

Starfall

By

Joseph D Michaeli

4th Draft
April, 2010

Copyright 2007
Copyright 2010

Joe_michaeli@yahoo.com

Armored knights fight skeletons amongst a battlefield. Stars fall from the sky in an unending shower of spectacle and awe.

VOICE OVER

The war in heaven began nearly twenty years ago... At the end of the Undead War, as the first stars fell from the sky... Fear and rumors spread throughout the land, as each and every follower of faith lost their powers of healing.

A group of robed priests walk amongst wounded soldiers **healing** them. Their Faith-Magic runs out, they look to themselves, then to the soldiers lying around dying.

VOICE OVER (CONT'D)

Yet the outcast wizards, whose magic comes not from faith. Were still able to use their Arcane-Magic. The power shifted from the priestly faithful to the War wizards.

A Kings own castle priest is thrown into the street. The King surrounds himself with smug looking War wizards.

VOICE OVER (CONT'D)

But the people were blinded by the changes. For from out of the fallen stars arose mythological beings. Creatures believed to have existed long ago in myth and legend.

Knights gather at the edge of a fallen star watching a unicorn pull itself from the burned out stars shell.

VOICE OVER (CONT'D)

To the Kingdom of Erythor the stars brought strange and wondrous magic.

A **mechanical** bull pulls a farmers plow. A one-eyed cyclops stands guard in a busy tavern.

VOICE OVER (CONT'D)

But... The wondrousness of these beings faded quickly. Now when they are found, they are captured, and sold for riches.

The bull is sold to a nobleman, the cyclops caged.

VOICE OVER (CONT'D)

Others are... Questioned.

A short red lizard-like man is chained, & tortured.

EVIL WIZARD ZOHAN
Where are you from?

RED LIZARD MAN
There is a city... Magic there. It
will send me... Back to my home.

EVIL WIZARD ZOHAN
How?

RED LIZARD MAN
AHHHHHHH!
(Withering in agony)
I must return, to my home...

EVIL WIZARD ZOHAN
Where! Tell me!

Elsewhere in a busy tavern. A man tells others.

MAN IN TAVERN
I hear they come from...

Elsewhere.

NOBLE WOMAN
I talked with one. Said it was
going to...

VOICE OVER
What ever they are, or where ever
they came from, the Starlings have
become slaves. Rumors of their
origin is spreading whispering the
name of a long lost city...

NOBLE WOMAN
The City of Myths.

MAN IN TAVERN
The City of Myths.

RED LIZARD MAN
Myths... The City... Of... Myths.
(Dies)

Zohan whips his utensils against the wall. Mechanical beasts
and beings are scattered broken throughout the chamber.

INTERIOR - STONE KEEP - BEDROOM - NAME OF CITY

A wind picks up from an open stone window, blowing curtains inward. A sword falls to the floor next to a bed, then a belt. The bed starts to rock back and forth. A woman moans, as the CAMERA floats past clenched fists in white bedsheets, and out the window.

EXTERIOR - MEDIEVAL CITY - SUNSET

Away from the keep, down an old cobblestone road lined with two and three story buildings, sits an estate house just off the main road. A coach stops in front and a well dressed couple step down. They head toward the house, trailed by their manservant.

Beneath the estate house, a Cyclops crushes a mechanical bull sending pieces of its head flying off through a cage into a ring of onlookers and gamblers. The bull collapses.

Around the arena two dozen men cheer and grovel as money exchanges hands.

A well dressed SIR NOBLE TOM (21) speaks up.

SIR NOBLE TOM
Bring out the two headed dog...

Tom Turns to hurry up the stairs.

BREMS
Aren't you going to stay?

SIR NOBLE TOM
I do have guests upstairs.

BREMS
What if your prized cyclops is killed?

SIR NOBLE TOM
They're just Starlings Brems.

BREMS
Just for entertainment aye.

SIR NOBLE TOM
The best entertainment my fathers money can buy!

Tom runs up the stairs.

INT. SIR NOBLE TOM'S ESTATE HOUSE

Servants cater food and drink to well dressed Nobles.

Tom runs into newcomers.

SIR NOBLE TOM
Stratin! Where have you been
lately?

A colorful juggler twirls knives behind them. Music plays.
People dance.

BEYLOFF (58), interrupts Tom, carrying two bottles of wine.

BEYLOFF
We're down to our last...

SIR NOBLE TOM
Serve it all Beyloff, we shall get
more tomorrow.

ONLON and his daughter MELOSA watch Tom from a distance.

ONLON
A fool and his arrogance!

MELOSA
I don't care father.

ONLON
He's in love with someone else...

MELOSA
Hearts can change.

ONLON
It will not matter after tonight.
The merchants guild is meeting as
we speak.

MELOSA
What can they do!

The music stops as the dance ends.

SIR NOBLE TOM reaches his hand out to Melosa.

SIR NOBLE TOM
Lady Melosa.

Lady Melosa smiles, laughs, and takes Tom's hand.

A new song begins as they dance.

SIR NOBLE TOM (CONT'D)
You did not come last week.

MELOSA
I did not think you would notice.
It's difficult to sustain your
parties.

SIR NOBLE TOM
Do you enjoy them.

MELOSA
Oh no, I do, but I must maintain my
appearances with the other noble
houses. Besides I was in Edenia
having tea with my aunt.

SIR NOBLE TOM
Edenia! Did you get to see the
king!

MELOSA
Oh please, he hides in his castle,
letting his redcloaks and war
wizards run the kingdom. The only
time I've ever seen him is when he
is offered the fruit during the
summer festival.

SIR NOBLE TOM
I would surely like to know more of
your trip to Edenia.

MELOSA
Then perhaps, we should find
someplace cozier to sit... And
talk.

Tom reddens at her abruptness.

The front doors burst open as four red-cloaked knights stride
boldly in. The music stops.

SIR NOBLE TOM
What in the heavens do you think
you are doing here?

REDCLOAK
Sir Tom?

SIR NOBLE TOM

Yes!

The four redcloaks draw swords.

REDCLOAK

Come with us...

REDCLOAK2

Our orders are from the King himself...

REDCLOAK

This party has officially ended.

SIR NOBLE TOM

The king. I will visit the king and straighten this all out tomorrow, Now GET OUT! Before you insult my guests.

REDCLOAK

You will come now!

Tom pulls his sword. People scatter.

Tom backs the four redcloaks outside.

SIR NOBLE TOM

I will see the Count has you all flogged for this...

Nine armored redcloaks, and thirteen horses surround the courtyard. Tom gazes up, worried.

COUNT MORGAN moves forward on his horse. He wears a black silk shirt edged with gold. An evil smile creases his face.

SIR NOBLE TOM (CONT'D)

Count Morgan?

Onlon grabs Tom's sword arm from behind.

The four redcloaks grab Tom.

ONLON

I'm sorry Tom, it is for the best.

COUNT MORGAN

Sir Noble Tom. Or as it is from this day forward. Plain and simple Tom.

SIR NOBLE TOM

(Struggles)

No...

COUNT MORGAN

You're father has not been seen for nearly six months, his debts...and yours, are past due.

(Reads from a parchment)

Tom of house Jacard, your lands are forfeit. And by declaration from the king, you are hereby publicly stripped of your title, and all of your possessions, and asked to leave in what ever manner you are capable.

SIR NOBLE TOM

You can not I am Sir Noble Tom. Of house...

COUNT MORGAN

No! You are a street rat vagabond. A peasant. Throw him into the street so he can get a good feel for his new home.

Three redcloaks toss Tom into the street, into the path of an oncoming carriage. Tom scrambles to his knees, barely avoiding the horses and the carriage.

All the nobles flock outside, watching.

COUNT MORGAN (CONT'D)

All of you, go back to your houses!

ONLON

Come Melosa!

Melosa raises her chin, and storms past Tom.

Tom, furious, clutches dirt and rocks.

REDCLOAK

(Looking into the estate)

Count, shall we begin unloading his valuables?

Tom looks down to the rocks in his hand, and grasps the largest stone.

Morgans lips move in slow motion.

COUNT MORGAN

Take everything, and bring it to my keep.

(Looks at Tom)

I shall enjoy counting your father's debts personally.

SIR NOBLE TOM

You bastard of a hook!

Tom flings the stone, cracking Morgan in the nose, knocking him off his horse. The Knights beat Tom. Morgan stands.

COUNT MORGAN

STOP!

SIR NOBLE TOM

You...will not get away with this.

Morgan wipes blood from his nose.

COUNT MORGAN

I had planned on letting you live.

Tom glares at Morgan.

COUNT MORGAN (CONT'D)

Now, your arrogance will see you hang. Tomorrow I will see you stretched by your street rat neck.

(Climbs onto his horse)

Bring him to the keep.

Tom looks to Onlon. Onlon looks to Morgan.

ONLON

No one is going to risk their house for you Thomas.

COUNT MORGAN

Those that do shall find themselves at the gallows, and their houses taken.

The crowd disperses. The redcloaks grab Tom, and ride off.

INT. STONE KEEP - LOCKED DOOR

The beautiful counts wife lays nude on her stomach.

On the bed, next to her, is a muscular man with features of stone. He is The LUSTRIOUS KNIGHT.

There is a knock on the door.

BUTLER

I know you are not alone me lady.
Open up this door immediately.

WIFE OF COUNT MORGAN

Come back later.
(Giggling)
I am sleeping.

The Butler stomps down the stairs.

LUSTRIOUS KNIGHT

(Tickling her)
I dare say he will find you
sleeping.

She looks up at him.

WIFE OF COUNT MORGAN

I missed you. Why have you stayed
away so long?

LUSTRIOUS KNIGHT

Easy for you to forget.

Lustrious slips out of bed.

He turns to face her.

LUSTRIOUS KNIGHT (CONT'D)

I guess I forgot... How much it
hurts to be with you.

She watches him as he dresses.

WIFE OF COUNT MORGAN

I always liked you better in your
uniform.

LUSTRIOUS KNIGHT

I came back to see you. Not to get
involved in all the plotting.
(Takes a breath)
And to say goodbye.

WIFE OF COUNT MORGAN

The redcloaks could use your
leadership, they have grown evil
without you. I know you are a good
man Luster.

LUSTRIOUS KNIGHT

(Loudly)

I'm in love with another man's wife! Don't tell me about the morality of good and evil. I didn't come here to save the redcloaks or the people. I'm not coming back. I'll never wear a redcloak again.

Lustrious grabs his sword.

LUSTRIOUS KNIGHT (CONT'D)

You could come with me.

WIFE OF COUNT MORGAN

What if I persuade my husband to reinstate you.

LUSTRIOUS KNIGHT

Not even you have that much influence.

He moves toward the balcony.

LUSTRIOUS KNIGHT (CONT'D)

You won't see me again.

WIFE OF COUNT MORGAN

You could have led them...

LUSTRIOUS KNIGHT

Till you walked down the aisle with Morgan! Now, I'm a wanted man...

Outside, Lustrious see's Morgan and the redcloaks ride up.

Morgan steps off his horse, as a gate is opened. The butler storms out, and whispers in his ear. Morgan's hand moves to a chain at his neck. He tilts his head four stories upwards to an open arch window and sees Lustrious.

LUSTRIOUS KNIGHT (CONT'D)

Nice.

COUNT MORGAN

You four, come with me.

Count Morgan and four redcloaks charge in. The other knights dismount and toss Tom to the ground next to the keep.

Tom rubs his aching head. A redcloak grabs Toms hand and takes his blue sapphire house ring.

REDCLOAK

You won't be needing this in the
hell you're going now will you.

INT. STONE KEEP - BEDROOM

Lustrious gets to the door.

He hears the Knights charge up the stairs. They pound on the
door. A chain rattles. The lock clicks.

The door bursts open.

Morgan, and four Redcloaks charge in.

Lustrious faces them.

COUNT MORGAN

I thought we killed you?

Swords clash.

LUSTRIOUS KNIGHT

Maybe your wife dreamt me back from
the dead!

Morgans wife smiles.

Morgan attacks furiously.

She moans, distracting a redcloak. Lustrious kills him, and
kicks another redcloak down the stairs.

Morgan and the last redcloak knight pressure Lustrious back
into the bed, where Morgans wife hides naked. Lustrious
smiles at her.

COUNT MORGAN

I will spill your blood.

LUSTRIOUS KNIGHT

My blood's not worth much.

She rubs his hair.

The redcloak grabs Lustrious' arm. Lustrious trips. They
roll around the floor, fighting for supremacy.

Morgan smacks his wife.

They roll to a stop at the balcony window.

The knights below look up excited.

They stand, arm-locked with each other.

Morgan shoves the redcloak from behind, pushing them both over the edge. Lustrious falls on two Redcloaks, while the falling knight knocks another Redcloak down.

Tom grabs the fallen knights sword and stabs one of the five remaining redcloaks. The redcloaks draw swords. Tom kicks Lustrious.

SIR NOBLE TOM

Get up you fool, or we shall both
be killed.

Lustrious swings his sword, and stands up. The four knights stop. Lustrious smiles.

REDCLOAK

Lustrious?

LUSTRIOUS KNIGHT

(To the Redcloak knights)
You know you can not defeat me.

OTHER REDCLOAK

(Wary)
The Lustrious Knight?

Count Morgan looks down from his window.

COUNT MORGAN

Kill them damn you!

The Knights take a step forward, Tom steps closer to Lustrious.

COUNT MORGAN (CONT'D)

Kill them now you insulant worms!

Tom and Lustrious slowly back away.

SIR NOBLE TOM

Lustrious is it? I am Sir Noble
Tom.

LUSTRIOUS KNIGHT

Sir Tom. It's a pleasure to meet
you.

Twelve more Redcloaks ride from down the street.

SIR NOBLE TOM

Uh oh! More of your friends.

LUSTRIOUS KNIGHT
Yes, well, I hope you can run in
those boots.

SIR NOBLE TOM
Run?

LUSTRIOUS KNIGHT
Indeed.

SIR NOBLE TOM
(Smiles, looking behind)
Ah, yes.

LUSTRIOUS KNIGHT
(Yells at the knights)
Arrgh!

The Redcloaks jump back frightened. Lustrious and Tom run.

LUSTRIOUS KNIGHT (CONT'D)
Follow me.

Count Morgan bolts out of his keep, to see them get away.

COUNT MORGAN
Hunt them down and kill them. A
reward for who ever brings me their
heads.

EXT. MEDIEVAL CITY - ALLEYWAY - DARK

Tom and Lustrious peak out of an alleyway, as redcloak riders gallop past.

LUSTRIOUS KNIGHT
Well sir Tom. I don't want to keep
you from where ever you need to be.
And I am late meeting someone
myself... So... Good day to you.

Tom pats his sword, and looks out across the quiet street.
Lustrious steps out of the alleyway.

SIR NOBLE TOM
Lustrious? Are you really a
knight?

Lustrious stops.

LUSTRIOUS KNIGHT
Are you really a nobleman?

Tom watches Lustrious walk down the street. Then heads back down the alleyway, and through the darkness of the city.

EXT. MEDIEVAL CITY - LATER

The moon sits lower on the horizon. Tom watches a wagon filled with his father's possessions roll down the street.

Tom sees no one outside his estate house, and sneaks up to the open front door.

Carnage of broken furniture litters the stone walkway.

Tom sneaks in.

Two figures sneak out of an alleyway nearby, only their shadows can be seen. One leads with a sword.

INT. SIR NOBLE TOM'S ESTATE HOUSE

Inside his estate is gutted.

Tom runs into the basement. The Cyclops lies dead at his feet. Two-headed dog lies dead in the arena. Two other starlings dead in their cages. The mechanical bull broken in a cage as well. Tom shakes his head.

He runs back up then slowly and quietly climbs his grand staircase and down a hallway.

A hidden alcove is busted open. He looks inside. Empty.

In his mind, Tom sees the gold he had stored in the alcove. Anger flashes across his face.

His servant lies dead, Tom bends to check on him. He takes a dented silver goblet from Beyloff's hand.

SIR NOBLE TOM
Beyloff... You old fool!
(Stands)
You led them right to it.

A redcloak jumps at Tom, sword slicing at his head. Tom instinctively raises the goblet.

The sword clinks the goblet away, and down the hall, as Tom jumps back and draws his sword.

Tom sees his glass window at the end of the hall, and charges the redcloak.

He locks swords, and pushes him backwards through the window, with a crash and a quick slice, the redcloak falls crumpled in the bushes. Dead.

SIR NOBLE TOM (CONT'D)
 They can't just take everything.
 (Frustrated in sadness)
 Father, where are you?

Two figures move in from behind.

Tom turns, clanging swords with Lustrious. A girl AZELEEN is with him.

LUSTRIOUS KNIGHT
 Hey!

SIR NOBLE TOM
 What are you doing here?

LUSTRIOUS KNIGHT
 Looking for you.

SIR NOBLE TOM
 Really!

Tom holds his sword out at Lustrious.

LUSTRIOUS KNIGHT
 C'mon, there's something you need to hear.

Tom moves back to the stairs.

SIR NOBLE TOM
 Tonight?

Tom begins walking down the stairs.

LUSTRIOUS KNIGHT
 What are you involved in here.

SIR NOBLE TOM
 What do you care?

AZELEEN
 I have heard what went down here tonight, Sir Noble Tom of house Jacard.

Tom stops at the bottom steps. She follows.

AZELEEN (CONT'D)
 Look what they have done... I often
 dreamed I would be invited to
 attend one of your grand parties.

LUSTRIOUS KNIGHT
 (Interrupting)
 Tell him about the ring?

SIR NOBLE TOM
 What ring? Who are you?

AZELEEN
 I am Azeleen.

She stops, facing Tom.

LUSTRIOUS KNIGHT
 Tell him what you told me. Tell
 him About his father.

SIR NOBLE TOM
 You know something about my Father?

AZELEEN
 Oh Tom.

SIR NOBLE TOM
 What do you know?

AZELEEN
 Just...

Tom grabs her arm.

SIR NOBLE TOM
 Tell me!

Lustrious tenses up and walks down to them.

AZELEEN
 ... Just a rumor. From Father
 Kamancho.

SIR NOBLE TOM
 Father Kamancho?

AZELEEN
 Yes.

SIR NOBLE TOM
 What? What does that conniving old
 man know about my father?

AZELEEN
I heard, your father... Was killed.

SIR NOBLE TOM
You lie!

Tom squeezes her arm, Lustrious grabs Tom and holds him back.

AZELEEN
I'm so sorry.

SIR NOBLE TOM
You come to my house...

AZELEEN
I... Saw your father's ring... In
Kamancho's private study.

SIR NOBLE TOM
His ring, at the temple?

AZELEEN
A man gave it too him.

SIR NOBLE TOM
How did you get into Kamancho's
study?

She smiles. Tom stops struggling with Lustrious.

AZELEEN
I heard them talking. Kamancho
paid him gold for the ring.

Lustrious rubs his chin in thought.

SIR NOBLE TOM
I see.

LUSTRIOUS KNIGHT
What did the man look like?

AZELEEN
I don't know, he was hooded. I
never got to see his face.

Lustrious throws his arms up trying to pry more from her.

AZELEEN (CONT'D)
He may not have the ring anymore,
it was nearly two moons ago.

The three of them stand along the sides of the empty ball room, as Tom looks off in thought.

SIR NOBLE TOM
Father Kamancho...

Six redcloaks charge in.

REDCLOAK
Kill them quickly!

Tom and Lustrious pull swords.

A crossbow bolt zips past Lustrious hitting Azeleen.

LUSTRIOUS KNIGHT
Azeleen!

Azeleen falls.

Lustrious faces IVAN, a redcloak he knows.

LUSTRIOUS KNIGHT (CONT'D)
Is this how you use your training
Ivan?

IVAN THE REDCLOAK
Things changed when you left
Lustrious.

Lustrious boils over in rage and kills all the redcloaks.

Tom looks on shocked, as Lustrious rushes to Azeleen.

Lustrious holds her. She gasps for air.

AZELEEN
Don't... leave... The people need
you...

She dies. A long moment passes. Lustrious gazes at the redcloaks.

LUSTRIOUS KNIGHT
I suppose you plan to go to the
temple?

SIR NOBLE TOM
Yes.

LUSTRIOUS KNIGHT
 Then... I'd like to join you. It's
 time for the Lustrious Knight to
 confess his sins.

INT. TEMPLE - CONFSSIONAL

LUSTRIOUS KNIGHT
 Forgive me father for I have
 sinned. I have been with many
 women in the last few months.

FATHER KAMANCHO
 Many my son? Oh, that is
 grave...How many do you think?

LUSTRIOUS KNIGHT
 It is not these sins I ask
 forgiveness from father.

FATHER KAMANCHO
 My son, sins of the flesh are grave
 sins indeed. Not to be taken
 lightly.

LUSTRIOUS KNIGHT
 I take no woman lightly father.
 A man took a possession from
 another man, and I mean to bring
 justice.

FATHER KAMANCHO
 A thief! They take from whomever
 they wish. Your righteousness would
 serve better in the courts of law
 my son. Perhaps you should tell
 them about this rogue thief.

LUSTRIOUS KNIGHT
 This thief father. Stole something
 precious to a dear friend. A ring.
 A blue sapphire ring, from the
 house Jacard. And justice shall be
 served father.

FATHER KAMANCHO
 Who are you?
 (Pulls screen open)
 How dare you accuse me...

Lustrious grabs Kamancho.

FATHER KAMANCHO (CONT'D)

Lustrious!

Kamancho stabs Lustrious with a dagger in the arm, then runs out of the confessional, into Tom.

SIR NOBLE TOM

(Angry)

Where is my father?

Kamancho swings the dagger at Tom. Tom cracks him in the head with his sword hilt. Kamancho crumples.

Another priest is near the front door.

PRIEST

Father!

Lustrious moves toward the priest, who runs outside.

SIR NOBLE TOM

Lustrious.

(Calming himself down)

Let him go, help me find what we came here for.

They drag Kamancho to his private study.

Kamancho wakes to find himself tied up, and his study being ransacked.

FATHER KAMANCHO

Tom? Thomas, what is the meaning of this?

SIR NOBLE TOM

Where is my father. I know you have his ring. Tell me where he is.

FATHER KAMANCHO

Thomas... How am I to know where your father is? Why have you done this to me?

SIR NOBLE TOM

To you? You know where my father is. Tell me Kamancho.

FATHER KAMANCHO

We can deal with this calmly if you untie me.

LUSTRIOUS KNIGHT
 (Holding his bloody arm)
 Right.

FATHER KAMANCHO
 Why do you travel with this outlaw
 Thomas?

SIR NOBLE TOM
 I've been beaten and thrown out of
 my house. Tell me what you did to
 my father. Where is he?

The sound of boots perk their attention.

LUSTRIOUS KNIGHT
 Not my favorite sound.

FATHER KAMANCHO
 Your father was a stubborn sinner.
 Who had no vision for the future.

SIR NOBLE TOM
 NO! You are the sinner Kamancho...
 (On the verge of rage)
 My father is a noble man.

Knights pound on the door.

SIR NOBLE TOM (CONT'D)
 Give me the ring. Or I will be
 confessing to your murder!

Kamancho hesitates.

LUSTRIOUS KNIGHT
 Tom, we're out of time.

Lustrious sees a back door.

Tom raises his sword.

SIR NOBLE TOM
 NOW!

Tom stabs Kamancho in the arm. Knights bash on the door.

SIR NOBLE TOM (CONT'D)
 Where is the ring?
 (Twists the blade)

Kamancho points to a drawer.

FATHER KAMANCHO

(In pain)

You will both perish in the pits of
hell for this sacrilege.

Lustrious opens the drawer, finding a blue signet ring.

SIR NOBLE TOM

Where is my father? Where is he?
Tell me!

Ten redcloaks burst through the far door.

Tom hurries to the back door, while watching Kamancho's face.
Kamancho's hate turns to a smile.

FATHER KAMANCHO

We tortured your father...

Lustrious throws a small statue at an oncoming redcloak.
Pulling Tom from Kamancho's gaze, and down the back door
hallway.

FATHER KAMANCHO (CONT'D)

And left him to rot on the
Pinnacles Of Doom! Get them! Untie
me.

Tom and Lustrious are chased, and get away.

EXT. MEDIEVAL CITY - CITY WALL - NIGHT

A guard moves along the top of the city wall. He is thumped
on the head, and knocked out. A rope dangles over the wall.
Tom and Lustrious climb down and hustle away from the city.

EXT. OPEN WILDERNESS - LATER

LUSTRIOUS KNIGHT

What's the plan now, Thomas?

SIR NOBLE TOM

To the Pinnacles of Doom. Unless
it frightens you?

LUSTRIOUS KNIGHT

Tom, I've been from one side of the
realm to the other. There's only
one thing that frightens me. And
she's not anywhere around here.

EXT. OPEN WILDERNESS - BURNED OUT CAMPFIRE

Tom and Lustrious sleep on the ground.

EXT. LARGE ESTATE HOUSE - (DREAM)

Tom is little, he holds his father's hand. They visit a large estate house.

Still little, he walks with ALAYA. They walk along a garden. Willow trees hang from overhead. As they walk, they grow up.

Alaya swings on a rope swing, hanging from a willow's branch.

SIR NOBLE TOM

Alaya?

Alaya stops swinging.

ALAYA

(Smiling)

Yes my Thomas?

SIR NOBLE TOM

I, well, there was something I wanted to tell you.

ALAYA

Something?

Alaya reaches out, and holds Tom's hand.

SIR NOBLE TOM

Yes... Well...

ALAYA

Oh Thomas, you take everything so seriously. My father will always welcome you in his house. Even if...

Alaya leans closer to Tom, to kiss him.

The air ripples behind them, creating a whirlpool.

SIR NOBLE TOM

What was that?

ALAYA

Thomas? There is something I need to tell you as well.

The garden wavers, she is pulled toward the whirlpool. Alaya catches a tree branch, as her feet dangle toward the whirlpool of air that sucks everything except Tom toward it.

ALAYA (CONT'D)
Thomas! Help me Thomas!

SIR NOBLE TOM
ALAYA!

TOM WAKES. Shaking, and sweaty.

EXT. OPEN WILDERNESS - CAMPFIRE - MORNING

LUSTRIOUS KNIGHT
So, who is this Alaya person?

SIR NOBLE TOM
Alaya?

LUSTRIOUS KNIGHT
You've been calling her name in your sleep.

SIR NOBLE TOM
A girl I know.

LUSTRIOUS KNIGHT
Who you keep dreaming about. I wish I could have dreams like yours.

EXT. THE PINNACLES OF DOOM - DAY

Two days later, the ground is sandy and rocky. Tom and Lustrious view a scattering of boulders and sand dunes.

The Pinnacles of Doom.

A star shoots across the sky, burning brighter and brighter. It passes overhead crashing some twenty miles away.

LUSTRIOUS KNIGHT
The first one.

SIR NOBLE TOM
Starfall season.

LUSTRIOUS KNIGHT
Starfall. I'm supposed to be outside the running dragon Tavern, tipping my mug of ale into the air.

(holds his hand in the
air)
To the city of myths, to be reborn.
For the glory the gold...and a
chance to piss in the wind.

SIR NOBLE TOM
You followed the starlings?

LUSTRIOUS KNIGHT
Of course I have.

SIR NOBLE TOM
Why?

LUSTRIOUS KNIGHT
Why? Unlike you I don't come from
some family heritage of golden
spoons and silver cups. Do you have
any idea what can be bought with a
starling?

SIR NOBLE TOM
True enough.

They walk in silence, closer to the Pinnacles of Doom.
Ravens peck at bones chained to rocks. Lustrious turns his
head from the smell.

LUSTRIOUS KNIGHT
(Covers his nose)
The Pinnacles of Doom.

Tom smells nothing, and looks curiously to Lustrious.

SIR NOBLE TOM
You have Elvin blood in you!

LUSTRIOUS KNIGHT
What do you know.

Tom steps back.

SIR NOBLE TOM
I know for the last thousand years
the wizards have hunted your kind
down.

LUSTRIOUS KNIGHT
So what? Do you think what is said
is true?

Tom's hand moves to his sword.

SIR NOBLE TOM
 Elves are evil, their blood
 corrupts the soul.

LUSTRIOUS KNIGHT
 The wizards lie Tom. They've done
 it for years. Do you think I'm
 evil?

They stare at each other.

LUSTRIOUS KNIGHT (CONT'D)
 Hell, when I first found out, I was
 scared.

SIR NOBLE TOM
 I bet you were. The Wizards will
 hunt you down.

LUSTRIOUS KNIGHT
 No. Scared, that any day, I'd
 become evil, like it is written.

Tom lowers his hand. A raven flies overhead.

SIR NOBLE TOM
 You are not evil, are you?

LUSTRIOUS KNIGHT
 No, I am not. Let's get this over
 with.

Tom grabs a stone from the ground, and throws it at the
 ravens. It bounces harmlessly. The ravens screech and
 continue pecking the dead.

Lustrious picks up a rock and throws it killing a raven. The
 other five ravens take flight, and circle above waiting.

Lustrious walks a few feet away from Tom and the smell.

Tom moves closer to the bones. Lustrious covers his nose,
 and keeps his eyes open for trouble.

Three dead bodies are chained to a large scattering of rocks.
 Two still have flesh on their bones. The smell washes over
 Tom as he walks past them. The third body is mostly bones,
 Tom bends down. It is his father.

Lustrious eyes the birds, kicking rocks angrily.

LUSTRIOUS KNIGHT (CONT'D)
 What?...

Lustrious looks over at Tom.

Tom looks at the blue signet ring he is wearing, his father's. His fist tightens.

SIR NOBLE TOM
I will not let your house fall,
father. I will not!

Another star shoots overhead, landing miles away. Tom takes a deep breath, as Lustrious walks closer to him. Lustrious reaches out his hand.

LUSTRIOUS KNIGHT
Sir Noble Tom...

Tom grasps Lustrious' hand, letting himself be pulled up.

SIR NOBLE TOM
We go to Edenia. I will petition
the King, the courts. Whatever I
must do. There is still one noble
house I can count on to back me.

SHOW MAP OF DISTANCE TO EDENIA.

A red line moves across the map & stops, as they see another star shoot across the sky. It lands less than two miles from them. They run toward it for many minutes ecstatic, and pull up short of a hill overlooking a valley.

They move down into the valley. Following a long ripped scourge made by the comet. At the end lies a hissing, smoking charred rock.

LUSTRIOUS KNIGHT
I've never been this close.

The charred star cracks. The hissing stops. Part of it cracks off.

Something moves inside. Another crack.

A small horse's leg kicks out the side. Another crack.

Lustrious smells the air...

SIR NOBLE TOM
It is beautiful...

LUSTRIOUS KNIGHT
Behind...You!

Tom turns and is cracked in the head, knocking him into the crater.

An arrow zips passed Lustrious, who jumps into the crater.

The top shell breaks off the comet. A milky baby horses head pokes partly out...

Two men, dirty, with thick wooden clubs jump down at them. A third some distance away pulls back a short bow.

Tom rolls up sword out and blocks a heavy chop. His sword is knocked from his hand. He springs up shoving the man against the side of the crater. Tom holds the mans wrists.

Lustrious sidesteps and parry's his attackers swings.

The horse struggles to get out.

The bowman steps up, and fires at Lustrious who dives to his right. The arrow just misses his own man and strikes where Lustrious was.

DIRTY BANDIT
Watch it. AHH!

Lustrious' sword takes off the mans foot. Lustrious charges the archer, who scuttles backwards firing wide.

The Horse breaks the side of the star off, and falls over. It struggles to its belly.

Tom gets his sword back and duels the bandit.

Lustrious tackles the bowman to the ground.

The horse tries to stand, it falters.

Tom kills his attacker and stumbles over to the squirming footless man.

The horse forces itself up on its legs, higher, straighter.

Lustrious runs the archer through.

Tom kills the defenceless man.

The horse stands. It is bigger. It looks around.

Tom and Lustrious watch it.

It grows before their eyes. From its back, wings unfold.
The Pegasus steps out of the stars shell, toward them.

SIR NOBLE TOM
(Panting)
Not how I imagined it!

Lustrious holds out a rope. See's Tom's injured head.

LUSTRIOUS KNIGHT
What is? How's that feel?

SIR NOBLE TOM
Hurts. Lets get this over with.

They rope the Pegasus. It lets them. They lead it. It follows, nipping grass.

EXT. CITY OF EDENIA - TWO DAYS LATER

Tom and Lustrious lead the Pegasus through a crowd of people arriving at the outer city. New walls are under construction as the city has long since outgrown its old walls.

They pass mostly rickety wood shacks. Nearing the main gate a caged wagon rider looks down to them.

WAGON RIDER
New Starling?

SIR NOBLE TOM
(hesitant)
Yes. How much?

Six Redcloaks guard the gate.

Two mounted riders, one ZOHAN the wizard, the other KAVAD wearing a hooded black cloak ride through the main gate. The wizard hands wanted posters to the Redcloaks.

Lustrious see's the riders.

LUSTRIOUS KNIGHT
Wizards! There's only one thing to do with their kind.

WAGON RIDER
I'll have to feed it. I can give you a thousand gold.

LUSTRIOUS KNIGHT
We'll take it.

Lustrious throws the wagon rider the rope.

An old prophet stumbles up to them yelling.

PROPHET

Free the starlings! Set them free!
Heaven descends on us, and we cage
the fallen ones.

The Prophet spooks the Pegasus, pulling the rope from the rider.

The Redcloaks move toward them.

The rope catches the wagons spokes, as the scared Pegasus lurches into the air. It pulls the wagon a half foot off the ground, and is yanked back to the earth, crashing into the Redcloaks. The rider is thrown to the ground.

PROPHET (CONT'D)

You bring evil and doom onto
yourselves. Free the Star...

Zohan rides up and smacks the prophet on the head knocking him down. The Redcloaks struggle with the Pegasus.

Lustrious pulls Tom away from everyone and through the unguarded gate.

SIR NOBLE TOM

Our gold!

LUSTRIOUS KNIGHT

That was Zohan! Look!

Lustrious shows Tom a wanted poster he grabbed from one of the redcloaks.

SIR NOBLE TOM

I've heard of him. Morgan didn't
waste any time.

LUSTRIOUS KNIGHT

Lets find this nobleman friend of
your fathers.

SIR NOBLE TOM

Garwyn is like my uncle, I've been
coming here since I can remember.

LUSTRIOUS KNIGHT

Garwyn.

Tom grabs hold of the swing rope, dangling from an old willow tree. He sees Alaya swinging. He blinks. She is gone. Tom fights tears, gazing at the smoke.

SIR NOBLE TOM

Alaya!

LUSTRIOUS KNIGHT

I'm sorry Tom. Come on. Come,
I'll buy you a drink.

Tom lets Lustrious lead him away.

INT. TAVERN - LATE MORNING

Tom walks in, while Lustrious pulls wanted posters off the outside tavern wall.

They sit in a booth.

LUSTRIOUS KNIGHT

Now what's your plan?

(Hushed)

We're fugitives now. Your title is
gone. You are going to have to
face it.

Lustrious smells something and looks around.

The barmaid shows up, and sees the wanted posters. Lustrious' poster is on top.

BARMAID

Are you guys bounty hunters?

She looks at the posters, then at Lustrious, and smiles. Lustrious looks down at the posters, worried she has discovered them. He quickly tucks his and Tom's picture under others.

LUSTRIOUS KNIGHT

No, no. We were going to post them
up.

BARMAID

Oh, I thought you looked like a...
(Smiling again)
...bounty hunter.

Lustrious sees her smile, and leans closer to her.

LUSTRIOUS KNIGHT
 Actually I am a bounty hunter.
 Shhh... Secret business. Bad men
 these folks.

She smiles once again, as Lustrious sniffs the air again.

LUSTRIOUS KNIGHT (CONT'D)
 What is that smell. Like burnt
 hair, what are you cooking back
 there?

The barmaid motions to a wizard at the next table.

BARMAID
 Shhh. It's the wizard, poor fellow
 lost his cat.

The man at the next table wears red wizard robes, and is
 petting and talking to what appears to be a dead cat. Burned.
 Five empty mugs of ale are on his table.

BARMAID (CONT'D)
 So, what can I get for you?

Lustrious sniffs his nose again, disgusted.

LUSTRIOUS KNIGHT
 (loudly)
 How about CAT! Do you have any
 DEAD CAT on the menu?

The wizard turns around angry, but appears sad.

THE WIZARD
 (Looks at Lustrious)
 Don't make me turn you into a toad!

LUSTRIOUS KNIGHT
 Bring it cat man. I know quite a
 few princesses that would be
 willing to turn me back to my
 regular prince-like self again.

THE WIZARD
 (Takes a drink)
 You're not worth my time.
 (Pets the cat)
 Pay no attention to him Chaos.

The wizard turns around, ignoring everyone.

Tom drags himself to the bar.

The barmaid is infatuated with Lustrious, as he gently grabs her hand and orders food.

The barmaid finally leaves Lustrious to attend her job.

A shadow of a hand reaches near Lustrious' sword. Lustrious grabs the man's hand, and stands up.

A short man wearing leather armor under a brown cloak smiles, he is CONSCIOUS HANDS.

Hands tries to pull his hand free from Lustrious' grip.

Lustrious twists his arm around shoving him face first onto the table.

CONSCIOUS HANDS

Oh, ah, I was... You have a nice sword. I was really hoping I could take a look at it. I wasn't gonna keep it or nothing like that.

Lustrious Puts the blade up to his face.

LUSTRIOUS KNIGHT

You're not a very good thief are you!

CONSCIOUS HANDS

No no, I am the great Conscious Hands. At your service my good sir.

LUSTRIOUS KNIGHT

Great huh, great at what?

CONSCIOUS HANDS

I give things to people.

He has Lustrious' belt pouch in his other hand.

CONSCIOUS HANDS (CONT'D)

Things people lose.

LUSTRIOUS KNIGHT

I'm sure the Redcloaks will love to see you hang.

Tom grabs the belt pouch from Hands hand.

The barmaid arrives with food. Hands tries to get away. Tom grabs Hands shirt.

A large armored muscular square jawed warrior named MARK DELUKE places a hand on Tom's shoulder.

MARK DELUKE
Let him go friend, he is of no harm
to you.

SIR NOBLE TOM
Who are you to speak up for this
rogue.

CONSCIOUS HANDS
He... He is Mark DeLuke.

Tom lets go of Hands.

SIR NOBLE TOM
Mark DeLuke? Thee Mark DeLuke.

LUSTRIOUS KNIGHT
Didn't you slay the Antioch Dragon!

Slow ZOOM back for CLOSE UP of wizard, with them in the background.

MARK DELUKE
Thank you friend. There is plenty
of evil these days. Much greater
than that of the Antioch Dragon.

SIR NOBLE TOM
Mark DeLuke, I am...
(Bowing)
Sir Noble Tom of house Jacard...

The wizard flinches. (when Tom mentions his house name).

SIR NOBLE TOM (CONT'D)
Word of your valor travels far.
Please sit and join us.

Lustrious scans to see if anybody noticed Tom's family name.

DeLuke sits, Hands checks his arm, and goes to the bar.

SIR NOBLE TOM (CONT'D)
(Off screen)
Why do you back such a vagabond?

MARK DELUKE
I try and keep him out of trouble.

HANDS AT THE BAR

ZOOM back again to the wizard, with Hands in the background.

CONSCIOUS HANDS

You'd think I'd be included on this. But no, not me. Not the great Conscious Hands. What are they afraid of. I stay out of trouble, I don't hurt anybody, I don't break things. Barkeeper, what do you have for the great Conscious Hands?

Lustrious sits watching the barmaid.

The wizard slides his last mug of ale away from him, then pushes himself up, and stumbles to their table. He holds their table for support.

THE WIZARD

(Looks around, whispers)
You are from house Jacard?

LUSTRIOUS KNIGHT

Wizard!

THE WIZARD

Please! Until yesterday, I was employed by Garwyn of house Bedros.

SIR NOBLE TOM

House Bedros. What happened to Garwyn and Alaya.

THE WIZARD

Yesterday, the Redcloaks. They came...to arrest her.

SIR NOBLE TOM

Arrest her? What did they do to her? What happened to Garwyn's manor?

THE WIZARD

The redcloaks, and the wizard Zohan burned it to the ground. Garwyn, he was my friend, and they trapped him inside.

MARK DELUKE

Sit down wizard, before you fall down.

Lustrious flinches in anger.

SIR NOBLE TOM
Why? Why did they do this?

THE WIZARD
(Sitting)
Alaya, they were after her. But she had run away before they arrived.

SIR NOBLE TOM
Ran away. Then she is alive?

THE WIZARD
Yes. Yes she is alive.

SIR NOBLE TOM
But why? Why would they do this?

THE WIZARD
Zohan did not believe Garwyn.

MARK DELUKE
Why would the Redcloaks come to arrest her?

THE WIZARD
(Hesitant)
Well...

LUSTRIOUS KNIGHT
Wizard! He knows more than he's letting on. His cat was cooked for gods sake.

THE WIZARD
All right...
(Deep breath)
Alaya. Had been spending a great deal of time away from her father's estate. Searching... through the great library...

SIR NOBLE TOM
For what?

THE WIZARD
I wondered the same question. So I sent Chaos to follow her.

BACKFLASH

EXT. CITY OF EDENIA - NIGHT

The wizard's cat (Chaos) follows the girl through the city.
Into a temple library.

THE WIZARD

(V.O.)

I watched her for many weeks.

He watches her come and go many times, looking through his
magic pool.

THE WIZARD (CONT'D)

(V.O.)

She seemed to be compiling
information. Finally I decided to
take a closer look.

The Wizard is invisible, and in her house. He flips through
pages of notes, and through books.

THE WIZARD (CONT'D)

(V.O.)

All her books referenced old ruins.
At first I didn't understand. Then
I noticed she had compiled mostly
stories and writings regarding the
City of Myths.

The Wizard peaks in through her open door.

THE WIZARD (CONT'D)

(V.O.)

Then one night...

The girl is in her bedroom and begins to undress.

THE WIZARD (CONT'D)

(V.O.)

I wanted to stop. But I could not.

Mark DeLuke turns as if looking away. Lustrious leans in.

Topless, Alaya turns revealing markings on her bare chest.

THE WIZARD (CONT'D)

(V.O.)

Somehow she sensed I was there.

He flinches, as she looks at him. She covers herself.

THE WIZARD (CONT'D)
 (V.O.)
 But I saw it. On her breasts...

Lustrious listens closer, mouthing the words breasts.

THE WIZARD (CONT'D)
 There was a map, inscribed on her.
 Like it grew there.

LUSTRIOUS KNIGHT
 You're saying she has a map on
 her..

Lustrious gestures with his hands.

THE WIZARD
 Yes.

SIR NOBLE TOM
 Alaya.

THE WIZARD
 Wait. Later, I told Garwyn her
 father. And as I was telling him.

She busts into the room.

ALAYA
 You send your wizard to spy on me?
 How dare you!

PAPA
 Alaya!

ALAYA
 No. I need you to protect me, and
 you do this.

PAPA
 Let me explain.

ALAYA
 Don't bother. I won't be
 here...any longer.

PAPA
 Why? Alaya?

ALAYA
 Why? Didn't your wizard here tell
 you all about me!

She turns, so her father can't see her tears.

PAPA
Alaya, you cannot leave.

ALAYA
What do you care!

PAPA
Alaya...
(To himself)
This is not a good time.

Alaya holds her anger in with her teeth.

PAPA (CONT'D)
I guess, you must know the
truth...I...
(Teary eyed)
I...am not your father.

She looks at him concerned.

PAPA (CONT'D)
Alaya my dear, I knew this day
would come. I feared... but I knew.
Long ago I, when I found you.

ALAYA
Found me?

PAPA
Yes, I found you, nineteen winters
ago. Alone. In the wilderness.
With what I thought were burn marks
on your body.

Her tears burst into anger, and she smacks the wizard.

ALAYA
You both lie!

She storms away from them toward the doorway.

PAPA
Wait Alaya! You must know the
truth.

She stops at the door, Garwyn moves closer to her as he speaks.

PAPA (CONT'D)

I found you with what I thought
were burn marks on your body.

She places her hand on the door frame to hold herself up.

PAPA (CONT'D)

I found you near a crater, and the
remnants of, a star.
One of the first stars.

She is bewildered.

SIR NOBLE TOM

A starling.

PAPA

Yes Alaya. You are a starling. I
know you must go on this quest.
But please do not take this burden
up alone. We will find someone to
help us.

Garwyn slowly walks toward her.

ALAYA

(saddened, confused)

I have always felt something
calling me, like a belonging.
...oh father...

Alaya puts her arms around her father.

PAPA

Give me til tomorrow. I know I
cannot keep you here. Let me at
least arrange protection for your
journey.

ALAYA

(Serious)

I've found the ruins papa. I know
the location of the City of Myths.

END FLASHBACK

Everyone is in thought.

MARK DELUKE

The City of Myths?

LUSTRIOUS KNIGHT

I think I need another drink.

SIR NOBLE TOM
 She left yesterday, to search for
 the city?

THE WIZARD
 Yes. Down the eastern road.

Drinks arrive.

LUSTRIOUS KNIGHT
 (To the barmaid)
 Looks like I'm off to find a lost
 city, and a fair haired maiden with
 a most peculiar tattoo.

She whispers in his ear.

SIR NOBLE TOM
 Perhaps finding the City of Myths
 can help to get my house back.

MARK DELUKE
 Finding the City of Myths itself
 will change all of our lives Tom.
 Not to mention there is a young
 lady out there on her own traveling
 the eastern road.

They all look back and forth to each other.

SIR NOBLE TOM
 We must rescue her.

MARK DELUKE
 Yes, we will Tom. We will find
 her, and join her on her quest...

Mark DeLuke raises his glass in the air.

MARK DELUKE (CONT'D)
 To the City of Myths and adventure.

LUSTRIOUS KNIGHT
 For the fair haired maiden.

SIR NOBLE TOM
 To find Alaya.

LUSTRIOUS KNIGHT
 Sir Noble Tom.

SIR NOBLE TOM
 (Smiles)
 And the Lustrious Knight.

THE WIZARD
 And the wizard.

SIR NOBLE TOM
 And Mark DeLuke.

LUSTRIOUS KNIGHT
 And Mark DeLuke.

DeLuke smiles. Hands pokes himself into the conversation.

CONSCIOUS HANDS
 No one goes anywhere without the
 great Conscious Hands. You guys are
 going to need me.

Hands gives the wizard back the rings he'd stolen from him.

CONSCIOUS HANDS (CONT'D)
 In case anyone loses anything.

Mark DeLuke finishes his sip.

CONSCIOUS HANDS (CONT'D)
 What about me?

DeLuke smiles, and lifts his cup into the air again.

MARK DELUKE
 To the City of Myths.

They all raise their glasses.

EVERYBODY
 To the City of Myths.

The tavern turns silent. The wizard Zohan stands by the door holding wanted posters. Ten redcloak knights file in behind.

RANDOM WHISPERS
 It's the Evil Wizard Zohan!
 Redcloaks! Zohan.

ZOHAN
 The City of Myths! You fools, you
 will all be hung at first light.

Zohan sees the wizard.

ZOHAN (CONT'D)

So now you align yourself with
outlaws. Where is the maiden
wizard?

THE WIZARD

You killed my cat!

ZOHAN

You should not have tried to warn
them. Now back up, before I kill
you as well.

The wizard looks around, then backs away from the others.

SIR NOBLE TOM

(To the wizard)

You betrayed Garwyn!

The wizard looks to the floor in shame.

SIR NOBLE TOM (CONT'D)

And now you betray us.

ZOHAN

Come, rid yourself of these
bandits.

DeLuke stands up.

MARK DELUKE

The wizard is with us Zohan. Take
your evil men with you and leave,
or I will have to kill you all.

DeLuke draws his sword. The Wizard sees hope in his new
friends.

Zohan exchanges looks with his men.

ZOHAN

They are my prisoners...

Lightning flashes from Zohan's fingers, blasting DeLuke
against the wall. He crumples. The wizard's table crashes on
its side.

ZOHAN (CONT'D)

And so are you for interfering with
justice. Arrest them all, kill them
if they struggle.

The wizard sees his cat on the floor next to his table, and looks from it to Zohan, and back again.

ZOHAN (CONT'D)

And the wizard...

Take his book, and his rings.

The wizard looks down to his rings, then to his cat. He sees Conscious Hands tighten a grip on his dagger.

Hands whips his dagger into Zohan's upper chest. The Wizard fires magic flame at the Redcloaks as they advance.

Lustrious and Tom dive for cover. Tom checks on DeLuke.

DeLuke opens his eyes to see the tavern erupt into fighting. Flames race up the walls.

Half the patrons join the fight, the others flee.

Tom and Lustrious duel two redcloaks.

DeLuke stands, holding his shield.

Zohan blasts a random patron with lightning.

A redcloak attacks DeLuke. DeLuke ducks the redcloak blade and grabs his arm, stabbing him with his own weapon.

MARK DELUKE

(To himself)

Where's my sword.

Zohan fires magical balls of energy into DeLuke.

Tom and Lustrious battle the redcloaks.

DeLuke grabs a big table and charges, sliding it across the floor toward Zohan.

MARK DELUKE (CONT'D)

Tom! Duck.

Tom ducks under the table, as DeLuke knocks two redcloaks down. Lustrious kills one, Hands stabs the other.

DeLuke shoves the table into Zohan, and knocks him out the front door.

The fire rages out of control.

CONSCIOUS HANDS

Back door!

Tom grabs the wizard and pulls him out the back door.

Hands and DeLuke follow Tom and Lustrious.

The tavern burns. The good guys escape to an alleyway behind the burning tavern.

Hands points to a nearby sewage drain.

Zohan and redcloaks converge on the drain. A redcloak begins to climb down.

ZOHAN

No. Get back.

Zohan twirls his fingers. Out of a dark mist form three cat-like creatures. The cats jump down the drain.

ZOHAN (CONT'D)

(To the redcloaks)

Each of you form ranks of twelve
and cover each sewage area on the
edge of the city.

THEY run from the cat-creatures, through the sewers. Hands throws all his daggers at them. One pounces on Hands. DeLuke chops the creature in half. It turns to mist, and evaporates.

DeLuke and Hands rush into a large open sewer chamber. Water flows ankle deep.

Both cat creatures bolt out of the far tunnel at Tom. Hands throws a rope catching its neck. DeLuke slices through the other cat, It evaporates over Tom. The final cat knocks DeLuke down into the water, then turns and bites Hands backpack.

Tom stabs it. The rope falls into the water, as the creature turns to mist. Tom helps Hands to his feet.

MARK DELUKE

(Getting up)

You are pretty good with that.

SIR NOBLE TOM

I have been trained by a master
swordsmen.

MARK DELUKE

Really? Whom.

LUSTRIOUS KNIGHT
 (Sarcastic)
 The best that gold can buy.

SIR NOBLE TOM
 That's right.

EXT. CITY OF EDENIA - RAVINE

On the edge of the city. The Lustrious Knight, Sir Noble Tom, Mark DeLuke, Conscious Hands, and The Wizard climb down from the eastern stone sewer drain, into a ravine, which stretches thirty feet across and continues in each direction out of sight. As they climb down, crossbow bolts shoot at them.

Twenty yards from the sewer drain, twelve redcloaks are hiding in tall grass, behind large rocks.

The Wizard casts a magic shield which protects them from the crossbow bolts. DeLuke and Lustrious jump down from the ravine, and engage the Redcloaks sword to sword. Tom follows.

Tom ducks behind a boulder, as bolts shatter across it, and watches DeLuke and Lustrious engage four redcloaks.

To Tom's right, a Redcloak fires a bolt into Lustrious' leg. Tom pulls his sword and charges the redcloak. Another bolt zips past, as the knight he runs at pulls a sword.

Standing behind the wizards shield, Hands throws rocks from the sewer drain.

THE WIZARD
 Rocks!

Hands throws another rock. It cracks a redcloak in the head knocking him out.

CONSCIOUS HANDS
 They work. Unless you have something else?

THE WIZARD
 My right pocket.

The Wizard fires a magic ray, blinding one of the redcloaks.

Hands reaches into the wizards pocket, and finds a dagger.

THE WIZARD (CONT'D)
 Don't lose it.

Hands throws the dagger. It misses its target, and falls into the ravine's stream. The Wizard shakes his head. Hands picks up more rocks.

CONSCIOUS HANDS

(Smiling)

It was nice though.

Tom kills a redcloak as another attacks him from behind. Tom blocks the redcloak's attack and kicks him back against a rock. Lustrious moves in beside them.

Another bolt zips past, sticking in DeLuke's shield.

Tom follows where the bolt came from, and sees two more redcloaks firing from behind a far rock. Tom charges them.

The redcloaks fire two bolts, which bounce off the Wizards shield. The shield dissipates.

THE WIZARD

Time to duck.

Hands and the Wizard jump down from the edge.

A crossbow man tackles Tom.

Lustrious moves to help and gets hit with another bolt. A fifth bolt sticks into DeLuke's shield.

DeLuke defeats the last of the Redcloaks.

Hands searches them, taking one of their crossbows.

MARK DELUKE

What are you going to do with that?
Throw your daggers.

CONSCIOUS HANDS

I ran out.

MARK DELUKE

You don't even know how to use it.

Tom watches the Wizard search the brook for his dagger.

THE WIZARD

I am sorry about Garwyn. But Zohan was my mentor. I didn't think he would burn the manor down. Or harm anybody.

SIR NOBLE TOM

Seems you do not know a great deal
about your teacher.

THE WIZARD

No. And now I'm a fugitive. My
dagger is lost, Chaos is lost, I've
lost all the friends I've ever had.

LUSTRIOUS KNIGHT

(In pain)

Must be tough when your cat gets
burned up twice.

SIR NOBLE TOM

Pay no attention to Lustrious. You
do have us. Thank you for helping
back there, against Zohan.

Hands gives the Wizard his dead cat.

THE WIZARD

(In awe)

Chaos. Thank you.

Hands loads the crossbow.

CONSCIOUS HANDS

To the City of Myths right.

Hands fires blindly, as they rush into the forest.

Japhet the Wizard holds his cat like a baby.

MARK DELUKE

The Crystal forest.

LUSTRIOUS KNIGHT

No one comes here. It's haunted.

SIR NOBLE TOM

Look at these trees.

The trees are mostly crystals and stone from the ground up.
a strange mixture of crystal-like rocks. Some are completely
dark-crystallized, including the branches. Others are only
crystallized partially up, where the tree has died the rest
of the way.

Lustrious has two bolts sticking in his left leg, and kicks a
tree with his right. It snaps in half.

SIR NOBLE TOM (CONT'D)
Not a good idea.

Hands fires his crossbow at a tree. It hits a different tree.

LUSTRIOUS KNIGHT
Nice shot.

Hands looks to Lustrious, then the tree he was aiming at, then to the tree he actually hit.

CONSCIOUS HANDS
(Lying)
Yeah. It was wasn't it.

MARK DELUKE
You weren't even aiming at that tree.

CONSCIOUS HANDS
I'm a good shot with this. You'll see.

Hands fires again. It hits the wizards cat, pinning it to a tree.

The wizard flips out, and casts a spell at Hands.

CONSCIOUS HANDS (CONT'D)
Whoa, wait. It was an accident...

Hands falls over.

LUSTRIOUS KNIGHT
(Pulls his sword)
Wizard, what are you doing?

The Wizard rushes to his cat. He pries it from the tree.

SIR NOBLE TOM
(Blocking Lustrious)
Let him go Lustrious, Hands deserved it.

MARK DELUKE
He's probably asleep, just kick him.

LUSTRIOUS KNIGHT
Did I tell you I hate wizards?

THE WIZARD

Come Chaos.
(Walks away)
Yes, I am sorry too.

MARK DELUKE

You should get yourself a shield.

DeLuke shows off the five bolts stuck in his shield.

LUSTRIOUS KNIGHT

Yeah. One of these days.

MARK DELUKE

(Whispering seriously)
The shield is really for blocking
dragon's breath. Here, hold it
while I get the bolts out.

As Lustrious grabs the shield, DeLuke pulls both bolts out of Lustrious' leg.

LUSTRIOUS KNIGHT

(Screams in pain)

Ah!

DeLuke leaves Lustrious holding his shield.

LUSTRIOUS KNIGHT (CONT'D)

Dragon's breath... Right!

DeLuke kicks Hands. Hands jerks awake.

CONSCIOUS HANDS

(Stands up)
What was that?

MARK DELUKE

Put that away.

DeLuke leads them deeper into the CRYSTAL FOREST.

SIR NOBLE TOM

DeLuke. If this helps us catch up
with Alaya. What about the
redcloaks.

MARK DELUKE

Where we are going is not on the
path Alaya or the redcloaks are
headed.

SIR NOBLE TOM
 (Frustrated)
 Then why are we going there.

MARK DELUKE
 We will never catch up to her on
 foot.

Tom bites his tongue, and follows DeLuke's lead.

The Wizard pets his dead cat.

They travel through the Crystal Forest, following DeLuke.

Hands fires another crossbow bolt off in the distance.

Tom stares at his ring, clutching his fist, and looks to the
 others. He straightens up, a little taller, a little stiffer.

Lustrious drags behind, keeping to himself.

EXT. CRYSTAL FOREST - LATER

Tom catches up with DeLuke, who has stopped.

MARK DELUKE
 So what do you expect to find on
 this Journey?

SIR NOBLE TOM
 I expect...
 (Holding his ring)
 To find Alaya, and maybe the City
 of Myths.

MARK DELUKE
 Right. You can hide what troubles
 you from them. But not from me.

DeLuke puts his nose up to Tom's nose.

MARK DELUKE (CONT'D)
 I feel your feelings Thomas, and
 the way you boil inside, does not
 bode well for the rest of us.

SIR NOBLE TOM
 (Angered)
 What do you want from me?

MARK DELUKE
 Ask yourself. Why are you on this
 quest?

Who, or what are you trying to rescue? If you are doing this for selfish reasons, you will save no one. And I will not stand around while you jeopardize the rest of us. This journey depends on all of us working together.

The others catch up.

MARK DELUKE (CONT'D)

Rest, we shall all need our strength.

They sit, and eat.

Afterwards, Deluke sits away from the others, cross-legged, and meditates facing the sun.

EXT. CRYSTAL FOREST - NEXT DAY

Lustrious chews a tough piece of old meat.

LUSTRIOUS KNIGHT

This is nasty stuff.

SIR NOBLE TOM

I don't see you trying to find anything better.

LUSTRIOUS KNIGHT

It's not my job. He's the tracker. Besides, look around, I haven't seen a sign of life for two days. There's nothing in this forest that's even remotely alive.

Tom stands up acting all noble-like.

LUSTRIOUS KNIGHT (CONT'D)

What, you don't get to boss me around pal, your servant days are over mister nobleman.

CONSCIOUS HANDS

Let him be Lustrious.

LUSTRIOUS KNIGHT

Stay out of this you crossbow shoot'n fairy.

Tom stalks off. DeLuke follows him, and sneaks up behind him.

MARK DELUKE

Be calm, look around, notice there is nothing living. Now, look to the living, for it is they who will save you. If you treat them as lowly, they will only resent you. Listen to them. Earn their trust.

SIR NOBLE TOM

We must find Alaya. I feel there's not much time left.

MARK DELUKE

The journey is more than the destination Tom. It is the moments before and after, when we truly live.

They travel till dark and make a fire. Tom tosses and turns throughout the night.

EXT. CRYSTAL FOREST - MIDDAY

Tom and DeLuke are sword practicing.

MARK DELUKE

Clear your mind. Forget the journey, forget the quest. You cannot learn when you are angry.

SIR NOBLE TOM

What do you think fuels me.

MARK DELUKE

If you use your anger for fuel, it will consume you, until who you are, no longer remains. Let it go Tom. You cannot avenge your fathers death with hatred. You will only become those for whom you fear. Breath in, and revel in the light and the life that surrounds you. Feel the good, let it in. Use it to illuminate hope in those around you.

SIR NOBLE TOM

Light and magic. It's difficult to understand it.

MARK DELUKE

Magic is all around us. Look at the wizard.

He draws his power from the land itself. He can rub two rocks together and increase the magnitude of the spark. Turning it into a bursting fireball as simple as throwing rocks. But the priests, their powers come from faith. Not the land.

SIR NOBLE TOM

From Faith? Do you really believe the gods exist.

LUSTRIOUS KNIGHT

The gods are dead.

MARK DELUKE

I still believe, though I don't have the powers I had when I was younger. But I do have faith. My faith keeps me whole. The gods are alive.

SIR NOBLE TOM

Where?

MARK DELUKE

Since the stars began to fall, we have been cut off from them. Perhaps they wait. For her. For us.

EXT. CRYSTAL FOREST - DAYS LATER - CAMPFIRE - NIGHT

DeLuke sits next to the Wizard.

MARK DELUKE

I found something very disturbing this morning.

THE WIZARD

Yes.

DeLuke shows the wizard a small Crystallized animal.

MARK DELUKE

What do you make of this?

The Wizard looks at the trees. Then at the animal. He clutches his cat tighter and gazes into the fire.

DeLuke crosses around the fire pit, and sits by Tom.

MARK DELUKE (CONT'D)

I don't like the way the wizard is.
I think he is losing his mind.

SIR NOBLE TOM

I will keep an eye on him.

MARK DELUKE

Good. Where we are going is a
rough place. We must stick
together.

The fire burns down as the night progresses.

Tom is awake. He throws a log on the fire. The others sleep.

Slow pull back through the forest, where a tree branch moves.
A loud tree-snapping echoes through the forest.

Tom jumps, and hurries over to DeLuke.

SIR NOBLE TOM

Mark, wake up. Come on get up.

Another loud SNAP. Something big comes at them, it gets
louder and louder.

MARK DELUKE

What is that?

SIR NOBLE TOM

Wake Up!

DeLuke springs to his feet.

Trees break and snap, in a loud crunching crash as a creature
storms out from the forest. It charges through the fire pit.
Tom and DeLuke dive out of the way. Lustrious and the wizard
wake up.

The wizard weaves a protective shield around himself, as
DeLuke, Lustrious and Tom surround the creature. DeLuke
stands, sword and shield held out.

A large lizard on four legs, ten feet high, and twenty foot
long. Its body is covered with spikes resembling the
crystallized trees. It's tail is covered with spikes. Which
it whips at DeLuke.

DeLuke ducks, blocking with his shield. The tail hits Tom
knocking him to the ground.

The wizard whips magic fire into its neck.

Lustrious cuts off a spike.

Hands sleeps.

It knocks Lustrious down. Tom stands.

The wizard blasts the creature with a huge fireball explosion.

Hands wakes, fires his crossbow. The bolt bounces off.

It charges Hands. DeLuke jumps in the way, stabbing it. It whacks DeLuke's shield.

Hands reloads.

CONSCIOUS HANDS

(At DeLuke)

Move! Move!

DeLuke stabs the creature again. Tom cuts off a spike. Lustrious circles.

DeLuke stabs the creature in the head. The creature knocks DeLuke to the ground, practically on top of him.

DeLuke stands back up.

The creature rears back, lifting its body and head into the air, and smashes DeLuke's shield out of his hand. DeLuke stumbles back, holds his ground, and raises his sword into the air.

Hands shoots. The bolt sticks DeLuke in the back. DeLuke screams, as he turns back to the creature.

It breathes a foul gaseous cloud engulfing DeLuke.

The creature turns to face Lustrious and Tom, as another magic ray blasts it.

The creature slumps to the ground. Dead.

Hands and the others circle in on DeLuke, who is standing unmoving.

Tom looks closely at DeLuke, then to the trees around them.

SIR NOBLE TOM

He's...crystallized...solid stone.

THE WIZARD

Petrified.

CONSCIOUS HANDS
That's not good.

The morning light is upon them.

LUSTRIOUS KNIGHT
Well Wizard. Can you heal him.

The Wizard runs his hands along DeLuke's statue.

THE WIZARD
No. Worse yet. If he falls over,
or breaks. It will kill him.

CONSCIOUS HANDS
What if we leave him here?

SIR NOBLE TOM
No. We must keep moving.
Together. Help me find something
to carry him.

THE WIZARD
Carefully.

They construct something to drag DeLuke. Lustrious picks up DeLuke's shield.

SIR NOBLE TOM
All right which way do we go.

LUSTRIOUS KNIGHT
(Shakes his head)
Nice. All right. Hands, lead the
way.
(Hands goes the wrong way)
That way.

Hands leads in the direction Lustrious pointed, while Lustrious and Tom carry DeLuke's statue.

They drag DeLuke through the forest. DeLuke's sword tip breaks off, magical energy crackles as the blade falls harmlessly to the ground.

CONSCIOUS HANDS
He's not going to like that!

SIR NOBLE TOM
No, I suppose not.

Lustrious picks up the sword tip.

LUSTRIOUS KNIGHT
Well, it's not magical anymore.

Lustrious throws the sword tip into the woods.

SIR NOBLE TOM
Any idea where we are?

LUSTRIOUS KNIGHT
Besides wandering around the
petrified forest? No. You?

CONSCIOUS HANDS
Are you two serious?

LUSTRIOUS KNIGHT
As serious as you are conscious.
No sun. Til I can figure out where
the sun is, we might as well stay
here. We might as well sit around
and pick some daisies.

Lustrious walks around with DeLuke's shield. He looks around to make sure no one is looking, and cuts a small slice in his arm (with his sword). A moment later, the cut heals.

The sun peaks through the clouds.

LUSTRIOUS KNIGHT (CONT'D)
This way.

EXT. TOWN OF VAL'MOORE

Late mid-day they come out of the woods, to find a town in the midst of a festival. It is a yearly festival geared toward celebrating the first week of the starfall season. The Festival of Heroes.

They carry DeLuke into town, and stop at the first tavern.

Lustrious and Tom drag DeLuke onto the porch of Hayden's Rest. A two story tavern and Inn. They stand DeLuke next to four chairs on the porch. Hands sits. The Wizard stands off the porch, talking to his cat.

SIR NOBLE TOM
Hands. Keep an eye on DeLuke.

Tom and Lustrious go into the tavern.

A dozen people sit around the common room drinking, chatting, smoking, gearing up for the festival.

They pass three men gambling with dice, and sit at the bar.

LUSTRIOUS KNIGHT
Three ales my good man.

SIR NOBLE TOM
I need you to keep an eye on Hands.
I'll keep the wizard company.

LUSTRIOUS KNIGHT
Who's going to look for the maiden?

SIR NOBLE TOM
Alaya is not here, didn't you
listen?

LUSTRIOUS KNIGHT
Just in case.

SIR NOBLE TOM
This is serious. I don't want you
and Hands getting into trouble.

LUSTRIOUS KNIGHT
What do you think you're going to
find here?

SIR NOBLE TOM
Hopefully, a wizard. One powerful
enough to reverse whatever magic is
on DeLuke.

LUSTRIOUS KNIGHT
If you want to rescue this damsel
so bad, we shouldn't have even
stopped here.

SIR NOBLE TOM
You saw the sword. If the sword
can be turned back, so can he.
And... We are going to need his
help. Unless you plan on leading
us to the city of Myths.

The bartender HAYDEN overhears them, and sets down three
mugs.

Lustrious looks Tom in the eye.

LUSTRIOUS KNIGHT
Fine, we'll stay here.

HAYDEN THE BARTENDER
 Three mugs of ale for...
 (Looking around)
 Three bold adventurers as
 yerselves.

SIR NOBLE TOM
 Thank you.
 (Looks outside to Deluke's
 statue)
 Do you have any rooms available?

HAYDEN THE BARTENDER
 I'm afraid not sir. Festival of
 Heroes begins at dusk. You'll not
 find an empty room in all of
 Val'Moore. You should be finding
 yourselves to the square. To see
 them starlings... I bet you's love
 all sorts of the monstrosities they
 be paradin around.

Tom grabs the bartenders wrist.

SIR NOBLE TOM
 Do you think keeping those poor
 creatures as slaves is okay?
 (Tightens his grip)
 Huh?

HAYDEN THE BARTENDER
 Ah, no good sir. I was just
 overhearing you...
 (Whispers)
 Mentioning the City of Myths. And
 I thought...

LUSTRIOUS KNIGHT
 Rumors.
 (Gives the barkeep coins)
 Rumors to keep to yourself.

Tom lets go of the bartenders wrist.

HAYDEN THE BARTENDER
 I didn't mean any harm good sirs,
 those poor starling devils, every
 year it's worse and worse.

They get up to leave.

SIR NOBLE TOM
Someone has to help them. Maybe it
should be you.

HAYDEN THE BARTENDER
Who would listen to me.

SIR NOBLE TOM
People listen to your tales all the
time. Maybe you should spread some
hope. Tell them the starlings must
be set free.

STRANGER
Set free! You're plumb not from
around here are you stranger.

Lustrious pulls Tom toward the door.

LUSTRIOUS KNIGHT
Why do you care so much about the
starlings?

Tom looks at Lustrious.

LUSTRIOUS KNIGHT (CONT'D)
Sure, I get it.
(Hushed)
I know she's a starling. But what
do you hope is going to happen once
you find her?

SIR NOBLE TOM
I don't know.

Tom shoves the door open, and leans on the porch railing,
looking out into the city.

Lustrious sets two ales next to Hands and DeLuke, then points
his sword at Hands. Holding his ale in the other.

LUSTRIOUS KNIGHT
Hands.
(Seriously)
I'll take all your gold now. Give
it to me, all of it.

CONSCIOUS HANDS
(Worried)
What?

LUSTRIOUS KNIGHT

(Laughing)

I've always wanted to say that.

SIR NOBLE TOM

Hands, we are going to need your gold to find some magic to heal DeLuke. Are you part of this adventure or not?

Tom sips his ale, disgusted by its taste.

CONSCIOUS HANDS

(Whining)

I work hard for my gold, come on, do you think people just hand coins to me? You guys are no fun.

Hands holds out a bag of coins. Lustrious takes it.

CONSCIOUS HANDS (CONT'D)

Wait!

Hands reaches into the bag and takes out a ring, a bracelet, and a dark rock.

LUSTRIOUS KNIGHT

A rock? What are you going to do with a rock?

Lustrious hands Tom the sack of coins as Hands puts the rock into his pocket.

SIR NOBLE TOM

Stay out of trouble you two. I mean it.

Tom walks off with the Wizard.

SIR NOBLE TOM (CONT'D)

I don't know, what do you think? Is it wise to leave those two in charge of DeLuke?

THE WIZARD

Wise. What do we care about wise.
(Talking to his cat)
Do you think we care about wise.
No, we do not.

Tom rubs his head in frustration.

EXT. HAYDEN'S REST TAVERN - VAL'MOORE

Lustrious and Hands sit with Deluke's statue. Many people walk by. Those that walk into the tavern look at the statue.

Outside and inside, the town is delirious in celebration.

A boy moves up to them.

BOY

Pretty soon the parade of wagons is going to come by. Showing the starlings. The ones the Wagon masters have. Wow, who is that. He sure looks tough.

CONSCIOUS HANDS

Tough.

(Stands)

Of course. This here is the statue of the great dragon slayer Mark DeLuke.

BOY

Dragon slayer.

The boy reaches to touch DeLuke. Hands smacks the boys hand.

CONSCIOUS HANDS

To touch Mark DeLuke the dragon slayer, will cost you.. one copper piece.

BOY

I don't have any copper.

LUSTRIOUS KNIGHT

(Annoyed)

Then beat it boy, go watch the parade somewhere else.

The boy runs away. Some girls walk in. One of them makes eye contact with Lustrious as she enters the tavern.

Lustrious looks at Hands. Hands is obliviously rubbing his crossbow.

LUSTRIOUS KNIGHT (CONT'D)

You can handle this, right.

Hands loads his crossbow on his lap.

LUSTRIOUS KNIGHT (CONT'D)

I'm going to...

(Lying)

Get another drink. Stay out of trouble. And don't shoot anybody.

Hands nods half understanding, as Lustrious heads into the tavern.

Hands aims his crossbow across the street, and fires. It strikes the upper portion of a building, exactly where he was aiming. Hands jumps excited.

CONSCIOUS HANDS

Yeah. Did you see that.

(Looking for Lustrious)

I got it. I can shoot you.

(Laughs)

DeLuke did you see that. Yeah it was great wasn't it. Oh yeah. The great Conscious Hands expert crossbow-man.

Proud of himself, Hands leans on DeLuke's statue.

Knocking it over.

A small piece breaks off DeLuke's head. Hands struggles to stand DeLuke back up, and tries to put the piece back on DeLuke. Hands looks around. Nobody noticed. He pockets the chipped off piece. It turns to DeLuke's hair.

EXT. TOWN SQUARE - VAL'MOORE - SUNSET

Tom and the Wizard walk through the town square. People are setting up. A wagon full of barrels. A small stone stage-like rising, is the back drop for a bunch of broken furniture. An old man tosses more wood onto the pile.

OLD MAN (O.S.)

Gonna be a beauty tonight boys.
The festival of Heroes. Stars, free ale, and a fire that's gonna light up the sky.

THE WIZARD

Fire!

The wizard quickens his pace. Tom talks to the old man.

THE WIZARD (CONT'D)

(Moving further away)

Yes Chaos. No more fire.

INT. HAYDEN'S REST TAVERN - VAL'MOORE

Lustrious sits across from a girl at a crowded table, she is laughing. They each have drinks.

LUSTRIOUS KNIGHT
Starfall?

GIRL2
What, you didn't think girls could find any starlings? Look around, they're everywhere.

LUSTRIOUS KNIGHT
You've actually found one?

GIRL2
You bet you're sweet ass, sweat cheeks.
(She tips her cup up)
For the gold and the glory of the stars right.

LUSTRIOUS KNIGHT
(Smiles, lifts his cup up)
Hell yeah!

Outside a group of boys pay Hands to check out the statue of the dragon slayer.

One of the boys UNCLE walks up to Hands.

UNCLE
Hey! What's going on here?

The boys stop. Hands pockets the coins.

CONSCIOUS HANDS
Where?

The man sees DeLuke's statue.

UNCLE
Hey, my friend.
(Eyes up the statue)
This is a fine work of art.

BOY
He's a dragon slayer uncle.

UNCLE
A dragon slayer? Marvelous.

CONSCIOUS HANDS

This. Is the great Mark DeLuke.

The boys part. The uncle runs his hand along the statue.

UNCLE

Really! I've heard of him. I'll take it.

CONSCIOUS HANDS

Pardon sir?

UNCLE

How much. I want this statue.
(Looks up to the sky)
The festival of Heroes is going to start soon.

CONSCIOUS HANDS

So I've heard.

UNCLE

(Smiling)
Name your price.

Hands looks into the tavern, to see a lady leading Lustrious up a flight of stairs. Hands rubs his hands together, unsure what to do.

EXT. GREEN DRAGON DOOR - VAL'MOORE

Tom knocks on a wooden door, It has a green dragon face on it. Silence. Tom knocks again.

THE WIZARD

(To his cat)
Not good Chaos. Not good.

Tom knocks again.

The door opens. An old robed man peers out at them.

CRAZY MAGE

(Suspicious)
Hello, what do you want?

SIR NOBLE TOM

Well...

CRAZY MAGE

You seek magic. I know what magic you seek.

SIR NOBLE TOM
 We have come for the aid of our
 companion.

The crazy mage looks them over, then sees the dead cat.

CRAZY MAGE
 It will cost you.
 (Thinking)
 Fifty gold.

Tom starts digging for gold.

The crazy mage casts an 'Animate Dead' spell.

The Wizards eyes bulge out.

THE WIZARD
 NO!

Chaos becomes animated dead. He hisses and scratches the
 wizard's face. Chaos jumps and bolts off.

THE WIZARD (CONT'D)
 Not my cat. Chaos!

SIR NOBLE TOM
 Our companion is a man! We don't
 need help with the dead cat!

The cat hisses at a little girl. She screams and runs.
 Chaos disappears around a corner, the wizard runs after.

CRAZY MAGE
 Oh. I... Is the man dead as well?

SIR NOBLE TOM
 No. Our companion has been turned
 to stone.

CRAZY MAGE
 Turned to stone. Petrification is
 tough to break.
 (Thinking)
 I may have a potion to turn him
 back.

SIR NOBLE TOM
 Now we are getting somewhere.

CRAZY MAGE
 One-thousand gold pieces.

SIR NOBLE TOM
A thousand gold! I do not have a
thousand gold.

CRAZY MAGE
Good day then!

The door slams shut on Tom's face. Tom stands unsure what to do. He looks around to the people walking around and to the amount of daylight left. Tom turns back and knocks.

CRAZY MAGE (CONT'D)
(Opens door)
Go away you poor beggar.

Inside the door, the crazy mage struggles with his emotions. A shadow crosses the man's complexion, swirling within his features.

SIR NOBLE TOM
I need that potion...
Listen I have about three hundred
gold. What about my friends cat...

CRAZY MAGE
The cat was dead.

SIR NOBLE TOM
Surely there is something we can do
for you in exchange for your magic?

The door opens.

The crazy mage gazes at Tom. He fights himself to speak.

CRAZY MAGE
There is...one task I could use
help with. A quest. A very
dangerous undertaking, where you
should not go. But you must...

INT. HAYDEN'S REST TAVERN - VAL'MOORE

Hands is gambling. He has a large sack of coins. The CAMERA floats up and out the window. Moaning sounds pour out of the next window over.

EXT. MAGE SHOP - VAL'MOORE

Tom steps from the Mage's shop carrying a small blue bottle.

A large wagon train of caged starlings, rolls through the street, people run around on both sides dressed in costumes and celebrating. Tom pushes his way through the mob.

INT. HAYDEN'S REST TAVERN - VAL'MOORE

Dice stop rolling. Hands sits gambling with four men.

CONSCIOUS HANDS
(Pumps his fist)
Yeah!

MAN5
That's five in a row little man!

Hands hides his sack of coins further under his cloak.

CONSCIOUS HANDS
It's luck. Today must be my lucky
day.

One of the gamblers stands.

MAN1
You've been cheaten us!

Two of the men jump Hands, and knock him to the ground. They punch and kick him. The other man pulls a blade.

Tom walks into Hayden's Rest and draws his sword.

SIR NOBLE TOM
Halt!

The men look toward Tom. One of them steps forward, blade out.

SIR NOBLE TOM (CONT'D)
(Thinking)
This man is under arrest for crimes
in Edenia.

MAN1
He has stolen money from us.

SIR NOBLE TOM
Has he?

MAN3
He has! We want our gold back.

Tom sticks his sword to Hands arm, and flips Hands cloak open, revealing the sack of coins.

SIR NOBLE TOM
Give these men their gold back, you
street rat.

Tom cringes, at his own choice of words.

CONSCIOUS HANDS
The...thee.. Sir?

Tom upset at his words.

SIR NOBLE TOM
Take the purse and leave. Find
somewhere else to gamble.

The main gambler smiles, grabs the purse. He laughs as he
and his men back toward the door.

CONSCIOUS HANDS
Sir. Please Sir most of those
coins are mine.

SIR NOBLE TOM
I am sure they are.

The men leave.

SIR NOBLE TOM (CONT'D)
Where is DeLuke, and Lustrious?
Hands!

CONSCIOUS HANDS
Who? Oh.
(Looking up)
He, ah, How am I to know? I think
he got a room, upstairs.

SIR NOBLE TOM
Great!

Tom moves to the barkeeper.

CONSCIOUS HANDS
Do you have any idea how much gold
you just gave them?

Tom ignores him.

The bartender leads Tom upstairs motioning to one of the four
doors along the Inn hallway.

HAYDEN THE BARTENDER

The woman in question, with your friend. She is staying in this room. She only arrived yesterday...

SIR NOBLE TOM

Damn it Lustrious we don't need this.

The room is quiet.

Tom rubs his forehead in frustration. He knocks on the door.

It creaks open an inch.

They peek in.

Lustrious sleeps on the bed, alone. Covered only by sheets. Tom shakes him.

SIR NOBLE TOM (CONT'D)

Lustrious. Wake up. Where is DeLuke?

Hands finds a drink next to the bed, and inspects it. Tom shakes Lustrious again. The bartender watches from the doorway.

CONSCIOUS HANDS

Poison!

The bartender's eyes widen, as Tom checks Lustrious.

SIR NOBLE TOM

(a moment goes by)
He's still alive.

CONSCIOUS HANDS

Cobbleroot, for sleeping. He'll be fine. Til he wakes up.

HAYDEN THE BARTENDER

Cobbleroot? What's it do?

CONSCIOUS HANDS

It's not that. Looks like she took all his stuff.

SIR NOBLE TOM

Nice. Putting up thieves huh bartender?

The bartender searches for the right words.

HAYDEN THE BARTENDER
I could put him in my room?

SIR NOBLE TOM
Gladly. Hands, get the door.

EXT. CITY STREETS - VAL'MOORE - DUSK

The wizard chases his cat through an alleyway. The festival events happen in the background.

INT. HAYDEN'S REST TAVERN - BARTENDER'S ROOM

Tom and the bartender drop Lustrious onto a bed.

HAYDEN THE BARTENDER
He'll be safe here.

SIR NOBLE TOM
Good, thank you!

Back out in the hall, Tom turns to Hands, as the Bartender locks Lustrious in the room.

CONSCIOUS HANDS
So... Where's the wizard?

SIR NOBLE TOM
He ran off chasing his cat. What did you do with DeLuke?

CONSCIOUS HANDS
His dead cat?

SIR NOBLE TOM
What happened to DeLuke?

CONSCIOUS HANDS
DeLuke? It's a rather long story. Perhaps I should tell you on the way.

Tom and Hands hurry out of the tavern. Two stars shoot overhead, far away.

EXT. TOWN SQUARE - VAL'MOORE - DARK

A long slow-moving train of wagons encircles the town square. Children and people dressed in costumes run along beside the caged wagons. They are filled with various creatures of mythical origins.

The wagons stop.

In the center of the square, is an unlit pile of wood. Closely surrounding the wood stands a half moon circle of Stonehenge like pillars. On top of them are seven statues, standing on wooden pallets. One of them is DeLuke.

Tom and Hands walk into the crowded square. They see DeLuke up on the pedestal.

A robed priest, standing in the center of the square, holds an unlit torch.

The priest lights the torch, and raises his hand. The crowd grows silent.

PRIEST

(Looking to the sky)

We pray to you, let these statues be our sacrifices. Do not forsake us o lord of the heavens. We have all suffered long... Hear our call. Let us bring healing to the world of men once more. Accept our offerings.

The priest thrusts the torch into the bonfire.

It ignites into a pillar of flame, and the crowd erupts into cheers.

Hands pushes his way toward the bonfire.

Tom pushing his way through a crowd of dressed up people. Monsters, witches, two headed-trolls, goblins.

A star shoots over head again.

PRIEST (CONT'D)

(Loudly)

We pray to you, return our powers... Do not forsake us any longer.

Hands gets close to DeLuke's pillar.

The priest kneels with thirty other priests, eyes closed, and close enough to the pillars for the sweat to gleam an orange fiery glow from their foreheads.

Tom gives Hands a nod. Someone gives Tom a drink.

Hands moves in, and climbs up.

A priest sees Hands and quickly grabs his legs. Hands struggles, dangling from the wooden pallet. Others help pull him down.

The potion slips from Hands hand.

Tom watches it as it falls IN SLOW MOTION. It lands in the sand, under DeLuke's pallet, unbroken. Tom breathes a sigh of relief.

Armored guards drag Hands toward the wagons cages along the outside of the crowd. Hands looks to Tom for help. Tom moves closer to the bonfire as the guards shove Hands in a cage.

A star shoots overhead, Hands tries to escape, a guard hits him on the head, knocking him down.

One of the statues wooden pallets gives way and the statue crashes down into the fire.

Tom realizes he doesn't have much time and sneaks up toward the bonfire and the potion.

Another star shoots overhead, just outside of the town. People erupt into delight, some run in the direction of the star.

Tom feels the effects of the heat, the crowd, and the ale, as he grabs the potion, and pulls himself up on the pallet.

The main priest grabs Tom's leg and pulls him down.

They scuffle.

PRIEST (CONT'D)

Let the sacrifices go.

SIR NOBLE TOM

No. He's our companion. My friend.

PRIEST

Pray my son, that the gods will listen.

SIR NOBLE TOM

The gods are dead! Do something damn you. You can't just sit by and think things will happen for you.

Tom kicks the priest off of him, and grabs the potion. The priest tackles Tom to the ground. Tom throws the potion through the air.

It hits DeLuke. DeLuke's body jerks alive and he screams in pain.

MARK DELUKE

HANDS!

The crowd goes silent.

Another statue crashes down into the fire.

MARK DELUKE (CONT'D)

HAnds...

(Looking around confused,
under his breath)

Where the hell are you?

The crowd erupts into a frenzy.

The little boy from earlier, yells out.

BOY

Mark DeLuke. It's Mark DeLuke the
dragon slayer.

The crowd begins to chant Mark DeLuke, while raising their hands.

ONE OF THE PRIESTS

A sign from the starlings. A sign.
Mark DeLuke! Dragon slayer.

PEOPLE IN CROWD

The gods have sent him here.
Lord DeLuke! Hail lord DeLuke!
Speak to us lord. Speak to us.
Lord DeLuke, the savior. He's come
from the stars. From the heavens.
Speak to us. The heavens have sent
this god to save us. O lord DeLuke,
what must we do to repent for our
sins?

MARK DELUKE

(screams)

ENOUGH!

ANOTHER PRIEST

God of might and bravery. What
should we do for your bidding.

DeLuke looks around, and sees Tom. Tom mouths the words,
welcome to Val'Moore. DeLuke recognizes the festival.

MARK DELUKE

People of Val'Moore. You have lead
free faithless lives. You take
what you wish without consequence.
The stars have given to you all.
It is time to give back. The
starlings. They must be set free.

The people look around at each other.

MARK DELUKE (CONT'D)

Yes. Set them free. All of them.
They are not to be captive any
longer. Disobey, and you will
bring doom onto yourselves and your
families. Slavery of the starlings
will not be tolerated. This must be
done! Give unto others. Love,
compassion. You are to provide for
those who cannot provide for
themselves in the world of men.

DeLuke feels the heat, and jumps down.

MARK DELUKE (CONT'D)

My journey has been far, and I am
in need of a drink.

DeLuke is holding the broken end of his sword, and tosses it
to the ground. A stranger gives him a drink. He sips it and
looks into the eyes of the priests holding Tom. They let go.

DeLuke walks through a parting crowd to the cages. He hands
his cup to a burly man holding an axe.

MARK DELUKE (CONT'D)

Give me your axe!

The man hesitates. DeLuke puts his hand out. The man gulps,
and looks around to others nearby, then gives DeLuke his axe.

DeLuke cuts the chains on the cages, and opens them.

A large ogre-like creature (INNUG) hesitates, then hops out.

MARK DELUKE (CONT'D)

Go on. You are free!

A few people move to stop DeLuke and the creature, but don't.

The crowd parts as the ogre-like creature moves down the main
road, toward the city gate.

DeLuke cuts all the starlings free. They follow the ogre-like creature. He also cuts Hands free, who follows the starlings.

INT. HAYDEN'S REST TAVERN - EARLY MORNING

They are readying to leave. The Wizard walks in, holding Chaos. Tom sees him.

THE WIZARD
I... Had to kill Chaos.

EXT. VAL'MOORE - FESTIVAL OF HEROES

Lustrious stumbles grudgingly into the wagon.

They all ride out at sunrise. Traveling on a wagon pulled by two horses, Tom holds the reins. DeLuke leads on a third horse.

Late morning, Lustrious rolls his eyes awake again.

Tom bitterly recalls Lustrious' womanizing ways...

LUSTRIOUS KNIGHT
(To the barmaid)
Looks like I'm off to find a lost city, and a fair haired maiden with a most peculiar tattoo.

Lustrious raises his cup into the air.

LUSTRIOUS KNIGHT (CONT'D)
For the fair haired maiden.

Tom looks back angry at Lustrious.

SIR NOBLE TOM
Wake up!

LUSTRIOUS KNIGHT
I'm awake.

SIR NOBLE TOM
Do something good for a change.
Take over.

Tom moves, so Lustrious can take his seat leading the horses.

The wagon stops.

LUSTRIOUS KNIGHT
Who put you in charge?

Tom ignores him, and looks out the side of the wagon, trying to suppress his frustration.

LUSTRIOUS KNIGHT (CONT'D)
You think because you're a nobleman, you can tell me what to do.

SIR NOBLE TOM
(Angry)
Since you never listen to anybody anyway, maybe It's time you lead us for a while. I thought you were a knight? I think you're just a coward who hides in the arms of any woman he can find.

LUSTRIOUS KNIGHT
You think I'm a coward? Or are you just afraid your girl is going to like me more than you?

Tom punches Lustrious out of the wagon.

Tom jumps down.

LUSTRIOUS KNIGHT (CONT'D)
(Fists out)
Come on nobleman!

Tom pulls his sword.

SIR NOBLE TOM
(Boiling in anger)
I'm going to spill your cowardly Elvin blood.

Swords clash.

LUSTRIOUS KNIGHT
Now you've gone over the edge.

Tom attacks furiously, backing Lustrious up.

Tom cuts Lustrious.

LUSTRIOUS KNIGHT (CONT'D)
Damn! What's wrong with you.

Lustrious blocks Tom's attack and throws himself at Tom, pinning him down.

Tom grabs Lustrious by the throat.

LUSTRIOUS KNIGHT (CONT'D)
 You ain't got it in you nobleman!

DeLuke grabs Tom and throws him off Lustrious.

MARK DELUKE
 Go on... Walk it off.

Lustrious gasps for air.

EXT. CAMP - LATER

They make camp as it gets darks.

Tom sits by himself, away from the fire pit.

LUSTRIOUS KNIGHT
 What's his problem?

DeLuke shrugs his shoulders.

THE WIZARD
 Do you really have Elvin blood?

LUSTRIOUS KNIGHT
 What do you think? Would I be
 traveling with you?

THE WIZARD
 Not likely.

Tom looks off into the night.

EXT. VILLAGE OF CRYSTAL SPRINGS - DUSK

Two days later, they stop at a nearly deserted village.

One large Inn sits in the center of the village. An old man,
 leaning on a stick, greets them outside the Inn's stables.

OLD INN KEEPER
 Welcome to Crystal Springs my
 lords. You'll have to forgive this
 old man, but our regulars have gone
 to the festival for the week.

An old woman peaks through a doorway from the Inn, watching
 them. Two small children wander by outside to gawk.

MARK DELUKE
 We do not need much. Five beds,
 and whatever food you can spare.

ESTHER

Five. Goodness...come with me,
we'll start with the rooms, and
work our way to your bellies.

Lustrious, Hands, and the Wizard follow Esther into the Inn.

Tom looks around, as the old man tries to take the reins from DeLuke.

MARK DELUKE

(Shakes the mans hand)
Thank you for your kindness. Let
me put the horses away myself.

OLD INN KEEPER

My lord?

MARK DELUKE

I insist. Do you boys know how to
care for horses.

CHILDREN

Yes sir, my paw's got three.

MARK DELUKE

Good, we must leave first thing in
the morning.

DeLuke hands the old Innkeeper a small bag of coins.

MARK DELUKE (CONT'D)

Keep whatever is left for our
inconveniencing you and your wife
tonight. Boys come here.

OLD INN KEEPER

Thank you!

The man watches the boys help DeLuke.

MARK DELUKE

Boys, who here sells swords and
armor?

The Innkeeper grows worried.

SMALL BOY

Master Ducas, my lord. But, he's
gone to the festival.

MARK DELUKE
Is there any of the elders in the
village who may have weapons.

The boys look to the innkeeper. The innkeeper ducks into the
Inn to avoid looking at DeLuke.

MARK DELUKE (CONT'D)
I see.

DeLuke tosses each of the boys a silver coin.

MARK DELUKE (CONT'D)
Let's get these horses stabled
then.

With the others out of sight, Tom slips away from the Inn and
the village.

He thinks back to the Crazy Mage, who gave him the potion to
heal DeLuke.

CRAZY MAGE
(V.O.)
There is one task I could use help
with... A quest...

He passes a small cottage at the edge of the village with a
candle light on, past a small patch of forest, over a hill
and across a meadow.

CRAZY MAGE (CONT'D)
(V.O.)
North of the village. There is a
place of evil. I need you to go
there. And destroy it.

Off out in the field, something moves.

CRAZY MAGE (CONT'D)
(V.O.)
You must go alone.

Tom stops, and feels for his sword. The field is empty. A
full moon lights his way. He walks faster.

SIR NOBLE TOM
(V.O.)
What does it look like?

CRAZY MAGE
(V.O.)
You will know it when you see it.

Tom comes upon an old ragged looking stone building, completely covered in vines and greenery. The night is eerily quiet.

Tom chops thorns out of his way, revealing a stone doorway.

Something out in the night draws his attention. Tom see's nothing.

The doorway is closed, but not locked. He pushes it inward. A bluish green light filters out of the ancient tomb. Light that seems to be filtered through water.

INT. DARK TEMPLE

Tom steps into the tomb. In the center of a fifty by fifty foot room sits a ten by ten basin five feet high. Steps wrap around the basin. Dusty statues stand in each corner.

Tom steps cautiously toward the fountain.

The fountain water ripples.

In the water, Tom sees himself at the Pinnacles of Doom. Tom hears his father's voice.

TOM'S FATHER

(V.O.)

Thomas. Come here Thomas.

Tom leans closer and sees himself, as a child. He rushes up to the doorway of his estate house. Another little boy follows him.

Tom jumps into his father's arms.

SIR NOBLE TOM

Father. Hi father.

Tom's father stands up. Tom is unable to see his face.

TOM'S FATHER

Who is this boy Thomas?

SIR NOBLE TOM

Father, this is my friend Corey.

Corey's clothes are slightly ragged, and he stands as straight and tall as possible.

COREY

Hello sir.

TOM'S FATHER
Corey... Corey Vandrate?

COREY
Yes sir.

TOM'S FATHER
Well. It would be good if you run
along home now Corey.

Corey hesitates, then heads home.

Tom's father kneels down to Tom's level.

TOM'S FATHER (CONT'D)
(Sternly)
Thomas. You are not to play with
this boy... Ever again. Do you
understand me?

SIR NOBLE TOM
Why?

TOM'S FATHER
Do you understand me?

SIR NOBLE TOM
Yes sir.

Later. Corey tries to hang with Tom. Tom struggles to
ignore him. Tom's father's shadow looms in the distance.

The water ripples again.

Tom is a teenager, and walks along a city street in the cold.
Corey is there, wearing dirty clothes. He looks to Tom as Tom
walks past. Tom ignores him.

Again, Tom sees Corey in the street. He has a cup in his
hand, begging for coins.

Tom recalls Corey's father's funeral that spring.

Corey sees Tom.

COREY
Tom...

Tom pushes past Corey.

COREY (CONT'D)
Tom... Please Tom. My mother...
She's sick.

Tom's face grows hard. He pushes the cup away knocking it from Corey's hand, it and the coins clang across the street. Tom walks away.

SIR NOBLE TOM
(Crying into the pool)
No! Corey.

Tom's hand brushes the pool, as he reaches out to Corey.

Water ripples across Tom's hand, rushing upward across his midsection, neck and face, blinding him in a flash of light.

The room is gone. Tom stands in a strange vortex. Bluish green beams of light flash on all sides. Visions from his life flash around him.

He walks forward. The visions follow and change.

SIR NOBLE TOM (CONT'D)
Father?

Tom takes a step, finding himself at the pinnacles of doom.

SIR NOBLE TOM (CONT'D)
Father!

A few redcloaks suddenly appear. A black cloaked man is beating another man tied to a rock. It is Tom's father. Tom moves toward them.

SIR NOBLE TOM (CONT'D)
Stop!

The black cloaked man stops and turns around looking in Tom's direction, there is a scar on his face. He is KAVAD.

KAVAD
Who is there?

Tom draws his sword and moves toward the man. His father coughs in the back ground.

A VOICE from everywhere echoes.

VOICE
You cannot save him. His time has
come and is no more.

The redcloaks and the black cloaked man vanish. Tom's father falls dead and decays.

SIR NOBLE TOM
No! Bring him back. Father!

Crows eat away his father's body. Tom looks away in disgust. One is killed with a rock, the others fly away.

SIR NOBLE TOM (CONT'D)
Lustrious?

Lustrious appears, kicking rocks.

SIR NOBLE TOM (CONT'D)
(Thinking)
Alaya?

Tom takes a step, finding himself in a garden. Alaya is swinging on a swing, dangling from a large willow tree. Tom looks up to her.

SIR NOBLE TOM (CONT'D)
Alaya?

ALAYA
Yes.

SIR NOBLE TOM
Alaya.

ALAYA
(Smiling)
Yes my Thomas.

SIR NOBLE TOM
You can see me? You know I'm here.

ALAYA
Don't be silly Thomas, of course I can see you.

Alaya stops swinging.

SIR NOBLE TOM
Alaya. Your dreams. I know what they are about. Your quest, how you came to be here.

The air ripples... The garden wavers.

SIR NOBLE TOM (CONT'D)
Come with me. It's not safe here.

Tom grabs her hand.

A whirlpool begins to form in the air. Tom and Alaya run from it. It pulls things around them into its vortex as they run. They slide backwards.

They slide quicker, back to the swing dangling from the willow tree. Tom grabs hold of the swing with his body, and holds Alaya with his outstretched hands.

ALAYA

I can't hold on! Tom, don't let me go.

SIR NOBLE TOM

I won't. Just hold on... Wait. I have a plan.

ALAYA

Thomas?

SIR NOBLE TOM

Trust me.

Tom lets go.

ALAYA

Thomas no!

Alaya is sucked into the rippling pool.

Tom lets go, and plunges toward the whirlpool.

The whirlpool vanishes.

Tom crashes into the ground, breathless, back in the bluish green vortex-like world.

SIR NOBLE TOM

Where is she? Where did you take her?

VOICE

Do you remember... Do you remember how you enjoyed watching those fools move about the city, running their errands, working their lives to the bone. For nothing. Insolent fools. They did not understand. Anything you wanted. Yes. Just reach out your hand. And there it was. The world was there for you to take it.

Tom finds himself at a party (ball). Someone hands him a glass of wine.

VOICE (CONT'D)

One sip.

Tom stands holding the glass.

VOICE (CONT'D)

One sip, and it will all be as it was...

Tom lifts the drink to his lips.

VOICE (CONT'D)

They await your return, so that they may admire your brilliance.

Tom shakes his head, trying to wake himself, or change the dream. He throws down the glass.

SIR NOBLE TOM

No! Who are you? What do you want with me?

VOICE

I want nothing from you.

Tom's shadow casts on all four walls, and form into one.

VOICE (CONT'D)

I am you.

Silence.

VOICE (CONT'D)

Do not worry about your friends, or... Father. We, will soon regain my title. They will all be rewarded. With what they deserve.

SIR NOBLE TOM

(Pulls his sword)

Who are you?

VOICE

I am Sir Noble Tom, of house Jacard.

Tom's shadow detaches itself from Tom's lighted reflection, and pulls a shadow sword.

VOICE (CONT'D)
It is time for you to die!

SIR NOBLE TOM
Let me go.

VOICE
You can never leave.

The shadow Tom attacks with his sword, slicing Tom's arm.

Blood pours from the cut. He attacks again. Tom blocks with his real blade.

The Shadow Tom stabs Tom again.

VOICE (CONT'D)
You give in too easy. You are becoming soft... Thomas.

More visions swirl around in the void. Tom returns to his estate house, and orders his servants around.

SIR NOBLE TOM
Beyloff!

VOICE
I never did like Beyloff. I only wish I could have killed him myself.

SIR NOBLE TOM
No, he served my family well.

The shadow slices Tom again. Light travels from Tom through the shadows blade into the shadow.

Another cut. Two more.

Tom sees his own features swirling in his shadow self.

Another cut, blood drips everywhere.

The shadow becomes a twisted shadowy form of Tom.

Shadows are everywhere. The sound of dozens of boots move about in the shadowy void. Laughter echoes.

INT. INN OF MANY THUNDERS

DeLuke talks to the innkeeper. Lustrious sits by himself.

The innkeeper is showing DeLuke a very nice sword.

Hands sits cross-legged on a table, telling a story to a group of five small boys.

CONSCIOUS HANDS

And the twin princes stood facing each other under the branches of the Tree of the World. Unaware, that this duel would decide the fate of their entire kingdom.

INT. DARK TEMPLE - VOID

Silence. A heart beats. Tom is huddled from the shadows, shaking, sweating, almost in tears.

From afar, the voice echoes, closer and closer to Tom.

VOICE

Soon. Soon Thomas. They will be waiting on us, hand and foot. A soft feathered chair, and a warm hearth.

Within the images in the void, Tom sits on a feathered seat, and kicks a tray of food on the floor.

VOICE (CONT'D)

Bring me more mutton, and clean up this mess!

Tom staggers.

VOICE (CONT'D)

And what should we do with the wench? Oh yes. I have no intention of leaving her out.

Alaya sits crying amongst pillows in a bed.

SIR NOBLE TOM

No!

Tom snaps, his fury carries his blade, and he slices back at the shadow Tom.

Tom fights the shadow back, slowly gaining an edge. Tom knocks the shadow down, and stands over him.

SIR NOBLE TOM (CONT'D)

This is where you die.

Tom holds his sword, bleeding, sweating, panting, pointed at the shadows chest.

VOICE
You cannot kill me.

The shadow chops Tom's sword to the side, and stabs Tom again. Tom winces in pain. Then brings his sword back over the shadow.

Tom takes a step back.

SIR NOBLE TOM
I don't have to kill you.

The shadow Tom stands and pierces Tom's heart.

VOICE
You should have. Now you will never get the chance.

Tom staggers, then shoves the shadow away. The shadow blade pulls free of Tom's chest.

SIR NOBLE TOM
I know who I am. And I am not afraid of you, or who I was. I accept what was.

The shadow stabs Tom again.

SIR NOBLE TOM (CONT'D)
And I embrace you.

A bright flash blinds Tom as he crumples to the floor.

Tom stands, cut and bleeding next to the pool, the shadow is gone. The pool water is calm and clear.

EXT. VILLAGE - INN OF MANY THUNDERS - NIGHT

Tom arrives back at the Inn.

He throws his bloody coat in the fire, and pulls his cloak up over his wounds.

More than a dozen small children, and many older village folk sit around the large common room listening to Hands.

Lustrious sits alone, watching, and looks up as Tom enters.

CONSCIOUS HANDS
And the knight crossed the bridge, sword held out, knees shaking from fear. From beneath the bridge, the dragon reared its head up...

Deluke talks with a couple men. A new sword dangles at his side.

Tom finds a seat next to some villagers. He sees the Wizard watching Hands, engrossed in the story.

Tom watches everyone. His body hurts. It is cold, he pulls his cloak tighter. The fire sits on the other side of the room, next to a half dozen small boys, and a few older women. He smiles as the innkeeper puts a warm drink in his hand.

With a crackle, the Wizard conjures up the images in Hands story.

The children jump, frightened. The elders look around concerned. Hands pauses, nods at the wizard and continues.

The children erupt into cheers. The elders relax.

Tom watches the Wizard Japhet use magic to animate Hands tales. The sorrow and hate over his dead cat melts away. The Wizard smiles, happy for a moment.

Tom grabs two mugs of ale, and stands next to Lustrious.

He gives Lustrious one of the drinks.

SIR NOBLE TOM

I was way out of line the other day...

LUSTRIOUS KNIGHT

Forget it. It was my fault.

SIR NOBLE TOM

I just wanted you to know, I'm sorry.

EXT. NEXT DAY - LATE AFTERNOON

Traveling. They stop near a small waterfall.

The Wizard stands gazing for a long while. He sets Chaos in a dug hole, and buries him. Then pats the dirt. Tom walks up.

SIR NOBLE TOM

How are you holding up?

THE WIZARD

Better.

Tom turns to go, but pauses.

SIR NOBLE TOM
 Japhet? Thanks for joining us. I
 am sorry about your cat... About
 Chaos.

THE WIZARD
 Thank you.

They travel three days down the eastern road. Practicing
 their skills. The Wizard lightens up. DeLuke notices a
 scratch on his head. Hands shoots his crossbow.

A star shoots overhead. Tom thinks about Alaya. Lustrious
 practices with his new sword and shield. DeLuke has a new
 sword and shield as well.

EXT. CITY OF IS'GAR - GATE

Redcloaks guard the city gates. The wizard transforms himself
 into a stranger. The others are hidden in the back. The
 guards look over their wanted posters, then let them pass.

MARK DELUKE
 Find out what you can, and meet
 back here before sunset.

SIR NOBLE TOM
 (To Lustrious)
 Stay out of trouble.

LUSTRIOUS KNIGHT
 What kind of trouble could I
 possibly get into?

The Wizard and Hands go together. DeLuke and Tom go
 together, Lustrious goes alone.

INT. TAVERN - THE GOLDEN HAMMER - SUNSET

Tom, Hands and the Wizard sit at a table, waiting for
 Lustrious and DeLuke. The wizard flips through a book. Hands
 finishes eating, setting empty chicken bones on his plate.

BARMAID
 Can I get you anything else?

SIR NOBLE TOM
 No. No thank you my lady.

Mark DeLuke arrives. He throws wanted posters onto their
 table. Hands scoops them up.

MARK DELUKE
I have a bad feeling about this!

Tom looks over the posters with Hands.

CONSCIOUS HANDS
(Laughs)
Mark, they've only got you down for
a hundred gold.

Tom looks to DeLuke for answers.

MARK DELUKE
No word. Nothing.

CONSCIOUS HANDS
Five hundred for Alaya Bedros.
(Looks to wizard)
Your name is Japhet?

THE WIZARD
Yes.

CONSCIOUS HANDS
Three hundred gold. Not bad,
wizard.

Hands holds one of his crossbow bolts, and starts poking
holes in the wanted posters.

SIR NOBLE TOM
I don't like this at all.

CONSCIOUS HANDS
You don't like it? You're worth a
thousand gold pieces Tom.

SIR NOBLE TOM
We hear nothing all day. No hint,
no clue. Now Lustrious is missing.
We cannot sit and wait any longer
Mark.

MARK DELUKE
Now we need to find Lustrious and
the maiden.

Hands holds Lustrious' poster.

CONSCIOUS HANDS
They've upped it again. I knew we
should have turned him in.

LUSTRIOUS' WANTED POSTER: 2000 gold, dead or alive.

Lustrious arrives.

MARK DELUKE (CONT'D)
Where have you been?

SIR NOBLE TOM
Where have you been?

LUSTRIOUS KNIGHT
Where do you think I've been?
(DeLuke looks at him)
Come on, me. I have been busy, but
not that busy.
(Sits)
Listen up. Our fair haired maiden.
They have her, imprisoned in the
dungeon. There isn't much time.

SIR NOBLE TOM
She is here!

LUSTRIOUS KNIGHT
Since this morning.

MARK DELUKE
We need to get her out, now.

SIR NOBLE TOM
Hands.

CONSCIOUS HANDS
Are you crazy? I don't break into
dungeons.

Lustrious throws two red cloaks on the table.

Hands loads and unloads his crossbow under the table.

LUSTRIOUS KNIGHT
They change guards shortly, I want
to be there when they do.

MARK DELUKE
Impressive, lets do this.

DeLuke stands, checking his weapons.

LUSTRIOUS KNIGHT
Wizard. What kind of spells do you
have?

The Wizard smiles.

CONSCIOUS HANDS

I don't break into dungeons. Come on guys, not my job.

SNAP! Hands crossbow fires under the table, he jumps up screaming.

LUSTRIOUS KNIGHT

What the hell are you doing?

DeLuke pulls his sword knocking the table over, scanning for enemies. Hands bolt sticks into the toes of his right boot.

MARK DELUKE

(Lowers sword)

You have got to get rid of that thing.

Hands yelps and hops about while his foot is stuck to the floor. DeLuke cuts his boot away from his foot. Hands pulls his foot from the boot.

THE WIZARD

Wow, no blood. Quite spectacular I would say.

Hands sits, trembling, holding his toes.

They all exchange looks.

CONSCIOUS HANDS

Okay.

(Grimacing)

Let's rescue this maiden then. I'll be fine.

SIR NOBLE TOM

Hands, maybe you should leave the crossbow.

CONSCIOUS HANDS

No. I need it.

LUSTRIOUS KNIGHT

Maybe you should stay here.

INT. CASTLE ELLROG - TOWER

Alaya stands looking out over the city through a barred window.

Boot steps echo up the stairs.

ALAYA

Dydra...

Alaya turns to face a man coming in through the locked door leading down. She rears back in fear as the man tosses a woman's head at her feet.

MAN1

Come. You have a visitor.

EXT. CITY OF IS'GAR - ACROSS THE STREET FROM CASTLE ELLROG

Back alley. DeLuke and Lustrious wear redcloak armor. Tom holds manacles on his wrist.

Across a wide street from them is a large castle, still under construction. The castle has a moat around it, and a single tower six stories tall.

Wood beams and plankings rise along portions of the castle and the tower, where it is being constructed and repaired.

The Wizard casts a magic spell, and disappears, then another, Hands disappears.

Hands and the Wizard walk across the street invisible.

THE WIZARD

Do not attack anybody, or make quick movements. It will cancel the spell.

CONSCIOUS HANDS

(Limping)

What if I shoot my crossbow quietly.

THE WIZARD

No. There is definitely no doing that.

An arched bridge spans across the moat leading to the front gates of the Castle. Hands and the Wizard get over the bridge to the gate, and wait. A large snake-like creature moves under the bridge through the moat, unseen. Four guards, and one redcloak stand next to the gates.

MARK DELUKE

Be patient Lustrious.

Across the street, the guard changes. Another redcloak joins the watch.

LUSTRIOUS KNIGHT

Nice. Good job DeLuke.

MARK DELUKE

By the time those redcloaks leave,
Hands may already have her out.

INT. CASTLE ELLROG - HALLWAYS

Through the castle, Hands and the Wizard search for the way down into the dungeon. They pass guards training, and maids carrying laundry baskets.

EXT. CASTLE ELLROG - GATE

The two redcloaks enter the castle, leaving four guards on duty.

SIR NOBLE TOM

Now! Lets go now.

Lustrious and DeLuke lead Tom across the street.

MARK DELUKE

All right Lustrious, it's your
lead.

Over the bridge at the gate, Lustrious stands at attention.

LUSTRIOUS KNIGHT

We have a wanted criminal here from
Edenia.

INT. CASTLE ELLROG

Hands and the Wizard come upon one lone guard. He sits outside a large iron-door, which is an entrance-way for mine cart tracks. The forty-by-forty-foot room is lined with tracks leading off into two of the five hallways. Two carts sit at the far end of the room, tipped over and empty.

Hands moves toward the guard and stubs his toe.

CONSCIOUS HANDS

Ah!

Hands becomes visible.

GUARD

Who's there...

The wizard casts a spell. The guard falls asleep.

The Wizard takes the guards keys, and throws them to Hands.

The sound of a cart rolling towards them comes from one of the hallways.

THE WIZARD

Great! This is about to get real fun.

Hands opens the iron gate. They sneak in, and lock it back.

The cart rolls into the room, and stops. Two men walk over to where the guard sleeps. Hands and the Wizard duck further into the dungeon hallway. Two men's shadows trickle down to where Hands stands.

MAN1

Guard, open the gate.

MAN2

He's dead!

MAN1

No.

(Kicks the guard)

Wake up. Open this gate.

The guard jumps to his feet, and fiddles to find his keys.

GUARD

My keys!

Hands and the Wizard sneak downward following the cart tracks. Many doors, some lit with torches, line the walls.

Hands stumbles in pain.

CONSCIOUS HANDS

Not a word.

Hands peers into the rooms they pass.

A barracks, a dining room, another barracks, where several men are lying on cots, one sharpens his sword.

Further down they come to an iron door, with a small lighted latch. Hands looks in and tries the door.

THE WIZARD

Wait!

CONSCIOUS HANDS

What?

Hands jingles the keys, and opens the door.

Inside is a large room lined with torches, and racks filled with weapons.

CONSCIOUS HANDS (CONT'D)

Pay dirt. You see Wizy wiz, this is what dungeoneering is all about.

THE WIZARD

Indeed.

(Watches Hands search)

Walking around with one boot, while
Finding a bunch of crusty practice
weapons. Who needs gold when
you've got the great Conscious
Hands.

Hands hobbles around shoving daggers into his coat and boot.

THE WIZARD (CONT'D)

Ever so dubious as to delve into
evil castles in search of beautiful
maidens while hobbling around on
one foot. Oh fair maiden, please
praise our light and savior.

CONSCIOUS HANDS

You're just jealous that I am the
great conscious hands, and that no
one even knows your name.

They hear a cart grinding its way down the corridor.

THE WIZARD

Time to hide!

They watch two men push a cart past.

The cart is filled with golden trinkets.

One man is TOUGHER, the other WEAKER.

WEAKER MAN

Let's get this done. I hate coming
down here.

They roll the cart around the corner and knock loudly on a door.

TOUGHER MAN

Open up!

Another door creaks open up ahead.

THE WIZARD

This is my last invisible spell
Hands, it was supposed to be for
Alaya.

CONSCIOUS HANDS

Sorry.

Hands and the Wizard sneak out of the room and up to the next doorway. Both invisible again. The hallway goes past the door, yet the tracks lead into the room.

They hear clanking and squawking sounds from the room and peak in.

A large caldron sits in the middle of the room, on hot coals and flames. Over twenty tables surround the perimeter of the room, and are littered with trinkets of gold.

Four Half-Men are chasing an owl around the room, knocking over everything in their path. Three wolves, tied to chains at the back of the room, howl at the Half-Men and the owl.

The owl stops on the cart as a Half-man crashes to the floor. The two men shake their heads.

The owl is mechanical, and made of gold.

HALF-MAN

Get that bird!

The owl screeches and jumps into the air, as the tougher man thrusts his hand out and catches it. The owl struggles. The wolves quiet down.

TOUGHER MAN

If I was in charge you'd all be
fired?

The weaker man fondles freshly minted gold coins.

HALF-MAN

It's mine... I laid claim to it.

The tougher man carries the owl over to the burning caldron.

Hands moves toward the door.

THE WIZARD

(Whispering)

Hands, don't even think of it.
Remember what we are here for.

The tougher man smacks the owl on a table, and drops it into the burning caldron. It hisses and bubbles as it melts. One of the wolves howls in delight.

CONSCIOUS HANDS

(Upset)

You are such the copper.
At least let me get something?

THE WIZARD

On the way back.

Hands half-heartily leads the Wizard deeper into the dungeon.

The Wizard turns to follow as something catches his eye. In a cage on the far end of the room, sits a small mechanical cat, made of gold. Its eyes turn and gaze directly at the Wizard.

HALF-MAN

Did ya bring the specters with ya?

The weaker man looks around paranoid, then shoves the door shut. The wizard quickly slips inside the room, past the slamming door. The three wolves begin to howl.

The four Half-Men grow worried.

TOUGHER MAN

Can't you keep these beasts under control.

The tougher man thrusts his sword mockingly at the wolves. The wolves claw at his sword.

TOUGHER MAN (CONT'D)

(Pure hate)

Calm em down, or I will kill em...
Ugly beasts.

A Half-Man moves to the wolves.

The Wizard flicks his fingers. The wolves fall asleep.

HALF-MAN

Ah, see they are fine. Tired. You made them grumpy.

The Wizard breathes a sigh of relief.

INT. CASTLE ELLROG - DUNGEON

Hands arrives at a steel jail-cell door. Locked. On the other side sits a robed man at a desk reading notes from some old books. Hands pulls out his lock picks.

CONSCIOUS HANDS

This will be easy.

(Whispering)

Wizard. Wizard?

INT. CASTLE ELLROG - INNER STONE COURTYARD

Lustrious and DeLuke lead Tom into the castle, and through a large hall. Two more guards stand at attention near open archways. The guards don't acknowledge them.

As they cross the center of the room twenty redcloaks march from side hallways.

LUSTRIOUS KNIGHT

Oh shit.

One of the redcloaks wears a captains badge. He is GARYX.

GARYX

How interesting.

Garyx looks past Tom to Lustrious.

GARYX (CONT'D)

Luster, Luster, Luster. How quaint of you to think such a strategy would work. And I surely thought throwing you out of the Knights would be the last time I had to see you in a redcloak uniform.

(Pauses)

And you must be Mark DeLuke.

A hooded man (Kavad) appears from around a corner.

KAVAD

Where are the others. I so hope they are alive, so I may enjoy torturing them.

MARK DELUKE

Kavad... I knew there was evil lurking around the corner.

KAVAD
 So, Mark DeLuke.
 (Pulls his hood down)
 You know who I am.

Kavad is the same man who left Tom's father at the Pinnacles of Doom.

SIR NOBLE TOM
 You!

KAVAD
 You don't even know me boy. But
 you will...

Tom boils over.

SIR NOBLE TOM
 You left my father to die you
 bastard!

Tom reaches for Lustrious' sword.

KAVAD
 No, no. Look around, six
 crossbows. All aimed at Sir
 Thomas. You too DeLuke. Put down
 your weapons. Put them Down!

DeLuke looks to the crossbow men, then to Tom.

KAVAD (CONT'D)
 Perhaps you are more than the
 spoiled brat I took you for.

MARK DELUKE
 Put it down Tom.

LUSTRIOUS KNIGHT
 Damn you Garyx.

SIR NOBLE TOM
 It's not going to end here.

They drop their weapons.

KAVAD
 Of course not, we are all going to
 have a seat and discuss your
 friends, while we wait for Zohan to
 return from the dungeon.

INT. CASTLE ELLROG - GOLD SMELTING ROOM

The Wizard makes his way around the room toward the cat.

The tougher man moves to the wolves, and kicks one.

TOUGHER MAN

This is magic, someone is here!

The Wizard rushes toward the cat, causing a glimmer in the air as he moves.

TOUGHER MAN (CONT'D)

There!

The man cuts the wolves chains. The wolves jump toward the Wizard. Magic webs catch the wolves in mid jump, and stick them to the wall.

The Wizard becomes visible.

THE WIZARD

Uh oh! Hands where the hell are you?

TOUGHER MAN

Get him!

The Half-Men charge. An Ice Ray freezes three of them solid.

The frost catches some of the golden items. They fall from the table, shattering across the floor.

The wolves struggle in the webs. The tougher man jumps up on the row of tables, and charges the Wizard.

The Wizard ducks under the table, out the other side, and thrusts his staff striking the weaker man square on the head, knocking him out.

The Wizard rolls over another table, as the tougher man furiously slices the table. The final Half-Man attacks the Wizard with a long spear. The Wizard fires a bright light at the Tougher man, who grabs his eyes, now blinded.

The Half-Man stabs the wizard in the ribs with the spear. The Wizard falls backward onto the table with the cats cage. The Half-Man pulls his spear back for the killing blow.

The Wizard flicks his fingers. The cats cage opens. The golden mechanical cat jumps onto the Half-Mans face, and scratches out one of his eyes.

TOUGHER MAN (CONT'D)
I hear you. I know you're here
wizard.

He stabs blindly with his sword, knocking golden trinkets to the floor. The Wizard opens the door. The cat runs out into the hallway.

TOUGHER MAN (CONT'D)
You can't escape wizard!

The tougher man furiously tries to get to the door. The wizard makes a hand gesture, and the webs on the wolves evaporate. The wizard slams the door shut.

The wolves stop howling, and close in on the man. He hears them, and flails blindly with his sword.

TOUGHER MAN (CONT'D)
WIZARD!

The cat runs up the hallway where the Wizard and Hands had come from. The Wizard takes a couple steps toward him and stops.

THE WIZARD
Wait!

The cat stops.

THE WIZARD (CONT'D)
This way!

The cat takes a step toward the wizard. The shut door is slammed into from the inside, wood chips fly off near the hinges, out into the hall. The wolves howl with madness.

The wizard takes a double step unsure which direction to go. The door bursts open, splintering across the hallway, as two wolves crash through it. The wizard and the cat bolt up the stairs at full steam.

INT. CASTLE ELLROG - DUNGEON

Hands breaks one of his lock picks.

Noises come from a large open wooden doorway on the far side of the dungeon, where stairs lead up into the tower. The man reading stands, as three redcloaks drag the girl Alaya down from the tower and toss her onto the floor of the dungeon. She looks up from the floor at the robed man.

ALAYA

Zohan!

Hands steps back mouthing the words Zohan.

ZOHAN

So... my love, there are even human starlings. Japhet tells me you know where the city of Myths is! Tell me.

ALAYA

(From the ground)

You think I would tell you anything... you murderer!

ZOHAN

Yes I killed your father. Ah but no, he wasn't your father anyway...so what do you care?

Tears run down, as she hardens her face.

Hands unlocks the door, and slowly opens it.

ZOHAN (CONT'D)

Are you from the city of myths my love?

She doesn't know exactly where it is.

ZOHAN (CONT'D)

I see. You don't know for sure. So you're on this so called quest to find out.

Zohan runs his hand through her hair.

ZOHAN (CONT'D)

(Softly)

Tell me where the city of myths is located. Please tell me.

Zohan pulls her hair up, making her look at him.

ZOHAN (CONT'D)

I would surely hate to have to hurt you.

Hands looks back wondering what happened to the Wizard. He checks his weapons, and slips into the cell, slowly closing it behind him.

ALAYA
You're despicable.

Alaya jerks her head back and forth, trying to get out of Zohan's grip. Zohan lets go. She crawls backward to the wall.

Hands sneaks through the jail with his one boot.

ZOHAN
So, is it true you have a map to
the City of Myths.

She looks up at him.

ZOHAN (CONT'D)
Guards. Hold her down.

The redcloaks hold her down.

Zohan grabs her shirt and rips it open.

Hands looks, then shakes himself and scans the dungeon for inspiration. Hands grabs a torch, and tosses it into a nearby cell. The floor is covered with hay, and ignites.

CONSCIOUS HANDS
(Ventriloquism)
Zohan! Let my daughter go. I am
the keeper of light, leader of the
people over the stars.

Spooked, the redcloaks let her go, and gather their weapons.

GUARD
A ghost!

ZOHAN
What trickery is this?

Alaya backs against the wall, and covers herself with her arms.

The redcloaks shy from the fire, while Zohan moves closer.

Still invisible, Hands moves next to Alaya.

CONSCIOUS HANDS
(Whispering)
I'm here to free you. Follow my
lead.

ALAYA
 (Whispering)
 Who are you?

CONSCIOUS HANDS
 (Giving her a dagger)
 I'm Conscious Hands, I'm here to
 rescue you. I'm here with Noble
 Tom.

ALAYA
 Tom?

Zohan turns back to her suspiciously.

ZOHAN
 Put it out.
 (To the captain)
 Hold her down.

REDCLOAK CAPTAIN
 Yes sir.

The captain reaches for her.

Alaya stabs him in the throat. He falls gurgling for breath.

Zohan moves his fingers, magic energy starts to form, as
 Hands whips a dagger into Zohan's hand. The energy burns
 Zohan's hands.

Hands becomes visible.

Both redcloaks turn to Hands. A dagger hits one in the neck,
 knocking him partly into the fire. His clothes ignite. The
 fire spreads to the main room.

The other redcloak duels with Hands. They knock over the
 desk. Alaya's books fall on the floor. Zohan frantically tries
 to use his magic.

Zohan pulls out a carved stick (wand) and points it at Hands.
 Alaya grabs a torch from the wall, and charges Zohan.

Her torch burns Zohan's face, as lightning rips through the
 redcloak, and explodes the bars next to Hands. Hands falls
 to the floor.

Zohan runs out of the dungeon screaming.

The fire burns across the room to her books.

ALAYA

My books!

Alaya kicks her books away from the fire. Zohan drags himself to the dungeon door. The fire spreads. Alaya looks to Zohan.

ZOHAN

(Slamming the cell door)

Give me the books, and I will let you live.

ALAYA

No!

Zohan uses magic, and melts the lock shut.

ZOHAN

(In pain)

The fire will catch you. You will both find your death.

She grabs her books, pats them out, and backs up near Hands. One of the books is very burned.

ALAYA

(Coughing)

Where is Tom?

Hands doesn't respond.

ALAYA (CONT'D)

What kind of rescue is this?

ZOHAN

You will not escape lassie.

The fire spreads across the entire dungeon.

ALAYA

You murderer!

Zohan flees. Hands moans.

ALAYA (CONT'D)

Thomas... Where are you?

Alaya looks up the stairs, then back into the fire.

She shields herself with her cloak, and reaches into the fire grabbing Zohan's wand.

She struggles trying to drag Hands up the stairs.

INT. CASTLE ELLROG - HALLWAYS

The Wizard bolts around stone corners following the golden cat. Three wolves chase them.

The Wizard throws a silver ball behind him, as he turns a corner at a four way intersection. The ball crashes onto the floor, covering it in ice. The three wolves slip past in a mad frenzy to grip with their claws.

INT. CASTLE ELLROG - INNER STONE COURTYARD

A redcloak tosses DeLuke, Lustrious, and Tom's armor into the corner of the room, on top of their weapons.

Kavad comes from a side archway carrying a tray of three drinks.

GARYX

Hands behind your backs. Lets go.

LUSTRIOUS KNIGHT

(Whispering)

If only Hands was behind our backs.

KAVAD

(Overhearing)

Speaking of Conscious Hands. Where is that pathetic thief...

The Wizard follows the golden mechanical cat through another hallway, as the cat runs across the stone courtyard where DeLuke and the others stand. The Wizard follows.

KAVAD (CONT'D)

... And that fool wizard?

The wizard stops in the middle of the hall. Surprised. The cat stops (hidden) in the far hallway, and looks back.

The redcloaks and guards grip their weapons, and re-focus their crossbows toward the wizard. The wizard keeps his attention on the corridor he came from.

THE WIZARD

(Backing up, and panting)

Why, good evening... Are you looking for me?

GARYX

The Wizard!

KAVAD

Get him!

Two redcloaks rush him.

THE WIZARD

How I hate swordplay.

The wizard dives back to his knees, as the three wolves leap from the hallway onto the two redcloaks.

The wolves rip apart the two redcloaks. Two other redcloaks move in from behind the wizard. The Wizard swings his staff, the redcloak blocks and knocks the wizard to the ground. A wolf pounces on that redcloak. The crossbow men fire on the wolves.

Another redcloak puts his foot on the Wizards chest, pulling back his sword for the killing blow. The cat jumps on him.

Lustrious, DeLuke and Tom fist fight it out.

Kavad flings three darts at DeLuke. One sticks in DeLuke's sword arm.

They rush down two of the crossbow men.

DeLuke grabs his sword.

Tom grabs the wizard. They run down another corridor. The cat follows them.

SIR NOBLE TOM

(To the wizard)

We have to get to the dungeon.
Zohan is down there.

THE WIZARD

Zohan?

MARK DELUKE

Where is Hands?

THE WIZARD

We got separated.

INT. CASTLE OF ELLROG - TOWER

Alaya pulls Hands through the doorway in the tower, where she was held prisoner. Smoke bellows upward. Tears run down her face as she coughs. She slams the door shut, and crawls to the middle of the room. She points the staff at the bars.

Nothing happens. Alaya shakes it over and over, then collapses in tears.

Smoke pours through the small bars in the door, and under the door.

CONSCIOUS HANDS
(Standing behind her)
Let me see that!

ALAYA
(Relieved)
You... Are a wizard?

CONSCIOUS HANDS
No. But I'm good with figuring out
how to use things, and I am the
great Conscious Hands.

Hands looks the staff over. He points it at the bars.

INT. CASTLE ELLROG - HALLWAY

The hallway Tom, DeLuke, Lustrious and the Wizard are running down, begins to contain smoke from the dungeon below.

LUSTRIOUS KNIGHT
Nice, somebody's started a fire.

SIR NOBLE TOM
Zohan.

MARK DELUKE
Or Hands.

THE WIZARD
We can't go that way.
I hope Hands is alright...

Zohan stumbles out of the smoke into Tom.

SIR NOBLE TOM
ZOHAN!

Tom looks into Zohan's burned face.

CONSCIOUS HANDS
Back up!

LUSTRIOUS KNIGHT
There's no way to go.

SIR NOBLE TOM
Where's Alaya?

ZOHAN
She's dead boy!

Zohan smacks Tom.

Redcloaks fire at them from the other direction.

Tom grapples Zohan, back and forth into the wall.

DeLuke, Lustrious, the Wizard and Hands attack the oncoming redcloaks. Garyx is with them.

Zohan struggles to pull a crooked stick.

ZOHAN (CONT'D)
You're too soft to outmatch me boy.

Zohan disintegrates the wall.

Water rushes in from the moat. Zohan is washed down the stairs.

The Wizard casts a spell.

With a bright flash of light, they find themselves across the moat, and standing dazed, across from the castle. The wizard falls onto his butt. A few fish flap on the ground around them.

Garyx and two redcloaks stand next to them. Lustrious aims his sword in Garyx's direction.

THE WIZARD
I did save the getaway spell.

Smoke bellows from the keep, and the tower.

An **explosion** rocks the top of the tower.

Lustrious looks back to Garyx. They clang swords.

EXT. CASTLE ELLROG - TOWER

Smoke bellows from the tower. Hands stands holding Zohan's staff, which is smoking and pointing at half of the tower which is no more.

CONSCIOUS HANDS
That didn't work right.

Hands leans over to see how far it is to the water.

CONSCIOUS HANDS (CONT'D)
That's a long drop. I don't know...

Alaya jumps, Hands follows.

Tom see's Hands and Alaya splash into the moat.

MARK DELUKE
(To Tom)
Go, I've got these two.

Tom sees Kavad in the window across the moat, then runs to help Alaya. DeLuke duels both redcloaks with his left arm.

Lustrious and Garyx battle each other furiously along the knee high stone wall surrounding the moat.

Alaya and Hands grasp at the edge of the moat, with no way to get up. The stone wall is too smooth on the moat side.

DeLuke kicks one of the redcloaks into the moat, with a big splash. He is pulled underwater and eaten by the moat monster.

Tom runs along the short wall toward them, as the moat monster follows.

SIR NOBLE TOM
Get out of the water!

Tom pulls off his shirt and reaches it over the side as he gets to them.

Alaya grabs the shirt. Tom pulls her up.

The moat monster surfaces seconds from Hands. Tom whips his sword at the creature. It strikes as the creature crashes into Hands. Both disappear under the water.

The ripples become still.

ALAYA
(Hugs Tom)
Tom.

SIR NOBLE TOM
Alaya, It's good to see you!

ALAYA
Oh Tom I'm so glad you are here.

SIR NOBLE TOM

We have been following you. We are going to escort you to the City of Myths.

DeLuke kills the second redcloak as four more and two guards come from around a corner.

THE WIZARD

Ah, DeLuke sir!

MARK DELUKE

(Seeing the men)

We don't have time for games wizard.

DeLuke shakes his right arm. The poison has worn off. DeLuke smiles, and braces himself. The wizard aims a magic wand.

THE WIZARD

(To himself)

Random random riddle and rhyme, give me something good this time.

Grass grows in front of the redcloaks, and they charge through it into DeLuke.

DeLuke swiftly defeats all six men.

MARK DELUKE

Grass? Let's get the wagon.

EXT. CITY OF IS'GAR - MOAT

Lustrious faces Garyx.

LUSTRIOUS KNIGHT

You've destroyed what it used to mean to be a redcloak.

GARYX

I've turned the redcloak guard into an unstoppable army.

LUSTRIOUS KNIGHT

An army of outlaws and thieves.

GARYX

Do you know why she came to you all those years ago. Because I made her. Not because she wanted to. She told me, she never wanted to see you again.

LUSTRIOUS KNIGHT
I knew you played a part Garyx.

GARYX
But then you played yours and fell
perfectly into the trap. Into her
bed.

Lustrious pierces Garyx's heart.

GARYX (CONT'D)
Just like a pawn.

Garyx falls into the water.

Tom and Alaya stand at the edge of the moat.

Hands comes up for air.

SIR NOBLE TOM
Hands! Take this.

Tom pulls Hands up, as DeLuke drives by on the wagon.

Lustrious is next to him, the wizard sits in the back.

LUSTRIOUS KNIGHT
Can we offer you three a ride.

Tom, Hands, and Alaya jump into the wagon, as a dozen
Redcloaks on horseback charge them.

Tom points to a side alleyway.

SIR NOBLE TOM
(Yelling to DeLuke)
Alleyway.

CONSCIOUS HANDS
(To the wizard)
I could have used your help down
there.

Alaya sees the wizard.

ALAYA
Wizard! What is he doing here?

SIR NOBLE TOM
If it was not for him, we would not
have found you.

ALAYA

(Angry)

How could you?

(Smacks the wizard)

My father trusted you!

Tom pulls her away from the wizard.

THE WIZARD

Alaya, I am deeply sorry for what has happened... For what I have caused. I am indebted to you.

ALAYA

How can I trust you. You betrayed my father.

THE WIZARD

Alaya, I pledge my life, for you, and this quest. And I know that I can never take back what has happened.

ALAYA

How could you!

THE WIZARD

On all the magic, in all the world, I will see you safely to the City of Myths no matter what the obstacles. I pledge to you with my life. On the grave of...

(Almost in tears)

On the grave of my, my poor Chaos.

MARK DELUKE

My lady Alaya. It is time we help you to take up this journey. The road is much too long for anyone to go it alone.

ALAYA

I've come this far.

MARK DELUKE

We are your friends, we are here to help you.

CONSCIOUS HANDS

Actually I think you needed our help.

LUSTRIOUS KNIGHT
 Everyone out here! I'm going to
 lose the wagon.

They all jump down into the rainy muddy street.

ALAYA
 (To Tom)
 Where did you meet these bandits.

SIR NOBLE TOM
 They are my friends. We came here
 to help you find the city of Myths.

ALAYA
 I can find it by myself.

They stand outside a small house.

SIR NOBLE TOM
 Alaya. I know your father is dead.
 My father is dead as well.

ALAYA
 Dead. How?

SIR NOBLE TOM
 Count Morgan. And he's taken my
 fathers lands, our estate, and my
 nobility.

Alaya changes from concern to disgust.

ALAYA
 You're coming here for yourself!
 Like your title is going to save
 you, and make your clothes all nice
 and shinny again.

Alaya storms off. Tom goes after her.

CONSCIOUS HANDS
 Please say I don't have to rescue
 her again!

MARK DELUKE
 Come on inside. Tom has to take
 care of this one on his own.

SIR NOBLE TOM
 Alaya wait.

Down a dead end alleyway, the rain picks up.

SIR NOBLE TOM (CONT'D)

I came here to rescue you, not get my title back. Sure it is what I have been after, but it is not what is between you and me. I know you, I know who you are and what you have.

ALAYA

So the wizard told you.

Tom shakes his head (no) in frustration.

SIR NOBLE TOM

Last year, I felt something inside you had changed, remember.

ALAYA

Tom.

SIR NOBLE TOM

You told me about the dreams you'd been having.

ALAYA

I didn't think you believed me.

SIR NOBLE TOM

Then I did not.

(Silence)

I came here to find you.

(Silence)

Our fathers are dead. It is you and me. We have to stick together now. Those are my friends. You can trust them. We have all seen the persecution of the starlings. I have been a part of it. I have not done them kindly. I can not change what I have done... But I can do what is right from now on. We must help the starlings. I will help you, and them. To find the city of Myths. To free them, and to find where you are from.

She is crying. Tom holds her.

ALAYA

Why? Why has all this happened to me?

INT. THALENA'S HOUSE - NEXT DAY

ALAYA

(To Lustrious)

How do you plan to get us out of
the city?

LUSTRIOUS KNIGHT

Well my dear. It's quite simple...

EXT. CITY OF IS'GAR - STREETS

Thalena drives her own wagon through the city. The back is covered up. Redcloaks and guards are everywhere. She stops at a check point at the southern gate. Two redcloaks approach.

REDCLOAK1

What's in the wagon misses.

THALENA

What's going on here?

The other redcloak flips the tarp of the wagon back, revealing hay and five barrels. A worried look crosses her face.

REDCLOAK2

What's in the barrels.

THALENA

Supplies for my fathers farm.

The redcloak grows angry and stabs one of the barrels.

REDCLOAK2

Supplies!

THALENA

What are you doing?

Dark liquid pours out of the barrel onto the guard and the ground.

THALENA (CONT'D)

My father's ale!

The infuriated Redcloak jumps up on the wagon, and opens another barrel.

Hidden far off, in a broken portion of the wall, sits Tom and the others. They watch as heated words pass between Thalena and the redcloak.

The redcloaks let the wagon go. It rolls its way through the gate and far out away from the city near a small wooded area.

SIR NOBLE TOM
 Good plan Lustrious...good plan.
 Sometimes you impress me.

LUSTRIOUS KNIGHT
 Sometimes?

MARK DELUKE
 A good plan indeed.

DeLuke pats Lustrious on the back. Lustrious smiles.

Alaya kisses Tom on the cheek.

ALAYA
 Thank you Thomas...for coming after
 me.

A bright flash of light (from the wizard) puts them standing in the small wooded area.

The wagon rolls up to them. Thalena hops down handing Lustrious the reins.

LUSTRIOUS KNIGHT
 Thank you Thalena.

They stand looking into each others eyes.

THALENA
 Stay out of trouble.

THE WIZARD
 Are you ready my lady?

LUSTRIOUS KNIGHT
 Wait just a minute wizard man.
 First things first.

Lustrious kisses her deeply. The wizard rolls his eyes.

THALENA
 Come back soon.

Lustrious smacks her butt with his sword.

LUSTRIOUS KNIGHT
 Now go on. And be a good girl.

She smiles as the wizard casts a spell on her. She turns invisible. Alaya looks at Lustrious.

LUSTRIOUS KNIGHT (CONT'D)
What? Did you want to be next.

They travel in the wagon, away from the city.

On the edge of the trees, Kavad watches them roll out of sight. He watches in the direction where an invisible Thalena is walking back to the city.

KAVAD
South. So torturable.
(Licks his lips)
Tricks and tracks. Tracks and tortures. Time to maim, time for pain.

EXT. WILDERNESS - CAMPFIRE - DAY

Later. They sit around a camp fire cooking an animal.

THE WIZARD
May I see your books?

Alaya looks at the golden cat.

ALAYA
Sure!

THE WIZARD
Do you really know where to find the city of myths?

ALAYA
I have feelings. I have seen the way to get there... In my dreams.

Lustrious rolls his eyes.

LUSTRIOUS KNIGHT
Great! You can't seriously tell me we're chasing dreams now.

The cat meows.

SIR NOBLE TOM
Cool it Lustrious.

THE WIZARD
(Pulls out a map)
This is a map of Leruthica?

ALAYA
(Stern)
That is a copy of my markings.

THE WIZARD
Oh.

The cat meows again.

THE WIZARD (CONT'D)
Yes. We must study up and follow
the good lady's map, to the City of
Myths. To find your home.

The cat meows once again.

Alaya looks quizzical.

ALAYA
Clinx!

The cat meows. Everyone looks.

ALAYA (CONT'D)
He says he is called Clinx. He
wants to thank you for saving him.

THE WIZARD
(Touched)
Clinx.
You are welcome Clinx.

The cat sits next to the wizard, and falls asleep. It purrs
a strange purring sound.

DeLuke teaches Lustrious shield tricks.

Alaya and Tom walk off together.

They walk in silence, through a meadow.

ALAYA
Do you know why they killed your
father?

SIR NOBLE TOM
No.

ALAYA
Was he in any kind of trouble?

SIR NOBLE TOM

He was always away. Seeing to our holdings... I never really spent any time with him.

The stand in silence watching the sun go down.

They travel for two days.

EXT. WILDERNESS

Tom and Alaya stroll through the woods at a distance, talking. Their words are indiscernible. The stones of an old road sit off out of their view.

They come upon a cliff, where the road connects to stone stairs leading down into a beautiful valley, the road is lined with cherry blossom trees.

They sit at the top few steps.

ALAYA

I keep seeing things...

SIR NOBLE TOM

Dreams Alaya. They are dreams, they cannot hurt you.

ALAYA

No Thomas. I see them when I'm awake now... Like I'm witnessing events through someone else's eyes.

SIR NOBLE TOM

Maybe you should talk to Japhet about this?

ALAYA

No! I am not crazy. I know who I am. I must get to the city... There I will find my answers.

She shivers.

SIR NOBLE TOM

What is it that you see?

ALAYA

It's getting late.

She stands to go.

SIR NOBLE TOM

Alaya. Tell me what it is? What frightens you. Tell me about the city. What it looks like, what we'll find.

ALAYA

Thomas.

SIR NOBLE TOM

Tell me.

Alaya closes her eyes and looks away.

ALAYA

Somewhere, in the city. There is a doorway.

SIR NOBLE TOM

Then we shall find it.

Her eyes water up.

SIR NOBLE TOM (CONT'D)

It is all right.

Tom puts his arms around her.

ALAYA

In my visions. I see you, entering the doorway. And you are... Burned to cinders. This place destroys you.

SIR NOBLE TOM

I am not going to leave you! I will stay by you. By your side, I promise.

In the distance, a few animal starlings watch them.

EXT. WILDERNESS - SHIELD PRACTICE

DeLuke and Lustrious clang swords together.

The wizard sits next to a tree, reading. Hands is next to him, rubbing his crossbow.

MARK DELUKE

(Out of breath)

Alright, lets see how good you are at dodging projectiles. Hold your shield up.

Lustrious looks quizzical.

MARK DELUKE (CONT'D)
Hands! Aim that over here.

Hands looks at his crossbow.

CONSCIOUS HANDS
Do what? I don't want to kill him!

MARK DELUKE
Are you worried?

LUSTRIOUS KNIGHT
Worried...
(Lying)
No! I haven't seen him hit
anything he actually aimed at.

MARK DELUKE
Good.

CONSCIOUS HANDS
No. You are both crazy.

LUSTRIOUS KNIGHT
(Backing up)
You're never gonna hit me.

CONSCIOUS HANDS
Wizard. A little help?

The wizard turns a page, oblivious to them.

MARK DELUKE
I've got ten gold. Wagered for ten
shots. Each one that hits
Lustrious' shield scores you one of
them.

Hands shakes his head in disbelief. DeLuke shakes the coins.
An uncontrollable smile creases Hands face.

LUSTRIOUS KNIGHT
What if he hits me?

MARK DELUKE
Then you lose.

Hands begins to breathe quickly, and looks out pinpointing
Lustrious's shield. He shoves ten crossbow bolts into the
ground in front of him. Scoops one up and fires.

The first bolt strikes Lustrious' shield and bounces off.

CONSCIOUS HANDS
That's one gold.

Two more bolts fly. Lustrious blocks them both.

CONSCIOUS HANDS (CONT'D)
Three gold.

Japhet looks up.

Four more bolts twang off Lustrious' shield.

CONSCIOUS HANDS (CONT'D)
Seven gold.

The final three bolts fly out of Hands crossbow. Lustrious blocks the first two, but misses the third and final bolt. It nicks Lustrious' side.

LUSTRIOUS KNIGHT
Hey!

CONSCIOUS HANDS
Ten gold!

LUSTRIOUS KNIGHT
Damn, what the hell is wrong with you two?

MARK DELUKE
Nine.

CONSCIOUS HANDS
I hit Lustrious. Ten hits, ten gold.

MARK DELUKE
Nine from me. You can collect the other one from Lustrious.

Lustrious walks toward them. Hands holds out his hand. Lustrious looks at them in disbelief.

LUSTRIOUS KNIGHT
I didn't even make this bet! Fine!

Lustrious pulls a gold coin from his belt pouch.

LUSTRIOUS KNIGHT (CONT'D)
Like I give a damn about one gold piece.

DeLuke puts his arm around Lustrious.

MARK DELUKE
Do you realize, what we just
discovered?

Off in the woods Alaya screams.

Lustrious sniffs the air.

They run toward her scream.

EXT. FOREST RIDGE

Lustrious and DeLuke charge into a clearing, swords drawn.

Tom kills the last of a dozen redcloaks, seven dead Starlings
are strewn across the ground.

Two short greenish humanoids (Starlings) are gibbering at
each other.

Hands catches up and points his crossbow at them.

CONSCIOUS HANDS
Stop. Or I will pincushion you
where you stand.

One of the little greenish men screams, and holds up his
arms. The other hides behind Tom, gibbering in a foreign
tongue.

Lustrious and DeLuke look at each other, trying not to laugh.

INUUG, an eight foot tall gray ogre-ish humanoid, carries a
dead creature in its arms as he walks out of the nearby wood.

They all ready their weapons.

MARK DELUKE
Wait!

The two short humanoids move in beside the ogre creature.

INUUG
(Breathless)
DeLuke?

MARK DELUKE
You! You were locked in the cages?

One of the little men speaks again.

The Wizard leans in, listening intently.

THE WIZARD
What do you make of this?

ALAYA
He says, the redcloaks ambushed
them.

Lustrious smells the air, looking intently around.

ALAYA (CONT'D)
The redcloaks, are our enemies as
well.

INUUG
(Points to himself)
Inuug.

MARK DELUKE
Inuug. I grieve for the loss of
your companions. May they find
peace in the afterlife.

SIR NOBLE TOM
Inuug, I am Sir... I am Tom, and
you are welcome to join us.

INUUG
Join... us?

DeLuke and the Wizard smile.

THE WIZARD
Yes... Join us.
(Points to himself)
Japhet.

The two smaller starlings stay behind Inuug.

ALAYA
We will not harm them.

Inuug speaks for a long moment. Alaya grows concerned.

ALAYA (CONT'D)
A mining camp! At the base of the
mountain.

Inuug continues to speak.

ALAYA (CONT'D)

We need to get past them. If the others catch up to us.

THE WIZARD

Zohan, is very powerful. He can transport himself and his men, almost anywhere. Odds are, he is waiting for us at the mine already.

The night goes by, as Inuug and the others talk.

EXT. WILDERNESS - TRAVELING

They travel a few days into the mountains, avoiding the mines.

The Wizard discusses the books and notes with Alaya. Discussing the entrance to the city, through the maze of Anaplus.

EXT. MOUNTAINS - CAMP - EARLY MORNING

Tom stabs the fire pit with a stick.

Lustrious rushes into camp.

LUSTRIOUS KNIGHT

Where's DeLuke?

SIR NOBLE TOM

He went up the mountain.

LUSTRIOUS KNIGHT

I've found something.

Inuug stands up, listening.

SIR NOBLE TOM

What?

EXT. OVERGROWN RUINS - SUNRISE

They stand looking at an endless overgrowth of ruins covered in fog.

CONSCIOUS HANDS

The city of myths!

SIR NOBLE TOM

Alaya, the place in your dreams.
What does it look like?

ALAYA

Paved streets... Buildings. Tall white stone. Monuments. Archways. Somewhere, there is an archway, big enough for Inuug to walk through. Made of gold.

SIR NOBLE TOM

It is as if you were here. Long ago.

They spend the morning searching the ruins, as the sun dissipates the fog. They search through empty hollowed out buildings, grown over with moss, and trees.

INT. ZOHAN'S LABORATORY

Zohan watches Kavad through a magical pool.

ZOHAN

Kavad, Kavad, Kavad. You should be more wary, you never know who might be watching.

A redcloak next to Zohan looks quizzical.

ZOHAN (CONT'D)

Killing him is out of the question, for now. He still has his purpose. Bring the men. The City of Myths awaits.

EXT. OVERGROWN RUINS - AFTERNOON

The wizard studies ancient stones with hieroglyphic writing on them, as DeLuke sneaks up on them.

MARK DELUKE

What have you found there?

CONSCIOUS HANDS

DeLuke!

THE WIZARD

Writings.

MARK DELUKE

The redcloaks are coming, Zohan is with them.

SIR NOBLE TOM

What about Kavad?

MARK DELUKE
I didn't see him, either way we
need to move.

They finish eating, as the Wizard deciphers the words.

THE WIZARD
Temple of Eledell.

Lustrious stops chewing, and moves closer.

MARK DELUKE
An old Elvin god.

THE WIZARD
Worshipped nearly four thousand
years ago.

Tom looks at Lustrious.

THE WIZARD (CONT'D)
This place is Exkabar. If Exkabar
is also the City of Myths It might
explain why no one could find it.

LUSTRIOUS KNIGHT
Are you saying Elves ruled the City
of Myths?

THE WIZARD
Perhaps! And when we hunted them
down and killed them. Knowledge of
the city was forgotten.

SIR NOBLE TOM
What about their bloodlines?

Lustrious throws Tom an angry glare.

THE WIZARD
I don't know, but I'm sure there
are no elves left around this
place.

EXT. OVERGROWN RUINS

Kavad crouches on an overgrown hill, watching them. He aims a
crossbow from Tom to DeLuke's head.

KAVAD
Time to die DeLuke.

DeLuke turns toward Kavad, pulling up his shield, as Kavad fires.

MARK DELUKE
Over there...

The bolt goes completely through DeLuke's left shoulder.

MARK DELUKE (CONT'D)
(Stumbles to the ground)
Watch out!

Kavad aims another bolt toward Tom, as ten Starlings rush Kavad from behind. He fires wide as he falls down the hill toward them. Dropping his crossbow.

Kavad reaches for it. Hands fires a bolt, pinning Kavad's left hand to the ground.

SIR NOBLE TOM
Kavad!

MARK DELUKE
(Standing)
Keep your aim on him Hands.

Lustrious pulls manacles as he moves to Kavad.

LUSTRIOUS KNIGHT
(To Hands)
If he moves. I've got two gold
says you put out one of his eyes.

KAVAD
(In pain)
Conscious Hands, long time no see.

MARK DELUKE
You know him?

CONSCIOUS HANDS
He carries poison.

DeLuke feels his shoulder wound.

KAVAD
We hunted starlings together.

MARK DELUKE
Take his bag, check for antidotes.

Tom draws his sword and moves toward Kavad.

DeLuke grabs Tom's arm.

SIR NOBLE TOM
He killed my father.

MARK DELUKE
Not out of anger. Breathe the
life. Learn to feel the difference
between good and evil.

Tom breathes deeply, trying to understand DeLuke.

The starlings on the hill converse with Inuug.

THE WIZARD
It's Zohan! And he's brought an
army with him.

ALAYA
It's this way, follow me.

MARK DELUKE
There will be a time. We must help
Alaya first.

Lustrious manacles Kavad, and gives his bag of gear to
DeLuke.

LUSTRIOUS KNIGHT
Let's go. Move it.

DeLuke falters in pain, unseen behind them. Inside Kavad's
bag he finds a couple small bottles. He drinks one, then
follows the others through the ruins.

EXT. OVERGROWN RUINS - GORGE

A large crumbled stone gate, covered with bushes and grass.

Beyond the gate, a huge rift splits the landscape. Wind
blows up at them.

KAVAD
Dead end. Your rag tag band of
merry adventuring is over.

ALAYA
There is supposed to be a mine
shaft here that leads away from the
city.

CONSCIOUS HANDS
I don't see any mine shaft.

THE WIZARD
The maze of Anapulus.

LUSTRIOUS KNIGHT
Looks like an earthquake caved it
all in.

SIR NOBLE TOM
We're going to have to go down
there.

Zohan stands, from atop an overgrown building, pointing a
staff. Forty redcloaks form ranks next to, and below him.

ZOHAN
Let me help you with that.

MARK DELUKE
We have your man.

ZOHAN
A thief among thieves DeLuke.

SIR NOBLE TOM
(Whispers to DeLuke)
Be ready.

Kavad's manacles fall to the ground.

Hands points his crossbow at Kavad.

The redcloaks point crossbows at them all.

ZOHAN
Surely you will throw down your
weapons and lead us to the city of
myths nicely.

MARK DELUKE
This is where it ends Zohan.

SIR NOBLE TOM
You're delusional Zohan.

ZOHAN
You surprised me before DeLuke, but
I have prepared for you this time.

The earth under them trembles and rips upward, forming a
large earth creature.

They all tumble out of the way of the rising dirt monster.

Kavad falls to the city side of the gorge, his manacles fall to the ground. From his boot, he whips a poison dagger at DeLuke, sticking him in the side.

Japhet flings fire into the creature.

Hands fires into the earth creature. Nothing.

CONSCIOUS HANDS

Oh oh!

Kavad sneaks away. Tom sees him and follows.

Hands sees Tom but not Kavad, then hides behind a rock and shoots at redcloaks.

Lustrious yells at Hands.

LUSTRIOUS KNIGHT

I'll wager you two gold for each redcloak you take out.

Hands picks off a redcloak, and smiles.

CONSCIOUS HANDS

Two gold! I hope you have enough to pay up. Four gold.

Another redcloak falls.

The earth creature smacks Lustrious down.

LUSTRIOUS KNIGHT

(To himself)

I hope I'm alive to cover this bet.

Inuug attacks the earth creature.

The other starlings scatter throughout the ruins.

DeLuke ducks the earth creatures huge fists.

Alaya yells at the wizard.

ALAYA

Put me on the building.

THE WIZARD

Not a good idea, Zohan's up there.

ALAYA

(Flashes her sword)

I know.

The wizard looks at her disbelieving.

THE WIZARD
Okay, ready.

ALAYA
Yes.

The wizard cups his hands and begins casting. Clinx pops out of the wizard's cloak.

THE WIZARD
(To Clinx)
Protect her.

With a blinding flash of light, Alaya and Clinx are transported behind Zohan.

The wizard quickly throws a ball of fire at Zohan's cliff.

Two redcloaks by Zohan are burned.

The Earth elemental smashes DeLuke through the air.

Alaya stabs Zohan in the back. He pulls her down the cliff with him. Lustrious stands nearby fighting redcloaks.

A redcloak aims at Alaya, Clinx jumps on him.

Kavad leans hidden against an old wall, rubbing poison on his small sword.

Tom steps cautiously looking for him.

Kavad stabs Tom, as he steps near.

KAVAD
Time to die nobleman.

Tom duels with Kavad, through broken ruins.

SIR NOBLE TOM
Kavad! You evil bastard.

Tom staggers from the poison wound.

KAVAD
Evil is my favorite virtue. I so enjoyed the screams your father made, as I tortured him.

Tom attacks frantically.

SIR NOBLE TOM
I will kill you!

KAVAD
That's the fun part! You kill me,
and the poison kills you.

Tom's attacks weaken.

KAVAD (CONT'D)
Come on boy! Don't give up now!

With a flash, Zohan transports himself near the gorge, away from Alaya, Lustrious, and the Earth Elemental.

The Earth creature smacks Lustrious shattering his shield.

Lustrious rolls away from another smacking fist.

The creature fixes its eyes on Alaya.

Alaya stabs its foot. It grabs her up with its giant hand.

DeLuke, sweating from the poison, and the hole in his shoulder, charges and stabs it in the side.

Tom and Kavad duel, up onto an old building.

SIR NOBLE TOM
(Sweating deliriously)
Who hired you?

KAVAD
Who hired me? Morgan hired me boy.
Your father reneged on his deal. He
tried to go to the king. Not a
smart man your father. The
redcloaks will march before the
fruit ripens. The king will die,
and Morgan will sit on the thrown.

Tom stabs Kavad.

SIR NOBLE TOM
You betrayed the kingdom... And
left my father to die.

Kavad falls from the building, staring eyes glazed open, dead.

SIR NOBLE TOM (CONT'D)
Now, it's your turn.

Tom scrambles down to Kavad. Searching his body. No antidote. Tom hurries back to the others.

Zohan and the wizard Japhet exchange magical fire.

Zohan hurls magical meteorite rocks, pelting Japhet and knocking him down.

Alaya kills a redcloak, while sneaking toward Zohan.

Zohan blasts Alaya with a green ray. She falls over.

Tom sees Alaya fall, and moves toward her and Zohan.

The Earth Elemental battles DeLuke, Lustrious, and Inuug.

The Earth creature rears down and bites DeLuke. Lifting him up into its mouth. Inuug grabs the creatures arm.

LUSTRIOUS KNIGHT

Mark!

Tom tackles Zohan.

The Earth creature steps on Inuug, crushing him to the ground.

The wizard becomes frantic.

LUSTRIOUS KNIGHT (CONT'D)

Japhet, do something?

The earth creature sways it's arms in defiance, knocking DeLuke through the air.

Zohan sprays Tom with magic.

Tom floats up into the air.

Japhet throws five white frost balls onto the creature, and blasts it with a bright blue fire ray.

The Earth creature crumples into a pile of watery mud.

Hands shoots Zohan in the side.

Fifty feet in the air, Tom falls back down, whipping his sword at Zohan. Tom crashes into the wet muddy ground with a splash, his sword striking Zohan, knocking him screaming over the edge of the gorge.

Tom stands, as Hands pulls Lustrious from the watery mess.

SIR NOBLE TOM
 (Coughing)
 Where is Alaya?

She is still crumpled unmoving under the mud and water.

Tom stumbles over to her, and pulls her out of the muddy water.

SIR NOBLE TOM (CONT'D)
 Alaya! Alaya!

The wizard, hurt, pulls himself from the mud.

The cat stands on a stone, holding a staff in its mouth.

Alaya coughs, and looks at Tom and smiles.

Tom's eyes roll around in his head.

ALAYA
 Something is wrong with him!

CONSCIOUS HANDS
 Poison!

SIR NOBLE TOM
 Need... Antidote...

Hands finds the bag Lustrious took from Kavad. He gives a small vile to Alaya.

Alaya forces Tom to drink it.

CONSCIOUS HANDS
 Where's DeLuke?

THE WIZARD
 He's over here.

Japhet stands over his body.

Lustrious gets there first. Him and the Wizard look away in shock. Hands move toward them.

THE WIZARD (CONT'D)
 Stay there.

Hands moves in. Inuug limps up behind them.

THE WIZARD (CONT'D)
 There is nothing we can do for him.

Hands pushes past Lustrious, flinching.

The wizard puts his hand on Hands shoulder and goes to speak. Unable, he lowers his head, and leaves Hands to grieve.

Inuug looks around for the other starlings.

A minute goes by.

Lustrious finds DeLuke's shield sticking out of the mud, and picks it up.

EXT. OVERGROWN RUINS

Tom begins to feel better, as the others bury DeLuke.

Hands gives Tom DeLuke's sword.

CONSCIOUS HANDS
He would want you to have it.

The sun is close to the horizon. A light fog begins to gather around the ancient ruins.

They move away from the gorge.

EXT. OVERGROWN RUINS

As It grows dark they camp near a strange crypt.

They sit around a fire. Erie and quiet.

ALAYA
I need to find the other starlings.
I hope they're all right.

LUSTRIOUS KNIGHT
(whispers to Tom)
There's nothing here Tom. Are we going to keep searching or what.

THE WIZARD
No gate. And no maze.

SIR NOBLE TOM
We need to get back to Edenia and warn the king.

ALAYA
I cannot go back.

LUSTRIOUS KNIGHT

The redcloaks aren't going to march for Morgan alone. Now that Zohan is dead it will take someone with serious power to organize them to take over the throne.

SIR NOBLE TOM

We are going to have to be able to prove to the king, otherwise...

LUSTRIOUS KNIGHT

We're still wanted men.

SIR NOBLE TOM

We may just have to save the king anyway.

LUSTRIOUS KNIGHT

If Morgan sits on the throne.

CONSCIOUS HANDS

Are you guys listening to yourselves. I don't care a copper about the king.

They sit around the fire. The night goes on.

In the middle of the night, Hands wanders off.

Something about the main crypt attracts his attention. He is sad over DeLuke's death. Hands finds a way into the crypt.

Tom wakes to see Hands go into the crypt.

Tom gets up and follows. He notices Hands crossbow lying on his bedclothes. Tom finds the crypt open.

Tom enters, following Hands trail.

INT. CRYPT

The stone is old, and carved with hieroglyphics. Stone stairs lead down. Tom finds a torch, and lights it.

Tom moves through an empty room and finds Hands in a large square room with a copper floor. Tom enters.

CONSCIOUS HANDS

Don't step there!

One of the stone tiles Tom steps on moves.

Hands dives to the floor, knocking Tom down, as arrows fly out across the room.

SIR NOBLE TOM
What are you doing down here?

The door slides shut.

CONSCIOUS HANDS
Just looking around, till you came in and sprung the trap.

CLICK!

CONSCIOUS HANDS (CONT'D)
Something is going to happen. Be ready.

Tom steps closer to Hands in the middle of the room.

The sides of the room fall away, leaving Tom and Hands on a circular stone platform. It begins to rotate.

SIR NOBLE TOM
Damnit Hands. Spikes!

CONSCIOUS HANDS
I'm so glad you're feeling better.

The walls are covered with spikes.

The circular stone platforms rotation picks up speed and moves upward, attempting to crush them against the ceiling.

CONSCIOUS HANDS (CONT'D)
Not good.

SIR NOBLE TOM
Hands!

CONSCIOUS HANDS
You did this. Don't blame me.

SIR NOBLE TOM
You should not be down here in the first place.

CONSCIOUS HANDS
Down. Climb down the spikes.

They jump to the corner spikes, and use them to climb down.

Under the rotating platform. A large metal rod turns the upper floor in quick rotations.

A small door sits on the bottom of the other side of the under-room.

Hands runs under and checks the door.

The ceiling stops spinning, and begins to move downward.

SIR NOBLE TOM
It's crunch time.

Hands fumbles with lock picks.

SIR NOBLE TOM (CONT'D)
Hands!

Hands frantically looks at the ceiling while trying to pick the lock. He breaks one of his picks in the lock.

CONSCIOUS HANDS
I can't get it open!

Tom charges the door.

SIR NOBLE TOM
Move!

Hands jumps out of the way, as Tom smashes into and through the door. Hands dives through as the ceiling catches his cloak, and rips it in half.

They look up. Along each wall of the room stands three sarcophagi.

Tom stands, seeing he's just come through one of the thirteen sarcophagi. The thirteenth sits on the floor in the center of the room. Light emanates from it.

Tom cuts Hands cloak, so he can get up.

CONSCIOUS HANDS
That was close. Would you look at this.

SIR NOBLE TOM
(Checking the door)
I hope you're looking for the way out?

CONSCIOUS HANDS

A way out? Do you know what they bury people with? Nobody's been in here, for a long time...

Hands pulls one of the sarcophagi away from the wall. It falls over with a loud clang.

SIR NOBLE TOM

Hands!

CONSCIOUS HANDS

What.

Hands digs through the body that fell out.

SIR NOBLE TOM

Pilfering peoples coffins. Great.

CONSCIOUS HANDS

They're dead Tom, relax.

Hands tugs on another sarcophagus.

SIR NOBLE TOM

Shh. I'm not going to be turned to stone because of you Hands. C'mon, help me find a way out.

CONSCIOUS HANDS

You act as if everything bad that happens is because of me. Not everything that happens is my fault.

Hands pushes it over. It cracks the center sarcophagus. A loud hiss, and ancient air escape from it.

EXT. CAMPSITE - WILDERNESS

Zohan's eyes jerk awake. In anger and pain.

ZOHAN

What is this?

He gazes around at his surroundings, pleasantly surprised.

INT. CRYPT

Tom glares at Hands.

CONSCIOUS HANDS

It's a grave Tom. It's not like
I'm going to wake the dead.

A skeletal hand reaches up out of the center sarcophagus.

Hands drops the items he stole from the other crypts.

A skeletal LICH wearing tattered robes stands. His blazing red eyes scan the room.

The LICH turns, but they are gone. Hidden behind sarcophagi. The lich looks to the floor, and the trinket coming to a stop next to tracks in the dust. His gaze follows the dust tracks.

Hands and Tom stair each other down, from separate hiding places. Hands motions that he has no weapons.

Tom remembers Hands left his crossbow at his bedding. Tom points to the rocks, and sees the dust-prints.

LICH

I know you are here. Show
yourself. You have awakened
me...tell me what you want...
Who summons Hal Mal Kabal? SHOW
YOURSELF!

His voice echoes up a dust cloud which crashes against the back wall. Hands coughs. Tom hides his face in his cloak.

A red beam from a wand, vaporizes the sarcophagus in front of Hands. Hands rolls, avoiding the flying shards. The lich points his wand at Hands.

CONSCIOUS HANDS

(Crouching)
Wait... Wait.

LICH

Wait? You have come here,
disturbing my slumber, and you wish
me to wait...I wait no longer. You
will be the first to join my
crusade to destroy humanity.

CONSCIOUS HANDS

I'll pass on that good sir.

A yellowish ray, blasts Hands, attacking his mind. Hands grabs his head, and falls to the floor screaming.

EXT. CAMPSITE

Zohan climbs out of the gorge.

He sees his dead redcloaks scattered about.

He twirls his fingers. Black smoke rises around the bodies.

The dead redcloaks stand, zombie-like, and look to Zohan.

ZOHAN

Time to march again. Not even death
can stop the march of the
redcloaks.

Zohan charges into their camp. The skeletal men confiscate their weapons.

INT. CRYPT

Tom charges the lich. It turns pointing its staff at Tom. Tom cleaves it's hand off.

The lich grabs Tom's neck with it's other hand.

Tom's sword stabs into its midsection. Stuck there.

The Lich picks Tom into the air by his throat.

The lich reaches into its age-worn cloak.

SIR NOBLE TOM

Hard to hold things with only one
hand hey pal.

LICH

Keep speaking. Get your last words
out human.

Tom shoves his ring into the lich's eye.

The lich drops Tom.

Tom pulls his sword from the lich. Magic blasts him knocking him backwards across the ground.

Hands stands. The lich looks toward Hands.

Tom throws his sword, cutting the lich in half. A ruby pendant around its neck pulses an eerie red glow throughout the chamber.

LICH (CONT'D)

Kill him!

Hands moves toward Tom. Tom faces Hands empty handed. Hands eyes glow red, and he moves with mechanical movements. Hands pulls out one of his daggers.

Tom follows the red light in the pendant, it gives off a faint heart beating sound.

Hands red eyes are locked on Tom.

Tom circles around toward the Lich, who lies unmoving on the ground.

LICH (CONT'D)

We shall meet again!

With a bright blue flash of light, the Lich vanishes.

Hands eyes, still red advances.

Tom knocks him out.

SIR NOBLE TOM

Hands! Are you all right?

CONSCIOUS HANDS

What happened?

SIR NOBLE TOM

What happened is we're trapped down here. Help me find a way out.

Tom begins to search the area, and the other Sarcophagi.

CONSCIOUS HANDS

Pilfering the dead?

(Holds his head)

Are you sure that's such a good idea?

Tom finds a magic staff in the Lich's Sarcophagus.

EXT. OVERGROWN RUINS - GORGE

Zohan leads Alaya, Lustrious, The Wizard, and Innug, tied in manacles, to the gorge.

ZOHAN

Everybody down.

THE WIZARD

Where are you taking us?

ZOHAN

The maze of Anapulus. All around us. The key.

ALAYA

The gateway was in the maze.

THE WIZARD

Then it's destroyed.

ZOHAN

No, the maze is the gateway.

Zohan points to a passageway leading into the mountain.

INT. CRYPT

Hands points the staff at the wall.

It explodes outward.

They find themselves in the maze.

They climb back up. Find the camp empty, and pick up everyone's weapons.

Clinx is there.

SIR NOBLE TOM

Good kitty. Lead the way Clinx.

Clinx leads them down into the gorge. They find the others footprints leading into a large doorway, it leads directly into the mountain.

EXT. MINESHAFT - SUNRISE

Zohan and the others come out of the mountain on the other side, in an old abandoned wooden building.

Three roads lead away from the mine.

They rest.

Alaya looks into her shirt, and then up the middle path that climbs upward to a high mountain. Its peak extends into the clouds.

Zohan follows her gaze. They all follow her gaze, to the mountain in the clouds.

THE WIZARD

Stairs.

ZOHAN

The City of Myths. Move it lets
go. Get up.

They gear up, and walk up the center stone road, which eventually turns into thick stairs.

The stairs range upward and around. Tall grass and wheat flow on each side of the stairs.

EXT. MOUNT MYTHICUS

Tom and Hands peer out of the mineshaft. They see Zohan and the others walking up the mountainside. Clink looks up at them waiting expectantly.

CONSCIOUS HANDS

What now boss.

SIR NOBLE TOM

What now? We stand here and wait for the great Conscious Hands to come up with something. Something really great.

CONSCIOUS HANDS

Do you think that's such a good idea. They're getting away.

Tom looks up into the mountain. Seeing the clouds.

SIR NOBLE TOM

I don't think they are getting away Hands.

Hands looks up at the mountain.

SIR NOBLE TOM (CONT'D)

The city, It's up there.

EXT. MOUNT MYTHICUS

Lustrious smells the air, and looks around worried.

LUSTRIOUS KNIGHT

There's something here.

ZOHAN

Yeah, me and my dead men.

A small three-foot-tall red dragon peaks its head out of the grass next to Zohan on the stairs.

They share eye contact for a few moments.

Zohan flicks lightning blasting it backwards, dead.

The bushes around Zohan and his dead men begin to come alive with buzzing. The buzzing of ten more baby red dragons.

They all begin to make an eerie call.

Lustrious, and the Wizard stand worried. The others wonder what the noise is.

Lustrious pats DeLuke's shield he is carrying.

Alaya sees him. They hear a large buzzing sound coming from below them in the trees. They are about five minutes from entering the clouds.

Inuug, the Wizard, and Zohan gaze hard at the flock of creatures coming out of the tops of the trees.

THE WIZARD

Those are not birds.

LUSTRIOUS KNIGHT

Dragons. Run!

ZOHAN

(Following them)

Stay in my sights.

Many baby red dragons flock them like seagulls. They all scamper up into the clouds.

EXT. MOUNT MYTHICUS - MINESHAFT EXIT

Tom watches them running up the mountain. Movement to his left catches his eye. A small dragon eyes them hungrily.

SIR NOBLE TOM

Hands!

It jumps at Tom, who ducks, and slices his sword up over his head, chopping the little dragon in half. Hands catches its head. It gurgles up blood at him, and he throws it down.

SIR NOBLE TOM (CONT'D)

Quit messing around. Come on.

CONSCIOUS HANDS

What are we doing?

SIR NOBLE TOM

Sneaking up the mountain. I thought we'd try something you can handle. Like picking off dragons with a crossbow.

CONSCIOUS HANDS

(Smiling)

That I can do.

EXT. MOUNT MYTHICUS

Zohan becomes surrounded. The others run between the zombie men as the dragons eat a few.

Lustrious, Alaya, and Inuug grab the zombies weapons and run up into the clouds. The rest of Zohan's dead men are eaten. Zohan turns invisible.

Tom and Hands run up the stairs. Hands shoots three dragons. Tom cuts down two.

Alaya and Lustrious stumble upward through the clouds. Two dragons attack them. Lustrious and Inuug kill them.

The stairs widen out, hundreds of feet in each direction.

Alaya finds herself alone in the fog.

The starlings and the Wizard find the steps they are on lead down an old road through a hundred foot tall gate.

Tom and Hands rush through the clouds.

Alaya moves toward the gate.

Tom grabs her hand.

ALAYA

Where did you go? Where have you been?

SIR NOBLE TOM

We, ran into a really ugly fellow.

CONSCIOUS HANDS

Yeah, mister scary bones.

Beyond the gate, the clouds dissipate, revealing buildings spanning hundreds of feet high.

The ancient city spans out of sight. Monoliths, temples,
architecture unsurpassed in the known world.

Through the gate, they stop in awe.

They stand in the grandest city ever seen, untouched in ages.

SIR NOBLE TOM
Can you believe this.

The others come up behind them.

THE WIZARD
Not like any book I've ever read.

ALAYA
This is my dreams, like I was here,
long ago.
(Reaches out her hand)
I see people walking the streets.
(Shocked)
They're not human...
(Tears form)

LUSTRIOUS KNIGHT
Alaya?

ALAYA
This way!

They follow her. Awestruck.

EXT. CITY OF MYTHS

Zohan moves through the city gates, invisible.

EXT. CITY OF MYTHS

Hands trails behind, touching walls and strange statues. One
has sapphire's in its eyes.

SIR NOBLE TOM
Keep up Hands. We don't want to
get split up.

Hands moves to follow, and the eyes seem to follow him.

ALAYA
We're close.

Baby dragons flock the streets.

SIR NOBLE TOM
Let's move.

They quickly move as Hands, Alaya and Tom lead the way.

The dragons close ground. Hands fires his crossbow, past the wizard, killing one. The wizard holds his breath.

CONSCIOUS HANDS

Faith, trust and dragon's dust wizzy
wiz.

They run. The dragons follow. Invisible boot prints follow after the dragons.

One dragon sniffs the air nearby.

ZOHAN

Beat it you mutt.

The dragon closes in on the Invisible footprints.

Lightning blasts the dragon. Zohan appears.

ZOHAN (CONT'D)

(Mad)

Ah. Damn you!

Tom and the others move through a clearing off the street. A stone door sits in the middle of the clearing. Alaya stops. The door is an open archway.

They all watch her. She gazes at the stone archway.

Lustrious grips DeLuke's shield tightly. Tom scans the area. The Wizard and Hands move to the archway. Inuug stands in a defensive position near Alaya.

Alaya touches the doorway.

THE WIZARD

Wait!

CONSCIOUS HANDS

Wait!

Nothing happens.

ALAYA

This is it.

Alaya runs her hands across the stone.

The archway has a small indented groove above the opening, with ancient writings covering the rest. The groove is square and about three inches deep.

THE WIZARD

I don't know if that's such a good idea?

ALAYA

Then what do you suggest Japhet?

THE WIZARD

I...

She walks through the gateway. Nothing happens.

SIR NOBLE TOM

Can you read the writings?

LUSTRIOUS KNIGHT

Use yer magic wizard.

ALAYA

By all means, do something good with your talent.

The wizard casts a spell, and lurches back on his butt, screaming and clutching his head.

Three small dragons attack. Followed by five more.

Lustrious, Tom and Inuug engage them.

Hands ducks an attacking dragon, using the doorway as cover. Alaya draws her sword and stands in the doorway with Hands. More dragons come, as the heroes all move closer to the stone door. Tom stands next to Alaya.

SIR NOBLE TOM

Now would be a good time to figure this thing out. For the starlings.

Hands notices the groove at the top of the doorway.

Hands reaches into his pocket, and pulls out the black rock.

Alaya and Tom look to Hands hand.

CONSCIOUS HANDS

A piece of a star!

Alaya takes the rock from Hands.

Zohan fires magic webs, trapping The wizard, Lustrious, and Hands.

Alaya, Inuug and Tom stand guarding each other.

ZOHAN

If anyone even thinks of moving. I
will disintegrate the girl!

(To Inuug)

You. Back up. Move back.

Inuug backs up. Zohan sticks him to a pillar with more webs.

ZOHAN (CONT'D)

A planar star-gate! Go ahead...
slowly and put it in.

Alaya sticks the rock in the gate. Nothing happens.

Zohan uses his magic on the gate. It lights up.

Somewhere a large red dragons eye opens.

ZOHAN (CONT'D)

Go on. You two first.

ALAYA

Tom.

SIR NOBLE TOM

It will be all right.

Tom and Alaya go through the gate. Zohan follows.

Zohan uses his magic to turn the gate off.

A large red dragon takes flight.

LUSTRIOUS KNIGHT

Wizard, can you get us out of here?

THE WIZARD

I can't use my magic like this.

CONSCIOUS HANDS

I'll get us out.

Hands tries to reach the staff he got from the sarcophagus.

There is a large thud. A big red dragon lands out of sight.

LUSTRIOUS KNIGHT

Did you hear that.

(Sniffs the air)

Another dragon. Bigger. Much
bigger.

THE WIZARD

You do have Elvin blood!

Inuug struggles with the webs. The dragon comes into view.
Inuug breaks free.

EXT. PLAINS OF PERIL

Tom, Alaya, and Zohan stand in between the middle of light and darkness. In one direction is white, turning to purest white, while the other direction is black, turning to deepest night with shades of red.

A few spheres of golden light float through the air a short ways off.

ALAYA

Look at them. The most beautiful beings in all the worlds.

Alaya holds her head, as flashes of a former life flash into her memory.

SIR NOBLE TOM

What are they?

ALAYA

Souls that have died. They have come to the plains of Peril. It is here that they are eaten by the Moggs. Unless we can collect them, and send them back down. In the citadel of Light.

Zohan grabs a soul. It is warm.

ZOHAN

I feel its power, pulsing...

SIR NOBLE TOM

Let it go Zohan.

Zohan eats the soul. Light shines partly out from his eyes.

ZOHAN

How do you know all this?

Alaya stands taller, white magic surrounds her, and radiates outward from her. She becomes the being she was before she came from the star. Full of faith, and the magic of the heavens.

ALAYA
Because I am the light. The
empress, the keeper of truth.

Pure white light flares from Alaya's fingers, she aims her
faith-magic at Zohan.

ALAYA (CONT'D)
You have no right to be here among
those in peril.

They duel magic.

EXT. CITY OF MYTHS - GATEWAY

Inuug frees the wizard.

The wizard casts a spell, and the webs vanish.

Hands pulls his crossbow up at the dragon.

Lustrious finds himself face to face with the dragon.

The dragon breathes fire at Lustrious, who ducks, using
DeLuke's shield. Lustrious stabs the dragon in the jaw.

Hands fires into the dragons eye.

EXT. PLAINS OF PERIL

Alaya and Zohan duel magic.

Forms move through the darkness toward the magical energy
display.

Four dark twisted creatures (Moggs) close in on them.

Tom defends against Zohan.

The Moggs move in, Tom duels them.

EXT. CITY OF MYTHS - GATEWAY

The dragon grabs Lustrious with one of his hands.

It picks him up toward his mouth.

The wizard frosts the dragons tail.

Lustrious stabs it in the chin.

A gathering of starlings begin to show up at the gateway.

EXT. PLAINS OF PERIL

Tom kills one of the Moggs. He stumbles, sickened.

Zohan knocks Alaya down. Tom grabs Zohan. They wrestle.

Tom kills Zohan. Tom fights off the Moggs.

Another being shows up.

The one Mogg left, slinks off into the darkness.

BEING OF LIGHT

Truth from darkness is light once
more. We have waited long for your
return.

SIR NOBLE TOM

There are others, on the other
side. They wish to come home.

Tom becomes sickened trying to help Alaya up.

BEING OF LIGHT

The citadel awaits them. The Moggs
are massing. Their powers have
returned. They creep too far from
the river of darkness.

Tom falls to the ground unable to breathe.

BEING OF LIGHT (CONT'D)

He is mortal!
(To Alaya)
Raise your hands.

Alaya raises her hands. The Being of light mimics her.
Magic radiates between them. And they form a gateway.

BEING OF LIGHT (CONT'D)

It has been long since I have felt
this.

EXT. CITY OF MYTHS - GATEWAY

The dragons tail whacks Hands.

Lustrious stabs its head.

The dragon slumps to the ground, dead.

The gate lights up. Light shoots high up into the sky.

THE WIZARD

The gateway!

LUSTRIOUS KNIGHT

Watch out!

THE WIZARD

Something is about to come through.

LUSTRIOUS KNIGHT

How do you know?

THE WIZARD

I am a powerful wizard.

Alaya comes through the gate dragging Tom.

Hands points his crossbow at them.

ALAYA

Zohan is dead. So please put that
down Hands.

Hands lowers the crossbow.

Alaya lays Tom on the ground.

LUSTRIOUS KNIGHT

It's good to see you two again.
What happened to Tom?

Alaya puts her hand on Tom. A white glow surrounds him,
healing him.

Tom looks up to her.

SIR NOBLE TOM

Told you, he's getting soft.

THE WIZARD

(Whispering)
Healing powers...

ALAYA

Soon those who believe, the
faithful they shall be rewarded.
Both good and evil. The stars will
fall no more.

Tom sees the big dead red dragon.

SIR NOBLE TOM

What the hell is that?

LUSTRIOUS KNIGHT
 Just a little problem we had on
 this side of the universe.

CONSCIOUS HANDS
 Nothing the great Conscious Hands
 couldn't handle.

They all laugh.

SIR NOBLE TOM
 (To Alaya)
 There are things I must still do
 here.

ALAYA
 Thomas?

SIR NOBLE TOM
 Not for me. For the kingdom, and
 my father. Questions I must find
 answers to... Like you must do.
 (Indicating the gate)
 When I find them. I will return,
 and find you.

ALAYA
 Perhaps I will come back to find
 you first.

Tom smiles.

SIR NOBLE TOM
 I would like that.

The cat watches the gate then hops up in the wizards arms.

ALAYA
 He says he would like to remain
 here. With you.

LUSTRIOUS KNIGHT
 And what about you friend?

Inuug nods his head toward Alaya.

LUSTRIOUS KNIGHT (CONT'D)
 Good. Protect her well. I don't
 take kindly to troubling the
 ladies.

Tom kisses Alaya.

SIR NOBLE TOM
I'll find you... When the kingdom
is safe.

ALAYA
(Smiles)
I know you will. And I'll be
waiting.

Alaya steps through the magic portal. The starlings follow.

Tom, Lustrious, Hands, and the Wizard look around at the
carnage. The cat looks up to the wizard.

THE WIZARD
Right so.

CONSCIOUS HANDS
What say we...Look around a little.

LUSTRIOUS KNIGHT
Well. I do have business I want to
be attending to back at the Inn.

SIR NOBLE TOM
The City of Myths. Perhaps we
should take a look around.

THE WIZARD
Gentlemen, perhaps you would like a
guided tour. Over here we have one
large...dead dragon...a gateway to
another dimension.

CONSCIOUS HANDS
Wizard! Which way is the treasure?

LUSTRIOUS KNIGHT
Yeah the treasure. I can't return
empty handed, what would the ladies
think?

THE WIZARD
Ah yes. The treasure...perhaps it
may be...well...

SIR NOBLE TOM
Everywhere.

FADE OUT TO CREDITS.

The sound of clanging coins.

LUSTRIOUS KNIGHT

I still don't see how were going to
get all this down the mountain.

Fade in. They are standing in an unending pile of treasure.

THE WIZARD

Leave that to me.

SIR NOBLE TOM

Normally we leave the impossible
stuff to Hands. Hands! Where did
he go now?

THE END of Part One of the Sir Noble Tom Trilogy...