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 HORNs 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...

Zephrora 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.
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, Eirkanu.

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.
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.

(WESIRT)

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 GASPS. 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?
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...


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
KERAI!

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... breathe 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.

Balog summoned 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
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/blockes 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!

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

Te vara rushes up the staircase, runs into a magical barrier.

Balog 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...
Then kill me. Tevara hesitates.

Kill me, or trust me.

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.

Go!

INT. BLUDHEARTH CAVERN - THE SANCTUARY - NIGHT

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

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.


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.

Balog 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 - BLUDHEART 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


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.


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
donw 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 BREATHERS 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


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.

ZEPHIRA
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 unmask 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.
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 BLOODED 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)
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 kneels 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
    (gaspng)
    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...

Seren 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.

ZEPHIRA
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...