

After Ever After

By

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A royal princess has two weeks to rescue her prince from a powerful warlock, where she first must face an angry dwarf and battle a vicious ogre, or else her sister will take over as queen.

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FADE IN:

EXT. ADELE'S TOWER - NIGHT

Heavy rain pours down on the concrete ground. A red DRAGON perches on top of the stone tower, its sharp talons gripping the walls. Flowers circle the base of the tower.

ADELE, 18, carefully watches from the window, barely in view as she sees CHRISTIAN, 21, equipped in full armor, riding on his HORSE galloping at full speed.

The dragon bursts fire at Christian. His horse dodges the flames left and right.

Christian pulls out a SWORD as he leaps off his horse.

The dragon swoops towards Christian, talons outstretched. He strikes the sword through the dragon's stomach. The dragon collapses on the ground with a THUMP.

The dragon vanishes in a puff of smoke.

Christian lassos a ROPE to Adele who catches it and ties it to a battlement. She rappels herself down the side of the tower, landing on the ground.

Adele climbs onto Christian's horse, clasps her arms around him as they ride off into the distance.

EXT. KINGDOM OF NORDEN - DAY

SUPER: ONE YEAR LATER

A large group of VILLAGERS gather outside the MEDIEVAL CASTLE. A BAND plays triumphant music. A HORSE CARRIAGE rolls up at the castle entrance.

The KING, 50's, steps out from his horse carriage. The crowd CHEERS as he enters the-

INT. THRONE ROOM

GUARDS stand on either side of the VELVET THRONES. SERVANTS line up along the wall. Candles on the CHANDELIER light up the room.

Adele, now 19, sits perched on the edge her throne, drinking a CUP OF TEA. The King strides towards Adele as Christian trails behind him.

ADELE

Father, I'm so happy you're home safely.

Adele rises from the throne.

KING

I hope you weren't worried. We found the villagers were in need of nourishment.

A servant offers a cup of tea to the King. The King raises his hand. The servant leaves.

KING (CONT'D)

But as usual we fulfilled their needs.

Christian raises his cup.

CHRISTIAN

You should've been there.

KING

Speaking of which, I have just spoken to Christian and we have some concerns about your-

ADELE

Father, can this wait?

Adele SLURPS the rest of her tea. She holds out her empty cup. One of her servants runs over taking the empty cup away from her.

KING

It can't wait much longer my dear.

The King leaves Adele and Christian alone. Christian sits on the throne next to Adele.

CHRISTIAN

Are you paying attention to what is going on in the Kingdom?

Adele glances out the window. Christian places his hand on Adele's.

CHRISTIAN (CONT'D)

How will you address the concerns of the villagers?

Adele rips her hand away.

ADELE

Why don't you do it? You always think you know the best anyway.

Christian turns away from Adele.

CHRISTIAN

Well maybe I do.

ADELE

I'm sorry I said that.

Christian rises from his throne.

ADELE (CONT'D)

Look Christian I'd like to do more, but you don't allow it.

CHRISTIAN

Don't blame anyone but yourself.

Christian exits out the door. A RAVEN perched on a tree branch outside flies away.

INT. XANU'S CAVERN - DAY

Colorful potions line up next to each other on a shelf. A BLACK CAULDRON bubbles icky goop. A CRYSTAL BALL glows in the corner.

XANU, 52, stirs the goop in the cauldron with a spoon. Raven swoops in landing on his shoulder. Xanu pours the liquid into his mouth soon spewing the goo onto the ground.

RAVEN

How's the magic coming along?

Xanu wipes the goop off the ground with a filthy cloth.

XANU

Horrible. These stupid spells don't work!

Xanu throws his wand on the ground.

RAVEN

Did you forget to follow the instructions...again?

XANU

Why bother? It's useless. None of these spells will make me king.

RAVEN
Have you tried the invisibility
spell?

Xanu picks up a book titled, "WITCHCRAFT FOR BEGINNERS". He rapidly flips through the pages.

XANU
Why would I do that?

RAVEN
So you could kidnap the princess
and lure the king.

Xanu stops on a page.

XANU
Ah! Of course! This works
perfectly.

Xanu skims the page with his fingers.

EXT. ROYAL GARDEN - DAY

Bluebirds flutter around the garden spilling over with fruits and vegetables. A stone fountain streams water.

The King strolls around the garden watering the plants. Adele runs up to him.

ADELE
Did you want to see me father?

Adele and the King take a seat on the bench in the garden.

KING
I know that your life hasn't been
easy, losing your mother then being
held in a tower. I blame myself for
this.

ADELE
Why?

KING
I didn't keep you safe. These
ordeals may be keeping you from
being able to govern.

Adele crosses her arms.

ADELE

Well that's the past now, we can't change it. I can do much more if you'd let me.

KING

Perhaps you're right, but you'll have to start taking responsibility and show leadership.

ADELE

What do you mean?

The King turns away from Adele.

KING

If you don't take responsibility for yourself, you won't be able to accomplish your dreams.

ADELE

With your support, I know I can do it. I'm ready.

KING

If you can show me you are ready and capable enough to lead the Kingdom, I'll step down.

Christian comes out to the garden.

CHRISTIAN

You better hurry inside. The villagers will be here in an hour.

ADELE

Okay. Coming.

Adele hurries back into the castle.

INT. BALLROOM - DAY

A bright chandelier shines on the red carpet covering the floor. The villagers mingle amongst themselves from the other room.

Adele, dressed in a formal gown with her hair braided, goes down the stairs. ELLA, 16, glides to Adele.

ADELE

I don't think I can do this.

ELLA

Don't say that. You can do it.

Adele faces the staircase. Ella gets in front of her as she's about to go back up.

ELLA (CONT'D)

What's the worst that could happen?

ADELE

Nobody likes me. What if I mess up?

ELLA

You're going to do fine. Trust me.

Adele trembles as she moves away from the stairs.

ADELE

Any advice?

ELLA

You're smart and caring, just be yourself. I believe in you. Good luck.

Ella leaves Adele alone as she goes into the other room.

INT. THRONE ROOM - DAY

Villagers, dressed in tattered clothes, line up in front of the thrones. Ella stands against the wall facing Adele's throne.

Trumpets play as the COURT HERALD enters the door. He opens his scroll.

COURT HERALD

Now presenting the King of Norden.

The villagers applaud as the King takes his seat on the throne.

COURT HERALD (CONT'D)

And Princess Adele of Norden.

Silence fills the room as Adele comes out of the door and sits on the throne besides the King.

KING

You may approach.

A villager walks up to the King, kneeling down on one knee.

VILLAGER

Due to the pillaging earlier this year, I had no crops to sell. I respectfully request your help.

The villager rises.

The King nudges her arm.

KING

What do you think?

Adele fidgets with her hands.

ADELE

He should...uh...pull some money from his savings.

VILLAGER

My savings?

KING

Don't listen to her.

Adele slouches in her throne.

KING (CONT'D)

How much do you need?

The villager takes out an empty bag from his pocket.

VILLAGER

I just need a few gold coins, enough to buy seed for the spring planting.

The villager puts the empty bag away.

KING

That's a reasonable request. Don't you think?

ADELE

How do we know he's telling the truth? If we give him money, the others will want some.

The villager begs on his knees.

VILLAGER

Your majesty, I would never lie.

ADELE

I'm sorry but I can't loan you any
currency.

The villager rises.

VILLAGER

I best be going. I bid you a good
day.

Adele jumps up from her throne.

ADELE

Wait sir! I didn't mean it!

The villagers mumble to each other as the villager walks out
the door.

The King makes his way towards Adele. The villagers watch in
silence.

KING

I think it'd be best if you leave.

Ella runs to Adele.

ELLA

How was that being yourself?

ADELE

I felt like I was too nice to rule.
How can I be tough without knowing
what's going on?

Ella wraps her arm around Adele as they walk away.

The villagers applaud as the King takes his seat.

EXT. KINGDOM OF NORDEN - NIGHT

As the remaining villagers leave the castle, Xanu hides
behind a bush. He reaches into his bag and pulls out a WAND.
Raven swoops up to a tree branch.

Xanu circles his wand in the air.

XANU

Abracadabra! Alakazam!

The wand doesn't activate.

RAVEN

Are you sure those are the magic words?

XANU

Hold on. I have it somewhere.

Xanu digs his hands into his pocket pulling out a page from his spell book. He once again circles his wand in the air.

XANU (CONT'D)

Clear as day, dark as night. Keep me out of sight.

The wand zaps Xanu turning him invisible. His footsteps trail out of the bushes.

Raven flutters off of the tree branch. He flaps his wings as he searches for Xanu.

Something SPLASHES into the fountain.

Raven flies over to the fountain following the trail of the wet footprints leading towards the castle.

Villagers are shoved aside as they leave the castle.

XANU (V.O) (CONT'D)

Hey watch it buddy!

FEMALE VILLAGER

Who said that?

MALE VILLAGER

We better get out of here quick. That castle could be haunted.

The villagers sprint away from the castle.

INT. HALLWAY - NIGHT

Statues of knights stands up along the walls. The velvet carpet covers the floor. Adele's door slightly creaks open.

A shadowy figure lurks on the wall. Adele comes out of her room holding a lit candle in her pajamas half-awake. The shadowy figure stops in its place.

She shines her light on the figure, which disappears.

ADELE
Hello? Anyone there?

Adele looks up and sees Christian floating in the air sound asleep. Xanu slowly becomes visible.

ADELE (CONT'D)
How'd you get here?

Xanu backs away from Adele, hiding in his cloak. Adele tumbles him to the floor.

Xanu lets go of Christian. Adele POUNDS on the walls.

ADELE (CONT'D)
Guards! Somebody help! Guards!

Adele continues to pound on the walls.

Xanu lurks towards Adele, cornering her against the wall.

He points his wand at Adele. Adele faints on the floor.

Xanu disappears with Christian in a puff of smoke.

A guard rushes to Adele, still unconscious laying on the floor.

Ella comes out of her room and shakes her. Adele revives.

ELLA
What happened?

ADELE
Someone took Christian away! He's gone.

The guard checks Christian's room, then darts down the stairs.

INT. THRONE ROOM - DAY

The King rolls up his sleeves, marching towards Adele, pacing around the room.

KING
How could you let this happen?

ADELE
I fought him but he cast a spell on me.

KING

What did he look like? How did he
get in?

Adele stops in her place arms shaking.

ADELE

I couldn't tell! It was dark and
happened so fast.

KING

One of the guards saw you sleeping
on the floor.

The King takes a seat on the throne. Ella, about to enter
the room, stops and eavesdrops just outside.

KING (CONT'D)

I better prepare them to search for
him.

ADELE

I can explain.

KING

I don't want to hear any excuses
from you.

Ella sprints up to the King, pleading on her knees.

ELLA

But father!

KING

What?

ELLA

She saw the whole thing happen.

The King faces Adele.

KING

Where did he take Christian?

ADELE

I don't know. He was in front of me
one minute then Ella was waking me
up the next.

Ella nods.

ELLA

It's true.

KING

I'm through with this conversation.

The King gets off the throne walking down the steps.

ADELE

I didn't mean to father.

KING

Enough Adele. The guards are on their way.

ELLA

Can't you give her another chance?

The King places his hand on Ella.

KING

I'm afraid she's ran out of second chances.

The King abruptly leaves. Ella grabs Adele's hand.

ELLA

What are you going to do?

Adele unlatches Ella's hand from hers.

ADELE

I need some time alone.

INT. ADELE'S ROOM - DAY

Dozens of pillows cover the tidy bed. The sun shines through the spacious room. A painted portrait of Christian hangs on the wall across the room.

Adele glides her hand down the portrait. Ella enters.

ELLA

What are you doing?

ADELE

Just living in the past.

Adele sits beside window.

ELLA
Start living in the present.
Christian needs you.

ADELE
Father's sending the guards.

ELLA
Adele...you should go. You should
go find him.

Ella sits next to Adele.

ELLA
When you were locked away, he
risked his life for you. You should
do the same for him.

ADELE
I don't know.

Adele looks out the window. Guards trail into the castle.
Adele shuts the window.

ELLA
There's still time. Go now.

ADELE
It doesn't matter. You saw how
father treated me!

ELLA
I don't care what father says. You
have to prove him wrong.

Adele turns her back on Ella.

ADELE
How am I going to do that?

ELLA
Stop living in Christian's shadow!
He's been doing most of your work
and now's your moment to shine!

Adele glances back at Ella.

ADELE
What's the point? He won't listen
to me anyways.

ELLA
Defend yourself! Stop letting
people push you around.

Adele stands up.

ELLA (CONT'D)
You're a strong independent woman.
You'll always be in Christian's
shadow if you don't do this.

Ella spins Adele to the door.

ELLA (CONT'D)
Go! You can do this!

Adele heads out to the-

HALLWAY

Adele rushes down the hall and bumps into the guard at the
end of the hallway.

GUARD
Where are you going?

ADELE
I just wanted to see my father.

The guard places one hand on the wall.

GUARD
I'm afraid not. I've been given
strict orders to-

ADELE
Look it's really important.

The guard bounces side to side as Adele tries to get past
him.

GUARD
I'm sorry your Majesty.

ADELE
Let me leave!

The guard steps out of the way as Adele passes him.

GUARD
Your Majesty. The King's awfully
busy down there.

Adele spins towards the guard.

ADELE

It's an important matter.

GUARD

Wait! Your majesty!

The guard chases Adele down the stairs to the-

DINING ROOM

The table neatly set with silverware organized. Small amounts of food cover the table. A bouquet of flowers blossom in the center of the table.

The King sits at the table looking at his MAP as he picks at the food on his plate.

Adele rushes into the room. The King places his silverware on the plate.

KING

What are you doing here?

The guard comes into the room.

GUARD

I'm terribly sorry your Highness.
She sped past me.

The King sends the guard away. The guard leaves.

KING

What did you want to discuss?

ADELE

If you'd let me, I'd like to leave
the castle.

The King clasps his hands to his chest.

KING

Why should I?

ADELE

I take responsibility for
Christian's kidnapping. I'd like to
search for him.

KING

Very well then.

The King places the map into Adele's hands.

ADELE
What's this for?

KING
The Kingdom is a big place to get lost in. As long as you have this, you'll find your way back.

Adele opens the map, closely examining it.

KING (CONT'D)
Before you go I advise you to stay away from the cavern.

The King pulls out a FOUNTAIN PEN marking a big X on the cavern labeled on the map.

ADELE
Why? Is it dangerous?

KING
Very. There's a legend that says whoever enters the cavern never comes out.

The King marks other places on the map with his pen.

KING (CONT'D)
Avoid these places as well. They're full of ogres.

ADELE
Where am I supposed to look?

The King outlines a path on the map.

KING
Go to Peasantville. The villagers might be able to help you out.

The King puts the pen back in his pocket.

KING (CONT'D)
If he's not back in a fortnight I'll send the guards to search for both of you.

The King scoots his chair back, Adele scurries to the other side of the table blocking his path.

ADELE
I promise I'll be back before then.

The King hands the map back to Adele.

KING

Get ready to go. I'll call off the guards.

ADELE

Thank you father.

Adele hurriedly leaves the room.

INT. XANU'S CAVERN - DAY

Flaming candles light all over the room. Christian lays motionless on the floor, locked inside a STEEL CAGE.

Xanu carries a bucket of water in his hand, and places it on the ground.

XANU

That was a close. Now that step one is complete-

Raven perches on his shoulder.

RAVEN

Uh..boss? Weren't you supposed to capture the princess?

XANU

What for?

RAVEN

You don't remember the plan do you?

Xanu takes a closer glimpse at Christian.

XANU

I could've sworn I had her. What does the book say?

Raven flutters over to the spell book and opens up to a page.

RAVEN

Side effects of the invisibility spell might include blindness and nausea.

XANU

No wonder I kept falling. Oh well, I guess he has to do for now.

Xanu SPLASHES water on Christian. He awakens coughing water out of his mouth. He rushes to the cage doors.

CHRISTIAN
How'd I get here?

XANU
Silence! That's none of your
concern.

Christian rattles the bars.

CHRISTIAN
As prince of Norden, I order you to
release me at once.

XANU
Never.

CHRISTIAN
What do you want from me?

Xanu turns away from Christian.

XANU
I don't want anything from you. The
king has something I need.

Christian looks around the cavern.

CHRISTIAN
Nicer clothes? Bigger place?

XANU
Yes but most importantly a throne.

CHRISTIAN
You're not next in line though.

Xanu shuffles through scraps of paper piled near the spell
book.

XANU
Not yet.

Raven flies out of his cage, landing on Xanu's shoulder.

CHRISTIAN
Where are you going?

XANU
Enough of your foolish questions.

Xanu stalks away and disappears into the pitch black
darkness of the cavern.

INT. THRONE ROOM - DAY

A line of guards march into the room. They line up along the wall as the King enters.

KING
Gentleman, I know this sounds hard
to believe but at this moment you
are dismissed.

The guards glance at each other.

KING (CONT'D)
Your job isn't over yet. For now
patrol the outside of the castle.

A guard takes a step forward. The King raises his hand. The guard takes a step back.

KING (CONT'D)
In the meantime, Adele will be
taking your place.

The guards mingle amongst themselves.

KING (CONT'D)
Silence. I'll call you back here
once you're needed again.

Ella saunters into the room.

ELLA
Is this a bad time?

KING
Hold on a second.

ELLA
Yes father.

The King returns his attention to the guards as Ella gives him some space.

KING
(to the guards)
You may leave.

The guards march out of the room. The King takes his seat on the throne.

ELLA
Something troubling you?

KING
No. I'm fine.

The King slumps forward, covering his head. Ella places her hand on his shoulder.

ELLA
Don't you trust her?

KING
I do. I'm just worried about her.

The King rises from the throne.

KING (CONT'D)
You think I should send the guards with her?

ELLA
She's capable of being doing this on her own.

Ella grasps his hand tight.

ELLA (CONT'D)
Do you really think having someone do Adele's job will make her a leader?

KING
You're right. I didn't mean to react like that.

Ella releases her hand from the King as he rises from the throne.

ELLA
I'm worried too but we'll have to put our trust into her hands.

KING
Yes. That's true.

The King places his arms around Ella as they make their way down the stairs.

KING (CONT'D)
We better see how she's doing.

Ella and the King leave the room.

INT. XANU'S CAVERN - DAY

Christian strums his fingers on the cell bars as Xanu furiously rips through the pages of his spell book. Raven flutters to the top shelf above him. Xanu stops on a page.

XANU

Ahh..Chapter Seven: Transformation
Spells.

RAVEN

You sure about that? Remember the
whole dragon thing?

Xanu rubs his stomach.

XANU

Don't remind me.

RAVEN

Should we release him?

Xanu slams the spell book closed.

XANU

And have the royal guards skin us
to bits?

RAVEN

What do you propose we do then?

Xanu shuffles his hands in his pockets and pulls out a piece of paper which reads, "DEATH POTION" on it.

XANU

Go to the market and bring this
potion to me.

RAVEN

Who's it for?

XANU

Who do you think?

Raven flutters next to the potions on the shelves.

RAVEN

I don't get how poisoning the
prince will make you king.

XANU

Once the potion takes full effect,
I'll transform myself into the
prince then kill the king.

Raven lands on Xanu's shoulder.

RAVEN

Wow. How original. Like that hasn't been done a million times before.

Raven bursts into hysterical laughter. Xanu grabs Raven's throat with a tight firm grip.

XANU

But first I'll marry the princess.

Xanu lets go of Raven. Raven covers his head with his wing.

RAVEN

That's disgusting! She would never marry you!

XANU

Nonsense. She'd never know.

Xanu hands Raven the paper.

RAVEN

That's it? You sure you don't want me to pick up any food or-

XANU

Quit stalling! We don't have time to waste.

RAVEN

Okay okay! I'll be back!

Raven flutters out of the cavern, carrying the list in his beak.

Xanu pulls out a set of KEYS as he unlocks the door to Christian's cell.

The door locks behind him as he snips a piece of Christian's hair with his scissors.

Xanu spins around eying the keys outside the cell door. He rattles the bars.

He pushes the door open and leaves the cell. Xanu locks the door behind him.

EXT. KINGDOM OF NORDEN - DAY

A majestic brown horse trots up to the front of the castle. Adele's servants bow as she exits the castle.

She approaches her horse, closely examining it. Adele attempts to get on her horse, but gets her leg caught in the stirrup.

The King and Ella approach Adele, who dangles upside down.

ELLA

There's one way to ride a horse.

Adele falls to the ground and dusts herself off. The King helps Adele onto the horse.

ADELE

So I guess this is it.

ELLA

Be safe.

The King places his hand on Ella's shoulder.

KING

Yes. Make sure to watch out for any vicious animals.

ELLA

Especially the lions and tigers an-

The King covers Ella's mouth.

KING

Don't be silly. No such creatures are around here.

Ella removes the King's hand.

ELLA

Oh. Right.

ADELE

Before I leave I wanted to give you something.

Adele reaches into her pocket and hands Ella a LOCKET. Ella opens the locket which reveals a picture of her and Adele.

ELLA

For me?

ADELE

Yes. Look at that when you start to miss me.

Ella puts the locket on.

ELLA

I promise I'll look at it every day.

KING

Come back soon.

Adele grasps the reigns.

ADELE

I will. So long father.

Adele softly kicks the side of her horse. The horse doesn't budge.

ADELE (CONT'D)

Come on boy! Let's go!

KING

Yank the reigns a bit.

Adele yanks the reigns. The horse trots away from the castle.

ADELE

Goodbye Ella! Take care of father for me.

As the metal gates open, Adele glances back at Ella and the King waving.

KING

Come. Supper's almost ready.

Ella follows the King into the castle.

She stops in her place, looking back at Adele.

Ella holds the locket tight as she enters the castle.

The castle gates close as Adele rides off into the distance.

EXT. ENCHANTED FOREST - DAY

The flowers blossom in the bright sunlight near a sign pointing in various directions. A sign reading "DARK FOREST" points to the left.

A DWARF, covered in soot, carries a PICKAXE whistling as he comes around the corner.

Adele's horse trots up to the dwarf. The horse neighs as he moves away from the dwarf.

Adele gets off of her horse, holding the map in her hand.

DWARF

Woah! Watch it buddy!

Adele looks around.

ADELE

Who said that?

The dwarf taps her leg. Adele looks down at him.

DWARF

Can I help you?

ADELE

Oh hi. Didn't see you there. Have you seen a man with a prince come through here?

Adele unfolds her map showing it to the dwarf.

DWARF

What prince?

ADELE

You know? Big tall guy.

The dwarf places his hands on his hips.

DWARF

What are you trying to say?

Adele cautiously backs away to her horse.

ADELE

Oh I didn't mean you were small or anything. I mean-

DWARF

We dwarfs have feelings too you know. What do I look like to you?

ADELE

A troll? An elf? A fairy?

The dwarf throws his pickaxe to the side.

DWARF

Say that one more time! I dare you!

ADELE

No need to have a short temper.

DWARF

That's it! I had it! There was a line drawn in the ground and you just crossed it!

The dwarf reaches into Adele's pocket pulling out her map. He opens it up.

ADELE

I guess you can look at it but-

DWARF

You just made the biggest mistake of your life.

The dwarf furiously shreds Adele's map to bits and pieces.

ADELE

Oh great! Thanks a lot. How do you suppose I find my way back?

The dwarf climbs onto Adele's horse.

DWARF

Click your heels three times and say "There's no place like home."

Adele hands the dwarf his pickaxe.

ADELE

What are you doing with my horse?

DWARF

Not your horse anymore. So long.

The dwarf rides Adele's horse into the dark forest.

Adele follows a sign pointing to the right that reads, "PEASANTVILLE."

EXT. PEASANTVILLE - DAY

Buildings with boarded windows line along the dirt road. STREET VENDORS roll their cart around down the road with stray animals beside them.

Adele stumbles along the road looking around. She approaches a street vendor holding a sign that reads, "Apples: 3 coins"

ADELE

Excuse me sir? Have you seen-

STREET VENDOR

Want an apple? Very cheap.

ADELE

No thanks. I was-

The street vendor rolls his cart away from Adele. Adele follows him.

ADELE (CONT'D)

I was wondering if you've seen someone-

STREET VENDOR

I haven't seen anyone! Okay?

Adele backs away from the street vendor.

ADELE

If I could just have a minute of your time...

The street vendor rolls his cart away from Adele.

STREET VENDOR

Apples! Apples! Get your non poisonous apples here!

Adele knocks on the doors of each building. The windows SLAM shut.

Adele approaches a pub. She looks up at the dusty sign that reads, "YE OLDE DRINKING PUB".

Adele stands besides the entrance signaling down peasants as they pass by.

A PEASANT stumbles out with half of his drink in his hand. The peasant chugs his drink and collapses on the ground.

Adele steps over him and enters-

INT. YE OLDE DRINKING PUB

Drunken MEN gather at their tables chugging their drinks. A puddle of liquor drains into a crack in the hardwood floor.

Adele approaches the BARTENDER. She takes a seat on the stool.

BARTENDER
What will it be?

ADELE
Nothing for me.

BARTENDER
Look I'm having a rough day. Are you going to order something or not?

ADELE
I just wanted to ask you some questions.

The bartender taps the menu, dangling above him.

BARTENDER
Every customer comes here asking me for advice.

ADELE
I don't need advice. I was-

BARTENDER
Either order something or leave!

Adele glances up at the menu as she pulls out some change from her pocket.

ADELE
Fine. I'll have some tea.

BARTENDER
Tea? We don't have any.

ADELE
Just give me whatever you have.

BARTENDER
Suit yourself.

The bartender fills a glass with beer.

ADELE

So have you seen a prince come
through here?

BARTENDER

No. I haven't.

The bartender slides Adele's drink to her.

JOHN, 21, dressed in tattered clothes, his pants covered
with dirt, swings the doors open.

John scans the room and spots Adele at the counter alone. He
wets the palms of his hands, and combs his hair back.

He struts next Adele and takes a seat. He taps the
bartenders arm.

JOHN

Give me the usual.

The bartender prepares John's drink. John veers his
attention towards Adele sipping her drink.

JOHN (CONT'D)

Is that a magic lamp in your pocket
or are you just happy to see me?

ADELE

Excuse me?

JOHN

Hi. I'm John.

John reaches his hand out.

ADELE

Have you seen a prince anywhere?

The bartender gives John his drink.

JOHN

That's strange. I'm looking for a
princess.

John nudges Adele's arm as he downs his drink.

ADELE

Uh..no thanks. I'm engaged.

Adele flashes her ring on her finger.

JOHN
On my way over I saw something
strange in the forest.

ADELE
Sure you did.

John refills his drink while the bartender is turned away.

JOHN
No seriously. I saw a trail of
footprints leading somewhere.

ADELE
Are you sure it wasn't yours?

John leaps off of his stool.

JOHN
Come on. Let me show you.

ADELE
No thanks. I'd rather look on my
own.

Adele exits out the door. John climbs back on his stool,
swirling his drink.

BARTENDER
Don't take it personally.

JOHN
I'm used to it. You think I came on
too strong?

BARTENDER
Pretty much.

John hands the bartender a few coins.

BARTENDER (CONT'D)
Women would like you if you didn't
hit on them.

John chugs the rest of his drink and slams the glass on the
counter. He hops off of his stool.

JOHN
That's true. I better get going.

BARTENDER
Hold up pal. You're a bit light
here.

JOHN
Fine. Keep the change.

John places a five more coins on the counter and runs out the door.

INT. JOHN'S HOUSE- DINING ROOM - DAY

A line of unlit candles align in the center red table cloth covering the circular wooden table.

John sits at one end of the table playing with his food on the plate. BETH, 53, hands a list of grocery items to a SERVANT.

BETH
Why so down? Is this about a girl?

JOHN
I don't want to talk about it.

Beth places her hand on John's.

BETH
Tell me about her. What's she like?

JOHN
When I first saw her, I thought we were meant to be, but she doesn't feel the same about me.

John moves his hand away.

BETH
Why?

JOHN
She's engaged to a prince and has been searching for him.

BETH
Let's go find her and help her out!

John snaps his fingers. An AIDE takes away his plate.

JOHN
She doesn't want any help. Besides she hates me.

BETH
No she doesn't. Any girl would be lucky to be with a guy like you.

He scoots his chair back as he pulls himself up from his seat.

BETH (CONT'D)
Let's go out for a walk.

Beth pulls her chair out as she puts on her coat. John and Beth exit.

EXT. MARKET - DAY

Stores line along the road selling various items, such as clothing, paintings, and food. VILLAGERS browse the shops. Raven flies overhead, holding Xanu's list in his beak.

Adele approaches a shop that reads, "POTIONS"

ADELE
Excuse me. Have you-

Raven swoops down, grabbing the death potion from the table.

SHOP OWNER
Someone capture that bird!

The villagers move to the side as Adele chases Raven down the rows of shops.

Raven lands on a counter with the death potion attached to his feet. Adele pounces on him as he releases the bottle.

Adele grabs the death potion as she pulls Raven away from the shops.

RAVEN
Give it back!

Raven covers his beak with his wings. Adele looks down at the Raven.

ADELE
Did you just say something?

Raven SQUAWKS as Adele corners him against a wall.

RAVEN
I didn't say anything! I mean...uh...

Raven flies away from the market. Adele returns to the potion shop, placing the death potion on the table.

ADELE

That parrot was trying to steal this. Can you tell me about it?

SHOP OWNER

The death potion is dangerous. Whoever drinks it instantly dies.

ADELE

What if someone mistakenly took the potion? Is there a cure?

SHOP OWNER

If someone had three drops, they'd be knocked out after one hour. The only cure, is love.

The shop owner puts the death potion away.

ADELE

Have you seen the prince come through here by any chance?

SHOP OWNER

No, but maybe he has.

John taps on Adele from behind. Adele turns around.

JOHN

Any luck?

ADELE

I'm doing fine thanks.

Adele leaves the potion shop, as John follows her.

JOHN

Really? You look like you could use some help.

ADELE

I don't know you. Stop following me. I'm capable of finding him on my own.

JOHN

Don't worry. I'm a great guy. Ask anybody.

Adele looks back at the shop owner giving her a thumbs up.

JOHN (CONT'D)

See? Look, it's getting late. Come stay at my place. We'll work on a plan to find your prince.

ADELE

There's no way I would ever go off with you.

Adele strides away from John and runs into BETH, 60.

ADELE (CONT'D)

Oh excuse me.

John puts his arm around Beth.

JOHN

Mother I'd like you to introduce you to...uh..

ADELE

Adele.

BETH

So you're the girl my little Johnny has been telling me about. We'd be happy to let you stay the night.

John looks away from Beth.

ADELE

Well if you are sure it's no trouble.

Beth and John lead Adele out of the market.

INT. XANU'S CAVERN - DAY

Xanu kicks his feet up on the table as he reads from his spell book. Raven zooms directly to his cage dangling over the crystal ball.

Raven slams the cage shut.

XANU

Did you get the potion?

RAVEN

Yeah. Sure did.

XANU

Where is it? Hand it to me.

Raven turns away from Xanu.

RAVEN

You mean now? I uh..

Xanu skims through the items on his list.

XANU

Give it to me!

RAVEN

Yeah about that. There was a bit of a problem.

XANU

What happened?

Xanu taps his foot, arms crossed.

RAVEN

You know the princess?

XANU

What about her?

RAVEN

She's in the market and caught me in the act!

Xanu pulls Raven out from his cage. Raven lands on the edge of the cauldron.

XANU

You didn't talk to her did you?

RAVEN

I'm sorry! I should've kept my beak shut.

Xanu strangles Raven with a tight grip.

XANU

What did I say about talking to people?

RAVEN

Look she took the potion away from me!

Xanu releases the Raven. Raven hovers in the air.

XANU
Where is it?

RAVEN
At the potion shop in the market.

XANU
Don't you realize we're missing an important ingredient? Bring it back here.

Raven lands on the edge of the cauldron folding his wings together.

RAVEN
Are you crazy? I'm not going out there again.

XANU
Go out and don't get caught. But this time, don't talk to anyone!

RAVEN
If you think you're so smart why don't you do it?

Xanu pulls out his wand, making a circle glow around him.

XANU
Stay here.

Xanu vanishes in a puff of smoke.

EXT. MARKET - DAY

As the sun goes down the villagers disperse while shops close down.

Xanu magically appears hidden behind a building. He approaches the shop owner, putting away the items from the table.

SHOP OWNER
Sorry sir. We're closed.

XANU
Now listen here, I need that death potion of yours.

SHOP OWNER
Come back tomorrow.

Xanu points his wand at the shop owner. The wand begins to glow.

The shop owner ducks under his desk and tosses different potions at Xanu. The wand stops glowing.

SHOP OWNER (CONT'D)
Please. Take whatever you want.

XANU
Give it to me before I turn you
into a bug, and squash you.

SHOP OWNER
It's right here but-

Xanu SLAMS the table.

XANU
Give it to me now!

The shop owner ducks under the table and hands the death potion to Xanu.

SHOP OWNER
Here, take it. It's free!

Xanu magically vanishes.

EXT. JOHN'S HOUSE - NIGHT

CROWS perch on the oak trees surrounding a two-story cottage in the middle of the forest.

John opens the door to his home. John, Beth, and Adele enter the-

LIVING ROOM

Animal heads cover the walls of the room. A pile of wood stacked in the fireplace. A velvet chair stands on the edge of the bear rug.

John closes the door behind him after Beth and Adele enter.

Adele examines the room while John's AIDE prepares their tea

JOHN
Make yourself at home.

John lights the wood on the fireplace. Adele takes a seat in one of the chairs. The aide passes cups of tea around the table.

BETH
So where are you from?

ADELE
Uh..Norden.

John takes off his boots as he plops on the velvet chair.
Beth sips her tea.

BETH
Really? We're from Brightcrest.
John and I are just here for the
spring.

ADELE
Maybe I should go.

Adele scoots her chair back. John jumps from his chair.

JOHN
You can't leave now. You just got
here!

ADELE
The love of my life is somewhere
out there waiting to be rescued. I
can't stay.

BETH
You can't go out at this time of
night. The forest is full of ogres.

Adele sits back in her chair, taking a cup of tea.

JOHN
In the meantime take a look at
this.

John walks over to a bookcase and removes a map, spreading
it on the table.

JOHN (CONT'D)
I figured the first place we should
check is the Enchanted Forest.

John points out a path with his finger.

Adele moves closer to John, taking a look at the map.

ADELE
No thanks! I'm never going back
there.

Adele puts her cup to the side.

JOHN

Why not?

ADELE

Some gnome ripped up my map and stole my horse.

JOHN

Maybe it was because you referred him as a gnome and not a dwarf.

John outlines a different path with his finger.

JOHN (CONT'D)

What about the dark forest?

Adele returns to her chair. John rolls up his map.

ADELE

Sounds too spooky for me.

JOHN

What do you suggest?

John puts the map away.

ADELE

I'm more interested in the footprints. Can you tell me more about them?

John leans back in his chair, sipping his tea.

JOHN

I've already told you everything I know.

ADELE

Would it be okay if we went there?

JOHN

Sure. I don't see why not.

Adele rises from her chair.

ADELE

Let's go.

JOHN

We can't go yet. We need a plan.

ADELE

What plan? All we have to do is follow the footprints. Why don't we get a head start?

John rises from his chair and approaches the staircase.

JOHN

Not now. We'll leave first thing in the morning. I promise.

ADELE

If you say so.

John goes up the stairs as Beth comes to Adele's side.

BETH

Let me show you to your room.

Adele follows Beth up the stairs.

EXT. KINGDOM OF NORDEN - NIGHT

Guards fill the exterior of the castle, on alert for intruders. The King, paces around the courtyard.

Ella, dressed in her PAJAMAS and ROBE, runs over to the King.

KING

What are you doing up this late?

ELLA

I can't sleep. I'm worried about Adele.

The King gets down on one knee.

KING

Go back inside. There's nothing to be worried about.

ELLA

How can you say that? I had a nightmare that Adele went missing.

KING

I'm worried about her also, but we have to stay strong. She's old enough to make the right choices.

Ella passes the King heading towards the gates.

KING
Where do you think you're going?

ELLA
I have to look for her.

The King pulls Ella back.

KING
In your pajamas?

ELLA
But father!

The King spins Ella around facing the castle.

KING
Enough Ella. Go inside. I'll be
right behind you.

Ella opens her locket glancing at the picture of Adele. Ella closes the locket. Ella returns to the castle.

EXT. JOHN'S HOUSE - DAY

Adele ties her shoes on the front steps. John comes out the door and sits next to her.

ADELE
Thanks for letting me stay over.

JOHN
Sure. No problem. My stable boy has
provided us a horse to make up
time.

A STABLE BOY comes around the corner with two horses.

John unfolds his map. Adele examines the map.

JOHN (CONT'D)
According to the map, the forest is
thirty miles east of here.

ADELE
Were the foot prints big?

JOHN
Don't think so. Looked human sized
to me.

Beth pokes her head out from the window.

BETH
Have fun you two! Remember John
you're allergic to nuts!

John spins towards Beth.

JOHN
Why do you keep telling everyone
that?

BETH
Remember last spring when we went
to the meadows?

John helps Adele to her feet.

JOHN
Let's get out of here quick.

BETH
John, one more thing! Don't go
swimming in the lake! It's full of
leeches!

John mounts onto his horse.

JOHN
We'll be fine! I promise. Goodbye
mother!

Beth runs out of the house.

BETH
Take care of Buttercup and
Sprinkles for me.

Beth waves as John and Adele ride off.

EXT. FOREST - DAY

A pile of leaves covers the trail of footprints on the dirt path. A deer drinks water in the distance.

Xanu appears behind a tree, hovering his hands over the ground. The ground glows as the footprints disappear.

Xanu vanishes in a puff of smoke.

Adele rides along the path, stopping in front of the pile of leaves. A gusty wind blows the leaves away.

John catches up to Adele.

He hurdles off his horse, examining the ground.

ADELE

Do you think we passed it? Should we turn around?

Adele examines John's map.

JOHN

Thought they were here before.

ADELE

Let's split up. You go back in town and I'll look around here.

John puts his map away.

JOHN

I can't. We have to stick together. Perhaps we should check this cavern nearby.

Adele backs away from John.

JOHN (CONT'D)

What's wrong?

ADELE

My father told me to stay away from there.

John holds Adele's hand, glaring into her eyes.

JOHN

I'll be with you.

She rips her hand away.

ADELE

Can't we look somewhere else?

JOHN

Whats the harm in looking?

She hops on her horse, grasping the reigns.

ADELE

What makes you think he's there?

JOHN

Villagers say whoever goes into the cavern never come out.

ADELE

I'm sorry, but I don't think I can go there with you.

Adele's horse gallops away.

EXT. LAKE - DAY

The sun's vibrant beam shines on the crystal clear water. A family of ducks waddle past Adele, slumped on the ground next to John's horse.

John's horse halts in front of Adele. John hops down from his horse.

ADELE

Leave me alone.

JOHN

What about your prince?

ADELE

If you think he's there, bring him to Norden.

JOHN

Do you expect me to do that? How do you think the King would react if I did your job?

She turns away from him, crossing her arms.

ADELE

It wouldn't make a difference. I'm used to people doing things for me.

JOHN

This is your chance to prove to everyone you can do this!

ADELE

If you insist on staying together, I'd rather look somewhere else first. Follow me.

John helps Adele onto his horse. Adele yanks the reins as the horses trot away.

EXT. PIXIE MEADOWS - DAY

Swarms of pint sized PIXIES sparkle PIXIE DUST buzzing from tree to tree. Wooden houses slightly tilt on the tree branches in the distance.

VIXEN, a blonde pixie, sips a cup of tea on an empty tree branch.

The ground vibrates, causing her to spill tea all over herself. She spots the horses pass by.

Vixen lands on Adele's arm.

ADELE

Eww..a bug.

Just before squashing Vixen, John swipes her hand away.

JOHN

Relax. It's a pixie.

Vixen dusts herself off.

VIXEN

Be more careful next time.

ADELE

We're looking for a prince. Seen him anywhere?

VIXEN

You're the first human we've seen in years. Didn't you read the sign?

She points to a sign which reads, "No Humans Allowed".

VIXEN (CONT'D)

So if I were you, I'd go back into town where you belong.

Vixen flies back to the tree branch. John turns his horse around.

JOHN

We should do what she says.

ADELE

She can't tell me what to do. Go ahead. I'll catch up.

His horse dashes away from Adele. Pixies burst from their trees, hovering in front of her.

ADELE (CONT'D)

What are you going to do? Sparkle
me to death?

Vixen snaps her fingers as the pixies charge at Adele. Her horse spins around, rapidly galloping away.

EXT. POTION SHOP - DAY

Dust covers the empty shelves. A WOODEN BOX, labeled "POTIONS" lies on the ground next to the shop owner placing the remaining potions in the box.

Adele and John approach the empty counter. The shop owner rises from the ground.

SHOP OWNER

Have you seen a guy who's six feet tall covered in a cloth? He took a valuable potion from me.

ADELE

That's terrible. Where'd he go?

SHOP OWNER

I don't know. Once I gave him the potion, he disappeared.

John pulls Adele to the side as the shop owner leaves the shop, carrying his box.

JOHN

Come on. Let's get out of here.

John makes his way to his horse.

JOHN (CONT'D)

Are you coming?

ADELE

You're crazy if you think-

JOHN

We don't have time to waste.

INT. XANU'S CAVERN - DAY

Christian clenches on the steel cage doors as Xanu places each of the ingredients into the cauldron. Raven hovers next to him.

XANU

Let's see. A lock of hair, a drop
of blood, and a tear drop.

Xanu stirs the MIXED INGREDIENTS with a wooden spoon.

XANU (CONT'D)

Double, double toil and trouble.
Fire burn and cauldron bubble.

Nothing happens.

RAVEN

I've told you. Those aren't the
magic words.

XANU

Quiet! You're making me lose my
concentration.

RAVEN

What are we going to do about him?

XANU

Who?

Raven lands on Xanu's shoulder pointing his wing at
Christian.

XANU (CONT'D)

Oh right. I forgot he was there.

CHRISTIAN

Once the King arrives you'll be
locked away for good. You'll see!

Xanu places the spoon to the side as he lurks towards
Christian.

CHRISTIAN (CONT'D)

He is coming...right?

XANU

See for yourself.

Xanu moves the CRYSTAL BALL next to Christian's cage. The
crystal ball shows Adele riding on John's horse.

Christian backs against a cell wall.

CHRISTIAN

No. It..it can't be.

Xanu turns away from Christians cell. Raven leans close to Xanu.

RAVEN

What about the princess? She'll be here any moment.

Raven swoops off of Xanu's shoulder, hovering in mid air. Xanu flicks out his wand from his pocket.

XANU

Keep an eye on him.

Raven hovers towards Christian as Xanu magically vanishes.

EXT. FOREST - DAY

Xanu circles the wand over his head behind a tree. A glowing light surrounds him, as he transforms into a hideous elderly WITCH.

John and Adele's horse gallop past the tree. The witch jumps out on to the path.

XANU (WITCH)

Excuse me dearie!

Adele's horse screeches its hooves in the dirt.

ADELE

Can I help you miss?

XANU (WITCH)

Rumor around town says you're looking for a prince.

ADELE

I am. Have you seen him?

A bright glow bursts from his hands over the dirt. A blue path magically appears.

XANU (WITCH)

Follow this path, and you'll find him in no time.

ADELE

You sure?

XANU (WITCH)

Yes. Now hurry along.

John gestures Adele to the side.

JOHN
Are you really going to listen to her? What if it's a trick?

ADELE
Let's go. We don't have time to waste.

Adele and John ride away as Xanu disappears.

EXT. ROYAL GARDEN - DAY

The King paces around the fountain. A GUARD approaches him.

KING
What are you doing here?

GUARD
Terribly sorry your highness. It regards the princess.

KING
Has she returned?

GUARD
Not yet. It's been quite some time since she left. What do you expect us to do?

Ella slithers out from of the doors, eavesdropping from behind a tree near the fountain.

KING
Resume your position. I'll let you know when it's time.

GUARD
Yes your highness.

The guard sprints inside the castle. Ella clenches her LOCKET. The King appears in front of her.

KING
What are you doing?

ELLA
I'm sorry father. Can't you just send me instead of the guards?

The King bends down on his knee.

KING
I can't risk losing you out there.

ELLA
Why?

He places his hand on Ella's shoulder.

KING
It's not safe.

ELLA
Can't you send one of the guards
with me?

The King rises.

KING
That's enough Ella.

ELLA
But father!

The King goes inside leaving Ella alone. She slumps to the ground, burying her head into her hands.

EXT. HAUNTED FOREST - DAY

VULTURES perch on leafless tree branches high above the blue path on the ground. Fog spreads around the base of the trees overlapping the path.

John and Adele's horses steadily trot beside each other on the path.

JOHN
I can't believe you.

ADELE
What?

John crosses his arms.

JOHN
You just had to listen to her. I
thought we were a team.

ADELE
We are! She was just being helpful.
What was I supposed to do?

JOHN
We should've stuck to the original
plan.

ADELE
I can't go against my fathers
orders.

John's horse stops in its place.

JOHN
He doesn't have to know you went
there.

ADELE
I could never lie to him.

JOHN
Why should I help if we're not
going to work together?

John turns his horse around.

ADELE
John! Wait!

Adele grabs his shoulder.

ADELE (CONT'D)
You're right. I should've listened.
We'll turn around if he's not
there.

JOHN
You promise?

ADELE
Yes.

JOHN
Very well.

John's horse spins around. The vulture flies away as their
horses sprint along the path.

EXT. RIVER - DAY

Pieces of wood from a broken bridge scatter around the
ground. Groups of FISH swim in a flow of water.

Their horses ride up to the river, soon coming to a complete
stop.

John leaps off of his horse, grabbing the reigns.

ADELE
What are you doing?

JOHN
I can't pull them by myself.

ADELE
Maybe there's another way around.

John helps Adele get off of her horse. He places his hand on top of hers.

JOHN
Follow my lead. I got you.

Adele pulls the reign on her horse. John steps in front of her, taking a few steps into the rushing river.

She slowly approaches him and grabs his hand with a firm grip.

As they cross the knee deep river, Adele shivers, but still remains focused on John.

Adele lets go and slips in the river. As the flow of the river starts to carry her away, John quickly pulls her up.

She wraps her arm around John, as he assists her to the other side.

JOHN
You all right?

ADELE
Yes. I'm fine.

They ride past a sign that reads "DANGER: OGRES AHEAD".

INT. XANU'S CAVERN - DAY

Christian leans against the wall in his cage, glancing at the crystal ball. Xanu appears back in regular form.

He bolts to the cell door.

CHRISTIAN
Where did you send her?

Xanu collapses on a stool, kicking his feet up on the table.

XANU
It's none of your concern.

CHRISTIAN
I swear, if you lay a finger on her
I'll-

Raven swoops from outside the cavern, landing on the edge of the cauldron.

RAVEN
You better hurry. There's no time
to waste.

XANU
What are you talking about?

RAVEN
The sun doesn't set for hours and
the ogres are sleeping.

XANU
So?

RAVEN
They'll turn around and come here!

Xanu taps the edge of his wand on the table.

XANU
How much time to we have?

RAVEN
Not much.

Xanu magically disappears in a puff of smoke.

EXT. OGRE FOREST - DAY

Thunderous snoring from OGRES echoes from the dark caves that are lined next to each other. Giant ogre footprints scatter all over the ground.

Xanu bangs his hands on the side of the cave.

He pokes his head into the pitch black darkness of the cave.

He pulls out his wand as he leaves circling the wand in the air.

XANU

Clear as day, dark as night...no
wait that's not it.

He points the wand at the sun. He hurls his wand on the
ground, and stomps all over it.

Raven soars in the air landing on his shoulder.

XANU (CONT'D)

What's the spell again?

RAVEN

Did you even read the book I got
you?

XANU

I skimmed it. Tell me what to do.

Raven hovers next to him as bushes rustle in the distance.

RAVEN

You would've known if you read the
book.

Raven flies back to the cavern.

The horses trotting are heard in the distance. Xanu circles
the wand in the air.

XANU

Sunrise sunset. Awake the ogres
from their rest.

The sun suddenly sets as an OGRE comes out from his cave.
Xanu disappears in a puff of smoke.

INT. THRONE ROOM - NIGHT

Ella sits on the throne next to the King. The King puts his
cup of tea to the side as he pulls out a scroll from his
pocket.

ELLA

Are you sure about this?

KING

One day your time will come. Being
queen isn't all fun and games. It
takes responsibility.

ELLA

Can we continue this lecture later?

KING

No. This is extremely important.

The King opens his scroll.

KING (CONT'D)

The main royal duty as Queen involves helping others when they need it.

ELLA

Such as?

KING

If someone wants money, we can loan them some.

ELLA

Sounds like a waste. I mean if we loan someone some coins, everyone else will want some also.

The King puts the scroll away.

KING

Ahh...here's your chance. Remember what I taught you.

A VILLAGER, dressed in tattered clothes, enters the room, kneeling in front of them.

The villager rises from the floor.

ELLA

Can I...help you?

VILLAGER

I've been living on the streets for the past few days with nowhere to go. Can you help?

Ella quickly turns to the King, sipping his tea, then back at the villager. She crosses her arms and legs.

ELLA

It's your fault. There's nothing I can do about it.

The King spews tea from his mouth.

ELLA (CONT'D)
So get a job and save some gold
coins for a new home.

The villager bows then hurries out the door.

The King collapses on his throne as a SERVANT takes away his empty cup.

ELLA (CONT'D)
How was that?

KING
Were you even paying attention?

ELLA
I did what you said.

The King throws his hands in the air.

KING
We could've loaned him some money!

ELLA
You expect me to do that? I'm sure
Adele would've handled this better.

KING
But she's not here!

ELLA
I'm terribly sorry father. It won't
happen again.

The King rises from the throne, scurries down the stairs.

KING
Hopefully he hasn't gone too far.
Excuse me for a moment.

The King bolts out the door, chasing after the villager.

INT. XANU'S CAVERN - NIGHT

Xanu shuffles through his spell book, as Christian observes him from his cage. Raven nibbles on bird food, placed on a dish.

XANU
We have no time to waste.

He slams the book shut.

XANU (CONT'D)
Bring me the potion!

Raven flutters over to the potion shelves, and takes the bottle labeled, "DEATH POTION" with his feet.

RAVEN
This one?

XANU
Yes! Give it to me.

Xanu lurks over to Raven, swiping the potion from his wing. He pops the cap off the bottle.

XANU (CONT'D)
Ah..perfect.

Christian falls back in his cage.

CHRISTIAN
Did you bring me here to poison me?

XANU
No. Of course not! Now hold still.

Christian crawls back against the back of the cage. Xanu creeps to the other side, next to him.

CHRISTIAN
No! Don't! I beg you!

XANU
Just relax.

CHRISTIAN
Stay away from me!

Xanu slithers his hand between the steel bars. Christian slams his mouth shut.

XANU
Hold still.

As he turns away, Xanu grasps Christian's face. He slightly tilts the bottle in his mouth.

Three drops of the potion slowly leave the bottle, soon landing on his tongue.

Xanu removes the bottle from his mouth.

Christian struggles to get up as Xanu puts the cap on.

CHRISTIAN

What..what did you do to me?

Raven squawks as Xanu places the potion back on the shelf.

RAVEN

Squawk! You're dead meat! Squawk!

CHRISTIAN

Is that sparrow right?

RAVEN

I'm a raven! I mean...caw! Caw!

XANU

Get over here.

Raven flutters over to Xanu.

XANU (CONT'D)

Remember what I said about keeping
your beak shut?

RAVEN

Sorry boss.

Xanu and Raven disappear in the pitch black darkness of the cavern as Christian trembles in his cage.

EXT. OGRE FOREST - DUSK

A muscular eight foot OGRE, drools as he roasts a dead CHICKEN by a small campfire in the distance.

John and Adele ride up to the wooden sign. They get off their horses.

ADELE

You here Christian? It's me!

The ogre overhears Adele's echo and swallows the chicken in one bite as he stomps towards them.

JOHN

Told you.

ADELE

Son of a witch! You were right.

JOHN

So..now what?

ADELE

I don't care what he says. Let's
check out the cavern.

The ogre, towering over Adele, taps her shoulder. She looks up at him.

She nudges John's arm.

ADELE (CONT'D)

You think that giant has seen him?

The ogre takes a step back, placing one hand on his chest.

OGRE

W-who you calling giant? Ogre has
feelings too.

ADELE

Oh. I'm sorry. It's just-

OGRE

What is human doing in ogre
territory?

ADELE

We were hoping you'd see a small
guy about my size. An-

JOHN

Stop talking.

The ogre ROARS as he beats his chest with his hands.

OGRE

Puny human going to regret calling
me a giant!

The ogre throws his fists at Adele and John. A chunk of dirt spreads as the ogre misses them.

She swerves left and right as the thunderous fists hit the ground.

John pulls out BOWS AND ARROWS from his bag.

As he launches the arrows at the ogre, Adele grabs a CAN OF BEANS from John's bag. The ogre catches each of the arrows.

The ogre throws the arrows back at John, but misses.

Adele tosses a bean from the can, which lands in front of the ogre. Nothing happens.

JOHN

What are you doing? That was our dinner!

ADELE

Oops.

Adele dashes towards a tree, with the ogre following behind, John lights his TORCH as Adele climbs up to a tree branch.

He charges at the furious ogre, and lights him on fire.

The ogre ROARS as he falls to the ground.

Adele hops down from the tree branch and looks down at the flaming body.

ADELE (CONT'D)

That was close.

JOHN

We better leave before the others show up.

They mount on their horses, and ride away.

EXT. FOREST - NIGHT

OWLS perch on the tree branches as their horses trot next to each other along the path.

ADELE

For some reason I always thought ogres were friendly.

JOHN

What made you think that?

ADELE

I don't know. Just had a feeling I guess.

Their horses come to a complete stop. John takes out his map.

JOHN

Hold on a second.

ADELE

What?

Adele hovers over John's shoulder, studying at the map.

JOHN
We've been walking in circles.

ADELE
Should we ask someone for
directions?

JOHN
There's no one here.

ADELE
Let me see that.

She leans the tip of the flame from the torch on the corner
of the map, which soon bursts on fire.

JOHN
My map!

Adele gets off her horse and stomps all over the scorching
map. The fire fades.

JOHN (CONT'D)
What was that for?

ADELE
I was just trying to help.

JOHN
By destroying my map?

ADELE
We don't need it. Check this out.

Adele places the torch over the ground.

John climbs off his horse and inspects the trail of
footprints on the dirt path.

ADELE (CONT'D)
Does this look familiar?

JOHN
You think it'll lead us there?

ADELE
There's only one way to find out.

John jumps back on his horse and rides away. Adele's horse
gallops behind.

INT. XANU'S CAVERN - NIGHT

Christian, bent on his knees, grasps the cage bars as Xanu scans his spell book. Raven paces around the wooden table.

RAVEN
I've got an idea.

XANU
What?

RAVEN
Never mind. You wouldn't be interested.

XANU
Just tell me. What is it?

Raven flutters up to him.

RAVEN
Are you sure?

Xanu strangles Raven with a tight grip.

XANU
Just tell me!

RAVEN
Okay! Okay!

He releases Raven. Chunks of his feathers fall on the ground.

RAVEN (CONT'D)
If you turn me into a human, I'll make you the prince.

XANU
You expect me to turn you into a human?

RAVEN
I mean you're not the best warlock in the land. What do you think?

Xanu pulls out his wand, pointing it at Raven.

XANU
I would never turn you into a human. Just tell me the spell.

CHRISTIAN
Don't do it!

Xanu spins towards him.

XANU
Silence!

CHRISTIAN
Sir, if you heal me I'll do
whatever you want.

XANU
I don't negotiate with prisoners.

Raven hovers next to Xanu.

RAVEN
Think about all the things he could
do for us.

XANU
You know for a raven, you're
awfully chatty.

Raven follows him to the darkness of the cavern.

INT. DINING ROOM - NIGHT

A line of food scatters around the table. The King sits at one end picking at the food on his plate. Ella pulls out a chair, joining him at the table.

ELLA
Is this a bad time?

KING
What is it?

ELLA
I'm sorry for what happened.

He places his silverware on the dish, without glancing at her.

ELLA (CONT'D)
I promise it won't happen again.

KING
Why did I send her instead of the
guards?

ELLA

It was the right thing to do.

She cups her hand over his.

ELLA (CONT'D)

You just have to believe in her.

KING

Perhaps you're right.

ELLA

I didn't mean to hurt you.

The King scoots his chair back and rises.

KING

I know you didn't.

ELLA

Can't we talk about this?

KING

There's nothing to discuss.

The King drags his feet to the door.

ELLA

Wait! I only did it so you won't
let me take over if she doesn't
return.

Ella grasps his hand, as he faces her.

KING

Why?

The King swipes his hand away, placing them at his side.

ELLA

I'm not ready!

KING

Why didn't you tell me that?

Ella hugs him.

ELLA

I didn't want to hurt you.

The King wraps his arm around her.

KING

You'd never hurt me. You just have to be honest and I'll understand.

ELLA

Thank you father.

KING

Come. Let's get you prepared.

They exit out the door.

EXT. DIRT PATH - NIGHT

The area completely deserted with no trees to be seen in sight. Footprints from different animals scatter the path.

They walk next to each other as their horses follow behind.

JOHN

Can you fight?

ADELE

Does it look like it?

JOHN

You don't expect me to fight every creature we face, do you?

John stops in his place and tosses a spare SWORD from his bag, missing Adele.

ADELE

Not really.

JOHN

I won't be there to fight all of your battles.

ADELE

Look at me! I'm a princess, not some knight in shining armor.

He pulls out his sword from his belt loop.

JOHN

Pick it up.

ADELE

But you're doing such a good job!

JOHN
It never hurts to learn.

John moves away as he points his sword at her.

Adele backs up, wobbling her sword at him. She copies his exact movements.

JOHN (CONT'D)
Attack.

ADELE
I don't thi-

JOHN
I said attack!

She strikes her sword against his, and drops it on the ground.

JOHN (CONT'D)
Again.

Adele picks up the sword. Once his sword clashes against hers, she stumbles to the ground.

JOHN (CONT'D)
What are you doing? Move around!

She grabs her sword, as she rises from the ground. She bends her knees as their blades hit each other.

Just as she's getting the hang of it, she slides her weapon against John's, flinging it out of his hands, onto the dirt.

He puts his sword away.

JOHN (CONT'D)
That's enough. I think you're ready.

ADELE
Are you sure? I think after a few more tries I'll get the hang of it.

JOHN
We can't keep him waiting.

Adele and John mount their horses and gallop along the path.

EXT. KINGDOM OF NORDEN - NIGHT

Ella follows the King around the courtyard.

One of the GUARDS chase a YOUNG BOY, 8, who rushes up to them. The King sends the guard to his position.

KING
How'd you get in?

YOUNG BOY
Climbed over the wall.

KING
You shouldn't be he-

ELLA
Father, let me handle this.

Ella bends down to the boys level.

ELLA (CONT'D)
What are you doing out this late?
Shouldn't you be home?

YOUNG BOY
Mother sent me out for food, but
the market was closed.

The boy holds out his hands.

YOUNG BOY (CONT'D)
Would it be possible for us to have
some food for the night?

Ella looks back at the King.

KING
It's your call.

Ella pauses a beat then snaps her fingers. A SERVANT rushes to her side.

ELLA
Take him inside and give him a
basket of food.

The servant nods as he assists the boy inside the castle. She glances back at the King, nodding in approval.

INT. XANU'S CAVERN - NIGHT

Pink liquid swirls in a bottle labeled, "HEALTH" above Christian, shaking in his cage in fetal position. Xanu waves his wand in the air and drums his fingers with the other.

Raven lands on his shoulder as he places the wand on the table.

RAVEN

You know for a warlock, you're not a very good one.

XANU

How so?

RAVEN

For starters, you kidnapped the prince instead of the princess.

XANU

I told you it was a mistake!

Raven launches off of his shoulder, flapping his wings in mid air.

RAVEN

Heck, I'd make a better warlock than you!

Xanu waves his wand at Raven.

XANU

Take that back! Don't make me use this.

RAVEN

Go ahead! You don't know how it works.

Christian glances up at the health potion on the edge of the shelf. His body trembles as he struggles to stand.

Xanu quickly faces Christian for a beat, then back at Raven.

XANU

Look behind you!

RAVEN

Yeah right. I'm not falling for that again.

XANU

Stop him at once!

Raven lands on the table, facing away from Xanu with his wings crossed.

RAVEN

No.

Now on his feet, Christian slides his arm through the cell bars, touching the health potion with the tip of his fingers.

Xanu strolls towards him, and swipes the potion off the shelf. He waves the bottle in front of him.

XANU

Yoink!

Christian slides his hand back inside the cage. He faces Xanu as he falls on his knees.

Xanu drops the bottle to the ground, causing the liquid to splatter. Christian collapses.

EXT. ROCKY HILLSIDE - NIGHT

A small glimpse of the castle is seen in the distance. LIZARDS run down the steep path.

Adele and John's horses steadily trot up the rocky path, both holding onto the reins tight.

ADELE

You think he's doing okay?

JOHN

I'm sure he's fine. Why do you ask?

ADELE

Just worried about him.

He places his hand on her knee.

JOHN

Don't be.

ADELE

You think he's hurt?

JOHN
I highly doubt that.

Their horses stop in their place as she removes his hand.

ADELE
How can you say that? Aren't you
concerned about him?

JOHN
Not really.

She turns her horse around.

JOHN (CONT'D)
Where are you going?

ADELE
I can't go on.

She clutches her hand to her chest.

ADELE (CONT'D)
What if he doesn't love me?

JOHN
You're overreacting. He'll love you
more once you rescue him.

ADELE
You don't know him like I do. I
can't have my heart broken.

He cups his hand over hers.

JOHN
I'd never do that. I promise I'll
always be on your side and care for
you no matter what.

ADELE
Really? You mean it?

JOHN
Yes. Every word.

ADELE
Thanks. That means a lot.

Adele turns her horse turns around and resumes climbing up
the hill.

EXT. ROYAL GARDEN - NIGHT

Ella and the King sit on the bench and clink their drinks.

As they sip from their glass, a servant comes out from the doors and bows in front of them. Ella looks down at him.

ELLA

You may rise. What is it?

The servant lifts himself up.

SERVANT

The boy you let in took most of what we had, your majesty.

ELLA

I told you to give him a basket of food. How much did you give him?

SERVANT

I filled it up, in fact it wasn't meant for him in the first place.

Ella rises from the bench.

ELLA

Who was it for?

SERVANT

He gave it to the poor. Now the whole kingdom wants our food!

Ella falls back on the bench, burying her head in her hands. The King turns away from her, arms crossed.

KING

See what you did?

ELLA

You handed the reigns over to me! What else was I supposed to do?

KING

We don't give away food! Ever!

The King rises from the bench as Ella tugs on him.

ELLA

But he was so nice! What else was I supposed to do?

KING
You should've known better not to
trust him.

ELLA
I didn't know he'd give it away!

KING
Neither did I.

The King heavily sighs as he takes a seat back on the bench.
He wraps his arm around Ella.

KING (CONT'D)
It's not your fault. I should've
stepped in when you needed me.

ELLA
At least he's helping the poor. I'm
sorry I disappointed you again.

Ella pulls out the locket from her pocket, holding it tight.

KING
You didn't. We can still fix this.

ELLA
How? We don't know where he is.

KING
Let me handle this.
(to servant)
Bring him to me at once.

The servant runs inside the castle. Ella scoots away from
the King.

ELLA
What about the food?

KING
We'll get it back. Promise.

ELLA
Thank you father.

Ella gets off the bench and slumps inside the castle.

EXT. XANU'S CAVERN - NIGHT

A WOLF howls in the distance. A group of BATS fill the night sky over Xanu's faint footprints.

Adele and John ride up to the cavern, and leap off their horses. Adele shivers.

ADELE

Well he's not here. Let's go.

John tugs her arm as she turns away..

JOHN

We didn't come all this way so you could chicken out.

ADELE

What if there's a dragon in there?

John releases Adele's arm.

JOHN

You're being ridiculous. Dragons don't live in caverns.

ADELE

I'd rather wait until morning.

JOHN

We're not leaving him in there.

John reaches his hand out to her.

JOHN (CONT'D)

Do you trust me?

Adele grasps John's hand.

ADELE

I do, but let me take charge.

JOHN

Lead the way.

John follows Adele into the cavern.

INT. XANU'S CAVERN - NIGHT

As Christian lies in his cage unconscious, Xanu stirs the icky goop of ingredients in the cauldron with a WOODEN SPOON. Overhead Raven observes from inside his cage.

The liquid begins to bubble. Xanu snaps his fingers.

XANU

Finally! I think I got it.

RAVEN

You don't sound so sure.

XANU

I'm positive. Just watch.

Faint footsteps are heard in the distance as Xanu dips the spoon into the goop from the cauldron. Raven takes a few steps back in his cage as the footsteps grow louder.

RAVEN

Uh...boss.

XANU

Quiet! I must focus!

Xanu rises the spoon with the goop near his mouth.

XANU (CONT'D)

With my mouth I shall rinse, in hopes to turn me into a-

ADELE (O.S)

Hold it right there!

Xanu drops the spoon on the ground and spins towards Adele.

RAVEN

That's it. We're dead.

ADELE

As princess of Norden, I order you to release him at once!

Xanu glances back at Raven for a beat then back at her.

XANU

I can't. He works for me.

Adele points her sword at Xanu.

ADELE
You know who I want.

XANU
Don't you know who I am?

Xanu places the wooden spoon on the table. He points his wand at her.

XANU (CONT'D)
You've never heard of Xanu the Great?

RAVEN
No one calls you that.

Xanu shuts Raven's beak with his fingers.

XANU
Some call me Xanu for short.

ADELE
Release him and we'll be on our way.

JOHN
We promise.

Xanu releases his fingers as a puff of smoke surrounds his wand, which soon transforms into a FLAMING SWORD.

XANU
Never!
(to Raven)
Deliver the message to the King while I take care of them.

RAVEN
What message?

Xanu whispers something into Raven's ear.

RAVEN (CONT'D)
Oh..right. Got it boss!

Raven swings the cage door open and speeds out of the cavern. Xanu twirls his flaming sword in one hand and points it at Adele.

XANU
If you want him, you have to go through me first!

Adele and John point the tips of their swords at Xanu

ADELE
(to John)
I don't need your help.

JOHN
Are you sure? What should I do?

ADELE
Find a way we can help Christian.

John dashes to the shelves of potions as Adele clashes her sword against Xanu's.

INT. THRONE ROOM - NIGHT

The King and Ella sip their drinks on their thrones as servants enter the room, carrying baskets of food to the other room.

Raven zooms into the room, circling high above them. Ella points at him.

ELLA
Look father! A crow!

Raven lands on the Kings armrest, and waves his wing at her.

RAVEN
What is with you people? I'm not a parrot, a sparrow, or any other type of bird. I'm a Raven! Got it?

The King places his cup to the side. Raven turns towards him and bows.

KING
What is it?

RAVEN
Your highness, I come with somber news in regards to the princess.

KING
Is she okay?

RAVEN
I wish she was. She went to the cavern and both she and the prince have died.

Ella glances at the painting of Adele inside her locket and holds it against her chest.

KING
How do you know?

RAVEN
I saw the whole thing happen. If
you don't believe me, why don't you
see for yourself?

KING
You may go.

Raven leaps off the armrest, and flaps his wings out the door. The King wraps his arm around Ella.

KING (CONT'D)
Don't worry. It'll be okay.

ELLA
They can't be dead.

The King rises from the throne and marches down the stairs.

ELLA (CONT'D)
Where are you going?

KING
I must inform the guards at once.
There's no time to waste.

As the King marches down the stairs, Ella runs past him, blocking him on the final step.

KING (CONT'D)
Move aside.

ELLA
I won't let you.

KING
I warned her not to go to the
cavern but she didn't listen. They
must know.

ELLA
Don't do it!

Ella begs on her knees as the King snarls down at her.

KING
I don't have a choice!

Ella jumps from the floor.

ELLA

You're really going to listen to him? I believe deep in my heart, they are still alive!

KING

But he said-

ELLA

I don't care what he said! I have to search for them.

The King places his hand on her shoulder.

KING

No! I forbid you to leave!

ELLA

She needs me!

Ella sprints out the door.

EXT. KINGDOM OF NORDEN - NIGHT

Guards spread out around the courtyard.

Ella bolts out the castle with the King chasing behind her.

KING

Guards! Stop her!

Just before she reaches the front gate, she stumbles into a guard. The King catches up to her and sends the guard away.

KING (CONT'D)

I've had enough of this. You're not going anywhere.

ELLA

But father-

KING

Stay here. It's getting late.

Ella follows the King as he approaches the guards standing at the base of the castle.

ELLA

Wait, before you send them, I have a better idea.

KING
I don't want to hear it.

ELLA
Just listen.

The King stops in his place.

ELLA (CONT'D)
If they don't return at sunrise,
I'll send the guards out.

KING
Ella, I honestly think-

ELLA
Father, this is my chance to become
a leader. Isn't that what you've
been training me to do?

KING
If you're sure you can handle it,
I'll allow it.

They return to the castle.

INT. XANU'S CAVERN - NIGHT

Adele and Xanu strike their swords against each others,
while John thumbs through the potions on the shelf next to
Christian's cage.

Xanu levitates two feet off the ground, sliding his blade
against hers.

Adele keeps a tight firm grip on her sword, eyes locked on
Xanu. She swings her sword at Xanu's feet. He flips
backwards and plants his feet on the ground.

Adele's sword slips from her hands, and lands next to her.
Adele ducks as Xanu swings his sword at her.

As Adele and Xanu fight, John swipes Xanu's spell book from
his desk and skims through the book, searching for a cure to
save Christian.

Adele picks up her sword as she circles around the cauldron.
She corners Xanu against the wall.

Xanu shoves Adele to the ground. John slams the book and
charges towards Xanu, with the tip of his sword pointed
directly at him.

Xanu faces John and strikes his sword against his. John tumbles backwards and returns to the potion shelf. Adele lifts herself up.

Adele swings her sword in the air and clashes her sword against Xanu's.

Xanu corners her against the wall with the tip of his blade, almost touching Adele's neck.

Adele towers over Xanu with her sword pointed at him.

Xanu trips backwards on a stool and drops his sword on the ground next to Adele.

A swirl of smoke surrounds the flaming sword, soon transforming back into a wand.

Xanu falls onto his hands and knees. He stretches his hand to the wand.

Adele picks the wand up and grasps it by both ends. Xanu crawls backwards against the cauldron.

XANU

Wait! Don't-

Adele snaps the wand in half.

A bright light from the wand surrounds Xanu.

He bursts a bloodcurdling scream while his body turns into a pile of ashes.

She faces Christian's cage and falls on her knees.

ADELE

Christian! Is he...dead?

JOHN

No he isn't. Look.

John pulls the death potion from the shelf and hands it to Adele. She examines the bottle for a beat.

ADELE

Quick! Find the keys.

John dashes to the desk, and opens a drawer. He tosses a pair of KEYS to her.

Adele catches the keys, unlocks the cage door, and opens it. She enters the cage and flips Christian onto his back.

ADELE (CONT'D)
Give us some space.

JOHN
Sure.

John strolls out of the cavern. Adele leans close to Christian.

She passionately kisses his lips.

Christian awakens.

CHRISTIAN
Adele! You..saved me.

ADELE
Christian! You're okay!

CHRISTIAN
I never thought you'd come.

Adele helps lift Christian to his feet.

ADELE
Father will be glad to see you.
I'll explain on the way!

Adele tugs Christian's arm, but he doesn't budge.

CHRISTIAN
I can't.

Adele drops his arm as she faces him.

ADELE
Why not?

CHRISTIAN
Although you rescued me, there's
something I must confess.

Christian turns away from Adele, who slowly walks backwards out of the cage.

CHRISTIAN (CONT'D)
I only stayed with you so I could
rule the kingdom. I'm not going
back.

ADELE
Don't you love me?

CHRISTIAN

I do, but even if I did return,
everything would go back to normal.

Christian slumps out of the cage. He turns away from Adele,
and crosses his arms.

CHRISTIAN (CONT'D)

Besides, Norden wasn't meant for
me. Perhaps there's another kingdom
I can rule.

ADELE

Don't you worry about how father
would react?

CHRISTIAN

Just go.

Christian slides his ring off his finger, and places it in
Adele's hands. Adele sprints out of the cavern.

EXT. XANU'S CAVERN - NIGHT

Adele wipes her eyes as she ambles towards John. He wraps
his arm around her.

JOHN

Where's Christian? Isn't he coming?

ADELE

No...he's not.

JOHN

Why?

Adele places one hand on her chest.

ADELE

I honestly thought he was my true
love, but I guess we weren't meant
to be.

JOHN

Sometimes you have to kiss a few
frogs to find your prince.

ADELE

At least I don't have to marry him.

Adele freezes.

ADELE (CONT'D)
My father's going to be
disappointed in me!

JOHN
He won't. Take me to the kingdom
with you. He'll understand.

ADELE
Why should I?

Adele turns away from him.

JOHN
If he doesn't believe you, I'll
defend you!

John assists Adele on her horse. She grabs the reigns tight.

ADELE
I just have one quick stop to make
on the way back.

Their horses gallop away.

EXT. DWARF MINE - NIGHT

Lanterns light the exterior of the mine. Six DWARFS enter the mine, carrying pick axes in one arm. The angry dwarf rides up to the mine and jumps down from Adele's horse.

John and Adele ride up to him.

JOHN
You sure about this?

ADELE
Just follow my lead.

Adele leaps off her horse and taps the dwarf. The dwarf faces her, arms folded.

DWARF
Oh great! You again!

ADELE
I didn't mean to hurt your feelings
earlier. It was wrong of me.

DWARF
Darn straight it was!

Adele places the reigns from one of John's horses in the dwarfs hands.

JOHN
Not Buttercup!

ADELE
It's for the best.

John climbs down from his horse.

ADELE (CONT'D)
How'd you like to make a trade?
I'll give you these horses for the
one you took from me.

The dwarf shakes her hand.

DWARF
Deal.

The dwarf returns Adele's horse to her. Adele wraps her arms around John as they ride away.

EXT. KINGDOM OF NORDEN - EARLY MORNING

Guards sit on their horses, lined next to each other.
VILLAGERS surround the courtyard as the sun rises.

Ella steps out of the castle with the King. The villagers bow in front of them.

KING
Do what you have to do.

ELLA
Yes father.

The King returns inside. Ella approaches the guards.

ELLA (CONT'D)
I hate to tell you this, but Adele
nor Christian has returned.

The guards bow their heads.

ELLA (CONT'D)
I order you to find them at once!

The steel gates open in the distance.

Adele wraps her arms around John as her horse bursts through the gates, speedily galloping up to the castle.

The villagers CHEER as her horse stops in front Ella.

Adele leaps off her horse.

Ella hugs Adele tight.

ELLA

Adele! I'm glad you're okay!

ADELE

Told you I'd return. I have so much to tell you.

John climbs down from Adele's horse and bows in front of Ella.

JOHN

Hi. I'm John.

ELLA

Ella. Pleasure to meet you.

JOHN

It's nice to meet you as well Ella. Is it short for anything?

ELLA

Isabella, but I prefer Ella.

Ella pulls Adele to the side.

ELLA (CONT'D)

What happened to Christian?

ADELE

Come inside. I'll explain everything.

They enter the castle.

INT. THRONE ROOM - DAY

The King slouches on his throne, sipping a cup of tea. Adele, John, and Ella approach him. The King rises from his throne, and welcomes Adele with a hug.

KING

Adele! Thank goodness you're safe! Where's Christian?

ADELE

It's kind of hard to explain.

The King sits back on his throne.

ADELE (CONT'D)

After I rescued him, he told me he didn't want to return.

KING

Is he safe?

ADELE

Yes. On the bright side I met someone. Father, I present to you-

The King bows in front of John.

KING

Prince John of Brightcrest.

ADELE

(to John)

Wait. You're a prince?

JOHN

I was worried you wouldn't believe me if I told you.

John gets down on one knee in front of the King.

JOHN (CONT'D)

It's a pleasure to see you again your highness.

KING

You may rise. How are things in Brightcrest?

John rises.

JOHN

Very well, but your highness I have something to confess.

KING

What about?

The King sips his tea.

JOHN

During our journey I fell in love with Adele and wish to marry her.

The King chokes on his tea mid sip. He places his cup down and faces Adele.

KING

Didn't you just meet him?

ADELE

You allowed Christian to propose after he rescued me.

KING

Are you sure about this?

Adele grasps his hand.

ADELE

We've had some ups and downs, but I love him. I'd rather be with him than Christian.

KING

Well he does seem like a better match for you. I'll allow it.

Adele hugs the King.

ADELE

Thank you father.

EXT. KINGDOM OF NORDEN - DAY

A HORSE CARRIAGE waits outside the castle entrance. A trail of flower petals line along the velvet red carpet.

TRUMPETS sound as the Court Herold scurries out the door. He moves to the side as he pulls out a scroll from his pocket.

COURT HERALD

Now presenting, Queen Adele of Norden and King John of Norden.

Adele, dressed in a sparkling white dress, leaves the castle with her arm linked to John, wears a gold crown and covered with a red velvet robe wrapped around him.

The villagers cheer as they enter the horse carriage.

They kiss as the horses pull carriage away from the castle out of the gates.

FADE OUT