



NINJAGO

Masters of Spinjitzu



DARK ISLAND

TRILOGY—PART 1





DARK ISLAND

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Story written by Greg Farshtey
Pencils, inks, and colors by Paul Lee
Additional inks by Angie Nathalia
Additional colors by Caravan Studio: Angie Nathalia,
Margaretta Devi, Felix Hidayat, and Indra Setiawan
Journal illustrations by Richard Suwono

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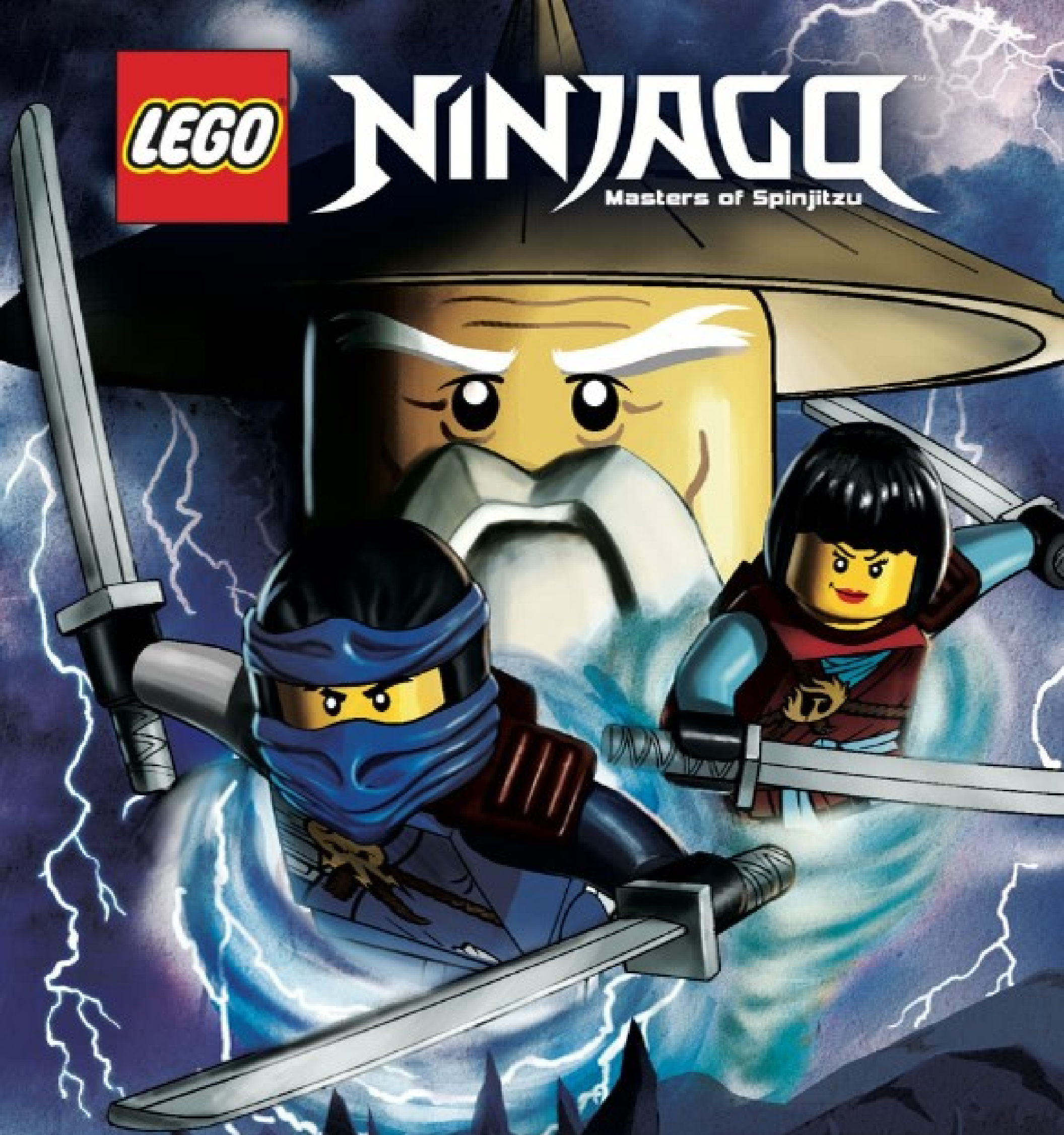
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TRILOGY—PART 1

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, MISAOKO'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.

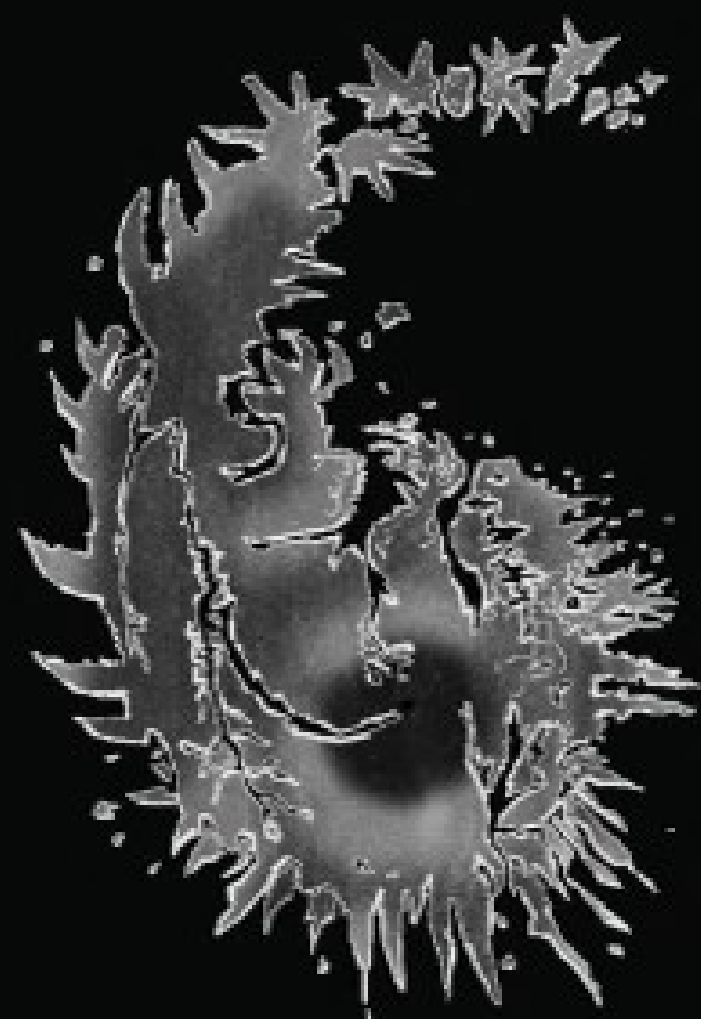
RONIN

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 ONE

DARK ISLAND



DAYS AGO

GOING TO
DARK ISLAND
WAS A MISTAKE.

CAN'T THIS
BOAT MOVE ANY
FASTER?

WE'RE GOING AS
FAST AS WE CAN. THE
ENDLESS SEA ISN'T
EXACTLY GENTLE ON
THE SAILS.

REMIND ME
AGAIN HOW YOU
GOT US INTO
THIS MESS.

IT WAS ONLY A COUPLE
OF MISSING FISHERMEN.
I TOLD WU I COULD
INVESTIGATE ON MY OWN.
HE NEEDED TO STAY ON
NINJAGO ISLAND, BUT
INSISTED I NOT GO ALONE.

I COULD NEVER HAVE
GUESSED WHAT WE WOULD
DISCOVER WHEN WE GOT
TO DARK ISLAND. WE MUST
WARN WU AND THE NINJA-
AND QUICKLY!

THAT'S WHAT I GET FOR THINKING WITH
MY WALLET. HAD I KNOWN HOW MUCH
TROUBLE WE WERE SAILING INTO, I WOULD
HAVE CHARGED MORE-A LOT MORE.

UH...MISAKO? WE MIGHT
HAVE A PROBLEM...



A BIG, SCARY
PROBLEM FROM
THE LOOKS OF IT.

I'LL TRY TO
STEER US
TO SAFETY!
HOLD ON.

I THINK IT'S
TOO LATE.



ATTACK!

BOOM
BOOM
BOOM



WE'RE HIT! AND
WE HAVE MORE
INCOMING!
THEY'RE GOING
TO BOARD US!

RONIN, HOLD
THE SHIP. I MUST
DO SOMETHING
IF WE HAVE ANY
CHANCE...



OH, WU. FORGIVE
ME FOR NOT
TELLING YOU—

BOOM!

WU'S TEA FARM TODAY.



SOMETHING IS...NOT RIGHT IN NINJAGO.

MASTER WU SENSES IT. HE HAS BEEN MEDITATING, TRYING TO FIND THE SOURCE OF DARKNESS. BUT SOMETHING CLOUDS HIS PERCEPTIONS.

HE MEDITATES, TRYING TO FIND THE SOURCE OF EVIL HE SENSES AT WORK HERE.



HE THINKS OF HIS PAST ADVERSARIES. THERE HAVE BEEN SO MANY BATTLES...



BUT HE HAS ALSO HAD MANY VICTORIES, ESPECIALLY WITH HIS NINJA—WHO ARE NOW FAMILY AND FRIENDS.





KNOCK KNOCK KNOCK

WHAT-?

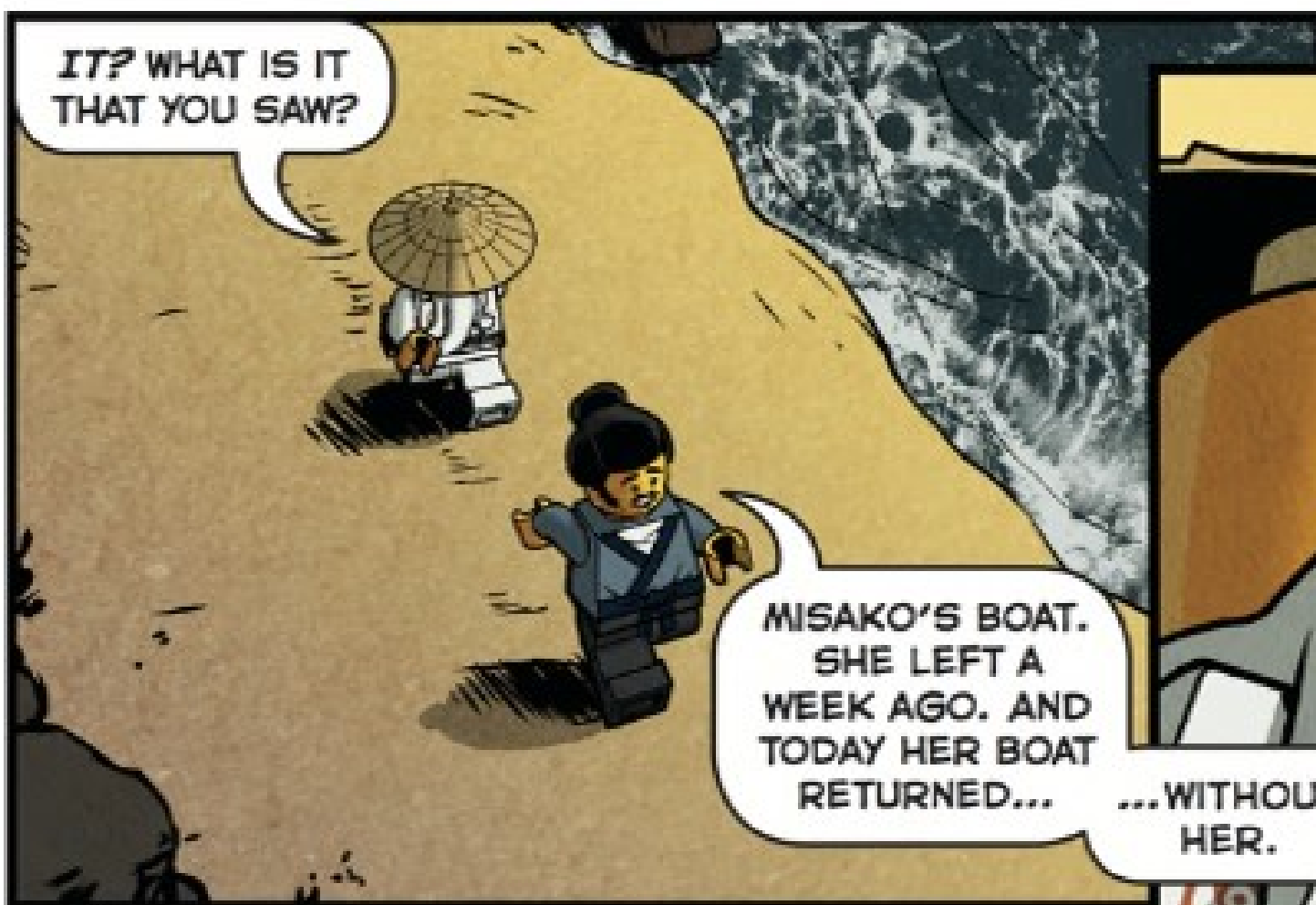


MASTER! YOU MUST COME QUICKLY! HURRY!



HOW LONG HAS IT BEEN?

YOU HAVE BEEN IN MEDITATION FOR DAYS. WHEN I AWOKE THIS MORNING, I SAW IT, AND I KNEW I HAD TO SUMMON YOU.



IT? WHAT IS IT THAT YOU SAW?

MISAKO'S BOAT. SHE LEFT A WEEK AGO. AND TODAY HER BOAT RETURNED...

...WITHOUT HER.



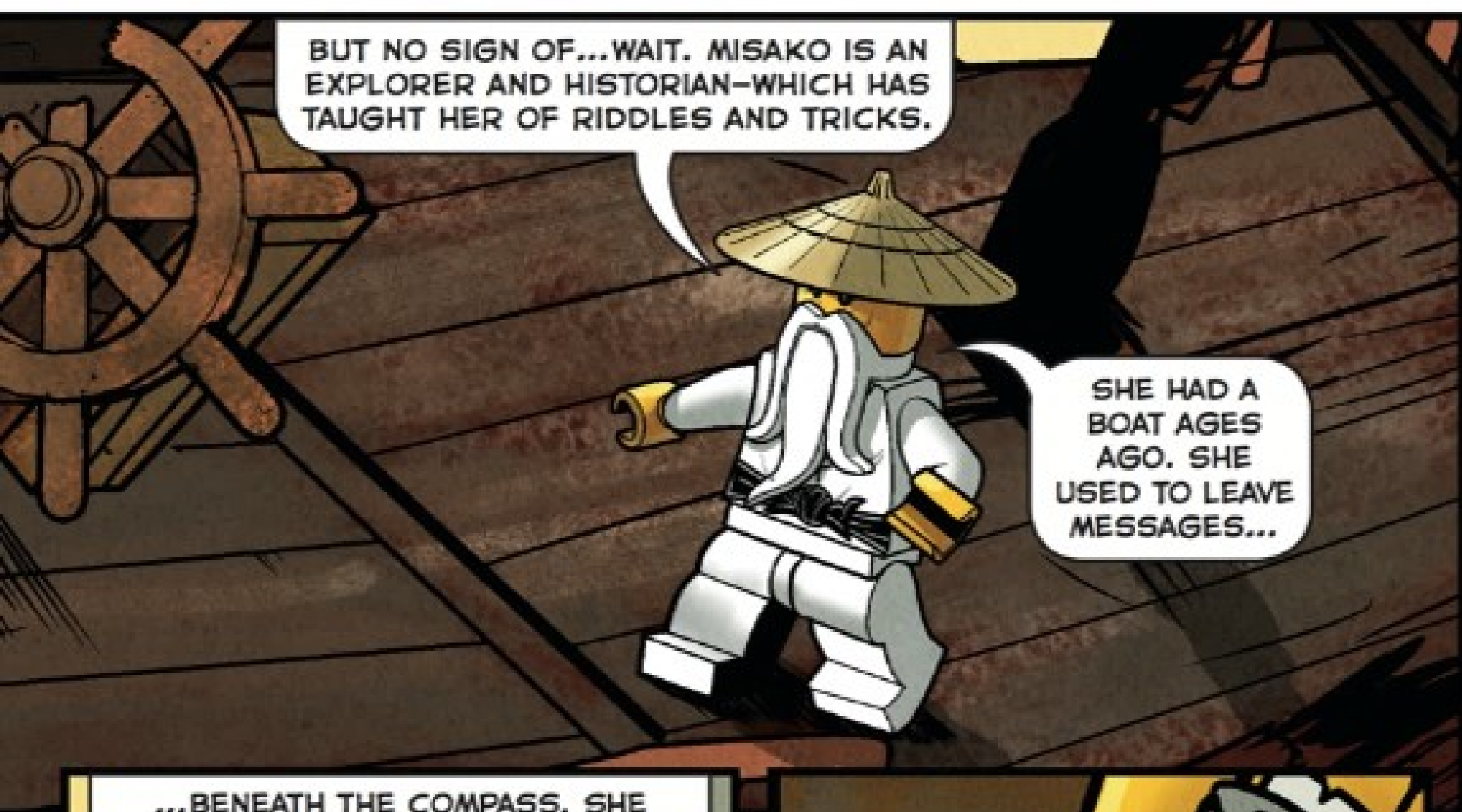
OH, MISAHO...I
SHOULD NEVER
HAVE LET YOU GO...

THE SHIP LOOKS LIKE IT HAS BEEN
THROUGH A WAR AND BARELY SURVIVED.
THIS DOES NOT HELP WU'S FEELING THAT
SOMETHING TERRIBLE HAS HAPPENED TO
ONE OF HIS OLDEST FRIENDS.



MASTER WU, ARE
YOU OKAY?

I AM NOT.



Dear Wu, I know you
will find this letter...

...Our ship is under
attack by pirates.

I have little
time, but I must
warn you about
Dark Island...

Please, whatever you do, stay
away from this place! It is worse
than you can imagine...

I HAVE
ALWAYS
DONE AS
YOU ASKED,
MISAKO...

...BUT NOT
THIS TIME.



BUT WHAT WILL
YOU DO?



WHAT I HAVE ALWAYS DONE:
I WILL TRY TO HELP.



BUT I WILL NOT
DO IT ALONE.

LATER, WU AND HIS NINJA TEAM GATHER IN NYA'S SECRET SAMURAI X CAVE TO PREPARE FOR THEIR NEW MISSION.

DARK ISLAND WILL ALMOST CERTAINLY TRY TO SEPARATE US. WE MUST STAY TOGETHER ONCE WE ARRIVE. WE ARE STRONGEST AS A TEAM.

NO WORRIES. WE CAN USE THE COMMUNICATORS I BUILT FOR US BEFORE GOING TO MASTER CHEN'S ISLAND.

OH, GREAT. I LOVE THOSE THINGS!

YOU AND YOUR GADGETS. WHAT MATTERS IS WHO STRIKES THE FASTEST AND THE HARDEST.

AS I RECALL, NYA'S "GADGETS" HAVE SAVED YOUR HIDE A TIME OR TWO...OR FOUR TIMES...OR SIX TIMES...

GUYS, KNOCK IT OFF. THIS IS SERIOUS.

MY MOTHER IS MISSING! IF YOU CAN'T FOCUS ON THE MISSION, THEN WE'LL GO WITHOUT YOU.

TAKE IT EASY, LLOYD. WE ALL WANT TO HELP FIND MISAKO.

ANGER AND FEAR WILL CLOUD OUR JUDGMENT. OUR ENEMIES WANT US IN SUCH A FOG.

I HAVE COMPLETED MY ANALYSIS OF MISAKO'S BOAT. THE DAMAGE WAS INDEED DONE BY CANNON FIRE.

WHO USES CANNONS ANYMORE? WEIRD.

WE'D BETTER GRAB ALL THE WEAPONS AND EQUIPMENT WE CAN CARRY. UM...SORRY, COLE. YOU DON'T HAVE TO HELP.

I AM HELPING. I MAY BE A GHOST, BUT IF I FOCUS HARD ENOUGH, I CAN STILL BECOME SOLID.

MAYBE IT'S MORE GHOSTS? WHICH WOULD BE DUMB BECAUSE, YOU KNOW, THE WHOLE SEA IS FILLED WITH WATER.

GHOSTS DON'T FIRE CANNONS.

LET'S LEAVE THE GHOST STORIES FOR *THE DAY OF THE DEPARTED* AND TRACK THESE CREEPS DOWN. WHEN ARE WE LEAVING?



READY THE SHIP FOR DEPARTURE. WE
SAIL AS SOON AS I COLLECT ONE VERY
IMPORTANT PIECE OF CARGO.



CAN
SOMEBODY—
UNFFF—GIVE
ME A HAND?

MINE ARE
FULL.

YOU DON'T EVEN
KNOW WHAT "PACK
LIGHT" MEANS, DO
YOU, JAY?

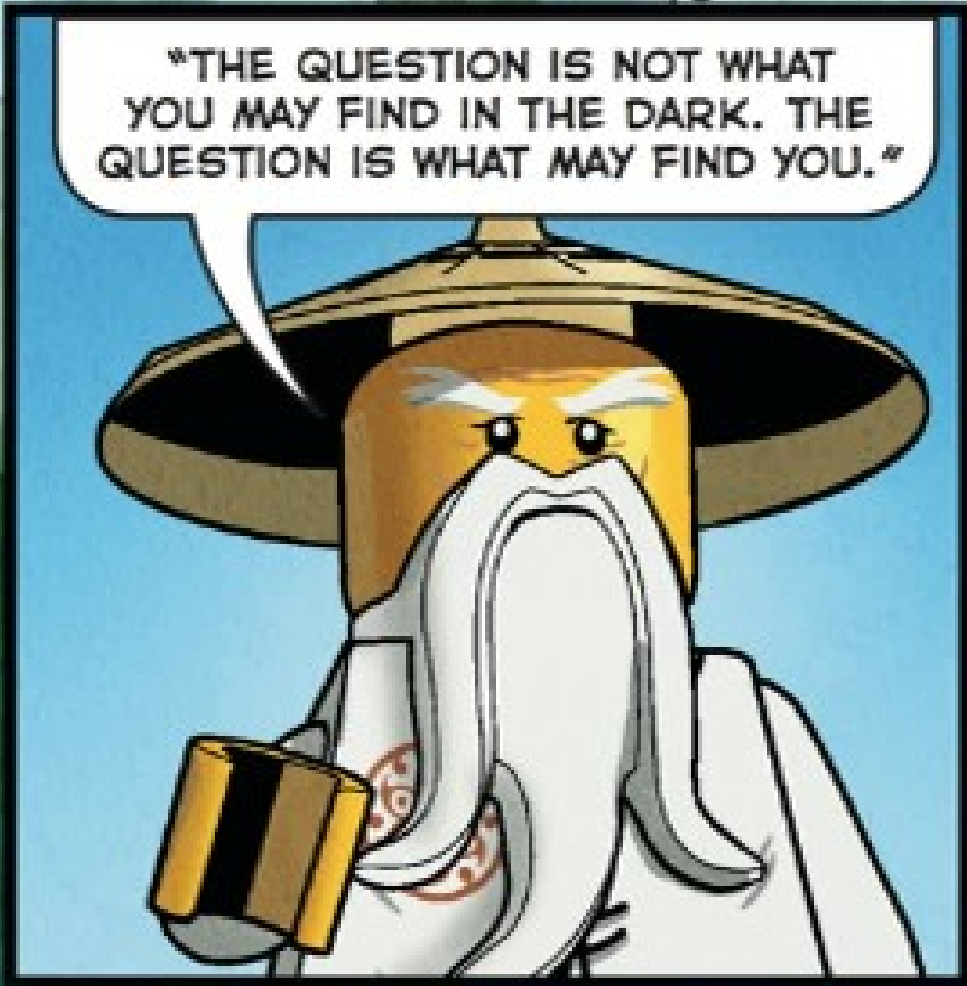
WHY WOULD JAY
BE REQUIRED TO
PACK A SOURCE OF
ILLUMINATION?





WHAT DO YOU THINK WE'LL FIND THERE, MASTER WU?

I DO NOT KNOW, LLOYD, BUT THERE IS AN OLD SAYING...



THE QUESTION IS NOT WHAT YOU MAY FIND IN THE DARK. THE QUESTION IS WHAT MAY FIND YOU.



HANG ON, MOM. I'M COMING.

LATER...

I WANTED TO SHARE WITH YOU THE NOTE MISAKO HID.

IT WAS A WARNING. PIRATES ATTACKED, BUT MISAKO HINTS THERE IS SOMETHING MUCH WORSE WAITING FOR US...

PIRATES? DO YOU THINK IT'S MISFORTUNE'S KEEP?!

SHHHHH! NO ONE REMEMBERS ABOUT THAT EXCEPT US!

WHAT ARE YOU TWO WHISPERING ABOUT?

NOTHING. NOTHING AT ALL.

JAY'S RIGHT. BIG ZERO. NOTHING TO SEE HERE.

RIIIGGGHHHTTT...

IF I COULD HAVE YOUR ATTENTION, MY NINJA.

I HAVE NO IDEA WHAT ROLE THESE PIRATES PLAY IN THE EVENTS AT DARK ISLAND, BUT I INTEND TO ASK THEM MYSELF...AND SOON.



GUYS, WE HAVE
A PROBLEM!

WAS THAT THERE
A MINUTE AGO?

NO, IT
WASN'T.

WOW, INSTANT STORM—
JUST ADD WATER.

PURPLE LIGHTNING? THAT STORM CAN'T
BE NATURAL. AND THE HURRICANE
WINDS ARE TOO BIG AND TOO CLOSE!

I CAN'T
STEER AWAY!
WE'RE BEING
PULLED IN!

HANG ON,
EVERYBODY!
WE'RE GOING
TO HIT—

ALL WORDS ARE LOST IN THE HOWL OF THE WIND, THE CRASH OF THE RAIN, AND THE GROAN OF THE TIMBERS OF *DESTINY'S BOUNTY*. SHIP AND CREW ARE TOSSED ABOUT AS IF THEY WERE WEIGHTLESS.



SUDDENLY, THE MISSION IS NOT JUST ABOUT FINDING LOST FRIENDS OR SOLVING A MYSTERY. IT'S ABOUT **SURVIVAL**.

AIRJITZU THIS WAY, NYA!
WHERE ARE THE OTHERS?

I CAN'T SEE
ANYONE EXCEPT
MASTER WU!
HE'S STILL ON
THE SHIP!

I WILL NOT SURRENDER.
GETTING TO DARK
ISLAND IS MY DESTINY,
AND I WILL ACHIEVE IT,
STORM, SO DO YOUR
WORST!



MASTER!
NO!

KRAK-A-BOOM!

THE POWER OF THE STORM GROWS EVEN STRONGER, SCATTERING
THE NINJA THROUGH THE SKIES—PERHAPS NEVER TO MEET AGAIN.

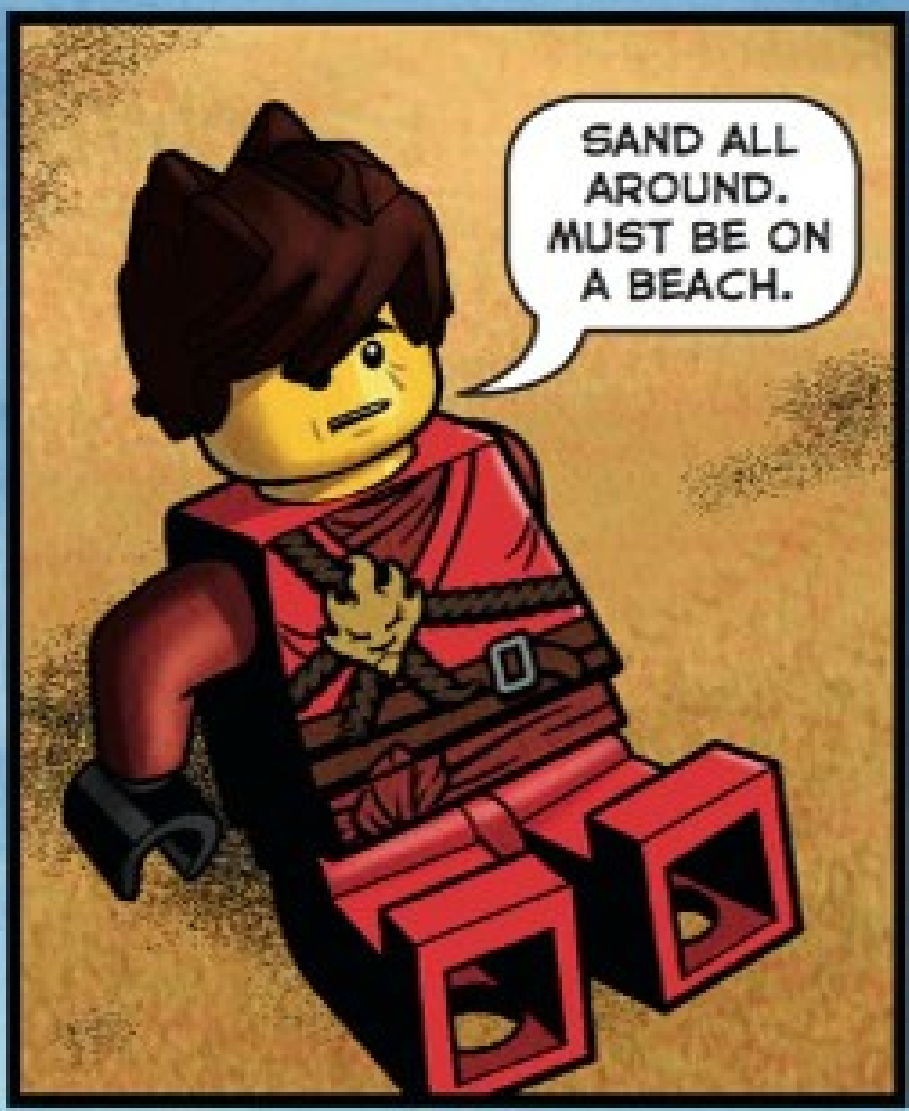
UH...

WHAT HIT ME?

ONE MINUTE, I WAS FLYING THROUGH THE CLOUDS, AND THE NEXT...



SAND ALL AROUND. MUST BE ON A BEACH.



OR NOT.

KAI, OLD BUDDY, YOU SHOULD HAVE PACKED A WATER BOTTLE.





JOURNAL



~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~
I, Master Wu, take pen in hand in these dark hours before dawn. I do not know if anyone will ever read these words.

But if you should be looking at these pages on some future date, they may serve as an explanation of what is to come... and a warning. ✕

It has been a long time since I put ink to scroll, but I now feel the need to record my thoughts about this journey. Perhaps these words can serve as some record of what will happen to the world in the coming days—be it good, or be it bad.

I have been plagued by a nightmare.
In it, I see Darkness overtaking the land.
I fear this may be more than a dream.
Could it be the essence of the NINJAGO world crying out to me for help?

I can remember my father having such dreams.

He was the First Spinjitzu Master, creator of this world, and loving parent to me and my

brother, **Garmadon**.

He wanted this to be a place of peace, but evil appeared in the form of the **Overlord**. My father was tormented by visions of the War that was to come.



But he did not shrink from the fight. To honor my father, I took up the mantle of hero. I spent countless years fighting against madmen and would-be conquerors. When the burden began to be too much to shoulder alone, I formed a team of young ninja to aid me. Our victories have been many, and we have kept this world safe.

But tonight I wonder... Will our good fortune soon run out? Could even we stand against true Darkness unleashed?

I have much to meditate upon.

Day 1

Misako and I walked along the seashore today. The usually busy docks were quiet as

Misako searched out a boat for rent.

Though she loves archaeology and history a great deal, she is an adventurer first and foremost. As such, she has decided

to investigate some strange happenings

around **Dark Island**. Apparently, some fishermen have been reported missing.

It is likely due to a growing storm off the coast, but Misako is sure it's something more.

I asked her to wait for me, until I have finished meditating on the great darkness I feel. But she pointed out that there will always be something for me to fight, and that life is too short. She is right on both points. Still, I asked her again to wait, and again she laughed. Misako insisted it would be only a few days, and thus nothing she couldn't handle on her own. Finally, I insisted she at least take **Ronin**, to which she agreed.

I wish I could have gone with her, but I am needed here—to meditate. Part of me was glad that she was elsewhere, but now, the more I meditate, the more I'm concerned she is in harm's way. I can feel it in the wind and see it in the storm-tossed seas. There is something fundamentally **WRONG** in our land. Light and Dark are out of balance here; I do not know why, but I must find out.

I wonder if I should summon my ninja now, but the wisdom in my soul says I must wait until I know more. If this is a threat that will make the **Great Devourer** look like an earthworm, I must be able to give my ninja the knowledge they need to win. I will meditate and strive to put a face to our unknown enemy. I have no choice, though I dearly wish I did.

DAY 2

Thoughts of
Misako keep
intruding upon
my meditations.
Perhaps if I
write about
her, it may
help matters.
Ages ago,
when I was a
young man,
Misako
was the
woman I
cared for.

But my brother,

Garmadon, also had feelings for her.

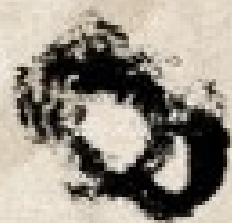
A manipulation by **Master Chen** led Misako
to choose my brother, to my great regret.



Years passed before we saw each other again. She had become a noted archaeologist and given birth to a son, Lloyd, my nephew. Never content to sit behind a desk, Misako had adventured all over the world in search of knowledge. It was only logical to invite her to be a part of my team. Emotion did not enter into it at all.

Of course not.

Today, Misako is a proud and devoted mother to Lloyd, a valuable aide to the ninja team, and more...the friend of my heart. She can sometimes achieve more with a single kind word than I can with hours of teaching. And she makes an excellent cup of tea.



Day 5 - Morning

W

Misako will return today. She will sail into the harbor, brimming with excitement over what she has discovered. She will run down the dock to me, eager to tell me what she has found out on her travels. I will listen to every word she says and fight the urge to embrace her, instead simply nodding and smiling as she finishes. Then we will discuss what to do next.

That is what will happen when she returns today... At least, this is what I **hope** will happen.

Along with the excitement of discovery, there will be steel in Misako's tone. She **hates** injustice of any kind. She has seen the damage that can be done by Darkness and corruption, and has vowed no innocent should suffer the way she has done. I truly believe there are **no** limits to her bravery. That is how I know she will return today, because there is **nothing** that can stop her when she is set upon a course.

- Evening

The sun is setting outside my window. It appears that I was wrong. It seems Misako will not return today. This worries me on many levels. I only let Misako go because I thought she would be safe elsewhere. But I am beginning to suspect I was wrong.

Today, I had the strangest vision. I was on the shore, walking, and all alone. The seas and skies grew dark. Ultimate Darkness erupted from the distant horizon and began to change the face of the world. Suddenly, I was fighting alongside my father—the first Spinjitzu Master. The Darkness bit at us again and again, but we glowed with light, and we fought back the Darkness, even as it threatened to devour us.

I cannot see what is coming at us, but I believe I know what I must do now...

DAY 6

I can take comfort in only one thing:
Even though all my senses tell me that
something terrible has happened, at least
I did not allow Misako to go into danger
alone.

Ronin is an expert thief and an accomplished
teller of tales, many of them not true. He claims
that money, not honor, is at the center of
his life. And it is true that I had to offer him
money to get him to accompany Misako on her
voyage. But I suspect there is a nobility
in him that Ronin tries to hide.



I know little about his past. My ninja once encountered him in the village of Stiix while we were attempting to secure the Scroll of Airjitzu. He asked for an exorbitant amount for the scroll, and later lost it to Morro. For his own reasons—which he claimed were selfish ones—he allied with us against the ghost army and even saved Nya's life. • • •

While he is not a member of the ninja team, Ronin has become ...an ally. He can get his hands on information with the speed of a flying squirrel kick. He takes pride in the fact that he always works alone, but in his heart, I believe he needs friends...and so that is what Misako and I have tried to be.

DAY 8

Dear Wu, I know you will find this letter. Our ship is under attack by pirates. I have little time, but I must warn you about Dark Island...

Please, whatever you do, stay away from this place! It is worse than you can imagine...

With all of my meditation on the wavering balance of Dark and Light, I did not see that Misako was going directly into the heart of danger. How could I have been so foolish?

Today, Misako's boat drifted back into the harbor. It was badly damaged, and she and Ronin were missing. At first, I believed they had simply disappeared without a trace, but then I remembered this was Misako, who is nothing if not resourceful. She had time to write a note. Misako named her

attackers—pirates—so at least we have some small idea of what awaits us on Dark Island. Yes, I say "us." I have summoned the ninja, and as I write, they prepare our ship, **Destiny's Bounty**, for our journey. We could not, and we cannot, pierce the mystery of Dark Island by sitting in this harbor. We must dare the storm.



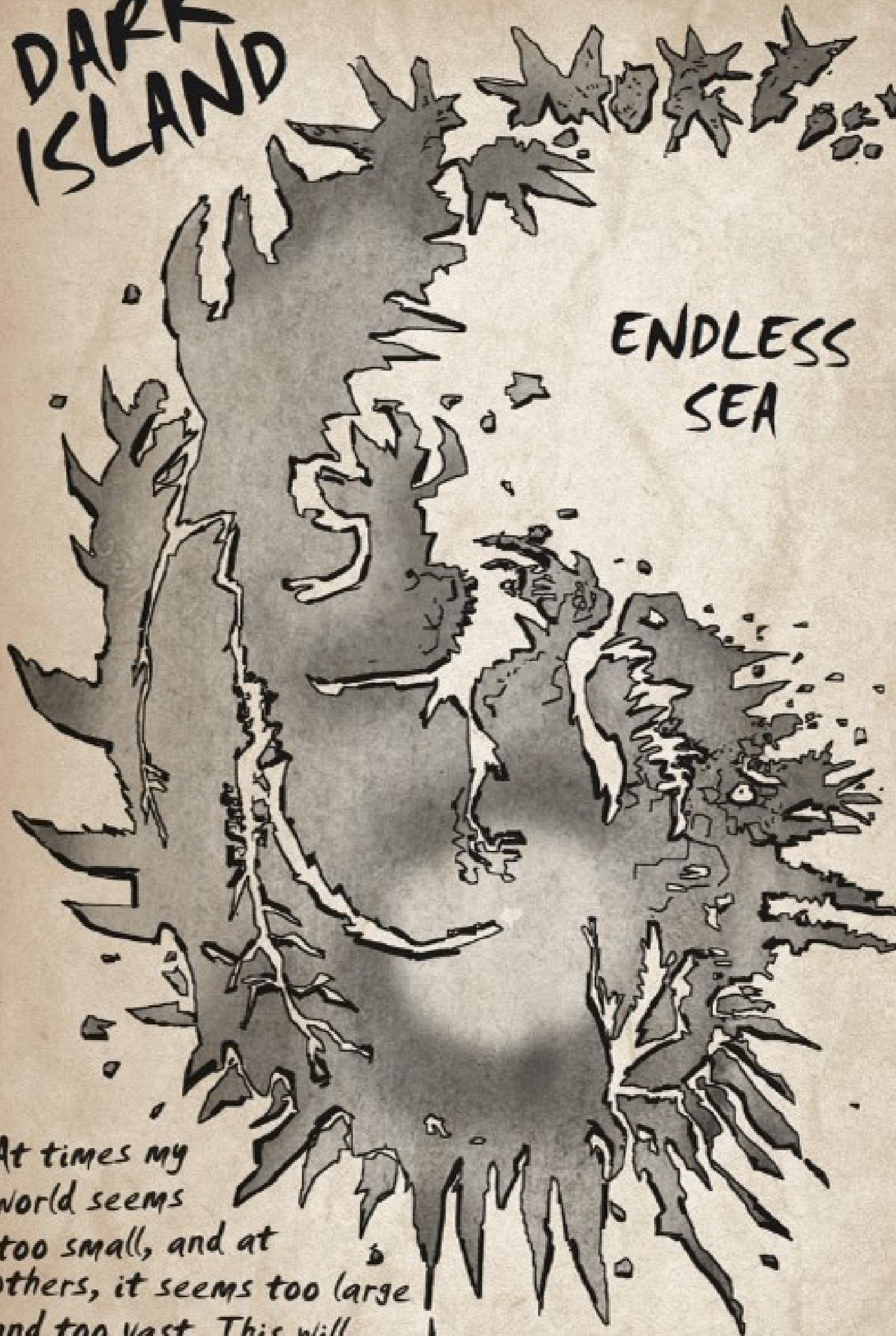
But **Destiny's Bounty** is a sturdy and strong ship. She has been through much, but I believe this journey will test her in new ways—as Dark Island will test all of us to the brink of our strength and mental grit.

I am slowly coming to an understanding of what my role in the journey to Dark Island is...to end the evil of Dark Island. And I will do it, even if I must grind that cursed place to dust. Let the winds howl and the rains lash at my skin, let a thousand shadowy menaces crawl forth from the jungle—nothing will **stop me**.

I am my father's son, and I have his strength and spirit flowing through me. He guided me in my meditations to be prepared for the battle to come. And so I have my ninja packing a large tea crate. They think me a silly old man. What they do not know is that my tea crate **does not** hold tea...

DARK ISLAND

ENDLESS
SEA



At times my
world seems
too small, and at
others, it seems too large
and too vast. This will
not be my first time to Dark Island,
but I pray it will be the last.

NINJAGO



CHAPTER TWO

SHIPWRECKED



...THE FIRST THING MASTER WU HEARS IS THE SOUND OF TROPICAL BIRDS. THEY ARE SINGING A SONG OF WARNING.

I AM IN ONE PIECE, AND MY LIMBS ALL SEEM TO BE WORKING...MY DAY IS ALREADY FULL OF SURPRISES.

AH, THERE YOU ARE, OLD FRIEND...AND SOMEWHAT THE WORSE FOR WEAR. I BELIEVE—

RUN!

LLOYD, YOU'RE OKAY. HAVE YOU SEEN THE OTHERS?

ALSO, WHY ARE WE RUNNING?

LESS TALKING, MORE RUNNING...



CRASH

WHAT DID YOU
DO TO UPSET
THEM, MY
STUDENT?

ALL I DID
WAS TAKE
A BANANA
FROM A TREE.
HOW WAS I
SUPPOSED
TO KNOW IT
BELONGED TO
THEM?!

WE ARE
STRANGERS IN A
STRANGE LAND.
ASSUME THAT
EVERYTHING IS
DANGEROUS.

NOW YOU
TELL ME.



HAVE YOU TRIED TO APOLOGIZE?

I DON'T THINK THEY'RE IN THE MOOD.



HEY, WHY IS THE GROUND SUDDENLY ALL SQUISHY AND SOFTTTTT—

WHOA!



IT SEEMS DARK ISLAND HAS QUICKSAND.

GREAT. EITHER THE GORILLAS OR THE SAND ARE GOING TO EAT US. WHICH IS WORSE?



IT SEEMS THE GORILLAS KNOW OUR FATE IS SEALED. THEY ARE LEAVING. LUCKY FOR US.



HOW IS THAT LUCKY?



IT IS WRITTEN THAT QUICKSAND IS LIKE LIFE ITSELF...



SOMETIMES ALL ONE NEEDS IS A HAND TO HOLD.



AND SOME AIRJITZU!



LATER...

OKAY, SO THE *BOUNTY* HAD A WORSE LANDING THAN I DID. WHAT DO WE DO NOW?

HOW APPEALING IS BEING STRANDED HERE FOR THE REST OF YOUR LIFE?



I'D RATHER EAT KAI'S COOKING EVERY NIGHT.

THEN LET US GET TO WORK.

MASTER WU AND LLOYD SPEND DAYS REPAIRING THE SHIP. TREES ARE CHOPPED INTO WOOD. TREE SAP IS BOILED INTO GLUE. IN THE END, THEY DO WHAT THEY CAN TO GET THE SHIP INTO THE RIVER.

IT WON'T FLY, BUT
IT WILL FLOAT.

THEN FLOATING
WILL HAVE TO BE
ENOUGH.

THERE IS A GREAT
EVIL ON THIS ISLAND...
PERHAPS GREATER THAN
ANYTHING WE HAVE EVER
ENCOUNTERED. IT MUST
BE ROOTED OUT AND
DESTROYED.

WHICH WE'LL
DO AS SOON AS
WE FIND OUR
FRIENDS, RIGHT?

NO. WE CANNOT AFFORD THE
DELAY. THOUGH IT CUTS ME
TO THE CORE OF MY BEING,
I MUST LEAVE THEM TO SAVE
THEMSELVES.

THE CHOICE IS YOURS:
YOU CAN LEAVE IN SEARCH
OF YOUR MOTHER AND THE
OTHERS, OR JOIN ME AS
WE SAIL INTO THE HEART
OF THIS ISLAND—THE
HEART OF DARKNESS.

ALL RIGHT. I'LL
GO WITH YOU. I
WILL TRUST YOU,
MASTER WU.

FOR
NOW...

THE JOURNEY BEGINS IN
SILENCE, WU WORRYING ABOUT
WHAT LIES AHEAD AND LLOYD
WONDERING IF THE LIFE HE HAS
CHOSEN IS ALL ABOUT MAKING
LIFE-AND-DEATH DECISIONS.

THEIR DOUBTS GROW, AFFECTED BY
THE **DARK MATTER**. THE SINISTER
SUBSTANCE IS IN THE SOIL, IN THE
WATER, EVEN IN THE AIR ALL AROUND
THEM. THERE IS NO ESCAPE FROM
DARKNESS HERE...

ALONG THE EDGE OF *SHADOW BAY*, JAY FINDS HIMSELF ON A BEACH, BUT NOT ONE THAT COULD BE CALLED A "VACATION DESTINATION."

NYA? ZANE? COLE?
MASTER WU?!

ANYBODY?!

SIGH I'D EVEN
BE HAPPY TO SEE
RONIN RIGHT NOW.

LOOK AT THIS JUNK.
I SHOULD COMPLAIN
TO THE DARK ISLAND
TOURIST BOARD.

WAIT A SECOND. THIS
ISN'T JUNK. THERE ARE
FRESH TOOL MARKS.

SOMEBODY
WAS BUILDING
SOMETHING
HERE...

AAAAHHHHH!

THAT SOUNDS
LIKE NYA!





MY COMMUNICATOR
IS DEAD. IS YOURS
WORKING?

NYA TO KAI...
NYA TO LLOYD...
ANYBODY, COME
IN. IS ANYBODY
OUT THERE?



MINE IS
DEAD TOO.

OR MAYBE...
MAYBE THERE
ISN'T ANYONE
OUT THERE TO
CONTACT.



WHAT IF WE'RE THE
ONLY SURVIVORS?



LET'S NOT GO THERE. WE HAVE TO
STAY POSITIVE. BESIDES, I LIKE YOU,
BUT I DON'T WANT TO BE STRANDED
HERE WITH YOU FOR THE REST OF
OUR LIVES. GRAB A CLUB.

WHAT FOR? EVEN IF OUR
EQUIPMENT DOESN'T WORK,
WE STILL HAVE OUR POWERS.
YOU SOAK 'EM; I ZAP 'EM.

THINK ABOUT IT: IF
SOMETHING ON THIS
ISLAND CAN SHUT DOWN
ELECTRONICS, MAYBE
IT CAN SHUT OFF OUR
POWERS TOO.



HOURS GO BY AS THE TWO SEARCH THE ROCKY COAST OF NO MAN'S BLUFF.

I SUPPOSE OUR FRIENDS COULD HAVE BEEN CAPTURED BY PIRATES.

WE WILL BE TOO IF YOU DON'T KEEP YOUR VOICE DOWN.

IF WE SEE ANY PIRATES, I'LL DISTRACT THEM AND YOU RUN.

WHY CAN'T I DISTRACT THEM WHILE YOU RUN?

HELP!
HELP!

SOMEONE'S IN TROUBLE! HURRY!

EASY, MATEY!
STRUGGLING WON'T BE A LICK OF HELP!

HELP!
SOMEONE!
PLEASE!

TOSS 'EM IN THE TRUCK!



HEY, GUYS, WOULDN'T IT BE EASIER TO JUST GO TO THE FISH MARKET?

AND WHO BE YOU? SOME BOAT'S CREW CAST ASHORE HERE?

IT'S NADAKHAN'S CREW, BUT THEY DON'T REMEMBER US.



THAT'S RIGHT. WE LOVE TO FISH...ESPECIALLY FOR SHARKS LIKE YOU.

SHE'S GOT COURAGE, THIS ONE. COURAGE AND WIT AND A SHARP TONGUE.

CRACK

I HATE A SHARP TONGUE.



THEN YOU'RE REALLY GOING TO HATE THIS.

SPLASH

AWWWK!

LET'S NAME TODAY "FLY
LIKE A PIRATE DAY"!

AND THAT'S FOR
MAKING ME CLEAN THE
PIRATES' BATHROOM
ON MISFORTUNE'S
KEEP—EVEN IF YOU
DON'T REMEMBER.

CRACK!

YOWWW!

"SNIFF"

YOU GUYS NEED A BATH. REALLY. HAVE
YOU EVER MET A BAR OF SOAP?

WHOOSH

I HOPE NADAKHAN
ISN'T INVOLVED HERE.
LAST TIME WE FOUGHT,
HE ALMOST WON.

AAACCK!

AAAARRRRR!

HEY, REMEMBER LAST
TIME WE COMBINED
OUR POWERS? WANNA
TRY IT AGAIN?

SURE, BUT LET'S DO
SOMETHING DIFFERENT
THIS TIME...



WE MAKE A PRETTY
GOOD PAIR, HUH?

YEAH,
WE DO!



WOULD YOU
PEOPLE KEEP
IT DOWN? I'M
TRYING TO
SLEEP IN MY
CAVE!



OH, HEY, JAY! HI,
NYA! DID YOU COME
TO RESCUE ME?!

RONIN?!



WHY,
YOU—!

WHERE'S MISAKO, RONIN? OR DID
YOU SELL HER TO THE PIRATES TO
KEEP YOURSELF SAFE?



HEY! WHEN I SIGN UP FOR A JOB,
I DO IT! AND I DO IT WELL.

RONIN,
BEHIND—



DON'T INTERRUPT
ME! LET ME EXPLAIN
WHAT HAPPENED—



UH... CAN
SOMEONE HELP
ME? PLEASE?!

JAY, YOU STOP
THE PIRATES
FROM ESCAPING.
I'LL FIGHT THE
LEVIATHAN AND
SAVE RONIN.

WAIT!
I'M NOT
LEAVING
YOU, NYA!



COME ON,
UGLY, KEEP
YOUR EYES
ON ME!



RONIN!

NYA, LOOK OUT!

NOW, I BETTER AIM THIS RIGHT, OR IT'S GOING TO BE *FRIED AND CRISPY* RONIN.



I HOPE THERE'S A PART TWO TO THIS PLAN!

GIVE A GUY A LITTLE WARNING NEXT TIME, WOULD YOU?

I HAVE TO GO HELP NYA. FIND A PLACE TO HIDE.



HIDE? YOU'RE IN FOR A BIG SURPRISE, NINJA.

LET'S GET OUT OF HERE BEFORE THAT SEA MONSTER EATS US FOR LUNCH!

JAY, WHY DIDN'T YOU LISTEN TO ME?! NOW THE PIRATES ARE GETTING AWAY!

I WAS JUST TRYING TO HELP!

SPLASH
ZZZZAAAKKK

HA-HA! WHO NEEDS NINJA WHEN YOU'VE GOT A RONIN?

WROOOM



COME ON, NYA, POUR IT ON!
DRIVE IT BACK INTO THE SEA!

THOOM!
THOOM!



WE DID IT!

OF COURSE WE DID.



WHERE DID
YOU GET
THAT SUIT?

PUT IT TOGETHER WITH
ODDS AND ENDS I FOUND
AROUND HERE. LIKE IT?

WELL, IT'S
NO SAMURAI
X SUIT, BUT
IT CAME IN
HANDY.



WHAT ARE WE WAITING FOR?
LET'S GET TO YOUR BOAT
AND GET OUT OF HERE
BEFORE MORE PIRATES OR
SEA MONSTERS SHOW UP.



OH, UH, ABOUT THAT...OUR
SHIP IS KINDA GONE.

EVEN IF IT WERE HERE, WE'RE
NOT GOING ANYWHERE—NOT
WITHOUT OUR TEAM.



LOOK, YOUR FRIENDS ARE GONE. WE NEED TO FOCUS ON GETTING OFF THIS ISLAND, AND FAST.

YOU THINK THAT LEVIATHAN WAS SCARY? THEN YOU DEFINITELY DON'T WANT TO GO INTO THE JUNGLE AFTER THE PIRATES, TRUST ME.



TRUST YOU? THAT'S A LAUGH. WEREN'T YOU SUPPOSED TO BE GUARDING MISAKO? WHERE IS SHE NOW?

BACK OFF, SPARKY.



BOTH OF YOU, STOP IT. RONIN, WHAT HAPPENED HERE?



MISAKO AND I SAILED HERE LOOKING FOR CLUES REGARDING SOME MISSING FISHERMEN.

WE DIDN'T FIND ANYTHING BUT MUTATED BEASTS. AFTER MISAKO MAPPED THE ISLAND, WE DECIDED TO HEAD HOME AND GET HELP. I THOUGHT WE WERE SAFE...BUT I WAS WRONG.



*NEXT THING YOU KNOW, WE HAD COMPANY—THE KIND THAT LIKES TO TAKE YOU FOR WALKS ON THE PLANK, GOT ME?



*THEY ATTACKED. THE PIRATES BOARDED US, AND THERE WAS A FIGHT. I DID MY BEST...BUT IT WASN'T ENOUGH.



*A WAVE WASHED ME OVERBOARD. I COULD BARELY SWIM IN THE CRAZINESS OF THE HUGE STORM.



I WAS HELPLESS AS I WATCHED THE PIRATE SHIP SAIL BACK TO THE ISLAND. BY THE TIME I MADE IT BACK TO SHORE, THE PIRATES WERE GONE. AND MISAOKO WITH THEM.



I LOOKED FOR HER AFTER, BUT COULDN'T FIND HER. THE JUNGLE HAS TERRIBLE CREATURES AND MONSTERS YOU WOULDN'T BELIEVE...



EVER SINCE, I'VE BEEN STAYING UNDER COVER ON THE BEACH AND KEEPING AN EYE OUT FOR A WAY OFF THIS ROCK.

THAT'S IT?
BUT WHAT'S
GOING ON
HERE? YOU
MUST HAVE
LEARNED
SOMETHING
ELSE.

JUST THAT THE PIRATES
ATTACK ANY BOAT THAT
COMES NEAR UNDER
COVER OF THE STORM.
THEY KIDNAP THE
CREWS, THEN LOOT THE
SHIPS. AFTER THAT,
THEY DISAPPEAR BACK
INTO THE JUNGLE.

BUT WHAT FOR?
WHAT DO THEY
NEED A BUNCH
OF FISHERMEN
AND CARGO
HAULERS FOR?

HOW SHOULD I
KNOW? YOU'RE
THE HEROES—YOU
FIGURE IT OUT.

THANKS FOR
THE "HELP,"
RONIN. YOU
CAN GO BACK
TO YOUR
CAVE NOW.

I PROMISED WU TO WATCH
MISAKO. IF I CAN HELP HER,
THEN I'M COMING WITH YOU.

GOOD. THREE IS BETTER THAN TWO. WE CAN
FOLLOW THESE TIRE TRACKS FROM THE
PIRATES' TRUCK AND FIND OUT WHERE THEY'VE
TAKEN MISAKO AND THE FISHERMEN.

MAYBE WE'LL EVEN
FIND THE REST OF
OUR FRIENDS.

LET'S HOPE WE FIND THEM FAST.
DARK ISLAND GIVES ME A BAD
FEELING, AND I RATHER NOT STICK
AROUND TO FIND OUT WHY...

TO BE CONTINUED...



JOURNAL

DARK ISLAND



→ ① During the great storm that separated me and my ninja, I thought I saw Nya land here, on this beach. I hope that Jay landed close by. Together, I know they will be safe.

→ ② This is where I crashed, along with Destiny's Bounty. Lloyd was not too far off. I only hope my other ninja are close.

→ ③ Now that I am here on Dark Island, I have the innate feeling I should take the river south toward the Temple of Light. In all my years, I have learned to always trust that instinct within me...

DAY 10

The world has at last stopped spinning long enough for me, Master Wu, to resume this journal. Let me begin by saying that I am bruised and sore, but physically intact. As for my mental faculties... well, I awoke to find myself lying on the jungle floor on Dark Island, with a damaged ship and no obvious way to escape from this place.

You could say I am living a nightmare...
but you would be wrong.

Destiny's Bounty is too badly damaged to fly, that is true. But I was fortunate to discover that the crash had deposited Lloyd not far from me. After a small adventure of our own, he and I were able to assess the ship. It is damaged, but not destroyed. Together, he and I may be able to fix it.

Though I am worried about Misako, Ronin, and the rest of my ninja, I know that all are capable of taking care of themselves.

No, I am where I am meant to be. The imbalance between **Light and Dark**, the sense of something fundamentally wrong with the universe, continues to grow. Its source is this island, and it can only be combated here.

The storm that brought down **Destiny's Bounty** was not natural. The dark and tainted seas around this island can be found nowhere else in the world. They are all the product of the corrupting force that lives on this island—the substance called **Dark Matter**. Dark Matter can be mistaken for mud, but in truth, is pure concentrated evil with a dangerous influence. Even now, I can feel tendrils of force reaching into my brain, trying to extinguish the **Light** and turn me toward the **Darkness**.

It is writing this journal that will help me remain true to who I am. It is remembering my friends in this way that will keep me from betraying their faith in me.

DAY 13

Destiny's Bounty has seen better days.

For the last few days, Lloyd and I worked tirelessly to repair the ship. We made glue from tree sap and the cocoons of spike slugs, boiling it over a campfire. We sewed the sails using Airjitzu and a needle and thread—the thread being vines found in the surrounding jungle. We gathered wood, sometimes making it with endless karate chops to the local trees.

It was good to work, to keep our bodies and minds busy. This island is a dark place and it tries to get in when you are weakest. I am only sorry we could not have worked longer, but the clock is ticking...

In the end, the Bounty will not lift into the air, not one inch—not without extensive

repairs we have neither the time nor the materials for. But we worked together and have rendered the ship seaworthy again.

She will not fly, but she will **float**.

Naturally, Lloyd wants to search for Misako right away. But I know that we must head up the river, toward the **Temple of Light**.

If the balance is threatened by events on this island, the temple will be the focal point of the struggle. Whatever must be done by us **must** be done there.



Even with all my training and discipline, I find it increasingly hard to ward off the darkness that tries to encroach upon my mind. Perhaps it is asking too much of any mortal mind to resist the power of Dark Matter for long. My students and I have come across it before, but it has never been this strong. Perhaps the villain behind this plot is bringing it closer to the surface...but how?

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

- Evening

This entire island must be made of Dark Matter, for no matter how far we sail up the river, I find my mind wandering to dark places more and more. But I will fight these shadowy urges. Perhaps if I focus upon my allies in this fight, it will strengthen my resolve to go on. After so very many years fighting alone, I now have ninja who have used my teachings to do great good for this world. My pride in them knows no bounds.



I will begin with Lloyd, my nephew, perhaps the son that could have been mine. When I first met him, he was a child, trying in vain to become a villain like his father. But he could not deny his true nature, and the love and light that his mother, Misako, had given to him. He became an ally of the ninja and, when the time came, embraced his destiny as the **Green Ninja**. Even when the **Power of the Golden Dragon** was his, he did not shy away from it, but used it to save our world.



Lloyd is easily the most powerful of the ninja and a leader on the team.

Yet he still defers to the others when he knows their expertise in a matter may surpass his. Even when circumstances put him in opposition to his father, Garmadon, his loyalty to the team never wavered. And now? With Misako missing somewhere on this cursed island, I can feel his overwhelming need to find her. I fear that, in his youth, and blinded by worry for Misako, he may prove vulnerable to the Dark Matter on this island. If he should turn evil, we would all be in terrible danger.



DAY 14

Here, the nights are freezing, and the days sweltering and hot. This place takes every advantage to weaken its inhabitants physically while the Dark Matter siphons their spirits and minds. I am thankful that Lloyd and I have each other, though I do wish the others were here as well. I will **focus** on my allies to help calm my mind...

Nya. She has already known the touch of Dark Matter. It was not so long ago that exposure to only a small amount of it corrupted her temporarily. If she carries that memory in the back of her mind on this quest, then that is where it shall remain. I have known few people as strong willed and as disciplined as she.

At first, her association with the team grew out of her kinship with Kai, our fire

ninja. Or so my ninja thought—but I knew better. She showed a remarkable instinct for working with machinery and a desire to be part of the team, but I pretended that she was not ready. She needed more time to grow on her own, to help her reach her true potential. I always knew one day she would be one of the ninja.

Wanting more than her lot, and unwilling to wait any longer, Nya constructed a Samurai Mech on her own. Her identity concealed, she aided the ninja against the Serpentine as a mysterious masked samurai. When I discovered the samurai's identity, her actions made me proud. Finally, I believed she was ready. I offered to train her as a ninja, but she had grown to like her Samurai X identity and did not want to relinquish it. She would not be defined by the "boy's club."



In time, she discovered what I already knew: She had elemental abilities of her own. Misako, Ronin, and I worked together to train her, and now she is the Water Ninja. She has adjusted to her new powers remarkably well and has carved a niche of her own with the team. She is not just Kai's sister, Jay's girlfriend, or even Samurai X anymore—she is as brave and capable a warrior as anyone could hope for.

:- Evening

Night draws near, and the Darkness seeks to corrupt me through the growing shadows. But I will remain true to myself and think of my ninja. Earlier today I spoke fondly of Nya. It is hard to think of Nya without thinking of Jay.

My lightning ninja has been enchanted by Nya from the day they first met. As inventive as he is, it seemed he would never be able to devise a way to get her attention. But it appears that the two have finally arrived at a mutual agreement that they are more than friends.

Jay is not the most powerful of all the ninja, or the most serious minded. But I shudder to think where the team would be without him. He was raised by two loving foster parents in a scrapyard, a paradise for a boy who loved to tinker from a young age. The idea that something could not be invented or could not be built never occurred to Jay. Every obstacle was just a challenge to be overcome.



He embraced the adventure of being a ninja and fighting evil. No matter how dark the situation, he always had a joke on his lips or a gadget he could create to save the day. He seemed to understand that fear and tension were just as insidious an enemy as a pirate or a Stone Warrior

could be. Of all the ninja, he may be the most resourceful and the one you most want by your side in a crisis (though he is too modest to agree with that).

DAY 15

I suspect the Dark Matter is in more than just the soil—it is in the water, perhaps even in the air. It poisons the body, the mind, and the spirit. But I know I am stronger than these evil summons. Though we have only been here a week, it seems more like an eternity.

While every fiber of my instinct beckons me to take my friends and run, I must stay true to my journey—to my destiny—that which began with my father and must continue with me. My path has always been to uphold my father's legacy and protect the world of Ninjago from evil. Many people would think me destined for one great battle. But as darkness takes many shapes, so must the light.

Once, I gathered four ninja to save the Golden Weapons from Garmadon when he was evil. Then, I trained my ninja to protect the Chosen One. But even after defeating the Great Devourer, we were not done. We helped in the destruction of the Overlord who possessed my brother's body and became even more powerful. Still, we overcame the worst evil had to offer.

In all those battles, my role changed each time. Teacher, warrior, brother, uncle. But I have not yet been the direct hero to defeat the villain. Not until now did I truly sense that the battle is up to me and me alone. Destiny surprises me with that. Surely, Lloyd or the other ninja are better suited to snuff out the evil on Dark Island, but in my meditations I have discovered it is not their time. This battle—this is mine.

This is my destiny.