

THE PRECURSOR WAR

By

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Age of Shadows Part 1 of 6

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FADE IN:

**EXT. DECIMATED WASTELAND - DAY**

A nightmarish and visceral landscape. ASHEN STATUES stand on SCORCHED EARTH enveloped by a DESOLATED MEDIEVAL METROPOLIS.

SUPER: **Valyr, 1634 4E**

A **TRAVELER**, age undetermined, wrapped in a desert garb with a sheathed sword and hide armor set & hood, treks.

Traveler reaches an overlook. Gazes out over the wasteland.

A DESTROYED MEDIEVAL PALACE hugs the mountainside to the far north, SUNKEN FRIGATES/WAR VESSELS occupy its harbor.

**INT. DESOLATE PALACE - FOYER - DAY**

Looted, nothing of value. Large. Thick cobwebs hang. Insects scuttle about. CHARRED SKELETONS occupy the floor.

Traveler steps inside. Studies the architecture & skeletons.

He makes his way to the LARGE DOORS at the end of the foyer.

**INT. DESOLATE PALACE - THRONE ROOM - DAY**

Skeletons, rusted swords, bows and shields occupy the floor. Torn tapestries hang from the walls -

Traveler steps between the skeletons en route to the throne.

- a SKELETON in ragged robes and a crown, on the throne. A rusted ELVEN SWORD plunged through its chest. The **KING**.

Traveler lowers his hood to reveal:

POST-WAR **ORION**, 25-27, fierce and battle hardened, a scarred lip and a face that declares he's seen some messed up stuff.

Orion unsheathes his sword - **SOULREND/THE DARK BLADE**, epic in design with embossed skulls on its lower blade.

He plunges the sword into a hole in the floor. MECHANICAL GEARS grind away -

- the floor splits open, revealing a dark, stepped passage.

Orion sheathes Soulrend. Forms a fireball in one hand and descends into the dark below.

**INT. DESOLATE PALACE - TREASURY - DAY**

Lit torches occupy golden holders on the walls. Many mounds of GOLD/TRINKETS/VALUABLES line the room.

Snakes slither in/out of the golden mounds.

In the center, a raised platform with a golden pedestal, on which sits a small **MECHANICAL ORNATE BOX** (Pandora's Box).

Orion steps up to the pedestal. Coldly studies the box.

ORION

So many wars. So much loss. All of  
it for you.

Orion lifts the box, weighs it in hand.

ORION

No more.

He sets the box on the floor... draws Soulrend.

ORION

No more.

He raises Soulrend to plunge -

ILNARA (O.S.)

Orion, stop.

- **ILNARA**, 35-38, benevolent and beautiful, a queen in royal garments, an ETHEREAL SPIRIT, holds up her hand "stop".

ILNARA

If you destroy it, you'll destroy  
everything it touches. Everything.  
Every star will burn. Every planet  
shall plunge into eternal darkness.  
Every life will end. All will die.

ORION

There has to be a way.

ILNARA

There is... but...  
(darkly)  
...it will require great sacrifice.  
Are you willing to pay the price?

ORION

Anything.

ILNARA

You must tether your soul to it...  
the Genoforge and you must become  
one in the same.

ORION

Just tell me how.

ILNARA

Death.

(beat)

If you die, the box shall consume  
your soul. You will become part of  
it, and so long as your soul rests  
within, you can destroy it.

ORION

*A life for a life.*

She nods "yes".

ORION

Do you have enough power to split  
my soul?

ILNARA

All you need to do is die, and I'll  
do the rest.

#### EXT. SKY - DAY

Thick clouds dissipate to reveal a FLOATING MEDIEVAL CITY. A large CHURCH-ORGAN like PALACE overshadows the metropolis.

SUPER: **Carn-Delora, 1634 4E**

**GRIFFINS** soar the skies. **ELVES** stand guard in WATCHTOWERS.

A RIDGE-BACKED **DRAGON** with CURLED HORMS ascends from below and unleashes a MIGHTY ROAR. Orion (hooded) rides it.

#### EXT. CARN-DELORA - CITY SQUARE - DAY

NOTE: ELVES have GLOWING FACIAL MARKINGS, no POINTY EARS.

Civilian elves duck, run and SCREAM in terror as the Dragon glides over the city. Its shadow speeds along the ground.

ELVEN GUARD, ARCHERS and SOLDIERS rush out of the palace, ready for a battle.

Dragon lands. Orion (hooded) dismounts, draws Soulrend.

ORION

I come seeking counsel with Emperor  
Varlden! Tell him I'm here!

POST-WAR **TEVARA**, 26-28, an arrogant, snide and relentless  
ELVEN GENERAL, approaches Orion, flanked by two GUARDS.

Dragon steps forward and SNARLS. Black smoke drifts from its nostrils. It GROWLS.

TEVARA

The Emperor is otherwise engaged...  
state your business, dragon rider.

Orion lowers his hood.

EVERYONE reacts differently. Tevara and his Guard grip their swords. Some Archers draw their bows. Others stand down.

ORION

Is he otherwise engaged now? Fetch  
your lord, Captain.

TEVARA

(to Guard#1)

Go...

Guard#1 leaves Tevara's side. Tevara smirks.

TEVARA

So you've finally come. I admit my  
surprise. I thought you a coward...  
I don't know if it's bravery-

Orion shows him the Genoforge. Tevara fearfully steps back.

TEVARA

You are truly a coward. SOLDIERS!

Soldiers encircle them. Dragon grows anxious.

ORION

Inarak, Rakan.  
(English subtitled)  
Go, Rakan.

Dragon "Rakan" snarls at him. He presses a hand to Dragon's cheek, looks HER dead in the eye.

ORION

Slithro enak trentu. Nerkana lu.  
(English subtitled)  
It's alright. Thank you.

Dragon bows her head and takes to the sky. Orion watches her vanish into the clouds. He knows this is IT.

TEVARA

Foolish. Now you are alone.

ORION

I still wield the Genoforge.

VARLDEN (O.S.)

I see that you do.

POST-WAR **VARLDEN**, 36-40, stern and severely troubled by the look on his face, a NOBLE EMPEROR, approaches, unguarded.

VARLDEN

Why have you come, Orion?

ORION

A trade. You want the Genoforge...  
I seek something else.

VARLDEN

You would part with it so easily?

ORION

This is what you've sought for over  
three centuries. It's right here...  
all you have to do, is take it.

Tevara smirks. Varlden steps forward.

VARLDEN

Three hundred years of searching...  
and it's just a reach away.

Varlden reaches for it... just about touches it. Orion snags it away from his reach.

ORION

Tell your men to stand down.

VARLDEN

You're not in any position to be  
making demands. You're outnumbered.

ORION

You want the Genoforge, you'll tell  
your men to stand down.

Ilnara keeps a close eye on proceedings. No one can see her except for Orion.

Varlden raises one hand "stand down". Soldiers stand down.

VARLDEN  
Tevara, step aside.

TEVARA  
This is a trick.

VARLDEN  
Step aside.

Tevara and Guard#2 step away from the situation.

VARLDEN  
Are you prepared to hand it over?  
I've done all you asked of me.

ORION  
I'm not giving you the Genoforge. I  
said you must take it. So take it.

Orion draws Soulrend. Varlden draws his sword.

VARLDEN  
If this is what you seek... I shall  
not DISAPPOINT!

Varlden swings. Orion parries, steps back. Varlden slashes. Orion blocks. They stare one another down.

Varlden and Orion trade sword for sword.

Orion kicks Varlden back. Varlden GROWLS and lunges. Orion loosens his grip on Soulrend -

- Varlden knocks Soulrend from Orion's hand and stabs him in the chest. Orion GASPS. Varlden moves close to Orion's ear.

VARLDEN  
(whispering)  
Like father... like son...

Ilnara raises both hands. Her magic hits Orion and funnels into the Genoforge.

Varlden shoves Orion to the ground. Orion drops the box and falls onto his back. Ilnara lowers her hands, finished.

Varlden lifts the Genoforge, longingly stares at it.

VARLDEN  
A life for a life...  
(beat)  
...Zephora, return to me.

Ilnara kneels at Orion's side and comforts him.

The Genoforge opens. Golden light spills out and forms the ETHEREAL figure of a YOUNG WOMAN.

As Orion wanes, the Figure finds the form of:

**ZEPHORA**, 20-24, naturally beautiful, a warrior princess in every way, ELF, bow on her back, sword sheathed at her side.

Varlden rejoices at the sight of her.

VARLDEN  
Zephora-

ZEPHORA  
Orion...

Zephora rushes to Orion's side. Varlden doesn't like this.

ZEPHORA  
No, no...  
(to Varlden)  
What have you done?!

VARLDEN  
Why do you care for the enemy? I am your father!

ZEPHORA  
You... are a monster!  
(emotionally)  
My father is dead.

Zephora tearfully grips Orion's hand.

ZEPHORA  
Don't go...

ORION  
(weakly)  
I'll - see - you - again.

Orion's eyes close for the FINAL TIME.

ZEPHORA  
Orion? Orion? ORION?! No...

Orion's body flakes apart like burning paper. The last thing to go is the hand Zephora holds.

Everyone watches Orion's "ashes" drift on the wind.

Ilnara fades away.

Time FREEZES... and REWINDS... the Genoforge disappears...

**EXT. KARTOKA - DAY**

Dark clouds loom over a sparse desert. SPHINXES soar across the stormy skies. Swarms of LOCUSTS approach -

**SUPER: Kartoka, 1376 4E**

- a DEMONIC FORTRESS in the shadow of a GARGANTUAN VOLCANO.

**INT. THE DARK FORTRESS - CRYPT - DAY**

Torches flicker. Snakes slither. An ENGRAVED FEATURE WALL occupies the center of the OVAL ROOM.

**KALARI**, 25-27, a beautiful vixen with curly black hair and a PRIESTESS vibe, meditates in mid-air.

Her eyes open, snake-like and alive, the colors alternate.

**KALARI**

Something has changed...

**INT. THE DARK FORTRESS - THRONE ROOM - DAY**

Black goo clings to the walls like webbing. In the center of the room, the **HALLOWED THRONE**, comprised of skulls and bone.

**DORMAK**, 42-45, demented, scalded, scarred, severely twisted in every way, a **DEMON**, occupies the throne.

**GRAVEN**, 32-36, his handsome features scarred down one side by vicious burns, a WARRIOR in dark armor, guards Dormak.

Kalari stands before the throne, eyes closed, palm in front - an EYEBALL within the flesh.

**DORMAK**

And when did this occur?

**KALARI**

Mere moments ago, my lord. Time has altered. There is something... new.

She lowers her hand and opens her eyes.

**KALARI**

Something that doesn't belong here, yet something that does.

Dormak stands. Slowly, he approaches her - a snake slithers in front of him. He CRUSHES it with his boot. Kalari GASPS.

Dormak grabs her throat and pulls her close.

DORMAK

Tell me... what good is a seer if  
she cannot see the future? Who has  
changed time? No more riddles.

KALARI

A boy... a... prince.

DORMAK

A name.

KALARI

Orion... Carvona.

Dormak smirks.

DORMAK

The prodigal son...  
(releases her)  
...it is time, Graven.

GRAVEN

My lord.

Graven leaves. Offers Kalari a look along the way.

DORMAK

As for you. Return to the crypt...  
when I have need of you, I'll send  
for you. Until then...  
(RE: Dead Snake)  
...mother your serpents.

#### **EXT. THE SHROUDED MOUNTAINS - DAY**

Capped in snow and ice. An EAGLE glides across the sky and gradually descends over -

**SUPER: Valyr, 1376 4E**

- a dense oasis bordering the mighty capitol of VALYR.

#### **EXT. VALYR - DAY**

The city brims with life in every corner, on every street.  
KIDS run. CIVILIANS mingle and browse store windows.

Schooners and Frigates weigh anchor in the harbor.

The Eagle ascends toward the GRAND PALACE BALCONY. SQUAWKS.

**EXT. THE GRAND PALACE - GREAT BALCONY - DAY**

Eagle perches on the battlements.

A ROYAL GUARD, 30s, adorned in armor with a LION'S CREST on the chest-plate, collects a scroll from the Eagle's claw.

Eagle takes to the sky.

**INT. THE GRAND PALACE - THRONE ROOM - DAY**

Tapestries billow in the breeze. 2 KNIGHTS stand either side of the THRONE, aware at all times -

- KING **SERIN**, 42-46, wise, handsome, bearded, crown and blue robes embossed with gold threads, occupies the throne.

Royal Guard hands Serin the scroll. Serin reads it.

SERIN

Arndas...

ARNDAS, 40-45, a battle hardened VANGUARD in a higher ranked officer's uniform, consults Serin.

ARNDAS

My liege.

SERIN

Do you take threats to heart?

ARNDAS

Unless they're followed through, I see them as empty words, my liege.

SERIN

And if that threat were marching to your front step?

ARNDAS

Then I would consider that hostile.

SERIN

I concur.

Serin stands.

SERIN

(to everyone NOT a Knight)

Leave us.

Servants and maids exit the throne room. Knights converge on Serin and Arndas.

SERIN

Emperor Varlden of Carn-Delora has declared war on Valyr, unless I am to offer him an object of which we have safeguarded for a millennium. The Genoforge.

(beat)

War is the last thing I want. Much blood has been spilled. Many lives have ended. All in pursuit of that box. In order to avoid another, I must hand the Genoforge to Varlden before first light of Knight's Sun, or war shall come once again.

Knights consider the proposal.

SERIN

War... or surrender.

Arndas steps forward.

ARNDAS

Whichever decision you choose we'll stand beside you, sire.

(beat)

But if I may be so bold... to give such a weapon to Varlden-

SERIN

Is to allow a mortal the power of a God. I know, Arndas. And that's the choice I face. Either war or I give Varlden a weapon unmatched.

KNIGHT#1

If it were to be destroyed-

ARNDAS

There would be no war.

(beat)

For there would be none to wage it.

Serin ponders on his thoughts.

ARNDAS

I say if Varlden seeks war, we give him war, until the last man falls - we do not surrender. We fight.

SERIN

It is our only real option.

Serin sighs...

SERIN

Prepare the legions to defend from the north. I want our scouts in the marshes and mountains to the west. Frigates to form a line of defense on the eastern seaboard. If but one Elf steps within our boundaries, I need to know about it. Docile until otherwise engaged. Understand?

ARNDAS

I'll see the word spread, my liege.

KNIGHT#2

What of the civilians, sire?

SERIN

Any who are willing to fight, arm. Those who aren't sail for Miras-Du.

KNIGHT#1

And the Prince, shall he fight?

Serin considers this...

ARNDAS

We have our orders. Move out.

Knights move out. Arndas lingers...

ARNDAS

He raises a moot point, sire. Will the Prince stand among the guard?

SERIN

You've seen him wield a blade once, Arndas, and from what I recall, you said *never again shall that boy try wielding a knight's heart, for he's more dangerous than a box of vipers in a room of snakes.*

(beat)

No... Orion is not ready for a war. He takes after his mother. Conflict isn't within him.

ARNDAS

My liege.

Arndas takes his leave.

Serin remains alone. He lifts the crown from his head and holds it for a moment - his reflection stares back at him.

**INT. THE GRAND PALACE - BEDROOM - DAY**

Large and spacious, with an open balcony. Curtains billow...

**ORION**, then 24, free of the battle scars and ferocity, noble and full of youth, sits up in bed. His pupils dilate.

He grabs at the side of his head, scrunches his face. Pain shoots through him. He GROANS.

**SERIES OF FLASHES:**

- A) Orion faces Varlden in the City Square.
- B) Orion presses a hand to Dragon's cheek.
- C) Orion treks across the Desolate Wasteland.
- D) Orion lifts the Genoforge.
- E) Orion dies in Zephora's arms.

**END OF SERIES OF FLASHES.****EXT. THE GRAND PALACE - BALCONY - DAY**

Orion leans on the battlements and gazes out over the city. He clenches a NECKLACE in his fist, opens his palm -

- an AMULET, outstanding craftsmanship, solid gold encrusted with various gems and a central EMERALD.

A woman's hand reaches over his shoulder. He grabs it.

ORION  
Mind your hand, thief. Else it will  
depart from your arm.

**CLARA**, 23-25, beautiful, natural and curvaceous, in one of his shirts that drenches her frame, retracts her hand.

CLARA  
What's got into you?

ORION  
Sorry, I don't know why I said...  
(faces her)  
...did you sleep well?

CLARA  
Like a queen.

She leans back on the battlements.

CLARA

When you said your bed was comfy, I  
thought you were bluffing.

ORION

And now?

She smiles. He looks out over the world.

**FLASH**

- Orion lifts the Genoforge.

**END FLASH.**

Orion rubs his temple.

CLARA

Are you alright? You seem... odd.

ORION

I'm fine. Just - had a weird dream.  
I was holding a... a box.

CLARA

A box? Like a jewelery box?

ORION

No, it was... you know those walls,  
the engraved ones in the sanctuary?  
It was engraved, and it moved.

She raises an eyebrow "what?".

ORION

It had moving parts - inside.

CLARA

Like a clock.

ORION

Yeah... like a clock.

CLARA

Have you ever seen it before? The  
box, I mean.

ORION

No.

He weighs his thoughts.

Clara presses a hand to his bicep. She leans in for a kiss.  
He pulls away.

ORION  
You should probably go.

CLARA  
Yeah, to work as they say. How many eggs do you want?

ORION  
I'm not hungry, thanks.

She pecks him on the cheek.

CLARA  
I'll see you tonight?

ORION  
As sure as the sun sets.

She smiles and heads inside.

Ilnara appears beside Orion. He shifts his gaze to the world beyond the palace, doesn't notice Ilnara.

Ilnara fades away.

**EXT. TREKOLAN WOODS - DAY**

A shallow stream runs the length of the dense wilderness.

A COYOTE darts out of the brush. A **BLACK PANTHER** with white streaks in its fur, pursues it.

**SUPER: Trekolan Woods, Outskirts of Valyr**

A **HUNTSMAN**, bow in hand, quiver on his back, cloaked/hooded, pursues the beasts via the treetops. He leaps -

- swings on a branch into a tree's fork. Surveys the land.

Panther lunges and snaps its jaws around Coyote. They spill to the surface. Panther sinks its teeth into Coyote's neck.

Huntsman swings down on a vine. Lands a few feet away.

Panther rises. Huntsman studies it. Panther sits down.

Huntsman lowers his hood:

**CASSIUS "CASS" BLACKTHORN**, 23-26, devilishly handsome with a roguish appearance, quite the charmer.

Cass strings his bow over his back, draws a hunting knife.

**EXT. RAVENHOLLOW CREEK - DAY**

Coyote roasts on a spit over a campfire. Panther lays near a pitched tent on the shoreline of a lake with a waterfall.

Cass sharpens his hunting knife. He peels some coyote away from the roasting carcass, munches on it.

He tosses some meat to Panther. Panther eats it whole.

CASS  
Chew, Kera.

NOTE: From this point on, Panther is known as **KERA**.

Cass cuts into the coyote with the hunting knife. Tosses a leg to Kera. Kera chews on it.

CASS  
(RE: Chewing)  
That a girl.

Cass pulls a bound, scrolled map from a knapsack and lays it out on the ground. Sets two rocks on its sides.

Cass studies the map...

**MAP:** "Map of Farckona, 1457 3E" - various "X" locations with various circled locations.

Cass charcoals an "X" over "Ravenhollow Creek". He sighs...

Kera sits next to him and PURRS. He strokes her.

CASS  
We'll find it, Kera. We have to...  
how does south sound to you?

Kera just looks at him. He grins.

CASS  
No opinion, eh?

**EXT. TREKOLAN WOODS - DAY**

Cass, pack over his back, treks through the forest, Kera by his side. They head uphill.

Cass fills a hide flask in a river. Takes a drink.

Kera startles a flock of CROWS. Cass laughs, continues on. Kera ROARS at the crows as they scatter in the air.

**EXT. TREKOLAN WOODS - OVERLOOK - DAY**

Cass gazes out over the world below. Kera sits nearby.

Below - The Valyrian Province, a sparse tundra ripe with wildlife ranging from **ELK** to **MAMMOTHS**.

CASS  
(to Kera)  
I know what you're thinking...

Kera innocently looks up at him.

CASS  
Don't give me that face.

A MIGHTY, SPIKE-BACKED DRAGON zooms overhead. Cass staggers back a few feet.

CASS  
Damn...

Cass laughs.

CASS  
(RE: Dragon)  
I've missed Valyr.

**EXT. THE GRAND PALACE - GREAT BALCONY - DAY**

The Dragon lands on the terrace. Magic swirls around it as it TRANSFORMS into -

- **MALCORAN "MALC" RINEVEIG**, 22-25, a handsome warrior with gold & black armor, his eyes retain the dragon irises.

RAKAN (O.S.)  
Quite the entrance.

MALC  
I try.

**RAKANIRA "RAKAN" CORCON**, 20-23, beautiful and curvaceous, a fearless set of eyes, similar armor & bracelet, greets him.

MALC  
How have you been, sister?

RAKAN  
I'm fine.

They embrace in a brotherly-sisterly way.

Serin and Arndas approach. Malc and Rakan notice them.

MALC  
King Serin... Commander Arndas.

SERIN  
Old friend.

Serin and Malc grip wrists.

ARNDAS  
We expected you last night.

MALC  
Ah, I apologize for my lateness. I flew into some gulls just south of the Morgil Isles. The beast within me has an insatiable appetite.

Rakan smirks.

ARNDAS  
You should not have delayed.

MALC  
Everyone has to eat, Commander.

Tension mounts between them.

RAKAN  
You boys and your disagreements are quite entertaining to witness. But, if I may interject, we're standing on the forefront of Elven invasion. So rather than squabbling over one rather rotten lass, perhaps we may concoct a strategy to combat such a threat... just an idea, of course.

Serin likes this.

ARNDAS  
Agreed. After you, Eirkana.

MALC  
It's *Eirkana*.

Malc heads inside, Rakan shadows him.

Arndas sets his hand on the hilt of his sword. Serin just looks at him. Arndas nods his head "sir", heads inside.

Serin scoffs and shakes his head "unbelievable".

INT. THE GRAND PALACE - WAR ROOM - DAY

A battle plan on a table. Map, defenses, ships and armies.

Serin, Arndas, Rakan and Malc gather around the table with 9 KNIGHTS and 2 more GOLD/BLACK ARMORED WARRIORS.

RAKAN

As we were flying in last night, we noticed a mass gathering of Elves in the southwest side of the woods. A few miles from Riverton.

SERIN

Strange, considering Varlden's note only arrived this morning.

MALC

There was a fleet sailing east from Hollow Cove, led by the Pale Lady.

ARNDAS

(under his breath)

Lousy no-good Elven wretch...

Arndas disgustedly turns away.

ARNDAS

The invoice was no declaration of war, it was a warning that the war has already begun. He plans attack, hence his armies, his fleets.

SERIN

If he were to attack us, that which he desires would slip away from his grasp. The Genoforge is locked deep within the treasury, and the key is all but lost to any who don't know where it resides. And I can count how many know of its location with but one finger.

(beat)

It's a simple battle strategy. All of his pieces in position so if the time comes, they will be ready.

(RE: Map)

We must prepare a counteroffensive. What of the scouts?

KNIGHT#1

They make haste for the marshes and mountains, sire.

Arndas inspects the map...

ARNDAS

I can have a battalion setup refuge  
at Dumark by nightfall.

SERIN

See it done.

Arndas nods "yes" and leaves with the Knights.

SERIN

What of the Wyverns?

MALC

Undetermined.

SERIN

And the remaining Dragons?

RAKAN

Flying in from Draconvale.

MALC

Varlden's army is but a few hundred thousand. He would have to all but empty Carn-Delora to mount such an offensive. But to attack the Asaran Empire with so few numbers-

SERIN

Varlden's made a pact with Dormak.

This is news to them.

MALC

The Demon King?

SERIN

It's not merely Elves we face, it's the Demon Horde as well.

RAKAN

Graven.

Malc and the Warriors exchange woeful looks.

SERIN

Our union has stood for many years, for that I am forever grateful. But this war is not yours to fight, and I will not force you to stand at my side in this battle.

Serin looks to each of them.

SERIN

A dragon's heart is but true, pure  
and forever loyal. You have all of  
you done so much for us, and we'll  
forever be in your debt, a debt we  
can never fully repay-

MALC

We're not going anywhere, Serin...  
(beat)  
...we don't abandon our friends. So  
stow those words of gratitude, and  
tell us what needs to be done.

**INT. THE GRAND PALACE - STUDY - DAY**

Organized and vast. Rows upon rows upon levels atop levels.  
Magic flows throughout the place.

Books hover into their places on shelves. Brooms sweep the floors. Feather-dusters clean the shelves.

Orion examines a stack of unorganized old tomes. He pulls a book from the middle of the pile -

Orion sits at a table and reads the book cover: "**THE TRAVELS OF BAKKA - BY LEONARIS RICHTI**". He opens the book.

- the stack of tomes topple to the floor.

Orion reads the chapter index. Runs a finger down the page. He stops on "**THE DARK BLADE**".

He finds the chapter. Stares at the illustration:

A skeleton's hand reaches out of a lake, **SOULREND/THE DARK BLADE** within its grasp. A HUMAN HAND reaches for it.

**FLASH:**

- Orion wields **SOULREND**.

**END FLASH.**

A stack of books THUDS on the table. Orion flinches...

**WESIRT**, 60-70, a wise old librarian of sorts with a wizardly aura about him, bearded and cloaked, stares at him.

Orion looks at the books, then Wesirt.

ORION

Yes...?

WESIRT

How many times must I ask, if you knock something over, pick it up. It's common decency, young man. I'm not a slave, you know.

ORION

Right, yeah... I was going to...

WESIRT

An old man I may be, but a fool I am not, Orion. I know you too well. You had no intention of picking up the books. Please don't lie to me.

ORION

What's the... *Dark Blade*?

WESIRT

The Dark Blade?

Orion shows Wesirt the illustration.

WESIRT

Perhaps you should read it and find out for yourself.

ORION

Is it real?

WESIRT

Why are you so intrigued by it?

ORION

No reason.

WESIRT

If I'm good at one thing, other than cleaning up after you, it's being able to see through shrouds. And you my boy, have a rather foggy one surrounding you.

Wesirt sits at the table, examines Orion.

WESIRT

Something's different about you...  
(leans in)  
...your eyes seem older.

Wesirt narrows his eyes.

ORION

Remember that conversation we had,  
about you invading my space?

WESIRT

What of it?

ORION

You're invading my space.

Wesirt leans back a few inches.

ORION

The Dark Blade, the one in the book  
- I think I've seen it before.

WESIRT

Where?

ORION

I was holding it.

Wesirt grows cautious.

ORION

There was a box, in a room of gold.  
And I had the sword in my hand.

WESIRT

What kind of box?

ORION

It had markings on it, and inside-

Wesirt snaps his fingers. A BOOK appears in his hand. Orion impressively looks on.

Wesirt sets the book on the table, browses the contents...  
and locates a page. Shows Orion.

WESIRT

Is this the box you saw?

Orion takes a look.

PAGE: An illustration of the **GENOFORGE**, very detailed.

ORION

Yes. That's it. What is it?

WESIRT

It has many names. But to those of  
us knowledgeable, we call it the  
Genoforge.

Wesirt summons his WIZARD'S STAFF.

WESIRT

It contains unimaginable power that can create and destroy life. Within its core, the very essence of every life-form in the cosmos. Though how you know of it or how you have seen it, is beyond even my knowledge.

ORION

(RE: Staff)

You're not a librarian, are you?

**EXT. THE VOID OF LOST SOULS - TIMELESS**

Pitch black. Blurry spirits maneuver the darkness. Post-War Orion revolves on the spot.

**SERIES OF FLASHES:**

- A) Serin sword-fights Graven in the THRONE ROOM.
- B) The Demon Horde (Locusts, GROTESQUE WARRIORS) tear Valyr apart piece by piece.
- C) The PALE LADY, an ELVEN MAN O' WAR, and Frigates bombard the Asaran NAVAL FLEET.
- D) Dragons fall/spiral out of the sky and disintegrate.
- E) Valyr crumbles into ruin.

**BACK TO SCENE.**

Orion drops to his knees and painfully GROWLS.

ORION (V.O.)

What's the... *Dark Blade*?

WESIRT (V.O.)

Why are you so intrigued by it?

ORION (V.O.)

I was holding it. There was a box, in a room of gold. And I had the sword in my hand.

ORION

Remember...

(beat)

You must remember.

**INT. THE GRAND PALACE - FOUNDRY - DAY**

An ARMORY/MUSEUM of sorts. Ancient STONE STATUES depict old WARRIORS in armor and MAGES (young wizards) casting spells.

Wesirt shows Orion around.

**WESIRT**

The Dark Blade is one of the Four Swords of Galadros. Legend tells us many things of the Dark Blade, one of which is its name: Soulrend. It has the power to harness the souls of all it kills, and with it, allow the wielder strength beyond his or hers natural pinnacle.

They pass an ANTIQUE glowing BOW in a display case.

**WESIRT**

In the hands of a human, Soulrend is too much. In the hands of Elves, the blade corrupts. Dwarves avoid it, Orcs worship it, but Asara...

(beat)

...have the strength within to hold off the corruption, and the mind to control its wrath.

(beat)

Your father once wielded Soulrend to defeat the Mad Titan, Grongbak, and with it, free Valyr.

**ORION**

Grongbak?

They stop in front of a display case. Wesirt gestures to it.

**INSIDE:** A BOULDER SIZED grotesque HEAD of a HORNED MONSTER with ONE EYE and scaly flesh, enveloped by MAGIC.

Orion studies the decapitated head.

**ORION**

So my father has Soulrend? Is it in the palace? In his vault perhaps...

**WESIRT**

No. Your father's wise, Orion. Even he knew Soulrend bore power far too much for one to control. He took it away, to the far west.

Orion weighs his thoughts.

WESIRT

You said you held the sword, in a room of gold. That room, is beneath your father's throne. And the only way in, is with Soulrend.

(beat)

The only people who know what is in your father's vault are your father and ME. So I ask... who are you?

Wesirt CLACKS his staff off the floor. Magic shackles wrap around Orion's wrists and lock to the floor.

ORION

What are you-

WESIRT

You're not Orion.

ORION

Let me free of these chains.

WESIRT

Who are you?

ORION

You know who I am.

WESIRT

I know a Phantom when I see one... your eyes are not your own. Now I ask again, who are you?

(beat)

Either you can tell me, or I will force it out of you.

Orion cringes.

INT. DESOLATE PALACE - TREASURY - DAY (FLASHBACK)

Orion steps up to the pedestal. Coldly studies the box.

ORION

So many wars. So much loss. All of it for you.

He raises Soulrend to plunge.

ILNARA (O.S.)

Orion, stop.

Ilnara holds up her hand "stop".

ILNARA

If you destroy it, you'll destroy  
everything it touches.

ORION

There has to be a way.

ILNARA

There is, but it will require great  
sacrifice.

The scenery smokes out...

EXT. CARN-DELORA - CITY SQUARE - DAY (FLASHBACK)

...scenery wafts into visibility. Post-War Tevara and his guards approach. Hooded Post-War Orion waits with Dragon.

ORION

I come seeking counsel with Emperor  
Varlden! Tell him I'm here!

TEVARA

The Emperor is otherwise engaged.

Orion lowers his hood.

ORION

Is he otherwise engaged now?

Time glitches - Varlden reaches for the Genoforge.

VARLDEN

Three hundred years of searching...  
and it's just a reach away.

Orion draws Soulrend. Varlden draws his sword.

ORION

I'm not giving you the Genoforge. I  
said you must take it. So take it.

Varlden knocks Soulrend from Orion's hand and stabs him in the chest. Orion GASP. Varlden moves close to Orion's ear.

VARLDEN

Like father... like son...

ILNARA (V.O.)

Are you willing to pay the price?

The scenery smokes out...

INT. DESOLATE PALACE - TREASURY - DAY (FLASHBACK)

...scenery wafts into visibility.

ORION

Anything.

(beat)

Just tell me how.

ILNARA

All you need to do is die, and I'll do the rest.

**INT. THE GRAND PALACE - FOUNDRY - DAY**

Orion LURCHES and ARCHES backward. Wesirt grows anxious. He takes a slight step back.

Orion bows his head, eyes closed.

ORION

My name... is Orion.

Orion extends his hands. The magical shackles SHATTER. He waves his hand to the side -

- Wesirt's staff flies out of his hand and hits the wall.

Orion, fire in his eyes, confronts Wesirt.

WESIRT

I don't understand... how?

**INT. THE GRAND PALACE - SANCTUARY - DAY**

A large chest with two ornate DRAGON HEADS either side sits on a table, reminiscent of the **ARK OF THE COVENANT**.

Serin runs one hand along the chest.

SERIN

Of all the valuable objects to fall into my possession, this may be the darkest of them all.

Serin shamefully hangs his head.

SERIN

If I could only set them free from the chains they do not see.

Arndas steps forward.

ARNDAS

It's better we control them, then  
they have freedom.

SERIN

Is it?

(sighs)

Control is merely another word for  
slavery, Arndas. To believe you're  
free and to truly be free may feel  
the same, but they're not free, so  
long as we control the Mantle.

ARNDAS

We need them, sire.

SERIN

Then perhaps it's time we had some  
faith in our alliances.

(beat)

If fifteen hundred years of reign  
has but taught me one thing, it's  
that friendship isn't forced, it's  
forged. It is time to repay an age  
old debt.

ARNDAS

This is a mistake, Serin. If we do  
as you suggest, the dragons will be  
free. We'll have no control.

SERIN

The decision's made.

Arndas doesn't like this. Serin sets a hand on his shoulder.

SERIN

You have stood by my side since my  
father stepped down from the Silver  
Throne. I ask you stand at my side  
once more.

**INT. THE GRAND PALACE - THRONE ROOM - DAY**

The chest sits on a table. Malc and Rakan examine it. Malc  
turns his gaze on Serin. Arndas lurks nearby.

MALC

What is this?

Arndas grips his sword, ready.

Rakan runs her hand across the top of the chest.

SERIN  
It is the Dragon's M-

MALC  
(snaps)  
I know what it is!  
(calmly)  
Why do you have it, Serin? You said  
it was lost eons ago.

SERIN  
I lied.

MALC  
You deceived us?!

ARNDAS  
Mind your tongue, dragon lord.

Malc points a finger at Arndas. Disgustedly turns away.

RAKAN  
You considered us friends, allies,  
yet all along, you controlled us...  
Have we not proven our loyalty?

SERIN  
That is why I am giving it back to  
you. Because I trust you.

MALC  
Why now? Why not centuries ago? Why  
didn't you tell us, Serin?!

SERIN  
Because I didn't trust myself...

Arndas second guesses Serin.

SERIN  
I was young, foolish. I didn't know  
what I had until it was too late...

MALC  
And the power corrupted your mind.

SERIN  
I have never used the Mantle. It's  
been in the sanctuary since I took  
over from my father's rule. I have  
never once controlled you. And I'd  
never try.

Malc ingests this.

SERIN

Take it. Take it far away from here  
to a place no man can reach. Guard  
it, protect it, do what you must to  
ensure it remains hidden.

Serin sets a hand on Malc's shoulder.

SERIN

You're free now, Malcoran.

MALC

All these centuries. All the wars.  
All the bloodshed and tyranny. All  
we have fought against, together...  
(beat)  
And now you present me with this...  
(appreciatively)  
Your debt is repaid in full.

SERIN

Thank you.

MALC

I wasn't finished...  
(beat)  
Our loyalty was true, but you never  
fully trusted us to be at your side  
for if you had, the Mantle would've  
been returned to us sooner.  
(conflicted)  
For that, I can never forgive you.

Malc steps away from Serin.

MALC

The approaching war is one you will  
fight alone.

Two of Malc's Warriors lift the chest onto their shoulders.

MALC

Come, Rakan.

RAKAN

No.

She defiantly stands her ground.

RAKAN

Our alliance has stood for eons. I  
shall not break it now.

MALC

Then that choice is yours to make.  
But if you stay, you forfeit your  
place among us.

She removes her bracelet and hands it to him.

RAKAN

Then it is forfeit.

**INT. THE GRAND PALACE - FOUNDRY - DAY**

Orion smashes a display case containing a pair of GOLDEN,  
GLOVED GAUNTLETS.

WESIRT

What on earth could you possibly  
need of those?

ORION

Soulrend is guarded. The Gauntlets  
will provide me the power I need to  
defeat its Guardian.

Orion fits on the gauntlets.

WESIRT

You can't change the past, Orion...  
the laws of time are in place for a  
purpose, to change one thing-

ORION

You once told me, that if you could  
change the past, you would.

WESIRT

Then clearly I lost my mind. There  
are rules Orion, your presence here  
is breaking a few but what you plan  
shall break them all.

(beat)

What was must always be.

ORION

Not if you can change it.

WESIRT

I won't allow it.

ORION

Then stop me.

Orion and Wesirt stare one another down. Tension mounts.

ORION

Strike me down, Wizard. Or get out  
of my way.

**INT. THE GRAND PALACE - THRONE ROOM - DAY**

Serin ponders on his thoughts. Arndas impatiently paces and Rakan weighs her thoughts.

The doors OPEN. Wesirt hurries toward the throne.

SERIN

Not now, Wesirt.

WESIRT

I apologize for interrupting but we  
have a problem and it cannot wait.

ARNDAS

We have many problems, Wizard. I'm  
sure yours can w-

WESIRT

Orion is going after Soulrend.

Serin rises to attention.

SERIN

What?!

WESIRT

He seeks to gain the Dark Blade so  
he can destroy the Genoforge.

SERIN

Why would... what...

Serin tiredly rubs the space between his brows.

SERIN

This doesn't make any sense. Orion  
knows nothing of the Dark Blade-

WESIRT

It's not Orion, Serin.

Serin narrows his eyes "what did you say?" .

WESIRT

He looks like him, he IS him, but  
he's NOT your son. He comes from  
another age...

**EXT. THE GRAND PALACE - STABLES - DAY**

Two GUARDS play a hand of CARDS at a table for GOLD COINS.

Orion, armed to the teeth, sword and knife, bow and quiver, collects a horse seat and reins.

STABLE GUARD#1  
Prince Orion, going somewhere?

ORION  
It's none of your concern, Kirod.

Orion sets the seat and reins on a BLACK HORSE. Leads it out of its stable.

Stable Guard#1 stops Orion in his tracks.

STABLE GUARD#1  
I can't allow you to leave, sire.  
Your father's ordered everyone to stay within the walls.

ORION  
Step aside.

STABLE GUARD#1  
I'm afraid I can't do that, sire.  
Your father's orders are clear. No one leaves the city.

Orion glances at his gauntlets, contemplates.

ORION  
One day, I'll lead this realm and all its people. You would do well to remember you're thwarting your future king in his tracks, Kirod. Perhaps stepping aside would be in your best interest.

STABLE GUARD#1  
Future king, sire. Not the king.

ORION  
I'll not ask again.

Stable Guard#1 stands his ground.

ORION  
Very well.

Orion sets a hand on Stable Guard#1's shoulder. He looks him dead in the eye. Stable Guard#1 collapses into his armor.

Stable Guard#2 instantly rises to his feet.

STABLE GUARD#2  
What in the name of Alderin...

A small RAT scurries out of the armor and SQUEAKS.

STABLE GUARD#2  
...why would you do that?

ORION  
He was standing in my way. Are you?

Stable Guard#2 backs down.

ORION  
Good.

Orion leads the horse away, turns back.

ORION  
And fret not, the transformation is temporary. He'll return to his form in a few hours.

STABLE GUARD#2  
You'll never make it past the wall.

Orion smirks, lays a hand on the horse and both disappear.

STABLE GUARD#2  
(RE: Disappearance)  
So much for my theory.

#### **EXT. THE SCORCHED PLAINS - DAY**

An ELVEN WAR CAMP stands over the tundra. A LEGION of ELVEN TROOPS occupy the space and prepare for battle.

Elves mount GRIFFINS and take to the skies.

#### **INT. GRAND TENT - DAY**

A table hosts a BATTLE PLAN, various statuettes occupy the map at strategic locations around VALYR.

**VARLDEN**, 30-34, less weary and more determined, intently studies the plan. **TEVARA**, 23-25, still arrogant, shadow him.

3 **ELVEN CAPTAINS** converge on the table. One of them **NAVAL**.

Varlden acknowledges them.

CAPTAIN#1

Our aerial forces are prepared to  
engage at dusk, sir.

VARLDEN

Is the Pale Lady in position?

NAVAL CAPTAIN

Yes.

VARLDEN

Then all our pieces are in place.

Varlden weighs his thoughts.

VARLDEN

The time is upon us. The last great  
battle of our age.

(beat)

Return to your posts, await further  
instruction. May Alderin watch over  
each of you.

Naval Captain disappears. The other two exit the tent.

TEVARA

Your eyes deceive you, father. Any  
not blind can see your hesitation.

VARLDEN

Serin is one of my closest allies.  
He stood by my side at Galadros. He  
once saved my life. Now I wage war  
upon him. Am I hesitant? Yes, I am.

TEVARA

Then why are we here?

VARLDEN

Because the principals of alliance  
do not outweigh the principals of  
equality. Serin holds within his  
vault a weapon of immense power...  
power I cannot see wielded by one.  
An object as such belongs to all,  
or none.

DORMAK (O.S.)

I couldn't agree more.

Dormak, in DEMONIC battle armor, emerges from the shadows.

Tevara grips his sword. Varlden raises a hand "no". Tevara  
stands down.

DORMAK

Not interrupting a tender moment  
between father and son, am I?

VARLDEN

(to Tevara)

Leave us.

Tevara reluctantly leaves.

Dormak examines the battle plan. He plucks a SHIP from the map and juggles it in hand.

VARLDEN

What are you doing here, Dormak?

DORMAK

I come bearing knowledge. It seems your "ally" has deceived you once more. Serin's son, Orion, he... oh how can I put this in a way that doesn't sound mad? Found a way to navigate the vortex of time itself.

VARLDEN

That does sound mad.

DORMAK

I know! I know it does. It's just, he did. The Seer's never wrong. We have a *SLIGHT* bit of a problem, me thinks. Can't very well have a time traveler spoiling everything now, can we? Not when we're so close to finally achieving - oh what was the word - that's right, *EQUALITY*!

Dormak sets the ship in Varlden's hand.

DORMAK

So I ask, what are we gonna do when it comes to our *CHARMING PRINCE*?

#### **EXT. RIVERTON - DAY**

A fishing village with Blacksmith Huts, a Tavern and an Inn. Cass and Kera navigate the street. People avoid them.

CASS

They live in a land of dragons yet flee in terror of a large cat. I'll never understand these people.

Kera looks up at him.

CASS  
Yes, you're the *big cat*, girl.

They approach a TAVERN: **THE DRAGON'S HEAD**. A few DRUNKARDS maneuver the place.

A DRUNK, 30s, emerges from the establishment, makes his way down the steps. He stops, and falls face-first to the mud.

Cass and Kera look down at him.

CASS  
Hm... guess the ale's stronger than I remember.

DRUNK#2, 30s, points at Kera.

DRUNK#2  
(slurring)  
It's a lion! There's a lion! Don't eat me...

CASS  
Panther.

DRUNK#2  
What did you call me?

Drunk#2 raises his fists. Cass sighs... and punches Drunk#2 in the nose. Drunk#2 sways for a moment, and collapses.

Drunk SNORES as Drunk#2 MUMBLES incoherently.

#### **INT. THE DRAGON'S HEAD - DAY**

Cass sits at the bar, tankard in hand. Kera sits nearby and watches the activity.

MERRY FOLK dance around a central fire pit as a BARD plays a LUTE. IRONCLAD **MERCENARIES** sit in the far corner, talking.

MERCENARY#1  
Hear the King's on the defensive...  
Elves gathering in the west, at the Scorched Plains.

MERCENARY#2  
War's on the horizon lads. Picked your sides yet?

**NORINA**, 20-23, pretty, sets tankards on their table.

MERCENARY#1  
Thanks, gorgeous.

Mercenary#1 slaps Norina's butt. She smiles and heads off.

MERCENARY#3  
I know what side I'm on.

MERCENARY#2  
Oh aye?

MERCENARY#3  
Aye, whichever pays the most.

They LAUGH and clash tankards in toast.

MERCENARY#1  
To the war.

Clearly offended, Norina returns behind the bar. Slings a bar cloth over her shoulder and mumbles quietly.

CASS  
You OK?

NORINA  
Huh?

CASS  
The Mercenaries, bit on the touchy side, eh?

NORINA  
Oh it's no bother. Rowdy types are common 'round these parts, kinda get used to it after a while.

She collects his tankard.

NORINA  
Fancy another?

CASS  
Fetch one for yourself too.

He flips her a gold coin. She catches it.

NORINA  
Aye, cheers.

CASS  
You got a name?

She pours an ale.

NORINA

Norina. You?

CASS

Cass.

NORINA

Blackthorn?

CASS

I see my name carries weight 'round  
these parts.

NORINA

Quite. Hear you're a *Hunter*. Among  
other things.

CASS

Something like that.

Norina hands him the tankard. She pours another.

NORINA

So what brings you to Valyr, Cass?

CASS

I'm looking for something.

She pulls up a stool behind the bar and takes a seat.

NORINA

What are you looking for?

He smirks. She CHUCKLES, takes a swig of ale.

NORINA

Not gonna tell me, eh?

CASS

Well that depends. Can I trust you?

NORINA

If I said yes, would you tell me or  
are you being rhetorical?

He CHUCKLES, dangles a TALISMAN in front of her.

CASS

It's not as it seems. The Talisman  
is more than a piece of jewelery...  
it's a key.

She's drawn to the Talisman.

NORINA

And what does this key open?

CASS

A box.

NORINA

What's in the box?

CASS

Nothing.

She scrunches her face "what?".

NORINA

You have a key to a box containing nothing within? Seems pointless.

CASS

Aye, it does. It does...

Mercenary#1 sets his tankard on the bar.

MERCENARY#1

Ale's warm, lass. Refill it.

NORINA

I'll get right on it.

(beat)

So, any idea where it is?

CASS

Hence why I'm here.

NORINA

Oh, so it's nearby, eh?

MERCENARY#1

Ale.

CASS

She's in the middle of something,  
so wait your turn.

MERCENARY#1

Excuse me?!

CASS

You're excused.

Cass shifts his gaze to Norina. Mercenary#1 grabs Cass' arm. Kera GROWLS and stands.

Mercenary#1 backpedals into a few PATRONS.

Kera ROARS.

The other Mercenaries join Mercenary#1.

MERCENARY#1  
Tell that thing to get back.

Kera stalks them.

CASS  
Heel, Kera.

Kera sits down. Cass approaches the Mercenaries. Everyone in the place pays close attention.

CASS  
Apologies, she's rather protective.

MERCENARY#1  
It shouldn't even be in here. That beast belongs in the wild.

CASS  
That beast is more domesticated and human than you will ever be.

MERCENARY#1  
And what's that supposed to mean?

Cass punches Mercenary#1 into the other Mercenaries. One of them falls over a table and crashes to the floor.

Mercenary#2 and Mercenary#3 unsheathe their swords.

MERCENARY#1  
No!

Mercenary#1 holds his bloodied lip, sneers at Cass. He spits blood on the floor.

MERCENARY#1  
The piece of filth is not worth it.

Patrons stand, men and women alike.

PATRON#1  
That *piece of filth* is one of us.

NORINA  
You calling us filth, Dargan?

Patrons raise bottles and tankards. The Bard wields her lute like a sword. Mercenaries back up.

MERCENARY#1

Let's not make this into something it's not. Just a misunderstanding is all. Forget about it, eh? Brush it under the rug.

NORINA

I don't think that's gonna happen.

Patrons encircle the Mercenaries.

Norina takes position next to Cass. They share a "look" and turn their gaze on the Mercenaries.

CASS

There's an old legend concerning the people of Riverton. Do you know it, Dargan?

Mercenaries grow anxious/nervous.

MERCENARY#1

(nervously)

Vladran... vamp-

The fire pit douses. FUMBLING/STUMBLING and CONFUSION in the dark as chaos ensues. A man SCREAMS like a WOMAN.

Doors fly open - light spills inside - all Mercenaries flee in terror. The doors close. The fire pit relights.

Cass and Norina exchange looks.

CASS

I can't believe they fell for that.

Everyone LAUGHS.

**INT. THE DARK FORTRESS - CRYPT - NIGHT**

Kalari nurtures her snakes. A LARGE PYTHON slithers across her shoulders. A cobra wraps around her arm

KALARI (O.S.)

Silent as you are, you cannot avoid the sight of a Seer.

Graven steps out of the shadows.

GRAVEN

You know why I'm here.

She gives a gracious nod "yes".

GRAVEN

Where do I find it?

KALARI

To the west, there is a cave within  
which rests the object you desire -  
but another now seeks it.

GRAVEN

The Prince.

KALARI

Orion seeks Soulrend, as do you...  
only one of you can attain it, but  
which one is yet to be determined.

(beat)

Bludhearth Cavern.

Graven turns to leave.

KALARI

If you set upon this course, know  
there is no returning from it.

GRAVEN

I swore a vow.

(beat)

A demon I may have become, but I'm  
still a man who keeps his promises.

KALARI

That's why I fear for you, Graven.  
Your future is uncertain, I do not  
know where this path shall take you  
but I do know, for I have seen it,  
that the Darkness will consume you,  
as it has consumed all before you.  
*Darkness will fall.*

**EXT. THE OCEAN - NIGHT**

Elven SHIPS sail through calm waters, led by the **PALE LADY**.

**EXT. THE PALE LADY - NIGHT**

Naval Captain stands at the helm alongside **FIRST MATE**. Naval Captain peers through a scope.

SCOPE: A shrouded ISLAND - **MIRAS-DU**.

Naval Captain lowers the scope, looks to First Mate. NAVAL SOLDIERS maneuver the ship, man the cannons and swivels.

**EXT. MIRAS-DU - NIGHT**

A grand "Mayan" temple overlooks a medieval shanty village occupied by SCHOLARS and TRIBE folk. A tranquil sanctuary.

A GIRL, **GISELLE**, 11, hurries through the village to a TENT.

**INT. SOLDIER'S TENT - NIGHT**

A sword hangs from a rack. VANGUARD ARMOR rests on a statue.

**EDWIN**, 25-28, Orion's "twin", similar in looks yet fiercer and battle hardened, lays in bed with **LIA**, 24-27, stunning.

He brushes a strand of hair over her ear. She smiles at him.

EDWIN

There is no place I would rather be than here, with you, right now.

LIA

What about home?

EDWIN

Home is where we are, not where we are born.

LIA

Do you not miss it?

Giselle rushes inside, WINCES and turns around.

GISELLE

I'm sorry... I didn't know you w-

EDWIN

It's alright, Giselle. What is it?

GISELLE

There are ships. Big ones. I didn't know who else to go to.

Edwin swings out of bed and wraps a robe around himself.

EDWIN

Many ships pass Miras-Du, Giselle.

GISELLE

These ones are not passing. They're weighing anchor.

(beat)

Soldiers are coming ashore.

This piques Lia's interest.

EDWIN  
How many?

GISELLE  
Lots. They wear the Elven crest...

Lia shrugs on a shirt. Edwin collects the racked sword.

EDWIN  
Did they see you?

GISELLE  
No, I don't think so.

LIA  
My bow.

Edwin hands Lia a bow & quiver. She heads out.

EDWIN  
Stay in the tent, alright? We'll be back before you know it.

**EXT. MIRAS-DU - JUNGLE OVERLOOK - NIGHT**

Edwin finds Lia at the edge. She watches over the BEACH -

- Dozens of ELVEN FRIGATES anchored around the island. ELVEN SOLDIERS maneuver the beach and move into the jungle.

Lia moves quietly to a new vantage point.

EDWIN  
Elves never come this far west...  
what are they looking for?

LIA  
Tevara.

EDWIN  
What?

TEVARA and two DOZEN ELVES make their way east. Tevara wipes his face with a rag.

Lia strings an arrow in her bow and aims at Tevara.

EDWIN  
Wait...

Tevara discards the rag and follows the group.

Lia lowers her bow.

EDWIN

They're heading for Blackwood. Come on, we have to warn the Elders.

LIA

We don't have to warn anyone, I can end this swiftly. One arrow is all it would take.

EDWIN

And risk the lives of every soul on this island? No. The two of us have no chance against all of them.

ORION (O.S.)

What if there were three of us?

They turn. Lia takes aim. Edwin grips his sword.

Orion, with the HORSE, lurks at the treeline.

EDWIN

Orion?

Lia lowers her bow.

EDWIN

What are you doing here? And since when did you become a Vanguard?

ORION

The ships are a distraction to draw attention away from Bludhearth. The Elves seek Soulrend.

EDWIN

I noticed as much, but you didn't answer my question, so I ask again. What are you doing here?

ORION

Soulrend.

(beat)

Will you help me... brother?

EDWIN

Did he send you?

ORION  
(convincingly)  
Yes.

**INT. THE GRAND PALACE - WAR ROOM - NIGHT**

Serin leans on the table, eyes on the battle plans. Wesirt, Andras and Rakan weigh their thoughts.

SERIN  
Orion must not gain Soulrend. If he is who you say, we cannot allow him to alter events.

Wesirt agrees with the notion.

SERIN  
Rakan, I have no right to-

RAKAN  
What do you need?

SERIN  
Make haste for Miras-Du. Warn Edwin of Orion's treachery, and if Orion has reached Bludhearth Cavern, if he has Soulrend...  
(darkly)  
...do what you must to stop him... whatever it takes.

**EXT. MIRAS-DU - JUNGLE - NIGHT**

Orion, the horse, Edwin and Lia trek deeper into DENSE FOG.

EDWIN  
So how are things back home?

Orion shoots him a "look".

EDWIN  
That bad, eh?  
(beat)  
A Vanguard then... and here I was thinking you'd never raise a blade.  
He must be proud.

ORION  
I wouldn't know.

EDWIN

What do you mean?

ORION

I haven't spoken to him.

Lia ingests all of the information, ponders on her thoughts.

EDWIN

You said-

ORION

I lied. Father didn't send me for Soulrend. He doesn't even know I'm here. I came of my own accord, to stop the war.

EDWIN

Why lie to me?

ORION

Because if I told you the truth, I doubt you'd understand.

Edwin stops.

EDWIN

Understand what, Orion?

ORION

We don't have time. Tevara is close to Bludhearth Cavern. As is Graven.

EDWIN

How do you know that?

LIA

He's not your brother.

Lia draws her bow and aims at Orion's head.

LIA

He's a demon.

ORION

I am no demon.

EDWIN

Then what are you? Because clearly the brother I knew no longer exists within you.

ORION  
You're right.

Lia and Edwin exchange swift looks.

ORION  
The brother you knew is gone.  
(darkly)  
He no longer exists, Edwin. I'm not him, not anymore. Haven't been for centuries. The war changed me, and I can never go back to how it was. Not after all that has happened... after all that will happen.

EDWIN  
I don't understand, brother...

ORION  
I said you wouldn't. But that's OK, because you don't have to.  
(beat)  
There's a cave to the far west of the island, if you leave now, you can make it by dawn. Save everyone you can, save Giselle.

Edwin's eyes widen slightly "how do you know?" .

ORION  
She's more important than you know.

Orion hands the reins to Lia. She takes them.

ORION  
This is where we part ways, Edwin.

Orion sets a hand on Edwin's shoulder.

ORION  
The brother you knew might be gone, but his memories remain. And he has always retained the love he had for his brother, for you.  
(sadly)  
I love you, brother. Goodbye.

EDWIN  
Wait-

Orion disappears.

**INT. THE DRAGON'S HEAD - NIGHT**

Norina collects empty tankards from tables.

A few DRUNKS lay around SNORING and MUMBLING in their sleep.  
Kera lays beside the fire, PURRING.

Cass helps Norina with the cleaning.

A DRUNK MAN staggers toward the doors.

DRUNK#1  
See ye tomorrow, fellas...

NORINA  
Night, Kormak.

Drunk#1 opens the door - 6 ELVES barge into the tavern with swords and spears.

Kera HISSES at them, prepares to lunge.

CASS  
Kera, no! Heel! Heel...

Kera steps back, GROWLS...

**UNDARA**, 40s, Elf, brutishly large and battle scarred, steps inside and scans the place.

UNDARA  
You will all exit the tavern.

NORINA  
On what grounds? Elves have no sway  
in Valyr, soldier.

UNDARA  
General.

Norina sneers at him.

UNDARA  
Exit the building, or I'll have my  
men personally escort you.  
(to Elf#1)  
Drag the drunks outside.

**EXT. RIVERTON - NIGHT**

Civilians sit on their knees, hands over their heads. Cass and Norina exit the Dragon's Head. Elves occupy the town.

Elf#2 shoves Norina forward.

CASS  
Do not touch her, Elf...

Elf#2 grips his sword.

NORINA  
It's alright, Cass... it's fine...  
(discreetly)  
Don't be a hero.

Children cower. Parents console them. People panic.

Elf#3 steps in front of Cass.

ELF#3  
Names.

CASS  
Shay Warden.

NORINA  
Norina Stormfell.

ELF#3  
Species?

CASS  
Human.

NORINA  
Aye, human.

Elf#4 shoves Cass forward.

General Undara consults with Varlden and **ZEPHORA**.

VARLDEN  
Is this all of them?

UNDARA  
All within Riverton, sir.

VARLDEN  
Good.

Varlden paces in front of the group. He notices Cass.

VARLDEN  
(points at Cass)  
Bring him to me.

Elves use restraining magic as they force Kera out of the tavern. She GROWLS/ROARS and struggles.

CASS  
Kera...

Undara grabs Cass and drags him to Varlden. Tosses Cass in front of Varlden. Cass looks up.

Varlden draws his sword, sets it to Cass' throat.

VARLDEN  
Where's the Talisman?

Cass smirks.

VARLDEN  
You can either willingly hand it over or I can have General Undara pluck it from your rotting corpse.

Cass spits at Varlden's feet. Varlden likes this.

VARLDEN  
Defiant until the end... kill the Panther.

CASS  
No...

Undara draws his sword and approaches Kera.

CASS  
No, don't... don't...

Kera ROARS at Undara. He raises his sword.

CASS  
ALRIGHT! Just... don't kill her...  
I'll give you the Talisman.

Undara stands down.

Cass reaches into his pocket, pulls the Talisman and hands it to Varlden. Varlden snatches it away.

VARLDEN  
I'm glad you saw reason.  
(beat)  
(MORE)

VARLDEN (cont'd)  
Undara, kill the panther.

CASS  
No!

Undara drives his sword through Kera. She painfully ROARS.

CASS  
KERA?!

Cass lunges to his feet, grabs an Elf's sword and charges at Undara. Cass swings the sword -

- Undara parries and grabs him by the throat, hoists him up.

Kera wanes... breathes her last... dead.

Undara tosses Cass to the ground. Cass rises. Undara punts him in the ribs. Cass twists onto his back, GROANS...

VARLDEN  
There are no second chances for a common thief, Cassius. You stole from me, I take from you.

CASS  
She meant nothing to you...

VARLDEN  
But she meant something to you and that is why she's gone!

Undara forces Cass to the front of the people.

VARLDEN  
Now that debt is settled...  
(to the people)  
...no one here is in any danger. We are not here to kill you nor are we here to enslave you. We come but as humble guests to ask for your help. The Asaran Empire that borders this town has kept you protected, but we can offer more than protection. We can offer you a future.

(beat)  
Only stand with us against them and that future will be rich.

No one stands.

VARLDEN  
Who will fight beside us? Cassius?

CASS  
Never.

VARLDEN  
Hold him.

Undara and Elf#3 hold Cass in position.

VARLDEN  
You are a noble man, Cassius. But a fool no less.  
(to the people)  
Allow this man's defiance to prove one thing, defiance is an act of treason that is punishable by death - any last words, Huntsman?

Cass knows this is IT.

CASS  
May your death be painful.

VARLDEN  
Defiant until the last.

Varlden swings the sword at Cass' neck -

- magic flings the sword across the air into a wall. Varlden GROWLS and hunts the area.

A SHADOW glides around disarming ELVES as it goes.

More SHADOWS appear, grab Elves and pull them through BLACK HOLES, which close as Elves disappear.

A Shadow rises out of the ground in front of Varlden.

VARLDEN  
Anakai...

Shadow opens its eyes, FIERY and BLAZING. It grabs Varlden.

SHADOW  
(hissing)  
Hessura.

Undara cuts Shadow's arms off. Shadow snaps its gaze onto Undara, grabs him. Shadow pulls Undara through a black hole.

The black hole closes -

- Cass tackles Varlden to the ground. The Civilians attack. Norina kicks Elf#4 in the groin.

Cass pummels Varlden into the ground.

Zephora shoots arrows at oncoming Shadows. A Shadow knocks the bow from her hand, reaches out -

- hesitates, and turns its attention on another Elf.

Varlden head butts Cass in the face. Kicks Cass away, gets up and looks around.

ASARAN VANGUARDS, led by ANDRAS, approach from all sides.

SERIN (O.S.)  
Varlden.

Varlden faces SERIN, in battle armor, sword in hand.

Cass struggles to his feet, grabs a sword.

CASS  
He's mine!

Cass lunges at Varlden -

- Zephora appears next to Varlden, grabs him, and vanishes. Elves disappear all around the town, until none remain.

Cass angrily GROWLS. Serin sheathes his sword.

CASS  
Where did he go?!

SERIN  
It doesn't matter, he's gone.

CASS  
He killed Kera...

Cass acknowledges Kera.

CASS  
He doesn't get to live. I will hunt him down if I have to...

SERIN  
Your grief is understandable, but I will not allow you to hunt him. He is my responsibility, not yours. Do I make myself clear, Huntsman?

CASS  
You order me?

SERIN  
I ask you. Grieve today, for your loss, and fight beside us tomorrow. You will have your vengeance. That I promise you.

ARNDAS  
Varlden will not take kindly to our use of the Anakai, his occupation in Riverton was key to his success in Valyr. I expect backlash. Soon. We must be swift, my liege.

SERIN  
Gather the civilians and move them into the city. We mount our offense from Dumark at dawn.

#### **EXT. MIRAS-DU - DARKWOOD - NIGHT**

Dark marshland with bogs and SWAMP LURKERS, zombie-creatures overtaken by vines and foliage.

A Swamp Lurker SNARLS - an arrow strikes it in the head - it crumples to the ground.

Tevara leads a Company of Elves further inland.

An ELF strings a bow over his back, yanks the arrow from the Lurker's head and quivers it.

#### **EXT. MIRAS-DU - BLUDHEARTH CAVERN - NIGHT**

A CLOSED CAVE boasting various warnings. Skulls on pikes and ancient scribblings on the walls. Animal carcasses all over.

A stone ALTAR laden with TRIBUTES stands at the entrance. A BOWL in the center.

Orion weighs the AMULET in hand. He sets it on the Altar. He raises his DAGGER and -

- slices his hand open. Holds it over the BOWL. Blood drips.

Two TORCHES either side of the cave IGNITE. The cave opens. Wind WHISTLES/HOWLS.

Orion collects one of the torches and enters the cave.

## INT. GRAND TENT - NIGHT

Varlden stands over a shell of water. His reflection ripples back at him, CUTS and SCRAPES, a BLACK EYE.

DORMAK (O.S.)  
Well that didn't go very well...

VARLDEN  
Your Horde was meant to be there...  
you knew Riverton was pivotal to-

Dormak holds up a hand.

DORMAK  
Uh, excuse me! You said. We never agreed that was the way to go! Oh no, no, no, Emperor. You think too small. Riverton, a fishing town...? Really? That's all you got?

Varlden scowls at him.

VARLDEN  
And what would you suggest, Demon?

DORMAK  
Well it's rather simple. We don't occupy towns and strategic places around the big city... we occupy the BIG CITY. Eh?

VARLDEN  
That is suicide. We cannot simply march into Valyr and take control. Strategy is our best chance.

DORMAK  
Aye, strategy is our best bet and my strategy, instead of dancing around the fire, we walk into the flames, and ATTACK THE KING RATHER THAN THE PAWNS!

Zephora enters the tent.

ZEPHORA  
Is everything alright?

DORMAK  
Yes is everything alright? What are you, his maid? Shoo! We're trying to have an adult conversation here.

VARLDEN

My daughter has right to hear what  
the plan is, Dormak.

DORMAK

Daughter? I thought your son was in  
charge here?

VARLDEN

Tevara is otherwise engaged and his  
mission his crucial to our success.

DORMAK

What mission?

VARLDEN

I sent him to Miras-Du, to gain the  
Dark Blade.

Dormak LAUGHS. Looks to Zephora, then Varlden.

DORMAK

For a wee moment there I could've  
sworn you said you sent your lad to  
collect the **Dark Blade**.

VARLDEN

You heard right.

DORMAK

Do you know anything about where  
you sent him? Bludhearth Cavern is  
protected by Ballog, the Guardian,  
the Keeper of Souls. Your wee boy  
will perish if he even so much as  
steps foot inside that place. So I  
ask, WHAT ARE YOU THINKING?!

VARLDEN

Tevara is trained in elven combat,  
he will not fail. Have faith.

DORMAK

Faith? FAITH?! I'm a Demon. I have  
no faith in anything, or anyone-

VARLDEN

You will have faith in him. He will  
NOT fail me. Soulrend will be mine,  
and with it, we step closer to the  
Genoforge. Closer to our victory.

**EXT. MIRAS-DU - BLUDHEARTH CAVERN - NIGHT**

Tevara and his men arrive at the entrance. Both TORCHES are gone. Tevara ignites a fireball in his hand.

The elves follow Tevara into the cave.

**INT. BLUDHEARTH CAVERN - THE SANCTUARY - NIGHT**

Cavernous. Stalagmites/stalactites everywhere shimmer, ruby, sapphire and diamond encrusted into them. A long staircase.

Orion descends the staircase. Stops midway down -

- SOULREND hovers in a beam of LIGHT, center of the cave.

Orion sets the torch on a wall holder, approaches the beam. He studies Soulrend... reaches -

- he dives to the side. A fireball hits the beam, sends a ripple effect coursing through it.

Orion pushes up - Graven appears out of black smoke, swings a sword - Orion rolls to the side, summons a magical sword

Orion and Graven clash swords.

GRAVEN

Soulrend is claimed.

ORION

Not this time.

Orion thrusts his empty hand forward. A blast of energy hits Graven and sends him spinning through the air -

- Graven vanishes in black smoke.

Orion rushes for Soulrend. Graven appears in front of him... swings his sword. Orion parries, swings. Graven parries.

Graven kicks Orion in the gut. Orion tumbles to the floor. Blocks an incoming attack, kips up -

- Graven slashes. Orion back-steps, barely avoids the slash.

They size one another up.

GRAVEN

Kalari foresaw your coming here...  
you cannot undo the past, Orion...  
what was will always be.

ORION  
I refuse to believe that.

Orion swings his sword - an arrow knocks it off target. He snaps his gaze onto -

- TEVARA and the Elves, at the foot of the staircase. An ELF lowers his bow. Tevara approaches.

TEVARA  
Honestly, squabbling over which of you leaves with Soulrend is futile. For neither of you shall leave with the Dark Blade. Least of all a man from the future, and a demon prince who would be king.

GRAVEN  
Mind your tongue, Captain. Else it shall depart from your mouth.

Tevara smirks.

TEVARA  
Kill them.

Elves draw their weapons and engage Graven & Orion.

Tevara focuses on Soulrend.

Graven parries a sword. Orion ducks an arrow, thrust a hand forward - a magic blast sends an Elf into the wall.

An arrow strikes Graven in the shoulder. He GROWLS.

Orion and an Elf sword-fight. Elf knocks the sword away and stabs. Orion summons a dagger, blocks the attack.

Tevara holds his hand up to the beam.

TEVARA  
Such power...

Tevara reaches inside the beam... grips Soulrend's handle - the beam BRIGHTENS and makes a WHOOSH sound.

Tevara painfully YELLS and pulls his hand out of the beam. Steam WAFTS from BURNT flesh. He cradles his arm.

A CLOISTER BELL goes off. MECHANICAL GEARS grind and crack.

Orion shoves an Elf away, turns his gaze on -

- a LARGE ENGRAVED WALL at the back of the sanctuary. Two torches either side IGNITE in BLUE FLAME.

Graven impales an Elf with his sword, slashes another one's throat. Turns his gaze on the wall.

Elves assist Tevara away from the beam.

The wall CRACKS down the center. Light spills through. Mist wafts through. The wall slides open...

Graven takes position beside Orion. They share looks. They both shift their attention to the wall.

**BALLOG**, 35-40, outfitted in dark High-Valyrian armor with golden veins coursing up/down it, horned helmet, emerges.

Orion and Graven step forward.

Ballog summons a BROADSWORD and a MASSIVE SHIELD. He steps toward them - and TOWERS over them, 9 foot tall at least.

Elves help Tevara up the staircase. Elves retreat.

TEVARA

We cannot leave without the sword.

ELF#5

You're wounded, Cap-

Tevara grabs Elf#5 by the scruff of the neck.

TEVARA

We cannot leave without the sword!

Elves disobey and leave.

TEVARA

Where are you going?!

ELF#6

Soldiers we are, not fools. Ballog has risen from his slumber.

TEVARA

Coward.

Tevara shoves the ones helping him away.

TEVARA

Flee as cowards if you will, but I am not leaving without Soulrend... but if you leave, you leave your

(MORE)

TEVARA (cont'd)  
duty behind for an Elf not willing  
to fight is an Elf not worthy.

Orion and Graven take position either side of Ballog.

Graven builds a fireball in one hand. Orion summons another sword. They circle Ballog.

An arrow glides past Graven. Ballog swipes it out of the air with his sword, stares at -

- the Bow Elf, who lowers his bow and gulps.

An Elf leaps through the air behind Ballog. Ballog turns and whacks Elf out of the air with his shield.

Graven throws the fireball. Ballog shield-blocks it. GROWLS.

Orion attacks with both swords. Ballog parries/blocks with ease, shield bashes Orion back a few feet.

Tevara lunges through the air and plunges his sword through Ballog's back. Ballog ROARS.

Tevara lands on his feet, backs up next to Graven.

Ballog CRACKS his neck from side to side. The sword drops to the floor. He swings the broadsword -

- Tevara leaps out of the way. Graven parries the attack.

Orion slashes Ballog across the back of the knees. Ballog drops to one knee. Graven slashes him across the chest.

A blast of magical energy pulses from Ballog -

- and knocks EVERYONE back. Graven crashes into a wall. An Elf crashes into a beam. Tevara spins through the air -

- and Orion falls on his ass, cracks his head off the floor.

Elves attack. Ballog shield-bashes one. Cuts another in half and decapitates a third in one fell swoop.

Tevara weakly pushes up, burnt arm to his gut.

Graven hurls several fireballs at Ballog. Ballog deflects most with his shield, the last one staggers him -

- Graven leaps - vanishes in smoke - reappears on Ballog's back - Ballog drops the shield, reaches and grabs Graven -

- tosses him directly at the beam - Graven grabs Soulrend as he goes - and crashes to the ground -

- Soulrend lands a few feet away.

Orion notices Soulrend... goes for it. Ballog cuts him off. Swings the broadsword. Orion slides between Ballog's legs -

- reaches for Soulrend. Tevara collects it, backs up.

ORION

Tevara...

TEVARA

May fortune favor you.

ORION

Don't!

Ballog grabs Orion by a leg and swings him over his head to the floor. CRASH.

Tevara rushes up the staircase, runs into a magical barrier.

Ballog methodically stalks Tevara. Ballog launches the sword at him - Tevara's eyes widen -

- Orion appears beside Tevara, grabs him and they disappear.

**EXT. MIRAS-DU - BLUDHEARTH CAVERN - NIGHT**

Tevara grabs Orion by the throat, pulls his dagger and pins him to a wall, sets the dagger to his neck.

TEVARA

Why did you do that?! I had it...

ORION

Ballog would've killed you!

TEVARA

I never asked for your help, and I  
damn sure don't need it.

ORION

You need me more than you know...

Tevara squints "what do you mean?".

TEVARA

You're a sworn enemy of the Elven Empire. I trust nothing you say...

ORION  
Then kill me.

Tevara hesitates.

ORION  
Kill me, or trust me.

TEVARA  
I cannot... I will not.

Tevara pulls the dagger back and drives it -

- EDWIN tackles Tevara to the ground. They scuffle. Edwin punches Tevara in the face.

EDWIN  
(to Orion)  
Go!

**INT. BLUDHEARTH CAVERN - THE SANCTUARY - NIGHT**

Ballog raises Graven by the throat, squeezes. Graven grabs at his wrists, can't force a break.

ORION (O.S.)  
Ballog!

Ballog keeps hold of Graven and faces Orion -

- Orion wields Soulrend.

Ballog tosses Graven aside and confronts Orion. Orion raises Soulrend upright, closes his eyes.

Ballog swings the broadsword. Orion deflects. Ballog slashes at him. Orion parries. Soulrend ebbs magic.

Soulrend's blade births FIRE. Orion swings - Ballog deflects and staggers back - Orion slashes - Ballog parries -

- Orion drives Soulrend at Ballog. Ballog blocks. Soulrend cuts through the broadsword - Ballog staggers backwards...

Graven pushes up, reaches for his sword.

Orion plunges Soulrend through Ballog's chest. Ballog grabs the blade, GROWLS. Orion pushes it through -

- Ballog drops to his knees. Light beams spray out of him.

ORION  
Peace upon you, Ballog.

Ballog reaches for him. Orion decapitates him -  
- a beam of light shoots up from Ballog's neck-stub as his  
head disintegrates in the air. Ballog's body SHATTERS.

Orion lowers Soulrend...

ORION  
Don't even think about it...

Orion turns and swings Soulrend - at thin air.

GRAVEN (O.S.)  
Wrong direction.

A sword BURSTS through Orion's chest. He GASPS. The sword  
pulls away. Orion drops to his knees, drops Soulrend.

Graven plucks Soulrend from the floor, discards his sword.

Orion grips his chest, gasps for air.

GRAVEN  
Kalari bestowed upon me more than  
simple knowledge, Orion. *What was*  
*shall always be.*  
(RE: Soulrend)  
The Dark Blade is mine.

Graven turns away.

ORION  
Your future heralds death, Graven.

Graven looks over his shoulder, SNARLS, and disappears in a  
shroud of black smoke.

Orion collapses to the floor, hand over his heart.

**EXT. OCEAN - NIGHT**

A small FISHING BOAT sways on the calm water. Two FISHERMEN  
inside, lines cast over the side.

FISHERMAN#1  
...so I said, Gwen, there's no such  
things as zombies, to which she, in  
her wisdom, pointed at her mother.

Fisherman#2 chuckles. Fisherman#1 swigs an ale.

FISHERMAN#1

I tell ya, Len, women have a weird  
sense o' humor. I'd never insult me  
mother. Never.

FISHERMAN#2

Oh aye, sweet old lass, eh?

FISHERMAN#1

(dauntingly)

Nah, she's a witch. Literally. I'd  
be cursed if I so much as looked at  
her the wrong way, ya know-

RAKAN, in DRAGON form, soars overhead at breakneck speed -

- The boat ROCKS... Fisherman#1 falls over the side. SPLASH.  
Fisherman#2 watches Rakan glide away. ROAR.

FISHERMAN#2

Ya see that? Did ye know that-  
(notices Fisherman#1 gone)  
Jon?

Fisherman#1 climbs aboard.

FISHERMAN#2

Nice swim?

FISHERMAN#1

(spits water)

Oh aye...

**INT. BLUDHEARTH CAVERN - THE SANCTUARY - NIGHT**

Orion staggers forward, hand to his chest. His knee buckles.  
He uses a boulder to prop himself up.

A stalactite falls from the ceiling and CRASHES ferociously.

Orion collapses to all fours. Blood drips from his chest...

EDWIN (O.S.)

ORION?!

Orion raises his head.

ORION

Edwin... no...

Edwin hurries down the staircase.

ORION  
NO! Go back... GET OUT OF HERE!

Edwin reaches Orion, helps him up.

ORION  
You shouldn't be h-

EDWIN  
I'm not leaving you to die.

ORION  
You'll DIE if you stay...

Orion shoves Edwin away.

ORION  
RUN! Get to the cave... please...  
leave me!

EDWIN  
I will n-

A stalactite falls overhead. Orion pushes Edwin away. The stalactite crashes into the floor -

EDWIN  
ORION?! Orion?!

- the ceiling crumbles. Chunks of rock CRASH all around.

EDWIN  
Orion, where are you?! Where are y-

A stalactite falls overhead. Edwin looks up, eyes wide -

- Orion appears beside him, grabs him and they disappear as the stalactite CRASHES into the floor.

The walls cave in. Water floods the chamber...

**EXT. MIRAS-DU - BLUDHEARTH CAVERN - NIGHT**

Edwin lands in a heap, GROANS as he sits up, busted arm and all. He scans the environment.

EDWIN  
Orion? Brother?!

A female hand grips his shoulder. He flinches - LIA.

LIA

It's alright... it's me. Where's Orion?

EDWIN

I don't know... he was, he was in the cave... then... ORION?!

**EXT. MIRAS-DU - JUNGLE OVERLOOK - NIGHT**

Orion lays UNCONSCIOUS in a pile of leaves.

EDWIN (O.S.)

ORION?!?!

A dragon's shadow soars overhead...

Rakan (in human form) emerges from the treeline. She kneels beside Orion, checks his pulse.

She sets a hand over his heart. Magic ebbs from her palm and SEALS his chest wound.

Orion's eyes burst open... he grabs her wrist.

RAKAN

Rest.

**EXT. MIRAS-DU - BLUDHEARTH CAVERN - NIGHT**

Lia nurses Edwin's arm.

LIA

It will take some time to heal. We should return to the High Temple... get you treated.

Edwin shakes his head "no".

EDWIN

Orion's somewhere out there. He's badly wounded. We need to find him.

LIA

We will. Once we've gone back-

EDWIN

There's no time for a search party, Lia. He needs us now.

Edwin moves ahead.

EDWIN

I can't leave him to die. I won't.  
He's the only family I have left.

Tevara staggers uphill, beaten and bloodied. He plucks his dagger from the ground.

Lia stares at Tevara. Edwin keels over, arm to his gut.

TEVARA

What ill between father and son is  
so cancerous you deem him dead?

EDWIN

It is none of your c-

Rakan approaches. Lia aims at her, and lowers the bow.

EDWIN

Rakan? Why are you-

RAKAN

Orion needs you.

**INT. SOLDIER'S TENT - NIGHT**

Orion, bandaged and half-naked, rests on the bed. A **HEALER**, MIRA, late 20s, robed and hooded, holds a hand over him.

Edwin, Lia and Rakan keep an eye on things.

Another Female Healer tends to Tevara. He painfully HISSES.

TEVARA

Enough. I can heal naturally.

EDWIN

Stow your hostility, Elf. She only means to aid you.

TEVARA

I never asked for her aid-

EDWIN

You're getting it. So sit still and shut up. Mira, how is he?

MIRA

His wounds are deep. Not physical, but within. His mind is broken. A darkness lies within him, darkness light cannot illuminate.

Mira stands.

MIRA  
His soul is fractured.

EDWIN  
Fractured?

MIRA  
As if a piece resides elsewhere...  
I do not know if my magic can mend  
that which no longer exists.

TEVARA  
(painfully)  
Will you just... leave me be.

Tevara shrugs the Healer away.

TEVARA  
His soul exists.  
(beat)  
My father told me of Orion's motive  
as I left for this forsaken isle. I  
know of what he did.

RAKAN  
He split his soul in two, in order  
to undo the past.

Tevara shoots Rakan a "look".

EDWIN  
The Genoforge.  
(beat, to Orion)  
You fool...

Tevara collects his belongings. Sheathes his sword.

TEVARA  
I must return to my father and warn  
him of Dormak's treachery.

EDWIN  
Dormak?

TEVARA  
The Demon K-

EDWIN  
I know who he is. But why would you  
warn your father of his deception?  
The Elves align with the Demons?

Tevara and Edwin share a look.

TEVARA  
What of it?

EDWIN  
How fast can your ship sail?

TEVARA  
If you think I'm allowing an Asara  
passage to the mainland on an Elven  
ship, you are sorely mistaken.

EDWIN  
And you are sorely mistaken if you  
think you're leaving here without  
me aboard that ship.

Tevara arrogantly smirks.

TEVARA  
How many of you shall sail?

**INT. THE GRAND PALACE - SANCTUARY - NIGHT**

Serin inspects a peculiar ENCAPSULATED hovering STAR which glows brightly. His eyes reflect the light.

Wesirt enters, notices Serin's infatuation.

WESIRT  
I thought you got rid of that...

Serin presses a hand to the star's capsule.

SERIN  
I could never part with it, Wesirt.  
It reminds me of who I am, of what  
I am, of my son. Orion.

WESIRT  
The boy you would see dead?

SERIN  
Do you remember the night my wife  
gave birth to him?  
(beat)  
Austerain's Light shone upon her. I  
saw it as a beacon. That he would  
be the balance between darkness and  
light. That he would save us all...

Serin approaches -

- the **CODEX** wall. Ancient scripture, hieroglyphs, symbols, markings to the untrained eye.

SERIN  
This passage...

He presses his hand to the center.

SERIN  
...it declares Orion will save us from the approaching Darkness.

WESIRT  
I know of the Prophecy, Serin. I'm one of the few fortunate enough to have been there when Kalari foresaw it. *The boy prince shall rise from under his father's rule and save us from the approaching desolation.*

(beat)

I carry these words with me, every day. As do all who know them.

(beat)

But the Prophecy states the Prince. Not Orion. You have another son-

SERIN  
Edwin? He is no son of mine.

WESIRT  
Edwin did nothing wrong, Serin.

SERIN  
He fell in love with a human!

WESIRT  
Was Ilnara not human?

Serin scowls at him. He disgustedly turns away.

SERIN  
Humans are weak, Wesirt. They die.

WESIRT  
Everyone dies, Serin. There comes a time in every life where the flame extinguishes. I will die. You will die. We are not immortal. We merely live a little longer than most. Why not enjoy what life we have, while it is ours to live?

(beat)

Forgive Edwin, for he was merely a follower of your example.

SERIN

And what of Orion? Would I forgive  
him for his treachery too?

WESIRT

Whatever drove him to do what he  
did, it hasn't happened yet. We can  
change his fate, Serin.

SERIN

Tell me how.

WESIRT

We stop the war.

SERIN

The war has already begun, Wesirt.  
Varlden's forces will not cease-

WESIRT

Then meet with him.

Serin weighs his options.

WESIRT

Offer him something he cannot turn  
away.

SERIN

Varlden seeks the Genoforge. I will  
not willingly offer it to him as an  
act of peace. He would control the  
world. I cannot allow that.

WESIRT

What if you had something else?

**EXT. THE PALE LADY - NIGHT**

Elves tug a rowboat aboard. Tevara meets with Naval Captain.

NAVAL CAPTAIN

Who are they?

Edwin, Lia, Rakan, Mira and Giselle lurk on deck, stripped  
of all their weapons and armor. Giselle gets close to Edwin.

Two Elves lift unconscious Orion.

TEVARA

Islanders. They were shipwrecked a  
few weeks ago. They're harmless. I  
trust it's not an issue?

Edwin hugs an arm around Giselle.

EDWIN  
All will be fine, Giselle.  
(to Elf)  
Careful with him.

ELF#7  
(to Naval Captain)  
What do we do with this one?

NAVAL CAPTAIN  
Take him to the brig.

EDWIN  
We are not prisoners.

NAVAL CAPTAIN  
Then collect a bucket for you will  
swab the deck and become part of  
the crew.

ELF#8  
(discreetly, to Edwin)  
I'd take the brig if I were you...

NAVAL CAPTAIN  
The doors will remain unlocked. You  
are free to wander as you please...

EDWIN  
Thank you.

Elves carry Orion below deck. Edwin leads the others down  
into the ship.

NAVAL CAPTAIN  
What of the others?

TEVARA  
Dead. Killed by Graven.

NAVAL CAPTAIN  
I thought we were aligned with the  
Demons? He betrays Dormak?

TEVARA  
Dormak betrays us.  
(beat)  
Make haste for the mainland. I must  
warn my father.

Tevara heads below deck. Naval Captain controls the wheel.

**INT. THE PALE LADY - BRIG - NIGHT**

Mira performs magic on Orion. Blue light encapsulates him. Edwin leans against the bars. Tevara approaches.

EDWIN

I thought we had an agreement?

TEVARA

At least you're not enchained.

EDWIN

Is that meant to be humorous?

TEVARA

I would have a word with you.

Edwin leaves the cell. Lia moves closer to the bars.

Edwin and Tevara meet in a dark corner stocked with barrels and crates of fresh fruits.

TEVARA

If what you say is true, and I have a difficult time believing it, then we have both of us been deceived. I must know, before moving ahead with this plan, that I can trust you.

EDWIN

I bestowed the knowledge upon you. If I were untrustworthy, we would not be having this discussion.

TEVARA

You didn't answer the question.

EDWIN

Trust issues are the least of our concerns right now, Tevara. We are on the precipice of a war that will destroy everything we've built and you're having second thoughts? If seconds thoughts clouded your mind, why am I aboard the Pale Lady?

TEVARA

You and Orion are sons of the Elven Empire's greatest enemy. Prisoners of war you can still be.

Edwin smirks.

TEVARA

But the enemy of my enemy is as you people say, my friend. And though I do not consider you an ally, I will endure your presence, for if it is beneficial to my father's cause it is necessary. Answer the question.

EDWIN

You can trust me.

TEVARA

I believe you.

(beat)

When we return to the mainland, my father will see you as an enemy. I cannot force his hand to trust your judgment but I will attempt to give you time enough to explain to him why I bring you forward.

Edwin nods "OK".

TEVARA

But I warn you now... if he doesn't believe you, death be upon you.

EDWIN

Then I'd best make sure he does...

**INT. THE DARK FORTRESS - CRYPT - DAY**

Kalari meditates. Her eyes open, pupils fold inward, like a snake. Her lip curls.

KALARI

Many centuries I have lurked within this chamber, and not once have I found myself surprised at another soul's presence. Yet here you are.

Someone moves in the shadows.

KALARI

It has been many years... Serin.

Serin emerges from the shadows. Kalari smiles.

SERIN

Hello, Kalari.

Snakes rise and HISS. They gently sway. A python slithers up Kalari's arm and over her shoulders. It sits there.

Kalari steps up to Serin, presses a hand to his cheek.

KALARI  
You've aged.

SERIN  
Time will do that to a man. You on  
the other hand haven't aged a day.

She coyly smirks.

SERIN  
You know why I'm here.

KALARI  
Yes.

SERIN  
Then why are you so welcoming?

KALARI  
Because I do not fear the Shadows.  
I embrace the Darkness.

(deeply)  
The young boy I once met is still  
within you, Serin. You can find him  
again, if you look deep enough.

(beat)  
I am ready to greet the Shadows.

She hands him a curved knife. He takes it.

SERIN  
All those years ago, when you saw  
my ascension to the throne, what is  
it you told me? Another would rise  
to challenge me for the crown... I  
can't help but wonder whom would be  
so bold as to stand against me. One  
of my sons, perhaps? Graven? Maybe  
Varlden shall end my life or a mere  
peasant will raise a blade and chop  
off my head. And all of that would  
occur, AFTER I killed you.

KALARI  
It is the Prophecy.

Serin acknowledges the knife.

KALARI  
My death sets in motion a chain of  
events that ultimately epilogues in  
the destruction of the Darkness.

SERIN

No...

He drops the knife. Snakes HISS and prepare to strike.

SERIN

I. Will. Not.

KALARI

You must.

(beat)

If you don't kill me, the future as  
I have seen it WILL change.

SERIN

Then the future changes.

He turns away from her.

KALARI

You can't disobey the laws of time,  
Serin. If you do, Valyr will burn -  
all of it and every soul. Everyone  
will die.

SERIN

I would rather see Valyr engulfed  
in flame than die at the hands of  
an unworthy king. **I AM THE KING!**

She shakes her head "don't do this".

SERIN

I will destroy the Darkness. I will  
be this world's savior.

(beat)

Goodbye, Kalari.

KALARI

Serin, you can't-

Serin disappears.

KALARI

NO!

**EXT. THE PALE LADY - DAY**

FIRST MATE mans the wheel. Naval Captain points starboard -  
- the MORGIL ISLES. Tall rocks envelop a TROPICAL ISLAND, a  
hidden OASIS. GULLS soar the skies.

A GRIFFIN perches atop a rock and majestically ROARS.

Edwin leans on the battlements and stares over the ocean. He admires the Morgil Isles. Giselle tugs at him.

EDWIN

Hey...

GISELLE

What's that?

She points at the Griffin.

EDWIN

That's a Griffin. You've never seen  
a Griffin before?

GISELLE

It looks like a lion. And a bird...  
how can it be both?

EDWIN

I... I'm not-

TEVARA (O.S.)

A wizard.

Tevara leans on the battlements. Edwin acknowledges him...

TEVARA

My father knew a wizard a very long  
time ago that partook in an ancient  
form of magic. He believed that one  
could splice together the genes of  
two species, to create one so much  
more than it could ever be as two.

GISELLE

He created the Griffins?

TEVARA

No actually, no... he, well he was  
trying to merge chimera with human  
but mixed up the bottles and found  
himself with a horse head.

Giselle giggles. Edwin smiles. Tevara chuckles.

TEVARA

You see, young lady, a Griffin is a  
mix of lion and eagle. Majestic and  
ferocious, but also loyal and kind.  
When I was a boy, I was shipwrecked

(MORE)

TEVARA (cont'd)  
on that island. The rest of my crew  
were lost at sea, I was alone. Four  
days I waited for a rescue, but no  
one came to my aid.

Lia waves to Edwin. He notices.

EDWIN  
Excuse me.

TEVARA  
Of course.  
(beat, to Giselle)  
Where was I...

**INT. THE PALE LADY - BRIG - DAY**

Mira stands outside the cell. Edwin and Lia approach.

EDWIN  
What's wrong?

Mira steps aside to reveal -

- ORION, conscious, sitting on the bunk. He notices Edwin, shakes his head at him and bows it.

Edwin takes a seat next to Orion. Mira and Lia leave.

EDWIN  
You had me worried, brother. Mira  
was sure you'd-

ORION  
You didn't listen to me, Edwin. You  
should've left me in Bludhearth.

EDWIN  
What are you talking about? I saved  
you. If I hadn't done what I did-

ORION  
This is my fault...

Orion tiredly sighs...

ORION  
I shouldn't even be here. This is  
all wrong, Edwin.  
(beat)  
*What was must always be. I never  
should've come here.*

EDWIN

This future, the one you come from,  
what was so bad that you saw reason  
to return to the past and fix it?

ORION

I was alone, Edwin. I had no one...

Orion grips the bars and hangs his head.

ORION

I thought I could destroy that damn  
box, stop the war... but the war's  
happening and there's NOTHING I can  
do to stop it!

Orion angrily RATTLES the bars. Edwin grows anxious. Orion  
grits his teeth, emotion builds on his face.

ORION

I failed...

EDWIN

Don't lose hope, brother.

ORION

What hope is there?

EDWIN

Come with me.

**EXT. THE PALE LADY - DAY**

Edwin and Orion step on deck. Orion shields his eyes from  
the sun. Lowers his hand.

Orion takes in the sights:

- Giselle hovers off the ship. Tevara holds her in a magic  
force-field. She spreads her arms, as if flying, LAUGHS.
- Mira and Lia converse with two Elves. They share a LAUGH.
- Rakan watches Giselle and Tevara, smiles.
- Giselle floats aboard. Tevara lowers his hand. She touches  
down easily, chuckles.

NAVAL CAPTAIN

It seems our sleeping guest has at  
last awakened. Welcome back to the  
land of the living, young man.

Orion gives Naval Captain a cautious look.

Rakan, Mira, Lia, Giselle and Tevara converge on them. Orion looks Tevara up/down, sneers.

TEVARA

Stow your hostility, Orion. We are on the same side now.

EDWIN

I can vouch for him. I trust him...

ORION

You *trust* him? He is an Elf. They can't be trusted. You're delusional if you even think as much.

Orion locks onto Tevara.

ORION

Do you forget he tried to kill me?  
TRUST HIM?! I will never trust him.  
After all - how can I trust the Elf who killed my brother?

Tevara and Edwin exchange looks.

ORION

He is the one who kills you, Edwin.  
I saw it happen.

TEVARA

In a future that hasn't happened...

ORION

Nor will it.

Orion grabs Tevara's sword and sticks the blade to Tevara's neck. Everyone notices the situation.

EDWIN

Orion, what are you doing?! Put the blade down!

ORION

If he dies, you survive.

EDWIN

If he dies, we all die!

Elves draw their weapons. Lia and Rakan study the situation. Naval Captain advances on them.

Tevara takes a deep breath, slowly raises his hands.

TEVARA

Orion, listen to me. Whatever ill I performed in the future, it has yet to occur in the present. I am not-

ORION

(growling)

Shut up!

Elves close in around them.

LIA

Edwin...?

EDWIN

Orion, stop this madness and think. I'm alive, brother. I'M ALIVE. But I won't be if you don't stop! Just stop... think about this!

ORION

I've thought about this for three centuries... if I could save you-

EDWIN

Look at me!

Orion acknowledges him.

EDWIN

If you can't trust him... trust me.

Tension mounts. Orion stares Tevara dead in the eye. Tevara closes his eyes.

Lia protectively steps in front of Giselle.

Naval Captain grips his cutlass.

ORION

What was... will never be.

Orion drops the sword at Tevara's feet. Everyone relaxes.

Orion surveys the deck. Elves appreciate the gesture. A few remain cautious. Orion heads below deck.

Edwin sighs "phew". Tevara picks up and sheathes his sword.

TEVARA

(to Naval Captain)

Get us home.

Naval Captain returns to the helm.

TEVARA

You should speak with him. Because if he pulls a move such as that in my father's presence-

EDWIN

I'll take care of it.

Tevara walks off, stops.

TEVARA

And... you have my thanks, Edwin. I am in your debt.

**INT. THE PALE LADY - BRIG - DAY**

Orion sits on the bunk and weighs his thoughts. Edwin takes a seat next to him. They exchange looks.

Edwin sighs... considers... smiles.

EDWIN

Do you remember the stories mother used to tell us of the dragon and the knight?

ORION

The dragon was the knight.

EDWIN

But the moral of that story. What was it?

ORION

*To never judge someone as a monster because of how they appear.*

Edwin nods "yes". Orion takes a breath.

EDWIN

Yet you judge Tevara a monster for an action he has not yet taken. Is that not the same?

ORION

You haven't lived my life, Edwin... you've not seen what I've seen. I'm the only one who survived.

EDWIN

A war yet to come.

Orion looks to him.

EDWIN

Do you not understand? The war does not have to come. We can stop it... we can change the future. But only if we work together, with Tevara, with the Elves. You don't have to be alone anymore, brother. You can have a family again.

ORION

And the Genoforge? Graven still has Soulrend.

EDWIN

We stop him.

ORION

How?

Edwin claps Orion on the shoulder.

EDWIN

Together.

**INT. THE GRAND PALACE - SANCTUARY - DAY**

Serin stares at the empty space the MANTLE (CHEST) once sat. He waves his hand through the space -

- the air RIPPLES... The Mantle reappears.

Serin presses his hand to the center. The Mantle GLIMMERS.

SERIN

Iyaka coron...  
(English subtitled)  
It is time.

**EXT. THE SHROUDED MOUNTAINS - DAY**

An ALMIGHTY DRAGON ROAR echoes throughout the hills -

**EXT. THE PALE LADY - DAY**

- and the ROAR reaches the ship. ONLY Rakan hears it. She stands up and approaches the battlements.

LIA

Rakan, what is it?

Tevara advances on them.

RAKAN  
The Mantle calls to me.

The BRACELET appears around Rakan's wrist. She studies it...

RAKAN  
(angrily)  
Serin deceived us.  
(to them, sincerely)  
I'm sorry... I'm so sorry...

Rakan climbs onto the battlements, grips a rope.

RAKAN  
(emotionally)  
May I have mercy on you...

She falls backward -

- Tevara and Lia lean over the side. No sign of her. Tevara and Lia exchange weary looks.

TEVARA  
PREPARE THE CANNONS!  
(to Lia)  
Take Giselle below deck. Warn Orion and Edwin. GO!

NAVAL CAPTAIN  
Roll out the cannons! We're under attack! Man the swivel guns! I need eyes in the crow's nest! Move it!

#### **INT. THE PALE LADY - BRIG - DAY**

Lia escorts Giselle to the cell.

EDWIN  
What's going on up there?

LIA  
Rakan. Serin activated the Mantle. He uses the dragons against us.

Orion bolts out of the cell.

EDWIN  
ORION, WAIT- Dammit! Will you be-

LIA  
JUST GO!

Giselle grows scared. Lia comforts her. Edwin bolts.

**EXT. THE PALE LADY - DAY**

Elves hurry about the deck, load the cannons and swivels. Tevara coordinates them.

ORION  
TEVARA?!

Orion meets with him.

ORION  
Where is she?

The ship SHAKES. Everyone stops what they're doing. Edwin cautiously steps on deck.

Elves, Tevara and Orion move to the starboard battlements. Orion surveys the calm water -

- WHOOSH, a DRAGON glides under the surface and - ERUPTS - RAKAN (DRAGON) glides vertically and spirals out level.

Rakan hovers over the Elven Fleet. ROARS and breathes fire.

Cannons lock onto her from all angles. Ships pull to port. Cannons emerge from the port holes, ready to engage.

Rakan SNARLS.

Orion grabs an Elf's dagger, grips a rope, cuts the rope at the battlements and zips up -

- to the rigging. He scales to the peek. Edges onto a beam.

ORION  
Rakan?!

Rakan's gaze snaps onto him.

ORION  
Come to me.  
(beat)  
Kiru dara.

TEVARA  
He's insane.

Orion edges further out. Rakan moves closer.

TEVARA  
That beast will tear him apart...  
ON MY WORD!

Rakan GROWLS. Orion holds up a hand "calm down".

ORION  
HOLD YOUR FIRE!  
(to Rakan)  
You are no monster.

Tension mounts on deck.

Orion reaches for the BRACELET around Rakan's left ANKLE. He just about reaches it -

- a CANNONBALL strikes Rakan in the side. She ROARS. Snaps onto the FRIGATE responsible.

ORION  
No...

Rakan swoops down and breathes fire on the frigate.

Tevara watches in horror.

TEVARA  
Open fire! OPEN FIRE!

A barrage of cannonballs shoot from EVERY STARBOARD-SIDE CANNON on the ship -

- and glide through the air toward Rakan. She spirals out of the way, a few hit her. She GROWLS.

Rakan flies directly at the Pale Lady. One of her wings cuts through the mast like a hot knife through butter -

- Orion falls, grabs hold of the rigging with one hand.

EDWIN  
Orion?!

ORION  
STOP HIM!

Rakan CARPETS another frigate in flames as she comes back for another attack -

- a barrage of cannonballs shoot from the PORT-SIDE. Rakan spins rapidly and avoids all of them.

RED LIGHT builds in Rakan's throat as she BREATHES FIRE on the ship -

- Mira throws up her hands. MAGIC shoots out -

- the fire blast hits the MAGIC field and dissipates. Rakan furiously spirals over the ship.

EDWIN

You're making things worse!

TEVARA

What would you have me do?! She'll  
destroy us!

(to his men)

LAUNCH EVERYTHING WE'VE GOT! BRING  
HER DOWN!

The mast splinters - and cracks - the rigging tears away as  
the mast topples overboard -

- Orion loses his grip and plummets toward the sea.

Rakan swoops in and "rescues" him. He clings onto one of her  
horns as she glides over the ship.

**EXT. SKY - DAY**

Rakan banks left and swoops down.

Orion pulls himself onto her neck as she DIVE-BOMBS toward  
the Pale Lady. He teeters over the side -

- and grabs her LEFT CLAW. His eyes locate the bracelet. He  
reaches for it.

**EXT. THE PALE LADY - DAY**

Tevara's eyes widen - Edwin braces for impact -

- Rakan's chest and neck light up bright red. She ROARS and  
breathes fire at the ship -

**EXT. SKY - DAY**

Orion rips the bracelet from her ankle and falls to the sea.  
The waves swallow him.

Rakan's pupils dilate. She notices the ship -

**EXT. THE PALE LADY - DAY**

Edwin turns away and cringes. Tevara closes his eyes -

- Rakan pulls up moments before impact. Her stomach scrapes  
the leaning mast - the fire misses the ship.

Edwin turns around. Tevara opens his eyes. They sigh "phew".

ELF#8  
(pointing)  
IT'S COMING BACK!

They all turn to the sky - RAKAN approaches.

TEVARA  
LOAD THE C-

Rakan dives into the ocean with an almighty SPLASH.

**EXT. UNDERWATER - DAY**

Unconscious, Orion descends. The BRACELET slips from his hand and sinks into the dark depths...

...Rakan transforms into her HUMAN form and grabs Orion. She helps him to the surface.

**EXT. OCEAN - DAY**

Rakan (human) and Orion emerge.

**EXT. THE PALE LADY - DAY**

Elves help Orion and Rakan aboard. Edwin hurries to them.

Orion remains unconscious. Rakan checks his pulse. Elves keep their distance from her.

Rakan breathes into him. Checks his pulse. Breathes again. Orion COUGHS water. His eyes find hers.

TEVARA  
Seize her.

Elves restrain Rakan. Edwin helps Orion to his feet.

ORION  
It's not her fault-

TEVARA  
She destroyed three ships. Many of my men are dead because of her. In control or not, she is responsible-

ORION  
BACK OFF!

Orion confronts Tevara.

ORION

Tell your men to let her fr-

RAKAN

Orion, stop. It's OK.

ORION

No, it's not. This alliance we have  
only works if she is a part of it.

TEVARA

Dragons are unpredictable. I cannot  
risk her turning again.

ORION

We need her.

Tevara studies Orion's expressions, looks to Rakan.

TEVARA

Release her.

Elves release her.

TEVARA

Can you still turn?

RAKAN

Yes.

TEVARA

Then go, before I change my mind...

ORION

No...

TEVARA

This is not for discussion. Either  
she leaves or she dies so which do  
you prefer?

Orion clenches a fist.

RAKAN

Orion...

She affords him a kind look.

RAKAN

Slithro enak trentu. Nerkana lu.

(English subtitled)

It's alright. Thank you.

He sadly smiles...

ORION

Ker, nerkana lu, Rakan.  
(English subtitled)  
No, thank you, Rakan.

Rakan climbs onto the battlements, looks back at Orion. He bows his head. She looks out - and jumps -  
- transforms in mid-flight and soars away from the ship.

TEVARA

Prepare the ship to sail.

NAVAL CAPTAIN

What of the fallen?

TEVARA

May the ocean be their grave. Make  
for the Mainland. Time is scarce.

Edwin sets a hand on Orion's shoulder.

EDWIN

She'll be fine, brother.

ORION

(darkly)  
No... she's won't.

**EXT. THE SCORCHED PLAINS - DUSK**

SIX DRAGONS soar over the encampment. Tents burn. Elves die. Asaran Vanguards round up stray Elves.

Serin watches the situation unfold, flanked by DRAGON MALC, and a DRAGON with a SPIKED TAIL.

Arndas wrestles Zephora from the Grand Tent. She SCREAMS and claws at his eyes, he YELLS, releases her.

Zephora grabs for his knife. Another Vanguard grabs her by the hair and wraps an arm around her throat from behind.

Varlden, beaten and bloodied, crawls out of the Grand Tent.

Cass, in full Vanguard gear, exits the Grand Tent and punts Varlden in the ribs. Varlden falls to his back, GROANS.

ZEPHORA

Father?!

Zephora struggles. Vanguard tosses her to the ground. She lunges at him. He viciously backhands her to the deck.

Cass wraps an arm around Varlden's neck and pulls him up. He sets a HUNTING KNIFE to Varlden's cheek.

Serin approaches Varlden.

VARLDEN  
(to Cass)  
Do what you will to me, but do not  
harm my daughter...

CASS  
Like you harmed Kera?!

Blood trickles from Varlden's cheek.

SERIN  
Cassius, allow him free.

CASS  
You said I could-

SERIN  
You will, but not yet. There's an  
old tradition I must honor first...

Cass reluctantly releases Varlden.

Vanguard makes Zephora watch.

Arndas wipes blood from his eye and takes position next to Wesirt. Wesirt shakes his head at Serin.

Serin squats in front of Varlden.

SERIN  
In the ancient laws of combat, it  
is a kind gesture to bestow upon an  
opponent a moment of thought before  
the hammer falls.  
(beat)  
Surrender, and no harm shall befall  
your people.

Wesirt steps forward. Arndas stops him.

WESIRT  
(discreetly)  
This is wrong, Arndas.

ARNDAS  
(RE: Dragons)  
We cannot oppose him.

Varlden sees Zephora. She defiantly shakes her head "no".

VARLDEN  
Free my daughter.

ZEPHORA  
Father, no...

VARLDEN  
Let her free, and I'll surrender to  
you when I know she's safe.

SERIN  
That's not how this works, Varlden.  
(beat)  
Surrender, or she dies first.

Wesirt shoves past Arndas and confronts Serin.

WESIRT  
This is wrong, Serin-

SERIN  
You told me to offer him something  
he could not turn away! I offer him  
his daughter's life!  
(to Varlden)  
Do you agree to my terms or not?

Arndas doesn't like this. Dragon Malc SNARLS at him. Arndas steps back in line.

Varlden shamefully bows his head. Serin smirks.

SERIN  
Bring her!

Vanguard tosses Zephora in front of Serin.

He whips out a small DAGGER, pulls her by the hair and sets the blade to her neck. She WINCES.

SERIN  
Look at her!

Varlden acknowledges Zephora.

SERIN  
I want you to watch as the light in  
her eyes fades away...

VARLDEN  
I'm truly sorry, Zephora.

She affords him an "understanding" look.

Varlden glares at Serin.

VARLDEN  
I surrender.

ZEPHORA  
No...

VARLDEN  
No harm will befall her. Your word.  
Assure me that. My people survive.  
You swear to me!

Serin smirks, releases Zephora.

SERIN  
You have my word.  
(to Cass)  
He's all yours, Huntsman.

Cass grabs Varlden and leads him away.

ZEPHORA  
FATHER?!

VARLDEN  
I love you, Zephora...

Zephora tries to go after him. A Vanguard restrains her.

ZEPHORA  
FATHER?!?!?!

SERIN  
(to Arndas)  
Round them up. All of them. Leave  
the dead to rot.

#### **EXT. THE PALE LADY - NIGHT**

Orion leans on the battlements at the front of the ship. He gazes out over the world - LAND draws closer.

Tevara leans on the rail beside him.

ORION  
What do you want?

TEVARA  
In this future of yours, the Elves  
won the war, correct?

Orion just looks at him.

TEVARA

I only ask because you saved me in Bludhearth. Why would you do that?

Orion gazes out over the ocean.

Tevara nods "I understand" and walks away.

ORION

You save them.

TEVARA

What?

ORION

During the final battle, as Valyr crumbles into ruin. You save them. I couldn't kill you, because if you died in Bludhearth, Lia and Giselle would die in Valyr. If they die... the future I know ceases to exist.

Tevara looks to Lia and Giselle, near the mast.

ORION

I did not spare you because I see a future where I can call you friend, I spared you because they need you.

Tevara ingests this information...

TEVARA

I save them?

ORION

You do a lot more than that.

Tevara looks to him.

ORION

Because of you Dawnbringer is born. And you know what that means.

TEVARA

The Prophecy...

(beat)

...I can save them now. They would never have to be saved in Valyr-

ORION

Valyr is where you saved them. So Valyr is where you save them. For if there is one thing that has to happen, THAT moment is IT.

Naval Captain peers through his scope. He lowers the scope.

NAVAL CAPTAIN  
 (dauntingly)  
 Alderin's name...

Elves, Lia, Giselle, Edwin and Mira rush to the front of the ship. Tevara and Orion gaze out -

TEVARA  
 No...

- the ELVEN ENCAMPMENT smolders into ruin.

EDWIN  
 What is that?

ORION  
 The Elven camp...  
 (beat)  
...father.

**EXT. VALYR - NIGHT**

Under a state of LOCK-DOWN. Dragons perch atop the walls as GUARDIANS. Vanguards with CROSSBOWS/BOWS patrol the wall.

CIVILIANS pile up at the LARGE GATE. PANIC hits the air.

**EXT. THE GRAND PALACE - GREAT BALCONY - NIGHT**

Serin watches over the city, hands on the battlements. THREE MASKED VANGUARDS protect him.

Arndas and Wesirt approach. Vanguards halt them.

ARNDAS  
 Stand down, I will have a word with  
 the King.

They stand their ground.

ARNDAS  
 I am giving you an order-

SERIN  
 An order they shall not follow for  
 they no longer serve you.

Serin faces them.

SERIN

You are relieved of your command,  
Arndas. Lay down your sword. Now.

ARNDAS

You have lost your sight, Serin-

SERIN

I see clearer now than I have ever seen before! Why be a king when I can be a GOD? Look around you. We have the Anakai, the Dragons, and now we have the Elves. What if we could control more? All the realms. Every land. Every species. All of them under one flag. UNITED as one!

ARNDAS

Enslavement is not unity!

SERIN

In time, it will be.

Arndas draws his sword.

ARNDAS

I will not allow it.

SERIN

You oppose me?

Serin steps past the Vanguards.

SERIN

YOU CAN'T STOP ME! I've an army...  
you've NOTHING.

WESIRT

He has me.

Wesirt's staff tip glows blue.

Serin LAUGHS...

SERIN

(to Vanguards)

Kill them.

Vanguards advance on them.

Arndas swings his sword at one. Vanguard parries it. Slashes at Arndas' midriff. Arndas leaps back to avoid.

Serin walks inside the palace.

Wesirt deflects an attack with his staff, whirls the staff and cracks a Vanguard in the face -

- Vanguard's MASK/HELMET hits the ground.

WESIRT  
Wretch...

A SNARLING DEMON (the unmasked Vanguard) GROWLS at him and slashes its sword. Wesirt parries -

- turns and blasts another Vanguard with ICE MAGIC.

Demon unleashes a fury of sword slashes. Wesirt backs up as he deflects and parries.

Arndas stabs a Vanguard through the chest. Vanguard elbows him to the ground -

- and pulls the sword from his chest. BLACK BLOOD drips from the blade. Vanguard discards the sword, GROWLS.

MORE VANGUARDS flood out of the palace and envelop them.

Arndas grabs his sword and deflects an attack, finds Wesirt. Wesirt hurls MAGIC at the Demon -

- Demon spirals through the air and lands in a heap. Pushes up off the ground, SNARLS.

Vanguards STOMP as one and draw their weapons.

ARNDAS  
You've been mislead!

WESIRT  
They are not your brethren, Arndas.

EVERY VANGUARD unmasks simultaneously. DEMONS beneath the masks. They ditch their masks/helmets.

ARNDAS  
Demons...

**INT. THE GRAND PALACE - THRONE ROOM - NIGHT**

Serin stands with his back to the doors. He dusts the floor with his boot, revealing the HOLE before the throne.

SERIN  
I was wondering where you were...

Serin looks over his shoulder.

SERIN

...Graven.

Graven approaches, draws Soulrend. Serin faces him. Graven wrests his hand around the handle. Confronts Serin.

Serin acknowledges Soulrend. Graven contemplates -

- and KNEELS in front of him. He presents Soulrend to Serin.

GRAVEN

Your sword, my king.

SERIN

At last...

Serin takes Soulrend and inspects it.

SERIN

...so many years of searching, and  
I finally hold it in my hands.

Graven bows his head.

SERIN

The time has come.

Graven steps aside. Serin holds the sword blade to the floor - he plunges it into the hole -

- MECHANICAL GEARS grind away. The floor opens. The passage reveals itself.

#### **INT. THE GRAND PALACE - TREASURY - NIGHT**

The GENOFORGE rests on the pedestal. Treasure everywhere.

Serin and Graven advance on the Genoforge. They stop a few feet away and admire the box.

Serin raises the Genoforge.

#### **EXT. TREKOLAN WOODS - CLEARING - NIGHT**

Cass shoves Varlden to the dirt.

CASS

Why did you do it? WHY?! Why did  
you kill Kera?!

Cass pulls Varlden by the hair, gets close to his ear. Sets the knife to Varlden's throat.

CASS

She was the ONLY thing I had left,  
and you STOLE HER AWAY FROM ME!

VARLDEN

My reasons will not sway your hand,  
Huntsman. If vengeance is what you  
seek... then take it. DO IT! It's  
what I deserve... it's your right.

CASS

Do not tell me what is and what is  
not my right. I'm NOT one of your  
damned soldiers!

Cass shoves Varlden away and steps aside.

CASS

And I am no murderer...

VARLDEN

Then why bring me here if you did  
not plan to kill m-

Varlden notices something... he looks up at Cass.

VARLDEN

I see...

Cass sheathes the knife and approaches -

- A BODY, covered in a sheet. Cass lifts the sheet to reveal KERA. He glares at Varlden.

CASS

Bring her back.

VARLDEN

I cannot.

CASS

BRING HER BACK!

VARLDEN

I CAN'T!

(beat)

It's not possible to resurrect the  
dead... it can't be done.

CASS

You're an Elf... you have the power  
to restore the dead to life. I have  
seen it with my own eyes! You bring  
her back to me...

Varlden sighs...

VARLDEN

Without her shadow, Kera's body is merely a husk. If you wish for me to resurrect her, you need to trap her shadow.

CASS

Tell me how.

VARLDEN

Return to the place in which death embraced her, and utter the words: *Kor gartu engal*. She will appear to you... to trap the shadow, you'll need... you'll need a soul star.

CASS

Where do I find a soul star?

VARLDEN

(dauntingly)

In the Void of Souls.

Cass' face falls...

VARLDEN

I'm sorry, it's the only way.

Cass whips out his dagger. Bows his head...

CASS

Then I have no choice.

He tosses the dagger at Varlden's knees.

CASS

You have to do it. You have to kill me. I can't do it myself...

VARLDEN

Is she so important you would die to save her?

CASS

How do I get back?

VARLDEN

You don't.

Cass nods "OK".

Varlden plucks the dagger from the ground. Gets to his feet.

VARLDEN

Humans cannot travel between realms  
- but I can.

Varlden offers the dagger to Cass. Cass takes the dagger...

CASS

You would do that for her?

VARLDEN

I did that to her... allow me this  
chance to set right that wrong.

Cass and Varlden lock eyes.

VARLDEN

(RE: Dagger)

Please...

Cass stabs Varlden in the heart. Varlden GASPS, falls into Cass. Cass eases him to the ground -

- Varlden wanes. He grabs Cass' shoulder, GASPS for air...

**INT. THE GRAND PALACE - THRONE ROOM - NIGHT**

An OBELISK rises out of the floor. In its center, a rounded hole with a square platform.

Serin removes Cass' TALISMAN from his pocket. He fits it in a slot on the GENOFORGE, twists -

- the top of the Genoforge spirals open.

Graven unsheathes his dagger... and slices his own hand.

He holds his sliced hand over the HOLE in the Genoforge. His blood trickles into the box.

SERIN

The blood of a Demon...

Serin hands Graven the Genoforge. Graven hands the dagger to him. Serin slices his own hand, clenches a fist.

SERIN

...and the blood of the many, shall  
restore what was lost to us.

Serin holds his hand over the Genoforge. Blood drips inside.

Serin sets the Genoforge onto the obelisk's square platform and steps back. The Obelisk LIGHTS UP golden.

**EXT. THE GRAND PALACE - GREAT BALCONY - NIGHT**

Wesirt blasts a pack of Demons into ashes with magic.

A Demon slashes Arndas across the arm. He HISSES, grips it, and fends off two with one hand. He stabs one.

Wesirt whacks a Demon in the face with the staff.

A Demon stabs Arndas in the shoulder. Arndas GROWLS, turns and decapitates it -

- Wesirt fights through Demons en route to Arndas.

A BEAM OF GOLDEN LIGHT ERUPTS FROM THE PALACE ROOF, STRIKES THE CLOUDS. THUNDER RUMBLES. LIGHTNING LASHES.

Wesirt, Arndas and the Demons gaze skyward.

DARKNESS ENGULFS THE LAND. THE SKY TURNS FIERY.

Demons SNARL and GROWL.

Arndas GASPS... drops his sword. GOLDEN LIGHT ebbs from his body. He clenches both fists... and falls to his knees.

Demons willingly stand aside. Wesirt goes to Arndas.

Golden tears drip down Arndas' face. His eyes light up gold. He LURCHES and arches backward -

**EXT. VALYR - NIGHT**

- golden light engulfs the city. EVERY CIVILIAN illuminated. A few drop to their knees. Some enter a crucifix gesture.

ASARAN VANGUARDS on the walls undergo the same effect.

**INT. THE GRAND PALACE - THRONE ROOM - NIGHT**

Serin intently watches the Obelisk. Graven smirks...

SERIN  
A life for a life...

Serin's hand glows golden. He clenches a fist, grins.

SERIN  
...or in this case, a species for a  
species.

**DORMAK** steps OUT of Serin and collects Soulrend from Graven.

Serin collapses to his knees, GROWLS in agony. Golden light envelops him... he LURCHES...

DORMAK  
The Age of Asara is over...  
(beat)  
...your reign is at an end, Serin.  
It is my time now. The Time of the Demons has come.

SERIN  
(painfully)  
My sons... will stop you... Dormak!  
You will... fail...  
(defiantly)  
...you will lose.

Dormak chuckles...

DORMAK  
Oh my dear delusional king, I have already won.

**EXT. VALYR - NIGHT**

The light brightens... and dissipates instantly.

Civilians and GUARDS study themselves - BLACK EYES, BLACK VEINS, ROTTEN FLESH - DEMONS.

They converge in lines and advance on the palace.

**EXT. THE GRAND PALACE - GREAT BALCONY - NIGHT**

Wesirt cautiously reaches out -

WESIRT  
Arndas...?

- Hunched, Arndas raises his head. BLACK EYES, BLACK VEINS and ROTTEN FLESH. He SNARLS.

Wesirt backs away.

**INT. THE GRAND PALACE - THRONE ROOM - NIGHT**

Serin FIGHTS the transformation. The LIGHT flickers around him. He cracks a fist off the floor.

Dormak squats in front of him. He tilts his head slightly.

DORMAK

Why do you resist? Why do you fight it? Embrace it! Become one of us...

SERIN

I - will - not.

DORMAK

Relinquish your grip on sanity and embrace the madness! Everyone else is doing it. Join them!

Serin grabs Dormak by the throat and squeezes.

SERIN

NEVER!

Dormak swats Serin's hand away and rises. He rubs his neck.

DORMAK

If that is your final wish, I shall see it granted in full.

(to Graven)

Kill him.

Graven draws his sword.

DORMAK

I have an army to command. Have fun dying, Serin. I hear it's a hoot.

#### **EXT. THE SCORCHED PLAINS - NIGHT**

The camp BURNS. Tevara, Orion, Edwin and Lia navigate the chaos. Tevara hurries to the Grand Tent.

TEVARA

FATHER?!?!

Tevara enters the Grand Tent.

Orion kneels beside a CHARRED ELF. Edwin hangs his head... Lia fights her own emotions.

Tevara emerges from the tent.

EDWIN

Anything?

TEVARA

No.

Tevara angrily kicks a helmet.

TEVARA

If anything has happened to them, I  
swear on Alderin's name I will-

ORION

Them?

TEVARA

My family...

ORION

Zephora? She was here?

Tevara gives a daunting nod "yes". Orion sighs...

ORION

She never should've been here. This  
is my doing... I did this...

EDWIN

This was Dormak, not you. Dormak is  
responsible for this... we need to  
stop him... whatever it takes.

WESIRT (O.S.)

I'm afraid it's too late for that.

They notice Wesirt - hand to his BLOODIED gut, no staff. He  
buckles and drops to his knees.

Orion rushes to his side, keeps him upright.

WESIRT

(weakly)

Dormak has activated the Genoforge.

Orion's face falls...

WESIRT

We tried to stop him... we didn't  
know... until it was too late...

ORION

Edwin... help me.

Edwin helps Orion with Wesirt. They lay him down. Edwin puts  
pressure on Wesirt's gut.

Tevara turns away, weighs his thoughts.

ORION

I never meant for this... you are  
not supposed to die. You're meant  
to survive-

WESIRT

Everyone dies... Orion... everyone  
must one day... breathe their last.  
It's not... your fault...

ORION

But it is.

Wesirt reaches out. Orion grips his hand.

WESIRT

Come closer...

Orion leans in. Wesirt whispers something in his ear. Orion looks across at Edwin, disbelief on his face.

EDWIN

What is it?

ORION

I know what I have to do.

Orion looks to Wesirt - he's DEAD, eyes open.

ORION

Wesirt...

Orion releases Wesirt's hand and rises. He steps aside and looks to the sky -

- Edwin respectfully closes Wesirt's eyes.

TEVARA

What did he say to you?

ORION

(convincingly)

Nothing...

TEVARA

You're lying. Tell us.

ORION

I have to go.

EDWIN

Go? Go where?! Orion...

Edwin grabs Orion's arm.

EDWIN

...what did he tell you?

A DRAGON'S SHADOW crawls across the surface. They look up.

Orion steps away from Edwin.

DRAGON RAKAN lands in the camp. Orion greets her. She bows. He mounts her.

EDWIN  
Orion...

ORION  
Trust me, brother.  
(in Dragon tongue)  
INARU!

Rakan stands on her hind-legs, ROARS and takes to the sky.

EDWIN  
Where's he going?

**EXT. THE PALE LADY - NIGHT**

Tevara steps on deck and advances on Naval Captain. Edwin and Lia follow him aboard.

TEVARA  
(to Naval Captain)  
Set a bearing for Valyr.

EDWIN  
Did you not hear the wizard? Dormak activated the Genoforge-

TEVARA  
Which is why we must hurry. Valyr is where this ends, so Valyr is our destination. If you disagree, I ask you step ashore now.

Lia shrugs "he's got a point". Edwin nods...

EDWIN  
I require a blade.

Tevara smirks.

**EXT. THE GRAND PALACE - GREAT BALCONY - NIGHT**

Demon Arndas stands beside Dormak at the battlements. Dormak gazes out over his "EMPIRE" -

- HORDES of CIVILIANS/GUARDS turned DEMON gather below.

Dormak raises SOULREND above his head.

DORMAK

(to everyone, loudly)

In my hand lies our salvation! With it, we will conquer all the realms. Every corner of this world shall be plunged into eternal shadow!

(beat)

Darkness will fall! And with it we shall rise. Stronger than before... with none to oppose us! The Time of Demons is NOW!

The "citizens" CHEER/ROAR loudly.

DORMAK

(to Arndas)

Bring Zephora to me.

**INT. THE GRAND PALACE - THRONE ROOM - NIGHT**

Graven tosses one of his swords at Serin's feet. Serin grabs the sword, and weakly rises.

Graven draws his other sword, twirls it in hand as he stalks and circles Serin.

Golden light pulsates from Serin. He clenches his empty fist - the light dissipates. He faces Graven.

Serin raises the sword. Graven lunges, swings. Serin parries and slashes. Graven spins, deflects with ease -

- and nails Serin with a wicked backhand. Serin drops to one knee, wipes blood from his mouth.

Graven stabs at him. Serin deflects. Graven knocks the sword from his hand and sets his blade to Serin's throat.

Serin defiantly looks up at him.

SERIN

You have learned much...

GRAVEN

You taught me well, mentor.

SERIN

Indeed...

(defiantly)

...end it then. Do as your master commands... kill me.

Graven smirks...

**EXT. VALYR - NIGHT**

Fire spreads across the city, DEMONS tear it apart.

DORMAK (V.O.)  
Is it not a glorious sight?

**EXT. THE GRAND PALACE - GREAT BALCONY - NIGHT**

Dormak gazes out over the city, happy with himself.

DORMAK  
My new Empire shall rise from the  
fires of Valyr, victorious. Demons  
shall control this world, and with  
it plunge every corner into shadow.

Dormak raises Soulrend.

DORMAK  
And with Soulrend, there is no one  
who can stop it. So I ask, here and  
now... will you stand at my side?

Dormak turns and faces ZEPHORA - restrained, on her knees,  
Arndas behind her.

DORMAK  
Will you be the Queen to my King?

ZEPHORA  
Go to Oblivion, you wretched bast-

Dormak viciously backhands her. She sneers at him.

DORMAK  
When I asked the question, I never  
expected a "yes" in response. Which  
is why the question was rhetorical,  
and what is a rhetorical question,  
I hear you ask? It's quite simple.

He pulls her face close to his. She grimaces.

DORMAK  
It's unanswerable, my dear.

Dormak turns away from her, approaches the battlements.

DORMAK  
Your father and I had a vision. To  
unite our species under one flag...  
(MORE)

DORMAK (cont'd)  
and that vision will see reality. I  
will honor his final wish.  
(beat)  
You will be my Queen, Zephora, it-

An ALMIGHTY DRAGON ROAR draws his attention to the south...

DORMAK  
Impossible...

**EXT. SKY - NIGHT**

DRAGON RAKAN glides through ashen clouds. Orion rides her.

ORION  
Tur feru tiora, Rakan.  
(English subtitled)  
Get me close, Rakan.

Rakan ROARS and swoops down -

**EXT. THE GRAND PALACE - GREAT BALCONY - NIGHT**

Dormak GROWLS.

DORMAK  
MALCORAN!

DRAGON MALC lands on a nearby spire, SNARLS at him.

DORMAK  
(RE: Orion & Rakan)  
DEAL WITH THEM!

Dragon Malc shifts his attention to the sky. Smoke plumes from his nostrils. He takes off -

**EXT. SKY - NIGHT**

Rakan closes on the palace. Malc glides to intercept her. Both of their necks light up bright red -

Orion wraps an arm around Rakan's horn and braces himself.

- they breathe fire at one another. The gap closes -

- Rakan spirals over Malc - Malc twists in the air, hovers in place - and pursues her.

Rakan picks up speed. Malc hot on her tail.

**EXT. THE GRAND PALACE - GREAT BALCONY - NIGHT**

Dormak's eyes widen, he ducks -

- Rakan KNIFES overhead. Her wing knocks a few DEMONS over like bowling pins, a couple spill over the battlements.

Malc zooms by. One of his wings decapitates a Demon -

- Decapitated Demon wobbles for a moment, and collapses.

Dormak lifts the decapitated head. Alive, it looks at him.

Zephora elbows Arndas in the groin, grabs his sword, kicks him back and takes a swing at Dormak -

- Dormak cuts her blade in half with Soulrend.

DORMAK

I have Soulrend, girl. You may as well have a butter knife.

Arndas grabs and tosses Zephora to the ground.

Dormak acknowledges the decapitated head, and tosses it over the battlements. He examines Soulrend -

- his eyes slowly turn red.

Zephora kicks out at Arndas. He grabs her leg and swings her into the wall -

- she slams hard into the ground. Arndas stalks her.

**EXT. VALYR - NIGHT**

3 DRAGONS take to the sky -

- Rakan knifes around a tower. Malc snaps at her, misses... Orion clings onto Rakan's horn.

FIRE SPREADS across the city.

The 3 dragons attack from multiple angles. Two breathe fire from the side as another flies dead at Rakan -

- Rakan spirals over the flames, barely avoids the oncoming dragon and levels out. She ALLEY-OOPS backward over Malc -

- and speeds toward the palace. Orion looks back -

- dragons fly at them. Malc knifes around a tower and joins the 3. They enter a DIAMOND FORMATION. Malc at the top.

**INT. THE GRAND PALACE - THRONE ROOM - NIGHT**

Serin weakly deflects Graven's sword, drops to one knee. He tiredly bows his head.

Graven relentlessly paces in front of him.

GRAVEN

Look at you...

(disgustedly)

...how pathetic you've become. Your strength has waned. I remember when you stood defiant against Grongbak. When you cut off his head. When we retook Valyr. But that man is gone, isn't he? Time has ailed him. Your will to prevail has abandoned you.

SERIN

Yet your honor remains...

Serin looks Graven dead in the eye.

SERIN

A demon you may have become, but a warrior's heart you still bear. All of that strength, yet you side with the Darkness...

GRAVEN

I didn't have a choice...

SERIN

You always have a choice, Graven...

GRAVEN

Did you have a choice when you left me to die?

Serin shamefully bows his head...

GRAVEN

Three weeks I laid there, I saw the sun rise and set... hoping to never see it again...

(angrily)

Do you have any idea how it feels to have crows tear apart your body piece by piece for three weeks?!

(beat)

I thought Rakan and Malcoran would come searching for me, but you told them I was dead, so they never did. You could've saved me, Serin.

SERIN

I tried...

Graven squints "what did you say?".

SERIN

The day you fell, we sought you...  
but we couldn't find you. We went  
to that beach, but you were gone.

Graven weighs his thoughts...

SERIN

Now I understand where you were...  
I can see now what happened to you,  
and I am truly sorry... truly... I  
could never understand the pain you  
must have felt...

GRAVEN

Speak sense...

SERIN

We didn't abandon you, Graven. You  
were taken to a place we could not  
follow... Oblivion.

Graven intently looks to the Grand Balcony.

**EXT. VALYR - NIGHT**

Rakan swoops down through the streets. DRAGON#1 pursues her.

DRAGON#2 glides over the buildings. DRAGON#3 soars toward a  
cut-off point. MALC hovers in mid-flight, surveys.

Rakan banks around a corner -

- DRAGON#1 crashes through a building.

DRAGON#3 rounds a corner and breathes fire - RAKAN ASCENDS -

- DRAGON#3 ROARS, pulls up - and collides with DRAGON#2.

Orion surveys the chaos... faces ahead... his eyes widen.

Malc comes in hot and snaps his jaws around Rakan's neck.  
Orion spills over the side -

- and crashes into a roof. Slides down, clings onto the edge  
with one hand. He looks to the sky -

- Rakan ROARS as Malc sinks his teeth in and drags her down.

Orion climbs onto the roof.

Rakan and Malc CRASH through a building and slam HARD on the ground. Rakan weakly pushes up -

- Malc stalks her, ROARS/SNARLS.

Orion runs across the rooftops - leaps from one building to the next - jumps to a lower roof.

A **DEMON GUARD ARCHER** spots him, reaches for an arrow -

- Orion vaults off a chimney stack and punches Guard Archer unconscious. He grabs the bow and quiver.

Malc snaps his jaws around Rakan's neck. She ROARS.

Orion hops onto a ledge, nocks an arrow and aims at Malc. He steadies his aim.

Rakan WINCES. Malc sinks his teeth further into her neck -

- an arrow PENETRATES Malc's hide. He GROWLS, releases Rakan and snaps his gaze on Orion.

Another arrow plunges through Malc's left eye. He staggers.

Rakan WHACKS Malc in the head with her tail. He collapses to one wing -

- Rakan raises and plunges her tail across Malc's head. He drops unconscious to the ground.

Orion lowers the bow, sighs...

Rakan gratefully looks up at him, gives a slight nod... and tiredly collapses to the ground.

#### **EXT. OCEAN - NIGHT**

The ASARAN FLEET (13 Frigates, 1 Man O' War) blockades the CITY. The Man O' War, the **WHITE CROWN**, closest to the city.

#### **EXT. THE PALE LADY - NIGHT**

Naval Captain lowers his scope.

##### **NAVAL CAPTAIN**

Our guns are no match for the White Crown, Tevara. It would shred us in moments. We need another way...

Crew scamper about the deck.

TEVARA  
I thought you liked a challenge?

NAVAL CAPTAIN  
Aye, but this is bloody suicide...  
(beat)  
...pardon my Human.

Edwin, outfitted in Elven Armor with a cutlass, approaches the helm. Lia exits from below deck, bow in hand.

EDWIN  
What are we waiting for?

NAVAL CAPTAIN  
Take a look for yourself.

Naval Captain hands Edwin the scope. Edwin peers through it. He lowers the scope. He smirks.

TEVARA  
(RE: Edwin's smirk)  
What's going through your head?

**EXT. THE GRAND PALACE - GREAT BALCONY - NIGHT**

Arndas pins Zephora to a wall and chokes her. She grabs at his wrist, no luck. Claws his eyes. He GROWLS.

Zephora knees Arndas in the groin. He drops her -

- she crawls for a sword. A DEMON cuts her off, plunges its sword at her - she rolls aside, grabs its dagger -  
- and drives it through Demon's head.

She turns toward Arndas - Arndas stabs her through the gut. She GASPS, drops the dagger.

Arndas rips the sword out. She drops to her knees.

DORMAK  
(RE: Zephora)  
Such a shame...

Dormak glares at Soulrend. Blood drips from his eyes...

DORMAK  
(to Soulrend, trance-like)  
Who needs a Queen when I have you?

The FLAP of WINGS snaps Dormak from his trance. He stares directly ahead -

- Rakan rises and hovers in position. Orion aboard her.

DORMAK

We meet at last... oh how I've long anticipated this moment.

ORION

Inar hur.  
(English subtitled)  
Fry him.

Rakan's throat lights up red. She breathes fire -

- Dormak raises Soulrend - the fire hits a magic barrier...

DORMAK

You should know better, Orion!

Orion leaps through the barrier and tackles Dormak to the ground. Orion rolls through onto his feet -

- Dormak stands, chuckles and twirls Soulrend in hand.

ORION

Inarak, Rakan.

Rakan takes off.

ORION

This is between me... and you... as it was before it shall be again.

DORMAK

(RE: Soulrend)

Not this time.

A MAGICAL SWORD appears in Orion's hand -

- DRAGON SCALES on its lower blade and DRAGON BONES make up the hilt/handle. This is **DRAGONBANE**.

DORMAK

This cannot be...

ORION

It IS.

Orion swings Dragonbane. Dormak swings Soulrend -

- both swords collide and send a SHOCK-WAVE of ENERGY across the balcony - Arndas slams into a wall. Demons disintegrate.

**EXT. THE WHITE CROWN - NIGHT**

SHADOWS occupy the ship, all frozen, as if sleeping. A CROW lands on the wheel. It shakes and SQUAWKS.

SHADOW CAPTAIN grabs the crow and rips its shadow out - the dead crow drops to the deck -

- shadow crow perches on Shadow Captain's shoulder.

SHADOW CAPTAIN  
Hesha hashana hoshur.

Shadow crow SQUAWKS in response.

SHADOW CAPTAIN  
Shannsh shoro!

Shadows come to life and maneuver the deck -

- a cannonball passes through Shadow Captain and rips a hole through the railing. Shadow Captain HISSES.

**EXT. OCEAN - NIGHT**

FIVE Pale Ladies approach the blockade.

The far right and left ones burst into flame and leave a trail of fire in their wake. They move ahead.

**EXT. THE PALE LADY - NIGHT**

Mira stands at the front, hands in the air, and casts magic.

Naval Captain shakes his head.

NAVAL CAPTAIN  
It's not going to work.

EDWIN  
It's gonna work.

**EXT. OCEAN - NIGHT**

The White Crown makes a beeline for the blockade as the FIRE SHIPS approach -

- FRIGATES on the blockade roll out their cannons -

- and blast at the FIRE SHIPS. The cannonballs phase through them and splash down in the water.

The FIRE SHIPS continue their approach.

The FLANKING PALE LADIES turn port and starboard. Roll out their cannons.

The REAL Pale Lady sails directly at the blockade.

The White Crown gains speed.

**EXT. THE PALE LADY - NIGHT**

Lia loads a fire arrow into her bow and aims at the sky.

EDWIN

Wait for it...

(RE: White Crown)

...come on, come on... do it...

TEVARA

What are you waiting for?

EDWIN

The opportune moment...

**EXT. OCEAN - NIGHT**

The White Crown slowly turns starboard. Its cannons spurt -  
- Frigates unleash another volley of cannonballs on the FIRE SHIPS. None hit.

The Fire Ships just about touch the blockade -

- the White Crown unleashes an almighty THUNDEROUS volley -  
- cannonballs tear through the blockade and PHASE THROUGH the Fire Ships. The Fire Ships disappear.

The other two Pale Ladies vanish.

EDWIN (V.O.)

LIA, NOW!

A fiery arrow shoots into the sky, explodes like a firework.

ELVEN FRIGATES emerge from the cover of night and unleash a THUNDEROUS volley of cannonballs -

- cannonballs rip through the blockade - BANG - MORTARS rain down on the blockade.

The Pale Lady RAMS through the central Frigate.

**EXT. THE PALE LADY - NIGHT**

Edwin scales the rigging and grabs a rope.

EDWIN  
Captain, turn to port NOW!

Naval Captain turns the wheel - the Pale Lady turns to port.

TEVARA  
READY THE CANNONS!

Elves load all PORT-SIDE cannons with CHAIN-SHOTS.

EDWIN  
VOLLEY ONE!

They fire the chain-shots -

**EXT. OCEAN - NIGHT**

- chain-shots tear through the White Crown's mast and beams.  
Its sails collapse.

EDWIN (V.O.)  
TWO!

HEAVY-SHOTS erupt from the Pale Lady and riddle the side of  
the White Crown -

EDWIN (V.O.)  
FIRE ALL!

- the remaining PORT-SIDE CANNONS unleash a deadly volley -
- dozens of cannonballs tear the White Crown apart. MORTAR FIRE rains down on the ship.

The White Crown slowly submerges. Parts of it EXPLODE.

**EXT. THE PALE LADY - NIGHT**

Tevara smiles and shakes his head in disbelief. Elves CHEER.

NAVAL CAPTAIN  
I'll be damned...  
(to Edwin)  
...I don't know if that was clever  
or just plain stupid but it was one  
helluva sight, lad!

Edwin chuckles... looks to Lia. She winks at him.

EXT. THE GRAND PALACE - GREAT BALCONY - NIGHT

Dormak and Orion engage in fluid combat.

Dormak slashes at Orion's midriff - Orion jumps backward - swings Dragonbane - Dormak deflects with Soulrend.

Zephora holds a hand to her gut, wanes.

Orion deflects Soulrend, spins and slashes - Dormak blocks. The swords GRIND against one another.

Dormak thrusts his empty hand forward - a magic blast hits Orion and sends him through the air -

- Orion crashes into a wall, drops to the ground.

Dormak looks at his free hand - the flesh BLACKENS and BONE like CLAWS penetrate his knuckles.

Orion defiantly pushes up, notices Dormak.

ORION

It's already taking over you...

(beat)

...all of that power is corrupting  
you... you're losing yourself.

Orion confronts Dormak.

ORION

Give me the sword.

Dormak chuckles - stabs at him - Orion deflects - Dormak summons a fireball and launches it -

- Orion ducks the fireball - Dormak slashes him across the chest - then the arm - Orion staggers.

Dormak cuts Orion's hand off, Dragonbane drops to the ground - Orion cradles his hand and drops to one knee.

Dormak lifts Dragonbane, weighs it in hand.

DORMAK

The past cannot be undone, Orion...  
that is why it is the past. But you  
had to try and change things didn't  
you? You had to be the hero...

Dormak sets both swords either side of Orion's neck - WING STUBS pierce Dormak's back - He GROWLS.

Zephora's hand falls limp at her side. She dies...

**EXT. THE VOID OF LOST SOULS - THE CAIRN - TIMELESS**

Seven rings of FIRE rotate above a PITCH BLACK pit.

Varlden steps onto a spiral stairway. SOULS/SHADOWS ascend and descend all around him.

Varlden searches the "sky" -

- a BRIGHT STAR shines at the top of the seventh ring.

He makes his way up - SCREAMING SOULS descend rapidly past him - he reaches a broken section -

- Varlden hugs the wall and steps across a narrow ledge -

- an AXE swings directly at his head. He ducks. The axe hits the wall -

Varlden pushes a SHADOW over the edge. Ascends the stairway.

**EXT. THE VOID OF LOST SOULS - SEVENTH RING - TIMELESS**

A HOODED/CLOAKED WOMAN sits alone in the center of a bridge and quietly sobs -

- Varlden cautiously approaches. The STAR looms nearby.

A SHADOW appears in front of him and slowly takes the form of UNDARA. Varlden takes a step back.

VARLDEN

Undara.

**EXT. VALYR - HARBOR - NIGHT**

Edwin, Lia and Tevara step off the Pale Lady. Several Elves shadow them.

EDWIN

I need to get to the palace.

LIA

We're right behind you.

EDWIN

No, Lia. You're not.

LIA

What are you talking about? I will not stand by while you-

Edwin kisses Lia. A beat. They part lips.

LIA  
What was that for?

EDWIN  
In case I never get to do it again.

Edwin glances at Tevara. They confront one another. Edwin extends his hand. Tevara considers... and shakes it.

Edwin gives him a respectful nod. Tevara returns the favor.

TEVARA  
Good luck, my friend.

**EXT. VALYR - NIGHT**

Edwin rounds a corner en route to the palace.

DEMON CIVILIANS and GUARDS riot in the street ahead. A few of them notice Edwin.

Edwin skids to a halt. DEMONS stalk him. He takes a breath.

Demons go about their business -

- Edwin looks at his left hand - it glows GOLDEN - he runs toward the palace.

**EXT. THE GRAND PALACE - GREAT BALCONY - NIGHT**

Golden light pulses from Orion's wrist stub. He wanes...

DORMAK  
Don't resist it, Orion. Allow the Genoforge to turn you into one of us. Cease this endless struggle to be pure and embrace the Darkness.

ORION  
You... will fail, Dormak. This new empire - it will crumble all around you. Darkness will fall.

Dormak chuckles...

ORION  
Dawnbringer will rise.

Dormak squats in front of Orion, tilts his head slightly...

DORMAK

Then I'll destroy him too.

ORION

No... you won't...

DORMAK

And who will stop me? You? You're nothing anymore, Orion. Nothing but a false hero, a failure. Everyone who would stand against me has all but fallen. Only remnants remain...

(beat)

So I ask, WHO can stop me?!

Orion looks past Dormak -

- slowly, Dormak looks over his shoulder. His eyes scrunch. He faces someone...

DORMAK

Who are you?

A bolt of LIGHTNING shoots directly at him - he blocks it with the swords - electricity surges across the blades.

Dormak thrusts his hands aside - the lightning disperses.

DORMAK

WHAT are you?!

Orion's hand regrows... he gets to his feet...

Dormak deflects a lightning bolt with Soulrend. And another with Dragonbane. He advances on "someone".

DORMAK

WHAT ARE YOU?!?!?!?

#### **EXT. THE VOID OF LOST SOULS - SEVENTH RING - TIMELESS**

Varlden spills over the side of the bridge. He grabs on with one hand, hangs over the dark pit.

Undara steps on Varlden's hand.

UNDARA

You. Will. Burn.

Undara raises his foot - a SHADOW ARROW strikes him in the shoulder. Slowly, he turns...

Another arrow strikes him in the gut. He staggers. A third arrow nails him between the eyes.

Undara spills over the side and plummets toward the pit.

Varlden's grip weakens. A **FEMALE SHADOW** with BRIGHT ORANGE eyes leans over the side -

- and reaches. Varlden grips her hand. She pulls him up.

Varlden cautiously steps away from Female Shadow.

VARLDEN

Who are you?

She places a hand over her heart...

FEMALE SHADOW  
Horsu enra, arsor.

VARLDEN  
I don't understand...

FEMALE SHADOW  
Inrano heil.

VARLDEN  
No... no, you can't be...

Female Shadow BRIGHTENS - Varlden shields his eyes - slowly, Female Shadow transforms into Zephora.

Varlden tearfully acknowledges her.

VARLDEN  
Zephora...

Varlden steps forward, reaches out -

- his hand passes through her cheek. He retracts his hand. She turns transparent, sadly smiles.

Varlden shamefully hangs his head.

VARLDEN  
I failed you...

ZEPHORA  
I don't blame you.

VARLDEN  
You should. I started this... war.  
I formed a pact with Dormak. Every  
(MORE)

VARLDEN (cont'd)  
death is on me... including yours.  
This is all my fault...  
(sincerely)  
...but I can save you, Zephora...

ZEPHORA  
No.

**EXT. TREKOLAN WOODS - CLEARING - NIGHT**

Cass sits back against a tree. Varlden's body ARCHES upward.

Cass goes to Varlden's side. Varlden's skin turns pale. Cass checks his pulse - NOTHING.

Cass drops back, sighs...

**EXT. THE VOID OF LOST SOULS - SEVENTH RING - TIMELESS**

Zephora, in physical form, studies her hand. Tears drip down her face, she looks to -

- transparent Varlden.

ZEPHORA  
Why?

VARLDEN  
You deserve to live more than I...

He proudly smiles.

VARLDEN  
...and because this is my chance to make things right. You're pure. You can be what I could never be.

(beat)  
...a fair, a just ruler. Our people will need you, Zephora. And Tevara. Tell him... tell him not to aspire to be what I was, but follow a path of his own. Take care of him, and all our people, as I know you can.

ZEPHORA  
Father...

Varlden collects the SOUL STAR. He hands it to Zephora...

VARLDEN

In the heart of the Trekolan woods,  
a Huntsman waits. Give him this...  
fulfill my promise to him.

She reluctantly takes the Soul Star.

ZEPHORA

I can save you, when I get b-

VARLDEN

No...

ZEPHORA

Why?!

VARLDEN

Because that is selfish. And you're  
not selfish, Zephora...

He reaches out...

VARLDEN

...do not become me.

A PORTAL OPENS - they acknowledge it.

VARLDEN

Go.

ZEPHORA

Come with me. We can leave together  
- start again. You can live.

VARLDEN

I would be nothing but a shadow...  
(RE: Sobbing Woman)  
...besides, I belong here.

ZEPHORA

A Shadow you may be but my father I  
will see. Come with me.

VARLDEN

Zephora...

Varlden thrusts his hands forward - a magic blast hits her -  
and she falls through the portal. The portal closes.

VARLDEN

Goodbye.

**EXT. THE GRAND PALACE - GREAT BALCONY - NIGHT**

Dormak swats a lightning bolt and lunges -

- at NOTHING. He stops in his tracks, hunts the area. GROWLS in frustration. The FLAP of WINGS draws his attention -

- to the battlements. Rakan WHACKS Dormak with her wing. He spills to the ground.

Dragonbane slides across to Orion's feet. Orion picks it up.

Horns protrude through Dormak's skull. Thick SHOULDER BLADES pierce his flesh. His body broadens.

Orion cautiously steps back.

Dormak rises. Cracks his neck from side to side and rolls his shoulders. He glares at his free hand.

NOTE: Dormak has a DEEPER, MORE PROFOUND, MENACING voice.

DORMAK

This form... is weak...

Rakan perches on the battlements, GROWLS.

Dormak faces her - she snaps at him - he clenches a fist - her mouth snaps shut, she MOANS.

DORMAK

Know your place, Dragon.

Dormak opens his fist - a blast of energy knocks Rakan over the side -

ORION

Rakan-

- Dormak faces Orion, clenches a fist - Orion hovers forward  
- Dormak grabs him by the throat and squeezes.

Orion plunges Dragonbane through Dormak's gut. Dormak looks down, smirks, stares Orion in the eye.

DORMAK

Foolish child.

Dormak disarms Orion and tosses him to the ground.

Orion weakly pushes up -

- Dormak raises Dragonbane, inspects it... and BREAKS it in half. He tosses the halves over the battlements.

DORMAK  
So you're the prophesied savior...  
we meet at last.

ORION  
(dauntingly)  
Erenius.

Dormak raises Soulrend.

The world DARKENS - LOCUSTS swarm from the sky - and engulf the entire city.

Dormak approaches Orion - backhands the air - Orion spins through the air and slams into a wall -

- BLACK VINES pierce the wall and hold him in place. A vine wraps around his neck. He CHOKES.

Dormak disappears and reappears in front of Orion - he grabs Orion by the cheeks, studies him.

DORMAK  
You have so much potential... you could be much more, Orion. Yet you squander it on this petty quest to save your kind from damnation, when even you know, saving them shall in the end destroy you.

ORION  
You may kill me... but Dawnbringer will stop you.

DORMAK  
Dawnbringer can't stop me if he's never born. Did you think I didn't know? I see ALL.

**EXT. VALYR - HARBOR - NIGHT**

Tevara keeps an eye on the city. Lia sits on a crate.

LIA  
I feel as if I'm wasted here. We should be in the city, helping.

TEVARA  
There's nothing to help, Lia. It's up to Orion and Edwin now.

She squints...

LIA

And you're OK with trusting Asara  
to save us all?

TEVARA

Yes.

LIA

Why is that?

Tevara sighs...

TEVARA

I see a world of equal rule between  
all species. Humans, Elves, Asara -  
(scoffs)  
...even Dwarves, though they irk me  
something rotten.

LIA

You honestly believe that can be  
achieved?

TEVARA

I do now.

(beat)

There was a time I believed Elf and  
Asara could not coexist, but Orion,  
and Edwin, showed me otherwise. My  
father was wrong - and I was blind.

She nods "I understand".

LIA

When I was growing up, I saw Elves  
burn a village to the ground. From  
that point on, I thought you all  
evil bastards...

(beat)

...but you're different than them.  
Flawed, but not awful.

TEVARA

I'll take that as a compliment...

They share a "look". Giselle approaches.

GISELLE

Where's Edwin?

LIA

He's gone to see his father. He'll  
be back soon, don't worry.

GISELLE  
You're lying...

A SHADOW'S HEAD emerges from the water. Its eyes open...

GISELLE  
I know when someone's lying to me.  
He's not coming back, is he?

Lia looks to Tevara.

GISELLE  
Is he dead?

LIA  
No, no he's not... he's... he's-

The Shadow grabs Giselle and drags her into the water. Lia and Tevara jump to action.

LIA  
GISELLE?!?!

Lia reaches into the water. Nothing.

LIA  
GISELLE?!?!

Tevara pulls Lia back.

LIA  
What are you-

Tevara dives into the water. Lia leans over the side.

LIA  
Please...

**EXT. HARBOR - UNDERWATER - NIGHT**

Shadow drags Giselle into the dark depths. She SCREAMS -  
- Tevara swims after them. A SHADOW grabs his arm. Tevara punches it in the face. Another grabs his leg, he kicks it.

Giselle reaches our for help.

Tevara draws his sword and decapitates a shadow. He dives deeper - slashes a Shadow in half.

Tevara's free hand LIGHTS UP - he hurls magic at the Shadow - the magic hits the Shadow -

- Giselle squirms free and struggles. Her eyes widen.

Tevara grabs Giselle - hurls magic at an oncoming shadow - he swims Giselle to the surface.

A Shadow grabs Tevara's leg. Tevara wriggles, forces Giselle toward the surface - and slashes at the Shadow.

Another Shadow grabs Tevara's arm. More shadows approach...

**EXT. VALYR - HARBOR - NIGHT**

Giselle surfaces and GASPS for air. Lia leans over and reels her in, pulls her onto the deck. She checks her over.

LIA

Are you alright?!

GISELLE

(gasping)

I'm... OK... where is... he?

**EXT. HARBOR - UNDERWATER - NIGHT**

Tevara valiantly fights. The shadows overpower him. A Shadow rips the sword from his hand -

- they drag Tevara into the depths.

**EXT. VALYR - HARBOR - NIGHT**

Shadows emerge. Giselle SCREAMS. Lia fends them off with an OAR. They climb onto the deck -

- Elves kick, slash and shove Shadows into the water.

A ray of light approaches from underwater. The light strikes shadows and pulls them into the water.

A shadow clings onto the deck and reaches for Giselle. Light wraps around it. It HISSES as the light drags it underwater.

**EXT. HARBOR - UNDERWATER - NIGHT**

Light pulls EVERY SHADOW toward the depths, like a magnet. They reach for the surface -

- Tevara pulls his arm back. The light yanks them down.

Tevara GASPS for air as the dark depths swallow them whole.

**INT. THE GRAND PALACE - THRONE ROOM - NIGHT**

Edwin barges through the doors, stumbles forward -  
- the GENOFORGE remains in the OBELISK. Its light pulsates.  
Edwin staggers toward it - and finds SERIN. Serin sees him.  
Edwin drops to one knee.

SERIN  
Edwin...

Serin tends to Edwin. Edwin scowls at him.

EDWIN  
Get away from me...

SERIN  
It's me, Edwin. It's me.

EDWIN  
Father?

Edwin painfully GROANS. Golden light ebbs from him.

EDWIN  
(RE: Genoforge)  
You need... to remove it...

SERIN  
I can't remove it, Edwin. If I did,  
everything would burn. I can't stop  
it now, it's too late.

Serin props Edwin up.

SERIN  
Don't give into it. Fight it. You  
are strong, Edwin.

EDWIN  
I don't think... I am...

Edwin shoves Serin away, clenches both fists and tenses up.

EDWIN  
You need to go... I can't fight it.  
I can't stop it... GO!

SERIN  
I'm not leaving you, son.

EDWIN  
Then kill me.

Edwin tosses a dagger at Serin's feet.

EDWIN  
I don't want... to be a demon... I  
don't want to...

Edwin ARCHES backward - the light engulfs him.

EDWIN  
...AARGGGHHHHHHHH!!!!!!

**EXT. THE GRAND PALACE - GREAT BALCONY - NIGHT**

Dormak's eyes burst open. They glare white. The white fades. He breathes deeply.

Orion struggles in the vines.

DORMAK  
Your knowledge is empowering, Orion  
- so much to do...

Dormak clenches a fist.

DORMAK  
...but not like this. This body is  
withering. It's weak. But yours...

Dormak looks Orion up/down.

DORMAK  
...yours is strong! You wielded my  
blade... the only mortal to ever do  
so, yes, you're the one. You're not  
their savior - you're my salvation.

Dormak extends one hand - Orion LURCHES - his shadow peels away from him -

- ERENIUS' SHADOW emerges from within Dormak. BROAD, HORNED, FIERCE and EVIL. DARK RED EYES hold FLAME within.

Erenius' Shadow splits away from Dormak - Dormak collapses - Soulrend CLANGS off the ground.

ERENIUS  
I am reborn.

Orion's Shadow grabs Erenius by the throat. Erenius returns the favor - they struggle...

Zephora's eyes open. She GASPS for air and sits up. Notices the SOUL STAR in her hand.

Orion's Shadow and Erenius fight for control. Erenius' eyes light up in flame. He overpowers Orion's Shadow.

Zephora crawls for a bow, grabs it.

Dormak scoots back in abject terror.

Erenius reaches for Orion's body. Orion's Shadow grabs his arm and yanks him away.

Zephora loads an arrow, aims at Erenius and Orion's Shadow.

Orion's Shadow notices Zephora - grabs and pulls Erenius in close, traps him - Erenius squirms, GROWLS.

Zephora shoots the arrow -

- the arrow penetrates Orion's Shadow and strikes Erenius in the chest - light shoots from both of them.

Dormak shields his eyes. Zephora collapses to the ground.

Orion's Shadow ebbs light. Erenius ebbs darkness. Light and dark merge together - they separate -

- Orion's Shadow returns to Orion's body. Orion awakens...

Light wraps around Erenius. He tries to break free. Light restrains and traps Erenius in place.

Orion breaks free of the vines, drops to the ground and goes for Soulrend -

- Erenius breaks free of one restraint.

Orion plunges Soulrend through Erenius' chest. Darkness and light shoot out of Erenius' back.

ERENIUS

You may destroy my shadow, Orion...  
but I will rise again...

ORION

I know.

ERENIUS

Then I'll see you soon...

Orion rips Soulrend away - Erenius' shadow expels a wave of immense energy -

- Orion skids backwards, his feet grind up stone.

Erenius extends his arms in a crucifix gesture and explodes into light - the light FIZZLES away - cinders rain down.

Orion tiredly drops to his knees, bows his head.

ZEPHORA

Orion...

He looks up. Zephora ambles toward him, hand to her gut -

- Dormak sneaks up behind Zephora, wraps an arm around her neck and holds her as a shield.

Orion struggles to his feet, Soulrend in hand.

DORMAK

Give me Soulrend... or she dies...

GRAVEN (O.S.)

No.

Zephora bites Dormak's hand. He YELLS, releases her. She stumbles forward - Orion stops her momentum -

- Dormak GROWLS, turns around - Graven stares at him.

GRAVEN

You did this to me. You turned me into a monster...

DORMAK

I gave you a second chance!

GRAVEN

AFTER YOU STOLE MY FIRST!

Graven draws his sword.

DORMAK

You would betray the Darkness for THEM?! They will never see you as equal, Graven.

ORION

He's not betraying the Darkness...

(beat)

...he's ending YOU.

Graven drives his sword through Dormak's chest and violently twists the blade.

GRAVEN

(intently)

Darkness will fall... but you will  
not live to see it. Your throne is  
MINE... my lord.

DORMAK

Thank you...

Graven plunges the sword deeper. Dormak GASPS, his head hits  
Graven's shoulder...

Graven rips the sword away. Dormak drops to the ground.

Orion protects Zephora. Graven looks at them.

Dormak dies. His body disintegrates into ashes...

Graven sheathes his sword. Smoke engulfs him - he disappears  
- and the smoke disperses.

ZEPHORA

Is it over?

Orion acknowledges the GOLDEN LIGHT BEAM.

ORION

There's one more thing to do...

**INT. THE GRAND PALACE - THRONE ROOM - NIGHT**

The Obelisk brightens. The Genoforge overcharges.

Orion and Zephora approach from the grand balcony - Orion  
stops her - she looks on.

Orion rounds the throne. His face falls -

- SERIN, dead in the throne, ELVEN SWORD plunged through his  
chest, eyes wide open.

Zephora WINCES - DEMON EDWIN holds a dagger to her neck and  
walks her toward Orion - she struggles.

ORION

Edwin...

EDWIN

Drop the sword.

Orion looks at Soulrend, then the Genoforge.

**ORION**

I came here to change the past...  
and I intend to do so.

Orion turns and plunges Soulrend through the GENOFORGE -  
- golden light sprays across the room. Edwin YELLS and drops  
to the floor - Zephora staggers forward, shields her eyes.  
Orion's eyes light up gold. Golden light transfers from the  
Genoforge into him and from him into the Genoforge.  
A wave of immense energy sweeps across the room -

**EXT. VALYR - NIGHT**

- the energy wave sweeps across the kingdom. Golden flakes  
drift down over the city.

**EXT. VALYR - HARBOR - NIGHT**

Giselle, Lia, Naval Captain and the Elves gaze skyward as  
the energy washes across the sky.

**EXT. THE SCORCHED PLAINS - NIGHT**

Golden flakes drift down over the encampment... onto Wesirt.  
Wesirt's eyes open.

**EXT. TREKOLAN WOODS - CLEARING - NIGHT**

Cass covers Kera's body in the sheet. WHOOSH. He looks up -  
- golden light streaks across the sky. Flakes drift down...  
onto Varlden's body.

Varlden's eyes burst open. He GASPS for air.  
Kera MOVES under the sheet. Cass notices. His eyes go wide.

**INT. THE GRAND PALACE - THRONE ROOM - NIGHT**

Edwin violently COUGHS. He looks at his hands. CLANG -  
- the elven sword hits the floor. Serin stands up, falls to  
the floor. Zephora checks on him.

The Genoforge EXPLODES. The obelisk crumbles.

**EXT. VALYR - NIGHT**

CIVILIANS and GUARDS return to NORMAL. They study each other - PARENTS go to their CHILDREN.

MALC (Human) wakes up... he GROANS, sets a hand to his head.

**EXT. VALYR - HARBOR - NIGHT**

Tevara surfaces and GASPS for air. Lia and Giselle notice.

LIA

Tevara?

Tevara swims to the deck. Elves pull him up. Lia and Giselle check on him. Naval Captain smiles.

NAVAL CAPTAIN

Thought we lost you, lad.

TEVARA

What happened?

LIA

There was a light, I think-

TEVARA

Orion... he did it.

Giselle hugs Tevara. He gently claps her on the back.

GISELLE

(emotionally)

You saved me... thank you...

TEVARA

You're more than welcome, Giselle.

More than welcome...

Lia looks to the palace.

LIA

Edwin...

**INT. THE GRAND PALACE - THRONE ROOM - NIGHT**

A tiny Genoforge shard rests on the floor - Orion is gone.

EDWIN

(RE: Orion, teary)

Oh brother... you... dammit... you  
stupid... no... NO...

Tears escape Zephora's eyes.

SERIN  
My son...

Serin raises the shard, hangs his head and closes his eyes.

ZEPHORA  
Where is he?

SERIN  
He's gone.

ZEPHORA  
No... no, he can't be gone. He...  
he stopped it. He saved us...

SERIN  
He did... he saved us all. And for  
that a price had to be paid...  
(emotionally)  
...I should've paid it.

ZEPHORA  
We can bring him back.

Zephora shows him the Soul Star.

ZEPHORA  
We can use this, bring him back...

SERIN  
There's nothing to bring back.

ZEPHORA  
We have to try!

Serin consoles her.

ZEPHORA  
We have to...

SERIN  
Though the years have parted you,  
the love you carried for him still  
resides within. I understand what  
you're feeling, Zephora. But there  
is nothing left of him. He's gone.

She CRIES... and seeks comfort in Serin's arms.

Edwin approaches Serin. Serin acknowledges him. Edwin sets a hand on Serin's shoulder and share a "respectful" look.

**EXT. TREKOLAN WOODS - CLEARING - NIGHT**

Cass kneels in front of Kera. She nudges his chest with her head. He strokes her.

CASS  
I'll never lose you again.

Varlden grips his gut as he walks away.

CASS  
Hey... where are you going?

VARLDEN  
To find my children.

Cass and Kera approach him. Kera GROWLS.

CASS  
Easy, Kera.  
(beat)  
They could be anywhere.

VARLDEN  
It doesn't matter where they are, I  
have to find them.

Cass nods... offers Varlden his flask. Varlden accepts it.

CASS  
(RE: Kera)  
Thank you, for bringing her back.

VARLDEN  
I didn't bring her back, Cassius...  
(sadly)  
...Orion Carvona did.

CASS  
Then offer him my thanks when you  
see him. May your journey be safe.

Varlden gives a slight nod "yes".

CASS  
Kera, come.

Cass and Kera walk in the opposite direction.

VARLDEN  
Remember his name, Cassius. What he  
did... it can never be forgotten.

**INT. THE GRAND PALACE - THRONE ROOM - DAY**

Edwin, Tevara, Lia, Giselle, Varlden, Zephora, Arndas, Malc, Rakan (human form, bracelet) all gather around a PEDESTAL -

- Serin places the Genoforge Shard upon it.

SERIN

May we never forget his sacrifice.  
What Orion did, it didn't just end  
the war, it brought us together...  
Elves. Asara. Dragons. Humans. He  
united us. He gave us all another  
chance. A new beginning.

Malc grips Rakan's hand. She looks at him. He gives her a slight nod. She slightly smiles.

SERIN

I only wish... he could see it with  
his own eyes.

Zephora holds in her emotion. Varlden sets a hand on her shoulder. He rubs it with her own.

SERIN

Too long has conflict been between  
ours races. But no more. For today,  
I declare peace.

Serin and Varlden exchange looks. Varlden nods "yes".

Tevara sets a hand on Edwin's shoulder. Edwin rubs the space between his brows, fights a losing battle with his emotions.

SERIN

And wherever he may be, may peace,  
at last, be upon him.

**INT. THE DARK FORTRESS - CRYPT - DAY**

Kalari meditates. DEAD SNAKES all around her.

Graven steps between the dead serpents. Consults her. She opens her eyes, faces him.

She offers him her hands. He grips them.

KALARI

Close your eyes, only then can you  
see through mine.

Graven closes his eyes. He tenses up.

*INT. CAVE - SANCTUARY - NIGHT (FLASH)*

An OVAL PORTAL spirals on the wall... Dark liquid slithers along walls and wraps around stalactites like snakes.

A HOODED BOWMAN approaches a central platform -

- a PEDESTAL stands on the platform - A GOLD GENOFORGE rests atop the pedestal.

Bowman raises the Gold Genoforge from the pedestal.

**INT. THE DARK FORTRESS - CRYPT - DAY**

Graven and Kalari part hands. They share a dark look.

GRAVEN  
There is another...

CUT TO BLACK:

SUPER:      "AGE OF SHADOWS: THE PRECURSOR WAR"

ROLL CREDITS...