

REVELATIONS

NEXUS WARRIORS



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PROLOGUE



“Oh my God! Get it out of me!”

The frequency of Rebecca’s aura rippled and expanded around her body erratically between contractions. A vein protruding from her forehead dragged across it as she belted.

“It’s alright, darling. You’re doing great.” Amir frantically clung to his wife’s hand and gently kissed it, slowly absorbing just bits of her aura into him. For a moment, she was eased as he began to feel the sudden rush of agonizing pain that she had felt. Her gentle aura, however, was able to silence his discomfort. Then, the mighty demon suddenly fell to his knees as Rebecca’s grip tightened. He grumbled under his breath, trying not to yell in agony.

“You’re doing great, Rebecca. Just give us one more push.” Olivia, a fair skinned brunette, sat at the end of the table as her husband Garret, a tall black haired man with blue eyes, stood opposite to Amir. “On the count of three,

you're going to give me one more push, okay?" Olivia said.

"Ugh! Okay!" Rebecca squealed.

Her grip tightened, and Amir could not stifle his pain much longer. He let out a howl that seemed to only make Rebecca angry and squeeze ever more tightly.

"Oh, suck it up, Amir!" she scolded.

"Okay, here we go," Olivia said. "One. Two. Three. Push!"

Squeezing once again, both Amir and Rebecca cried out as she gave one final push.

"Ahhh!" The pain had hit its peak before subsiding, and in her relief, she released his hand.

He collapsed and burrowed his head in between his knees. "I thought you would have tore it off."

"I know the feeling, Amir," Garret chuckled. "Don't feel ashamed. It is some of the worst pain I've ever felt, and I've been stabbed numerous times."

"Men," Olivia scoffed. She wrapped the crying baby in a soft blanket. "Would you like to hold her?"

Amir suddenly came to life. "Of course—"

"Not you. The mother is the first to hold the child."

Amir's shoulders slumped as he continued to rub his hand in agony. The pain quickly subsided the moment he saw the glow in his wife's face. The moment she held Amora in her arms, her aura seemed to have illuminated even the darkest crevices of this cabin, and Amir couldn't help but to be drawn to it. Along with the cooing of his daughter soothing his ears, he could no longer fight back the tears.

“Look at what we made.” The joy on Rebecca’s face alone was all he needed in this lifetime.

“She’s beautiful,” Amir whispered, looking down at his family.

“Hi, Amora. This is Mommy speaking, and I want you to know that I will always protect you, and I will always love you. From now and to the end of time.”

In that moment, Amora did something which seemed like a smile and caused Amir’s heart to literally skip a beat. He was in pure bliss as his wife held his delicate daughter gently in her arms. He just stood there as time seemed to have ceased. Taking in as much of the moment as he could.

“I love you, Rebecca.” He gently pressed his lips against hers.

“I love you too, Amir.”

Amora continued to coo as he gently pressed his hand against his wife’s cheek. He turned to Amora. “I will do anything for you. I promise to protect you with my life. I love you both...” his words trailed off as he fought back his tears, “so much.”

“Oh, Amir,” Rebecca wiped her eyes. “You know very well when you cry it will only cause me to do the same.” They embraced one another as Amora cooed through their tearful moment. Amir and Rebecca were happier than they’d ever been. This was paradise to them.

And then...

A loud boom ruptured their ears, and Amir on instinct shrouded both Rebecca and Amora in a protective bubble of black mist. Amora was sent into a frantic wail as the entire building cased with dust. Amir then dropped his barrier and turned only to see a pile of ash shrouding all

around and slowly draining away. As it began to dissipate, he noticed the source of the jarring explosion. There was a giant hole constructed within the wall just a few feet away from them. Amora's cries seemed to have only gotten worse, and both Amir and Rebecca did not hesitate to move to protect their child. The dust was beginning to fade as two ominous figures remained at the entrance. The aura was familiar, yet unrecognizable, and when it finally settled, both Amir and Rebecca were in absolute shock.

"Jessica, what is the meaning of this?" Rebecca tightened her grip around Amora. "And where are the guards?"

She remained silent.

Amir gasped, and his eyes widened. She stood next to a man with deep black eyes and dark skin. He stood about the same height as Amir and had long dreadlocks and an even longer face. The moment he recognized who was at her side, he leapt in front of Rebecca and gathered his power.

"Everyone, stay back! Jessica!" Amir was on guard. "What the hell are you doing walking in here with this scum?"

Her face was emotionless. "I do not have time to waste explaining my position." She raised her blade, and in a cold, unrecognizable monotone voice, said, "I've come for the child," she said. "Hand her over now or die. That simply is your choice."

"If you think I will hand my child over willingly, then you're sorely mistaken." Rebecca clung tighter to Amora.

"You are outclassed and outnumbered, and I will not ask again." *She has an unusual bolstered confidence,* Amir

thought. *Why is that?* “Even with your pet,” he spat “Astaroth, you cannot take us, so stand down now.”

“How dare—” Jessica raised her hand, silencing the demon.

Her shoulders relaxed. She let out a long winded breath, closing her eyes. “I expected as much. Those with little understanding are incapable of being aware of their surroundings and cannot comprehend the danger that is right in front of you.”

“Amir, behind you!”

Olivia and Garret’s aura filled blades struck at Amir with blinding speed, slicing his neck and abdomen. Narrowly escaping, he had no time to lick his wounds as Astaroth pounced from behind.

He was tackled to the ground, and the demon’s claws struck downward. Amir was barely able to stop them, but struggled to hold them from crashing into his chest.

“You’ve gotten weak, old friend. Prancing around with your Nexus filth has dulled senses.”

“Perhaps, but I have more than enough power to kill you!”

Black flames erupted from his palms, scorching the demon’s hands and face. He quickly got to his feet, and his eyes immediately found his wife and child. Amora rested in the bed, yelling bloody murder, while Rebecca was fending off both Olivia and Garret.

Jessica took this opportunity to make her way to Amora, however, Rebecca in an impressive display of speed and resilience was able to keep her from advancing.

From such a young age, Rebecca excelled in everything she touched. From hand to hand combat to mastery of

almost any weapon you could put in her hand to healing and spiritual combat, she was second to none. However, what truly separated her from the rest of her peers was not her master of the basic arts of combat. No, it was the devastating power that lied within her. It was said you were lucky to face her in combat. That was because there was no pain. No burns. When she struck, you were simply reduced...to nothing. That was her ability. The power of the Phoenix.

However, that unbridled force was not present, Amir thought. This could not be the same woman that he loved and feared. She was slow, sloppy, and was only able to defend, and any attack that she did land was too weak to cause permanent damage. Most of all, she never used her Nexus abilities.

“I have to get to her—”

Astaroth jaws locked onto Amir’s right shoulder. He shrieked in pain as Astaroth violently shook from side-to-side before flinging him across the room. He staggered to his feet, grimacing as his injured shoulder leaked. With no time to recover, he jumped, avoiding the giant demon’s serpent-like tail. Astaroth had taken his true form. His face was that of a komodo dragon as black flames oozed and crawled around his body.

He lunged at Amir with blinding speed. Once again, Amir was able to narrowly dodge the flaming lizard, and he bolted straight for his wife. He didn’t get far as he was tackled from behind and instantaneously submerged in the oozing flames. He let out a gut wrenching scream as it scorched his body entirely.

“Amir! No!”

Not holding back any longer, Rebecca gathered her strength, and in a howl filled with rage, she shot outward a raging fire from her palms, knocking Astaroth off her husband. Without letting it die, she turned her power on Olivia and Garret. Trying to defend, Garret quickly put a barrier between both him and his wife, however that was not enough to defend against Rebecca's mighty power. Her flames shattered the barrier on impact, sending the couple flying onto their backs. They were knocked unconscious covered in many horrific burns.

"Amir, are you alright?" She knelt beside her husband.

His body twitched in pain, but he simply fought through it. "I'll...be...fine." He stumbled to his feet, leaning on his wife. "How's Amora—" A sharp pain tore through his back, and as he looked down, he could see a blade had struck him.

"You've let your guard down," Jessica said smugly. "I'm taking the child, and you will die tonight."

"No!" Rebecca gathered every ounce of power she could muster up. "You will not have my child!"

The once calm and cool Jessica had lost her composure. Her legs trembled, and her palms dripped with perspiration. The air was dry, and her lips were chapped. She was all too familiar with what happened next. Rebecca released an intense wall of flames with enough power and precision to blow Jessica away without harming Amora, nor Amir. Then, she used the flames to create an impenetrable barrier surrounding all three of them.

"Amir," she fell to her knees, "are you alright?"

He yanked the blade from his back, unable to stand.

Jessica tried and tried but could not get through Rebecca's unbreakable barrier.

"You shouldn't concern yourself with me." Amir spat up blood. "This barrier won't hold much longer."

She didn't say anything. She just shut her eyes and inhaled deeply. When they opened again, they were filled with...resolve.

"I know..." she said quietly.

When he looked her in her eyes, the somber realization struck him to his very core. "Rebecca..."

"You are going to get our daughter... out of here... and I will hold them off."

"Rebecca..."

"Please, Amir..." She tried to stand, but nearly fell over. The flamed barrier shivered, but when Amir stabilized her, her barrier followed suit. Leaning on one another, they limped their way to their daughter. She just stared. Stared at her beautiful child. When she looked at Amir, his heart sank.

"No."

She cupped his face gently. "I love you."

"No, Rebecca. There must be another way."

"There is no other way." She turned to Amora. Taking the necklace from around her neck, she strapped it around her daughter's. "Place your hand on top of mine. We don't have time."

He hesitated.

"Please, Amir."

With reluctance, he finally did. "Are you sure you're up for this? This will drain you completely."

"Which is why I need your power as well. She is part

demon, and the seal will require your power—" Rebecca stumbled and coughed up blood.

"Darling!"

"No! Don't worry about me! Amora is my only concern."

A loud bang came from around the wall of flames. "You cannot keep her from me, Rebecca! You are weak, and I can sense your death is near!" Jessica continued her assault from the outside. "Your death is inevitable! And when that happens, dear friend, we will have your child!"

"We don't have much time—" She hacked blood into her hand.

Ignoring her health, she began the sealing process. The both of them poured their auras into the necklace.

"I need you to take her to Lauren. Tell her everything that has transpired."

"Rebecca—"

"No, I can't get hung up on goodbyes, or I will never be able to do this."

He took Amora into his arms. "I understand." Tears began to blur his vision. "I love you, darling."

He shrouded himself and Amora in a black mist that carried them out of a tiny hole through the back. Forcing himself not to look back as he fled. There was a deafening silence as the demon flew through the night. And then...

From miles away, the heat vaporized the moisture throughout the night. The explosion lit up the night sky, taking the shape of the phoenix.

"Goodbye, Rebecca..."

