

### Chapter 3: Christopher's Real Test

The next morning, Christopher got up and got ready for today's training session with Maxelle and Iris.

Christopher: Are you just about ready to go, Lisa?

Lisa: Yes.

Christopher sees that Lisa was in her bedtime attire.

Christopher: It sure doesn't look like it. Did Maxelle give you some more clothes yesterday?

Lisa: She did, but I like these a lot better than those jeans; they're way too tight for me.

Christopher: I see. But other than that, be very cautious of the men at the gym. I wouldn't want to use my Raiken powers on them just by looking at your figure.

Lisa: What about my figure?

Christopher: Never mind. Just try to steel yourself from these creeps at the gym; I don't want to be responsible for them hitting on you.

Lisa: (felt disgusted.) Ok. Let's go there.

Christopher and Lisa drove off to the gym nearby Lubbock's city limits. As they entered, Christopher was surprised to see women at the gym. He was the only guy at the gym.

Christopher: Well, this is a surprise.

Lisa: I guess I don't have to steel myself, then.

Christopher: Ok, you win, Lisa.

Christopher sees Sophie Cage on some handlebars and she was doing pullups in her workout attire. She was wearing a two-colored leotard that slightly revealed a bit of her cleavage.

Sophie: Christopher, what a surprise. What are you doing here?

Christopher: I came here to see Maxelle and Iris. Where are they?

Sophie: They're in one of those private rooms, over there. They're in Room 3.

Christopher: Ok, thank you very much, Sophie.

Christopher left Sophie and turned the other way in disgust. He and Lisa went to room 3.

Lisa: What's wrong with you?

Christopher: Nothing. I'm glad I made here. (sees that Maxelle and Iris weren't here.) Where's Maxelle and Iris? They're supposed to be in this room.

Lisa: Just try to relax; they'll be here.

Christopher: Alright. (sits Indian style.)

After a minute, Maxelle, Iris, Wendy and Avi arrive at the room. Maxelle and the others were in their workout attire.

Maxelle: Welcome, Chris. We weren't expecting you to come this early.

Christopher: What took you guys so long? I'm sorry I asked.

Iris: It's fine.

Christopher: How long are we going to train here?

Wendy: Two hours – at least.

Christopher: Two hours?!! Who trains for that long anyway?!

Maxelle: You'd be surprised. Anyway, that's how I was able to lose some weight; I was a plus-size model like your familiar. It was through that training regiment I was able to become a demon hunter.

Christopher: I'm slim. Anyway, how are we going to start this training session?

Iris: Try fighting against me.

Christopher: What?! Are you crazy?!! There's no way; my father told me that I can't fight girls. Who do you think I am?

Iris: What's the matter, Chris? Chicken?

Christopher: Alright, I'll do it. I have been learning boxing and judo; but don't blame me when you get hurt, Iris. I'll try not to use my Raiken powers against you.

Wendy: You don't have to. It'll be a two-minute full contact fight. So, are you two ready to fight?

Christopher and Iris ready their stances.

Wendy: Fight!

Christopher was waiting for Iris to make her move – trying to find something that would break her defense. But he couldn't find any open areas in her stance.

Iris: I guess you really are a chicken; aren't you, Chris?

Christopher: My name's Christopher!

Iris: Whatever. If you're not going to come after me, I will.

Iris came at Christopher fast. He was able to dodge her attack at a split second. Then they fought. Christopher was trying to gain the upper hand against Iris but she was able to see where Christopher was going with his attacks. Christopher was able to get one punch in but Iris caught him in a flying triangle choke before he could maintain his offensive momentum. Iris was crushing his neck with her thighs.

Iris: Ready to give up?

Christopher: No! I'm not done!

Wendy: Time!

Iris lets go of Christopher.

Christopher: Why did you stop? I could have broken free from that hold!

Maxelle: (nods her head.) Not really. You were underestimating her. If you would have tried to break free from that hold, you would have been dead.

Christopher: (felt upset.) Just like that? Damn, you demon hunters are strong.

Wendy: Try not to feel too badly about it. We going to have Sophie come in here to help you with our training session.

Christopher: Is she a demon hunter?

Iris: Nah, she's a demon detector. She can be of some use to you later on for our training session.

Wendy: Ok, we're going to have a fifteen-minute recess. Go on ahead and hydrate yourselves.

Christopher and Lisa went out Room 3 and went to get some Powerade.

Lisa: What is that you're drinking?

Christopher: Powerade; it has electrolytes and a ton of potassium. The same as eating a banana but sweet to the taste. Want to try some?

Lisa: I'd be happy to.

As she drank some, her hair began to rise.

Lisa: What is it?

Christopher: (laughs.) Nice hair, Lisa.

Lisa: Oh my. What is this?

Christopher: I guess it must be my Raiken powers reacting to your static. (thinking silently.) So that's what it is? It seems like my Raiken powers are getting a small boost with this Powerade. I guess that's going to be my new drink. (speaks.) Ok, Lisa. Break time's over.

Lisa: Are you going to be alright with this endurance training Maxelle's having with you?

Christopher: I'm going to have to be alright with this – if I want to protect you and the others. It shouldn't be a problem.

Lisa: Christopher.

After two hours, Christopher and Lisa returned to the apartment complex. Christopher was tired beyond belief.

Christopher: I didn't know that these demon hunters had a brutal training regimen. It's really taxing for me to do this for two hours. I can't believe that I had to fight Maxelle and

Iris at the same time. I also had to do pushups with those two and Sophie on my back. That was really gruesome. How come you didn't do anything?

Lisa: Wendy and Avi taught me how to use magic and I had to do some weird armbar stretches with them holding me.

Christopher: Well, at least you have the endurance to do that.

Lisa: I can be agile when I want; I am a cat, after all.

Christopher: Thank goodness for Blue Buffalo.

Christopher goes to the fridge and sees if he had any swordfish fillets or chicken breast for lunch. It was all gone.

Christopher: Figures. It seems like I'm going to have to go get some more fillets and breasts for lunch.

Lisa: Breasts?

Christopher: Try not to worry about it too much. Just need to stop by the butcher shop and get some chicken breasts and swordfish fillets.

Lisa: I see. When are you going to get my clothes?

Christopher: It should be in tomorrow in the mail. Anyway, would you like to come with me to the butcher shop so you can see these delicious cuts of meat?

Lisa: Yeah.

Christopher: Good. Let's go.

Christopher and Lisa drives to the butcher shop called Salaam's Prime Butchery. It was owned by an Indian man named Abdul Salaam and along with him were Allison Mayberry – the cashier and Jasmine Salaam, Abdul's daughter. Abdul was the butcher. When they arrived, Lisa was amazed to see the different cuts of meat that were on display at the shop.

Jasmine: Seems amazing?

Christopher: I think she's delighted in looking at those cuts of meat.

Then, Allison appears. She's in her fourth month of her pregnancy.

Allison: How may I help you two, today?

Christopher: Yeah, I would like six swordfish fillets and six chicken breasts.

Allison: Will that be all for you?

Christopher: Yes, ma'am.

Allison: That'll be sixty dollars and forty-four cents.

Christopher gives Allison sixty-one dollars. Allison gives him fifty-six cents.

Allison: Please wait while we get your order ready.

Christopher: Thank you.

After a few seconds, Christopher hears someone screaming outside.

Christopher: What was that?

Lisa: (senses demonic energy.) There are demons outside.

Christopher: I know that. (he sees that Koya was being threatened by them.) Shit. Koya's in trouble; let's go over there and help her.

Outside, the four demons were eyeing in on Koya; they were low-leveled demons affiliated with Ogra.

Koya: What do you want from me?

Low-Level Demon Boss: other than those double-ds you have, I would like to feast on your soul.

Low-Level Demon #2: Nah, I would rather feast on those double-ds, boss.

Low-Level Demon Boss: Hey! Whose side are you on? Anyway, it doesn't matter; let's do this.

Christopher arrives just in time.

Christopher: You're not feasting on anyone's soul today, demons.

Low-Levelled Demon #3: Who the hell are you?

Koya: Christopher? Why are you here?!

Christopher: It should be obvious; I'm here to save you from these heathens.

Low-Levelled Demon Boss: (getting angry.) You have some nerve calling us that. I guess you must have some balls rushing in to your death, this afternoon, fool. (laughs.)

Then, the other demons were laughing at him.

Christopher: (getting mad.) Fools!! You're the ones that are going to die!!!

He activated his Raiken powers and then it fizzled out.

Christopher: What? Oh no.

Low-Levelled Demon Boss: Hmm, it seems like this man's a Raiken. I don't know who you are, but you picked the wrong demons to impose your will upon. (speaks to the other demons.) Get him.

Christopher tries to activate his Raiken powers to fight them off. But before he could, someone threw a butcher knife at the demon that tried to approach Christopher. It was Abdul. He killed the other demons but the leader of the low-levelled demons ran away.

Abdul: Are you alright, you three?

Koya: Yes, I'm fine.

Christopher: I can't believe this. How were you able to find out that those four were demons?

Abdul: Jasmine and I were demon hunters. It seems like you're a demon hunter, as well.

Christopher: I am, but I training to become one.

Abdul: Well, you need to train hard to control those Raiken powers you possess; and try not to make this a habit.

Christopher: I'm sorry, Mr. Salaam. I'll try to keep this from happening again.

Abdul: So, do you want your fillets and breasts?

Christopher: Yeah. Thanks. (sees Koya.) I'm sorry for what happened.

Koya: It's alright. (sees Lisa.) Who's this woman you got with you?

Lisa: I'm Lisa and I'm Christopher's - - -

Christopher: Sister.

Koya: Sister? It thought you had Ruth as a sister.

Christopher: Well, I have an extended family; it's way too complicated. I have to get going now. I wouldn't want my order to run dry; I'll see you this weekend for the game meet. Bye.

Koya was curious who Lisa was and was also curious that Christopher was a Raiken. Christopher and Lisa got the swordfish fillets and chicken breasts and then returned home.

The next morning, Christopher got up early in the morning and went to the gym on bike without Maxelle, Lisa and Iris noticing. When he arrived, he immediately when to Private Room #3 to do his private training on activating his Raiken powers. He was listening to fusion but that ended up shortening out the music player.

Christopher: That worked out well. I was wrong to pick up Dave Weckl's Hard-Wired album. (feeling upset.) I have to find out a way to active those Raiken powers without getting mad. It's going to cause these people here a lot of trouble.

???: You're doing a great job trying to control it, but you're going about it the wrong way.

Christopher: Who's there?

Christopher turns around and sees that it was his big brother, Leonard Mason.

Christopher: Leo? What are you doing here?

Leo: It should be obvious. How's the training going?

Christopher: Well, so far, it's going well. I never would have thought that those demon hunters would have to train for two hours straight. That's murder for me.

Leo: I feel your tears. But just try to train harder; as you are right now, your powers are too sporadic to take on Ogra.



Christopher: Ogra. Who's is that thing?

Leo: He's a demon and the demons you fought against the other day are affiliated with him. According to the council's record, he's dangerous he has earthly powers and not to mention he breathes fire, as well.

Christopher: Just like a dragon? I'm sorry to say this; but, how can I activate my Raiken powers, Leo? I want to help you fight against him.

Leo: Harden your resolve. If you can do that, you may have a shot of facing him and his other minions. That's all I have to say; goodbye.

Christopher: Bye, Leo.

Leo leaves the gym. Christopher took his words into consideration. After Christopher got through at the gym, he rode his bike home and it was raining.

Christopher: It would have to rain, this morning.

Christopher sensed demon energy nearby. It was the demons from the other day; this time he brought five low-leveled demons with him.

Low-Leveled Demon Boss: Well, if it isn't the Raiken from the other day.

Christopher: What do you want? If you want Koya's breasts to feast on, you're out of luck. You'll never find her.

Low-Leveled Demon #2: That's why we're going to beat you to death first. Feel like talking now?

Christopher: Screw yourselves, jerks.

Christopher rode his bike away from the demons and he was luring them southwest, outside Lubbock's city limits. He was trapped in the back alley.

Christopher: Oh no.

Low-Leveled Demon #3: Looks like you've hit a dead end, pal.

Christopher: Stay away from me. I'm warning you!!

Low-Leveled Demon Boss: Get him!

Christopher's resolve was strengthened and his Raiken powers awoke. He used the Lightning Liberation Wave to electrocute the demons to death. The leader tried to run away but was caught by Christopher and got electrocuted to death.

Christopher: So, that's what it was? I just had a weakened resolve.

???: I guess so. See, I told you that you had your Raiken powers under control, Christopher Mason.

Christopher: Who's there? (sees that it was Raiya.) You.

Raiya: Thanks for finally understanding your Raiken powers; I will return to you when you completed the 2<sup>nd</sup> phase of your awakening.

Christopher: 2nd awakening? What do you mean?

Raiya disappears.

Christopher: . . . . .

Christopher rode back to his apartment – tired beyond belief. He sees that Lisa, Maxelle and Iris were awake.

Lisa: Where have you been?

Christopher: I've been doing some soul searching with my Raiken powers and defeated some demons.

Lisa: Are you alright?

Christopher: It's fine; just need to rest. (falls out.)

Lisa: Christopher! (comes to him and cries.)

Maxelle and Iris saw that his resolve was strengthened.

Iris: So, he met his brother at the gym?

Maxelle: I guess so. He got a word of encouragement from Leo.

Iris: It should be a good thing for him and Lisa.

Maxelle: For Ogra's defeat, I hope his hardened resolve will be good enough.