



## Once upon a time...

On the eve of the Day of the Departed Sarcea and Zoro arrived at the Nagini dojo in Transylvania. Sarcea introduced Zoro to her step-mother, Nassedেকে, her father, Matsukoi, and her brother, Johannes. Zoro commented, "Thank-you, for having me."

Nassedেকে replied, "Anything for a Ninja who helped save Ninjago. Unless that Ninja belongs to the Monk or Zhu house."

Matsukoi stated, "So Sarcea, we need to know for savings reason if you plan to be a ninja for life. You don't need to decide right now, but let us know before you leave."

Sarcea didn't know what she wanted to be. Her step-mother was a nurse, so she knew if she wanted to be a nurse her parents would approved. Sarcea lied, "I already know. I want to be a nurse."

Matsukoi asked, "Are you sure, or did you just say that because it isn't straying too far away from home?"

Sarcea stated, "I want to help people. I really think it is my calling."

Nassedেকে asked, "I am about to go to the market. What do people want for the feast tomorrow?"

Johannes excitedly said, "I think we should have turducken tomorrow for the holiday."

Their step-mom said, "No, that is too hard to prepare. We need to spend time with each other, not in the kitchen, honey."

Johannes rolled his eyes. His step-mother scolded him. His face went to a relaxed position.

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Later that night Sarcea was memorizing a map and her father was plucking a chicken. They were alone together when he started talking. He began, "Your mother, not your step-mother, your biological mother Shizuku she was a rebel. She used to be so ambitious. She wanted to be a pirate. She wanted to circumnavigate the world in a hot air balloon. Of course, she was the Master of Gravity which helped. She also wanted to climb the Whaling Alps. She loved to do extreme things. It all changed when she had Johannes. She grew more concerned with feeding her family, than with her thirst for adventure, but she didn't forget her own youth. If only you could have met her, but albeit her dying to give birth to you isn't very grateful to complain about. The fluttering heart of youth, the lack of heavy metal, the need to test your abilities is a spirit only the youth truly understand. It takes someone whose dreams have been squashed to still remember what it felt like to have dreams. If there is someone you love or a job you really want to have, do it. You can always settle down later, like most people do. I think it is wise to choose independence over unwanted dependence. It is also wise to want to be independent and grow. Sometimes this takes courage. Bravely stand up for what you yourself want and it will be worth it."

Zoro entered the kitchen and said, "It took me loads of courage to tell my parents I wanted to join a ninja clan even though I was a girl. They are very sexist. I imagine I won't understand this when I'm older. But, I had to climb to the top of my local elementary school and threaten to jump off if they didn't let me be in a ninja clan. Sometimes you need to be rash to get the future you want."

Sarcea's step-mom walked into the kitchen. Matsukoi asked her, "Honey, did you ever have dreams?"

She replied, "I was once young and arrogant and wanted to do things my own way. I lived in the Toxic Bogs for some time. Lived across the pond on Chen's Island. Everything fell apart in the end. That was until I met you, dear. I still have nightmares of those days so far away from where my parents lived."

She lit her lamp and left. Matsukoi cut off the head of the chicken and continued, "Shizuku's story also ends in tragedy, unless of course you continue the story until she met yours truly. She eventually ending up falling in love, her mother had forbidden the love because the boy she liked was a member of the Zhu house. She was too afraid to speak up so every day would be filled with sadness and anger over the forbidden love. By the time I met her she had already figured her life out, which to her meant helping others find their courage. Even after having Johannes she stayed understanding."

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On the Day of the Departed Nassedecke asked, "So Sarcea, what do you want to do after being a ninja?"

Sarcea took a big breath, then partially lied, "I was born to be a ninja. I will always be a ninja."

Her step-mother replied, "How wonderful. Better to be a ninja than a nurse. Ninja are the right hands of the Golden Rule."

Sarcea was surprised her step-mother liked this better, but glad regardless.