

System 2011

[Chapter 2011 Welcome To The Family](#)

Being an original and being the leader of one of the 9 vampire families, Edvard had spent a lot of his time awake in the castle. At the same time he had been called to countless meetings between the others.

Seeing them really didn't put the nicest smile on his face, as he also never had the fondest memories of them. After learning what had happened to the others though, the originals seemed more inclined to fall in line.

However, it had been a strange day for Edvard to say the least. In the last month or so that he had been awake, the most interesting thing had happened to him. Because of it, he felt restless in his castle and in the end he had decided to leave and walk in the streets.

Due to his particular choice in clothing and style, he was easy to spot. In a lot of cases, it was safe to say that Edvard was one of the more well known originals. So being out for a few seconds would bring a lot of attention to him but today he just felt like he had to.

Which was why he had been brought to a particular place... To the vampire assessments. He had come here thinking that there might be a chance to meet a particular person, but he didn't count on it as he imagined the chances were low, yet here he was.

'I guess my luck is going well today.' Edvard smiled.

"It's Sir Fortuna!" the judges said, as they stood up from their seats and started to bow down.

The rest of the public that was watching had bowed down, and was ready to get on their knees in front of the original.

"Please don't! That's an order!" Edvard said in a normal voice but it carried to everyone relatively easy. "I rarely come out and this is part of the reason why, I would much rather you all just act normally, as if I'm not here."

The rest of the judges sat down, and tried their best to continue the assessment and that's when they realised that the person from before was still here.

"Ah yes!" One of the judges cleared his throat. "The Fortuna family wishes to welcome you into their family, do you accept?"

Quinn hadn't even shown any of his skills, and yet this man had wished to still invite him. In his mind it meant one thing, that Edvard definitely remembered his face.

Still, Edvard hadn't made the others aware of what happened, nor was he acting rash now of all times. Which made Quinn think the situation still wasn't as bad as it could be, but he wanted options at least.

"Are there not any offers from any of the other families?" Quinn asked with a smile.

One of the female judges was tempted to put her hand up after seeing Quinn's smile, but how could she go against an original. All the rest of the judges had the same thought, if Edvard wanted him, then they wouldn't get in the way.

Their own leaders would understand, it was unlikely that a vampire was so special that they needed to be brought into their own family at all costs.

"Excellent!" Edvard clapped. "Well, let's welcome you into the family, and get away from here."

Edvard started to walk away, and with a sigh, Quinn thought that it was best if he followed him. As he did, there were a number of thoughts running through his head, he had just promised Layla that they would try to live a normal life and now this had occurred.

'Will I have to secretly keep the original in my shadow lock, or keep him in a cell somewhere? I mean that could work right? People would get suspicious for a while but they would soon forget about it right?'

Close to the 9th castle, Edvard had entered a shop, when Quinn followed, he was surprised to see that everyone was starting to leave the shop. This included the ones that worked there as well.

The shop looked like a coffee shop back on earth, but the vampires didn't really drink coffee, so it seemed to just be styled that way. At one of the tables that allowed two to sit down, Edvard sat in his seat and gestured for Quinn to sit in the other seat, which he did quite quickly.

"You really are an interesting one. There was no hesitation entering this place even if it was a trap, and you followed me with no problem at all. I guess that's just how strong you are, right?" Edvard said.

Quinn didn't reply but it was quite accurate, whatever Edvard had planned whether it was a trap or not, Quinn could get out of it. He would just need to change the plan on the go if something like that did happen.

"I cleared the place out, because I thought it would allow the two of us to talk a bit better without anyone listening." Edvard smiled. "Quinn, if that is your real name, I'm really interested to know who you are. I asked Muka whether she had heard about you but she had no recollection at all.

"She was a vampire that has been awake during this time, yet she doesn't know a vampire as powerful as you are? And when you asked me to ask her, you were very sure of yourself. Which is why I am asking now... who are you?"

Quinn scoffed at the question and looked away with his eyes.

"Even if I told you the truth, you wouldn't believe me anyway, and it could make the situation worse for me. It would be best if you just forgot the incident. It was my mistake anyway."

Edvard wasn't happy with that answer, so he decided to push for more.

"You know, I wasn't like the other originals." Edvard started to explain. "Believe it or not, in the past I ran quite a big organisation myself. I never got involved with things to do with the originals. I lived my own life, but there was one person I always got on with... Arthur.

"The two of us fought side by side against the Werewolves back in the day."

Hearing that name did get a slight reaction out of Quinn, making him realise that he must have seen the shadow travel skill.

"Are you a Punisher, or a student of Arthur's?" Edvard asked.

Quinn chuckled.

"A Punisher, a student of Arthur's... I guess you could say I was those things. I already told you the truth when we first met, and like I said, if I told you everything you wouldn't believe me anyway."

"Try me." Edvard replied, as he tilted back.

The persistence of the Original was annoying Quinn a bit, and he thought he wasn't going to let up any time soon. One thing that Quinn couldn't get out of his head was why he hadn't reported their interaction from before.

"Your current leader, Jim Eno, is a sham. He was a vampire that was ousted from the tenth family a long time ago. I know this because I am also part of the tenth family as well.

"At some point I became a punisher due to my involvement with Arthur, and after that I became king of the settlement. I was in eternal slumber for a long time. When I came back, the vampire settlement was no more, and I went missing for a while and have come back to this.

"Everyone seems to have forgotten about me. They have no memory of me ever existing, and Jim Eno is suddenly the leader and taking credit for everything I did.

"So do you think I'm crazy, do you believe that wild story?"

Edvard was thinking about it for a while, as he had a finger on his chin.

"So almost like a mass influence skill was used on everyone. One would have to be incredibly powerful to do that, and a punisher as well as king..."

"As I thought, you don't believe me." Quinn replied.

"Whether I believe you or not is not important." Edvard replied. "But let me say this, I don't completely not believe you. A vampire as strong as you, stronger than the originals, what you say makes sense. You have the shadow power, the ability of the punishers, and the absolute blood control.

"If anything, you have the credentials to back up what you are saying. Whereas Jim Eno, to us originals he is someone who wasn't even part of our life back then."

"However, what I do think is important is what you want to do from now on. I want to know your answer to that." Edvard asked.

"I..." Quinn paused for a second, and thought about it for a while. "I have a family. I want to look after them and protect them. As long as I can do that... then I will be fine."

After hearing Quinn's answer, Edvard stood up and headed toward the door. He turned around before leaving.

"I will grant you your wish Quinn Talen, the event from before I will disregard, and I only have one more thing to say. Welcome to the family."

[Chapter 2012 A Happy Family](#)

The dark night sky was out, and the crystals powering small lights throughout the settlement and houses could be seen everywhere. It was different from the regular cities on earth that would have giant skyscrapers in the sky.

The largest buildings were the castles, followed by the mansions and three story houses that were built on top of each other. It looked more like what a village would have looked like in the olden times, instead of one with modern technology and materials.

It was a beautiful sight to see in its own way, to say the least, and walking through it, Quinn had a straight face as he took his steps carefully glancing around the area.

"This job is so boring!" Ronick complained. "There's never anything exciting happening in the vampire settlement. Why is there even a position like this in the first place."

Walking right now by Quinn's side was a regular vampire. He was middle aged, or at least looked it. There wasn't much that stood out about him, having a regular vampire hairstyle, not having overly good looks or large muscles, and the same could be said for his skills, which was why he was given the task as a guard, a guard for the ninth family.

"It's good that it's safe. There is less chance for the people to get hurt." Quinn replied, as he continued to walk in his guard boots. They were tight around his legs and in all black.

They were made of beast gear, but were at the intermediate level. It was the same for the rest of the equipment Quinn was wearing as well. A few shoulder pads, with a belt wrapped around some trousers and a shirt. This was the uniform for the guards of the ninth family.

It had been a while since Quinn had joined the Fortuna family, and as promised Edvard was going to give him what he asked for. Which was why the position that was assigned to him was as a guard. Something every family had but wasn't used very often.

There were vampires that went out on hunts on local planets, those that went out on joint hunts with the humans on other planets, and the castle vampires and more. On top of that, if one had a particular skill such as cooking, crafting, and marking out maps, they could also be invited to these teams.

Which meant that a guard was simply someone who wasn't strong enough, or had no skills whatsoever to do anything. They would patrol the pooling area with the other guards from other families, trying to solve disputes.

However, in the vampire settlement there were rarely any arguments to begin with. Perhaps once in a while, someone needed help with moving some equipment, or another felt like they had slandered their name or tried to cheat them out of money from a stall.

Yet, it never got into a confrontation where they needed to use their fists. The most excitement they got was that sometimes the guards from one family would tease the other, and even fight from time to time, but it was all in good fun rather than due to arguments.

"If only I didn't do so bad on that assessment." Ronick sighed. "Maybe I should save up some money, get some Dalki blood and try at the next one, there's a chance I can get promoted then right?"

"You know what happens to those people right?" Quinn replied. "Either they end up dying when fighting beasts because their skills were overvalued, or they get caught before that even happens and end up in the same position as us. There are only a few that are able to learn from using the blood and keep their strength up. Besides, why wouldn't you want to be a guard. I think having an easy job is a good thing."

Ronick started to shake his head.

"Someone like you would never understand the thrill of fighting." Ronick explained. "A strong person wishes to display their skills. They are treated with great respect from the other vampires and heroes, because they are the reason why we can live the way we can.

"They collect the crystals that run our society and make the energy we need to enjoy our life. On top of that, we are vampires, we have all this power because we are meant to fight, and here as a guard, when there is no sense of danger, how am I ever meant to improve."

Ronick looked straight into the eyes of Quinn, but soon looked away.

"As I said, someone like you who doesn't like fighting, and looks far too handsome to have ever fought a day in his life wouldn't understand. Maybe I should hire a teacher from one of the castles instead?"

Of course, Quinn knew a lot about fighting, and a lot about war, it was a feeling that he would never forget.

"You should be happy that there is no war... people you care about die and even if you are incredibly strong, sometimes there is nothing you can do. If you want to get stronger, and fight for fun, that is up for you to decide. But I warn you, don't go around wishing for conflict to happen, or wishing there is war. War is never good for anyone."

Once in a while Ronick noticed that Quinn would get like this, and when he did he found it hard to argue or talk back. It was also the reason why he hadn't delved into the other's life too much, even though the two worked closely with each other.

Just then, a bell had sounded, and it continued to let out a noise. The second Ronick turned around he already knew Quinn would no longer be by his side.

"Always when his shift ends he leaves on the dot." Ronick smiled. "Still, I can't help but like the guy for some reason. Even if the two of us are nothing alike. Maybe we can do some training together next time, or I'll teach him a move or two."

As the bell rang, Quinn had already rushed off to head home at the end of his shift. The house was in a pooling area, but it was based quite close to the counts and more that lived in the ninth family. He had always assumed that there was a reason why Edvard did this, maybe so he could keep an eye on him, but outside of meetings and such, the two never did meet.

Bursting into his house that was relatively small, but detached from any other homes, Quinn had a large smile on his face as he could see Layla sitting down knitting. It was a hobby she had decided to take up, because right now, although it wasn't hard to move, she was increasingly uncomfortable.

Her belly was quite a bit larger than before, looking similar to a human that was ready to give birth any day now. However, it had only been a couple of months.

"I know you like being with me, but you should really spend a bit more time with your friends at work. It's been two months and I don't think you have gone out with any of them once." Layla said, as she received a kiss on the cheek from Quinn and he placed his head on her belly trying to listen to see if he could hear anything inside.

"I know but it's an important time. I think the baby could pop out at any moment. Then after I take care of you and the baby for a while, I promise I will go out with the others, and try to socialise like you asked." Quinn said with a smile.

In the time that Quinn had been here, Jim Eno still hadn't returned. On top of that there were no big events, the world was just running as it had been doing. The only slightly strange thing was the competition of gathering crystals for the family.

In the past, Quinn understood because factions and other families were competing with each other for better equipment. It also made sense because they were at war, but the basic crystals were enough to power the settlement.

Was it just for the sake of getting stronger if a problem occurred? Even the humans used to do that on earth, so it made some sense.

Still, there wasn't much to go on, or troubles, and Quinn wouldn't try to find out what happened elsewhere until Layla felt comfortable as well.

Just then, Minny opened the door from her room, rubbing her eyes as if she had just been asleep. But soon ran over to Quinn and jumped up to him. He lifted her up in the air and the big cheeky smile he was used to appeared.

"So tell me, are you excited about tomorrow?" Quinn asked.

"Of course I am, it's my first day of school!" Minny said.

It was a worrying matter for Minny to be going to school, but it was something that was required from Vampires of a certain age, and it was hard to explain that Minny was far older than them. Still, mentally she was young, so in the end they thought it would be good for her.

However, she was a vampire that had perhaps the equivalent strength to a low level vampire Lord. So they just hoped that she wouldn't cause any trouble.

[Chapter 2013 The First Day \(Part 1\)](#)

Most days at the vampire settlement were quiet as a whole. There would be times when vampires were injured having explored the rest of the planet. Unlike the last vampire planet, this one was full of dangerous beasts.

Although it wasn't completely dangerous, because as far as Quinn knew there wasn't a demon tier beast here, but he knew beasts could evolve so there was always the chance that there would be one someday.

This was why, at times, vampires who were too confident in themselves would go out, and get injured. However the settlement would never get attacked, it was almost as if the beasts knew how dangerous a place was.

Although there was one time, when Quinn was patrolling the outskirts of the area, he had seen a beast and locked eyes with it. Releasing just a little bit of his energy and pressure had made it run away in seconds.

Thinking of the dangers out there, while in the kitchen Quinn had used his shadow for a brief second and pulled out a particular crystal.

'You still haven't used it after all this time?' Alex said. 'Are you perhaps taking my suggestion to heart, since it's that day?'

The crystal that was in Quinn's hand was the upgrade crystal, but not just any upgrading crystal, it was one that could turn an item from the demon tier to the god slayer tier.

'I don't think your suggestion is a bad one, it's just for one Minny doesn't have any Demon tier items. I would have to either leave the place for a while, or go with one of the scouting teams. Then, if she did get a god slayer tier item, would that make her at the god slayer tier level, or is it just simply an item?'

What I don't want to do is make the celestials target her. She is strong already with the energy from when I was a celestial.' Quinn explained.

"Daddy, I'm ready!" A voice shouted out and coming around the corner Minny was seen. She looked up and could see a flicker of a shadow disappearing and a shocked look on Quinn's face.

"Dad, did you just use your powers?" Minny complained, pouting out her big cheeks. "You said that Minny was never ever to use her powers unless she felt like her life was on the line, and that Minny shouldn't complain because you were going to do the same."

Quinn was struggling with what to say, he didn't want to be a hypocrite and at the same time he wanted Minny to grow up with a strong sense of values. If she couldn't trust her father over something like this, then would it mean all of his words would become useless?

"You two should hurry up, otherwise you're going to be late for work, and you're going to be late for your first day at school." Layla said, as she stopped by the hallway door, just outside the kitchen.

"She's right, let's hurry up now Minny." Quinn said, as he shoved her with his body outside the front door. Glad that Layla had given him this chance.

The two of them were walking towards the school, which was inside the settlement on the West side. Not close to the border as there was a worry if there was ever an attack that the children would be hurt.

However, the worrying thing was, Quinn's guarding station was more situated toward the east side as that was where the ninth family was from. As the two happily walked though, Quinn couldn't believe how much his life had changed.

How much he was enjoying just sending his little girl to school. When they got closer, Quinn could see many other vampire parents taking their kids to school as well. Currently, Minny would be attending primary school.

It was a school that took kids aged from 5 to 13, after that, the secondary was a lot more varied. It was more based on one's skill so there were even some adults in the secondary school. At some points there were also large breaks as they needed enough people to study due to the strange rules in the past of limiting vampire numbers and children but those rules weren't around anymore so school worked more or less the same for humans on earth.

Minnie was considered 7 years old for her size, so there would certainly be some kids that were bigger than her, which worried Quinn, but it was the natural worry of a father.

Eventually, Quinn and Minnie had arrived at the entrance of the school. Here kids of all ages were entering the building. It was quite large because at the vampire school they not only taught normal academics, but how one would use their powers as well.

"Have you seen that father... he's so handsome."

"Do you think he's single, I haven't noticed him before."

"He is certainly handsome, but look at his clothes. He's just a guard, it's such a waste for a pretty face like his just to be a guard. Maybe he should be a model for some of the clothes merchants or something."

Quinn could hear a lot of comments about him, but he didn't care about them, and just knelt down to be at eye level along with Minnie.

"You remember all the rules that me and your mother set while you're at school right?" Quinn said.

Minnie nodded with a big smile.

"I'm sorry that you can't try your best, but... you have to understand that's just because Minnie is special. Your mum will be here to pick you up when school ends, okay? Daddy still has to work for a couple of hours after that." Quinn rubbed her curly hair.

"Thank you, Daddy." Minnie said, as she gave him a kiss and started to walk to school on her own. When seeing some of the other vampires, walking with their friends, and those they knew from other families worried him.

What if she was unable to make friends, what if something happened and Minnie wouldn't tell him? At this point, he wished he had the connections he did before to know what was going on in the school.

He even wished he could take the day off work and watch Minnie from the shadows just to see how she got along, but he restrained himself. Minnie needed to live a normal life as well.

"Do you think they're really father and daughter, the two of them look nothing alike." Two women said.

Turning his head, Quinn looked directly at the two mothers. It was an intense stare that was intimidating for them, that caused them to look away, but when one of them looked back they noticed that the man was gone.

"What was that?" One of them asked. "It looked like he was going to hit us. And here I thought with such a face he would be a gentleman."

"Maybe, we shouldn't talk too loudly in the open next time."

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Standing just outside the 9th castle's area, Ronkin was tapping his feet away as he waited for his partner to appear, he was never late, and although it wasn't time for them to start work yet, he had never seen Quinn appear this late.

A gust of wind was felt on his cheek, and when he looked up it startled Ronkin as a vampire had appeared out of nowhere in front of him.

"Where did you come from?" Ronkin asked.

"Sorry." Quinn replied. "I wanted to take my daughter to school since it's her first day and all."

It was embarrassing for Quinn to say these words, but in a proud way. He was almost too happy about saying these words he never thought he would hear.

"Your daughter, 7 years old, doesn't that mean she's going to Roland primary school, that's all the way on the other side of the settlement, how did you get here so fast?" Ronkin asked.

Vampires were fast, but not that fast to get from the opening time of school to here in time. Not unless they had the speed that Quinn had of course.

"We went early so I wouldn't be late, and then I ran here. I'm pretty fast." Quinn stated.

"Oh... I think that's the first time you have ever said you're good at something around here." Ronkin smiled, as the two of them continued to walk, starting their protocol.

"I mean its a good thing if you did go early. I wouldn't want my son to see me with all the other kids." Ronkin said.

"What do you mean?" Quinn replied confused.

"Did you forget, we are guards, it's one of the lowest jobs, anyone can get this role even if they don't know how to fight. It's almost a pity job for vampires. Have you ever heard me complain about this? If the other kids see us, there is a good chance that the others will make fun of her. Kids are meaner than you think, they have no filter when they talk to people."

Had the simple act of taking her to school ruined her chances to make friends, and what if the other kids teased Minny to the point she decided to do something... if that was to happen.

"Anyway, I wanted to ask you a favour." Ronkin said. "Would you help me...and fight against me?"

[Chapter 2014 The First Day \(Part 2\)](#)

In the time the two had known each other, Ronkin had never asked Quinn for any type of favour. For some reason, Ronkin was obsessed with getting stronger and improving himself through combat, and because of that, he never really thought about asking Quinn for anything.

Because for him, Quinn was just a handsome vampire who was content being a guard, it made Quinn wonder why now, of all days, he was asking for something like this.

"You want me to fight with you? You mean you want to practise some technique or spar against me?"

Ronkin nodded.

"I'm sorry, but isn't there someone else you can ask? I mean, you said it yourself a million times that I'm not much of a fighter. So wouldn't asking one of the scout teams or the family members be better?"

Quinn replied.

Ronkin couldn't help but scoff at the suggestion.

"Unless I pay them, those guys have no reason to help someone like me. Look, I'll be honest, I moved here with my family from the Graylash planets because...I couldn't get a good job. I couldn't do anything useful to put food on the table, and I wasn't a good enough Traveller either, so I gambled all my luck by coming here hoping to change my life, and that's what I have been focused on."

"So?"

"Well, what I'm trying to say is, besides you and the other guards, I don't really know anyone, and you're the one I spend most of my time with."

Quinn still felt like this obsession with climbing to the top was wrong, but he understood that others always wished to better their lives. Maybe through a spar, Quinn could teach him a couple of moves, and it would allow him to get a promotion from being a guard, but then his secret would get out, which was something he could not afford to expose yet.

"We can't fight right now," Quinn replied firmly, "We're on guard duty, and why do you need to get stronger anyway? Enjoy your life, and enjoy every peaceful day before you."

Right now, the two of them were close to one of the gates that led out of the settlement. Ronkin stood there, opening up both of his hands.

"Look, no one needs us right now. If we were to take a whole week off, I don't think anything would change. And there is a reason I'm asking you. I'm not expecting a few sparring sessions with you to instantly make myself good enough to promote myself from this post, but there is an event tonight." Ronkin explained.

"Once in a while, the guards from the other families have a get-together, and a tournament is organised. Basically, we fight against each other and test each other's strengths. The guards really have nothing to do, but they say that it will increase our skills as a group, and on top of that, everyone puts their money together, and the winner of the fight gets the total at the end. I know you keep telling me to live my life, but I need that money."

Money? Now, Quinn was starting to understand his partner a bit more. It wasn't an obsession with power. The reason why Ronkin wanted to quit being a guard was so he could have more of it. The question was why, but Quinn had no intention of peeking into the former's personal life. After all, everyone had their reasons, and he didn't seem to be a greedy one, as there was a slight shift and down tone in his voice.

"Alright, as you said, nothing has happened so far in this settlement, so I doubt something will happen today," Quinn someone relented in the end, "We can have a couple of sparring matches together, and I'll teach you a move or two that you can use in this little tournament you have."

Ronkin was respectful as he bowed down to Quinn, even though he assumed he was the older one. Right now, he didn't care about age. The stubborn vampire was finally doing something like this.

"But I think you're mistaken. I don't think I'm going to learn much from you. I just need to brush up my skills here and there." Ronkin replied as he jumped onto the roof of a building, getting into a fighting stance. He didn't even consider Quinn as his opponent. Rather, he wanted to sharpen himself with his spar and gain some confidence.

It was the first day for the students at the school, and it was a strange experience for many of them because the vampire settlement didn't exist before. The whole school was new. Before, they were either being taught at home by their parents, or there were a few vampires here and there that went to mixed schools on the Graylash planets.

However, many vampire children didn't experience the best there, which was why most of the vampires with young ones and those who were about to have decided to come to the settlement. A school where they would have no worries about their children.

At the time, as Minny lined up in a row with her new classmates and her teacher standing at the front in the large hall, she noticed that the other kids had been playing and talking to each other. It seemed like they were all familiar with each other and had been friends for a long time.

On the other hand, she had been spending time at home, helping her pregnant mother with things around the house and trying to spend as much time as possible with her father. Seeing this, she couldn't help but feel left out and was already missing her parents as well.

'No...my parents worry enough about me. I have to stay strong. I can't tell them that I miss them already.' Minny thought as she wiped her face a few times.

She repeated the rules in her head. Never was Minny to transform into her Celestial self. She was able to use ten percent of her strength in the school tests and assessment so things didn't look suspicious, and she was never to use her shadow powers.

However, to all of these conditions Quinn stated that unless she felt her, or another's life was on the line that she cared about was she to use her powers.

Still it was made clear that if any of these things did happen, that their regular life would crumble.

While sitting in her room rubbing her belly Layla had a thought.

'I know this life can't be kept up forever. To be honest I'm surprised Quinn has kept it up for this long. I think he's on his best behaviour because of you. Still, it makes me wonder, which one of the two will be the first...'

[Chapter 2015 The First Day \(Part 3\)](#)

In the assembly hall, the introductions by the staff were eventually over, and the principal gave a speech welcoming all of the students and wishing them good luck with the school. With that, the classmates moved along as they headed to their new classroom.

The classroom had around twenty students in total. They all looked around the same age as Minny, and there was one desk per student in the classroom. It was loaded with technology as the desk itself was a giant tablet that the students could use to write notes and project videos for them to watch that were related to the lesson.

The Leader had given the school the best upgrades, and with a nice flow of crystal, it was easy for them to power everything with them.

As the students stepped into the class, they could see their names hovering above the individual desks, and each student could see where their designated seats were.

"Ah, we are right next to each other. This is great, Tot!"

"Yeah, we're not only in the same class but are next to each other as well!"

Most of the students were already chatting to those next to them excitedly, apart from Minny, who was seated in the centre of the room, in the middle row, neither talking to the one in front, behind, to the left or right.

"Okay, everyone, sit in your seat and quiet down." The female teacher said. The teacher had long black hair tied up in a ponytail down to her waist. This person was someone Minny hadn't seen around before, but she had a friendly smile which made her feel a bit more comfortable.

As the class calmed down, the female teacher began to introduce herself.

"Before we go through their serious stuff and class rules, I thought it would be nice if everyone introduced themselves and stated their name and something they liked doing, a hobby of some sort." She turned around and wrote her name on the board. "My name is Miss Bedford, and I like to play the piano in my spare time."

After that, the rest of the kids clapped as she smiled and gestured towards the next student.

One by one, the children stood up from their seats as they said their names and talked about their hobbies, such as playing games, fighting, and other things like cooking, and it was finally Minny's turn.

"My Name is Minny Talen...and I...I like...spending time with my dad and mom." She answered.

The teacher thought it was a sweet answer, but the other kids started to giggle when they heard this, which caused Minny to go slightly red and sit down straight away.

"No laughing, you guys. Family is an essential part of our lives and plays a crucial role in developing our character. Your mum and dad are why you are even here today, so you should treasure them." Miss Bedford said.

Minnie was happy that the teacher stuck up for her, and she thought the next student would quickly say their name so everyone would forget about what she had said, until a boy from before spoke up, one named Tobi.

"Isn't your dad a guard?" Tobi's words were loud and directed at Minny, "I saw him this morning, and my parents were talking about it as well. Man, if I had a father as weak as yours, I would be embarrassed even to say I have a father."

"My dad is strong!" Minny shouted immediately in response, banging the table.

The group of children next to Tobi started to laugh.

"Come on, I know you're like us, but how can you be that stupid? Your dad is weak because that's why he's a guard. Everyone knows that if you want respect, you have to be strong."

"Tobi, stop it now!" The teacher instructed him to stop, afraid things might go out of hand.

"Come on, miss, it's true. Even to be a teacher, a vampire must have a certain level of strength, and everyone knows a guard is just a job that anyone can have."

Miss Bedford narrowed her eyes and stared right at Tobi.

"For not listening to me and being disobedient, someone will have to clean the classroom after school."

Tobi immediately stopped. He hated cleaning, and it was something his parents didn't even make him do. So he just kissed his teeth and looked at Minny, who was staring him down with daggers in her eyes.

"Okay, class, let's continue with the introductions." Miss Bedford said.

The lessons continued as normal, and Minny followed along with the teacher as they studied Maths, English and so on. The physical lessons were only on certain days and mainly in the afternoon. For the first day, there won't be any though.

After the first two lessons, it was time for them to have a break, and one of the other girls came up to Minny. She had braided hair and was holding a book in her chest.

"You're Abby, right?" Minny asked when she noticed the young girl.

"Yeah...hello, I was wondering if you wanted to spend the break together," Abby asked. "I...you see...I don't know anyone, and I don't like to drink my juice alone."

Just like Minny, Abby knew no one, and Minny was happy to see that she wasn't alone in all of this, and with that, the two of them felt like they had a connection with each other.

"Really, I have lots of juice boxes. We can drink lots of juice together." Minny said.

The two headed out together, holding hands to enjoy their break.

Tobi had a few other boys around him as they were packing some of their things away.

"Do you guys see the way she stared at me?" Tobi asked his friends.

"Yeah. I think she wanted to rip your throat out." Another boy replied.

"Yeah, staring at me, the strongest in our grade. She did look at me like she was ready to fight. I guess we should see for ourselves if she was actually ready or just faking it." Tobi smiled as he got up, ready to follow Minny.

[Chapter 2016 A Lesson From The Best](#)

On the rooftop of one of the houses in the settlement, one of the vampires was panting and trying to catch a breath, while the other didn't seem tired at all. His breathing was steady, and there wasn't a single strand of sweat on his body. The situation seemed quite ridiculous, especially to the man standing before him.

"What is going on?!" Ronkin shouted as he pointed at Quinn, who was standing there with his hands behind his back. "I can't even touch you. This sparring match was supposed to give me some confidence, and now I feel like absolute crap. Have I lost all my ability to fight or something?"

Quinn gave out a big sigh as he walked over.

"You said you wanted me to help you, right? You want to win this tournament to get money, right?" Quinn asked. "So I shouldn't just let you hit me. Do you think your opponent is just going to stand there or wait for you to attack?"

Although this was right, what was annoying Ronkin more was despite him giving his hundred percent, he hadn't managed to hit Quinn even once. Although it was the same for the latter, he felt it was because Quinn was pulling back and not hitting him on purpose.

'The two of us have both been assessed as guards. So that means the judges thought that we were at the same level. Do I really just suck so much?' Ronkin thought while stomping his feet on the roof out of frustration.

"Clam down, or we will have to pay for the repairs to the house," Quinn shook his head at the former's antics, "You're trying to earn money, not to lose it. Look, let me give you some advice. During our fight just then, not once did I use any vampire aura. I simply looked at the moment of your arms and could see where you were planning to strike.

"You're too obsessed with making your blood aura and your strikes more powerful and your moves faster. Your power itself is not weak. But the way you utilise its potential is where you lose. It's these skills, and let me remind you, using your vampire aura is not the only way to fight. Attack me again, and this time don't use any aura at all." Quinn suggested.

Upon considering what Quinn had just said, Ronkin realised the former was right. He noticed that he was moving before he even released a blood slash. It didn't look like Quinn was moving fast either, at least not any faster than Ronkin could move.

Quinn had done and said all of this on purpose, of course, because he thought the best way to teach the fellow vampire guard was to use power equivalent to him. After seeing Ronkin's aura and skills, Quinn had a good grasp of the latter's strength.

So he limited himself to move, to have the same strength and aura as the other, and use just his skill and experience in fighting. In a sense, the Quinn Ronkin was fighting right now was Ronkin's best version of himself.

Running forward, Ronkin did as Quinn said, and instead of using his aura, he simply threw a punch straight at Quinn's face, but it was blocked with the palm moving it to punch the side. Then, showing a flurry of punches, each one of Ronkin's hits was moved to the side, and it felt like he was hitting nothing but air because that was exactly what he was doing.

"You need to focus!" Quinn said as he went to throw a punch back. But just before it hit Ronkin's head, he pulled back. The force was pushing Ronkin, and out of fear, Ronkin lifted his hands to protect the hit.

Then shifting forward with his legs, Quinn pushed him back bit by bit.

"You said you were bored, right? You said you wanted to fight out there with the others?" Quinn shouted as he continued to shift forward, slightly knocking the arms and legs of Ronkin, stopping any attempt that Ronkin had.

"Out there, you fight with your life on the line. Every moment you make should count because any of them could be your last!" Quinn said as he went for a thigh kick but stopped just short. However, the power in the kick caused a little force in the wind to hit Ronkin on the thigh, and he fell on the floor immediately in pain.

"Ahhh shit! Shit! shit!" Ronkin groaned as he found himself on the ground. "I understand what you're saying. I was an idiot to think all of those things."

Pushing himself off the ground, Ronkin got off the ground and bagged into a fighting stance, his eyes wide open ready to observe everything Quinn was doing.

'I can tell, Ronkin is a vampire that has never fought before. Not against the beast or had the danger of having his life on the line. His power isn't bad, but if there is one thing, he has determination. It looks like this person has a reason to fight, and if that is the case, then this is definitely one I can teach.' Quinn smiled.

'I wonder, Arthur, is this what you felt like when you were teaching me? We never really got to talk about those feelings, did we....'

Because of this, Quinn decided to say something before they went for the next round.

"Ronkin...you have determination. With that, as long as you have a good teacher, you can get to where you want to be." Quinn spoke his mind.

For a second, Ronkin let down his guard. Never in his wildest dreams did he think a compliment from a fellow guard would make him so happy, and it was at that moment he realised that he didn't view Quinn as a fellow guard after this.

"Quinn...I want to say I'm sorry for everything I said before." Ronkin said. "I thought you were weak because you never wanted to fight. You never wanted to get involved in any action. But, you know, in us vampires, because of our strength, there is this innate desire to prove ourselves with our power.

"And it's the same for me, but I have another reason why I'm trying so hard, but because of that, because it didn't feel like you had that desire, I thought that you were a vampire that had given up on any goals like that."

Quinn stayed silent. Had he given up? Did it really feel that way? Maybe, because there were some days when he felt like that, but it was the opposite. Quinn had never given up for a second, and he just had another reason not to be rash like he did in the past...a family, but not for a second had Quinn given up.

"That's it. At the end of these training sessions, I have to hit you at least once!!" Ronkin declared with a giant grin on his face.

"If you were able to do that, then you would be even stronger than the family leaders," Quinn chuckled.

Ronkin couldn't help but laugh upon hearing this.

"Haha, look who has a big head now. You get one compliment, and you think you're the strongest vampire here."

Quinn grinned, not saying anything else as the two continued their training.

As time went on, in the end, Ronkin was unable to get a single hit on Quinn, but through Quinn's direction, he improved at quite a fast rate. He paid attention, there was more focus, and with determination to try to hit Quinn, he was even using everything he had and naturally, there was hardly any waste in his moments.

He still had a long way to work and wasn't a genius by any means like Minny, but still, he would grow to be a decent fighter.

Lying there on the floor, Ronkin looked at Quinn and was still disappointed, but even he could tell his fighting was getting better.

"I hate to ask this of you," Ronkin asked. "Even though you are already doing me a favour, that tournament, it's about to start in the next hour. You see, the guards do it during their duty time. As you know, there is nothing for us to do anyway, and it's not like anyone notices if we're gone. The tournament is meant to be in the next hour or so. I'll recover fully by then...but I was wondering if you could come with me to...come and watch? Heck, with your skills, you could even take part and win if you want.

"Anyway, I want you to review my fighting. If I don't win this time, I can win when the next gathering comes around.

Initially, Quinn was going to decline. There was certainly no reason for him to take part. These were just regular vampires, not even that of the noble level. It was unfair for him to fight, and the only thing wasn't needed either.

Although a guard's salary was small, Quinn had sold one of the high-tier items he had stacked away in his shadow for some money that would do them well for anything they needed.

However, certain words rang in his head. Layla told him he should hang out with others more to make new friends.

'Make new friends...why am I so worried about those words? Is it because it means a bigger list of people to protect, more heartache for the future?' Quinn wondered.

Minnie was still at school, and technically he would still be on duty until he got home. So doing Ronkin a favour wouldn't be so much a bad thing.

"Alright, I'll come but don't count on me fighting," Quinn stated.

[Chapter 2017 Stay Out Of Trouble \(Part 1\)](#)

A school full of vampires was bound to be different from a school for regular children. For one, there was a big focus on making the vampires understand how to utilise their strength. The vampire settlement never wanted the kids to shy away from doing so.

Which was why the playground wasn't a simple place either. There were advanced climbing frames that were built high up in the air. Monkey bars had a great distance between each bar. At the same time, there were even fake dolls that were on poles for the students to practise hitting and targeting precision.

The dolls were quite resilient and also had a strange self-healing mechanism, so if they were scratched or attacked with vampire aura, they would survive and eventually return back to normal.

Right now, it was a simple break rather than lunch, so the kids weren't being served a meal, but they were free to eat any snacks they had brought from them. Minnie and her new friend Abby were both sitting on what looked like a large log. It was sturdy and could fit around fifty students on it based on how large it was.

They were sitting on one end, away from the other kids watching all the others as they drank their juice boxes. Unlike Abby, who was drinking her juice slowly, bit by bit, Minnie was already down to the bottom as the straw was making a slurping noise.

"Ahhh!" Minnie exclaimed with a big smile.

"You must have been really hungry. You can have some of mine if you want," Abby smiled as she offered her juice box.

Straight away, Minnie's eyes were sparkling. She knew that Abby would be a kind-hearted soul the second she met her. For a kid to offer their juice to another was not easy.

"It's okay," Minnie, however, shook her head and looked away from the juice box but taking a peek now and then, she continued, "My dad...he limits how many of these I can have."

"Oh, I see, that's the dad...you said you like being with, right?" Abby asked as she continued to sip her juice slowly.

"Yeah, I miss my parents...because I don't know anyone at the school, but now I have met you, I think...maybe we can enjoy school together, hehe" Minnie let out a sweet laugh at the end.

The two of them got to talking, and apparently, Abby didn't know anyone because her family had only just decided to move to the settlement. It was a sudden decision, but Abby didn't mind too much because she didn't know any vampires her age anyway.

Just like Minny, it was hard for her to approach a group of kids that were already friends and knew each other, but she had promised that if she met others her age, she would try to make friends, and that was why she had approached Abby in the first place.

"I see," Minny said. "It's the same for me. I don't know anyone my age, either. Anyway, now that we have drunk our juice is there anything you want to play with?"

The two of them looked around. The playground was mixed with kids of all sorts of ages, so there were some bigger vampires using a lot of the equipment, and Abby also noticed that Minny's eyes were more focused than the combat equipment.

She was watching a group of boys who were showing each other a set of moves, punching the doll and making it rock back and forth. A bunch of kids had even gathered around one that was using his vampire aura to surround his arm.

"Are you interested in fighting?" Abby asked.

Minny turned around at quite a speed. And scratched the back of her head.

"Not really, It's just sometimes I've had to fight here and there. So I have seen quite a few things."

"You know, I heard the school plans to have a monthly assessment," Abby explained. "All the kids are to show what they have learnt, and the leaders of the family will visit us. If the leaders think you are strong enough or have potential, they will take you under their wing and train you."

Gone were the days when families cared about their own blood. Now they just cared about raising talented vampires to be loyal to their families.

"Ah, it's okay," Minny replied. "I already have a really good teacher if I need to learn to fight."

"You have a teacher. Who's that?" Abby asked.

"My dad, of course." Minny pointed to herself. "My dad is stronger and a better teacher than any of those leaders."

"HAHAHA!" The gag of loud laughter suddenly came from behind them, and as they turned around, they could see that it was Tobi, the boy who had made the comments earlier about Minny's father and a few of his friends.

There looked to be two other boys and two other vampire girls that were walking around with him. For some reason, Tobi looked to be a popular boy.

"It looks like we really met a delusional one, right guys?" Tobi asked, and the others couldn't stop laughing. "Did you really say that your father, the one that is a guard, is a better teacher and stronger than the leaders?"

"You know, not just me, but if the leaders heard that, they might chop off not just your head but your fathers as well. Then we would really see who is stronger and who isn't."

Minnie was angry at first. Because, of course, Tobi was making fun of her, but then an image appeared in her head. Suppose the leaders did attempt that. She could just imagine her father doing the exact opposite to them, and then a smile appeared on her face.

"Hey, what do you think is so funny?" Tobi asked. "Do you like the thought of your family dying? Are you some type of sick freak?"

Hearing these words...it had a set of images in Minny's head. Because she had a family that had died, her mother...her real mother that she never was able to see again was dead, and now she had a new family thanks to Quinn, who was looking after her.

Who was this person, and who were they to say such mean things to her? Minny clenched both of her fists behind her, and Abby could hear a slight cracking noise.

When she looked at the large wooden log they were on, Minny's nails were ripping it to shreds.

"I haven't said anything about your family...so why...why do you keep saying stuff about mine!" Minny said as she got off the log and looked up at Tobi.

She was staring him in the eye, and her eyes were starting to glow slightly red, which usually meant a vampire aura was starting to burn from within.

"You... you're looking at me with those eyes!" Tobi shouted back.

At this point, the shouting match between the two was catching the attention of the others, in the higher grades and the lower grades. Fights happened on the playground all the time, and kids were always excited to see the outcome and what would come of them.

"You really want to hit me, don't you? Go on then, show me what your useless father has taught you!" Tobi shouted, trying to look strong upon seeing everyone's attention on him while also feeling somewhat confident about taking on Minny.

[Chapter 2018 Stay Out Of Trouble \(Part 2\)](#)

An enormous rage was burning inside of Minny, one that was almost impossible to contain. She knew that she could finish off this vampire in front of her with a single hit. There was no need for her to even transform...but the words of her mother were going through her mind.

...

"Minny, I know Quinn said for you to only use ten percent of your strength...but I think that's because he is comparing his strength to yours." Layla said as she was helping Minny get ready for school, making sure her information was on properly.

"At your school, I doubt there is a vampire that would even be stronger than you, even at your ten percent. So instead, I have a special request...try your best not to get into any fights, and when you are really angry, just think about how happy you will be when you finally come home."

...

That distinct memory and not wanting to upset her mother had caused Minny to take a deep breath, and the red glow from her eyes had disappeared.

'Phew.' Abby thought, breathing out as well. She was nervous for Minny because of who had approached her. If there was a vampire like Tobi that had people surrounding him, it meant one of two things. His family were in high positions, and he himself was a strong vampire for his age.

Even at this age, the vampires were taught by their parents to get close to those that were strong, and it would help them out in the future.

'I'm happy that Minny managed to calm herself down. I understand why she's angry but getting into a fight with these guys would just bring more trouble to her family..and from the sounds of it, Minny loves her family.'

"What's this?" Tobi said. "I was giving you a free hit, and what? You still won't touch me."

Tobi looked away for a second and smiled in the air.

"If I let little brats like you badmouth the leaders and look down on me, that's what starts rebellions. So I should teach them a lesson before things get out of hand."

Turning his head, immediately using all his speed, Tobi went to grab Minny's hair, but as he clenched his fist, he grabbed nothing but the air. Minny had bent down, and his move had completely missed.

'Did she expect me to do that?' Tobi thought.

"Come on, Tobi...you said you would teach her a lesson. She just made you look like a fool." One of the friends shouted.

Tobi chuckled a bit.

"Don't worry! I'll get her!"

Tobi moved his hand, attempting to grab her again, but Minny had moved out of the way once more, now to the side, his arm contumely tried to catch her, but she kept moving out of the way.

Frustrated, Tobi started to use both hands, attempting to grab Minny, but each time, she avoided the hits.

The idle kids were watching, and the others were quite impressed. Minny's movements were small, and Tobi wasn't slow by any means yet. He was unable to catch her.

'I'm keeping both promises this way, right, mommy? Minny isn't fighting, and I'm only using ten per cent of my power to avoid his hits.' Minny thought she was quite proud of herself.

For Minny, one of the most impressive aspects of her genius self had always been her speed, and she was untouchable to Tobi, who soon turned his grabs into punches but was still hitting nothing but the air.

Over by the door section, there was a group of older boys, one of them, a pretty short-haired boy, couldn't help but be mesmerised by what he was seeing. He was one of the vampires that were using a vampire aura surrounding his arm as a group gathered around him.

"Are you seeing this, Jared?" One of the girls, with dyed pink hair, named Hebe.

"Yeah... she's fast..really fast. I think maybe as fast as me." Jared replied. "It looks like a talented student has arrived in this place after all."

Eventually, Tobi slowed down. He was running out of energy just trying to catch her, and the friends he had arrived with had decided to take a step away. There were some giggles from other students, and even they thought it was embracing his confidence and bragging, which was why they didn't want to be seen with Tobi right now.

"Arggh, you b*tch!" Tobi shouted as he launched with most of his legs and went for a grab, but Minny had moved away again, only this time there was a scream shortly after.

"Ahhh!"

Minny turned to look, and her heart started to beat wildly as she saw what was taking place.

"You don't look so confident now. All you can do is run about, and my guess is you can't really fight right; you're just fast and weak! So, maybe if I hold your friend here, you'll stop running away!" Tobi claimed as he held Abby up by her pigtails.

"LET HER GO!" Minny shouted.

"Come at me then!" Tobi shouted back.

He pulled down her hair tightly, which caused pain and tears to fall down. Abby could feel a tinge of pain on her scalp as Tobi was pulling quite hard.

"If you won't come to me, then I'll just have to hit your friend!" Tobi said as he made a fist and punched her right in the stomach.

All the air was knocked out of Abby, and spit came out of her mouth. Her eyes felt like they were trying to bulge out of her head. Abby was trying to cry. She was so scared, but she was unable to due to the pain and shock.

Minny was shaking her head, holding her fists so hard that blood was dripping from her hands.

'Why...Abby is now hurt just because she wanted to become my friend. Why is there someone so mean in the world like this?' Minny thought. 'What did us two do? We were just talking to each other. All I want to do...is keep my promise to Daddy and Mommy...Minny wants to be a good girl.'

Since Minny was doing nothing, Tobi felt like he was on the mark, this little vampire wasn't much of a vampire, and he lifted his fist again and punched Abby right in the stomach. She screamed in pain, and in doing so, Tobi pulled her head back by her hair, having it in the air.

At this moment, Hebi, who was with Jared and the other older students, went to step forward.

"That damned kid, he's so cruel he needs a beating or two," Hebe said as she stepped forward, but Jared put out his hand.

"I don't think you have to worry...that little vampire isn't just going to stand there," Jared stated.

Minnie slowly started to walk towards her friend and Tobi, stopping just short of arm's distance.

"Abby... I'm sorry...you hurt me before... I want to help you...so please...just say yes to what I'm about to ask you."

Abby could hear the words from Minnie. She was frightened for her life at the moment and didn't want to be hit anymore, but still, for some reason, she was clinging to the words of Minnie.

"Do you feel like your life is in danger right now?" Minnie asked.

Listening to Minnie's words from before, she was shocked for a moment but immediately gave an answer the next moment.

"YES!"

Her scream resounded through the hall.

[Chapter 2019 Guards Unite \(Part 1\)](#)

Just as Ronkin had said, it seemed like no one had reported the fact that the guards were missing, at least the patrolling guards. There were permanent vampires that were always stationed at the gates and entrance to the family areas.

These were higher positions and were given to those quite skilful. If Quinn were to compare it to the Earth of the past, they would be like patrolling policemen, with no crimes to stop and only disputes to solve.

While in the present situation, guards were more like the military of the vampires that the civilians respected.

This also meant that the two could walk wherever they wished without being questioned because no one would bother them. As Quinn followed Ronkin, he noticed they were no longer close to the central market of the square of the Polling area for vampires.

They had gone to the west side behind some houses and were in a sort of play arena. There was a large energy cage. Using the power of the crystal, barriers would be put up and allow the children who lived in the area to play sports.

The Barriers themselves were, of course, powered by the Beast crystals. Only this time, it looked like it was being used by the other guards as well. Every one of them was standing next to a console that could change the energy barrier to whatever they wished.

The guards all had similar clothing styles. The only difference was a slight variation in colour. A slight black here or there, or maybe the shoulder pads were slightly different, being a little spiked. Since there were only nine families, the vampires quickly knew which guards belonged to which area.

However, when it came to solving disputes, which family did so, even if the problem was related to other families, didn't really matter, which was how all the guards, or lowly guards as they called themselves, came together.

'You wanted me to make friends, but I'm not sure you would be happy if I told you what I was doing right now.' Quinn thought.

"Hey everyone, did we make it in time?" Ronkin said as he waved to the others.

They turned around, and all had friendly smiles on their faces. There looked to be two guards from each family, which meant including the two, there were 19 of them in total. Even if all put in a small amount of money, the winner of this thing would make quite a bit.

"Looks like you brought someone with you this time." A man walked over towards them with large biceps and a sleeveless shirt. His shoulder pads and armour were dark, almost black green, it was hard to tell with the sky night always being there, but this indicated that he was from the 13th family. The same family that Fex was part of before creating the vampire corps.

The man and Ronkin had a friendly handshake with each other, after which the two of them walked over to Quinn.

"This is my partner from the 9th family. The two of us patrol around all the time. Usually, he always says no to these types of things so I didn't bother inviting him before because of it, but this time he's decided to come along." Ronkin explained.

The man, with a big smile on his face, put his hand forward. Now close to each other, Quinn noticed that he had a bit of a square head, which reminded him of a certain someone, a good friend he had in the past.

"My name is Nell!" The man had a cherry-deep voice, and the smile looked to never go away, making his eyes quite small. "It's always good to have a fellow guard come to one of these events. The more, the merrier. Besides, it makes the pot bigger as well."

The man started to laugh, but that's when Ronkin started to look a bit nervous.

"Actually, Nell, Quinn isn't taking part. He's just here to watch."

"It's okay," Quinn said. "As thanks for letting me watch, I am happy to put in the same amount of money as you guys. I just won't be taking part."

Quinn couldn't believe it, but it looked like the smile on Nell's face had gotten even bigger, and the next second he wrapped his hand around Quinn's neck, bringing him close.

"I like people like you. You know how to show respect without even needing to. For a young one, you certainly have manners. Come on, let me introduce you to the rest and explain the rules." Nell said.

If only Nell knew, Quinn was much older than all of them here. Still, that was only in terms of numbers and not mentally, of course, which was why those sorts of things never bothered him.

Nearly all the guards seemed friendly and around the same age as Nell and Ronkin. They were family men. Nearly all of them were fathers trying to look after their families. After the introductions were over, Nell went on to explain the rules.

It was a simple knockout tournament that was set up in the machine. After he put everyone's names in, the machine would come up with two names. Those two contestants would fight. And the loser would be knocked out.

After that, the winner had time to recover, and as it got closer to the finale, the winners of the fights were also able to drink a bit of blood to replenish themselves and heal up before they were to go into the next battle.

"Alright, so everyone who is spectating for the match must watch from behind the barrier. Also, try not to attack the barrier too much on purpose, alright?" Nell explained. "Last time it broke, we all had to pay out of our own pockets to have it fixed."

He then pressed the little console to the side, and the machine randomly jumped through all the names. It was at a crazy speed that one could not keep up with it, apart from Quinn.

'Was my name still inputted into the system? I guess that makes sense. If someone gets teamed up with me, they will get a free win, and since the numbers are even that way, they are just lucky.'

Surprisingly, the first two names that appeared were Ronkin and a man named Button.

"Well, I didn't think I would be up this fast, but here we go, I guess. Quinn, could you keep an eye on me and give me pointers on where I go wrong." Ronkin asked.

As the two participants walked forward, some of the other guards cheered for Ronkin and others for his contestant Button.

"It seems that Ronkin believes you are quite a skilled fighter," Nell said, with his arms folded. "It's a shame that we won't see you participate in this fight."

Quinn didn't say anything as the barrier was lifted in a circle shape giving a ring for the two to fight in, and the match started. As soon as it had done, Button charged in, and in the past, Ronkin would have done the same, but this time he stayed still.

He could see the aura gathering on the other hand as he unleashed a blood slash. Ronkin moved to the side and gathered his own aura, throwing out an attack of his own. Button moved out of the way, but when he did, Ronkin had already grabbed him by his shoulder and pulled him forward, kneeling him right in the stomach.

"Oh, what's this? Usually, Ronkin would charge in head-first against his opponent. In fact, nearly all of these guys just try to clash their aura together. I'm happy to see that he's finally trying something different. Could this be your influence?" Nell asked.

Although it was the influence of Quinn, he was superseded by how well Ronkin had taken his advice and training. They had only been training for a few hours for something which one usually needs more time to absorb and see any improvements. In a panicked situation, they would just revert back to what they usually did, but Ronkin was calm as he usefully was.

Button wasn't quick to give up there though, as he kicked Ronkin's leg, which was slightly off balance, causing his body to topple and for him to fall to the ground. Soon after, a fist full of red aura came down right towards Ronkin's face but was caught with both hands before hitting him.

The two were now in a fierce battle of strength as they pushed at each other.

"There is Ronkin's determination. That's why, even though he isn't the most skilled, he always at least made it midway in these little skirmishes we have." Nell commented. "That guy really does care about his family."

"Family?" Quinn repeated.

"Oh, I thought with the two of you working together all the time that you would have known. There is a reason why Ronkin always tries to win these fights. He needs the money to help out his family." Nell explained.

Nell didn't say anything else after that, it wasn't his place to because it wasn't his information either, but it struck a chord with Quinn. Because he had told a certain leader, his reason for doing what he was doing was the same. It was because of his family.

"We have a winner!"

"I did it, Quinn...haha, look at that!" Ronkin smiled, his face somewhat swollen from being hit, and he had a large cut on his hand.

"You still got hit way too much," Quinn replied with a smile.

[Chapter 2020 Guards Unite \(Part 2\)](#)

The small sparring event continued as matches happened one after the other, and Quinn observed them. Based on his observations, Quinn could see why they had all been chosen as guards if he seriously evaluated them.

They all looked to have next to no real fighting experience. They knew how to use the basic skills, but none of them had a Vampire aura that seemed powerful enough to give the upper hand against the others. In the evaluation, the families would likely pick someone with experience or enough talent to make it worthwhile, and these guys had neither. In fact, it was evident that they needed a guide or a teacher to clear even some of the basic things.

However, barring that, a few of the people had somewhat caught his eye. One of them was Nell, the one who had organised this tournament. Just like the others, he didn't have a particularly great vampire aura but what he did have were some fighting skills.

He knew how to use his hands and turned out to be quite a good grappler. If the others would get close and throw a few missed punches here or there, or even take a hit or two, the match was over because he would lock them up in specific ways so they were unable to use their fists or legs, then push and pull at certain joints until one heard them pop.

Luckily, a vampire could quickly heal from these wounds with a bit of blood, so injuries of this level were common in the matches.

"You know, now that I think about it, I think Nell has won most of these tournaments, and he was the one that had come up with the idea in the first place," Ronkin commented, standing next to Quinn, watching the match. "...is he scamming us?"

"Haha." Quinn couldn't help but laugh. "I'm sure that's not the case. The amount of money is small, but when put together is quite large. On top of that, any of you could have stopped coming to these matches after seeing his skills. If it were a scam after winning the first tournament, he would have stopped and not invited you guys."

Quinn looked at Ronkin, who had his eyes glued to the match, and eventually, he said something.

"Is there...a way I can beat him? I am sure you must have a way...so if I may, I want to ask, what would you do if you were in there?"

Ronkin was talking so loud that the others watching could hear. They found it weird that he was putting so much hope into the newcomer, who was also a guard like them.

Quinn looked around at the eyes of others, and he could tell that he was catching attention, which was something he didn't want to do, so he decided to keep quiet.

"If I told you...that wouldn't be fair on the others. So all I can say is to do your best."

Ronkin felt a little down at hearing that answer, and the sadness soon turned into frustration as he clenched his fist.

"Quinn...I have to start winning these fights...I told you before. I have to get better, and I have to improve my rank in the next evaluation. I need the money for my family. I didn't tell you this before because there was no point in knowing, but now, I feel like you can help me.

"My son... he's sick. It's a disease that is rare for vampires. In the first place, vampires don't even usually get sick, and because of this disease, he's bedridden and can't even go to school like the other kids. So I need...a vampire to look over him. Or go to someone with a strong ability to cure him but to do that...I need the money. So please, if you know, help me win this tournament."

Now Quinn understood why Ronkin fought so hard. It wasn't a selfish reason like most. If he was put in the same situation, Quinn would have done the same. The thing was, with Ronkin's skills right now, without more training, Quinn didn't really have an answer for him to win this tournament, maybe the next one in a week's time, but with this one, he would just have to go as far as he could.

"If you get to the point where you can reach him if you match up with him. Then I'll tell you." Quinn said.

A smile grew on Ronkin's face. Winning the next match would mean he would soon catch up with Nell, maybe even in the finals this would happen, but he would only have to win one more match to get into the final four, but there was a chance he could be the lucky one since there were eight left in the tournament.

Unfortunately, it looked like Ronkin wasn't so lucky, and he was to fight once again. When entering the fighting area, Quinn was a little concerned because the opponent he was going up against was one of the other two that he had his eye on, one of the other decent fighters.

It wasn't because of skill though, like Nell, nor was it to do with vampire aura. Instead, it was because his speed, strength and reflexes were all a notch above the others.

'Unless Ronkin is at the top of his game, he won't be able to win this one.' Quinn thought.

The two were standing opposite each other. From the cheers from the side, Quinn learned that Ronkin's opponent's name was Dice. Once they were ready, everyone heard a beeping sound, indicating it was time for the two to fight, and almost the same scene had played out.

Dice had charged in, throwing out a blood swipe. Looking at Dice's arm carefully, Ronkin moved to the side, dodging it, throwing out a slash of his own while running in for the attack. Dice had moved out of the way, and Ronkin's hand was about to grab him when he stopped it.

"Nice try...but this is as far as you get." Dice said as he used his strength to bend the fingers of Ronkin, snapping them, then kicking him right in the stomach.

Bearing through the pain, Ronkin wasn't going to let being unable to breathe slow him down, and he swung both hands, throwing out two lines of aura. It was unexpected, and both of them had hit Slash right across the chest.

A light mark was made, but it wasn't deep enough. Seeing this, Dice charged in again, and when he did, he suddenly disappeared from Ronkin's view and grabbed him right behind the head.

"That hurt." Dice said as he slammed Ronkin's face right into the ground. He then lifted him and ran right into the end barrier, smelling his face into the energy barrier.

"Stop!" Nell shouted. "There is a clear winner, even if Ronkin is still concussed and can't say it himself. This is a friendly fight, and there is no need to go to the death."

Once he let down the energy barrier, and with a weak walk, Ronkin made his way to where Quinn was. He had just made it before collapsing, but Quinn had caught him midair before he did.

"I'm...such an idiot," Ronkin said. "I really thought I could win this time. I didn't even think about the others in this tournament and only thought about Nell when I wasn't ready to reach him yet... I'm so...embarrassed."

Watching the fight go on, there was something strange, Quinn thought. He wasn't good at comforting others, so he didn't say much to Ronkin. But he was also an adult, so it was best for him to let his emotions out for the time being.

Instead, he was still thinking about the fight and was looking toward Dice. He still had been hurt from the wound Ronkin inflicted in a desperate moment.

[Inspect]

'It's as I thought...he was drinking Dalki blood in a place like this. Where the guards are just trying to have a bit of fun...Well, I guess I should give him a taste of his own medicine?'

"Nell...is it okay if I change my mind slightly. Would it be okay to join the tournament?" Quinn asked.

Nell had. The large smile on his face. Usually, he would have said no, but he was interested in Quinn.

"Sure, go on ahead."

The next match had mainly been changed, so Quinn would go up against the other guards, and since Ronkin had talked to him so much, they were pretty interested to see what he could do.

The beeper sounded for the match to begin, and it started with the other vampire rushing in. Quinn did the same since most of the other vampires did this. When a blood slash was sent out, off by less than a second, Quinn threw his own blood slash so they would clash against each other.

It was almost like they were looking in a mirror. It seemed like an accident until it happened again, and when they were finally close to each other, Quinn parried away the hit and hit the vampire right in the face flinging his head back.

The vampire took the blow well, though, and threw out another punch, which Quinn blocked as well, and there was another solid blow to the face.

Ronkin, watching this, knew all of this well because, at some point, he had been on the receiving end, and eventually, the vampire's head was hit back, and he was knocked out, no longer in the state to get back up.

It was a strange sight for all of them to see. Nothing overly impressive happened. There was no big blow or one person overpowering the other, just a display of skill and nothing else. As the match ended, Quinn looked over to Dice.

He wanted to teach the latter a lesson in this match...and he was sure, with the Dalki blood powering him, that Dice wouldn't fall so early, allowing him to get a few more hits in as well. That was until Quinn felt a slight vibration on his wrist.

Pressing a small button on his watch, he was patched through. It turned out someone was trying to call him.

"Is this Quinn Balen I am talking to?" The voice asked.

"Yes, speaking."

"I am calling from Roland primary school. Unfortunately, there has been an incident involving your daughter Minny."