The Light Dragon! After that, only one will remain. My trial is almost over!)

The crystal warped away, carrying Mat and Sparkle with it to Tidus Castle. Each one still held

the other's hand as the portal closed. Fake Mat watched closely through a crystal ball he found. At the same time, it kept tossing a red medal up and down.

39. The Ultima Dragon, Fakerai

The crystal that carried Mat and Sparkle from the planet of Dark Tidus reappeared at a beautiful, serene underwater castle. As the crystal faded, a faint light covered them for a second. Their breathing powers were restored.

Mat: "Hmm, looks peaceful. But why do I have this uneasy feeling? Sparkle?"

He forgot that her armlet was dark again. She had her hands covering her nose and mouth. Mat remembered that he needed all 3 spirits to remove the cursed item. He called forth the golden aura that he got by merging with the spirits, and grabbed the armlet. It slid right off, and Sparkle took a huge breath.

Sparkle: "Thanks. That was close."

Mat: "Anytime. Well, are you ready?"

Sparkle: "Almost. Just need the right outfit."

She activated her outfit's ability, and it turned from an Arabian/Street style, to a dress without the separate sleeves, revealing those fins on her arms. Just as she finished, a weird-looking fish swam up to her. As soon as she stroked it, it sprayed her with a white mist. Mat couldn't help laughing, but stopped when her eyelids felt heavy.

Sparkle(drowsy): "M-Mat...."

She collapsed into Mat's arms and fell asleep. He didn't complain, and carried her to the castle. As they progressed, the Twilight Stalkers showed up. This time, all the types of Stalkers they had seen so far were there. Mat ran through them and ran into a room that was dry. It looked like the inside of the castle was able to prevent water from entering, like in the villages from before. The room had many shelves of books and tomes. He placed Sparkle on a table nearby and browsed through the wide selection, hoping to find a way to wake her.

Mat: "Ah, here's one. 'Fish Venoms & Antidotes'. Let's see....., here! 'The Dream Flounder, will spray a cloud of sleeping solution that causes the victim to fall asleep. The effect does not last long, but will sometimes last for up to a year.' That won't do. 'Light magic can reverse the effect, but it will only work for someone he or she has a deep affection for.'" (Me and her have been with each other for a while, and I really like her.)

He tried to pull out the Light Shard, but then he remembered Dark Sparkle attacked the star and made it break into the seven shards again. Problem was, he only had the Wind and Water shards. He began browsing again for a light-attributed tome. He found one, along with a few others for the other attributes, even ones for Thunder and Ice magic. He flipped through the light tome's pages until he found a restoration spell. He chanted the spell in a whole different dialect until his palms glowed. When the light faded, Sparkle slowly woke up, still in a daze.

Sparkle: "Ohhhhh, wh-where am I?"

Mat: "By the look of things, a study hall."

Something smashed the door in two and the white beings from outside rushed in, and leading the charge was that faker again. Mat quickly drew his sword and summoned his Crystal Shield (Yes, it's still crystallized from when he played that song.), but another figure from behind slayed the Stalkers. The figure was a blond-haired man with a yellow vest, baggy pants, and wore a silver crown. His body was shaped exactly like that spirit they met on Dark Tidus. In one hand, he held a big, clear sapphire ring with crystal raindrops that circled a Triforce emblem. In the other, he held the Tidus Blade like it was light as a feather.

???: "This madness ends now, 'Fakerai!'"

Fakerai: "What?! No, my power!"

Upon hearing its name, the darkness around it scattered, revealing a half-dragon boy with a broad sword. Mat noticed it was holding two Dragon Medals, which meant Fakerai had slain the last two dragons.

Mat: "Sweet! Now we know who you really are, so there's no use pretending to be a dark me!"

Fakerai: "You may have identified me, but won't change a thing. I still have the Tidusian Triforce!"

???: "Wrong! You never had it in the first place! The one you have is the Earthen Triforce!"

Mat: "Wait, WHAT?!"

Fakerai: "That planet has a Triforce too?! Doesn't matter. I'll crush all three of you, then I'll find the Tidusian Triforce!"

???: "You have to go through me as well!"

From behind, Elias burst in, but not before Fakerai underwent a powerful transformation. As he transformed, the Dragon Medals that Mat held flew right into him. He let out a ferocious roar as his transformation ended. In Fakerai's place was a huge crimson dragon with razor-sharp blades for claws and wings of black.

Dragon Fakerai: "At last, I have the ultimate power of this planet. No one, not even Taiga, could match the power I possess. Perhaps I shall go pay him a visit."

Fakerai flew upwards and drilled through the palace roof. As it rose into the skies, the whole place began to shake.

Sparkle: "What's going on?!"

Mat: "It's an earthquake!"

Elias: "King Tidus, is it finally happening?"

King Tidus: "Yes, Elias. Now that a Triforce is tainted by evil, the planet it's on will implode, and destroy everything in its atmosphere."

Mat: "So that's it?! We just stand here and wait for our deaths?!"

King Tidus: "No, there is a way to stop it. A strong energy spike may calm the planet's core. But even with just our power alone, it won't be enough."

Elias: "That's why I have these."

Elias pulled out the five Aqua Shards that Mat didn't get a hold of when they scattered. They combined all 7 shards and revived the Aqua Star again.

Elias: "Go into your Super Form first, then use the Star. It should cause a massive power spike, enough to stop the implosion!"

Sparkle: "I'll stay down here and help out the king. It's all up to you now!"

Mat: "Thank you, everyone. I'll show him that the planet, no, the galaxy sides with us."

Mat charged his power until he went super, then he evoked the Aqua Star's power to make his ultimate transformation: his Cosmic Form. In this form, his hair flared upwards and flashed in seven colors, his tunic turned pure white, and the Courage Sword's hilt literally spread its wings to its fullest length. He flew upwards at the speed of light to confront Fakerai. As he rose, he saw black and crimson clouds block out the sunlight.

Dragon Fakerai: "So, you have a new form. I'll still kill you easily."

Cosmic Mat: "Hmph, you actually think you can defeat me, by transforming into a monster?!"

Mat began with a super-fast Flying Kick that launched Fakerai, and follows through with a Wolverine Multi-Kick and Super Spin Slash, and a real powerful Uppercut to the jaw. It recovered quickly and sent out shockwaves by slashing at Mat. As the battle raged on, the earthquake started to calm, but it still wasn't enough.

Sparkle: "No, the energy spike isn't high enough! I'm going up there!"

Elias: "What?! Don't you know how strong that thing is?!"

Sparkle: "I taken down monsters almost as powerful as that. I even knocked out Dark Mat by myself!" *goes super* "Princess or not, I won't wait around!"

Sparkle flew up to join the fray, with her new Wisdom Bow. It looked like two silver wings connected by a long golden handle. When she readied an arrow, a bowstring of magic formed so she could fire. Her arrow flew a lot faster than before and struck Fakerai's blade claws, breaking them in half. Mat looked at where the arrow came from and noticed Sparkle was there.

Cosmic Mat: "Sparkle?!"

Super Sparkle: "This is my battle, too! I won't let anyone like Fakerai destroy Tidus! It's my duty!"

Dragon Fakerai: "Enough! I shall end this now!"

He summoned a huge black energy ball from nowhere and super-charged it until it was three times his size. Sparkle rushed to Mat's side as he gathered power in his sword for his most powerful energy blast. She charged up an arrow and also gathered power for the arrow. It was all or nothing from this point.

Dragon Fakerai: "NOW! FIRE!"

Super Sparkle: "SUPER ARROW! GO!"

Cosmic Mat: "COSMIC IMPULSE!!!"

All three of them launched their attacks at the same time. Sparkle's arrow fused with Mat's ultimate blast and collided with the black energy ball. It was all up to Mat now. If he failed to keep up the attack, they and everything would be obliterated. He started to weaken from the attack, but he kept it up. But then, Sparkle grabbed onto his hands and poured all her energy into his Cosmic Impulse.

Super Sparkle: "No matter what, I will fight with you, to the end!"

Cosmic Mat: "Sparkle..."

Super Sparkle: "Now let's save the planet, together!"

Cosmic Mat: "Together!"

They let out a loud battle cry as they gave the Cosmic Impulse one final boost that destroyed the black energy ball and engulfed Fakerai. They then flew into the blast and delivered the final blow that completely destroyed the dragon, and released the Earthen Triforce and the Dragon Medals. Mat flew up to and touched the Triforce.

Cosmic Mat: "Now! Triforce of Earth, grant my wish! Separate and return to those who first obtained you!"

The golden triangles broke apart from each other and flew away. At Storm Peak Village, Maxi was staring upwards, watching the clouds from above fade. A golden light then shot into his hand, and his Courage symbol returned. At Tidus Castle, Elias let out a relieved sigh as his Triforce of Power returned. Sari emerged from her card, which Mat left at the castle before going cosmic, and let herself regain her Triforce of Wisdom. Mat and Sparkle returned to the castle for her coronation. Everyone from the Tidus Brigade, including Chi and Kyle, came for the ceremony.

King Tidus: "Sparkle, for your desire to keep our world safe and your will to oppose the evils

that have and will come, I hereby name you, Sparkle, Princess of Tidus!"

Sparkle: "Thank you for this honor, King Tidus. I will not let you down."

Everyone cheered as she put on the sapphire ring, the Water Tiara, to complete her coronation. Outside the castle, Mat, Princess Sparkle, the others were venturing back to Storm Peak Village, while Elias headed for the Doomship, which he captured from Taiga and his minions. He had re-named it, the Brave Explorer.

Mat: "So, now what are you going to do, now that you're a princess?"

Sparkle: "This."

She goes up to and kisses him on the lips, and he kissed back. Ray started to laugh, and the others joined in the laughter. But, Mat didn't care about why they were laughing and hooting. They had saved the world, but their adventures weren't over yet. But for now, they could live a normal life!

40. Hyrulian Journey Preview

WARNING: SPOILERS FOR NEXT STORY

Hey, it's Mat again. Next time, me, Princess Sparkle, Ray, the Spirit Mermaids, and Amy go to the last place you'd expect us to go: Hyrule. I was able to restore the place with the Dragon Medals, and Hyrule was part of a planet called Hyrula. And now I get to meet my favorite hero: Link.

We even get to go to other lands like Labryнна and Termina, and meet a new member of the team: Rachel. But there's trouble in Hyrule, especially since I get infected with twilight and turn into a Shadow Beast hybrid.

You don't want to miss this exciting new quest, so be ready for it!

New Features for each character:

Mat- New forms, new powers, Class change, uses wind, fire, water, and light magic

Sparkle- Class change, new powers, uses water, and light magic

Ray- New form, new weapon, uses fire, and dark magic

Amy- New outfit, gets a weapon, uses earth magic

Luchia- New outfit, uses thunder magic

Hanon- Uses higher level magic

Rina- New outfit, gets her weapons, uses ice magic

This time, for villains, I'm going to focus more on Dark Mat, since the third story will be his last.