

The book cover features a circular illustration of a wild boar on the left. The background is a gradient of pink and purple. The text 'Book III' is in large white letters, and 'THE HOUSE OF ZHU' is in smaller white letters below it. A large blue arrow points to the right, containing the text 'CHAPTER 4: Skeleton In The Closet' in white. At the bottom, there is a small white box with the text 'Book III: The House of Zhu' in a small font.

**Book III**  
THE HOUSE OF ZHU

**CHAPTER 4:**  
**Skeleton In The Closet**

*Book III: The House of Zhu*

## Once upon a time...

The Elemental Alliance had split up. The Zhu's, Blaze, Ahimsa, and Krispal, were going to the Temple of Fire to investigate Undead X's connection to the Zhu House. They figured the Cult of the Master of Fire was linked heavily to the Zhu House because the First Master of Fire was a member of the Zhu house and every Master of Fire since was also. Sarcea had left for her home after her injury from fighting the Ronin Indians. She had to go by horse, as she hadn't unlocked her chi dragon yet. Wu, Garmadon, Herold, Bamf, Flowious, Diptidulla, Isabelle, Zoro, Fremt, and Sage were flying to where the Viking Empire had invaded in the former Gou Community. They decided they would survey the situation, then discuss what to do. Fremt had turned into his beast form after Krispal embarrassed him with the tea of truth and was still a monkey. They saw a Viking ship with passengers bailing out water from the sinking craft. The Elemental Alliance dove down to help the passengers. They weren't soldiers, they were civilians. Isabelle used her elemental ability to move the water out of the boat back into the sea. Bamf asked, "What are you doing? This ship is not seaworthy."

One of the passengers, a scrawny wart covered old man, explained, "We thought we could make it. We are political prisoners from the Viking Empire."

Bamf stated, "I have little sympathy for you. Just mind your own business and things like this won't happen."

The old man explained, "We were minding our own business. But we were arrested for inferiority."

Bamf asked, "How can you be arrested for inferiority?"

The old man asked, "Haven't you heard Viking? Superior Fuhrer Vagus responded to Superiority Punishment by issues laws on Inferiority Punishment. Those not rich, smart, strong, attractive, or healthy enough are being punished. We managed to escape imprisonment but the only boat we could find was this crapshoot of a ship."

Bamf asked, "What were all of you arrested for?"

The refugees shuddered. The old man revealed, "This may be new to you. You look like you haven't been around the Viking Islands for a few months. It is rude to ask someone what makes them inferior. We try to keep our weakness in the closet."

Bamf looked around, he assumed the old man had been arrested for unhealthiness. He saw some clearly poor people in rags with tiny guts. He also saw some scrawny orphans, unattractive women, crossdressing figures, and a group that didn't seem to have much wrong with them. He privately assumed they were those arrested for inferior intelligence. Sage advised, "Figure-made inferiority punishment is malgarsonery. The only form of inferiority punishment that should be allowed is that done by nature."

Zoro asked Sage, "What makes you think Superior Fuhrer Vagus would come up with laws so unfounded suddenly?"

Sage replied, "The Totalitarian Dragons are opposite the Zodiac Wheel from the Communist Dogs. Just as Tsar Kresovy adopted Superiority Punishment, Fuhrer Vagus adopted Inferiority

Punishment. I fear he is under the control of Obsessa-Manipura, which motivated him to use the philosophy of Inferiority Punishment to make himself more prominent.”

Fremt flinched. Isabelle asked, “Obsessa- Manipura. What is the obsession he produces?”

Sage replied, “His possession makes one obsessed with proving their superiority to others.”

Sage then advised, “Vagus must learn, the skeletons in the closet you must be most regretful of are mistreatment of others, not embarrassments.”

Isabelle asked, “How do we defeat the Obsessa Siblings?”

Sage explained, “One spirit has such purity, when one makes physical contact, it drives the Obsessa Sibling out of a figure.” Fremt’s and Isabelle’s jaws dropped. Isabelle asked, “Where do we find one?”

Sage revealed, “We already have one.”

He looked at Herold. Herold asked, “Me?”

Sage explained, “I have had a vision of your spirit form being a Buddha. Once you learn to be spirited you will be so pure of obsession you can drive away the Obsessa Siblings. Buddhas are the opposite of obsession. Obsessa-Manipura will yield when Vagus’s heart is opened to feel the sacrifice that the human spirit can endure.”

Zoro asked, “But there have only been a few Buddhas in history. How will he learn to unlock such a powerful spirit state?”

Wu said, "A Shinto told me at my father's shrine to come to her when we were ready to learn how to enter the spirit state."

Herold said, "Herold not want spirit state. Herold want to rule Ninjago."

Herold turned into his metal form and picked the only rowboat off the deck. He dropped it into the sea and jumped on. Wu asked, "Where are you going?"

Herold pushed away from the battered ship. As he drifted away he said, "I will join Superior Fuhrer Vagus and conquer the world. I will have a status, power, safety, a palace, and everything. You can have your spiritual mumbo-jumbo, I will get some real happiness."

Sage yelled after the rowboat, "Let your heart be green to change into your spirit form."

Soon Herold was gone. Isabelle moved more water out of the boat as it had refilled some.

Diptidulla blasted wind into the sail. The boat began to glide forward. The Elemental Alliance got the boat to the Central Shoguntu safely.

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A few weeks earlier...

Superior Fuhrer was on the docks of his command island. He was about to issue the laws of Inferiority Punishment, but he had a skeleton in the closet. By outlawing inferiority hundreds would rot in prison terrified of him. People would pass him and begin to shiver. Ladies who saw men in the prime of their physical lives shivering at him would view him as manlier. His skeleton was he knew he was secretly inferior. What a disgrace for the leader of the Vikings to be inferior. He was going bald and wore a wig. He hoped this would never be revealed.

Although he made it illegal to be unattractive he knew he was unattractive. He made himself

illegal. Although the rule of law meant little, if word got out that he was inferior the totalitarian party could strip him of his title. Without his title people would meet him and not be immediately impressed. He wouldn't be able to hunt down the political cartoonists who made him look unattractive and ignorant. Because cartoonists drew such funny depictions, people used to see the picture of him and explode with laughter. If he wasn't Superior Fuhrer, he would still be famous and the whole world would know he was the leader that got bested by another. He thought, "My title would be viewed as less impressive and the new Superior Fuhrer would glimmer with joy whenever he thought about my sorry self's fall from grace." A Viking ship sailed into the dock. Out of it walked two of his most trusted advisers. Vagus asked one of them, "You returned from the Dark Island with the Lantern?"

The adviser replied, "Yes."

He held up a wood and rice paper lantern. Vagus ordered, "Come with me."

He led them into the fortress. They arrived in a room near the top of the highest tower where the Dragon Fighters were lounging on benches. Vagus introduced the Dragon Fighters to his advisers. Then he introduced his advisers. First was one named, "Zhu Bloc." The other was named, "Chi Donado."

Zhu Bloc was the one who brought the lantern. Superior Fuhrer Vagus revealed, "The Lantern of Enlightenment grants the power to open one's eyes to otherwise unseen truths."

He pulled a splinter of wood out of the fireplace and used it to light the lantern. He held the lantern up. Along the rice paper walls, a dance began of shadows. He saw two things that caught his interest. A shadow that looked like Station Dragon stabbed a shadow that looked

like him in the back and took his Fuhrer hairpiece ornament. Vagus determined this meant Station dragon sought to become Fuhrer. The next depiction was of Chi Donada and Vagus. Donado rubbed a frog over Vagus signifying he wanted to change Vagus. Vagus, after seeing all of the depictions, said, "I will be issuing laws against Inferiority in the coming days in order to crack down on the remaining inferiors in our empire."

Danado exclaimed, "I object to Inferiority Punishment!"

Vagus said, "I know your son and wife are skulkin. I will punish you severely if you object."

Danado murmured, "I object."

Vagus ordered, "Distal! Grab him."

Distal grabbed Danado. Vagus walked over to a window and opened it. Vagus said, "Hold him out the window."

Distal held Danado by the ankle and dangled him over the fall from the high tower onto the rocky cliffside. Vagus ordered, "You will fear me. Your family is unattractive, and you sympathize with inferiors, you are contempt with your own inferiority, which makes you a fool too."

Danado nervously whimpered, "Inferiority makes you superior."

Vagus grew very angry that Danado was so brave. He spat, "Drop him."

Distal let go of his ankle. He fell to the rocks which broke his torso piece into dozens of smaller red bricks.

Present Day...

A letter came to the Chi Manor. The Living Skeleton, Chi Wyplash, took it from the post figure, hoping it was from his father. He opened it on his bed and read it. It was from Station Dragon. It explained every detail of what happened and how Superior Fuhrer Vagus killed Chi Donado. Wyplash cried. This was no story, there was no way to see this in a different way- his father was dead. The thirteen-year-old skulkin cried. His tears grew into anger at the egomaniac known as Vagus Scaranalui. He didn't break anything, he restrained himself, but resentment grew inside of him. He thought, the greatest villain is Vagus Scaranalui. He left his room with a satchel and the letter and put it on the dining room table, so his mother would find it. He went to the library and pulled away a bookcase to reveal a secret closet. He peeled up the floorboards of the closet to reveal the Oni mask of Vengeance. His father told him that he found it in the Sea of Sand. After realizing how powerful it was, Donado decided to keep it to protect his family if the situation should arise that the Fuhrer ever realized Donado's plan to change the Fuhrer. He put the mask in his satchel. He was almost at the front door when his mother asked, "Where are you going?"

Wyplash lied, "Just to the library."

He left the manor with no intentions of returning. He made it his life's mission to kill Superior Fuhrer Vagus. He was blind to how silly he would look as a thirteen-year-old challenging the Fuhrer of an Empire because it didn't matter. What mattered was getting his revenge on this horrible figure.