

Rain poured on my face and soaked me as I stepped out of the car. "Love you and be safe," my mum called out to me. "Yeah yeah," I replied back. I slammed the car door and watched as she drove away. *Why did I even listen to that stupid dare anyways,* I said to myself. I turned around and gasped. A lady stood there staring down at me, she wasn't that taller than me and she looked like she was in her late 20's.

"You must be Carmen, right?" she said.

I nodded slowly, wondering how she knew my name.

"Let me take your stuff and welcome to Ten's Ninja Academy!"

As we walked down the centre of the houses I was astonished by everything I saw. There were weapons stacked on top of each other, karate Gi's ironed to look brand new. Maybe this wasn't such a bad idea after all. I got accepted into one of the best Ninja schools ever and I'm no ninja.

"Excuse me?"

"You can call me Senpai Katherine," Senpai Katherine said with a big smile.

"Ok, Senpai Katherine, why was I accepted if my talent is very low?" I asked.

"What do you mean? You looked amazing and I saw your friends cheering you on," Senpai Katherine said.

When she said that I started thinking. I was horrible and I knew it. It was a joke and my friends were laughing at it. This all doesn't add up and I started to feel self-conscious.

Sweat dripped down my forehead. Air seemed to get out of reach. My legs started to transform into jelly. "*Yame!*" Senpai Katherine said.

"You've ALL been chosen to be a ninja. You all need to put the effort in and must learn more. Everyone take a five minute break and grab your *bo*."

As soon as I sat down I felt free and relieved. I chugged my water and took a hold of my *bo*. It felt lighter than I had thought. My hands reached across the stick and felt the smooth bamboo. As I held on tightly, a sudden sensation came to me. I actually do want to become a ninja. I want to learn and be the greatest ninja I can be.

"I've seen you've all been working hard and after a long day you all deserve some rest. Have a good night but make sure you all go to sleep," Senpai Katherine said.

As much as I wanted to rest, I needed to ask Senpai Katherine something.

"Senpai, is it alright if I stay back so I can work on some more karate?" I said nervously.

Senpai nodded in agreement. I walked down to the mat. I took a deep breath in and I practised the basics, punches and kicks. I twisted, turned, jumped and spun. When I do karate, everything floats away. I marched down to the kicking bag. I thought about all those grades that my mum was disappointed in. The friends that would betray me. My self doubts. I pushed them away, knocking the bag down multiple times. I did a roundhouse, jumping front kick and punched it until my knuckles went numb. It all felt good.

“Do you want me to teach you a kata?” Senpai said.

“What’s that?”

“It’s basically lots of karate moves forming into a routine.”

“Sure.” I said, intrigued.

She taught me all the moves until I had it all stuck in my head. When I would perform it, it just felt right. Me and Senpai Katherine had many laughs and I was starting to see the fun side of her.

“Thank you so much for this,” I said.

“You’re welcome,” she said. After that training session, I felt inspired and I was ready.

BEEP. BEEP. BEEP. It was 5am in the morning and I was ready to go into the dojo early so I could get extra training. My body felt so heavy. It felt as if elephants were sitting on my eyelids. Every slight movement made my body ache. Sharp pains would fly up my body. I just wanted to lay on the floor and never get back up again. “Hi Senpai Katherine, before your first class can we do some training?” She looked at me and smiled, then she chucked me some sai. We stretched and fought. I think me and her were really getting along and she was a really nice friend. “Carmen, I need to tell you something.” “Yeah.” I said, still out of breath. “You know when you asked me why you were accepted, we found out you had a special gem inside you. You’re not a proper human and what’s inside you is worth millions. We accepted you so we could teach you how to fight. There are people out there that have been looking for that gem for their entire lives. One of their names is Master Tentai and-” She was cut off. I couldn’t believe what she was saying. It was almost like it was too fake to be a joke so that made you believe it. Of course I’m human, of course I’m human. I kept repeating. What made me believe it was this. “Ahhh there you are Carmen. I’ve been looking for you for a long time.”

A tall man stood up behind me. I gasped as I saw his face. A large scar stretched long down his cheek. A tattoo spread around his eye. He was muscular and looked like he could easily lift a car. I sprung up and slowly started backing up. "Master Tentai?" Senpai said, nervously. He gave a smirk. "Your gem, I need it." He said, staring down into my soul. I shook my head very slightly. My face was frozen, I suddenly felt sick. "Come here, trust me you'll only feel a pinch," then he started charging towards me.

I was still frozen but I had to save myself. I grabbed the nearest object to me which was a tissue box, not ideal. When he was about a few steps away from me I jumped to the side. He ran into the mirrors, smashing them. I didn't want to fight, I couldn't. I wasn't good enough. I was still a novice. By the time I looked up, I saw a huge chair being held. The chair was coming down on top of me. I quickly dived away and just dodged it. "Please don't do this." I said, shaking.

I closed my eyes for just a second. I prepared myself. I grabbed the sai and I had no other choice. I ran up to him but he turned around. His fist shot into my stomach and I screamed out in pain. What was I thinking?! I'm going to fight this guy and come out alive. I was about to give up when I remembered something. I remembered all my friends laughing at me and saying I couldn't do it. All this anger filled inside me and I just wanted to punch something. "You know what I can do it, Master Tentai, you're going to regret this!"

I charged at Master Tentai with anger flaming in my eyes. I jumped up and kicked him down with all my strength. There I punched and kicked until my arms gave out. I finished it running to the wall and then running back and doing a flying side kick. The master gave up. He stood up and walked out of the dojo. I smiled with joy and felt accomplished. I did it!

It wasn't done yet, I still was shocked by the whole idea of a gem being inside me. I walked back to my room and just stared up at the ceiling. I splashed water onto my face and thought of how much of a lie my life has been. Pain was flowing through my body, I definitely went full out. I sat up and before I knew it I was back at the dojo. "Crazy morning," Senpai Katherine said to me, I think she was in as much disbelief as I was. I trained and it was a great way to get my mind off everything. I just knew after I was done I would have to figure everything out.

Every step hurt. I was so nervous, I didn't want to figure anything out but I knew I had to. I was outside my door when I realised I forgot my water. Each step I took the more clearer I heard a voice. *Senpai Katherine maybe, thought Carmen.*

“Oh yeah, how did you not defeat her? I put my trust in you and you didn't deliver Master. I'll just have to take the gem out myself,” Senpai Katherine hissed through the phone. I was peering out just around the door. My heart was beating. Could it be what I was thinking? BEEP! A message had just popped up on my phone. My face turned pale. No! Suddenly a hand tapped on my shoulder.