

ARIYAH & NERO

BRIDGE OF SHADOWS

DOC HARDEMAN
THE WARRIOR KING

RZNPHNX
THE GUIDING SPIRIT

JYELE
THE MOTHER

ADRIAN
THE FATHER
(FACENADO)



DESTINY WALKS BESIDE HER.



Episode 1 The Cat Who Chose Her



Page 1 - Morning Light

Sunlight poured though the window.

Ariyah stood in the yard, feet planted firmly in the dirt.

Her carmel-toned skin glowed warm in the early light.

Her thick curls bounced as she moved.

She was only five...

but she stood like someone much older.

She raised her wooden practice sword.



Page 2 - Work It Out Child

Slash.

Turn.

Strike.

Her mother watched from the distance.

Not correcting.

Only smiling.



Page 3 - Switch Weapons

Wooden sword - Practice bow - staff.

Her movements were smooth.

They weren't chasing.

Balanced.

Disciplined.

As if her body remembered movements,
long taught before she was born.



Page 4 - Mom and Ariyah

Her mother spoke gently.

Strength is not for hurting.

Ariyah nodded.

It is for protecting.



Page 5 - Eyes In The Grass

Something moved near the fence.

A pair of green eyes blinked from the tall grass.

A small black cat stepped forward slowly.



Page 6 - Trust Issues

Thin.

Dirty.

Cautious.

The little cat slowly stepped out.



Page 7 - Is It Safe

Ariyah lowered her bow.

You're not dangerous,
she said softly.

The cat did not run.



Page 8 - New Friends

Ariyah knelt.

The cat watched

Waiting.

Measuring.

Then...



Page 9 - Nero Is Home

He stepped forward and...

pressed his head against her hand.

Her mother spoke quietly behind her.

Looks like he chose you.

Ariyah smiled.

I choose him too.



Page 10 - Goodnight Nero

They cleaned him.

Fed him.

Wrapped him in warmth.

That night.

Ariyah smiled.

He curled at the foot of Ariyah's bed,
as if he had always belonged there.

She whispered into the darkness

I think your name is Nero.

He purred in agreement.



Page 11 - The Bridge

That night, Ariyah dreamed.
She stood in a field of stars.
Nero walked ahead of her.



Page 12 - Star Steps

With each step he took...
the stars beneath his paws shifted.
Showing things she did not not yet
understand.
Voices echoed like wind through time.
Past.
Present.
Future.
She reached toward him.
He turned.
His eyes glowed like distant galaxies.



Page 13 - Hi Nero

Ariyah woke before sunrise.

Nero sat in the window.

Watching the horizon.



Page 14 - Next Morning

She sat beside him.

You're more than a cat. She whispered.

He blinked slowly.



Page 15 - Back to Training

Morning dew clung to the grass.

Ariyah stepped into the yard,
wooden sword in hand.

Nero followed beside her.

She planted her feet.

Strike. Turn. Guard.

Nero moved with her.

Circling.

Watching her footing.

Adjusting his steps as if training too.



Page 16 - New Watchers

Beyond the fence,
the other cats watched.

From a distance.

Still.

Silent.

Present.

Ariyah paused and smiled.

I think they're your students Nero.

His tail flicked once.



Page 17 - Lunchtime Fun

The smell of food filled the home.

Mom placed a bowl on the table for Ariyah.

And a small dish on the floor fo Nero.

Warriors must eat, she said with a smile.

Ariyah slid into her chair.

Nero took his place beside her.

The door opened.

Dad stepped inside.



Page 18 - Funny Dad

Still dressed from his mission in dark clothing.

Long dreadlocks resting across his shoulders.

Quiet strength in every movement.

He paused, breathing in the scent of food.

Mom crossed her arms, smiling.

Well now, she said.

Is my cooking so good you came home to protect it?

Ariyah burst into laughter.

Dad smiled, lowering his head.



Page 19 - Nighttime

Night settled around the house.

A warm bath.

Soft pajamas.

Quiet laughter.

Mom kissed Ariyah's forehead.



Page 20 - Lights out

Rest brings strength.

Dad dimmed the lights.



Page 21 - Night Nero

Nero curled at the foot of the bed.

Ariyah pulled her blanket close.

Nero... where do we go tonight?

His eyes shimmered softly in the dark.

The room grew still.

The air hummed with quiet possibility.

Ariyah drifted into sleep.



Page 22 - Bridge Again

Somewhere beyond sight...
the bridge waited.



Page 23 - Training Again

Morning light stretched across the yard.

Ariyah planted her feet in the dew-covered grass.

Wooden sword raised.



Page 24 - Still Going

Strike.

Turn.

Guard.

Nero circled beside her, matching her rhythm.

Her breath was steady.

Her focus clear.

Warriors train before the world woke.



Page 25 - Ariyah Awakens

Later that morning Ariyah sat on her bed watching TV.

Nero beside her.

The news broadcast, stopped her show.

Last night the world faced an alien invasion.

The scene shifted to the dramatic footage.

Explosions filled the night sky.

But floating above the chaos, was a figure Ariyah knew.

Her grandfather.



Page 26 - Hey Paw Paw

The Black Flame.

His long coat whipped in the air like a royal banner.

Ice in one hand and fire in the other.

Alien war machines shattered beneath waves of fire and ice.

Leading Earth's defense, the reporter commented.

Ariyah's eyes widened with pride.

That's grandpa... she whispered.

The news showed other heroes fighting beside him.



Page 27 - FlytForce

Standing with grandpa, also called The Black Flame.

The other members of the Flyt family.
Ariyah saw mom and got very excited.
...Suddenly Nero stood up...



Page 29 - Alert Nero

His ears twitched.

His green eyes glowed faintly.

Ariyah yelled, Nero.

The cat didn't respond.

He stared directly at the bedroom door.

A low growl rumbled from his throat.

Outside the house was no longer peaceful.



Page 30 - Cars Everywhere

Black armored vehicles rolled slowly into position.

Heavily armed soldiers stepped out with pulse weapons.

Perimeter established, said the soldier.

Inside the house. Nero jumped from the bed.

Nero! Ariyah said again as she slid off the bed.

Nero rushed toward the hallway.

Then stopped.

He looked back at Ariyah, waiting.



Page 31 - Move It Kid

Do you want me to follow you? she said.

Nero darted toward the front door.

Ariyah rushed behind him.

Something about the house felt different to her.

The moment Ariyah stepped outside, she froze.

Soldiers surrounded the yard, weapon raised.

Dark vehicles lined the street.

Target confirmed, said a trooper.

Ariyah was confused.



Page 31 - Stop There

The soldiers aimed thier weapons.

Nero? she whispered nervously.

Ariyah rushed behind him.

The little cat stepped forward.

His tail flicked once.

Then twice.



Page 32 - Is Nero Okay?

The lead trooper raised his weapon.

Secure the child, he says.

The weapon began charging.

Before the soldier could fire...

Nero changed.



Page 33 - What's This?

His shadow stretched unnaturally across the pavement.

The ground darkened beneath him.

Growing and expanding.

The shadow poured outward like living smoke.

And when it settled the tiny cat was gone.



Page 34 - Wow Nero!

In his place stood a massive panther made of living shadow.

Green eyes burned like emerald fire.

The creature roared.

Ariyah stared in shock.

Nero?!



Page 35 - Nero Attack!

The shadow panther lunged.

Soldiers scattered as the massive beast crashed through.

Vehicles flipped and weapons shattered.

Energy blast streaked through the air from desperate soldiers.

But Nero moved like darkness itself.



Page 36 - Go Nero!

Too fast and powerful.

Then one soldier found an opening.

He aimed directly at Ariyah.

Fire on the target!

The energy cannon discharged with blinding flash.

Nero sprang forward to intercept.

But the blast slipped past him.



Page 38 - Move Ariyah!

The blast struck Ariyah squarely in the chest.

She fell backward.

The world went quiet.

Smoke drifted upward.

For a moment...

Nothing moved.



Page 39 - Get Up Child

Then Ariyah's fingers twitched.

A soft glow formed in her hands.

Purple light.

The energy pulsed slowly at first.

Then brighter and stronger.

Ariyah's eyes opened.

Power surged through her body,
like a storm waking inside her bones.



Page 40 - Stand Up Child

She slowly pushed herself to her feet.
Her hands burned with glowing violet
energy.

The ground beneath her trembled.
Across the city skyline.

Black Flame suddenly stopped mid-fight.
His glowing eyes turned toward the
horizon.



Page 41 - Bloodline

The bloodline, he murmured.

Far above the clouds, BlueJay hovered in the sky.

The wind changed direction.

Her eyes widen.

Ariyah, she screamed.



Page 42 - Get The Kid

Back on the street, a soldier raises a containment launcher.

Contain the subject.

The device fired toward the glowing child.

But suddenly...

A violent gust of wind exploded across the battlefield.

Soldiers tumbled across the pavement.

Vehicles rattled violently.

And through the swirling storm of air, a figure descended from the sky.



Page 43 - Hey Mom!

BlueJay landed between Ariyah and the soldiers.

Her sleek blue and silver armor shimmered as glowing wind energy.

The air swirled around her like a living storm.

She stood protectively in front of her daughter.

You picked the wrong child, she said calmly.

Behind her, Ariyah stood glowing with new power.



Page 44 - Mad Mom!

Beside her, Nero growled softly.

One shaken trooper spoke quietly into his communicator.

Command...

He hesitated.

We have confirmation.

A new member of the Flyt bloodline has awakened.

End of Episode 1...