



NINJAGO™

Masters of Spinjitzu



DARK ISLAND

TRILOGY—PART 2



A dramatic illustration of a volcano erupting. The volcano is dark and jagged, with bright orange and yellow lava flows cascading down its slopes. A massive plume of dark smoke and ash rises from the crater into a dark, stormy sky. Several bright, fiery streaks, possibly meteorites or volcanic projectiles, are seen falling from the sky. The foreground is filled with dense, green foliage. The title 'DARK ISLAND' is prominently displayed in the center, rendered in a bold, white, distressed font with a black outline.

DARK ISLAND



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The LEGO logo is in its standard red square with white lettering.

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DARK ISLAND

TRILOGY—PART 2

STORY BY GREG FARSHTEY + ART BY PAUL LEE



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MASTER WU

THIS WISE, OLD MAN IS THE MENTOR OF THE CHOSEN NINJA, AND THE FIRST SPINJITZU MASTER'S SECOND-BORN SON. HE IS GARMADON'S YOUNGER BROTHER, MISAKO'S BROTHER-IN-LAW, AND LLOYD'S PATERNAL UNCLE.

KAI

KAI IS SOMETHING OF A HOthead, WHICH IS FITTING, SINCE HE COMMANDS THE ELEMENT OF FIRE. HE IS THE SON OF A BLACKSMITH AND IS NYA'S BROTHER.



COLE

COLE IS A VERY CALM AND INTELLIGENT MEMBER OF THE NINJA. HE COMMANDS THE ELEMENT OF EARTH, GIVING HIM GREAT PHYSICAL STRENGTH AND DURABILITY—EVEN IF HE HAS BEEN TURNED INTO A LIVING GHOST.



JAY

ALWAYS TELLING JOKES, JAY IS THE MOST LIGHTHEARTED OF THE NINJA. HE CAN HARNESS THE ELEMENT OF LIGHTNING TO CREATE A SPINJITZU TORNADO OF PURE ELECTRICITY. ONLY HE AND NYA REMEMBER THE BATTLE AGAINST THE EVIL DJINN NADAKHAN.





LLOYD

LLOYD LOVES HIS FATHER, GARMADON. ONCE, THIS ALMOST DROVE HIM TO EVIL, BUT HIS INHERENTLY GOOD NATURE INSTEAD LED HIM TO JOIN THE NINJA AND COMMAND THE ELEMENT OF ENERGY. NOW HE IS TRYING TO BUILD A BETTER RELATIONSHIP WITH HIS MOTHER, MISAKO.

NYA

AFTER DISCOVERING THAT SHE COMMANDS THE ELEMENT OF WATER, KAI'S YOUNGER SISTER HAS BECOME THE NEWEST ADDITION TO THE NINJA. NYA IS VALUED FOR HER FIGHTING SKILLS AND INDEPENDENCE, BUT NOW SHE'S LEARNING HOW TO BE PART OF A TEAM AS WELL.





ZANE

ZANE IS THE MOST RESERVED AND SERIOUS OF THE NINJA, BUT HE IS ALSO THE MOST RESPECTFUL. HIS AFFINITY FOR ICE ALLOWS HIM TO FREEZE OBJECTS AND PERFORM A CHILLY SPINJITZU ATTACK.



MISAKO



LLOYD'S MOTHER WORKS CLOSELY WITH WU TO HELP TRAIN THE NINJA. MISAKO OFTEN ENCOURAGES NYA TO PLOT HER OWN COURSE RATHER THAN LET OTHERS DETERMINE WHO SHE IS.



RONIN

THE ONLY MASTER RONIN SERVES IS MONEY. YET THIS RETIRED THIEF IS TRYING TO MAKE A SECOND CHANCE FOR HIMSELF—AS PART OWNER OF MASTER WU'S TEA FARM.



CHAPTER THREE

VOLCANIC FURY



THE RIVER OF DARKNESS FOLLOWS A TWISTING PATH THROUGH DENSE, HUMID JUNGLE. TODAY, SO DO LLOYD AND MASTER WU ON BOARD DESTINY'S BOUNTY.



THEY ARE IN SEARCH OF THEIR MISSING FRIENDS AS WELL AS THE ANSWERS TO TOO MANY MYSTERIES TO COUNT.



MOST INTERESTING. IT SEEMS THAT SOMETHING ON THIS ISLAND HAS AFFECTED THE SIZE OF COMMON INSECTS.

I WONDER WHAT OTHER CHANGES HAVE RESULTED FROM THIS STRANGE ENVIRONMENT?



THIS IS JUST A GUESS, BUT IT'S MADE THE BUGS AWFULLY MAD...



GOOD THING I
BROUGHT MY
FLY-SWATTING
ELEMENTAL
ENERGY!

FZASSHH! FZASSHH!

LLOYD,
WAIT—!



WE COULD HAVE DEALT WITH THE THREAT IN A MORE PEACEFUL MANNER. THEY WERE, AFTER ALL, INNOCENT CREATURES.

THEY WERE *PESTS*, JUST LIKE THE SERPENTINE WERE AND THE STONE WARRIORS AND THE NINDROIDS...



...AND THE GREEN NINJA SQUASHES PESTS! DO YOU HAVE A PROBLEM WITH THAT?



That is *not* the Lloyd I know. Even concern for his missing mother would not cause him to behave with such anger.

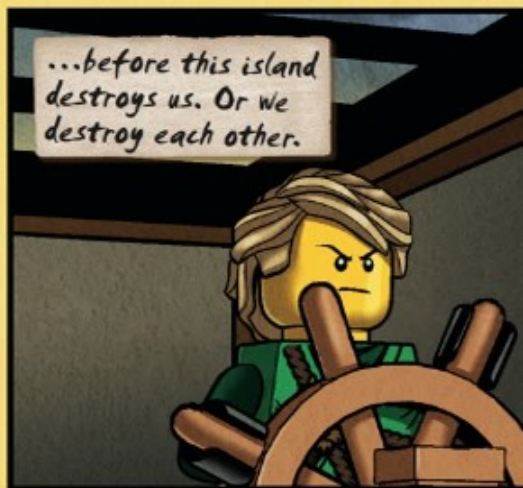


I fear the *dark matter* of this island is affecting him. I must admit... I am starting to feel it too.

It is vital we complete our mission—and quickly...



...before this island destroys us. Or we destroy each other.



THE DAYS PASS SLOWLY.
TOO SLOWLY FOR SOME.

THIS RIVER GOES ON FOREVER! WE'LL
NEVER FIND MY MOTHER THIS WAY.

SHE'S LOST IN THE JUNGLE
SOMEWHERE. SO ARE OUR
FRIENDS. THAT'S WHERE WE
SHOULD BE SEARCHING.

YOU MUST HAVE
PATIENCE, LLOYD. DO
YOU NOT REMEMBER
THE PROBLEM OF THE
BUTTERFLY?

*AS PART OF YOUR TRAINING, YOU HAD TO REMAIN COMPLETELY
STILL UNTIL A BUTTERFLY WOULD FEEL SAFE TO LAND UPON YOU.
THAT SAME PATIENCE AND STRENGTH IS NEEDED NOW.*

I DON'T HAVE TIME FOR
BUTTERFLIES. I'M HERE TO
FIND MY MOM, AND THAT'S ALL.

LLOYD,
STOP!



YOU ARE NOT YOURSELF, LLOYD. YOUR REASONING IS CLOUDED BY THE ISLAND'S DARK MATTER. WE MUST WORK TOGETHER TO SURVIVE THIS PLACE.



I'M... SORRY, MASTER. YOU'RE ON YOUR OWN.

ONCE I FIND MY MOTHER, I'LL COME BACK FOR YOU.



BUT RIGHT NOW, I CAN'T AFFORD TO WASTE ANY MORE TIME!



NOR CAN I. THIS ISLAND IS MORE DANGEROUS THAN EVEN I IMAGINED.

MEANWHILE, HIGH IN
THE MOUNTAINS OF
DARK ISLAND...

I AM AWAKE. I
AM FUNCTIONING.
STATUS: MINOR
DAMAGE ONLY.

IT'S ABOUT TIME.
I WAS STARTING TO
WORRY YOU WERE...YOU
KNOW, BROKEN. YOU
ALMOST MISSED THE
SNOWSTORM.

SNOW? THIS IS
NOT SNOW. IT IS
VOLCANIC ASH.

IT IS PROBABLY BEST TO BE
PREPARED FOR ANYTHING. WE DO NOT
KNOW WHAT SECRETS THIS PLACE—

SKRAWK

HEY!
THAT IS
MINE!

**SKRAWK
SKRAWK**

UH, PERHAPS
I SHOULD NOT
HAVE HELD ON?

WELL, THAT'S ONE
SECRET DISCOVERED.
THE BIRDS HERE ARE
BIG AND SCARY...



LOOK AT THIS PLACE!
HAVE YOU EVER SEEN
ANYTHING LIKE IT?

I'M SORT OF WISHING I
WASN'T SEEING IT NOW.
THIS PLACE IS LIKE A
NIGHTMARE COME TRUE.

WE ARE
GETTING
CLOSE TO
LAND. WE
SHOULD
PREPARE
TO JUMP.

I'D
RATHER
NOT.



OUCH
OUCH
OUCH.



I MAY BE A GHOST,
BUT I STILL FEEL PAIN.
AND THAT DID NOT FEEL
GOOD. LIKE, AT ALL.



SHHH. MY AUDIO
SENSORS ARE
PICKING UP
SOMETHING...

ZANE STRAINS TO HEAR AMONG THE RUMBLING
OF THE CAVES OF DIGGER'S DIP...



I DIDN'T HEAR
ANYTHING.

I CAN HEAR THINGS
YOU CAN'T. THAT'S
HOW I ALWAYS
KNOW WHEN
YOU'RE PLANNING A
SURPRISE PARTY.



SPEAKING OF
WHICH, THERE'S A
PARTY DOWN BELOW
THAT WE SHOULD
PROBABLY CRASH.

COLE, I DON'T
THINK THAT'S A
PARTY. THERE
IS NO CAKE.



PIRATES!

THEY MUST BE THE ONES
MASTER WU SPOKE OF.



AND MISAKO
IS AMONG
THEM. WE MUST
RESCUE HER.



OH, NO!
LOOK...

IT IS **DARK MATTER**. THE PIRATES
ARE FORCING THE PRISONERS TO
MINE A SUBSTANCE OF PURE EVIL.

*GARMADON
ONCE USED
THIS SUBSTANCE
TO POWER
HIS ULTIMATE
WEAPON, THE
GARMATRON.

*AND A LITTLE BIT
OF THE STUFF
TURNED NYA EVIL
FOR A WHILE...*



EVEN I, A NINDROID, CAN FEEL
ITS EFFECTS. COLE, WE MUST
SAVE THESE PEOPLE AND STOP
THIS MINING OPERATION.

THAT WON'T BE
EASY. THERE ARE
A LOT OF PIRATES
AND JUST THE
TWO OF US.



*ACTUALLY, THE FIGHT HAS ALREADY
BEGUN. LLOYD IS DOWN THERE.*

*SO MUCH FOR THE ELEMENT
OF SURPRISE. LET'S GET
DOWN THERE AND HELP HIM.*



IS THAT ALL
YOU HAVE, YOU
SEA RATS?!

HOW
UNWORTHY
YOU ARE!



HEY, BUDDY!
WHERE YA BEEN?
AND WHAT'S WITH
THE EYE-COLOR
CHANGE?

LEAVE ME
ALONE. I
DON'T NEED
YOUR HELP!



THAT'S THE LAST OF
THESE WRETCHES.

LLOYD, STOP FOR
A MINUTE. THE
DARK MATTER-IT'S
AFFECTING YOU.



WU SAID THE
SAME THING.
I'M SORRY.
IT'S HARD TO
FIGHT THESE
DARK FEELINGS,
ESPECIALLY
WHEN I'M SO
CLOSE
TO THESE MINES.
I'LL...I'LL HOLD
IT TOGETHER.

GOOD, LET US GO SAVE YOUR
MOM. SHE IS JUST INSIDE.



MOM! HURRY, WE'VE COME
TO HELP YOU ESCAPE.

ESCAPE...?



WHY WOULD I WANT TO
ESCAPE, FOOLISH CHILD?
THE DARK IS HERE. I
WANT TO STAY CLOSE TO
THE DARK FOREVER.



MOM, WHAT ARE YOU
SAYING? WHAT'S
HAPPENED TO YOU?



NOTHING COMPARED
TO WHAT IS GOING TO
HAPPEN TO YOU.



GUARDS!
GUARDS! WE HAVE
INTRUDERS!



MOM, NO!



UH-OH. THIS
ISN'T GOOD.



ABOUT TIME
WE HAD
SOME FUN ON
THIS JOB!



BACK
OFF!



CUTE LIGHT
SHOW. WHAT
ELSE HAVE
YOU GOT?



NOT MUCH.
JUST THIS!





THAT'S...REALLY
GOOD...BUT...I'M
BETTER.

BUT NOBODY
BREAKS OUT
OF SPINJITZU!

THEN CALL
ME NOBODY.
WOULDN'T BE
THE FIRST TIME.

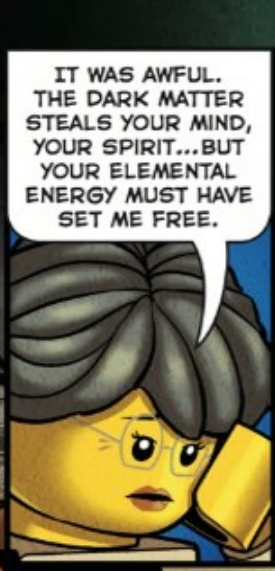
WHY DON'T I
JUST CALL YOU
LATER...LIKE
NEXT YEAR?

KZZARKK



LLOYD! ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?

MOM, YOU'RE OKAY! YOU SOUND LIKE YOURSELF AGAIN.



IT WAS AWFUL. THE DARK MATTER STEALS YOUR MIND, YOUR SPIRIT...BUT YOUR ELEMENTAL ENERGY MUST HAVE SET ME FREE.



I HATE TO BREAK UP THE FAMILY REUNION, BUT I THINK WE'D BETTER GET GOING BEFORE MORE PIRATES SHOW UP.

I WON'T LEAVE UNTIL WE RESCUE THE OTHER PRISONERS.

THANK YOU, SON.



LET'S SPLIT UP. YOU TWO GO FIND US SOME TRANSPORTATION, AND WE'LL FREE THE PRISONERS.



BE CAREFUL!

ALWAYS!

A LEGO minifigure of Zane with green hair and a green suit is running through a cave. To his left is a small grey monkey with orange-tipped ears and tail. To his right is a LEGO minifigure of Nya with a grey helmet and a white and black suit. They are on a wooden plank floor.

HURRY, ZANE! THE SOONER WE GET OUT OF HERE, THE—

A large yellow starburst shape with red stars at the points and intersections. The word "CRASH" is written in bold red letters across the center.

CRASH

Zane is kneeling on the ground, looking at a small grey monkey that is sitting on the floor. Nya is standing to the right, looking on. The monkey has a small red star on its forehead.

HEY, ZANE—
LOOK WHAT I FOUND.

A PIRATE
MONKEY!
I'VE ALWAYS
WANTED ONE.

Zane is looking at the monkey with a confused expression. Nya is standing next to him, looking at the monkey. The monkey is looking up at them.

AAHH—
OOH-OOH,
BACAHHHH!

I DON'T UNDERSTANDING WHAT
HE'S SAYING... SOMETHING
ABOUT CLOWN LESSONS?

FORTUNATELY,
I SPEAK
ROBOT
PRIMATE.

HE IS A
MECHANIC.
HE DESIGNED
POWERFUL
VEHICLES THAT
RUN ON DARK
MATTER...

...AND HE IS WILLING TO TAKE US TO THE
PIRATES IF WE PROMISE NOT TO HURT HIM.

A MONKEY MECHANIC?
SOUNDS LIKE JAY!

ARE WE SURE WE
CAN TRUST THIS...
WHATEVER HE IS?

NOT KNOWING
THE PRESENT
CONDITION OF
DESTINY'S
BOUNTY, WE HAVE
NO CHOICE. WE
NEED VEHICLES
TO FIND OUR
FRIENDS AND GET
OFF THIS ISLAND.



THESE WILL WORK PERFECTLY.

LOVE THE
SHAPE, HATE
THE COLORS.



WE ARE NOT ALONE.
I HEAR SOMEONE
COMING OUT OF
THE JUNGLE!



YOU HEAR
US, YOU
CRAZY
NINDROID!



IT'S SO
GOOD TO
SEE ALL
OF YOU.



DID YOU FIND
MISAKO?



SHE SHOULD
BE RIGHT
BEHIND US,
ALONG WITH
LLOYD.



BUT I AM MORE
INTERESTED
IN WHAT IS IN
FRONT OF US.



WE HAVE NO
TIME TO WASTE.
EVERYONE, GET IN.



NO, THANKS.
I'VE GOT MY
OWN SWEET
RIDE.



HEY, WHAT'S GOING ON HERE? I JUST SAT
DOWN AND THIS THING STARTED CRACKLING
LIKE ONE OF MY LIGHTNING BOLTS.



FASCINATING.



UM, WHAT JUST
HAPPENED?



I THINK OUR POWER
CLEANSED THE VEHICLES
OF WHATEVER THE DARK
MATTER DID TO THEM.
THEY'RE ALL OURS NOW!



THEN WHAT ARE WE
WAITING FOR?

THIS IS THE LAST OF THE PRISONERS. LET'S FIND OUR FRIENDS AND MASTER WU. I... OWE HIM AN APOLOGY.

THAT WILL HAVE TO WAIT, MY SON. THERE IS STILL MUCH TO DO.

AND WE'LL BE THE ONES DOING IT. AT THEM, PIRATES!

GET BACK, MOM!

NO! I WILL HELP YOU PROTECT THE FISHERMEN.

HA! GOT YOU NOW, NINJA!

YOU MIGHT HAVE ME—

YIIIIII!

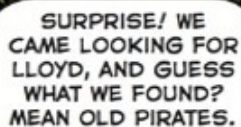
BUT CAN YOU HOLD ME?

HELP!

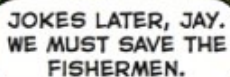
THE BOY MAY HAVE A BITE, BUT YOU'RE JUST A LITTLE FISH READY FOR THE HOOK.

DO NOT MISTAKE AGE FOR FRAILTY, OR WISDOM FOR WEAKNESS, PIRATE.

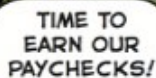
YEAH, WHAT SHE SAID!



SURPRISE! WE
CAME LOOKING FOR
LLOYD, AND GUESS
WHAT WE FOUND?
MEAN OLD PIRATES.



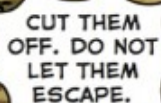
JOKES LATER, JAY.
WE MUST SAVE THE
FISHERMEN.



TIME TO
EARN OUR
PAYCHECKS!



KRASH



CUT THEM
OFF. DO NOT
LET THEM
ESCAPE.



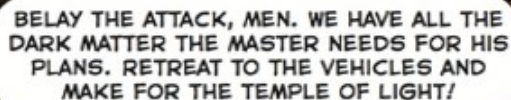
WHOOOM



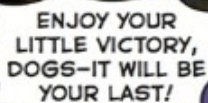
WHOOOM



WHOOOM



BELAY THE ATTACK, MEN. WE HAVE ALL THE
DARK MATTER THE MASTER NEEDS FOR HIS
PLANS. RETREAT TO THE VEHICLES AND
MAKE FOR THE TEMPLE OF LIGHT!



ENJOY YOUR
LITTLE VICTORY,
DOGS-IT WILL BE
YOUR LAST!

YOU
SAVED
US!

HOW CAN
WE REPAY
YOU?

YOU ARE NOT SAFE
YET. NOT AS LONG
AS YOU REMAIN ON
THIS ISLAND.

WE KNOW WHERE THERE ARE BOATS
THAT ARE STILL UNDAMAGED. WE
CAN MAKE OUR WAY HOME. THANK
YOU FOR SAVING US!



HEY, I'M ALL FOR
GROUP HUGS,
BUT MY BROTHER
AND MASTER
WU ARE STILL
MISSING. CAN WE
DO SOMETHING
ABOUT THAT?

THE ONLY LOGICAL COURSE IS TO
FOLLOW THE PIRATES. THEY MUST BE
STOPPED. AND THEY MAY LEAD US TO
OUR FRIENDS IN THE PROCESS. WE
MUST GO TO THE TEMPLE OF LIGHT.



THEN WHAT ARE
WE WAITING FOR?
LET'S GO SINK
SOME PIRATES.





JOURNAL

DAY 16

It is wisely said that a fish is only as pure as the water in which it swims. Never have I, Master Wu, been as convinced of that truth as I have since arriving on Dark Island.

Everyone has, at some point, visited a place that gave them a "bad feeling." Even my ninja had to fight down the urge to turn and run when entering Serpentine tombs and other sites where evil has thrived. But Dark Island goes beyond that. It is not a land that has become corrupt...it is corruption itself. So many years lost in the shadows has banished the sunlight from this place.

I am not speaking of a mere feeling in the bones. This is a taint you can see. Already, Lloyd and I have seen insects grown to monstrous size and filled with savagery. The marine creatures that infest this river

are similarly affected. In some ways, it is a blessing that the waters hide them from view. And yet, sometimes the things you cannot see are worse than those you can...



Even the plant life has been changed. Trees and shrubs are blackened and twisted, as if scorched by fire. Rot has taken hold of everything here, as if nature itself rebels against the essence of this island. And the flowers...well, the flowers smell like Kai's cooking. I will leave it at that.

DAY 17

I find it helps to focus on my ninja as I journey down this River of Darkness. It reminds me of why I am here and what I am fighting for. Though it will take a great deal more than strength to win this battle, I cannot help but think of the strongest ninja on my team.

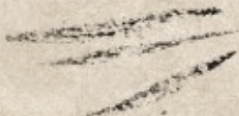
I first met Cole when he was climbing the highest mountain on Ninjago Island. I knew right away that this was a youth who would never stop looking for new challenges. He was physically powerful and smart, but he lacked purpose. I offered that to him as a member of my new team.

Cole's father is a well-known song-and-dance man, and he wanted Cole to become one too.

But the young man found that he could not follow someone else's path—he had to make his own. As the Ninja of Earth, he has made a name for himself as a hero. He has been a rock his friends could lean on in a crisis.



Where some others might like to do things in very eye-catching ways, Cole has always been focused on the ultimate goal: a successful mission.



When he first joined the team, Cole had to overcome his fear of dragons. These days, he faces a more personal challenge.

During one of our recent adventures, Cole was transformed into a ghost and still exists only in a phantom state. At present, I know of no way to change him back. And so he must adventure with his teammates, all the while knowing he is now different from them in many ways. I can only hope that if the burden of being a ghost becomes too much for him, he will turn to me for help.



DAY 18

Lloyd is gone.

His bitter words still ring in my ears. Convinced I was not doing enough to rescue Misako, Lloyd abandoned me and ran off into the jungle in search of his mother. His lack of gratitude astounds me. Why, were it not for me, would he have had the opportunity to become the Green Ninja? Or would he still be a bratty child, stealing candy from unsuspecting villagers?! If he were here now, I would tell him—no—

NO!

This is not me. These are not my words. And those words are not what is in my heart... It is Dark Island, and its malice!

That anger does not come from my own spirit, but from the Darkness of this cursed island. It affected both Lloyd and me as we traveled through the Jankikai Jungle, down the River of Darkness, deeper and deeper into the black heart of this place. It magnified our fears, doubts, and anger past the point where they could be contained. We yelled at each other and hurt each other, and now he is lost to me.

Why? There is an old saying that misery fears only one thing: being alone. In the same way, this island cannot be content with its Darkness and corruption; it has to corrupt everyone who sets foot here. It needs companions in Darkness, and will create them if necessary.

I cannot help but feel worry and fear over what has happened to Lloyd, and perhaps my ninja as well...and to me. The Green Ninja is driven by rage now, his great power unchecked as he plunges into the unknown. I understand his feelings. Every part of me yearns to go after him and find Misako. I would leave this ship behind without a second thought, forget everything else, to be sure she is safe—if it were not for my destiny. But I must follow the path laid out ahead for me or the entire world will suffer.

Misako's disappearance is a symptom of what is wrong on Dark Island. And I must seek out and destroy the disease.

DAY 18 (night)

How, I wonder, can a person be sure they have not gone insane? It is something I find myself pondering more and more today, as I feel my sanity slipping away beneath the relentless onslaught of Dark Island and its infectious Dark Matter.

Who can say that anything we see each day is real? Who can say we do not each live in our own private world, disconnected from reality? Is there even such a thing as reality, or is it all like one of Jay's bad jokes? That reminds me... I must tell Jay to **stop** doing the laundry.

His power causes all the clothes to cling to one another, and everyone keeps losing socks as a result.

There, you see? Alone on a ship sailing into danger, and I am worrying about laundry. That would seem to be clear evidence that my sanity is not what once it was. Yes, as clear as the windows of my tea shop, if only Nya would remember to clean them. How did I wind up with a ninja team who cannot remember to do the most basic chores? I am tempted to abandon them and recruit new ninja, if I ever get away from this place!!

It is happening again...

The malice of this place is affecting me. I would never trade my ninja. I just reread the last few paragraphs. I am going mad. Unfortunately, that is not a trip I can afford to take right now.

I must meditate. I have lost
much since coming to this island,
but I do not dare lose myself.

So I think about my mission,
and I think about my friends.
I remember all those who depend
on me, both on this island and
at home. I look deep inside,
weaving together the threads
of my history, remembering who
I am and why I am that man.
And I find the strength to
break the hold this island
has on me.

DAY 19

Today, I meditated. Despite the heat in this infernal jungle, I calmed my body and my mind. I tried to make peace with my current situation, and imagine that all was well. I felt as if a weight had slipped off my shoulders. For the first time in days, I felt **TRUE HOPE**.

I wondered if this was another illusion created by the island. Perhaps this feeling was just some cruel joke, a false hope to lead me astray. But after a few moments, I realized I had nothing to fear. Hope is good, especially in dark times. I imagined that Lloyd found Misako, that mother and son were reunited. Even the power of Dark Island had not been able to keep them apart.

In unity, there would be strength. Lloyd would fight to his last breath to protect Misako, and she would do the same for him. No matter what lurks in the shadows of this island, it is no match for the love and their bravery of my friends.

Was this true? I don't know. But hope is all I have. So I expanded that hope to all the ninja. Even through the fog of corruption that shrouds this place, I imagined that my friends had begun to find one another. Little by little, the team was reuniting. Each is formidable in his or her own way, but together they are a force no enemy can stand against. True or not, I must believe it.

There will be challenges ahead, but I believe my ninja can meet them. We will find the source of the troubling events on this island, and we will do all that is in our power to bring the threat to an end.

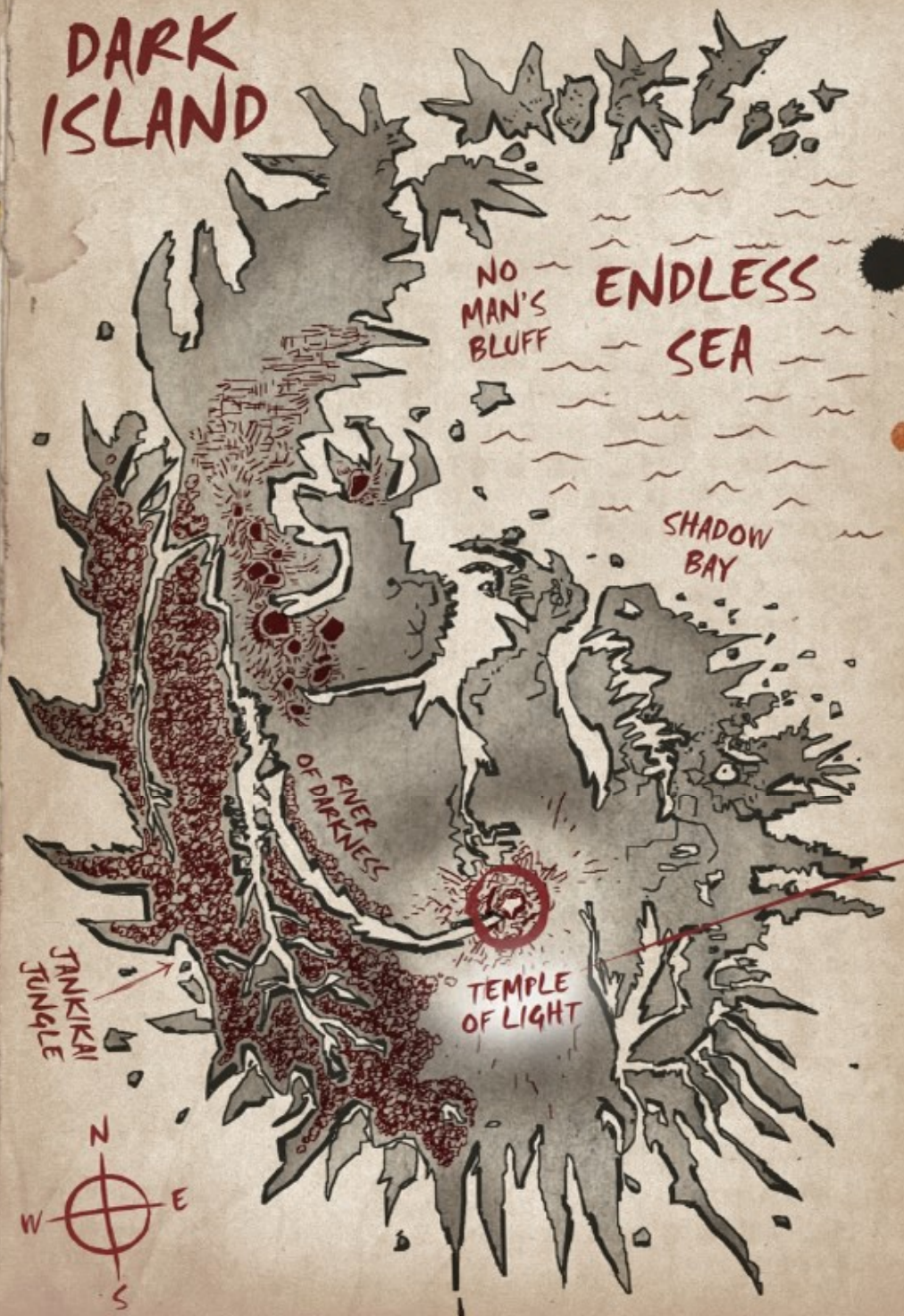
Perhaps we will fail. But perhaps not. We must fight. Where there is will, there is hope, and hope is my anchor.







DARK ISLAND



This map makes the island seem so small, and yet it is so vast. It is as big as Ninjago Island, and yet so different. No amount of black ink can capture the dark soul of this horrible place.

→ It has just occurred to me that the River of Darkness ends at the foothills of the Temple of Light. Perhaps my destiny lies there...

CHAPTER FOUR

THE LONG RIVER



MASTER WU SAILS ALONE ON THE RIVER OF DARKNESS, SURROUNDED BY THE JANKIKAI JUNGLE. BOTH ARE TAINTED BY THE ISLAND'S EVIL.



IT HAS BEEN ALMOST TWO DAYS SINCE LLOYD ABANDONED SHIP. WU CONTINUES HIS SEARCH, ALTHOUGH HE IS UNCERTAIN WHAT HE IS LOOKING FOR.



THE MASTER SPENT CENTURIES ON HIS OWN FIGHTING EVIL BEFORE RECRUITING THE NINJA TEAM. HIS EYES HAVE SEEN MANY STRANGE THINGS.



BEFORE THIS DAY IS OVER, HE WILL SEE THE STRANGEST YET.



A MONSTER APPEARS ACROSS FROM WU—
ONE WHICH WEARS HIS OWN FACE. LIKE A
FINE SWORD, WU HAS BEEN TEMPERED BY
EXPERIENCE AND HARDENED AGAINST FEAR.

BUT HOW DOES ONE
FIGHT ONE'S OWN SELF?

WHO—
OR WHAT—
ARE YOU?

I AM YOU, OF COURSE,
SILLY OLD MAN. HERE
TO ADVISE YOU ABOUT
YOUR DESTINY—IF
YOU'RE READY TO HEAR
WHAT I HAVE TO SAY.





MY SENSES ARE
PLAYING TRICKS
ON ME.



ARE YOU CERTAIN? YOU OF ALL PEOPLE MUST
KNOW THAT ANYTHING IS POSSIBLE.

WHO ARE YOU?
HOW DID YOU GET
ON MY SHIP?

I AM HERE BECAUSE YOU
HAVE SUMMONED ME. TAKE
MY HAND, MASTER.

I THINK NOT.

I AM NOT THE DECEIVER
HERE. IT IS *YOU* WHO
LIES-TO HIMSELF AND
OTHERS, TIME AFTER TIME.

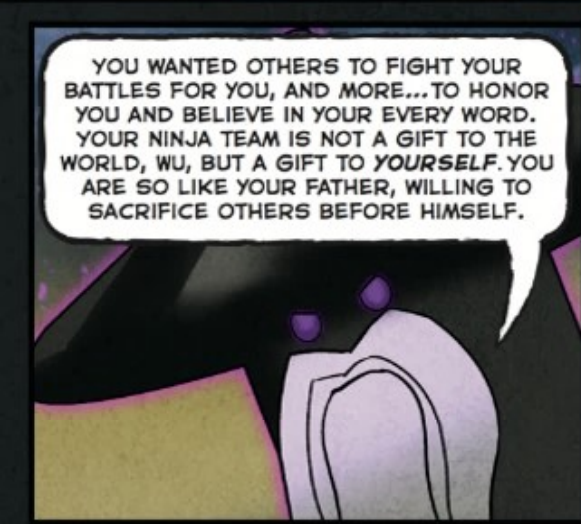
I SUMMONED NO ONE. TELL
THE TRUTH, IF YOU CAN.



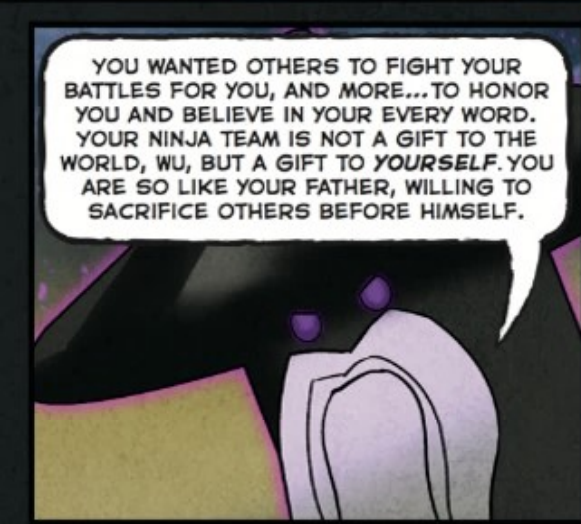
I AM HERE TO
BRING CLARITY AND
UNDERSTANDING.
THAT IS ALL.



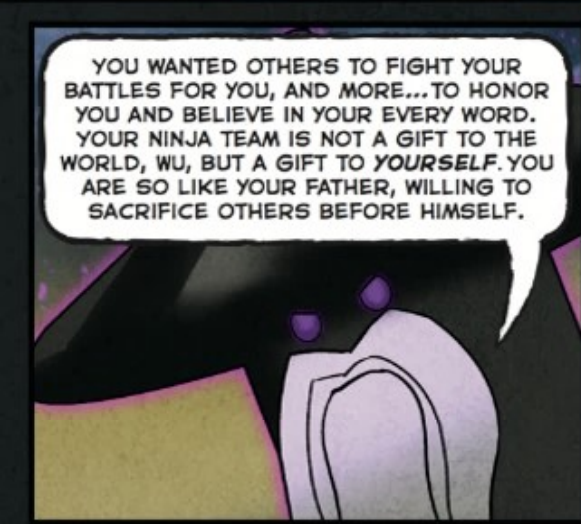
HOW OFTEN HAVE YOU KNOWN OF DANGER APPROACHING AND FAILED TO WARN YOUR NINJA? DID YOU TELL THEM THE TRUTH OF WHAT THEIR LIVES WOULD BE ON THE DAY YOU RECRUITED THEM?



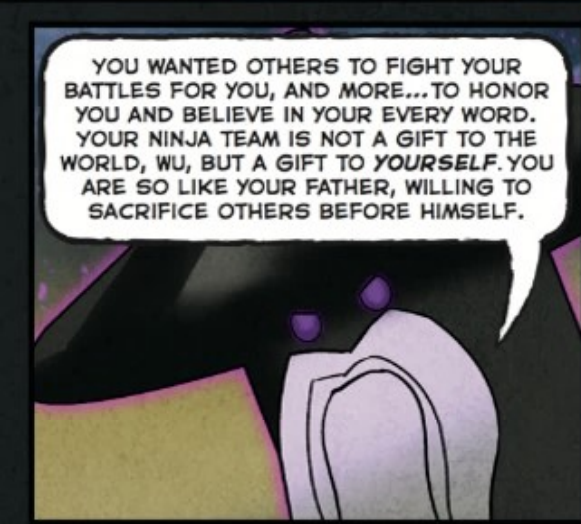
YOU WANTED OTHERS TO FIGHT YOUR BATTLES FOR YOU, AND MORE...TO HONOR YOU AND BELIEVE IN YOUR EVERY WORD. YOUR NINJA TEAM IS NOT A GIFT TO THE WORLD, WU, BUT A GIFT TO *YOURSELF*. YOU ARE SO LIKE YOUR FATHER, WILLING TO SACRIFICE OTHERS BEFORE HIMSELF.



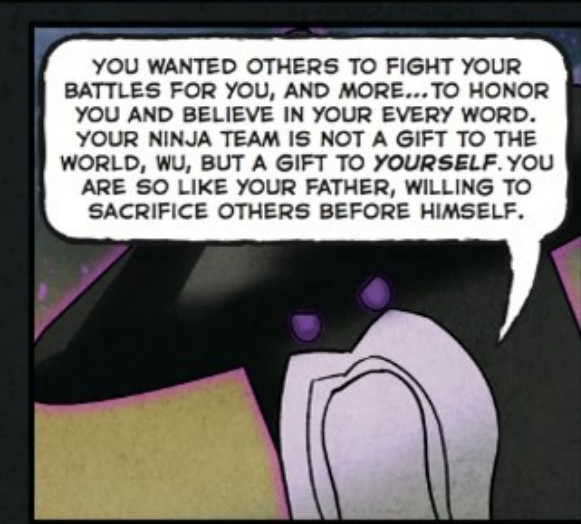
ARE YOU DONE? YOU KNOW NOTHING OF ME, OR OF MY FATHER. I AM TRULY NOT IN THE MOOD FOR VILLAIN SPEECHES TODAY.



I AM NOT THE VILLAIN HERE. BUT PERHAPS YOU ARE TOO *ILL* TO LISTEN.



ILL? I AM NOT SICK. I...UNHH.



BEGONE, WHATEVER YOU ARE. I HAVE A DESTINY TO MEET.



YOUR DESTINY IS OVER.
LOOK AROUND YOU, WU.
YOU ARE ON A JOURNEY
WITHOUT AN ENDING.



DARKNESS HAS
CLAIMED THIS
RIVER, JUST
LIKE IT CLAIMS
EVERYTHING ELSE
ON THIS ISLAND.
JUST AS IT WILL
CLAIM YOU.



LIKE IT DID YOU?

OH, I AM
NOT OF THIS
ISLAND, WU.



I CAME HERE WITH YOU.

I SAID—

BEGONE!





YOU ARE ON A FOOL'S
ERRAND, WU, BUT THAT
IS ONLY RIGHT...

**BECAUSE
YOU ARE A
FOOL!**

THIS TIME, YOUR NINJA
WON'T BE ABLE TO HELP
YOU. IF YOU WANT TO
FACE THE DARKNESS,
YOU'LL HAVE TO DO IT
ON YOUR OWN.

ESPECIALLY SINCE THEY'VE
BEEN CORRUPTED BY THIS
ISLAND! AND YOU WILL
NEVER SEE THEM AGAIN!

CRASH!

I DON'T...
BELIEVE YOU...

YOU DO.
DEEP DOWN
YOU KNOW
WHAT I SAY
IS TRUE

KA-WHAMM

ABOUT ME FACING THE DARKNESS ALONE? PERHAPS.
BUT MY FAITH IN THE NINJA REMAINS TRUE AND STRONG.

I REJECT YOU...AND THIS
PLACE...YOU WILL NOT WIN.



NONE OF THIS CAN BE REAL. OF COURSE, IF I AM WRONG, I AM DOOMED. BUT WHAT IS LIFE WITHOUT A LITTLE RISK?



YOU CANNOT HIDE FROM ME! I AM YOUR DOUBTS AND FEARS, AND I WILL HAUNT YOUR EVERY STEP.



THEN I BANISH DOUBT AND I BANISH FEAR, CREATURE. AND BY FACING THEM HEAD ON...



NO! I WILL DEVOUR YOU!!!

...I BANISH YOU.

AS THE SHADOWS FADE, WU LIES MOTIONLESS, ALLOWING HIS BODY AND MIND TO HEAL. HE IS NOT SURE IF HOURS GO BY...OR DAYS...

BUT WHEN HE WAKES, HE FINDS **DESTINY'S BOUNTY** UNDATED, AS IF THERE NEVER WAS ANY BATTLE, EXCEPT INSIDE WU'S MIND. HE IS GLAD TO SEE THAT HIS SPECIAL CRATE IS UNDATED...AFTER ALL, IT IS THE KEY TO HIS DESTINY...

THE BITE OF THAT INSECT, COMBINED WITH THE EVIL INFLUENCE OF THIS ISLAND, CREATED POWERFUL VISIONS.



MY STUDENTS MAY NOT HAVE UNDERSTOOD, BUT MY TEA IS GOOD FOR **MORE** THAN QUENCHING THIRST.



PERHAPS MY SHADOW WAS RIGHT...PERHAPS PUTTING YOUNG PEOPLE IN HARM'S WAY IS AN ACT OF SELFISHNESS, NOT HONOR. AND YET...

*AND YET, THEY CHOSE THIS LIFE, AND THEY HAVE SAVED THIS WORLD OVER AND OVER AGAIN.

NO MATTER WHY THE SEED WAS PLANTED, THE TREE HAS GROWN TALL AND STRONG.





I CANNOT DWELL IN THE PAST...AND IF I DO NOT MASTER TODAY, THERE WILL BE NO FUTURE.



I BELIEVE I HAVE FOUND WHAT I SOUGHT.



MY DESTINY IS CLOSE. THE FATE OF THE WORLD MAY REST INSIDE THAT CAVE.

ELSEWHERE ON
DARK ISLAND.

WE'RE CATCHING UP TO
THE PIRATES. IT WON'T
BE LONG NOW.

I AM WORRIED ABOUT WU
AND KAI. IT HAS BEEN TOO
LONG WITHOUT ANY WORD.

MASTER WU IS
SAILING UP THE
DARK RIVER ON
DESTINY'S BOUNTY.
AS FOR KAI... I
DON'T KNOW.

I KNOW THE RIVER.
IT LEADS TO THE
TEMPLE OF LIGHT.
ON OUR CURRENT
ROUTE, THAT'S WHERE
WE'RE HEADING TOO.
SURELY, IT WILL BE A
TARGET FOR THE
PIRATES AND WHOEVER
IS LEADING THEM.

I'M THE LEAST
AFFECTED BY THIS
WEIRD PLACE,
PROBABLY BECAUSE
I'M A GHOST. I CAN
GO FIND MASTER WU.

OUR PRIMATE FRIEND
SAYS THE ULTRA STEALTH
RAIDER CAN SPLIT UP INTO
MULTIPLE VEHICLES.

I WOULD ADVISE COLE TAKE ONE
AND INFORM MASTER WU THAT WE
WILL MEET HIM AT THE TEMPLE.

DO IT. AND
COLE... FIND HIM.

SEE YOU AT THE TEMPLE
OF LIGHT! BUT I CAN'T
PROMISE THERE WILL BE
ANY PIRATES LEFT BY THE
TIME YOU GET THERE.

NO FAIR,
COLE. LEAVE
US SOME!

WHY WOULD YOU WANT
COLE TO SPARE OUR
ENEMIES SIMPLY SO
THAT WE SHOULD
HAVE TO DEAL WITH
THEM LATER?

ZANE, HE JUST
MEANS... OH,
NEVER MIND.

BACK AT THE CAVE...

THERE IS GREAT EVIL
HERE...I CAN FEEL IT.

WHAT I SENSED DURING MY
MEDITATIONS WAS THE TRUTH:
THE UNIVERSE IS OUT OF
BALANCE. AND THE SOURCE
OF THAT IMBALANCE WAITS
WITHIN THIS CAVE. CLOSER
THAN EVER...

AT LAST, AN ENEMY WHO HAS SUBSTANCE.
BATTLING THIS ISLAND'S PHANTOMS AND
PUPPETS HAS GROWN TIRESOME.

HONESTLY? WHEN I BEGAN
MINING THE DARK MATTER,
I HAD NO IDEA IT WOULD
AFFECT EVERY LIVING THING
ON THE ISLAND SO MUCH...
SPIRITS ARE STRONG, BUT
BODIES ARE WEAK.

I AM MANY THINGS,
DARK ONE, BUT
NEVER WEAK.

AND NOW, I
BRING YOU
OUT INTO THE
LIGHT!



INTO THE LIGHT?
SOON THERE WILL
BE NO MORE LIGHT
ON THE ISLAND.



ALL BECAUSE OF ME! NOW,
I'M SECOND-IN-COMMAND TO
NO ONE, NOT EVEN CHEN.

CLOUSE?!

I SUSPECTED YOUR NINJA WOULD
SHOW UP, OLD MAN. NOT YOU,
THE SON OF THE FIRST SPINJITZU
MASTER. NEVERTHELESS, I WILL BE
HONORED TO DESTROY YOU.

OOOF!

CRASH!



BUT THE CURSED REALM
WAS DESTROYED! HOW DID
YOU MANAGE TO ESCAPE?



YOU'RE NOT THE ONLY
ONE WITH TRICKS UP HIS
SLEEVE, OLD MAN...

WHEN YOUR OLD STUDENT, MORRO, OPENED THE CURSED REALM AS PART OF HIS OWN PLOT, I USED THE OPPORTUNITY TO ESCAPE FROM THE PREEMINENT CELL I SHARED WITH CHEN.

ZAP



I ALWAYS
HATED
MAGIC!

MY BROTHER
DEFEATED YOU
ONCE. NOW I'LL
FINISH THE JOB.

AH, NO. MY PLANS ARE
WELL UNDERWAY ON THIS
ISLAND. SOON, IT WILL BE
TOO LATE TO STOP ME.



FOR TOO LONG, I HAVE SERVED
OTHERS. FROM NOW ON, CLOUSE
WILL BE THE MASTER AND ALL
OTHERS WILL BE THE SLAVES!

I HAVE--UNNNFF--HEARD
THIS SPEECH SO OFTEN,
I CAN FINISH IT FOR YOU:
"NO ONE CAN DEFEAT ME!
I WILL RUUUULLLEEEEEEE
THE WORLD!"

MOCK ME, WU, IF THAT PROVIDES
YOU WITH FALSE COURAGE. BUT
THIS GAME IS OVER, AND YOU
NEVER EVEN KNEW THE STAKES
FOR WHICH YOU PLAYED...

"WHEN I FIRST ESCAPED, I SOUGHT OUT THE LEGENDARY TEAPOT OF TYRAHN, AND THE DJINN, NADAKHAN, SAID TO BE TRAPPED INSIDE IT. BUT IT WAS NOWHERE TO BE FOUND.



"UNWILLING TO ABANDON MY DESTINY, I CAME HERE TO DARK ISLAND. I USED MY MAGIC TO OPEN A PORTAL TO OTHER REALMS AND RETRIEVED NADAKHAN'S PIRATE CREW.



"THEY WERE GRATEFUL TO BE RESCUED, BUT NOT GRATEFUL ENOUGH. THEY WANTED TO GO THEIR OWN WAY, NEVER TO ANSWER TO ANYONE ELSE AGAIN.



"I CONVINCED THEM IT WOULD BE IN THEIR BEST INTERESTS TO LISTEN TO ME."



AND NOW YOU PLUNDER FISHING BOATS AND KIDNAP THEIR CREWS? YOU ARE NOT A MASTER VILLAIN, BUT A COWARD WHO HURTS THE INNOCENT.



DON'T
INTERRUPT
ME!

EONS AGO, YOUR FATHER
SPLIT THE LAND IN TWO—
ONE HALF LIGHT, ONE HALF
DARK. ON THIS ISLAND, HE
ERECTED A TEMPLE OF LIGHT...



"...THAT
TEMPLE IS
THE SOLE
SOURCE OF
LIGHT ON THIS
ISLAND. DO YOU
UNDERSTAND
WHAT THAT
MEANS, WU?"



"IF THE TEMPLE
SHOULD FALL TO
DARKNESS, THEN
ALL OF THE LAND—
BOTH HALVES—
WILL BELONG TO
THE DARK. THEY
WILL MERGE TO
BECOME A SINGLE
DARK WHOLE. AND
I WILL BE THE
MASTER OF IT ALL."



CLOUSE, YOU MUST STOP THIS AT
ONCE! YOUR LUST FOR POWER
WILL DESTROY THE WORLD,
PERHAPS EVEN ALL THE REALMS.





YOU ARE NOT LIKE CHEN OR THE OTHERS. YOU ARE SMARTER THAN THIS. YOU CAN USE YOUR POWERS FOR GOOD. YOU DON'T HAVE TO DO THIS.

YOU'RE RIGHT. I AM NOTHING LIKE CHEN...I HAVE ACCESS TO AN ISLAND FULL OF DARK MATTER. MY SLAVES HAVE BEEN MINING IT, AND MY PIRATES HAVE BEEN SHIPPING IT TO THE TEMPLE.

*THE TEMPLE HAS ITS OWN DEFENSES AGAINST THE INFLUENCE OF DARK MATTER, OF COURSE. BUT BRING ENOUGH OF IT CLOSE TO THE STRUCTURE, AND THOSE DEFENSES WILL FALL.



*GIVEN ENOUGH DARK MATTER, IT WILL BECOME A TEMPLE OF DARKNESS—MY TEMPLE. WHERE SO MANY OTHERS HAVE FAILED, I WILL SUCCEED.



AS FOR YOUR NINJA, THEY WILL BE MY SERVANTS, IF THEY ARE FORTUNATE. IF THEY ARE NOT...WELL, IT WILL BE ON YOUR HEAD, NOT MINE.



FINALLY, THE WORLD WILL BE MINE.



ARE YOU DONE TALKING? GOOD...

NOW THAT YOU HAVE FINISHED...I BELIEVE IT'S MY TURN.

WHAT?
HOW DID
YOU--?

KRA-KASH

I TRIED TO REASON WITH YOU, BUT YOU DIDN'T LISTEN. I GUESS WE'LL HAVE TO DO THIS "OLD SCHOOL," AS MY NINJA MIGHT SAY.

WE WILL FIGHT,
AND I WILL
DEFEAT YOU.

YOU STILL SEEM
TO THINK YOU
MATTER, WU...

YOU DON'T.
NOT ANYMORE.

IT IS MY WORLD NOW...AND YOU
WILL HAVE NO PLACE IN IT.

THE DARK ISLAND MAKES MY MAGIC
EVEN MORE POWERFUL. FLYING THIS
OLD SHIP WITH A SPELL IS NOTHING
COMPARED TO WHAT COMES NEXT.

FAREWELL,
UNTIL WE
MEET AGAIN.

SECONDS
LATER, COLE
FINDS WU.

MASTER, I'VE FOUND YOU! EVERYONE BUT KAI
HAS BEEN FOUND AND IS SAFE. THE OTHERS
ARE FOLLOWING A BAND OF PIRATES TO THE—

TEMPLE OF LIGHT, YES, I KNOW. THEN
THEY ARE HEADED INTO GREAT DANGER.

I MUST STAY WITH
DESTINY'S BOUNTY, FOR
IT HOLDS THE KEY TO
THIS WAR. I WILL SAIL TO
THE TEMPLE OF LIGHT.
IT IS UP TO THE REST OF
YOU TO SLOW THE PIRATES
DOWN AND BUY ME TIME.

WHAT ABOUT KAI?
NO ONE KNOWS
WHERE HE IS.

THEN THAT IS YOUR MISSION,
COLE. WE WILL NEED THE
STRENGTH OF OUR ENTIRE
TEAM. NOW, GO!

THE END OF EVERYTHING
IS COMING, AND IT IS UP
TO *ME* TO STOP IT.

TO BE
CONTINUED...



JOURNAL

DAY 20

Perhaps, in this time of turmoil, it would be best to focus on the Titanium Ninja, who is always an island of calm amid troubled waters. Since the day I met him, sitting at the bottom of an icy lake in an effort to test his endurance, Zane has proven to be a constantly surprising member of the team.

Zane started out feeling like a bit of an outsider with the team, and was not sure why. He did not understand Jay's jokes or Kai's fiery temper. It was only later that it became clear that Zane was not human. He was a Nindroid, the first of his kind, whose memory had been turned off by his creator.

But the Titanium Ninja has grown far beyond his origins. He has formed bonds of friendship and loyalty with his teammates and others. He has gone on fighting even when logic said there was no way to win.

Most important, he was willing to sacrifice his own existence to save the world.

Those are not the actions of a heartless collection of mechanical parts.

Yes, Zane is stronger, faster, and more durable than a human. And, yes, there are still things about how people interact that he may never understand. But if you measure humanity by a fighting spirit

that never quits, no matter the odds...

Zane may well be the most human of anyone I know.



I have hopes his artificial nature may help protect him from the worst effects of Dark Island. If I am correct, he may be our secret weapon in the battle to come.

DAY 22

I have survived to see another day—if only barely. But it was a near thing, and shows again that I cannot relax my guard for one moment while I am on this terrible island. All because of a single insect sting.

Minutes after the bite, I began to have a vision—though I couldn't be sure if it was real or not real. Not at first. I saw a shadowy figure, who I came to realize was me...or, rather, the darkness within me. It accused me of tricking my ninja into joining the team, of placing my own selfish needs above their safety, of caring more for their devotion to me than for the success of our missions.

We battled then, this dark thing and me. Preying on my doubts and fears, it grew to enormous size. It tore the ship to pieces in an effort get at me. There was nothing I could do to stop it, and for a moment, I succumbed to panic.

But then I remembered Misako...her smile, her wisdom, and how she brightens my world each day. And though I knew she was with her son now, they were both still trapped on this island. They needed me. And more, the world needed me.

I turned to my tea. It is not merely for thirst quenching, for it calms my spirit and strengthens my heart. I found the power to face my fears, then, to deny them control of me. And in doing that, I was able to banish the shadows to return back to their boxes inside me.



I do not fool myself. I will always carry
the doubts the shadow spoke of in my
heart. I will always question the wisdom
of my actions in some small part of me.

But I will never let those questions
and doubts consume me. I do not
have that luxury. Too many people rely
on me, and I must be strong for them.

It doesn't matter. I must resist,
for the sake of my spirit and
those who depend on me.



DAY 23



I have just discovered the evil behind this entire ordeal. And moments after that battle, Cole found me. I have much to write as I sail up river toward my ultimate destiny.

Cole told me of the state of my ninja and their enemies.

The ninja pursue a band of pirates toward the Temple of Light, and I now know who commands those pirates:

Clouse, the sorcerer and former right-hand man to



the evil Master Chen. My ninja
are headed into terrible danger,
but there is no alternative. I have
sent Cole to help the others and do
whatever they can to slow the pirate
convoy down. They have their part
to play, and I have mine.

From the little Cole was able to
pass onto me, I believe I know of
these pirates. Long ago, a crew of
cutthroats and thieves sailed the sea
in a ship called the **Misfortune's
Keep**. And misfortune they did
bring to many a merchant vessel and
seaside village. Their commander was
a powerful Djinn named Nadakhan,
with the power to grant wishes in his
own sinister way. Ninjago Island's
navies were no match for him and
his crew, and they ruled the seas
upon which they sailed.

I was engaged in battles on the other side of the world and so never clashed with Nadakhan and his crew. But I had heard of them—unfortunates all—snared by their own wishes into trading their goodness for little more than a life of crime. Then Captain Soto, the pirate commander of the *Destiny's Bounty* at that time, fought a sea battle with the *Misfortune's Keep*. Against all odds, Soto won. He imprisoned Nadakhan inside the Teapot of Tyrahn and the Djinn's pirate crew were scattered to realms untold.



Now Clouse has retrieved the pirates from their exile. Thankfully, though, Nadakhan himself remains beyond Clouse's reach—I cannot imagine the disaster he would bring...

Clouse is using these pirates to find and keep his slave labor in line, and to forward his plan to turn this island—and the world—completely to Darkness. The pirates are desperate men and women. They have known imprisonment in strange realms and have no desire to return to that. As long as they feel there is even a chance of victory, they will fight.

Thus far, my ninja have carried the weight of this conflict on their shoulders. But soon, it will my turn.

DAY 24

The answer lies in a tea crate.

Before we departed for the island, I had my ninja load a large crate on board the *Destiny's Bounty*. I did not tell them its contents or why it was so important that we bring it with us. Why not? Because, if they knew, it might have dulled their fighting edge. A warrior who believes salvation will automatically be at hand if things go against him is a warrior who will not fight his hardest.

Much of what I know about being a hero, I learned from my father. He too faced impossible odds and had to make often-painful decisions. I learned that a disciplined mind and body, working as one, is a most formidable weapon. But sometimes, one must rely on other means of achieving victory.

What lies within that crate once helped my father save our world...a world now entrusted to my care. It is my belief that it can save the world again. For now, its presence here must remain a secret until the time has come to put it to use. I dare not even identify it in this journal, in case, by some circumstance, this book falls into the wrong hands.



Your battle was long ago, Father. Now it is my destiny to take up the mantle of being this world's protector. Soon, I will meet my fate at the Temple of Light. I will not let you down.

DARK
ISLAND

NO MAN'S
BLUFF

ENDLESS
SEA

SHADOW
BAY

DAY 10

DAY 12

DAY 15

DAY 18

JANKIKAI
JUNGLE

DAY 22

DAY 24

DIGGER'S
DEEP

RIVER
OF DARKNESS

TEMPLE
OF LIGHT





My encounter with Clouse did
not end as I would have liked
it—with his defeat. But this
is not over. I will sail down this
river with the ultimate tool of
light hidden below deck in a box
labeled as tea. Soon, I will meet
my destiny. I only hope that
fortune is on my side....

