

"WINGS"

BY

SCOTT WOODMAN

FIRST DRAFT
01/01/2008

Property of:
Scott Woodman
10 Halstead Close
Canterbury
Kent
CT2 7UD
United Kingdom

© November 2007 Scott Woodman

FADE IN:

EXT. SKIES ABOVE FOREST - MORNING

We see a CLEAR BLUE SKY and BRIGHT SUN...A FLOCK OF BIRDS fly through the air...We follow the BIRDS as they gracefully soar across the sky.

The BIRDS dive down towards a LARGE GREEN FOREST.

EXT. FOREST - MORNING

We are now in a FOREST of beautiful green...Scattered about the FOREST are MANY FLOWERS of such colour and radiance that we are almost blinded by them...The FOREST seems alive and almost magical.

We move through the FOREST and reveal a FLOWING RIVER, on the opposite side of the RIVER is a SMALL FARM.

EXT. GRIMWOLD FARM - MORNING

The FARM appears ordinary enough...COWS grazing in a FIELD...PIGS swilling in mud...SHEEP being rounded up by a FARMER'S SHEEPDOG.

At the edge of the farm, we can see a large CHERRY BLOSSOM TREE in an ORCHARD.

EXT. GRIMWOLD FARM - ORCHARD - MORNING

A YOUNG MAN is working by the CHERRY BLOSSOM TREE.

His name is AEREON. He is a handsome and earnest boy in his late teens. There is a slight naiveté to him. He is currently planting the seeds of future cherry blossom trees in the farmer's orchard. AEREON is daydreaming.

Suddenly he is tapped on the head from the tree branch above him.

CALISSA is LAUGHING above AEREON...She is sitting on a tree branch...CALISSA is also in her late teens, slightly younger than AEREON. She is cute but also mischievous. She is wearing a LONG COAT.

CALISSA
(teasing)

Come on Aereon! These trees
aren't going to plant themselves!

AEREON snaps out of his daze.

AEREON
It's alright for you Calissa. You
don't have to do anything!

CALISSA
Ah, the perks of being the
farmer's daughter!

CALISSA starts to climb the CHERRY TREE.

CALISSA(CONT'D)
Catch me if you can!

As she climbs we can see SOMETHING UNDERNEATH the back of
her COAT. It is not quite clear.

AEREON
You said I was supposed to be
planting trees!

CALISSA
I won't tell if you won't.
Anyway, it's nothing that can't
wait a bit longer! Come on!

AEREON
Alright, but no cheating!

CALISSA
Me? Never!

CALISSA climbs higher and higher with a nimble grace.
AEREON climbs after her, he is much slower.

CALISSA reaches the top of the tree...She sits on a branch
and laughs at AEREON who is still climbing.

AEREON finally reaches the top.

AEREON
Got you!

CALISSA
No you haven't.

Suddenly, WINGS SPRING FROM THE BACK of CALISSA as she FLIES MAJESTICALLY from the top of the CHERRY TREE.

AEREON tries to GRAB HOLD of CALISSA but he SLIPS and starts to FALL from the CHERRY TREE...AEREON is FALLING to the ground but CALISSA CATCHES him by the ANKLE with BOTH HANDS just before he hits.

AEREON
(annoyed)
I said no cheating!

CALISSA
That's no fun!

VOICE(O.S.)
Ahem!

CALISSA and AEREON look up at CALISSA's father, PHLOX GRIMWOLD, owner of the farm. GRIMWOLD is in his late fifties. He is rugged and wise and has an unswerving sense of loyalty and honour to him.

He does not look pleased at AEREON and CALISSA.

GRIMWOLD
Busy are we?

AEREON quickly stands up.

AEREON
Sorry sir.

GRIMWOLD
Those trees won't plant themselves boy.

CALISSA
I know, I've just told him that.

AEREON looks at CALISSA as if to say "Traitor!"

CUT TO:

EXT. GRIMWOLD FARM - EARLY EVENING

The SUN is just starting to go down on the sky's horizon.

EXT. GRIMWOLD FARM - ORCHARD - EARLY EVENING

AEREON is finishing up his work as GRIMWOLD ENTERS the ORCHARD.

AEREON
Sorry about earlier sir.

GRIMWOLD
Forget about it. And enough with this sir business! I told you it makes me sound like an old man.

AEREON
Sorry sir...I mean Farmer Grimwold.

GRIMWOLD laughs to himself.

GRIMWOLD
Well, at least your parents taught you good manners. I don't know what goes on in the head of my Calissa half the time.

AEREON
She's a good girl really.

GRIMWOLD
Aye, she can be when she wants to be.

GRIMWOLD notices the sun going down.

GRIMWOLD
Anyway, I better not keep you. Off you go lad, you've done well for the day.

AEREON
Goodnight sir!

AEREON sprints off over a FENCE into a COUNTRY LANE.

CUT TO:

EXT. COUNTRY LANE - LATE AFTERNOON

AEREON STROLLS through the SERENE COUNTRY LANE.

Out of nowhere, CALISSA lands beside him...AEREON is startled.

AEREON

Don't do that!

CALISSA

(teasing)

Hey there wingless!

AEREON

Don't call me that.

CALISSA buzzes AEREON like an annoying fly.

CALISSA

Oh come on, you know how much I like to ruffle your feathers. Oh wait, you don't have any.

AEREON

You're not funny.

CALISSA

Look, I came to apologise for getting you into trouble earlier.

AEREON

(disbelief)

The great Calissa? Apologising? That's new.

CALISSA thinks to herself.

CALISSA

I want to have a little fun that's all. I just get so bored on that farm.

AEREON has the complete opposite opinion.

AEREON

That farm is beautiful. I hope to have a place like that one day.

CALISSA

Don't you want more from life Aereon?

AEREON

What do you mean?

CALISSA

You know, explore the kingdom.
Meet people, go places you've
never been before.

AEREON

(beat)

No, not really.

CALISSA

It's no wonder you don't have any
wings yet, they'd be wasted on
you.

AEREON is hurt by the remark.

AEREON

Maybe I'm not an adventuring
scallywag like you, but some
people get more enjoyment from
simpler things in life.

CALISSA HOVERS in front of AEREON'S face.

CALISSA

Well, that's not me.

AEREON points up into the sky.

AEREON

Well maybe you should stay up in
the clouds with your wings then.

CALISSA

Hmm. Good idea. See you tomorrow
wingless!

CALISSA DARTS OFF over the FOREST.

AEREON watches her fly away and seems a little envious.

AEREON

Show off.

As he walks across a BRIDGE from the COUNTRY LANE, AEREON
enters -

EXT. RIVER VILLAGE - EVENING

RIVER VILLAGE, a GROUP OF TREE HOUSES along the RIVER BANK...The TREE HOUSES are LINKED TOGETHER by a series of BRIDGES AND WALKWAYS...There is a LARGE MARKET PLACE which is closing for the day and an INN, the FOXGLOVE TAVERN, in the CENTRE of the VILLAGE.

AEREON climbs up a ROPE to the INN.

INT. FOXGLOVE TAVERN - EVENING

AEREON walks in through the FRONT DOORS of the INN...It is packed full of RESIDENTS with WINGS...The atmosphere is jovial and high spirited...AEREON walks behind the BAR past the LANDLORD, AEREON's Father, TANIS.

TANIS is in his late forties. He is strict, and appears slightly aloof to his son but is a loving Father and husband.

TANIS

(disinterested)

How's work son?

AEREON

Same as always. I'm going up to my room.

TANIS

"Nice to see you father, how's your day been father?"

AEREON walks up a STAIRCASE to -

INT. FOXGLOVE TAVERN - VERANDA - EVENING

AEREON notices his Mother, JAPONICA, sitting on a VERANDA which overlooks the RIVER. The MOON is full tonight and shines down upon the RIVER.

JAPONICA is in her late forties. She is warm, kind hearted and a good shoulder to cry on.

JAPONICA

Not going to say hello to your Mother?

AEREON seems to be daydreaming again.

AEREON

Sorry Mother, in a bit of a daze.

JAPONICA is very insightful and knows something is bothering her son.

JAPONICA

What's wrong Aereon?

AEREON

I want my wings Mother.

JAPONICA stands up and spreads her WINGS.

JAPONICA

Nothing special really.

AEREON

That's easy for you to say. You've had yours for a long time. Only children are wingless. I feel so left out.

AEREON looks out at the NIGHT SKY.

AEREON(CONT'D)

I want to know what it feels like to fly Mother. To soar through the air with the birds.

JAPONICA

Son, earning wings is different for every fairy. Some need only smile to every stranger they meet where others must work hard every day. It is simply the way of things.

AEREON looks frustrated.

AEREON

But I don't know what to do.

JAPONICA

Neither did I. Nor your father or any of the other fairies in this kingdom.

AEREON

Even Calissa has wings now. I don't know what she's done to deserve them. She's half as honest as me and half as hardworking.

JAPONICA lays a reassuring hand on her son's cheek.

JAPONICA

When the time comes Aereon you will know. Trust in your heart and spirit and soon you will fly my boy.

JAPONICA hugs her son and leaves the VERANDA.

AEREON looks up at the MOON...FAIRIES fly against the MOON in silhouette...The MOON fades into -

EXT. COUNTRY LANE - MORNING

- The SUN as AEREON is walking the COUNTRY LANE to the FARM...Next to the COUNTRY LANE is a FOREST...As AEREON walks the lane, he hears WHISPERING come from the FOREST.

VOICE(O.S.)

Fairy!

AEREON stops in his tracks.

AEREON

Who's there?

There is SILENCE...AEREON continues on his way.

More WHISPERING from the FOREST.

VOICE(O.S.)

Fairy! Fairy!

AEREON SPINS AROUND...He sees a DARK SHAPE in the TREES...He can't quite make it out...He STEPS DEEPER into the FOREST.

EXT. FOREST - MORNING

The daylight seems to disappear in the FOREST...SHADOWS surround AEREON...The WHISPERING continues.

VOICE(O.S.)

Yes, that's right little fairy!
Come closer!

AEREON

Who is there?

VOICE(O.S.)

Your hearts desire.

Suddenly SOMETHING DROPS FROM THE TREES ABOVE and lands
in front of AEREON...A SMALL, IMPISH CREATURE about half
the size of AEREON. This is SLINK.

AEREON

(frightened)

What in the name of the Earth
Mother are you?

SLINK

Do not be afraid child.

AEREON gets on the defensive.

AEREON

I am no child!

SLINK

And yet you have no wings little
fairy.

AEREON steps forward to get a closer look at the strange
creature. It is quite ugly.

SLINK

Do not fear my appearance. For
not all in nature is fair and
bright as you fairy folk.

AEREON

(curious)

What are you?

SLINK

(reassuring)

I am your friend fairy.

AEREON

(untrusting)

What do you know of friends?

SLINKS points around the FOREST.

SLINK

I have many friends here in the forest. Beyond the eyes, ears and arms of you fairy folk. Now I and my kin seek to make new friends.

AEREON seems WARY, clearly unsettled by the creatures appearance.

AEREON

Why should I be friends with one such as you?

SLINK

Is that not the way of the fairy folk? To be kind and hearty to all asunder?

AEREON

Well, yes. I suppose it is.

SLINK seems happy.

SLINK

Do you not desire to have wings like your friends?

AEREON

More than anything.

SLINK

What else do you desire on this fine summer morning?

AEREON thinks to himself.

AEREON

Well, I am a little hungry.

SLINK

Then why do you not eat?

AEREON

I must earn my next meal by planting the morning's blossom for the Farmer.

SLINK

A noble cause to be sure. But you can eat sooner than that. Is there not an apple tree in the orchard of your Farmer?

AEREON

How do you know of such things?

SLINK JUMPS UP onto a BRANCH above AEREON and stares down at him.

SLINK

That is not important. What is important is that you fulfil your desire to eat. Why do you not treat yourself to a few apples from the Farmer's tree?

AEREON appears slightly stand-offish.

AEREON

I will. When I have planted this morning's seed and earned the apples from Farmer Grimwold.

SLINK gets closer to AEREON'S face...AEREON reacts to what is clearly a bad smell, coming from the creature.

SLINK

But surely you have done so much work for the farmer already that he will not mind a little...self-indulgence. To have your...fair share.

AEREON thinks to himself again.

AEREON

Well, I have worked very hard for him this year.

SLINK

Then treat yourself boy.

AEREON

(unsure)

But it feels wrong. To take that which is not rightfully earned.

SLINK SHAKES his head in disagreement.

SLINK

Nonsense. Like you said, you have worked so very, very hard for the farmer this year.

AEREON now seems to be coming around to the creature's way of thinking.

AEREON

Perhaps. I have earned it I suppose.

SLINK CLAPS his HANDS together.

SLINK

(excited)

Then do this one thing for me, your friend, and you shall have your wings.

AEREON

I will really have my wings? And all I have to do is eat some apples?

SLINK

Yes.

AEREON

I'll do it.

SLINK

Thank you my friend for your kindness!

AEREON

(confused)

But I haven't done anything for you yet!

SLINK starts to climb back up into the TREES.

SLINK

Oh but you have little fairy boy. Farewell.

AEREON

Wait! What is your name?

SLINK

They call me Slink.

And with that, SLINK disappears into the FOREST...Daylight reappears in the FOREST again.

AEREON seems confused but soon resumes his walk to the FARM.

CUT TO:

EXT. GRIMWOLD FARM - ORCHARD - MORNING

AEREON arrives in the CHERRY ORCHARD...GRIMWOLD is preparing some FARMING EQUIPMENT for AEREON.

GRIMWOLD

Morning Aereon, ready for a hard day's work?

AEREON

What's so special about today?

GRIMWOLD

The delivery of cherry blossom to Queen Aralia. It's today remember?

AEREON

Oh yes. Of course. It must have slipped my mind.

GRIMWOLD points to a LARGE WAGON OF BARRELS.

GRIMWOLD

I need you to load up these barrels with the blossom. The delivery will be at the end of the day.

AEREON

(unenthusiastic)

Well, looks like I'll be kept busy today.

GRIMWOLD

Don't let me down today. This delivery to the Queen is very important to me. Her father, rest his soul, was a close friend of mine.

AEREON

If you'll pardon my asking, what is the Royal City like? I have only read of it in books.

GRIMWOLD looks delighted as he recalls the Royal City.

GRIMWOLD

No written word can describe the Royal City. I served there under the King during his reign.

GRIMWOLD looks to the DAMAGED WINGS on his back.

GRIMWOLD(CONT'D)

Then my wings were broken and I couldn't fly anymore.

AEREON

I'm sorry.

GRIMWOLD

I have Calissa and the farm now. That's all I need.

GRIMWOLD lifts a BARREL off the WAGON.

GRIMWOLD

Anyway, I'm keeping you from your work. I'll be back later to check up on how your doing.

CUT TO:

EXT. GRIMWOLD FARM - ORCHARD - LATE MORNING

AEREON is filling a BARREL from a SACK OF CHERRY BLOSSOM...He throws a glimpse to the APPLE TREE at the back of the ORCHARD...AEREON is thinking to himself.

AEREON puts down his SACK OF CHERRY BLOSSOM and walks towards the APPLE TREE...AEREON looks up at all the APPLES in the tree...He licks his lips.

He CLIMBS the TREE and SHAKES A BRANCH...DOZENS OF APPLES FALL from the TREE and into the ORCHARD.

AEREON drops out of the TREE and starts to engorge on the APPLES.

EXT. GRIMWOLD FARM - ORCHARD - AFTERNOON

GRIMWOLD enters the ORCHARD...He sees lots of EMPTY BARRELS...Only ONE BARREL has been packed with CHERRY BLOSSOM...AEREON is nowhere to be found. GRIMWOLD looks very angry.

GRIMWOLD walks through the ORCHARD and sees AEREON sitting at the APPLE TREE...AEREON continues to eat APPLES...AEREON BURPS as he sees GRIMWOLD.

GRIMWOLD

(angry)

What's the meaning of this?!

AEREON seems unaware of his wrongdoing.

AEREON

I'm just having my fair share.

GRIMWOLD takes the APPLE from AEREON.

GRIMWOLD

Fair share?! Your stealing boy, plain and simple. Those apples were meant for the River Village market.

AEREON looks surprised...GRIMWOLD looks upset.

AEREON

(apologetic)

You...you can grow more apples.

GRIMWOLD'S expression turns serious.

GRIMWOLD

(serious)

Aereon, this is not like you. You know nothing of sin. No fairy should.

AEREON

My friend in the forest said it would be alright. He said it would earn me my wings.

GRIMWOLD

What friend? Fairy kind? Pixie? Sprite?

AEREON

He had a foul look about him, but
he seemed trustworthy.

GRIMWOLD looks concerned.

GRIMWOLD

A foul look you say? Did he
smell?

AEREON

Come to think of it, he did have
rather a strong odour about him.

GRIMWOLD seems to understand.

GRIMWOLD

An imp. This creature, you saw him
within the old forest?

AEREON

Yes, off the lane to the farm.
Slink, yes that's it. Slink was
his name.

GRIMWOLD now looks worried.

GRIMWOLD

This is grave news indeed.

AEREON

What do you mean?

GRIMWOLD

You were tricked Aereon.

AEREON looks disappointed, realising that he won't be
getting his wings as easily as he thought.

GRIMWOLD(CONT'D)

Come with me. We're going to see
the Queen.

AEREON now looks excited.

AEREON

To the palace in the royal city?
Me?

GRIMWOLD

Don't get too excited boy, this is
no pleasure visit.

In the distance, GRIMWOLD notices a darkening of the clouds in the sky.

INT. GRIMWOLD FARM - STABLES - AFTERNOON

GRIMWOLD is preparing a HORSE in the LARGE STABLE...In the background, we can see AEREON moping about.

CALISSA enters the STABLE.

GRIMWOLD

Calissa.

CALISSA

Yes father?

GRIMWOLD

I'm going away for a little while.
I want you to go and stay with
your Aunt Esmay in the River
Village.

CALISSA looks annoyed.

CALISSA

What? Why?

GRIMWOLD

No questions Daughter. Just do as
I ask.

CALISSA

But Auntie Esmay is so dull. Why
can't I come with you?

GRIMWOLD

(impatient)

Don't argue with me girl!

CALISSA

(quiet)

Sorry.

GRIMWOLD takes a deep breath.

GRIMWOLD

No, I'm sorry. I shouldn't take
it out on you.

CALISSA
(inquisitive)
What's wrong?

GRIMWOLD seems tense.

GRIMWOLD
Oh, it's nothing. Nothing at all.
Just some...farming business.

CALISSA senses something is wrong.

CALISSA
Oh, come on!

GRIMWOLD throws CALISSA a stern look...CALISSA backs down.

CALISSA
(sheepish)
I'll pack some things.

GRIMWOLD
(calmer)
Good girl. I'll see you soon.

GRIMWOLD finishes PREPARING the HORSE and leads it outside.

EXT. GRIMWOLD FARM - AFTERNOON

GRIMWOLD leads his HORSE out of the STABLE into the FARM...He approaches AEREON.

GRIMWOLD
Well, let's be off then. If we
ride fast we can be there early
this evening.

AEREON
I'm ready.

GRIMWOLD climbs onto the HORSE...AEREON climbs on the back of the HORSE...GRIMWOLD looks back at CALISSA, who sits in the ORCHARD...GRIMWOLD WAVES to his Daughter and then rides off.

EXT. COUNTRY LANE - AFTERNOON

GRIMWOLD and AEREON ride at great speed on HORSEBACK through the COUNTRY LANE.

EXT. COUNTRYSIDE - LATE AFTERNOON

GRIMWOLD and AEREON continue riding through the BEAUTIFUL COUNTRY SIDE on the HORSE...They pass over many HILLS and reach a LARGE GATE.

The GATE OPENS and leads down into a SMALL VALLEY...As they ride down into the valley, AEREON is STUNNED by what he sees.

EXT. ROYAL CITY - EARLY EVENING

The ROYAL CITY is miraculous, as if grown from the Earth yet with the intricacy and elegance of manmade architecture...It GLOWS in the early evening light.

There are many species of creature living in the ROYAL CITY...PIXIES, SPRITES AND FAIRIES ARE EVERYWHERE...The ROYAL CITY is bustling with activity.

AEREON and GRIMWOLD continue to ride down into the VALLEY through the ROYAL CITY...There are MANY HOMES, SHOPS AND MARKET STALLS...At the top of the ROYAL CITY sits the ROYAL PALACE, home of QUEEN ARALIA. It is constructed from what appears to be a BRIGHT SHINING CRYSTAL AND WHITE MARBLE.

EXT. ROYAL PALACE - EARLY EVENING

AEREON and GRIMWOLD arrive at the PALACE ENTRANCE...They are greeted by GRANICUS, aide to the Queen. GRANICUS is in his early sixties. He has a stern and authoritative look and air about him.

GRANICUS

Phlox Grimwold. What brings you out here at such an hour?

GRIMWOLD

I must speak with the Queen.

GRANICUS seems hesitant.

GRANICUS

Is that really necessary? Her
majesty is in session with the
people at the moment.

GRIMWOLD

Absolutely necessary Granicus.

GRANICUS understands the tone in GRIMWOLD's voice.

GRANICUS

So be it.

AEREON and GRANICUS are led into the PALACE by GRANICUS.

INT. ROYAL PALACE - EARLY EVENING

AEREON is stunned by the wonder that greets his eyes as
he enters the PALACE...There are STAINED GLASS WINDOWS of
colours he has never seen...PAINTINGS, POEMS and TAPESTRIES
adorn the GRAND HALLS of the PALACE.

GRANICUS leads AEREON and GRIMWOLD to a LARGE DOOR...The
door is opened by HANDMAIDENS.

INT. ROYAL PALACE - CHAPEL CHAMBER - EARLY EVENING

GRANICUS leads AEREON and GRIMWOLD into a LARGE HALL
carved from an ORNATE WHITE MARBLE...The CHAMBER is
ILLUMINATED by THOUSANDS OF CANDLES that burn a STRANGE
BLUE COLOUR.

In attendance of the current session, are many HUNDREDS
OF CITIZENS.

QUEEN ARALIA is in the midst of PRAYER. She is a young
Queen in rule. She appears to be in her mid twenties yet
her true age is closer to two hundred. She is beautiful,
strong and trustworthy but has little experience.

She stands on a PODIUM high above the CITIZENS.

QUEEN ARALIA

Life is born of the Earth Mother,
life grows from the Virtuous
Light, and life endures from our
virtue. Let us pray so that we
may honour our great Earth Mother.

Suddenly, QUEEN ARALIA'S MAJESTIC EAGLE LIKE WINGS spread forth from her back...She flies down to the CHAPEL CHAMBER FLOOR to join the CITIZENS.

Above the QUEEN is a LARGE STATUE, representing the Earth Mother...EVERYONE KNEELS before the LARGE STATUE.

CITIZENS

(In unison)

To Queen and Mother! To Queen and
Mother! To Queen and Mother!

The QUEEN folds her WINGS away under her DRESS...She is escorted by TWO HANDMAIDENS out of the CHAMBER.

The CITIZENS disperse and leave the CHAMBER.

INT. ROYAL PALACE - THRONE ROOM - EARLY EVENING

The THRONE ROOM is the most majestic and elegant room in the PALACE...HANDMAIDEN'S line up on each side of the CHAMBER as the QUEEN is seated on her THRONE.

GRANICUS enters the throne room accompanied by AEREON and GRIMWOLD...The QUEEN'S chief handmaiden and closest advisor, ZEBRINA PENDULA, approaches GRANICUS. She is in her mid twenties. She is very pretty, conservative and has a look of innocence about her.

ZEBRINA

Master Granicus, how can I help
you?

GRANICUS

Zebrina, I must speak with the
Queen immediately. Phlox Grimwold
is here.

ZEBRINA

One moment.

ZEBRINA walks up the STEPS towards the QUEEN'S THRONE...ZEBRINA WHISPERS into the QUEEN'S ear...The Queen nods and then leaves the THRONE...She walks into a CHAMBER behind the THRONE...The CHAMBER is partitioned off from the rest of the THRONE ROOM by a LARGE SILK VEIL.

ZEBRINA returns to GRANICUS.

ZEBRINA

The Queen will speak with you in
her private chambers.

GRANICUS

Thank you Zebrina.

ZEBRINA leads GRANICUS, GRIMWOLD and AEREON up the STEPS
and into the -

INT. ROYAL PALACE - QUEEN'S CHAMBER - EARLY EVENING

The QUEEN is seated on a CHAIR which resembles a large
flower. There is a LARGE DINING TABLE in the CENTRE OF
THE CHAMBER.

GRANICUS approaches the QUEEN.

GRANICUS

Your majesty, I apologise for the
intrusion so soon after prayer but
it comes as a matter of great
insistence and urgency.

GRIMWOLD steps forward and KNEELS before the QUEEN.

GRIMWOLD

Your highness.

QUEEN ARALIA

General, it has been too long.

AEREON looks surprised at the revelation of GRIMWOLD's
rank.

GRIMWOLD

Alas, your highness, our reunion
shall not be a joyous one.

QUEEN ARALIA

I feared as much General.

GRIMWOLD rises to his feet again.

GRIMWOLD

Your highness, a creature of the
blackness has appeared within our
borders.

The QUEEN closes her eyes...She briefly appears trancelike, as if in meditation...She opens her eyes again...The QUEEN motions to ZEBRINA.

QUEEN ARALIA

Zebrina, please serve our guests
some food.

ZEBRINA bows.

ZEBRINA

Yes, your majesty.

ZEBRINA shows GRIMWOLD and AEREON to the LARGE DINING TABLE.

ZEBRINA

Please be seated.

AEREON and GRIMWOLD take a seat at the LARGE DINING TABLE...GRANICUS remains standing by the QUEEN.

ZEBRINA serves food to the guests...GRIMWOLD hungrily eats.

The QUEEN looks at AEREON.

QUEEN ARALIA

Young man, come closer.

AEREON appears nervous but approaches the QUEEN dutifully.

AEREON

(nervous)

Yes, your majesty? I am very
sorry if I have caused trouble
your majesty.

The QUEEN notices that AEREON is without wings.

QUEEN ARALIA

You have not yet been blessed by
the Earth Mother.

AEREON

(weary)

No, your majesty.

QUEEN ARALIA

(comforting)

Do not sound so weary young
Aereon.

AEREON

How...how do you know my name?

QUEEN ARALIA

My family is descended from the
Earth Mother herself and graced
with blessings now lost to my
people. Do you know much of the
Earth Mother Aereon?

AEREON

Only of the songs that my Mother
sang to me in my youth.

The QUEEN takes AEREON's hand.

QUEEN ARALIA

Come, walk with me. Let me show
you where these songs come from.

AEREON walks with QUEEN ARALIA to the back of the
CHAMBER...She draws AEREON'S attention to various MURALS
AND TAPESTRIES HANGING FROM THE WALLS...There are many
unique ILLUSTRATIONS AND SCULPTURES decorated throughout
the CHAMBER. These outline the history of the kingdom.

QUEEN ARALIA

This is our history. Much of the
early histories are unknown to the
people of this kingdom and of the
blackness that once consumed our
land.

AEREON

My people are a simple sort. We
do not know of these legends.

QUEEN ARALIA

And with good cause. Long ago, an
evil blackness covered this land.
The Earth Mother's light caused
the blackness to retreat to the
Dark Realm. Since then, it has
laid in wait. Waiting to return.

AEREON

Could that happen?

QUEEN ARALIA

It already has.

EXT. ROYAL PALACE - AFTERNOON - FLASHBACK

KING OBERON stands, clad in ORNATE ARMOUR...He is flanked by his ROYAL GUARD of ELITE FAIRY WARRIORS...The KING raises a SWORD into the air as the CITIZENS of the kingdom kneel before him.

QUEEN ARALIA(V.O.)

My Father, King Oberon, ruled this kingdom for generations. On his journeys outside the kingdom, he first encountered the blackness.

EXT. BLACK FIELDS - EVENING - FLASHBACK

On a barren field of BLACK GLASS, KING OBERON and an ARMY of FAIRY WARRIORS are locked in battle with what appear to be BAT-WINGED WARRIORS.

QUEEN ARALIA(V.O.)

My Father managed to drive the blackness back before it could reach our kingdom, but at great cost.

INT. KINGS CHAMBER - EVENING - FLASHBACK

The KING lies in a LARGE BED, looking VERY ILL.

QUEEN ARALIA(V.O.)

When he was at his end, he was to pass the rule of the kingdom to one of his two daughters.

On one side of the BED stands his daughter ARALIA...On the other side of the BED stands his other daughter DAVALIA.

QUEEN ARALIA(V.O.)

Myself and my sister, Davalia. We had been at odds with each other ever since we were children.

The KING RAISES HIS HAND and POINTS to ARALIA...DAVALIA flies into a fit of rage and SMASHES a VASE OF FLOWERS from the BEDSIDE TABLE.

QUEEN ARALIA(V.O.)

When my Father announced myself as Queen, Davalia became consumed with rage and jealousy. This was not the way of a fairy.

EXT. ROYAL PALACE - EVENING - FLASHBACK

A weakened KING, standing with his daughter ARALIA, sends away his WEEPING daughter DAVALIA.

She runs down the STEPS leading from the PALACE.

QUEEN ARALIA(V.O.)

She was banished from this kingdom. It is said that her anger was so great that she woke the blackness from its slumber.

EXT. FORBIDDEN FOREST - EVENING - FLASHBACK

DAVALIA RUNS through a DARKENED FOREST of SHADOW AND FOG, she runs screaming in anger towards a BLACK HOLE...The BLACK HOLE GROWS LARGER as she SCREAMS LOUDER...The BLACK HOLE CONSUMES DAVALIA.

INT. ROYAL PALACE - QUEEN'S CHAMBER - EARLY EVENING

AEREON and the QUEEN are standing before a painting of Davalia.

QUEEN ARALIA

(sorrowful)

I have not heard from my sister since.

AEREON

I'm sorry to hear that.

The QUEEN asserts herself.

QUEEN ARALIA

We have more to worry about now. Come.

The QUEEN and AEREON return from the back of the CHAMBER.

GRIMWOLD is still eating the FEAST...AEREON and the QUEEN approach the LARGE DINING TABLE...GRANICUS approaches the QUEEN.

QUEEN ARALIA

As I had feared, my sister's anger has awoken the blackness. This has enabled it's forces to encroach upon our borders. My father knew this would happen.

The QUEEN indicates GRIMWOLD.

QUEEN ARALIA(CONT'D)

That is why General Grimwold volunteered to station on the borders. To keep watch.

AEREON

(To GRIMWOLD)

So you're not really a farmer then?

GRIMWOLD

I've always wanted to be a farmer. But my first duty has always been to the protection of this kingdom.

GRANICUS lends his wisdom to the group.

GRANICUS

The creatures of the blackness are not yet able to overpower our kingdom. They have not the strength to move in large numbers.

GRIMWOLD

By introducing sin to young Aereon, they have poisoned our virtue. Now that poison will spread like a disease through the kingdom giving the blackness strength.

GRANICUS

However, it can not destroy our kingdom unless all within it are turned to sin or destroyed.

ZEBRINA looks worried.

ZEBRINA

What will we do your majesty?

GRANICUS interrupts.

GRANICUS

(To QUEEN ARALIA)

Your majesty, we must rally the peoples of the kingdom. We must take up the fight.

GRIMWOLD disagrees with GRANICUS.

GRIMWOLD

(To QUEEN ARALIA)

Your majesty, your Father and I used force against the blackness before but that did more harm than good.

ZEBRINA

(To QUEEN ARALIA)

What of your sister your majesty? Might we seek a diplomatic resolve through Davalia?

QUEEN ARALIA

(uncertain)

It has been a long time. She may no longer be the sister I once knew.

GRANICUS

The blackness may have totally consumed her.

The QUEEN makes up her mind.

QUEEN ARALIA

I seek a peaceful end to this. Speaking with Davalia may be the only way.

GRIMWOLD

She holds sway over the creatures of the blackness now. They owe their allegiance to her. Were it not for her hatred they would still slumber.

GRANICUS argues his case further to the QUEEN.

GRANICUS

Your highness, such evil will not be so easily convinced to retreat. Your Father needed the force of this entire kingdom to repel the first stirrings from the Dark Realm.

The QUEEN resists the pressure from GRANICUS.

QUEEN ARALIA

I can not risk war in my kingdom. We will travel to the Dark Realm. I shall speak with Davalia. General?

GRIMWOLD

Yes, your majesty?

QUEEN ARALIA

Please awaken my Royal Guard. They have served my family for generations and will travel with us for our protection. Granicus?

GRANICUS

Yes, your highness?

QUEEN ARALIA

You will preserve rule of the kingdom in my absence. Please make immediate arrangements to inform the people of my situation, but do not incite panic.

GRANICUS

I will prepare a special session of council for tomorrow morning. The kingdom shall be in good hands your majesty.

QUEEN ARALIA

Thank you Granicus.

GRANICUS promptly leaves the CHAMBER...The QUEEN approaches ZEBRINA.

QUEEN ARALIA

Zebrina, you are my most trusted
and faithful handmaiden.

ZEBRINA

Thank you, your majesty.

QUEEN ARALIA

I want you to remain in the city
and watch over Granicus. He was
quick to suggest hostilities. You
will need to uphold the balance of
virtue. Sin must not reach this
city.

ZEBRINA

I understand your majesty.

ZEBRINA bows and then leaves the CHAMBER...AEREON steps
forward.

AEREON

What about me?

GRIMWOLD

What about you?

AEREON

I want to help.

GRIMWOLD

Oh, no. You're going home.

AEREON

(To QUEEN ARALIA)

Your highness, please, I blame
myself for what has happened. I
want to make it right.

QUEEN ARALIA

Aereon, you must return to your
family. There you will be safe.
The Dark Realm is past the
boundaries of the Forbidden
Forest.

GRIMWOLD places his hand on AEREON'S shoulder.

GRIMWOLD

It's for the best lad. Believe me, you don't want to see what's out there.

QUEEN ARALIA

Zebrina will arrange transport to your village.

AEREON

(reluctantly)

I...I understand.

QUEEN ARALIA

Then it is decided. We leave as soon as possible.

A GROUP OF HANDMAIDENS enter the chamber.

QUEEN ARALIA

(To HANDMAIDEN)

Please, have the Snap Dragon prepared and ready to leave.

HANDMAIDEN

Yes, your majesty.

The QUEEN approaches AEREON.

QUEEN ARALIA

Goodbye Aereon. Blessings of the Earth Mother upon you.

The QUEEN leaves...GRIMWOLD nods to AEREON then exits the CHAMBER...AEREON is escorted out of the CHAMBER by a HANDMAIDEN.

CUT TO:

INT. ROYAL PALACE - MAUSOLEUM - EARLY EVENING

GRIMWOLD is standing in the centre of a LARGE COLD LOOKING MAUSOLEUM. Before him is a PLAQUE bearing an INSIGNIA...The INSIGNIA looks like a GLOWING SUN, SURROUNDED BY FEATHERS.

Surrounding GRIMWOLD are FIFTY MARBLE STATUES of FAIRY WARRIORS...GRIMWOLD looks deep in meditation.

The PLAQUE begins to GLOW.

GRIMWOLD

Order of the Virtuous Light, I
 summon thee.

The MAUSOLEUM begins to SHAKE...The MARBLE STATUES begin to CRACK and SHATTER...The marble BREAKS as it hits the floor. Underneath the CRACKED MARBLE STATUES, we can see LIVING FAIRY WARRIORS...Soon the marble falls away from all of the STATUES.

Standing before GRIMWOLD is the ORDER OF THE VIRTUOUS LIGHT - ROYAL GUARD to the court of the Kingdom, led by CAPTAIN OTTONUS. He appears to be in his mid-thirties. Tall, handsome, strong military type. The royal guard have loyally served the royal court of the kingdom for generations. Awoken only when needed.

OTTONUS approaches GRIMWOLD.

OTTONUS

What are my orders General?

GRIMWOLD

Good to see you too Captain. The Queen has need of you.

OTTONUS

We live only to serve.

The ROYAL GUARD unveil their SWORDS, twirl them in unison and then stand to attention in perfect, elegant formation. They are an impressive sight. Decorated in ORNATE BUT EFFECTIVE ARMOUR, their LARGE WINGS are clear to see. The INSIGNIA from the PLAQUE adorns the CHEST PLATES of their ARMOUR.

CUT TO:

EXT. ROYAL PALACE - EVENING

A LARGE VEHICLE is outside the PALACE GATES. It is a marvellous sight to behold. Like an elaborate train or stagecoach. This is the SNAP DRAGON. It is a travelling court and is pulled by TEN UNICORNS. The huge caravan is separated into six different compartments - (REAR) WARDROBE COMPARTMENT, KITCHEN COMPARTMENT, DINING COMPARTMENT, SLEEPING COMPARTMENT, MEETING COMPARTMENT and the QUEEN'S COMPARTMENT (FRONT). The SNAP DRAGON can carry up to THIRTY PEOPLE.

TWENTY HANDMAIDENS AND SERVANTS are gathered outside the PALACE GATES attending to the SNAP DRAGON.

The QUEEN approaches the lead UNICORN, THORN.

QUEEN ARALIA
Thorn, beautiful as ever.

She strokes the flowing mane of THORN.

INT. SNAP DRAGON - QUEEN'S COMPARTMENT - EVENING

The QUEEN'S COMPARTMENT is at the front of the SNAP DRAGON. It is highly decorative but utilitarian at the same time. There is a THRONE at the front of the compartment.

ZEBRINA and some HANDMAIDENS are PACKING CLOTHES for the Queen...The QUEEN enters the SNAP DRAGON.

ZEBRINA
(To Queen)
Your travelling attire is ready my lady. I have prepared a court of my finest handmaidens to accompany you on your journey.

QUEEN ARALIA
Thank you Zebrina.

ZEBRINA
(concerned)
Your majesty, must you do this?

The QUEEN tries to comfort ZEBRINA.

QUEEN ARALIA
Zebrina, do not worry for me. I am under the escort of General Grimwold and the Royal Guard. I shall be quite safe. Besides, I am the only one who can negotiate with Davalia.

ZEBRINA is upset.

ZEBRINA
I...I worry my lady.

QUEEN ARALIA

I am touched by your concern
Zebrina. I regret leaving you
behind but you now have a greater
task ahead of you.

ZEBRINA

Yes my lady.

QUEEN ARALIA

Take care Zebrina. Blessings upon
you.

ZEBRINA

And you my lady.

ZEBRINA leaves.

EXT. ROYAL PALACE - EVENING

AEREON exits the PALACE GATES...He watches as the SNAP
DRAGON is loaded with SUPPLIES AND EQUIPMENT.

Suddenly, from over the top of the PALACE comes the ROYAL
GUARD flying in full formation...OTTONUS flies at the
front.

They are led by GRIMWOLD, who due to his damaged wings is
unable to fly...He instead flies on a LARGE BUTTERFLY
called AURA...GRIMWOLD is now clad in ARMOUR, with a LARGE
BATTLE AXE strapped to his back.

GRIMWOLD pulls at the reigns of AURA.

GRIMWOLD

Woah Aura! Woah!

AURA lands at the front of the SNAP DRAGON.

The ROYAL GUARD land, flanking the length of the SNAP
DRAGON on both sides...The QUEEN emerges from her
COMPARTMENT to greet OTTONUS.

OTTONUS kneels before the QUEEN...The ROYAL GUARD also
kneel in her presence.

OTTONUS

Your royal majesty, it is an
honour to serve you.

QUEEN ARALIA

Captain Ottonus. I have not seen you since I was very young. You served my Father well, he always spoke very highly of you and your men.

OTTONUS bows.

OTTONUS

There is no need for gratitude my Queen. It was our duty to serve your Father as it is now to serve you.

OTTONUS rises.

QUEEN ARALIA

Thank you Captain. I know my safety can be assured with you and the General around.

GRIMWOLD approaches the QUEEN...GRIMWOLD admires the SNAP DRAGON.

GRIMWOLD

I had almost forgotten the Snap Dragon. Your Father's pride.

QUEEN ARALIA

Yes. Let us hope it serves us as well as him. I see Aura has taken well to you.

GRIMWOLD

Yes your highness, though I do yearn for my wings again.

We can clearly see GRIMWOLD'S DAMAGED WINGS from the back of his ARMOUR.

QUEEN ARALIA

Yes General, we seem only to appreciate that which is lost to us.

GRIMWOLD

Aye, very true your highness. So let this quest be not in vain for I do not take this kingdom for granted.

QUEEN ARALIA

Nor I General. Let us make haste then.

GRIMWOLD

Aye, your highness.

AEREON stares on in amazement at the unique sight before him.

ZEBRINA approaches AEREON.

ZEBRINA

Master Aereon, your transport will arrive shortly to return you home.

AEREON

Oh. Thank you.

ZEBRINA bows then leaves.

AEREON seems to daydream in all the hustle and bustle around him...AEREON feels a tap on his shoulder.

He spins around...CALISSA is standing before him.

AEREON

(surprised)

What are you doing here?!

CALISSA

I followed you. Father mentioned the Royal City. I had to see it.

AEREON

You'll be in deep if you're caught.

CALISSA

Oh, stop worrying wingless. I got this far didn't I?

CALISSA points to the SNAP DRAGON.

CALISSA(CONT'D)

What are they doing over there?

AEREON

The Queen is going away for a while.

CALISSA

Really? Where?

AEREON

I really shouldn't say. You do realise that your Father is going to catch you?

CALISSA

(arrogant)

I can handle him. So where are they going again?

AEREON

Adventuring.

CALISSA

Good enough for me. Come on wingless!

CALISSA sneaks onto the back of the SNAP DRAGON.

AEREON

Calissa! What are you doing?!

CALISSA

Making the most out of life!

AEREON

I'm not having any part in this.

A HORSE AND CARRIAGE pulls up in front of AEREON...The DOOR opens...A DRIVER waits.

DRIVER

Master Aereon?

AEREON looks at CALISSA...He turns away and gets inside the CARRIAGE.

INT. CARRIAGE - EVENING

As the CARRIAGE rides away, AEREON looks back at CALISSA...She is WAVING at him to follow...He thinks to himself briefly then JUMPS out the back of the CARRIAGE...The DRIVER does not notice.

EXT. ROYAL PALACE - EVENING

AEREON climbs onto the back of the SNAP DRAGON.

CALISSA
That's the spirit!

AEREON
Someone's got to keep you out of
trouble.

CALISSA
What's life without a little
trouble?

They duck into the WARDROBE COMPARTMENT.

INT. SNAP DRAGON - WARDROBE COMPARTMENT - EVENING

CALISSA looks around in awe at the Queen's BEAUTIFUL
WARDROBE.

CALISSA
Wow, I wonder if any of it will
fit!

CALISSA reaches for a ROBE.

AEREON
Calissa...

Suddenly, the COMPARTMENT begins to SHAKE.

AEREON(CONT'D)
We're moving.

EXT. ROYAL CITY - EVENING

The SNAP DRAGON moves out through the CITY...The ROYAL
GUARD fly escort...GRIMWOLD leads the way on AURA.

The SNAP DRAGON leaves through the LARGE GATE on the
outskirts of the ROYAL CITY.

EXT. FOREST - EVENING

The SNAP DRAGON is travelling through the FOREST.

GRIMWOLD lands AURA on top of the QUEEN'S COMPARTMENT.

INT. SNAP DRAGON - QUEEN'S COMPARTMENT - EVENING

The QUEEN'S THRONE within her compartment rises into a GLASS VIEWING DOME which protrudes from the top of her compartment...The QUEEN looks out into the NIGHT SKY...There are no stars or moon in the NIGHT SKY.

QUEEN ARALIA

There is no moon tonight General.

GRIMWOLD

Nor are there stars. Not a good sign your majesty.

The SNAP DRAGON continues deeper into the FOREST.

EXT. FORBIDDEN FOREST - EVENING

The SNAP DRAGON is on the outskirts of the FORBIDDEN FOREST, a TANGLED HIVE OF FOLIAGE. This FOREST looks more like a jungle.

GRIMWOLD directs the QUEEN'S attention to the FORBIDDEN FOREST.

GRIMWOLD

We're leaving the kingdom your majesty. Anything can and will happen now.

A LARGE SHADOW seems to engulf the forest...GRIMWOLD looks ahead...He looks slightly puzzled...He SIGNALS the UNICORNS to stop.

GRIMWOLD

Halt!

The UNICORNS come to a stop...The QUEEN looks concerned.

QUEEN ARALIA

What is wrong General?

GRIMWOLD

(puzzled)

If memory serves me, we should have reached Darkwood Dam by now your highness. I see it nowhere.

The QUEEN notices the TREES which are bent out of shape.

QUEEN ARALIA

The shadow of sin is spreading.
It has already changed much in
this forest.

GRIMWOLD

We're travelling blind now.

QUEEN ARALIA

I trust in your instincts General.

INT. SNAP DRAGON - WARDROBE COMPARTMENT - EVENING

CALISSA peaks her head out of the compartment and sees the DARK, GNARLY, TWISTED FOLIAGE which now surrounds the SNAP DRAGON.

CALISSA

Well, if you want to turn back,
you're too late.

AEREON looks out at the intimidating FORBIDDEN FOREST.

AEREON

Where are we?

CALISSA

I think we're in the Forbidden
Forest. Few fairies have
travelled here. Except my Father
and the King in old times. How
exciting!

AEREON looks at the spiky vines.

AEREON

This? Exciting?

CALISSA hears something approaching.

CALISSA

Quick! Duck!

A ROYAL GUARD flies past the compartment.

AEREON looks back outside.

AEREON

That was close.

Suddenly, a LITTLE DART SHOOTS into AEREON's cheek.

AEREON

Ow!

EXT. FORBIDDEN FOREST - EVENING

The ROYAL GUARD breaks off into a DEFENSIVE FORMATION surrounding the SNAP DRAGON...OTTONUS observes the TREES around the SNAP DRAGON.

HUNDREDS OF LITTLE DARTS fire from the TREES and BUSHES.

OTTONUS

Night Pixies!

The ROYAL GUARD DEFLECT the LITTLE DARTS with their SWORDS.

In the TREES we can see the NIGHT PIXIES, CREATURES BARELY LARGER THAN A FINGER...They are FIRING TINY BOWS AND ARROWS and SLINGSHOTS containing GRAVEL.

On the ground, NIGHT PIXIES are RIDING RATS...A group of PIXIES are leading the charge, pulled in a CHARIOT by TWO RATS...The NIGHT PIXIES ON RATBACK are FIRING LITTLE DARTS at the HOOVES of the UNICORNS...The UNICORNS are reeling in pain.

OTTONUS FLAPS his WINGS causing some of the attacking NIGHT PIXIES from the TREES to fall to the ground.

The NIGHT PIXIES ride their RATS underneath the SNAP DRAGON to avoid the ROYAL GUARD...The ROYAL GUARD are unable to get at the PIXIES underneath the SNAP DRAGON.

INT. SNAP DRAGON - WARDROBE COMPARTMENT - EVENING

DOZENS OF NIGHT PIXIES jump inside the compartment...They SWARM over AEREON and CALISSA, attacking with LITTLE NEEDLES and PINS.

CALISSA

Get off me you little mites!

EXT. FORBIDDEN FOREST - EVENING

As the PIXIES continue to attack the UNICORNS, the QUEEN RISES from her VIEWING DOME...The VIEWING DOME opens...She reveals her wings and flies above the SNAP DRAGON.

QUEEN ARALIA

Enough!

A BLINDING WHITE LIGHT emanates from the QUEEN'S body.

The little PIXIES are strongly affected by the WHITE LIGHT...NIGHT PIXIES fall from the TREES and fall from their RATS.

INT. SNAP DRAGON - WARDROBE COMPARTMENT - EVENING

The WHITE LIGHT SHINES inside the compartment...The NIGHT PIXIES attacking AEREON and CALISSA SCATTER from the compartment.

AEREON is STUNNED BY THE LIGHT and falls from the compartment into the FOREST.

EXT. FORBIDDEN FOREST - EVENING

AEREON hits the ground hard...When his eyes open, AEREON sees OTTONUS...OTTONUS has his blade at AEREON'S throat.

The NIGHT PIXIES scuttle into a large group.

QUEEN ARALIA

Pixies! Why do you attack us?

From the group of PIXIES, one steps forward...He is slightly larger than the rest, clearly the leader. His name is NING...He is accompanied by TWO PIXIES, NANG and NONG.

NING

We answer to no fairy!

QUEEN ARALIA

We seek no quarrel.

NING

Then leave this place.

QUEEN ARALIA

Very well. We have clearly
disrupted your territory. We
shall leave.

NING suddenly notices a LARGE LUMP OF CHEESE on the
ground which fell from the KITCHEN COMPARTMENT during the
attack.

NING

Um, no rush.

GRIMWOLD

Why the change of heart pixie?

NING climbs up onto the KITCHEN COMPARTMENT...He looks in
the WINDOW and sees a VERITABLE FEAST inside.

NING

Oh, heaven!!!

OTTONUS appears before the QUEEN and GRIMWOLD...TWO OF THE
ROYAL GUARD are carrying AEREON and CALISSA...GRIMWOLD
looks extremely annoyed.

GRIMWOLD

Calissa!!!

CALISSA has a sheepish look about her.

CALISSA

Hello Father. Miss me?

GRIMWOLD

You're in a lot of trouble girl.

GRIMWOLD points at AEREON.

GRIMWOLD

And you too boy!

AEREON

We meant no harm!

The QUEEN steps forward.

QUEEN ARALIA

These places are not to be seen by
your eyes.

CALISSA

Begging your pardon, but shouldn't
that be our decision?

GRIMWOLD snaps.

GRIMWOLD

Calissa! How dare you speak to the
Queen in such a manner!

QUEEN ARALIA

No, it's alright General. She has
a point. Freedom of will is the
only true freedom any of us have.
To deny that, would be to deny the
very air we breathe.

(To CALISSA)

You are wise beyond your years
young Calissa. A free spirit
indeed.

CALISSA looks pleased with herself.

QUEEN ARALIA(CONT'D)

We have come too far to turn back,
and they can not return on their
own. They will travel with us.

GRIMWOLD sighs.

GRIMWOLD

I do not agree your highness.

QUEEN ARALIA

They will be safer with us, and we
have already lost much time.

NING interrupts.

NING

What about us...your majesty?

OTTONUS looms over the PIXIES.

OTTONUS

What about you, you filthy
creatures?

QUEEN ARALIA

No need to be rude Captain.

OTTONUS

My apologies your highness.

NING

This forest is dark and long. We can show you the safe ways to travel.

GRIMWOLD

(To QUEEN ARALIA)

They may be of some use. These ways have changed much since I last ventured here.

QUEEN ARALIA

Then it is decided. You and your people may accompany us and guide the way Master Ning. How may I repay such kindness?

NING

Cheese! Lots of cheese.

The ROYAL GUARD resume formation around the SNAP DRAGON...GRIMWOLD leads AEREON and CALISSA to the SLEEPING COMPARTMENT...The QUEEN returns to her VIEWING DOME.

NING'S PIXIE GANG and FOUR RATS climb up onto the SNAP DRAGON...THREE OF THE PIXIES haul the RAT CHARIOT onboard...They sit by the VIEWING DOME on the QUEEN'S COMPARTMENT.

NING

Where are thee headed?

OTTONUS

Into the Dark Realm.

NING looks scared.

NING

On second thoughts, maybe we coming is not such a good idea.

OTTONUS

Frightened little pixie?

NING does not want to appear scared in front of OTTONUS.

NING

Never! We are warriors. We're spoiling for a fight! We are strong.

OTTONUS

You certainly smell very strong.

NING

Bah! We smell very small, you smell very big!

QUEEN ARALIA

Which way Master Ning?

NING points into the darkest area of the FORBIDDEN FOREST.

NING

Thataway!

INT. SNAP DRAGON - SLEEPING COMPARTMENT - EVENING

The SLEEPING COMPARTMENT is cosy looking. No luxury has been expended at the cost of space. This area is used mainly by the HANDMAIDENS AND SERVANTS on the journey.

AEREON and CALISSA sit on a BED. GRIMWOLD is PACING in front of them.

GRIMWOLD

Well, the Queen has made up her mind.

AEREON

I'm so sorry sir.

GRIMWOLD

It's too late for that now. All I ask of you two is that you stay out of harms way. Both of you.

CALISSA

(sarcastic)

Yes, Father. Of course Father.

GRIMWOLD

This compartment is as safe a place as any. If you need food, ask a handmaiden.

CALISSA

We're not entirely helpless you know Father.

GRIMWOLD

Less of that lip young lady. Look where it's landed you. You're lucky the Queen is more forgiving than I, otherwise I would have you both packing. You've put yourself in a lot of danger by coming with us.

CALISSA

I'm sure you'll protect us Father.

GRIMWOLD

I won't have to, because you are not leaving this compartment. Okay?

AEREON

Yes sir.

GRIMWOLD

Calissa, I have your word?

CALISSA

Yes Father.

GRIMWOLD

Then I suggest the two of you get some sleep. We've a long journey ahead of us.

EXT. FORBIDDEN FOREST - EVENING

The SNAP DRAGON continues on into the FORBIDDEN FOREST... In the distance behind the SNAP DRAGON, we can see the kingdom...A DARK SHADOW is CREEPING towards the Queen's land...This is the SIN SHADOW, a shadow which seems to have a life of its own as it CREEPS SLOWLY over the TREES.

CUT TO:

EXT. RIVER VILLAGE - EVENING

The VILLAGE is QUIET...Most of the RESIDENTS are gathered in the FOXGLOVE TAVERN tonight...We can hear SINGING and MUSIC coming from the INN.

EXT. RIVER VILLAGE - WALKWAY - EVENING

We see TANIS operating a LIFT bringing KEGS up into the INN...Another man, WALLIS, is helping...WALLIS is flying with his WINGS, keeping the LIFT steady.

WALLIS

That's the last keg of dandelion
and burdock Tanis.

TANIS

Okay Wallis, you coming in for a
drink?

WALLIS

Nope, 'fraid I can't. I've got to
pick up me deliveries for the
stall early tomorrow. Early to
bed, early to rise.

TANIS

Well off to bed with you then!

WALLIS

Ha, maybe tomorrow night.

TANIS

I'll hold you to that!

WALLIS leaves...As TANIS pulls the KEG out of the LIFT, we
can see the SIN SHADOW FALL OVERHEAD.

INT. FOXGLOVE TAVERN - EVENING

The RESIDENTS are DANCING and SINGING...JAPONICA is serving
drinks from the BAR to the CUSTOMERS...There is also
another barmaid, MATILDA...JAPONICA notices TANIS...TANIS is
pushing a WHEELBARROW into the INN from the WALKWAY.

JAPONICA

(To MATILDA)

Matilda, can you watch the bar for
a bit.

MATILDA

Yes, ma'am.

JAPONICA walks out to meet TANIS

JAPONICA

Nearly done love?

TANIS

Nearly done sweetheart.

JAPONICA looks worried.

JAPONICA

It's getting awfully late. Aereon should have been home by now.

TANIS

Ah, don't worry. He's probably at Tommycod pond. The fishing is good this time of night.

JAPONICA

You're probably right.

TANIS reassures his wife.

TANIS

He's a young man now Japonica. You've got to stop worrying about him.

JAPONICA

I know. It's only because I love him.

TANIS steps closer to his wife.

TANIS

And I love you.

TANIS gives his wife a big kiss and a cuddle.

TANIS

Trust me, he'll be fine. Now, I've got the last of the dandelion to load up and I'll be done.

JAPONICA

Okay darling, I'll see you in a minute.

JAPONICA returns to the BAR and TANIS returns out to the WALKWAY with the WHEELBARROW.

EXT. RIVER VILLAGE - WALKWAY - EVENING

TANIS LOADS UP the last KEG into the WHEELBARROW...Suddenly a STRANGE WOMAN is sitting on the fence of the WALKWAY. She is in her early forties. Pale looking but strangely alluring. Her name is HEDARA HELIX.

HEDARA

How sweet.

TANIS is shocked.

TANIS

What? Who? Who are you?

HEDARA

You obviously love your wife very much.

TANIS

(confused)

What are you talking about?

HEDARA

Would you not love I as much?

TANIS

You are not fairy kind.

HEDARA looks to her back...We can see the REMAINS OF WINGS on her back.

HEDARA

I was once.

HEDARA steps forward. TANIS backs away.

HEDARA

You're wife is very beautiful. Do you not find me as beautiful?

TANIS realises what HEDARA is.

TANIS

You...your a Witch!

HEDARA

I am Hedara Helix, and I am your heart's desire.

A STRANGE GLOW starts to emanate from HEDARA'S body.

TANIS steps closer.

HEDARA
Yes, that's it. Come closer.

As TANIS steps closer, a DRIZZLE OF RAIN starts to fall from the sky.

TANIS EMBRACES HEDARA...They KISS PASSIONATELY...In the DOORWAY behind them, we see JAPONICA...She looks devastated at what she sees.

JAPONICA
(disbelief)
Tanis?

TANIS looks at JAPONICA.

TANIS
(uncaring)
What?

JAPONICA
(weeping)
I don't understand.

TANIS suddenly becomes very aggressive.

TANIS
You never do. What kind of woman are you anyway? If you were any kind of wife you would understand.

TANIS GAZES into HEDARA'S EYES...She has clearly cast some type of spell on him.

TANIS
Hedara understands me perfectly.

JAPONICA breaks down in tears...HEDARA begins to LAUGH.

HEDARA
(To JAPONICA)
That's right. Let it all out dear.

TANIS LAUGHS also.

In the TREE BRANCHES above the INN, we can see SLINK...He watches the scene below him.

SLINK

Let the sin begin.

The RAIN continues to fall.

EXT. RIVER VILLAGE - EVENING

The SIN SHADOW falls over RIVER VILLAGE.

CUT TO:

EXT. ROYAL PALACE - MORNING

RAIN and WIND BLAST against the walls of the ROYAL PALACE.

INT. ROYAL PALACE - COUNCIL CHAMBERS - MORNING

The COUNCIL CHAMBER is a grand hall surrounded by LARGE WINDOWS...GRANICUS is seated at a LARGE ROUND TABLE in the centre of the COUNCIL CHAMBER.

ZEBRINA enters.

ZEBRINA

Master Granicus sir. We have had more reports of sin in the kingdom.

GRANICUS appears unworried.

GRANICUS

Yes, this has been brought to my attention. The matter is being dealt with. There is no need for worry.

ZEBRINA looks concerned.

ZEBRINA

Surely this weather speaks for itself? We have had neither rain nor cloud for centuries in this kingdom. I do not think we should sit idly by and wait for the worst.

GRANICUS is dismissive of the handmaiden.

GRANICUS

I am grateful for you're...counsel
Mistress Zebrina, but as the Queen
said...there is no need to cause a
panic.

ZEBRINA

There would be no need to cause
panic if only -

GRANICUS loses his patience with ZEBRINA.

GRANICUS

Mistress Zebrina, as I recall, it
was I whom the Queen left in
charge.

ZEBRINA maintains her composure.

GRANICUS (CONT'D)

As I said, the situation is under
control.

ZEBRINA

Apologies, Master Granicus.

ZEBRINA bows and exits the COUNCIL CHAMBER.

CUT TO:

EXT. FORBIDDEN FOREST - MOUNTAIN TRAIL - MORNING

The SNAP DRAGON arrives at the FOOT OF THE MOUNTAINS...The
WEATHER is bad here also...RAIN, WIND and now THUNDER.

EXT/INT. SNAP DRAGON - SLEEPING COMPARTMENT - MORNING

AEREON looks through a WINDOW at the MOUNTAINS...CALISSA is
also at the WINDOW...She keeps staring at OTTONUS who
hovers outside the WINDOW...AEREON speaks to OTTONUS.

AEREON

Where are we?

OTTONUS

We stand before the mountains of
the Dark Realm.

AEREON

What is the Dark Realm?

OTTONUS

It is where the blackness waits.
No-one knew of this place until
King Oberon discovered it on his
travels. It was then that sin
first crept upon our land.
However, the King marshalled an
army to repel the awakening.

AEREON

But surely to fight is also a sin?

OTTONUS

Sometimes one must become fire in
order to defeat fire. Please
excuse me young fairy.

OTTONUS flies to the front of the SNAP DRAGON...CALISSA
watches him fly away.

CALISSA

He's gorgeous!

AEREON

Calissa!

EXT. FORBIDDEN FOREST - MOUNTAIN TRAIL - MORNING

GRIMWOLD surveys the FOOT OF THE MOUNTAINS...There is a
CANYON CORRIDOR...It is the only way through.

GRIMWOLD

That's our way through.

OTTONUS

Easy for an ambush.

GRIMWOLD

It's either that or the coast.

OTTONUS

You're in command General.

GRIMWOLD SIGNALS the UNICORNS to move into the CANYON.

EXT. MOUNTAIN CANYON - MORNING

The SNAP DRAGON proceeds into the CANYON...The CANYON is enormous, engulfing the SNAP DRAGON...HALF OF THE ROYAL GUARD scout ahead, led by OTTONUS.

OTTONUS scans the RIDGES OF THE CANYON...We can see FLASHES OF MOVEMENT on the RIDGE.

OTTONUS makes a HAND SIGNAL to his MEN...They hold position...OTTONUS flies up towards the RIDGE.

As he reaches the RIDGE, there is a LOUD WAIL, like a TERRIFYING SCREAM...Suddenly, a HUGE GUST OF WIND BLOWS OTTONUS back.

OTTONUS

Banshees!

Huge clouds of dust and debris begin to gather from the RIDGE...OTTONUS AND HIS MEN are surrounded by the BANSHEES.

EXT. SNAP DRAGON - QUEEN'S COMPARTMENT - MORNING

NING and a few of his PIXIES watch from on top of the QUEEN'S COMPARTMENT.

NING

This is no good!

EXT. MOUNTAIN CANYON - MORNING

The BANSHEES are like tornados shaped in a humanoid form...They are generated from the DUST and DEBRIS surrounding them...They GROUP TOGETHER to form ONE ALL POWERFUL STORM and charge at OTTONUS AND HIS MEN.

OTTONUS AND HIS MEN are blown about like flies, unable to do any damage as their SWORDS hit nothing but VAPOUR CLOUDS AND DUST.

EXT. SNAP DRAGON - QUEEN'S COMPARTMENT - MORNING

QUEEN ARALIA watches the chaos.

QUEEN ARALIA

(To GRIMWOLD)

We cannot fight this. My power
has no effect on the creatures of
the blackness.

INT. SNAP DRAGON - SLEEPING COMPARTMENT - MORNING

AEREON and CALISSA watch from the windows of the
compartment...CALISSA suddenly LOOKS AFRAID for the first
time.

CALISSA

Maybe this was a bad idea after
all.

OTTONUS' MEN are being tossed into the sides of the
CANYON like rag dolls...They are instantly killed as they
SMASH into the rock.

OTTONUS

Retreat! Fall back!

OTTONUS and his REMAINING MEN fly away from the BANSHEE
STORM.

The BANSHEES COMBINE THEIR POWER and start to cause an
AVALANCHE...ROCKS TUMBLE from the RIDGES, filling the
CANYON with LARGE BOULDERS.

GRIMWOLD is trying to turn the SNAP DRAGON around.

GRIMWOLD

We must turn around! Now!

The SNAP DRAGON begins to retreat from the CANYON.

OTTONUS and his REMAINING MEN catch up with the SNAP
DRAGON as it races out of the CANYON...The LARGE BOULDERS
continue to fall, as if pursuing the SNAP DRAGON.

EXT. FORBIDDEN FOREST - MOUNTAIN TRAIL - MORNING

The SNAP DRAGON races out of the CANYON back into the
FOOT OF THE MOUNTAINS...OTTONUS and the rest of the ROYAL
GUARD regroup at the QUEEN'S COMPARTMENT.

The AVALANCHE has BLOCKED UP THE CANYON...There is no way through now...The BANSHEE STORM appears from behind the AVALANCHE.

EXT. SNAP DRAGON - QUEEN'S COMPARTMENT - MORNING

NING SHOUTS to GRIMWOLD.

NING
Banshee no like water!

GRIMWOLD
To the coast!

THORN, the lead UNICORN, LETS OUT A CRY, signalling the UNICORNS to move fast.

EXT. FORBIDDEN FOREST - MOUNTAIN TRAIL - MORNING

The SNAP DRAGON charges like thunder across the FOOT OF THE MOUNTAINS...The UNICORNS pull the large compartments of the SNAP DRAGON with ease.

The BANSHEE STORM continues to pursue...Their SCREAMS are terrifying.

FIVE OF THE ROYAL GUARD are on top of the WARDROBE COMPARTMENT.

EXT. SNAP DRAGON - WARDROBE COMPARTMENT -MORNING

The FIVE GUARD hold a DEFENSIVE FORMATION on the WARDROBE COMPARTMENT...The BANSHEE STORM charges at the guard, swallowing them like a gaping mouth...The BANSHEE STORM starts to consume the WARDROBE COMPARTMENT...The WARDROBE COMPARTMENT is sucked into the MAELSTROM.

EXT. FORBIDDEN FOREST - MOUNTAIN TRAIL - MORNING

The UNICORNS try desperately to OUTFIGHT the BANSHEE STORM.

INT. SNAP DRAGON - KITCHEN COMPARTMENT - MORNING

A GANG OF PIXIES are too busy engorging on food to notice that the BANSHEE STORM has engulfed the KITCHEN COMPARTMENT...They are all sucked into the MAELSTROM.

INT. SNAP DRAGON - DINING COMPARTMENT - MORNING

DOZENS OF HANDMAIDENS AND SERVANTS who were eating in the DINING COMPARTMENT are hiding under the TABLES...They are too afraid to move...Suddenly a GALE FORCE WIND rips the roof from the compartment as the BANSHEE STORM rises over them.

EXT. FORBIDDEN FOREST - MOUNTAIN TRAIL - MORNING

The DINING COMPARTMENT is sucked from the SNAP DRAGON into the BANSHEE STORM, pulling the HANDMAIDENS AND SERVANTS into the MAELSTROM...Some try to fly away but their WINGS are too weak to resist the force of the BANSHEE STORM.

EXT. SNAP DRAGON - QUEEN'S COMPARTMENT - MORNING

The QUEEN can see everything that is happening from her VIEWING DOME...GRIMWOLD and AURA are hovering nearby.

GRIMWOLD

(To OTTONUS)

We must do something! They are not strong enough to fly from this!

OTTONUS SHOUTS to the ROYAL GUARD.

OTTONUS

Strength in numbers! Follow me!

The ROYAL GUARD fly in tight formation towards the SLEEPING COMPARTMENT.

EXT. SNAP DRAGON - SLEEPING COMPARTMENT -MORNING

AEREON and CALISSA are still looking out of the windows watching the devastation at the back of the SNAP DRAGON.

INT. SNAP DRAGON - SLEEPING COMPARTMENT - MORNING

AEREON realises the BANSHEE STORM is closing on their compartment.

AEREON
 (To CALISSA)
 We've got to move!

The BANSHEE STORM SMASHES into the rear of the SLEEPING COMPARTMENT, TEARING through everything in its path.

AEREON and CALISSA try to outrun the approaching BANSHEE STORM...There are also MORE HANDMAIDENS AND SERVANTS trying to run to the front of the SLEEPING COMPARTMENT.

OTTONUS AND THE ROYAL GUARD land inside at the front of the SLEEPING COMPARTMENT...OTTONUS SHOUTS to the HANDMAIDENS AND SERVANTS through the HOWLING WIND.

OTTONUS
 We can fly you to safety!

They begin to pick up as many of the HANDMAIDENS and SERVANTS as they can.

EXT. FORBIDDEN FOREST - MOUNTAIN TRAIL - MORNING

The ROYAL GUARD begin to fly out the SURVIVORS...The ROYAL GUARD are strong and are better at flying against the pull of the BANSHEE STORM.

INT. SNAP DRAGON - SLEEPING COMPARTMENT - MORNING

More of the ROYAL GUARD USE THEIR WINGS AS SHIELDS to try and block against the power of the ever nearing BANSHEE STORM...The BANSHEE SCREAM becomes LOUDER as it nears.

AEREON and CALISSA continue to run to where the ROYAL GUARD are positioned.

The BANSHEE STORM TEARS THE FLOOR OUT from underneath them...CALISSA FALLS THROUGH...She manages to GRAB A HOLD OF THE FLOOR but she is SLIPPING.

CALISSA
 Aereon!

AEREON turns and sees CALISSA hanging from the floor.

AEREON
 Calissa!

He GRABS CALISSA with BOTH HANDS and PULLS HER UP.

AEREON

Hold on to me!

CALISSA struggles to climb up onto AEREON'S back...She TRIES TO FLAP HER WINGS and fly both of them out but she is not strong enough...They FALL to what remains of the floor...They BOTH GRAB ONTO a LARGE DOOR HANDLE and hold on for their lives.

The BANSHEE STORM is right on top of them...AEREON looks up into the MAELSTROM...He can see the HORRENDOUS SHAPES of the BANSHEE, THRASHING ABOUT in the MAELSTROM...The BANSHEE SCREAM is DEAFENING.

EXT. FORBIDDEN FOREST - MOUNTAIN TRAIL - MORNING

We can now fully see what remains of the SNAP DRAGON...THREE COMPARTMENTS - WARDROBE, DINING and KITCHEN are GONE...The MEETING COMPARTMENT and the QUEEN'S COMPARTMENT are untouched for the moment.

The BANSHEE STORM continues to SWIRL AND TEAR at the SLEEPING COMPARTMENT.

We can see ROYAL GUARDS flying the SURVIVING HANDMAIDENS AND SERVANTS to the QUEEN'S COMPARTMENT.

EXT. SNAP DRAGON - QUEEN'S COMPARTMENT - MORNING

The SURVIVORS are helped inside the QUEEN'S COMPARTMENT by the ROYAL GUARD...GRIMWOLD does not see CALISSA amongst the SURVIVORS.

GRIMWOLD

Calissa!

GRIMWOLD rears AURA and FLIES TOWARDS THE STORM.

INT. SNAP DRAGON - SLEEPING COMPARTMENT - MORNING

The ROOF has now been BLASTED OFF the SLEEPING COMPARTMENT...CALISSA is losing grip of the DOOR HANDLE. AEREON SHOUTS to CALISSA.

AEREON

Hold onto me!

CALISSA holds onto AEREON'S back...The SCREAM OF THE BANSHEES is so LOUD...AEREON COVERS HIS EARS from the DEAFENING WAIL of the BANSHEES...CALISSA clings to his back...She closes her eyes, sensing the end.

EXT. SNAP DRAGON - MEETING COMPARTMENT - MORNING

GRIMWOLD and AURA land on the roof of the MEETING COMPARTMENT...GRIMWOLD looks down into the destroyed SLEEPING COMPARTMENT...He can see AEREON and CALISSA hanging on for their lives as the BANSHEE STORM closes in on them.

GRIMWOLD SHOUTS down to AEREON.

GRIMWOLD

Grab on!

AEREON GRABS HOLD of AURA'S LEGS...CALISSA is still hanging onto his back...The remnants of the SLEEPING COMPARTMENT is pulled into the BANSHEE STORM.

EXT. FORBIDDEN FOREST - MOUNTAIN TRAIL - MORNING

The huge butterfly flaps its immense wings, pulling away from the BANSHEE STORM...They fly towards the QUEEN'S COMPARTMENT.

The BANSHEE STORM appears to fall back.

EXT. SNAP DRAGON - QUEEN'S COMPARTMENT - MORNING

GRIMWOLD and AURA, carrying AEREON and CALISSA land on top of the QUEEN'S COMPARTMENT.

INT. SNAP DRAGON - QUEEN'S COMPARTMENT - MORNING

The SURVIVING HANDMAIDENS AND SERVANTS are gathered in the compartment.

The QUEEN is looking back from her VIEWING DOME at the BANSHEE STORM as it disappears behind them.

QUEEN ARALIA

It's retreating.

EXT. FORBIDDEN FOREST - MOUNTAIN TRAIL - MORNING

The SNAP DRAGON continues to race away...Ahead of the SNAP DRAGON, we can see the COAST in the distance.

EXT. SNAP DRAGON - QUEEN'S COMPARTMENT - MORNING

NING and what remains of his PIXIES are still seated at the front of the SNAP DRAGON...OTTONUS is next to them.

NING

You see? Ning is right! Banshee
no like water!

OTTONUS

A truly great evil must be on the
move to throw such force at us.

The UNICORNS start to slow down as they near the COAST.

EXT. COAST - MORNING

The COAST is exotic...SHINY YELLOW SAND and SPARKLING BLUE WATER...The WEATHER is much better on the coast...SUNSHINE and a LIGHT BREEZE.

What remains of the SNAP DRAGON comes to a halt on the beach...OTTONUS assembles the ROYAL GUARD...TWENTY have survived the attack...There are TEN HANDMAIDENS AND SERVANTS remaining...They attend to the QUEEN.

GRIMWOLD assesses the damage...The SNAP DRAGON is a ruin...Only the front two compartments remain - MEETING COMPARTMENT and QUEEN'S COMPARTMENT.

GRIMWOLD sees CALISSA...They embrace.

GRIMWOLD

You'll be the death of me before
the journey is through.

CALISSA

I'm sorry Father. I truly am.

GRIMWOLD

You're safe now. You have young
Aereon to thank for that.

GRIMWOLD looks at the remains of the SNAP DRAGON.

GRIMWOLD

This is terrible.

The QUEEN joins GRIMWOLD...She looks deeply regretful.

QUEEN ARALIA

So many people dead. Was I
foolhardy General? To make such
haste into such great danger?

GRIMWOLD

The cost of delay would have been
greater your highness.

QUEEN ARALIA

What do you suggest now?

GRIMWOLD

We have only one choice. The
choice I did not want to make.

OTTONUS steps forward.

OTTONUS

The Nauticans.

The QUEEN looks fearful...AEREON notices the QUEENS'S
expression.

AEREON

Who are the Nauticans?

QUEEN ARALIA

We know little of them. They are
not part of our kingdom or the
Dark Realm.

GRIMWOLD

They live under the sea. And they
are hostile to all who trespass
their territory. Brutal even.

AEREON looks out to the SEA...He is amazed by its vastness.

AEREON

How could such anger come from
such beauty?

OTTONUS

Unfortunately, the Banshee has cut off our only other route into the Dark Realm. We now have no choice but to cross the coast.

QUEEN ARALIA

Very well. We shall gather what we need and make across the coast. Ottonus?

OTTONUS

Yes my lady?

QUEEN ARALIA

How are the guard?

OTTONUS

Our numbers have been thinned greatly by the banshee. I have not but twenty men left.

GRIMWOLD

This is getting worse by the minute.

CALISSA sits on the BEACH and stares out at the OCEAN...AEREON joins her.

AEREON

Are you alright?

CALISSA

I've never seen it before. The ocean.

AEREON

It's beautiful isn't it?

CALISSA

Even more so than my dreams. I'm sorry about teasing you, calling you wingless.

AEREON

Forget about it.

CALISSA

You don't deserve to be teased. I mean, you saved my life back there.

AEREON

You would have done the same.

CALISSA

(regretful)

I'm an idiot. I should never have come along. Dragged you into it as well. Nearly got us killed.

AEREON

It's a little late for regrets. All we can do now is hope the Queen is successful. That our land can return to normal.

CALISSA

I hope we're not too late.

AEREON

So do I. So do I.

CUT TO:

EXT. RIVER VILLAGE - MORNING

The RIVER VILLAGE is BLACK, as if covered in an oily black paint...STORM CLOUDS have gathered over the RIVER VILLAGE. The RESIDENTS now appear different. Tainted by sin, they are pale and withdrawn. They look more like junkies...There is mayhem in the RIVER VILLAGE...Some RESIDENTS are fighting with each other, others are burning trees.

EXT. RIVER VILLAGE - WALKWAY - MORNING

HEDARA and SLINK watch the chaos around them.

SLINK

Everything is going well.

HEDARA

Indeed. What of the other outlying villages?

SLINK grins.

HEDARA

Excellent. We have only the Royal City to take and then this rotting kingdom is ready to fall. My agent shall take care of that.

Another IMP approaches.

IMP
I bring news from the Dark Realm.

HEDARA
Speak.

IMP
Lord Draconius is on the march but
the fairy Queen has reached the
outskirts of our realm.

HEDARA
Yes, I know.

IMP
Their passage through the mountain
has been blocked.

HEDARA
Good, the Nautican will finish
them off.

The IMP scuttles off.

HEDARA
Soon we will be free.

SLINK laughs with glee.

CUT TO:

EXT. COAST - MORNING

NING and the remainder of his gang are sitting on the
BEACH...There are EIGHT PIXIES left...FOUR RATS SCURRY
nearby...A GROUP OF PIXIES are working on the RAT CHARIOT.

In the background, we can see the QUEEN AND HER GROUP
gathered around the SNAP DRAGON...The ROYAL GUARD seem to
be working on the SNAP DRAGON.

NING is speaking with TWO OTHER PIXIES, NANG and NONG.

NING
We have no food.

NONG
This is a tragedy.

NANG

Nang!

NING

What are we to do?

NONG

I don't think I can live another
minute without a chump on some
cheese!

NANG

Nang!

AEREON and CALISSA approach the GROUP OF PIXIES.

AEREON

Why are you still here?

NING

Banshee kill many of our friends.

NONG

Out for vengeance we are!

NANG

Nang!

NING

We don't care if their bigger than
us, we fight back!

NONG

For our friends!

NANG

Nang!

CALISSA points to NANG.

CALISSA

What's wrong with him?

NING

Nang? Fell on his head when he
was knee high to a twig.

NONG

Can only say his name now.

NANG

Nang!

CALISSA

Okaaay.

At the SNAP DRAGON, GRIMWOLD and OTTONUS are showing the QUEEN what they have planned...GRIMWOLD draws a MAKESHIFT MAP in the SAND.

GRIMWOLD

We need to get around these mountains.

OTTONUS

The shore line ends here. We will travel around the mountain by the sea.

GRIMWOLD

This will bring us to the Black Fields and the Dark Realm.

QUEEN ARALIA

Can you support the weight of the Snap Dragon?

OTTONUS

We must your highness.

QUEEN ARALIA

And what of the Nauticans?

GRIMWOLD looks at OTTONUS and then back at the QUEEN.

GRIMWOLD

We pray we don't encounter them.

The QUEEN notices the dark clouds over her kingdom in the distance.

QUEEN ARALIA

Then let us hurry.

The ROYAL GUARD have affixed MAKESHIFT HARNESES to the remaining SNAP DRAGON compartments.

The QUEEN and OTTONUS approach the UNICORNS...The QUEEN strokes the mane of THORN...She removes his REIGNS.

QUEEN ARALIA
You must leave now Thorn, my
friend.

THORN lets out a CRY...He is clearly reluctant to leave the
QUEEN.

QUEEN ARALIA
Return to the kingdom. We shall
be reunited soon.

The UNICORN nods its head, almost as if bowing before the
QUEEN.

OTTONUS
The ocean is no place for a
unicorn. Be free.

OTTONUS releases the UNICORNS...THORN motions to the other
UNICORNS...All the UNICORNS run off down the COAST.

INT. SNAP DRAGON - QUEEN'S COMPARTMENT - MORNING

AEREON and CALISSA join the QUEEN in her compartment.

CALISSA
(To QUEEN ARALIA)
I'm sorry for your loss your
majesty.

QUEEN ARALIA
As am I Calissa. We must ensure
that their deaths are not in vain.

AEREON looks out of the VIEWING DOME.

QUEEN ARALIA
And you, young Aereon. General
Grimwold told me of your bravery
during the attack.

AEREON
I just did what any other would do
your majesty.

QUEEN ARALIA smiles.

QUEEN ARALIA
You will earn your wings yet.

EXT. COAST - MORNING

The SURVIVORS board the repaired SNAP DRAGON...NING and his band of PIXIES watch as the ROYAL GUARD STRAP THEMSELVES INTO THE HARNESSSES...GRIMWOLD attaches a HARNESS to AURA.

NING shakes his head.

NING

Oh no. We no flying. Pixies get sick.

OTTONUS

Then you can stay here.

NONG

Nothing to eat here but sand. No good for my belly.

NANG

Nang!

OTTONUS

The Queen has plenty of food in her private pantry.

NANG

Nang!

NING

Okey dokey! We fly now!

The PIXIES CLIMB INSIDE the QUEEN'S COMPARTMENT.

The ROYAL GUARD FLY INTO THE AIR, LIFTING THE SNAP DRAGON INTO THE AIR with them...GRIMWOLD and AURA are pulling from the front...OTTONUS leads.

The SNAP DRAGON flies out across the ocean.

CUT TO:

EXT. ROYAL CITY - MORNING

The WEATHER continues to worsen in the ROYAL CITY...There are many CITIZENS gathered in the streets.

They seem to be unsettled, talking amongst themselves, concerned about what is happening around them.

INT. ROYAL PALACE - COUNCIL CHAMBERS - MORNING

GRANICUS has just finished a session of council in the COUNCIL CHAMBER...He is staring from a WINDOW, looking at the CITIZENS in the streets.

ZEBRINA enters and approaches GRANICUS.

ZEBRINA

I heard the council session this morning could have been...better.

GRANICUS snaps at ZEBRINA.

GRANICUS

I need no advice from a handmaiden!

ZEBRINA backs off. She looks intimidated.

ZEBRINA

Apologies Master Granicus, I meant no offence.

GRANICUS

I am no fool. I know the Queen left you to spy on me. Does she have such little faith in me? Or trust for that matter?

ZEBRINA tries to console GRANICUS.

ZEBRINA

She is just concerned for her kingdom. This is the first time she has dealt with such a crisis. There is much weight upon her shoulders.

GRANICUS calms himself.

GRANICUS

Yes. Yes. I forget myself. The Queen wants to avert panic and I want to take action but I cannot. And rightly so, for the rule of the kingdom is hers and not mine.

ZEBRINA

You are a good man Master Granicus.

GRANICUS

I apologise for my temperament
Zebrina. I mean not to take it
out on you.

ZEBRINA steps closer to GRANICUS...She puts her hand on his
face...She smiles.

ZEBRINA

It is quite alright Master
Granicus. It is only because of
your duty to the Queen and to the
kingdom.

GRANICUS

Yes. I live for both the Queen
and the Kingdom and I would die
for either of them.

ZEBRINA smiles again.

ZEBRINA

Then do so.

GRANICUS seems confused.

GRANICUS

Sorry?

ZEBRINA BITES GRANICUS IN THE NECK.

She THROWS GRANICUS across the CHAMBER like a rag doll...He
SLAMS into a wall and hits the ground...Dead.

ZEBRINA'S EYES ROLL OVER BLACK and her SKIN BECOMES
PALE...Her true form emerges as if from an illusion...GIANT
BAT WINGS EMERGE FROM HER BACK as she lets out an EVIL
LAUGH...She spits on the floor.

ZEBRINA

Foul tasting fairy!

EXT. ROYAL CITY - MORNING

The SIN SHADOW creeps towards the ROYAL CITY.

CUT TO:

EXT. OCEAN - MORNING

The SNAP DRAGON is carried over the OCEAN by the ROYAL GUARD...The waters beneath are calm.

INT/EXT. SNAP DRAGON - QUEEN'S COMPARTMENT - MORNING

AEREON and CALISSA sit on the BALCONY of a WINDOW...AEREON let's his feet skim off the surface of the water.

AEREON

This seems to be the closest I'll get to flying.

CALISSA

You'll fly one day.

The SUNLIGHT catches CALISSA'S eyes...There is a unique sparkle in her eyes.

AEREON notices the sparkle.

AEREON

(awkward)

Your eyes look really...pretty.

CALIISA LAUGHS.

CALISSA

(disbelief)

Oh, come on!

AEREON

No, really.

AEREON turns away, embarrassed.

CALISSA

(grateful)

Thank you.

AEREON

Maybe you'd appreciate the comment if it came from Ottonus or someone. I mean you want someone big and strong don't you?

CALISSA looks at AEREON.

CALISSA

I never knew you felt that way.

AEREON

You always did have your head in
the clouds.

CALISSA

Well, maybe it's time I came back
down to earth.

ABOVE THEM on the WINDOW SILL above the BALCONY, NING and
NANG are sitting.

NING

Oh, they gonna do the rudies!

NANG

Nang!

They GIGGLE like schoolboys.

CALISSA leans in to kiss AEREON.

Suddenly, a HUGE TENTACLE FLIES OUT OF THE WATER AND
GRABS AEREON BY THE LEG...He is PULLED THROUGH the
BALCONY...He HOLDS ON as hard as he can.

CALISSA GRABS A HOLD of him.

CALISSA

Aereon! Hold on!

AEREON's HANDS begin to LOSE GRIP.

AEREON

I'm slipping!

EXT. OCEAN - MORNING

OTTONUS sees what is going on...He flies around to the
BALCONY...He sees AEREON being pulled by the TENTACLE...He
unsheathes his SWORD and HACKS at the TENTACLE...The
TENTACLE has a tough skin, making it difficult for
OTTONUS to cut through...MORE TENTACLES SPLASH out of the
WATER and whip OTTONUS into the OCEAN.

INT/EXT. SNAP DRAGON - QUEEN'S COMPARTMENT - MORNING

CALISSA tries one last time to GRAB HOLD of AEREON...AEREON is PULLED DOWN INTO THE WATER by the TENTACLE.

CALISSA

No!!!

EXT. OCEAN - MORNING

Suddenly, a LARGE SEA CREATURE emerges from the water...This is a FAROK. It is the size of a whale with the head of a piranha and the body of a squid...Riding in the saddle on the FAROK head is a NAUTICAN WARRIOR, a HUMANOID AMPHIBIAN CREATURE.

There is another NAUTICAN WARRIOR saddled behind him armed with a LARGE SPEAR...The NAUTICAN WARRIOR attacks the SNAP DRAGON.

OTTONUS bursts forth from the water...He begins to attack the NAUTICAN WARRIOR with his SWORD...The NAUTICAN WARRIOR defends himself with the SPEAR.

The FAROK TENTACLES attack OTTONUS...They try to wrap around his body...OTTONUS manages to HACK a few TENTACLES in half.

Suddenly, THREE MORE FAROK BURST OUT ONTO THE SURFACE to attack...ONE FAROK LEAPS OVER the SNAP DRAGON.

The ROYAL GUARD try and pull the SNAP DRAGON higher to avoid the attacking FAROK.

The NAUTICAN WARRIORS SLASH at the ROYAL GUARD'S HARNESES, severing the support for the SNAP DRAGON...The SNAP DRAGON drops, barely being held up by a few of the ROYAL GUARD.

A NAUTICAN WARRIOR leaps from a FAROK, attacking the ROYAL GUARD who are supporting the MEETING COMPARTMENT...TWO ROYAL GUARD are killed...The NAUTICAN WARRIOR severs the HARNESES with its SPEAR...The MEETING COMPARTMENT HARNESES SNAP.

INT. SNAP DRAGON - MEETING COMPARTMENT - MORNING

The HANDMAIDENS AND SERVANTS are thrown from one end to the other as -

EXT. OCEAN - MORNING

- The MEETING COMPARTMENT PLUNGES into the OCEAN. Five of the handmaidens and servants are crushed by the compartment...the remainder are pulled under the water.

As the MEETING COMPARTMENT separates from the SNAP DRAGON, the REAR WALL of the QUEEN'S COMPARTMENT is TORN OFF.

INT. SNAP DRAGON - QUEEN'S COMPARTMENT - MORNING

Everyone has been thrown about...The SNAP DRAGON is now drooping into a fully vertical position.

LUGGAGE, FURNITURE, EVERYTHING is falling out of the bottom of the SNAP DRAGON and into the OCEAN...The PIXIES AND RATS are inside a SOUP POT which rolls around.

NING

We're gonna die! We're gonna die!
Aaaaaah!

NONG

Aaaaaah!!!!

NANG

Naaaaaaang!!!

FIVE OF THE PIXIES and ONE RAT fall out of the SOUP POT...They fall out of the compartment and into the OCEAN to their doom...NING, NONG, NANG and THREE RATS remain in the SOUP POT.

The QUEEN begins to slide down the floor of the compartment...She unfurls her WINGS and manages to fly back up...She CLINGS to a WINDOW FRAME.

There is another JOLT as the SNAP DRAGON is SMASHED by the FAROK from outside...The QUEEN loses grip again...She can't pull herself up.

CALISSA is still in the WINDOW BALCONY and GRABS the QUEEN'S ARMS.

CALISSA

I've got you!

CALISSA PULLS the Queen out onto the BALCONY.

EXT. OCEAN - MORNING

GRIMWOLD and AURA are fighting with a FAROK and a NAUTICAN WARRIOR...GRIMWOLD shows great skill with his BATTLE AXE, skilfully parrying the attacks from the NAUTICAN WARRIOR's SPEAR.

Another FAROK appears behind GRIMWOLD...Its TENTACLES wrap around AURA...The FAROK BITES into AURA...The butterfly lets out a SHRIEK OF PAIN.

GRIMWOLD

Aura! No!!

The FAROK tears AURA apart...GRIMWOLD plummets into the WATER...A TENTACLE LASHES out of the water, grabbing GRIMWOLD...He is pulled under the OCEAN.

SIX MORE FAROK appear from below the water...The NAUTICAN WARRIORS overpower the ROYAL GUARD...EIGHT are killed.

The FAROK WRAP their TENTACLES around the QUEEN'S COMPARTMENT...The remaining ROYAL GUARDS are PINNED TO THE QUEEN'S COMPARTMENT by the TENTACLES.

OTTONUS tries valiantly to free his men, but he is also pulled under the water by the FAROK TENTACLES.

INT. SNAP DRAGON - QUEEN'S COMPARTMENT - MORNING

A FAROK makes its way into the QUEEN'S COMPARTMENT...The PIXIES try and FIRE ARROWS at it from the SOUP POT...They have no effect.

CALISSA THROWS BOOKS at the FAROK...It wraps a TENTACLE around her PINNING HER AGAINST THE WALL.

The QUEEN picks up a SHARD OF BROKEN GLASS from a SHATTERED MIRROR and SLASHES at the FAROK'S HEAD...The NAUTICAN WARRIOR GRABS the QUEEN by the arm and pulls her close to his face...He SNARLS and HISSES...The QUEEN is helpless.

EXT. OCEAN - MORNING

What remains of the SNAP DRAGON is violently pulled underneath the OCEAN by the FAROK...The SNAP DRAGON and everyone in it is gone.

CUT TO:

EXT. ROYAL CITY - MORNING

There is chaos in the ROYAL CITY...HOWLING WIND, LIGHTNING and RAIN LASHES the BUILDINGS and STREETS.

We see the SIN SHADOW falling overhead...As it passes across the ROYAL CITY, the CITIZENS flee, trying to escape its grasp...The SIN SHADOW turns everything in its path into BLACK, just like the RIVER VILLAGE...It closes in on the ROYAL PALACE like poison spreading from a wound.

EXT. ROYAL PALACE - MORNING

The SIN SHADOW falls over the ROYAL PALACE...The SHINING CRYSTAL and WHITE MARBLE are turned into an OILY JET BLACK like BASALT STONE.

ZEBRINA walks down the STEPS from the PALACE ENTRANCE as the SIN SHADOW "redecorates" everything around her.

Approaching the PALACE are HEDARA HELIX, SLINK and his GANG OF IMPS.

ZEBRINA bows before HEDARA.

ZEBRINA

Mistress Helix.

HEDARA

Zebrina, you would surely bring a smile to my face if only I was capable of such a stomach churning expression.

ZEBRINA

We have waited a long time for this.

SLINK

(To ZEBRINA)

I don't know how you survived in the company of such disgusting goodness for so long Zebrina.

ZEBRINA looks disgusted.

ZEBRINA

It was not easy. Pretending to be nice to everyone. Repulsive.

HEDARA looks at the PALACE, it has now been consumed by the SIN SHADOW and turned completely BLACK.

HEDARA

You have done well Zebrina. You will be rewarded well in the new kingdom.

ZEBRINA

What now?

HEDARA

Davalia has ordered our forces to march upon this land. They will be here before dawn.

ZEBRINA grins to herself.

ZEBRINA

Then this land will be ours.

HEDARA shakes her head.

HEDARA

Not yet. Not until every fairy in this land is turned to sin. Or is dead.

SLINK sits on a STEP admiring the new look of the PALACE.

SLINK

The Queen is still at large.

HEDARA walks up the STEPS towards the PALACE ENTRANCE...SLINK and ZEBRINA follow.

ZEBRINA

(To HEDARA)

She is far more resilient than you expected.

HEDARA seems unperturbed.

HEDARA

Quite.

SLINK

(To ZEBRINA)

She is attempting to cross the coast to reach our realm.

ZEBRINA

Then we must hope that those
wretched water people have dealt
with them. The Queen must not
reach Davalia.

HEDARA seems sure of herself.

HEDARA

(confident)

They won't.

HEDARA, ZEBRINA and SLINK enter the ROYAL PALACE...The
IMP'S take up positions outside the PALACE ENTRANCE.

CUT TO:

INT. BLACK SPACE

QUEEN ARALIA awakens...There is nothing but blackness
around her...Is this a dream...Is she dead?

She is suddenly prodded by a NAUTICAN GUARD.

A STRANGE BIOLUMINESCANT LIGHT emanates from the NAUTICAN
GUARD, illuminating him in the dark...He has a STAFF which
appears to have an ELECTRIC EEL ENTWINED AROUND IT.

The QUEEN receives a SMALL ELECTRIC SHOCK from the STAFF.

The STAFF punctures through a SPONGY BUBBLE LIKE MATERIAL
which surrounds the QUEEN...The STAFF is then seamlessly
removed from the bubble without leaving a mark.

The Queen realises she is inside a LARGE BUBBLE...INSIDE
THE BUBBLE IS AIR that the QUEEN can breathe...OUTSIDE THE
BUBBLE IS WATER...The QUEEN tries to push against the
BUBBLE, she can neither move it nor break through.

The NAUTICAN GUARD is riding a LARGE SEA HORSE CREATURE,
A KELPIE...The KELPIE pulls the QUEEN'S BUBBLE out of the
BLACK SPACE...The QUEEN begins to see light.

INT. NAUTICA - MAIN CHAMBER - AFTERNOON

Surrounding the QUEEN are THOUSANDS OF NAUTICAN
CITIZENS...There are STRANGE FISH and CREATURES
everywhere...We now realise that we are DEEP BELOW THE
OCEAN.

This is the CITY OF NAUTICA, home of the NAUTICANS...It is unusual to the QUEEN'S eyes...Structures made of CLAMS and SHELLS seamlessly integrated with the ocean floor.

The QUEEN'S BUBBLE is pulled into the centre of the MAIN CHAMBER...We can now see AEREON, CALISSA, GRIMWOLD, OTTONUS, TEN ROYAL GUARD and FIVE HANDMAIDENS AND SERVANTS...The PIXIES and their RATS are also imprisoned...They are all trapped in similar BUBBLES to the QUEEN'S.

In the centre of the MAIN CHAMBER is an ABYSSAL TRENCH. Suddenly, rising from the black of the trench, is what appears to be a HUGE KILLER WHALE with SHARP SERRATED TEETH, a RHIDON.

Riding the RHIDON is TITAN, KING OF THE NAUTICANS. A NATICAN GUARD steps forward.

NAUTICAN GUARD

Bow before Titan, King of the
Ocean!

His look is similar to that of his people except that he is slightly larger, stronger and sports a MOHAWK LIKE SHARK FIN upon his head.

TITAN'S voice BOOMS throughout the MAIN CHAMBER.

TITAN

Who is your leader?

The QUEEN stands in her BUBBLE...The BUBBLE is pulled towards TITAN by the KELPIE.

QUEEN ARALIA

I am Queen Aralia of the -

TITAN

Silence!

TITAN swims elegantly along the head of the RHIDON, approaching the QUEEN'S BUBBLE...He GLIDES through the WATER.

TITAN stares at the QUEEN through the BUBBLE.

TITAN

You have violated the laws of my
kingdom. For that the penalty is
death!

The NAUTICAN CITIZENS CHEER in agreement.

TITAN

You fairies, enforcing your rule
upon people who wish it not.

QUEEN ARALIA

We do nothing of the sort. We
seek only to share enlightenment
with the people of the land.

TITAN

But not the sea. We care nothing
of your weak ways. Of flower and
tree. The true power of this
world is in the ocean.

QUEEN ARALIA

Not even your kingdom will be safe
when the blackness is finished
with mine.

TITAN LAUGHS.

TITAN

Don't patronise me little fairy
queen. I have lived as long as
the sea itself. We fear no
blackness. We fear nothing!

The QUEEN tries to reason with TITAN.

QUEEN ARALIA

We are not so different, you and
I. We seek the same things. The
safety and security of our people.

TITAN pushes his head into the QUEEN'S BUBBLE.

TITAN

I can breathe the same air as you
if I wish.

TITAN pulls his head back out of the BUBBLE.

TITAN(CONT'D)

But I do not wish to. Make no
mistake your highness, we are two
very different peoples and you
have broken my laws.

QUEEN ARALIA

We meant no wrong!

TITAN

Then you should not have come this way.

AEREON SHOUTS from his BUBBLE.

AEREON

We had no choice!

A NAUTICAN GUARD prods AEREON with an EEL STAFF.

NAUTICAN GUARD

How dare you speak to King Titan!

TITAN swims down to AEREON.

TITAN

Brave for a fairy aren't you?

AEREON tries to act bravely in front of TITAN.

AEREON

I want no harm to come to my friends.

TITAN notices that AEREON is without wings.

TITAN

A strange fairy indeed. You do not buzz around like a fly.

AEREON

I have not yet earned my wings your majesty.

TITAN seems interested in AEREON.

TITAN

Well maybe it is time to earn them boy. You say you want no harm to come to your friends?

AEREON

Yes.

TITAN considers to himself.

TITAN
Would you die for them?

AEREON looks into CALISSA's eyes.

AEREON
Yes. Yes I would die for them.

TITAN swims back to the centre of the MAIN CHAMBER...He looks around at his people.

TITAN
We have been without sport for a while in my kingdom. Very well.
(To AEREON)
Survive the pit and you and your friends shall go free.

AEREON'S BUBBLE is THROWN BY THE KELPIE into a PIT WITHIN THE TRENCH.

CALISSA is SHOCKED.

CALISSA
No!!

INT. NAUTICA - PIT - AFTERNOON

AEREON'S BUBBLE lands into the PIT...Above him, TITAN and the PRISONERS watch.

A GIANT SHARK emerges from a CAVE on the opposite end of the PIT...Its jaws are enormous and it swims straight for AEREON...It SMASHES into AEREON'S BUBBLE and sends the BUBBLE into the side of the PIT...The SHARK SLAMS its TAIL against AEREON'S BUBBLE...AEREON is helpless.

INT. NAUTICA - MAIN CHAMBER - AFTERNOON

QUEEN ARALIA looks on below...TITAN is LAUGHING to himself.

QUEEN ARALIA
(To TITAN)
Barbarians!

TITAN
Like I said fairy queen, we are two very different peoples.

CALISSA BANGS at her BUBBLE, frustrated that she can not get out.

CALISSA

(To TITAN)

This is unfair! He can't even defend himself!

INT. NAUTICA - PIT - AFTERNOON

AEREON is a sitting duck...The SHARK continues a series of HIT AND RUN ATTACKS at the BUBBLE...The BUBBLE is BOUNCED from either side of the PIT like a pinball.

AEREON'S BUBBLE becomes trapped in a CREVICE.

The SHARK is tearing through the water towards AEREON...Its jaws are ready to bite.

INT. NAUTICA - MAIN CHAMBER - AFTERNOON

GRIMWOLD looks down into the PIT.

GRIMWOLD

This is madness!

OTTONUS tries to HACK out of the BUBBLE with his SWORD.

OTTONUS

It's hopeless. I can't cut through.

A nearby NAUTICAN GUARD laughs at OTTONUS.

NAUTICAN GUARD

Your fairy weapons are no good here!

CALISSA is watching AEREON in the PIT...She SHOUTS at TITAN.

CALISSA

Give him a chance!

TITAN just LAUGHS to himself.

INT. NAUTICA - PIT - AFTERNOON

Just as the SHARK is about to bite down on AEREON's BUBBLE, a GIANT CRAB CLAW SHOOTS OUT of the CREVICE and dislodges the BUBBLE.

The SHARK misses the BUBBLE and SMASHES into the side of the PIT.

Suddenly, from the CREVICE, crawls a GIANT CRAB...It heads straight for AEREON...Its PINCERS SNAPPING MADLY...In the background, the SHARK is turning around to attack AEREON again.

The CRAB is coming from one side and the SHARK the other side...AEREON is caught right in the middle.

INT. NAUTICA - MAIN CHAMBER - AFTERNOON

NING, NONG and NANG are watching from their BUBBLE...They seem quite entertained.

NING

Fishy eat fairy!

NONG

(arguing)

No, crabby eat fairy!

NING

(arguing)

No, fishy eat fairy!

NONG

(To NANG)

What do you say Nang?

NANG

Nang!

NONG

(To Ning)

You see? Crabby eat fairy!

CALISSA pleads with TITAN.

CALISSA

Please help him!

TITAN stops LAUGHING and looks at CALISSA.

TITAN
I suppose two against one is
slightly unsporting of us.

TITAN SHOUTS to a NAUTICAN GUARD.

TITAN
Guard! Throw the boy your weapon.

The NAUTICAN GUARD THROWS his SPEAR into the PIT.

INT. NAUTICA - PIT - AFTERNOON

The SPEAR PIERCES THROUGH AEREON'S BUBBLE but also PINS
THE BUBBLE TO THE FLOOR of the PIT...AEREON struggles to
remove the SPEAR from the ground.

The CRAB is closing.

AEREON continues to struggle with the SPEAR.

The SHARK is closing.

Suddenly, the SPEAR dislodges from the PIT FLOOR...The
force from AEREON'S pry sends the BUBBLE flying through
the water.

The SHARK swims straight into the CRAB...The TWO GIANT
CREATURES begin to FIGHT and TEAR each other apart.

INT. NAUTICA - MAIN CHAMBER - AFTERNOON

TITAN LAUGHS to himself.

TITAN
Excellent!

QUEEN ARALIA
(To TITAN)
Release him.

TITAN
Very well.

TITAN SIGNALS to TWO NAUTICAN GUARDS.

They FIRE HARPOONS into AEREON'S BUBBLE and winch him
back up the TRENCH wall.

AEREON is brought back before TITAN by the TWO NAUTICAN GUARDS.

TITAN

(To AEREON)

I am true to my word. You and your friends shall be released. But return this way and you will find your second visit not quite as hospitable.

Suddenly ALL THE BUBBLES CONTAINING THE PRISONERS begin to SOAR UP towards the SURFACE...Below, we can see TITAN and the CITY OF NAUTICA fade into the darkness of the ocean.

EXT. OCEAN - AFTERNOON

The BUBBLES float up onto the surface of the OCEAN...The BUBBLES are close to the BLACK SHORE.

GRIMWOLD

The tide will take us in.

The BUBBLES drift toward the BLACK SHORE.

EXT. BLACK SHORE - AFTERNOON

The GROUP safely makes it onto the BLACK SHORE...The SAND here is BLACK AND COARSE and the WEATHER is bitterly cold...OTTONUS cuts through his BUBBLE which can now be broken through...He and the ROYAL GUARD proceed to free everyone else...They regroup in a CAVE further up the BLACK SHORE.

INT. BLACK SHORE CAVE - AFTERNOON

The CAVE is COLD and DAMP...Outside, we can see the BLACK FIELDS...CALISSA sits with AEREON.

CALISSA

That was a brave thing you did for us back there.

AEREON

Still didn't get my wings though. Maybe I'm just not meant to have them.

CALISSA

Aereon, sooner or later everyone
earns their wings.

GRIMWOLD draws the QUEEN'S attention to the BLACK FIELDS.

GRIMWOLD

The Black Fields your highness.

QUEEN ARALIA

Then that is our destination.

GRIMWOLD

It will not be easy your majesty.
We have neither food nor
transport.

QUEEN ARALIA

I have not come this far to turn
back now General.

OTTONUS

If we move quickly, we will reach
the Shadow Caves by night fall.
My men can carry those without
wings.

AEREON

How do we find Davalia?

The QUEEN looks out at the BLACK FIELDS.

QUEEN ARALIA

She will find us.

CUT TO:

INT. ROYAL PALACE - CHAPEL CHAMBER - AFTERNOON

All the CITIZENS OF THE ROYAL CITY are housed in the
CHAPEL CHAMBER...They appear PALE and SICK, like the RIVER
VILLAGE RESIDENTS.

HEDARA is walking amongst the CITIZENS, as if inspecting
an army...She is accompanied by ZEBRINA and SLINK...There is
also a BRUTISH IMP carrying a LARGE AXE.

HEDARA

(To CITIZENS)

I'm sure you...enlightened fairies
have all the knowledge and wisdom
you would ever need.

The CITIZENS look uncertain of what HEDARA is talking about.

HEDARA(CONT'D)

Well let me shed a little...light on a few things your Queen may have...forgotten to inform you.

HEDARA continues to walk amongst the CITIZENS.

HEDARA(CONT'D)

You are all aware of the danger of Witches are you not? Evil creatures. Foul, disgusting, not to be trusted.

HEDARA approaches a GROUP OF CITIZENS...Amongst them is MALION, a senior council representative.

HEDARA

Have you not tasted the blackness and enjoyed it?

MALION steps forward...He looks SICK and PALE, tainted by sin.

MALION

Yes, Mistress Hedara.

HEDARA

And do you not feel free? Free of the trappings of your Earth Mother and her unrewarding...virtue?

MALION

Truly my mistress.

HEDARA

Then would it surprise you to know then, that the great King Oberon, sought to punish fairies who had been blessed as such. Like you my dear.

HEDARA steps closer to MALION.

HEDARA(CONT'D)

And do you know what your former King did?

MALION

No, mistress Hedara.

HEDARA

He made Witches of them all.

The BRUTISH IMP pulls out the AXE.

HEDARA(CONT'D)

Like this.

The BRUTISH IMP hacks off MALION'S WINGS with the AXE.

MALION SCREAMS in PAIN.

HEDARA(CONT'D)

Like me.

MALION drops to his knees...His WINGS lay in ruins beside him.

HEDARA(CONT'D)

(To CITIZENS)

Your king cast them out. Turned his back on them. But, my people, if you embrace your new blessing, I will not punish you as your cruel king once did. You shall be rewarded for your...loyalty to me.

ZEBRINA steps forward and unveils her BAT WINGS.

HEDARA

You will truly become pure and know all that is good in this world. All your heart's desires can and will be yours.

The CITIZENS kneel before HEDARA.

CUT TO:

EXT. BLACK FIELDS - LATE AFTERNOON

The QUEEN and her followers fly across the harsh terrain of the BLACK FIELDS...There are JAGGED FORMATIONS OF BLACK GLASS everywhere...BOLTS OF LIGHTNING STRIKE from dark clouds making it difficult to FLY...OTTONUS SIGNALS the GROUP to land.

THE GROUP land at a SLOPE OF BLACK GLASS.

OTTONUS

We cannot fly in this weather.

The GROUP look weary, even the resilient QUEEN is struggling...OTTONUS scouts ahead.

The PIXIES are at the back of the GROUP...NING and NONG are in the RAT CHARIOT...NANG is riding a RAT.

NING

I don't get some cheese soon and I am going to die.

NONG

Me too.

NING

Die, die, and die again!

NANG

(Weakly)

Nang.

CALISSA looks weak.

CALISSA

I'm so tired.

CALISSA starts to slump to her knees...AEREON catches her and holds her up...She has passed out...GRIMWOLD notices.

GRIMWOLD

Calissa!

AEREON

It's okay General. I can carry her.

GRIMWOLD

She's so weak. She's never looked so vulnerable.

OTTONUS is scouting ahead...He SENSES something...He returns to the GROUP.

QUEEN ARALIA

(To OTTONUS)

What do you see Captain?

OTTONUS

It's not what I see, it's what I
feel.

OTTONUS kneels and PLACES HIS HAND TO THE GROUND...There is
a SLIGHT RUMBLE, a TREMOR through the ground...He FLIES to
the TOP OF THE SLOPE.

EXT. BLACK FIELDS - TOP OF SLOPE - LATE AFTERNOON

OTTONUS lands on the TOP OF THE SLOPE...In the distance, he
sees a MASSIVE ARMY MARCHING.

EXT. BLACK FIELDS - LATE AFTERNOON

OTTONUS returns to the QUEEN.

OTTONUS

Your majesty, an army approaches.
Several hundred strong.

GRIMWOLD

We are in no shape to fight
against an army.

OTTONUS

Your majesty, you must escape. My
men and I will hold them off as
best we can.

QUEEN ARALIA

Ottonus, you will be killed.

OTTONUS

A small sacrifice for your safety
your highness.

The QUEEN assembles the HANDMAIDENS AND SERVANTS...GRIMWOLD
looks to AEREON.

GRIMWOLD

Time to leave.

AEREON

We can't turn back now.

QUEEN ARALIA

I fear we are already too late
young Aereon.

The QUEEN points back towards her kingdom, beyond the mountains we can see BLACK SKIES over the FORESTS.

GRIMWOLD

We are lost. There is no hope now.

AEREON refuses to believe this.

AEREON

There is always hope! We can not abandon our friends and family!

The RUMBLE of the approaching army grows closer.

OTTONUS

(To QUEEN ARALIA)

Your highness, you must make haste.

GRIMWOLD

(To QUEEN ARALIA)

He is right your majesty. Now is the time.

QUEEN ARALIA

(To OTTONUS)

Farewell Captain. Blessings upon you.

OTTONUS

And you, your majesty.

OTTONUS AND HIS MEN fly to the TOP OF THE SLOPE.

QUEEN ARALIA

Come General.

GRIMWOLD

I'm not coming your majesty.

QUEEN ARALIA

General?

GRIMWOLD

I'm staying with the Captain and his men.

AEREON

(stunned)

You can't! What about Calissa?

GRIMWOLD steps towards AEREON..GRIMWOLD strokes the hair of CALISSA who is unconscious in the arms of AEREON.

GRIMWOLD
Take care of her Aereon.

AEREON
General...I...I.

GRIMWOLD
(reassuring)
I was like you once. A young fool. Ha. Didn't know when I would get my wings either. But they come to us all in time. You're a good lad.

AEREON is speechless..GRIMWOLD KISSES CALISSA on the head.

GRIMWOLD
Tell her I love her.

GRIMWOLD climbs the SLOPE to join OTTONUS AND HIS MEN.

AEREON looks on as GRIMWOLD climbs up..The QUEEN approaches AEREON.

QUEEN ARALIA
Aereon, we must go.

AEREON, carrying CALISSA, follows the QUEEN.

EXT. BLACK FIELDS - TOP OF THE SLOPE - LATE AFTERNOON

GRIMWOLD joins OTTONUS AND HIS MEN..There are TWELVE OF THEM ALL TOGETHER, facing an ARMY OF HUNDREDS.

OTTONUS
Just like old times General.

GRIMWOLD
I was young back then. Let's see if age and wisdom gives any more strength to my axe.

GRIMWOLD draws his BATTLE AXE..OTTONUS AND HIS MEN draw their SWORDS.

The ARMY approaches them..It is full of VAMPIRES, WITCHES, OGRES, and STRANGE CREATURES unseen by fairy eyes.

They are led by a TALL, VAMPIRE GENERAL clad in BLACK OBSIDIAN ARMOUR...This is LORD DRACONIUS...He appears to be in his late thirties but has lived a lot longer.

The ARMY comes to a stop not fifty metres away from GRIMWOLD and COMPANY...LORD DRACONIUS steps forward.

DRACONIUS

Is this all the fairy queen can muster? This pathetic show of...force?

GRIMWOLD

I need only cut your head from your neck Vampire. Not much force needed for that.

DRACONIUS

And where is your Queen?

OTTONUS

That is none of your concern Vampire.

DRACONIUS

It matters not. I will soon have her head and your kingdom shall be ours.

GRIMWOLD holds his AXE high above his head.

GRIMWOLD

Then come take it!

DRACONIUS flies with ENORMOUS BAT WINGS at GRIMWOLD.

The ARMY charge towards OTTONUS AND HIS MEN...The SOUND is unbelievable...ROARS OF TERROR accompany the THUNDEROUS FOOTSTEPS charging across the field.

DRACONIUS unveils a HUGE BLACK OBSIDIAN SWORD...GRIMWOLDS' AXE CLASHES against DRACONIUS' SWORD...The two are locked in a test of strength.

OTTONUS AND HIS MEN fly into battle...They attack at the CREATURES with their SWORDS...They use their WINGS as shields deflecting the assault as best they can...The MEN fight valiantly but are swarmed upon by a LARGE GROUP OF VAMPIRES.

OTTONUS sails through the air, out of the reach of the WITCHES on the ground.

GRIMWOLD and DRACONIUS are SMASHING their WEAPONS together...SPARKS fly through the air.

OTTONUS amazingly holds off THREE HUGE OGRES and a STRANGE BULL LIKE CREATURE, a RAKTAK...He STABS and CUTS at the OGRES while dodging their fierce blows.

A VAMPIRE dives into OTTONUS, bringing him to the ground...OTTONUS swiftly gets to his feet, CUTTING the VAMPIRE'S HEAD off.

WITCHES THROW FLASKS OF ACID at OTTONUS...He BLOCKS the FLASKS with his WING...The FLASKS SHATTER on collision, the ACID BURNING through OTTONUS' WING...He can no longer fly...OTTONUS is in pain.

OTTONUS continues to try and HACK and SLASH at the oncoming WITCHES...He is vastly outnumbered...An OGRE SMASHES him in the chest...He is THROWN THROUGH THE AIR and HITS THE GROUND HARD...As he TRIES TO GET TO HIS FEET, DOZENS OF WITCHES JUMP ON TOP OF HIM...OTTONUS is FINISHED.

GRIMWOLD is in battle with DRACONIUS...The SWORD and AXE SPARK as they COLLIDE...DRACONIUS is FASTER at SWINGING his powerful SWORD than GRIMWOLD is at SWINGING his AXE.

DRACONIUS catches GRIMWOLD OFF GUARD and KNOCKS HIM TO HIS KNEES...GRIMWOLD looks TIRED.

DRACONIUS raises his SWORD to STRIKE...GRIMWOLD CLOSES HIS EYES.

CUT TO:

EXT. BLACK FIELDS - LATE AFTERNOON

QUEEN ARALIA, AEREON carrying CALISSA, the HANDMAIDENS AND SERVANTS are running across the BLACK FIELDS, dodging LIGHTNING...The PIXIES AND RATS are trying to keep up with the GROUP.

NING

(To GROUP)

Hey slow down! We only little!

QUEEN ARALIA

We must hurry! We will have to try and cross through the mountains.

Suddenly, we can hear a LOUD SCREECH above the GROUP.

DRACONIUS and a GROUP OF VAMPIRES fly overhead...DRACONIUS THROWS SOMETHING down at the GROUP.

It is the head of GRIMWOLD.

AEREON puts down CALISSA...He is ENRAGED and CHARGES TOWARDS DRACONIUS who is now landing...DRACONIUS SMACKS AEREON in the FACE...AEREON drops to the ground...The QUEEN watches over CALISSA.

DRACONIUS
(To VAMPIRES)
Kill them all.

The VAMPIRES descend upon the HANDMAIDENS AND SERVANTS...They are TORN TO SHREDS.

NING and his fellow PIXIES CHARGE at the VAMPIRES.

NING
Pixie warriors! Charge!

NING AND NONG CHARGE ahead on their RAT CHARIOT...NANG follows on his RAT...A VAMPIRE SWIPES at the PIXIES with his BATWINGS...NING and NONG are THROWN from the RAT CHARIOT...They have been knocked unconscious.

NANG and his RAT charge at the VAMPIRE.

NANG
Naaaaang!

The VAMPIRE kicks NANG and his RAT, they fly through the air and are thrown clear from the fight down a crevice.

DRACONIUS approaches the QUEEN who is guarding over CALISSA.

DRACONIUS
Now your highness, time to end
this!

Suddenly there is a HUGE CRASH OF THUNDER AND LIGHTNING and the sky grows even darker than it already is...A FEMALE VOICE speaks.

VOICE(O.S.)
No. Not yet.

A FEMALE FIGURE steps out of BLACKNESS AND SMOKE...Her HAIR LIKE FLAME, her EYES LIKE ICE...As she nears the QUEEN, we see more normal features appear...The QUEEN recognises her.

QUEEN ARALIA

Davalia.

DAVALIA

Hello, my sister.

This is DAVALIA...She bears a resemblance to her sister.

DRACONIUS seems eager to kill everyone. There is a sense of defiance in his voice as he addresses DAVALIA.

DRACONIUS

What now Mistress?

DAVALIA

Bring them to my lair.

DAVALIA FLIES OFF IN A WHIRLWIND OF THUNDER AND LIGHTNING.

CUT TO:

EXT. DARK REALM - SHADOW CAVES GATE - LATE AFTERNOON

DRACONIUS leads the CAPTIVES to a LARGE GATE which LEADS UNDERGROUND into what appears to be a GIGANTIC SINKHOLE.

INT. SHADOW CAVES - SINKHOLE - LATE AFTERNOON

The SINKHOLE is home to the creatures of blackness...On every level of the SINKHOLE, there are ENTRANCES to the SHADOW CAVES, which lead deeper underground.

INT. SHADOW CAVES - TORTURE CHAMBER - LATE AFTERNOON

AEREON and CALISSA are tied down to SLABS by a WITCH...DRACONIUS stands over CALISSA...She is still unconscious...He runs a TALON across her face.

DRACONIUS

So...sweet. I shall enjoy her.

AEREON

Don't you touch her!

DRACONIUS LAUGHS.

DRACONIUS

And what are thee to do oh fairy
knight in shining armour? You do
not even have wings to fly away.

AEREON

If you touch her...I'll...I'll.

DRACONIUS seems amused.

DRACONIUS

You'll what? Kill me? You must
be tainted by sin yourself in
order to level such a threat at I.
There won't be any need to turn
you. You already feel the grasp
of blackness as we do.

AEREON

I'm nothing like you!

DRACONIUS

Maybe not fully. But soon.

DRACONIUS motions to CALISSA.

DRACONIUS(CONT'D)

As sure as she. As she sleeps she
will be unable to resist and she
will awaken...to me.

AEREON

No!!!

DRACONIUS speaks to the WITCH.

DRACONIUS

Begin. Turn the girl first.

DRACONIUS leaves the TORTURE CHAMBER.

CUT TO:

INT. SHADOW CAVES - DAVALIA'S CHAMBER - LATE AFTERNOON

DAVALIA'S CHAMBER is very INTIMATE, DARK...ILLUMINATED BY A
RED FIRE...QUEEN ARALIA is seated before DAVALIA.

QUEEN ARALIA

Why sister? Why have you done
this?

DAVALIA

Why Aralia? Let me tell you why?

As DAVALIA becomes angrier, her form starts to change into a more demonic version of herself.

DAVALIA(CONT'D)

(angry)

My own Father rejected me. I should have been the ruler of the kingdom! Not you!

The QUEEN remains calm.

QUEEN ARALIA

It is not for you or I to decide such a thing. Father was as wise as he was loving.

DAVALIA

(bitter)

He was a fool! I would have done anything for him! Anything!

QUEEN ARALIA

Your anger consumed you. Father was devastated to see what had become of you. He loved you.

DAVALIA becomes more normal looking in appearance as she calms down.

DAVALIA

(calmer)

I...I...remember when I was a child...when he...father and I would collect the tulips that grew from the palace walls. I had not yet earned my wings. I slipped from a trellis and fell. Father caught me. He looked after me all day. Making sure I was okay.

QUEEN ARALIA

Father was always like that. Making a fuss over simple things.

DAVALIA smiles.

DAVALIA

Yes.

QUEEN ARALIA

Then you know how much he would be hurt now, if he learned of what you plan to do.

DAVALIA

It is too late for me sister. When I awoke the blackness, I became its host. I am as much a part of it as it is a part of me.

QUEEN ARALIA

But there is no need to destroy the beauty and light of the kingdom that our father worked so hard to protect. Davalia, you control these creatures now. Order them to fall back from the borders of the kingdom.

DRACONIUS enters.

DRACONIUS

My army will be in the city by dawn. The last of the two fairies we captured are being turned as we speak. I am ready to lead the rest of my army from our realm.

DAVALIA

(To QUEEN ARALIA)

Aralia, join me. Once you have tasted the blackness, you will never go back. We can be sisters again.

The QUEEN looks into her sister's eyes.

CUT TO:

INT. SHADOW CAVES - TORTURE CHAMBER - LATE AFTERNOON

AEREON struggles on the SLAB...CALISSA is being consumed by the SIN SHADOW...It CREEPS OVER HER BODY.

The WITCH has her back turned...She is preparing POTIONS, FLASKS OF ACID at an ALCHEMIST'S DESK in the corner of the TORTURE CHAMBER.

Suddenly, NING and NONG climb up onto AEREON'S SLAB...NING SIGNALS AEREON to be quiet...NONG begins to pick the lock of AEREON'S RESTRAINTS with a NEEDLE.

AEREON is freed...He points to CALISSA...Her skin has turned pale...NONG LEAPS over to the SLAB and starts to pick the locks...AEREON turns around to check on the Witch.

THE WITCH IS GONE.

Suddenly, the WITCH DROPS onto AEREON FROM ABOVE...She lets out a TERRIBLE SHRIEK as she GRABS AEREON...She begins to OVERPOWER him...NING and NONG JUMP onto the WITCHES HEAD...They STAB at her with NEEDLES.

NING

Kill the Witch! Kill the Witch!

The WITCH drops AEREON to the GROUND.

NING

(To AEREON)

Go! We free Calissa and find the Queen!

NONG

We be the heroes!

AEREON hesitates to leave CALISSA but has no choice as now an OGRE APPEARS IN THE TORTURE CHAMBER...It TRIES TO GRAB AEREON but he LEAPS OUT OF THE WAY...He runs for the WINDOW.

INT. SHADOW CAVES - SINKHOLE - LATE AFTERNOON

AEREON climbs outside the TORTURE CHAMBER WINDOW and begins to climb up out of the SINKHOLE...There is a huge drop below.

INT. SHADOW CAVES - TORTURE CHAMBER - LATE AFTERNOON

The WITCH GRABS NING and NONG and throws them across the CHAMBER...The OGRE tries to step on the PIXIES.

NING

Big smelly giant! Run!!

NING and NONG run across the floor and climb up onto the WINDOW...The OGRE chases them to the WINDOW.

INT. SHADOW CAVES - SINKHOLE - LATE AFTERNOON

NING and NONG climb out onto the SINKHOLE...NING shouts to AEREON.

NING

Wait for us!

NONG

We no be the heroes!

There is suddenly a HUGE SMASH below the PIXIES as the OGRE CRASHES THROUGH THE TORTURE CHAMBER WINDOW...It falls to its doom.

NONG

Ha! We kill big, smelly stupid giant!

NING and NONG scurry up the wall and jump onto AEREON'S shoulders...They continue to climb the SINKHOLE.

AEREON sees a LARGE GROUP OF WITCHES chasing after them through the HALLS inside the SHADOW CAVES.

AEREON

They're trying to cut us off before we reach the top!

They climb to what appears to be a STABLE.

NING

Quick! In here!

AEREON climbs inside the STABLE WINDOW.

INT. SHADOW CAVES - STABLE - LATE AFTERNOON

They are surrounded by GIANT RATS...They SNARL at AEREON...He backs off into a CORNER...NING and NONG jump off AEREON'S shoulders.

NING

(To AEREON)

No be afraid. Nice ratsies.

NONG

We know the tongue of the rat.

EXT. DARK REALM - SHADOW CAVES GATE - LATE AFTERNOON

The WITCHES reach the LARGE GATE of the SHADOW CAVES...The WITCH CAPTAIN looks around for Aereon and the pixies.

WITCH CAPTAIN

Where are they?

Suddenly, a GIANT RAT races past them and through the LARGE GATE...AEREON is riding with NING and NONG on his shoulders...NING SHOUTS at the WITCHES as they race past.

NING

Ta Ta generous hosts!

The GIANT RAT races off across the BLACK FIELDS.

CUT TO:

INT. SHADOW CAVES - DAVALIA'S CHAMBER - LATE AFTERNOON

QUEEN ARALIA stands before DAVALIA...DRACONIUS stands at the side of DAVALIA.

DAVALIA

(To QUEEN ARALIA)

What's it going to be Aralia?

The QUEEN sighs.

QUEEN ARALIA

I'll join you.

DAVALIA

Good.

DAVALIA becomes more fairy like in appearance and less demon like.

QUEEN ARALIA

On one condition.

DAVALIA

Name it.

QUEEN ARALIA

You withdraw your forces from my kingdom. We must remain here in the Dark Realm. Forever. Leave my people in peace.

DAVALIA
 (Beat)
 Very well. Draconius.

DRACONIUS steps forward.

DAVALIA (CONT'D)
 Withdraw our forces. Order Hedara
 to return.

DRACONIUS looks furious.

DRACONIUS
 (angered)
 I've heard enough of this.

DRACONIUS DRAWS HIS SWORD and STABS DAVALIA THROUGH THE
 HEART.

QUEEN ARALIA is STUNNED and FRIGHTENED.

DRACONIUS
 You have no right to order me!
 You have no right to host the
 blackness!

DAVALIA looks at the QUEEN.

DAVALIA
 (Weakly)
 What have I done?

A huge force of BLACK LIGHT travels from DAVALIA, THROUGH
 THE SWORD, and into DRACONIUS...The CHAMBER begins to
 SHAKE...The GROUND CRUMBLES and the QUEEN FALLS THROUGH THE
 FLOOR and DISSAPEARS FROM SIGHT.

DRACONIUS begins to ROAR as the BLACK LIGHT CONSUMES HIM
 and the CHAMBER.

DRACONIUS
 The power! The power!

CUT TO:

EXT. BLACK FIELDS - LATE AFTERNOON

AEREON is riding the GIANT RAT at a SLOWER PACE now...NING
 and NONG sit on the GIANT RAT'S head, stroking it.

NING
 Nice rat.

NONG

Sweet rat.

AEREON seems disappointed in himself.

AEREON

I'm a coward. I've left Calissa
and the Queen to their doom.

NING

Nothing you could have done.
Witches would have eaten us for
supper.

NONG

Time to go home now.

AEREON looks into the distance at the kingdom, covered in
blackness.

AEREON

I don't even know if I have a home
anymore.

They ride on towards the kingdom.

CUT TO:

INT. SHADOW CAVES - BARRACKS - LATE AFTERNOON

The QUEEN emerges from a CRAWL SPACE into an EMPTY
BARRACKS...She makes her way through the BARRACKS CAREFULLY
AND STEALTHILY, SEARCHING for a way out.

EXT. DARK REALM - SHADOW CAVES GATE - LATE AFTERNOON

LEGIONS OF CREATURES are assembled at the LARGE GATE...A
HUGE DEMONIC FIGURE flies out of the GATES, above the
LEGION...It is DRACONIUS, now fully possessed by the
blackness and transformed into an even more twisted
version of himself.

Flying by his side is CALISSA...She too has been
transformed into a darker version of herself.

DRACONIUS

Legions, we are ready! Ready to
destroy this land. To destroy the
light of the Earth Mother. Once
more the blackness will consume
all!

The LEGION OF CREATURES let out a MONSTROUS ROAR of CELEBRATION.

DRACONIUS

March forth my brethren. March
forth and destroy!

DRACONIUS flies out across the BLACK FIELDS...CALISSA flies at his side.

At the back of the LEGION, a GROUP OF ROBED WITCHES march...One of the robed Witches slips from the formation...The WITCH removes her hood...It is QUEEN ARALIA...She runs off in the opposite direction from the marching LEGION.

CUT TO:

EXT. RIVER VILLAGE - EVENING

AEREON arrives in the RIVER VILLAGE...It has been burned badly...AEREON dismounts from the GIANT RAT...He slumps to his knees.

AEREON

(distraught)

It's too late.

NING and NONG try to console him.

NING

We lost friends too.

NONG

Know how you feel.

AEREON

You should go.

NING

We want to stay.

AEREON

(insistent)

Please, I want to be alone.

NING and NONG shrug their shoulders.

NONG

Okey dokey. You the boss.

They climb up onto the GIANT RAT.

NING

Giddyup!

They ride back into the FOREST on the GIANT RAT.

AEREON walks through the RIVER VILLAGE.

In the flames before him, AEREON sees CALISSA walking towards him.

AEREON
(confused)

Calissa!?

CALISSA steps closer, we can see that it is the dark version.

AEREON
(shocked)

What have they done to you!

AEREON is SUDDENLY GRABBED FROM BEHIND by DRACONIUS.

DRACONIUS
Little fairy, all alone.

DRACONIUS SMASHES AEREON in the face, knocking him out.

CUT TO:

EXT. BLACK FIELDS - EVENING

LIGHTNING STRIKES from the sky, hitting the ground, keeping the QUEEN from flying...The QUEEN runs across the BLACK FIELDS...She is tired and can no longer run...She collapses...She begins to cry.

She looks up, she SEES SOMETHING, as if in a mirage...Something walks towards her...She tries to stand up.

Before her is THORN, the QUEEN'S loyal UNICORN.

QUEEN ARALIA
Thorn! You have returned to me.

The QUEEN climbs up onto THORN...She rides off across the BLACK FIELDS.

CUT TO:

INT. ROYAL PALACE - COUNCIL CHAMBERS - EVENING

HEDARA, ZEBRINA and SLINK are seated around the LARGE ROUND TABLE...Suddenly, the LARGE DOORS to the CHAMBER OPEN.

DRACONIUS enters accompanied by CALISSA...DRACONIUS is dragging AEREON...AEREON is unconscious...SLINK jumps to attention.

SLINK

Lord Draconius! Our master has returned!

HEDARA stares at DRACONIUS.

HEDARA

It is done then.

DRACONIUS has a newfound arrogance.

DRACONIUS

(arrogant)

I have slain Davalia and become one with the blackness.

ZEBRINA notices AEREON.

ZEBRINA

The little fairy boy with no wings.

HEDARA

(To DRACONIUS)

Who is this child?

DRACONIUS

The last fairy.

HEDARA

And what of the Queen.

DRACONIUS

She is dead.

HEDARA

You are sure?

DRACONIUS

Do not question me witch!

SLINK steps forward to examine AEREON.

SLINK

He is the first one. The one that
spread the sin. It began with
him.

DRACONIUS

And so it shall end with him.

HEDARA cowers slightly before the new demonic form of
DRACONIUS.

HEDARA

(Apologetic)

I am sorry my lover. I did not
mean to question you're...power.

HEDARA notices CALISSA.

HEDARA

(To DRACONIUS)

Who is this wench?

CALISSA now seems as arrogant as DRACONIUS.

CALISSA

(To HEDARA)

I am more of a woman than you will
ever be.

HEDARA

(To DRACONIUS)

You favour this...child...over me?

CALISSA

I can give the lord things you
never could.

HEDARA

(To DRACONIUS)

How could you...how could you betray
me so?

DRACONIUS

I owe no allegiance to you. I am
to be obeyed to my every command.

HEDARA is enraged.

HEDARA

Without me you would have nothing!

HEDARA tries to attack DRACONIUS.

DRACONIUS BEGINS TO GLOW LIKE RED FIRE and ABSORBS HEDARA INTO HIS BODY...ZEBRINA and SLINK cower.

DRACONIUS

You either choose to follow me or
you join your Mistress.

ZEBRINA

(intimidated)

We live to serve you master.

SLINK

Yes master.

DRACONIUS

Good. We will execute this fairy
at first light. The last light.

CUT TO:

EXT. ROYAL CITY - DAWN

DRACONIUS'S ARMY occupy the ROYAL CITY which is covered
in blackness.

EXT. ROYAL PALACE - DAWN

The CITIZENS are assembled before the STEPS to the ROYAL
PALACE...DRACONIUS stands at the TOP OF THE STEPS.

CALISSA is next to him...ZEBRINA and SLINK are also there.

DRACONIUS

(To CITIZENS)

Hear me! This day marks a new day
in the history of this kingdom. A
day of order and a day of chaos.
A day when no more light will
shine upon this land of green. A
land of eternal night and
blackness. Bring forth the boy.

AEREON is marched up the STEPS by a GROUP OF IMPS.

He makes eye contact with CALISSA...She seems COLD and
EMOTIONLESS...AEREON approaches DRACONIUS.

DRACONIUS
(To AEREON)
Kneel before me.

AEREON kneels...It looks like the fight has gone out of him.

DRACONIUS
(To CITIZENS)
With the end of this life, a new
one begins!

DRACONIUS looks at CALISSA.

DRACONIUS
Come.

CALISSA steps forward...DRACONIUS gives CALISSA a SWORD.

DRACONIUS
End his life.

AEREON looks into CALISSA's eyes.

AEREON
I know you can hear me.

DRACONIUS
(To CALISSA)
Do it. Kill the final fairy.

QUEEN ARALIA(O.S.)
There is still another fairy left
to kill Draconius!

DRACONIUS looks at the FOOT OF THE STEPS...QUEEN ARALIA, on THORN, stands defiant.

DRACONIUS
(To CITIZENS)
Kill her! Kill the fairy queen!

QUEEN ARALIA
My people, Draconius, do not kill.
That is not our way.

The QUEEN EMANATES WHITE LIGHT, FORMING A SHIELD AROUND THE CITIZENS...In the background, we can hear a LOUD SOUND APPROACHING, like CRASHING WAVES.

EXT. ROYAL CITY - DAWN

As the sun rises on the horizon, a MASSIVE TIDAL WAVE
POURS INTO THE ROYAL CITY.

Riding the wave is TITAN, saddled on his RHIDON...He is
accompanied by NAUTICAN WARRIORS...Saddled on their FAROK,
the NAUTICAN WARRIORS attack DRACONIUS' ARMY.

As the WAVE BLASTS THROUGH THE ROYAL CITY, it WASHES the
blackness away, returning the ROYAL CITY to normal.

EXT. ROYAL PALACE - DAWN

DRACONIUS is shocked by the force of the NAUTICAN TIDAL
WAVE.

AEREON stands up and looks CALISSA RIGHT IN THE
EYES...CALISSA seems to snap out of the spell that has been
cast on her.

AEREON
I love you Calissa.

AEREON SUDDENLY HAS WINGS!

He PICKS UP CALISSA and FLIES ABOVE THE PALACE!

The SUN SHINES BRIGHTER THAN IT HAS BEFORE as the TIDAL
WAVE SPLASHES OVER the SHIELD the QUEEN has created to
protect the CITIZENS.

ZEBRINA and SLINK are BLASTED APART BY THE FORCE OF THE
WAVE...DRACONIUS TRIES TO FLY ABOVE THE TIDAL WAVE.

The mighty TITAN LEAPS from his RHIDON and STABS
DRACONIUS THROUGH THE HEART WITH HIS SPEAR.

DRACONIUS SINKS INTO THE WAVES...HE IS DEFEATED.

The TIDAL WAVE starts to CALM DOWN.

As the WATER RECEDES, QUEEN ARALIA LIFTS THE LIGHT SHIELD
FROM HER PEOPLE, allowing them to be BATHED BY THE
PURIFIYING WATERS.

The effects of the Sin Shadow are wiped from the CITIZENS
by the water...None of the creatures of the blackness
remain.

EXT. ROYAL PALACE - TOP OF THE PALACE - DAWN

AEREON and CALISSA sit on the TOP OF THE PALACE...They watch as the TIDAL WAVE pulls back out of the CITY.

CALISSA looks at AEREON.

CALISSA

You saved me.

AEREON

No, you saved me.

CALISSA admires AEREON'S WINGS.

CALISSA

Impressive.

AEREON

Not bad.

CALISSA

Want to try them out?

AEREON

Why not.

AEREON CARRIES CALISSA IN HIS ARMS and SOARS DOWN from the TOP OF THE PALACE.

EXT. ROYAL CITY - DAWN

QUEEN ARALIA is standing before the TIDAL WAVE.

TITAN stands before the QUEEN...AEREON and CALISSA land next to the QUEEN.

The QUEEN sees AEREON'S WINGS...She smiles at AEREON.

TITAN inspects AEREON'S WINGS.

TITAN

I see you have earned your wings
fairy boy.

AEREON

Why did you help us?

TITAN

Your Queen has a way with words.
And besides we needed some good
sport. Our army has washed the
evil from here to the furthest
reaches of your kingdom.

QUEEN

I thank you King Titan. May our
kingdoms know everlasting peace.

TITAN bows before the QUEEN. A huge sign of respect.

TITAN

Farewell.

The TIDAL WAVE disappears into the distance and with it
TITAN and the rest of his NAUTICAN WARRIORS.

The QUEEN turns to AEREON.

QUEEN ARALIA

Our kingdom is restored.

AEREON

But at great cost your majesty.

QUEEN ARALIA

This kingdom shall never forget
those who gave their lives.

CALISSA looks around for her Father.

CALISSA

My Father?

AEREON looks at CALISSA...He holds her close.

The CITIZENS of the ROYAL CITY gather around the QUEEN
and kneel.

CITIZENS

To Queen and Mother! To Queen and
Mother! To Queen and Mother!

CUT TO:

EXT. PALACE CEMETERY - MORNING

The CEMETERY is located in the gardens of the PALACE...It
is BRIGHT but SUBTLE.

AEREON and CALISSA kneel before a STATUE OF GRIMWOLD...It reads - "IN HONOUR OF GENERAL GRIMWOLD PROTECTOR OF THE KINGDOM".

CALISSA places some FLOWERS at the STATUE.

CUT TO:

INT. ROYAL PALACE - MAUSOLEUM - MORNING

QUEEN ARALIA, alone, walks through the MAUSOLEUM.

She stands before the INSIGNIA PLAQUE, representative of the Order of the Virtuous Light which Ottonus and his men bore on their armour.

She PLACES A SINGLE GOLD FEATHER for their memory.

CUT TO:

INT. ROYAL PALACE - KINGS TOMB - MORNING

QUEEN ARALIA is now standing before her FATHER'S TOMB.

There is CHERRY BLOSSOM in the TOMB...She places FLOWERS on her FATHER'S TOMB.

Next to the TOMB, there is a SMALL PATCH OF EARTH DECORATED WITH TULIPS...The QUEEN lays another FLOWER. For Davalia. Her sister.

CUT TO:

EXT. RIVER VILLAGE - MORNING

AEREON walks through the RIVER VILLAGE.

The RESIDENTS are repairing the TREE HOUSES AND WALKWAYS which were burned.

EXT. RIVER VILLAGE - WALKWAY - MORNING

Outside the FOXGLOVE TAVERN, TANIS is hammering up a WINDOW FRAME.

AEREON FLIES onto the WALKWAY.

TANIS
(surprised)

Son!

AEREON embraces his Father...TANIS sees his son's WINGS.

TANIS (CONT'D)

Got those wings then I see.

AEREON

Looks like it.

TANIS

About time.

AEREON is looking at the rebuilt FOXGLOVE TAVERN.

AEREON

Back to normal then.

TANIS

Getting there. Got a little help.

TANIS points inside the INN.

INT. FOXGLOVE TAVERN - MORNING

NING and his PIXIES are using LITTLE TOOLS to fix up the INN...NONG AND NANG, with a bandaged head, are EATING CHEESE.

NING

Hey! No slacking! Back to work
pixies!

EXT. FOXGLOVE TAVERN - VERANDA - MORNING

JAPONICA is sitting out on the VERANDA...The SUN is shining down on the RIVER.

AEREON enters.

JAPONICA

Aereon!

They embrace.

JAPONICA

Look at those wings!

AEREON

Finally earned them.

JAPONICA

I told you my son. You would find strength in a different place.

AEREON

I understand now Mother.

JAPONICA

Sit with me for a while. Tell me of your adventures.

AEREON

Nothing really too exciting to tell Mother.

The two sit together on the VERANDA.

CUT TO:

EXT. GRIMWOLD FARM - AFTERNOON

The FARM is in full bloom...CALISSA is in the ORCHARD.

EXT. GRIMWOLD FARM - ORCHARD - AFTERNOON

AEREON enters the ORCHARD...CALISSA points to all the BARRELS ready for the CHERRY BLOSSOM.

CALISSA

Busy day ahead of us.

AEREON

Nothing that can't wait a bit longer.

AEREON KISSES CALISSA and the two fly together into the sky above the CHERRY BLOSSOM TREE...The SUN shining through their WINGS.

FADE OUT

THE END