

THE PRINCESS OF PLANET XERONIS

WRITTEN BY BENJAMIN NKOMO

FADE IN:

EXT. DARKNESS

Text on screen:

"I... will make myself known unto him in a vision,
and will speak unto him in a dream." – Numbers 12:6 KJV

FADE OUT.

FADE IN:

EXT. PLANET XERONIS – SKY ABOVE GORGE – DAY

BEN (23, African) freefalls through choking fog – arms flailing,
eyes wild.

Below: jagged mountains pulse with glowing lava. The planet
breathes fire.

NARRATOR (V.O., 12, nerdy)
Yeah... this is Ben.
Two days ago? Earth.
Today? Screaming toward volcanic doom.

SLOW MOTION:

Ash and debris drift in surreal stillness.

A blur of violet – a DRAGON swoops in.

WHOOSH! WONDERBEE (2, sleek, violet scales) catches Ben mid-air.

BOOM! MARSMODO – hulking, horned, nightmare beast – slams into
Wonderbee, knocking her sideways into stone.

EXT. CLIFF LEDGE - CONTINUOUS

Wonderbee drops Ben safely onto a narrow ledge. She spins in the air, tail whipping, breathing fire.

NANCY (O.S.)

Hop on!

Ben looks up. NANCY (17, blonde, fierce) hovers on a levitating alien BIKE. A puppy, SPOT (3 months, Jack Russell), pokes out of her lap.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

Nancy.

Alien princess. Possibly royalty, possibly insane.

She's also why Ben's stuck here.

Ben scrambles aboard.

The bike vanishes into fog.

EXT. CANYON OUTSKIRTS - MOMENTS LATER

Silence. The bike hovers midair, mist trailing off its tail fins.

Nancy stares back toward the gorge. Worry in her eyes.

BEN

We can go back.

NANCY

And do what?

Ben looks down at the dashboard - hesitating.

FLASHBACK:

EXT. CAMPSITE - EARTH - NIGHT

SUPER: "2 Days Ago"

Ben hides in trees. In a clearing: a strange hovering BIKE.
Empty.

He reaches for its controls —

ZAP! A surge of alien energy jolts through him.
His hand recoils, numb and trembling. He turns to flee — but the
bike flashes a brilliant beam into his back.

Ben vanishes in a burst of shimmering particles, absorbed into a
glowing cylinder mounted on the bike.

From shadows, Nancy returns. Climbs on. Unaware of her new
“passenger.”

The bike rises. A wormhole swirls open above — she vanishes into
it.

BACK TO SCENE:

EXT. CANYON OUTSKIRTS - DAY

Ben's hand trembles, remembering.

BEN

This thing's got more than hover tech.

He touches the dashboard — lights flicker.

EXT. GORGE BELOW - SAME TIME

Wonderbee lies crumpled in rubble. Marsmodo looms above her,
triumphant.

NANCY (O.S.)

Hey, ugly!

Marsmodo turns.

Nancy raises her hand to the dashboard — SLAMS IT.

FLASH! A surge of LIGHTNING arcs from the bike into the clouds.
Thunder cracks. Bolts spiral downward — slam into Marsmodo.

He SCREAMS, convulses – and tumbles into the abyss.

Silence. Ben and Nancy – both relieved.

EXT. GORGE EDGE – CONTINUOUS

Nancy lands the bike. She and Ben rush to Wonderbee.

NANCY

Brave girl. Can you move?

WONDERBEE

(groggy)

I'm good. We can get out of here.

SPOT (raspy voice)

Was about to suggest that.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

Yes. The dog talks.

Don't ask.

EXT. COUNTRYSIDE – DAY

The trio bursts out of the fog – tense silence trailing them.

EXT. GROVE – CONTINUOUS

They soar above rivers and trees, easing toward a secluded region.

EXT. MANSION MATTHIAS – CONTINUOUS

A gothic mansion rises amid ancient trunks.

NANCY (O.S)

Since you are an alien...

I can't just bring you into the city.

Nancy lowers the bike. Ben hops off, looking up at the stone facade.

BEN

Looks... older.

NANCY

Wait here. I'll check for them inside.

With Spot in tow, she and Wonderbee vanish behind the massive doors.

Ben turns at a snap — growling.

A pack of DOGS — GREAT DANE, GREYHOUND, BLOODHOUND, DALMATIAN — step from the trees. German Shepherds flank the sides. Eyes locked on Ben.

BEN

Easy...

MATTHIAS (O.S.)

Enough.

The pack freezes.

A BLACK GREAT DANE strides out — calm, regal. Nancy, Wonderbee, and Spot follow.

NANCY

Ben, this is Matthias.

MATTHIAS (deep voice)

Welcome. You'll be safe here.

BEN

Thank you.

Matthias withdraws. Nancy steps closer.

NANCY (soft)

I can't return you to Earth yet —
The wormhole still needs two weeks to stabilize.

Ben looks around. Sighs. Nods at her. They exchange a dry smile.

NANCY

Wonderbee needs medical attention.
She can't stay.
(hesitates)
You saved her. If you weren't there...

BEN

You pressed the button. You did.

SPOT

Heroes press buttons... empirically verified.

Ben chuckles. Nancy studies him a moment.

BEN

Can I ask...? Since coming to this world...
Dreams I've been having... they feel real.

The EMERALD AMULET in Nancy's neck glows for a second - a pulse
Ben chooses to ignore.

NANCY

(realises)
Ah... dream-walking.
It's a kind of a magic you are born with.

BEN

Magic...?

Nancy points to Wonderbee and Spot in succession - two times.

BEN

Oh...

Ben gets her point but they don't.

NANCY

I will ask some experts about your case.
There's an orchard round back if you get hungry.
(BEAT)
And - I'll bring real food tomorrow.

BEN

I'd appreciate that.

She steps in, hugs him. It catches Ben off guard – but he doesn't pull away. His hand hovers, unsure.

BEN

Um... tomorrow then.

She lets go. He masks his fluster.
She hides a mischievous smile.
She mounts her bike. Spot scurries into place.

NANCY

Aren't you going to say goodbye?

SPOT

I hate goodbyes.

NANCY

What's this? You love him already?

SPOT

Stop teasing me.

Nancy laughs.
They lift off. Wonderbee ascends beside them. Nancy looks back once. Then off they go.

Ben turns to the mansion.

INT. BEN'S ROOM - LATER

Matthias watches as Ben pulls the sheet off a bed.
Dust clouds rise. Ben is appalled.
Matthias is clueless... seeing nothing wrong with this.

INT. PALACE HALLWAY - SAME

Nancy storms through. Spot follows.

AUNT JOSEPHINE intercepts her – 40s, sharp, silk-clad, unimpressed.

AUNT JOSEPHINE

You look like you wrestled a chimney.
Is that...
(takes a whiff)
Dragon fire?

NANCY (under breath)

Fire is fire...

AUNT JOSEPHINE

What was that?

NANCY

Nothing.

AUNT JOSEPHINE

You're meeting nobility in minutes.

She yanks Nancy down another hall.

EXT. ORCHARD - SUNSET

Ben washes a red fruit. Bites. Juices spill. He exhales, at last fed.

The sky deepens. He gazes toward the woods.

FADE TO:

INT. BEN'S ROOM - NIGHT

Moonlight filters in. Ben sleeps soundly.

DREAM SEQUENCE:

Darkness. Stillness. But Ben hears everything.

BEN'S DREAM DOUBLE (V.O.)

You survived. But you're being hunted now.
This house has secrets. And traps. Use them.

Ben stirs. Frozen. Sleep paralysis.

His eyes flutter.

SFX: HOWLING in the distance.

INT. BEN'S ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Ben wakes with a jolt. Grabs his lantern powered by a Glowing Crystal. Moves to the window.

CUT:

EXT. MANSION MATTHIAS - CONTINUOUS

Ben steps outside - stares into the woods. Brings the lantern eye level. Squints.

A shadow shifts.

A SEVEN-FOOT BIPEDAL WOLF steps into view. It howls.

Others answer.

Ben drops the lantern and bolts inside. Locks the door.

INT. MANSION - CONTINUOUS

BOOM - doors blast open.

Ben is flung back. Before he can get up, a hulking WOLF looms over him (WOLF#1), muzzle dripping.

Suddenly - five DOGS tackle it. Chaos erupts.

Ben scrambles to the stairs.

He glimpses Wolf#1 swinging a dog against the wall.

MATTHIAS

Upstairs - now!

Ben dashes up.

WINDOWS SHATTER - WOLF#2 rolls in through glass.
Matthias attacks him.

Wolf#1 breaks free, locks eyes with Ben, and charges.

INT. FIRST FLOOR PASSAGE - CONTINUOUS

Ben skids to a halt as Wolf#1 claws onto the ledge in front of him from just one jump.

Ben turns - runs through the chamber.
Wolf#1 follows, pounding across stone.

INT. GROUND FLOOR - CONTINUOUS

Matthias and new dogs corner Wolf#2.
But he throws them off, escapes through the door.

Matthias stands over the body of a fallen dog. Silent.
Then he growls in rage.

MATTHIAS

After him!

Dogs pursue.

EXT. MANSION - CONTINUOUS

Wolf#2 scales the exterior wall - claws digging into brick.
Dogs bark below - powerless to follow.

INT. FIRST FLOOR - CONTINUOUS

Ben spots a LEVER ahead. He lunges and pulls.

CHAIN GATES drop, trapping the hallway.

Wolf#1 slams against steel - furious but blocked.

BEN

They work...?

More glass shatters - WOLF#2 enters from above.

Ben races upstairs as WOLF#3 bursts in.

The two wolves lock eyes – chase after him.

INT. SECOND FLOOR – CONTINUOUS

Ben slams a lever. A concealed IRON BLOCK ejects from the wall – CRASHES into Wolf#3 and sends him flying out the window.

EXT. MANSION GROUNDS – CONTINUOUS

Wolf#3 crashes through trees, claws against trunks. He survives.

INT. THIRD FLOOR – CONTINUOUS

Ben turns – but a CLAW slams him into a wall.

WOLF#2 transforms mid-throttle into a MAN with dreadlocks.

Ben gasps. Speechless.

DREADLOCKED MAN

You... her scent. Why... WHERE IS SHE?!

Ben pushes him – slams a BUTTON on the wall.

TRAPDOOR OPENS – the man drops.

INT. GROUND FLOOR – CONTINUOUS

No spikes. Just hard floor.

He limps. DOGS SWARM.

A dying SCREAM.

EXT. MANSION GROUNDS – CONTINUOUS

Wolf#1 breaks through window – meets Wolf#3.

Too late to save their member.

Wolf#1 morphs into MAN-WITH-LOCKS (AFRICAN, 30'S).

MAN-WITH-LOCKS

(grief)
Brother...!

Dogs gather before them, growling, snarling, lips curled back.
Wolf#3 snarls back – then vanishes into the trees.

MAN-WITH-LOCKS

(to Ben, anguish and rage)
You will pay for this...!

He transforms again. Disappears into the woods.

EXT. BALCONY - CONTINUOUS

BEN watches, shaking.

BLACKOUT.

FADE IN:

EXT. ONIS CITY - PALACE - MORNING

Sunlight spills across the fortified capital. Flying carriages
hum over towers. The palace gates open with ceremonial grace.

INT. PALACE - WIDE CHAMBER - CONTINUOUS

AUNT JOSEPHINE marches NANCY through the chamber. MAIDS bustle,
adjusting gowns.

NANCY

Why do they always ambush us?

AUNT JOSEPHINE

If you learned to be proper, surprises wouldn't
feel like ambushes. Your cousin is... thorough.

The maids curtsy and exit. GUARDS open the chamber doors.

KING GORDON (60s) enters with ESMERALDA (36), regal,
calculating.

Esmeralda and Aunt Josephine hug. Release.

ESMERALDA

Nine years... and not even a letter?

AUNT JOSEPHINE

With Gordon? I assumed you'd rather stay sane.

KING GORDON

She's been traveling at my request.

ESMERALDA

I imagined you buried in parchment, not requesting reunions.

They chuckle. Esmeralda turns to Nancy.

KING GORDON

You remember her, don't you? Last time, she was still clinging to your hems.

Nancy curtsies – a bit off.

NANCY

Madam Esmeralda.

ESMERALDA

Still raising eyebrows, I see.
I arrive and find the kingdom buzzing.

She circles Nancy, inspecting posture and poise – adjusts her chin.

KING GORDON

Eyes are on her. I want her council-ready.

NANCY

Lessons?

KING GORDON

Protocol. Diplomacy. Dignity. Esmeralda's in charge.

(beat)

That's a king's order.

NANCY

(exaggerates)
Yes, your highness.

Josephine stifles a grin.

ESMERALDA

We start tomorrow. For now, a tour of the capital.

Delighted, she links arms with the king.
She nods to Aunt Josephine. They exit.

INT. SKY - LATER

WONDERBEE carries Nancy over the city. The palace fades behind them.

EXT. GROVE - MANSION MATTHIAS - DAY

Nancy lands. The mansion looms silent.

INT. MANSION - STAIRWAY - MOMENTS LATER

Bloodstains. Shattered wood. Quiet.

BEN sits at the foot of the stairs, whittling a spear.

WONDERBEE

Doesn't smell good.

NANCY

Is that... blood?

BEN

Three wolves attacked us last night.
One dog dead. One wolf too.
The rest escaped. They turned into men.
(BEAT)
This world... I am numb now.

Nancy had caught her breath. She drops beside him.
Ben drops the finished spear onto a growing pile.

BEN (CONT'D)

Try the portal again. Please.

NANCY

And skip safety protocols?
Travelers are turned inside-out,
Fried or worse by attempting that.

Buries her face in her hands, conflicted.

NANCY (CONT'D)

It's a no-no.

Ben tries to argue - hesitates. He reaches for another stick - begins to whittle.

BEN

I don't want to die here.

NANCY

(raises her head)
We can't risk the city because...

BEN

I know, I know. Illegal alien.

NANCY

When the scans go off - execution on the spot.

Ben clicks his tongue in annoyance. Whittles faster.

NANCY

(noticing the spears)
What are those?

BEN

Plan A.

Matthias enters with two dogs. No words.

INT. PALACE - NANCY'S CHAMBERS - SUNSET

Nancy gazes out at the horizon. WONDERBEE enters.

NANCY

Wonderbee... I need a favor.

WONDERBEE

This about Ben?

Nancy nods her head.

WONDERBEE

Then say no more.

NANCY

Do be careful.

She exits through the balcony. Takes flight.

EXT. GROVE - NIGHT

Twin moons hang. Shadows shift in the trees.

INT. MANSION - STAIRWELL - NIGHT

Ben, dozing, clutches a spear.

DREAM START:

Darkness. Stillness. Yet he hears everything.

BEN'S DREAM DOUBLE (V.O.)

You survived again...

Should I just give you mastery over this space?

(BEAT)

If you make it past tonight - perhaps.

(chuckles)

DREAM END:

Ben wakes - startled.

HOWLING in the distance.

He grabs his spear. Moves toward the window.

EXT. WOODS - NIGHT

DOGS chase a decoy wolf into the trees.

INT. UPPER PASSAGEWAY - MOMENTS LATER

SCRATCHING on stone.

SMASH — WOLF#1 crashes through a window. Ben strikes with his spear, running him through.

The wolf howls, then knocks Ben across the room.

Ben rises and sees the MAN-WITH-LOCKS clutching the bloody weapon.

WOLF#3 bursts in. Ben flees.

INT. NEXT CHAMBER - CONTINUOUS

Ben leaps over a gap. Swings from a rope. Wolf#3 falls short and tumbles down —

INSERT: Lands on sharp spears below. Death is instant.

Ben swings off the rope, lands safely.

INT. SECOND FLOOR - CONTINUOUS

Ben returns to find MAN-WITH-LOCKS kneeling, bloodied.

MAN-WITH-LOCKS

Brother...?

He snarls — transforms back into wolf form.

Ben bolts.

INT. FIRST FLOOR - MOMENTS LATER

The wolf charges — a shadow streaks across the wall — then bam, WONDERBEE comes between them.

She slams the wolf into the wall.

Ben escapes.

Wonderbee bites. Flames erupt from her jaws. She swings him down to the ground floor.

The wolf backs away... steps onto a carpet-net.

Ben leaps - grabs and rides a rope down.

The carpet-net cinches tight - the wolf snarls, trapped.

Ben ties it off.

Wonderbee lifts off with the net - rope strains - then snaps.

EXT. GROVE - CONTINUOUS

Wonderbee lifts the trapped wolf skyward.

BEN

Don't kill him - we could question-

FLAMES ignite mid-air. The wolf burns. She drops the fireball.

Ben watches - shaken, exhausted.

FADE OUT.

FADE IN:

INT. MANSION MATTHIAS - LIVING QUARTERS - DAY

BEN devours the food NANCY brought. Fresh clothes and toiletries sit nearby.

He eyes the clothes, amused.

BEN

Thank God.

I was starting to live like an animal.

NANCY

(laughs, then)
 There's a hot shower down the hall.
 Go be civilized.
 (BEAT)
 So... wolf threat officially over?

BEN

Wonderbee and the dogs saved my life.

WONDERBEE

He was doing just fine.

SPOT

(grumbling)
 I should've been here. I'm a better fighter.

NANCY

Exactly why, from today, you're staying here
 with Ben.

Spot gasps, betrayed.

NANCY (CONT'D)

Just a few days.
 Esmeralda's breathing down my neck.
 If I show up with scorch marks again, she'll put
 you up for adoption.

WONDERBEE

I don't mind staying. But your cousin...
 There's something off about her.

NANCY

What do you mean?

WONDERBEE

My instincts say, she is hiding something.

NANCY

Bit extreme. You've barely met her.

WONDERBEE

Read her mind and see.

NANCY

(tenses, shakes head)
That's crossing a line.

BEN

(intrigued)
Wait, what? You can read minds?

She reveals her EMERALD AMULET.

NANCY

With this. A gift from my godmother.
Amplifies certain abilities.

BEN

That's one heck of a toy.

NANCY

Want a demo?

BEN

Sure. I've got nothing to hide.

Nancy rubs the amulet. Her EYES GLOW — a deep emerald.

BEN (CONT'D)

Your eyes... they're glowing.

NANCY

(surprised)
You can see that?

Ben nods.

NANCY (CONT'D)

Even Wonderbee can't. Huh.

BEN

Beautiful.

Wonderbee clears her throat.

BEN (CONT'D)

(quickly)
Her eyes. Just... the glow part. Not—
Never mind.

Nancy smiles — the glow fades.

NANCY

I'm done. One thought stood out —
You're heartbroken. First love?

Exaggerated head turns from Spot and Wonderbee.

SPOT

(mocks)
Oh boy... I thought you had nothing to hide.

WONDERBEE

Ouch! Laundry is out now.

Both laugh at him.

BEN

(scoffs)
You guys are such babies.

Nancy's watch BEEPS.

NANCY

(sighs)
Time's up. I'll be back tomorrow.

BEN

You give me food, shelter —
and I still don't know you.
Maybe next time... stay longer?

NANCY

(smiling)
Maybe.

SPOT

I'll forgive this affront if you bring me a morning treat.

NANCY

(amused)

I'll bring it. Like Ben always says-

ALL

Tomorrow it is!

They laugh. Ben blushes. Nancy gives him a playful nudge as they walk her to her bike.

EXT. MANSION - THIRD FLOOR CRACKED BALCONY - NIGHT

BEN and MATTHIAS sit on the edge. Moonlight glows over the forest. Ben wears his new clothes. Matthias remains watchful.

BEN

Tell me about the wolves.
Why were they after Nancy?

MATTHIAS

You're perceptive than most.

BEN

I'm surprising myself lately.

FLASHBACK - EXT. VALLEY - DAY

MATTHIAS and a pack of dogs hide among trees, spying on a SECRET MEETING.

Below: HOODED FIGURES and BARE-CHESTED SOLDIERS guard two NOBLES in dark robes.

MATTHIAS (V.O.)

The wolves have allied with Bloodrubis.

One lowers his hood - porcelain skin, bald head, red eyes.

BEN (V.O.)

Bloodrubis?

MATTHIAS (V.O.)

A faction that once ruled these lands –
and want them back.

Matthias slips away, unseen.

BACK TO BALCONY

BEN

We need to tell Nancy.

MATTHIAS

This might be bigger than her.
Those weren't just scouts checking out the land.

WONDERBEE (O.S.)

Tell her what?

Wonderbee steps into view.

BEN

There's danger coming. For her.

MATTHIAS

Wolves and Bloodrubis. Working together.

WONDERBEE

Then we protect her. A lookout at all times.
Can I count you in?

MATTHIAS

(rising)
Is there a choice?

He walks away.

EXT. WOODS - NIGHT

Stillness. Faint chirping of crickets.

INT. PALACE - HALLWAY - NIGHT

NANCY creeps toward ESMERALDA's chambers.

Esmeralda opens a LETTER, then enters.

Nancy rubs her amulet.

Eyes GLOW on and off, on and then off.

She frowns.

INT. ESMERALDA'S CHAMBERS - CONTINUOUS

Esmeralda opens a hidden drawer. Pulls out a WOODEN BOX.

A light flickers. A HOLOGRAM of BELSHA (62), cloaked in shadow, appears.

ESMERALDA

Chief... I expected a funeral.
What happened?

Outside the door, Nancy's mind is repelled by a sudden GREEN PULSE.

INT. MIND REALM - ENDLESS VOID

Nancy floats, rings of emerald light spin around her - a shield.

A FLOATING HEAD - BELSHA's ASTRAL FORM - rushes her.

He SLAMS into her shield, startling her.

NANCY

(echoing)
Who are you?

No answer.

NANCY (CONT'D)

(commanding)
Get out of my head!

Her shield pulses. The head vanishes.

INT. PALACE - HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

Nancy stumbles back. Panting. She flees.

INT. ESMERALDA'S CHAMBERS

Belsha stares past the hologram - toward the door.

Esmeralda blinks.

ESMERALDA
Just now... what happened?

BELSHA
I just met your princess.
She's investigating you.

Esmeralda opens the door. No one.

ESMERALDA
Send the contingent.
We are accelerating our plans.

The hologram blinks out.

FADE TO BLACK.

BEN'S DREAM DOUBLE (V.O.)
Like I promised... handing control to you.
Show me how you... Lucid Dream.

ASTRAL PROJECTION SEQUENCE:

INT. BEN'S ROOM - MORNING

Ben's body sleeps. His ASTRAL FORM floats above it -
translucent, glowing faintly.
He rises. Drifts to the window. Hand phases through glass.

EXT. BALCONY - CONTINUOUS

Ben floats outside - watching as NANCY's bike descends.

She walks toward the front doors.

Ben drifts back into his room through the wall.

INT. ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Nancy enters. Passes right through him.
She gazes at his sleeping body... not disturbing his sleep.
She kneels before him, looks at his face - softly smiles.

BEN (ASTRAL)
(noticing)
Do you like me?

Nancy reacts. Looks up, around - alarmed.
Ben freezes. She senses him...?

She hurries to open the shutters - WHITE LIGHT FLOODS THE ROOM.

ASTRAL PROJECTION ENDS.

INT. ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Ben wakes with a gasp - the light blinds him.
Nancy stands silhouetted in sunlight.

NANCY
Wake up, sleepyheads.

BEN
You're early.

NANCY
(heading for the door)
I'm punctual. Get dressed. I'll be downstairs.

Ben glances at Spot and Wonderbee - still fast asleep.

BEN
Yeah... we'll need another hour.

FADE OUT.

FADE IN:

EXT. MANSION MATTHIAS - BACKYARD - MORNING

Ben and Nancy lounge in garden chairs. Nancy flips through a small Xeronian BOOKLET.

NANCY

(reading aloud)

"Dream-Walker: Seer of past, present, and future.
Capable of time compression - seconds become hours."

BEN

Wait... for real?

NANCY

(closes booklet)

Too wordy. Better to learn by practise.
There's a nearby catacomb.
We dream-scout it - like real adventurers.

BEN

Uh... among the dead?

NANCY

(grinning)

Scared?

She stands, heading off to prepare. Ben smiles nervously.

CUT TO:

EXT. CATACOMB ENTRANCE - LATER

A mound of ancient RUBBLE seals the stone entrance.
Nancy and Ben sit cross-legged in its shadow.

BEN

The dreaming kicks in after I fall sleep.

NANCY

Don't worry. I've got magic for that.

She touches his forehead, her AMULET glowing.

Ben slumps – unconscious.

MATCH CUT TO:

ASTRAL REALM – CATACOMB SITE

Ben's ASTRAL FORM rises gently from his body.
He blinks. Nancy's face glows in the dream-light.

NANCY (ASTRAL)

(smirking)
Stop staring.

Ben jumps. Nancy floats beside him in her astral form.

BEN

It worked?

NANCY

I'm not an amateur.
(glances around)
This replica's solid – feels like the waking world.

She tosses a rock. It bounces naturally.

BEN

Never had visitors in my dreams before.

NANCY

(noticing)
You're floating. How?

BEN

(spinning midair)
In dreams, imagination is law.

Nancy tries – awkwardly hops. Ben chuckles.
He glides through the rubble.

BEN (O.S)

Come on.

Nancy hesitates.

Ben reaches out. She takes his hand.

Together, they phase through the debris like ghosts.

CUT TO:

INT. CATACOMB - CONTINUOUS (ASTRAL)

A corridor of ancient bones. Dust floats. Shadows press in.

BEN

Let there be light.

TORCHES ignite down the stone corridor.

NANCY

Who exactly did you just talk to?

BEN

Hmm... my dream architect.

NANCY

(jokes)

Oh, I totally knew that.

They approach skeletal remains.

BEN

What are these?

NANCY

Bloodrubis. This was a tomb for their clan leaders.

BEN

...Are they friendly?

Nancy picks up a SKULL, puppeteers it in a shrill voice.

NANCY (SKULL)

"Dry old me? Sure, I don't bite."

She laughs, then solemnly sets the skull down.

NANCY (CONT'D)

(softer)

Most Bloodrubis keep to themselves.

They continue deeper.

CUT TO:

INT. CATACOMB PASSAGES - LATER

NANCY

Ask your architect if there's treasure.

BEN

(offers hand)

In case we get separated.

NANCY

(teasing)

Smooth excuse to hold hands.

He grins. She takes it.

BEN

Show us the treasure buried here.

Silence.

NANCY

Well?

BEN

Define treasure.

NANCY

(let's go of Ben's hand)

I am Princess of Onis.

Show me what's 'worth' my time.

CUT TO:

INT. SEALED CHAMBER - CONTINUOUS

Nancy blinks - now ALONE in a hidden chamber, inscriptions glowing on the walls.

She scans them, fingers tracing ancient glyphs.

NANCY

"Selection of clan leader via mind invasion combat...
Fatal outcomes transferred through dreams.
Here lie all defeated candidates."

She scans up the wall - names of the fallen.

NANCY (CONT'D)

Dream, why is this important?

Suddenly - her body is PULLED UPWARD.

CUT TO:

EXT. SKY - CONTINUOUS (ASTRAL)

Nancy's astral form streaks across mountain ranges like a comet.

CUT TO:

INT. BLOODRUBI CITADEL - CAVE OFFICE

Nancy lands inside a solemn chamber.

BELSHA, imposing and composed, signs scrolls as six FEMALE GUARDS stand by.

Nancy moves closer to inspect.

He pauses.

BELSHA

I can sense you there.

He nods to the guards.

BELSHA (CONT'D)

Erect a mind barrier.

The chamber SHIFTS — walls dissolve into endless void.

CUT TO:

INT. BELSHA'S DREAM CONSTRUCT

Nancy stands trapped inside a glowing GLASS DOME, surrounded by blackness.

She breathes hard.

NANCY

Dream... get me out.

No answer.

BELSHA appears — a floating disembodied head with smoky trails. Emerald rings swirl around Nancy — defensive.

NANCY (CONT'D)

It's you... Chief Belsha?

BELSHA

Princess. How... inconvenient.

NANCY

(noting her shield's reaction)

Whatever your plans are... attacking me is treason.

The head morphs into his full bloodrubi form — towering.

BELSHA

(dark smile)

You've already seen too much.

You're not leaving this dream.

He grabs her shields — struggles, absorbs them into his cloak.

Nancy draws TWIN DAGGERS.

Belsha EXPANDS — four arms, each conjuring a weapon.

He lunges — Nancy blocks the first blow but is flung backward.

She rolls aside as his blade SHATTERS stone.
She deflects, circles in – but his spears drive her back.

He KICKS her hard. One dagger flies loose.
Nancy crawls – reaches – but Belsha THROWS a spear.
It pierces her hand, pinning it to the floor.

NANCY

AHHHHHH!

CUT TO:

EXT. DREAM SKY ABOVE CATACOMB

Ben, currently looking for Nancy, midair, senses her scream like
a sonic beam.

SOUND:

A Scream-Beam hits his chest – echoes within.

Ben's form GLOWS.

SOUND:

BOOM – he launches east like a meteor.

CUT TO:

INT. BELSHA'S CONSTRUCT – CONTINUOUS

Nancy, bleeding, pinned.
Belsha raises a dream-blade to finish her.

TIME SLOWS–
–and then–

SOUND:

WHIPCRACK!

Ben SLAMS into the arena like a comet.
Dust spirals. Belsha is FLUNG backward.

Ben kneels beside Nancy.

BEN

Close your eyes. You'll feel yourself lift.
Don't resist.

She nods - then blinks.

REVEAL: Nancy now kneels where Ben had hovered.
Ben stumbles nearby, a spear in his hand.

BEN (CONT'D)

(grits teeth)

Dream laws always come with loopholes.

He phases - the wound heals.

NANCY

How?

BEN

Told you not to let go.

Belsha rises.

NANCY

That's mind invasion magic.
If we die here... we die for real.

Ben hesitates. Before he can speak -

BEN'S DREAM DOUBLE (V.O)

Show me... what you can do.

Ben looks around - no one.

BEN

(to Nancy)

Did you hear a voice just now?

Nancy shakes her head. Ben is mystified.

NANCY

Did you hear what I said? Get us out.

Ben shakes his head. He nudges her behind - faces Belsha.

BELSHA

(scoffs)

You think you can defeat me?

BEN

I was twelve when dreams started to become...
my playground.

BELSHA

So be it!

Ben's skin reshapes into full steel.
Belsha expands his cloak - thick smoke fills the space, cutting
off Nancy.

Steel CLANKS. Swords flash and vanish in smoke.
Ben staggers under heavy strikes.

Ben grapples, redirects - traps Belsha's blade.
He grabs at air... and catches Belsha's neck.

Belsha fades back into view, choking in Ben's grip. The smoke
dissolves.

Ben PUMMELS him.

INSERT: Belsha COUGHS BLOOD in waking world.

Guards react.
One becomes a MASSIVE COBRA - wraps Ben.
Steel groans under excessive pressure.
Ben's hand morphs into a blade. SLASHES free.

The cobra SHRIEKS - a woman's voice.
He crushes her head.

INSERT: The guard collapses in the waking world.

Another GUARD conjures CHAINS. Pins Ben.
A GIANT HAMMER falls - slams him down.

Ben PHASES. Breaks free. Impales the caster.

INSERT: Second guard falls in the waking world.

Belsha gasps. Four guards DROP the barrier.
Two rush Nancy. Two defend Belsha.

Ben drives a blade to Belsha's throat.

GUARD #3

Stop! Or she dies.

Ben hesitates. Belsha SMILES - a weakness.

BEN'S DREAM DOUBLE (V.O)

The eye! Don't hesitate.

Ben gouges Belsha's left EYE.

BELSHA

AHHH!

Ben transforms - into wind and steel.
He grabs Nancy.

SOUND:

SHOCKWAVE.

Guards scatter. Construct collapses.

CUT TO:

INT. BLOODRUBI OFFICE - WAKING REALM

Ben ghosts Nancy through stone walls.

EXT. BLOODRUBI CITADEL - ESCAPE

They vanish into the woods.

ASTRAL PROJECTION END.

EXT. CATACOMB - DAY

Ben stirs awake. Nancy is curled up in his arms, fast asleep.
Wonderbee and Spot watch from a short distance.
Wonderbee clears her throat.

Nancy stirs, her eyes meeting Ben's.
A faint smile forms before she closes them again.
Another throat-clear.

NANCY

(eyes still shut)
Fine! I'm awake.

She sits up, flustered. Ben winces, clutching his swollen hand.

NANCY

(concerned)
Let me see.

She examines it carefully.

NANCY (CONT'D)

That's from me. When we switched -
my injury passed into you... mind invasion magic.

WONDERBEE

Mind invasion?

EXT. WOODS - DAY

They walk back toward the mansion.
Ben's arm is slung in a shawl. Nancy stays close.

NANCY

(to Wonderbee)
...and that's what happened. Belsha was inside the dream.

WONDERBEE

We suspected Bloodrubi involvement -
but mind invasion? That's new.

NANCY

You knew? And said nothing?

WONDERBEE

Matthias was handling it. We didn't want to alarm you.

NANCY

(noticing the dog patrols)

That explains the sneaking around...

WONDERBEE

(to Ben, accusative)

You should've killed him.

NANCY

(defensive)

Ben saved my life.

He deserves a reward, not questioning.

WONDERBEE

(softening)

Then I thank you... for protecting our princess.

Matthias and the pack gather.

MATTHIAS AND PACK

Thank you for protecting our princess.

Nancy leans gently against Ben's shoulder.

BEN

Hey... you don't need to thank me.

I'd never let anything happen to her.

MONTAGE - INT./EXT. MANSION MATTHIAS - DAY TO NIGHT

- Ben watching sunset from the balcony, hand bandaged
- Morning play with the dogs
- Climbing the stairs, restless

INT. BEN'S ROOM - DAY

Nancy enters with a glowing scroll computer.

Ben lounges on the bed, his injured hand resting on a pillow.
Nancy hovers the scroll – she watches an X-ray video scan of his hand.

NANCY

Good news. No broken bones.

Ben takes the scroll, views her face, laughs to see Nancy's skull flickering onscreen.

NANCY

(mock insulted, speechless)

You...

She lunges. Ben bolts, scroll in hand.

EXT. MANSION – FRONT YARD – CONTINUOUS

Nancy chases Ben across the yard.
Spot joins in, barking excitedly.
Wonderbee watches from the shadows, unimpressed.

EXT. BACKYARD – CONTINUOUS

Nancy tackles Ben onto the grass.
She grabs the scroll, holding it triumphantly.
Ben reaches for it, but she gives it to Spot instead who scampers off with it.
To prevent him giving chase – she hugs him in place.

BEN

You really love hugs, huh?

NANCY

(laughs)

I'm like this with all my friends.

BEN

Friends I haven't met? Boys?

NANCY

(playful)

Nobles? They bore me. Around me, they're all theatre.

BEN

Ah... because you're a princess...?

She nods. Her gaze lingers. Their closeness softens.

NANCY

This is nice.

BEN

Not awkward?

She shakes her head, still resting on his chest.
Wonderbee steps into view.

WONDERBEE

Time to go.

NANCY

I want to stay.

WONDERBEE

Esmeralda's waiting. She'll send guards.

Nancy sighs and pulls away. Wonderbee has no tact.

NANCY

(whispers)
You're not helping...!

WONDERBEE

You were supposed to scan Esmeralda a week ago.
We still don't know what she's hiding.

BEN

You are still caught up on the cousin?

WONDERBEE

(eyes him, grits her teeth)
Don't belittle a dragon's instincts.
Nancy's in danger every time she comes here.
Why act like you don't see?

NANCY

(noticing the shift in temper)
Wonderbee. That's enough.

Wonderbee moves closer – looms larger, threatening.
Ben instinctively takes half a step back.

WONDERBEE

Stop abusing her kindness. If anything happens to her...

NANCY

(sharp, scolding)
Wonderbee!

She steps between them. A gust lifts the edge of her shawl.
Wonderbee cowers.

NANCY

If you have something to say, say it to me –
not to Ben.

WONDERBEE

Yes, Princess. I'm sorry.

Nancy sighs – calms herself.

NANCY

Fine. I'll go.
(to Ben, gently rubbing his hand)
Forget everything she said. I'll see you tomorrow, okay?

BEN

(takes his eyes off the dragon)
Uh... sure. Travel safe.

Nancy scoops up Spot, climbs onto Wonderbee, gripping her horns.

NANCY

Fly, girl.

They rise fast into the sky.
Matthias joins Ben.

BEN

So... Wonderbee is terrifying.

MATTHIAS

I'm surprised you're still alive.

BEN

That's a joke, right?

Matthias chuckles and walks off. Ben follows, pressing.

EXT. ONIS CITY - HILL - MOMENTS LATER

Nancy and Wonderbee perch atop a quiet hill.

Spot rushes off to mark trees.

Nancy gazes out at her city, the wind lifts her hair like a banner.

NANCY

Say it.

WONDERBEE

You won't get mad?

NANCY

I'm sorry I yelled before. I promise.

WONDERBEE

Then... please stop getting closer to Ben.

NANCY

Why?

WONDERBEE

The Study reactivates in four days.

Nancy's breath catches. She kneels.

NANCY

I completely forgot...

WONDERBEE

Naturally. A lot's happened.

NANCY

(whispers)

I don't want him to go back so soon.

Wonderbee steps closer.

WONDERBEE

But him staying... puts you in more danger.
No more visits. No more risks.

Nancy turns away, hiding her emotions.

NANCY

You're right.

She strokes Wonderbee's scaled cheek.

NANCY

Spot! We're ditching you!

SPOT (O.S.)

Coming!

FADE OUT.

FADE IN:

INT. MANSION - BEN'S ROOM - MORNING

Ben unwraps the final layer of bandages from his hand.
He flexes his fingers. No pain. A smile spreads across his face.
He grabs his jacket and heads for the door.

EXT. MANSION - FRONT - CONTINUOUS

NANCY straddles her sleek flying bike, sunlight dancing off the chrome.

She taps a code on the console. A small CRYSTAL slides loose from the dashboard.

She holds it out.

Ben accepts it, thrilled.

EXT. SKY - DAY

The flying bike slices through cloud cover.

MONTAGE:

- They glide above a lush gorge, vines draping the cliffs.
- Skim past a waterfall crest, spray catching the sunlight.
- Weave between ancient, towering trees - a ballet through the wild.

EXT. SKY - HOVERING ABOVE TREETOPS - LATER

The flying bike hovers in stillness.

Below: a living forest, sunlit and swaying in silence.

The hum of the engine dims as Ben sets it to autopilot.
A breathless calm.

BEN

Your bike's incredible.

NANCY

It's yours now.

A gift - to remember this place.

Ben blinks, stunned.

BEN

Wait... seriously?

She nods.

BEN (CONT'D)

This is... amazing.

Thank you. Really.

Ben stands, arms wide, face to the clouds.
He shouts into the sky, alive with joy.

BEN (CONT'D)

Whooooo!!

Nancy bursts into laughter, watching him like he *is* the sunlight.
Ben drops back down beside her, wind-tousled and breathless.

NANCY
You're most welcome.
Just... don't crash it too soon, alright?

Ben grins sheepishly –

INSERT CUT: A shimmer deep in the forest canopy – barely perceptible. A flicker of chrome.

A breeze tousles Nancy's hair. The light paints golden arcs around her.

BEN
Coming here wasn't exactly a dream holiday...
but you've made it unforgettable.

NANCY
(teasing, soft)
Oh? How so?

Ben meets her eyes. That look – open, vulnerable.

BEN
I don't know how to explain it.
Every day...
I increasingly look forward to your visits.

NANCY
(brow arching)
Because if I don't, you're stranded?

Ben freezes.

BEN
No– Nancy, that's not–

She bursts out laughing.

NANCY

I'm teasing!
You should've seen your face!

Ben exhales, chuckling despite himself.

BEN

You got me.

NANCY

You're easy sport.
But... I enjoy our time too.

Ben's smile fades into something deeper.

BEN

You do?

She looks away. Her voice, quieter now.

NANCY

How do I say this...? When I'm away...
I miss you.

Ben falls still.

NANCY (CONT'D)

That sounded weird, didn't it?
(hiding her face)
Oh my God...

BEN

Not weird. Just... honest.

She peeks out from behind her fingers.

NANCY

I should be more cryptic?

BEN

Please don't.
You're perfect. Just the way you are.

NANCY

Perfect and beautiful, you mean?

A tease again but... Ben nods — slow. Sincere. The look of desire.
She blushes, her lips curling into a shy smile.

A beat of silence.

Then — Ben reaches out.

He gently brushes a loose strand of hair from her face.

His fingers pause at her cheek — light, reverent.

CLANG!

A sharp metal impact rattles the bike's frame.

Nancy gasps. Ben snaps to the controls.

ANGLE ON DASHBOARD — flashing red. Systems failing.

BEN

Hold on!

The bike tilts — spirals.

TREETOPS RISE FAST.

EXT. WOODS — DAY CONTINUOUS

On the ground, Nancy inspects the bike — finds an IRON ROD with two prongs.

NANCY

A cannon-fired disruptor.

Shuts down any machine.

BEN

We were shot down?

Shrubs break — something's approaching.

Ben grabs Nancy's hand. They run.

Surprisingly, Nancy outruns him.

FLASHBACK TO:

EXT. WOODS - DAY (YEARS AGO)

Young Nancy, 10, races through trees - flanked by joyful dogs.

BACK TO PRESENT:

EXT. WOODS - DAY

Nancy halts suddenly, breathless.

NANCY

Stop - the traps.

BEN

What traps?

She gestures across the forest floor, muttering in Xeronian.
Her eyes faintly glow - psychic vision active.
Shrubs rustle. Their pursuers close in.

BEN

Hide.

Nancy ducks behind thick trees. Ben slips away into brush.

FIVE BLOODRUBIS emerge - cloaked in black fur, wielding crystal-headed spears. Alien and fearsome.
One spots faint tracks and signals the others.
They circle toward Nancy's hiding spot.

Nancy unsheathes twin daggers from her boots.
She's ready to strike - but Ben suddenly steps out.

BEN

Hey!

They stop. He raises his hands.

BEN (CONT'D)

I'm unarmed. What's this about?

The Bloodrubis pause. One barks a command.

A SNAP. A TRAP springs. One Bloodrubi dangles upside-down from a rope, swinging wildly.
The others cut him loose, cursing.
When they look up — Ben is gone.

EXT. WOODS - LATER

Ben runs. Energy bolts explode around him, hammering trees like fireworks.
Suddenly — SNAP. A snare lifts him off the ground.

BEN

No—!

He swings toward a tree but grabs the trunk midair.

BEN (CONT'D)

You have got to be kidding me.

The Bloodrubis catch up. He dangles upside-down, silent.
The CAPTAIN, older and rough, approaches. He motions to the others.

BLOODRUBI CAPTAIN (XERONIAN)

Bring him down.

They cut Ben loose. He lands hard. Spears level at him.
The Captain kneels, cleaning his nails with a knife.

BLOODRUBI CAPTAIN (XERONIAN)

Who are you?

Ben doesn't answer.
The Captain grabs his collar, pulls him close. Studies him.
Realizes — Ben doesn't understand the language.

BLOODRUBI CAPTAIN (XERONIAN)

Ngoni. Come.

NGONI, late 30s, crouches beside him.

NGONI

My captain wants to know who you are.

BEN

I'm just a student. Visiting from Tionun.

Ngoni translates. The Captain sneers.

BLOODRUBI CAPTAIN (XERONIAN)

That ride wasn't civilian. He's lying.

BEN

You shot me out of the sky.
Forgive me for being guarded.

BLOODRUBI CAPTAIN (XERONIAN)

We mistook you.

BEN

Now that you haven't, will you let me go?

BLOODRUBI CAPTAIN (XERONIAN)

No. You're coming with us.

They force him to his feet.

EXT. CAVE - SUNSET

Nancy watches from the shadows.

The five Bloodrubis lead Ben into a large cave, guarded by a dozen warriors.

Ben disappears into the darkness.

Nancy exhales. There's nothing she can do now.

EXT. MANSION MATTHIAS - EVENING

Nancy bursts into the courtyard, breathless.
Wonderbee spots her.

WONDERBEE

What took you so long?

MATTHIAS steps forward. He sees Nancy's face change. His tone shifts.

MATTHIAS
Is everything alright, Princess?

NANCY
Ben has been captured. By the Bloodrubis.

Wonderbee snarls in disbelief. Nancy raises her hand.

NANCY (CONT'D)
We were shot down.
They were after me.
He... he sacrificed himself.

WONDERBEE
Nancy, it's not your fault.

NANCY
It is. I led them to us.
(BEAT)
But we can still save him.

MATTHIAS
That's impossible.

NANCY
I have a plan. But first, I must go to the palace.

She climbs onto Wonderbee's back.

NANCY (CONT'D)
I'll brief you when I return. Fly Wonderbee!

Wonderbee spreads her wings and takes to the sky.

EXT. BLOODRUBI CITY - NIGHT

TEXT ON SCREEN: BLOODRUBI CITY

The city gleams within a massive gorge - eerie, beautiful.

Homes carved into rock walls, stone bridges arching across.
Sky traffic pulses - flying canoes, flying bikes.

Ben is aboard one of these canoes - watches it all, silent.
Absorbing.

A BLOODRUBI at the helm grips a glowing rudder.
They glide past cliffs, avoiding bridges with uncanny precision.

INT. PRISON CELL - NIGHT

Dim crystals pulse in the stone walls.
Ben is shoved into a small, cramped cell.

In the adjacent cell, a figure stirs - TIANA (24), bald, sharp-eyed, and unexpectedly beautiful.
Her scarlet eyes catch the light.

TIANA (XERONIAN)

Who are you?

Ben doesn't respond.

TIANA (accented)

I said... who are you?

BEN

I'm nobody important.

TIANA

Someone clearly doesn't think so.
(looking around)
They don't throw nobodies in this place.

Ben peers across the cells. Bloodrubi prisoners slump in corners. Faces hollowed. Eyes resigned.

TIANA (CONT'D)

You really are clueless.

She moves closer to the bars.

TIANA (CONT'D)

There's an uprising in the city.
Our chief tried to assassinate the princess.
He risks war with the capital.
(quiet)
Those who opposed him... ended up here. Or worse.

She leans back. Avoids his eyes.

TIANA (CONT'D)

You don't have to talk.
But if you're against the chief, you're my ally.
(BEAT)
What's your name?

BEN

Ben.

TIANA

Tiana.

She settles cross-legged on the cold floor. Closes her eyes.
Ben follows her lead.
He sits. Rests. Finally.

FADE OUT.

FADE IN:

INT. PALACE - NANCY'S CHAMBERS - MORNING

First light. Nancy is already awake after a sleepless night.
A team of MAIDS flurry around her, dressing her in a Victorian gown.

NANCY

(anxiously)
Hurry... he won't wait forever.

One zips her dress. Another pins her hair. A third hands her a fan as Nancy rushes out.
Two maids follow. The rest exhale, relieved.

INT. PALACE - THRONE ROOM - CONTINUOUS

The massive doors creak open. NANCY enters.

KING GORDON sits tall on his throne. ESMERALDA lounges on a cushion nearby.

The maids curtsy and leave.

Nancy bows low, then takes the cushion opposite Esmeralda.

KING GORDON

(to Esmeralda)

You taught her well.

ESMERALDA

She learns quickly.

KING GORDON

Booked through official channels?

What happened to my daughter?

They share a soft chuckle.

NANCY

I wanted to speak with you alone.

She glances briefly at Esmeralda.

KING GORDON

Impossible. Esmeralda is my new advisor.

NANCY

(to Esmeralda)

Congratulations, madam.

ESMERALDA

A royal should match words with actions.

I expect a gift.

NANCY

Of course.

ESMERALDA

Then present your case.

Nancy rises and faces her father.

NANCY

Father, do you wish to leave me a weak kingdom?

KING GORDON

Certainly not. Why?

Esmeralda sips tea, elegantly.

NANCY

Then... invade the Bloodrubis.

Esmeralda SPILLS her tea. She dabs her lap.

KING GORDON

(eyeing Esmeralda)

Where is she getting this?

ESMERALDA

I'm as surprised as you. Madness.
Bloodrubis? Really?

NANCY

A chief is stirring rebellion.
Werewolves are involved too.

Esmeralda nearly spills again.

KING GORDON

Where did you hear this?

ESMERALDA

My lord—

KING GORDON

Enough. We're family. Call me Gordon.

ESMERALDA

Yes... Gordon. I should've told you.
She mixes with commoners.

Gordon groans, rubs his temple.

NANCY
It's for research.

KING GORDON
(muttering)
More like for games and gossip.

ESMERALDA
Fanatics, the lot. Their stories don't stand up.

KING GORDON
Nancy, it's not your job to play spy.
We don't act on rumours.

NANCY
They're not rumours—

KING GORDON
That's enough. Esmeralda has more to teach you.
Answer when she summons.

NANCY
Will you at least send scouts?

ESMERALDA
I'll send our best—
if it comforts our future queen.

NANCY
Thank you.
(bowing)
Father... madam.

She sets her teacup down, curtsies, and exits.

INT. PALACE - NANCY'S CHAMBERS - CONTINUOUS

Nancy enters and shuts the door. SPOT, who has been lazing around, abruptly sits alert on the bed.

SPOT

Will the king launch the invasion?

NANCY

He didn't believe me.

SPOT

So... Ben is on his own?

NANCY

Like hell he is.

(gritting her teeth)

That was Plan A. I've got Plans B... and C.

She counts them off with her fingers.

SPOT

What's Plan B?

NANCY

Go fetch Wonderbee.

EXT. BLOODRUBI CITY - PRISON COURTYARD - MORNING

The sun rises over the gorge. Quiet activity.

A squad of ELITE FEMALE BLOODRUBIS descend on flying bikes and hovering canoes. White-striped uniforms mark their rank.

MALE GUARDS bow as they pass.

INT. PRISON - BEN'S CELL - MORNING

Ben sleeps, still.

DOLLY IN: BEN'S CLOSED EYES

DREAM START:

EXT. ONIS CITY - METROPOLITAN DISTRICT - DAY

TEXT ON SCREEN: "Capital City - 2 Months Ago"

Ben, in ghost form, drifts through a crowded street.

Xeronians pass through him, unaware.

He spots NANCY — disguised — cradling a CAT. She strolls casually, greeted by vendors.

VENDOR

Morning, 23.

She hands the cat to an ELDERLY WOMAN.

ELDERLY WOMAN

Oh... you found Billy. Thank you, 23.

NANCY (AS 23)

My fist had a word with the hooligans.
They won't bother you again.

The woman offers her an apple. Nancy bites in.

SHOPKEEPER

Hey, 23. Jonathan's hiring trackers.

NANCY (AS 23)

I'll swing by. Thanks.

Ben watches, mesmerized.

BEN

Nancy...?

She pauses. Looks around. Sees nothing. Then—

A WORMHOLE opens in the sky. Two bikes vanish inside. It seals.

Nancy squints up, thoughtful. She continues walking. Ben fades away.

DREAM END:

INT. PRISON - BEN'S CELL - MORNING

Ben wakes. TIANA watches him from the adjacent cell.
Three GUARDS drag in a PRISONER and a MIND INVADER — TAMBUDZAI.
She eyes Ben.

TAMBUDZAI (Xeronian)

Open the cell.

The guards kneel Ben. Tambudzai crouches.

TAMBUDZAI (Xeronian)

I heard you're a spy. True?

Ben doesn't reply.

TIANA (O.S.)

He needs a translator.

TAMBUDZAI

Fetch her.

Tiana is brought in, kneels beside Ben.

TAMBUDZAI (translated)

I'm Tambudzai. Name?

BEN

Ben.

TAMBUDZAI (translated)

I detect lies. Each lie costs that prisoner a limb.

She gestures. Ben's confused.

TIANA

She's serious.

TAMBUDZAI

Start. Who are you?

BEN

Student. Tionun. I am visiting.

TAMBUDZAI

Strike one.

A VAPOROUS WOLF bursts forth — rips the PRISONER'S arm. Screams.
The vapor returns to her.

TAMBUDZAI

One more lie – he loses a leg.

A GUARD cauterizes the wound. Prisoner faints. Guards guffaw.

TAMBUDZAI

Why were you on the Princess's bike?
What are you to her?

BEN

I don't know what you're talking about.

She grins. WOLF re-emerges. Guards wake prisoner.
Another limb torn. Screams echo.

TAMBUDZAI

What's your relation to the Princess?

BEN

I... I am not from this world.
I'm from a planet called Earth.

TAMBUDZAI

Hmm. Not a lie. But not what I asked either.

BEN

Your magic – illusion or real?

TAMBUDZAI

Who is asking the questions here?

TIANA

Mind invasion is both.
There's no defense.

TAMBUDZAI

Your relation to the Princess?

BEN

I'm not sure there is one.

WOLF reappears. Clean beheading.

Ben looks away. Tiana weeps.
Tambudzai orders her silence. Tiana steels herself, fists clench.

TIANA

She says if you lie again – she will take your arm.

BEN

Tiana, I am so sorry.

TIANA

Then protect your Princess. Proudly.

Ben looks at his hand – shaking.
Tambudzai grins.
A final question:

TAMBUDZAI

Will the Princess come for you?

Ben stays silent.

TAMBUDZAI

ANSWER ME!

The WOLF lunges –

TIME FREEZES

BEN'S DREAM DOUBLE (O.S.)

Don't cower. Eyes open wide.
See illusory forms near you...?
Then dream magic is also active.
Fight back dream... with dream.

TIME RESUMES

Ben falls back. VAPOR gathers.
A GHOST ARM forms, sticking out from Ben – ARMORED HAND grabs the WOLF by the neck.
They struggle.

Tambudzai gasps, choking in response to the WOLF choking.

A second ARM — wields a TRANSLUCENT BLADE.
Ben guides it with his eyes and wrist flick — slices the WOLF.
It dies and turns to rising vapor.

Tambudzai bleeds by the neck, arteries severed.
Her magic collapses. She stumbles. Her guards panic. She dies.
Ben's dream magic also fades.

INT. PRISON — BEN'S CELL — CONTINUOUS

Silence.

TIANA attacks:

- Punches GUARD into the bars.
- Flips another into the wall.
- Disarms the third. Roundhouse.

She grabs a SPEAR. Battery full.

TIANA

I'll take it from here, Earthling.

INT. PRISON — LOWER FLOORS — CONTINUOUS

Tiana storms through:

- Swats down a GUARD.
- Deflects two blasts.
- Fires back. Hits.
- Throws spear — knocks out another.

Catches the rebound mid-air.

INT. PRISON — LOWER FLOORS — LATER

Tiana has freed the last prisoners. They reach a sealed
ELECTRONIC DOOR.

BEN

Impressive moves.

TIANA

Guards aren't trained — recruits from a running test.
You, however, impressed me Earthling.
Actually took down a mind invader.

BEN

"Earthling" is really sticking, huh?

She places a hand on the door.

TIANA

Twenty behind this. Can you handle them... for us?

BEN

"Us?"

Bloodrubis stare. Expectant.

BEN

I need to tell you something.
My magic only works in dreams.

TIANA

That can't be right. I saw what you did.

BEN

That wasn't fully me. I hijacked her magic.
Without illusions to work with? I'm powerless.

Tiana calms the murmuring BLOODRUBIS.

They look at him again, expectant.

BEN (aside)

Don't gamble on me.

TIANA

I trust you. Aren't you curios?

BEN

About what?

TIANA

The team we make.
I'll clear the guards. You keep the illusions off me.
We avenge our comrades.

She turns for her crew.
Ben hesitates. Thinks of Nancy.

INT. PRISON - LOWER FLOORS - MOMENTS LATER

Tattered from torture, a GUARD still refuses to share the passcode.

BEN
Either he doesn't know... or he's tough.

TIANA
We need this door open before they realise.

Ben studies the lock. Listens.

BEN
I can get the code.
But I need to be in a near-sleep state.

TIANA
This isn't exactly the time to be taking naps.

BEN
I'll get the code. And map our exit.
Just give me 30 minutes.

TIANA
You've got twenty. Make it count, Earthling.

She gets the crew to back off.
Ben sits cross-legged. Breathes in. Eyes closed.

INT/EXT. NANCY'S PALACE - CHAMBERS / BALCONY - DAY

Wonderbee perches on the railing.
Inside, NANCY dresses in sleek fur travel attire, slipping tiny DIAMONDS into a pouch.
SPOT approaches.

NANCY
Hold the fort for us, boy.

SPOT

Just try not to be long.

Nancy mounts Wonderbee on the balcony.

WONDERBEE

Where to?

NANCY

Cave Yellowbee.

WONDERBEE

What?

NANCY

Time to meet your mother. Fly, girl.

WONDERBEE

Whatever you say.

They LIFT OFF into the sky.

EXT. YELLOWBEE DOMAIN - SKY - DAY

Nancy and Wonderbee soar into DRAGON TERRITORY.

Two massive DRAGONS rise from the clouds and flank them as escorts, leading toward a distant MOUNTAIN.

Nancy looks down – hundreds of dragons perch, glide, and brood below.

EXT. CAVE YELLOWBEE - ENTRANCE - DAY

Wonderbee lands beside a massive cave. Dragons barely react.

NANCY

What's going on?

SILVERBEE (15, silver-scaled, 3 meters tall) CHARGES from the crowd.

WONDERBEE

Sis!

The sisters greet with a playful chase. Nancy clears her throat.
SILVERBEE approaches, bowing slightly.

NANCY

(embracing her)
How are you, Silverbee?

SILVERBEE

You've been a stranger.
City life must be dull with my boring little sister.

WONDERBEE

I'm not boring!

NANCY

The city is dull – but I'm barely home.

SILVERBEE

Still tinkering with your amulet?

NANCY

(lifting it)
Learning to sap crystal magic. Besides telepathy.

SILVERBEE

Wicked.

NANCY

I know, right?

SILVERBEE

(to Wonderbee)
Remember that egg-thief hunt before you hatched?

WONDERBEE

Sis – you've told me a thousand times.

SILVERBEE

(ignores her)
It was crazy! Her magic touched my mind and suddenly...
I could track anyone in the world.

WONDERBEE

Sis!

They laugh.

A LOUD ROAR erupts from the cave. LIGHT flashes.

NANCY

What's this gathering?

SILVERBEE

Someone's rallying dragons to revolt against the capital. But we follow a neutrality code.

NANCY

Oh...

SILVERBEE

So — why are you here?

NANCY

Might be bad timing...

WONDERBEE

Her boyfriend's in trouble.

NANCY

Wonderbee—!

SILVERBEE

Boy? You were supposed to keep away the vultures.

WONDERBEE

We're rescuing this one.

Another CRASH echoes from the cave.

NANCY

My father can't help — I had to withhold too much.
I came to ask your mother for aid.

SILVERBEE

Don't count on it. She's tied up in this council.

NANCY

I can't afford to wait. They might execute him.

SILVERBEE

I'll help.

NANCY

I plan to storm Bloodrubi City.

SILVERBEE

I'll still help.

NANCY

Won't your mother punish you?

SILVERBEE

(grinning at Wonderbee)

We'll blame her. She gets away with anything.

WONDERBEE

For Ben... I'll take one for the team.

Nancy hugs them both.

SILVERBEE

You're still such a hugger.

I'll gather a team and meet you in half an hour.
Where?

NANCY

Mansion Matthias. It's been our base.

SILVERBEE

Perfect. Now, skedaddle.

NANCY

We're counting on you, Silverbee.

Nancy mounts Wonderbee.

SILVERBEE

Just like old times.

Nancy smiles, nostalgic.
They take off.

INT. PRISON - LOWER FLOORS - DAY

TIANA gently places a hand on BEN's shoulder.

TIANA

Time's up.

BEN rises. The BLOODRUBIS gather, anxious but ready.

CUT TO:

INT. PRISON - LATER

An echoing FEMALE VOICE in Xeronian booms from wall-mounted speakers. The Bloodrubis erupt into whispers of hope.

TIANA

You were right. All mind invaders are being
summoned upstairs.

BEN

Then let's move out.

TIANA selects two BLOODRUBIS. They begin disguising themselves
in GUARD UNIFORMS.

TIANA throws on the robe of the slain mind invader.

BEN's hands are bound - a faux prisoner.

BEN

The armoury code I saw in the dream -
"Sere, Ina, Piri, Nhanhatu."
No idea what it means.

TIANA

It's 8426.

She relays this to the rebels staying behind.

BEN

And for this one: "Poshi, Nhatu, Poshi, Nhatu."

TIANA

1313.

She keys it in – the SECURITY DOOR SLIDES OPEN.

STAIRS. They climb.

CUT TO:

INT. PRISON PASSAGE – MOMENTS LATER

They pass REAL GUARDS. TIANA walks tall – mistaken for one of the invokers. No questions.

She scans cells quietly, calculating future allies.

They reach the ELEVATOR.

The ARMOURY lies ahead. TIANA eyes it. Poorly attended.

They enter the elevator.

CUT TO:

INT. PRISON – TOP FLOOR HALLWAY – CONTINUOUS

Doors hiss open.

They step out. Down the corridor, a spiralling COUNCIL HALL – dozens of MIND INVADERS gather for emergency discussion.

BEN

Wait. Let the latecomers pass.

They do. TIANA eyes a shelf. GRABS two BLADES, slips them under her robe.

The COMPANIONS free BEN's hands. He grabs a bolt spear along with them.

TIANA drops her robe – tight fighter gear underneath.

BEN takes short puffs to calm his nerves.

They nod to each other. Go.

The TWO COMPANIONS guard the door and do not enter with them.

CUT TO:

INT. CONFERENCE HALL - CONTINUOUS

Circular, spiralled levels. MIND INVADERS lean over railings, speaking urgently.

BEN closes the door behind them.

TIANA STRIKES FIRST. Two BLADES flashing — she cuts down four invaders before an alarm is even raised.

SCREAMS. ENERGY CRACKLES.

BEN fires his BOLT SPEAR. Four rapid bursts — four invaders down. The weapon clicks dry.

The surviving invaders regroup.

BEN

(to himself)

Come on... give me something...

He stretches his left hand — He scans for illusory forms. A MASSIVE VAPOR BEAST forms. Iron hooves. Shimmering mane. It charges.

Tiana dodges — barely — then somersaults to avoid a spinning VAPOR BLADE aimed at her throat.

The beast slams into Tiana, throwing her across the hall.

VAPOR whirls around Ben's hand — it emits a high, whispering tone, like reversed wind chimes. He moulds it, coating his spear.

BEN

Ti!

Tiana locks eyes with him. He throws the vapor-cloaked spear. She rolls and catches it. She nods, understanding.

The VAPOR BLADE flies again — Tiana swats it away.

INSERT CUT:

The blade's owner winces — a gash opens across her hand.

Tiana hurls the spear — it strikes the vapor beast, impaling it.

INSERT CUT:

Its controller falls over backward, dead.

VAPOR whips toward BEN. He channels it again.
Two KNIVES from TIANA's belt — she hurls them.
VAPOR wraps the blades mid-flight.

INSERT CUTS:

— TWO VAPOR CREATURES dissipate.
— Two summoners fall dead.

Suddenly — an ILLUSORY WALL forms around the hall.

TIANA

We're sealed in!

BEN

No. My doing.

He raises his hand — maintaining the illusory form.
She nods.
He conjures a FLOATING STAIRCASE.
TIANA dashes upward.
One by one, she fells invaders.
Some beg — she doesn't hesitate.

Silence.

She stands, blades dripping. Breathing heavy.
Drops to her knees. Tears.

BEN's magic fades. He opens the main door.
The TWO COMPANIONS stare — stunned.
He gestures toward the CONTROL ROOM.

BEN

That's your path. Go.

They nod, running.
BEN steps back. TIANA rises.

TIANA

We did it.

She grabs his hands in gratitude, embraces him.

BEN

(softly)

Yes. We did.

INT. CONTROL ROOM - DAY

Ben and Tiana command the facility.

MONITORS flicker.

Ben presses a BUTTON.

CUT TO:

ALARM SIRENS blare through the prison.

CUT TO:

Lower floor - BLOODRUBIS ambush confused guards.

Ben presses another button.

CUT TO:

Cells unlock. Prisoners arm themselves.

BEN

(pointing at screen)

Those three are trouble.

The monitor shows THREE ELDERLY BLOODRUBIS - the LILITHS - in mind invader robes rushing through tunnels.

TIANA

Your dreams never cease to amaze.

Those three are dangerous indeed.

I'll lock the tunnels.

She flips a switch.

CUT TO:

Tunnel gates SLAM shut, trapping the Liliths.

Ben presses another button.

CUT TO:

Exterior gates open. Flying bikes and transport vessels appear.

Ben sighs.

BEN

This is it for me.

Tiana turns, tall and resolute. Ben tilts his head to meet her gaze.

BEN (CONT'D)

Let's escape together.

TIANA

I can't. They need me here.

Ben's eyes flick to the chaotic monitors. Worried. She sees.

TIANA (CONT'D)

Go before your window closes.

Think about your princess, Earthling.

EXT. PRISON - UPPER FLOORS - DAY

Ben races toward a row of flying bikes.

Suddenly - an EXPLOSION detonates behind him. Crates scatter. Guards fall. Ben crashes forward. He rises slowly and turns back.

ANGLE ON: THE THREE LILITHS

Vapor-wreathed, they step through the wreckage—calm and terrifying. Their vapor sphere warps metal and stone as it moves.

Two Liliths place hands on the leader's shoulders.
A glowing magic circuit pulses between them.

BACK TO BEN

He watches, awestruck.

INT. UPPER FLOORS - CONTINUOUS

Prisoners fire bolt weapons.
The Liliths' vapor shield absorbs every shot.
The sphere expands, instantly vaporizes prisoners - a walking incinerator.

INT. STAIRCASE - DAY

The Liliths descend toward the revolt below.

BACK TO BEN

He stiffens. Tiana is in danger.

INT. ELEVATOR - DAY

Ben fires at blocking guards, leaps inside, and presses the button for lower floors.

INT. PRISON - LOWER FLOORS - CONTINUOUS

Ben arrives to find BLOODRUBIS building barricades. They shout in Xeronian - and for the first time, Ben understands every word.

INT. BARRICADE - CONTINUOUS

The Liliths arrive. Their vapor sphere surges forward.
Four prisoners vanish in flames, quickly turn to ash and dust.

Ben conjures a thick illusion wall - bricks of vapor.
The Liliths-sphere is halted, protecting Tiana.
She turns, sees him straining behind the shield.
Ben drops to one knee; the wall cracks.

BEN

(gritting his teeth)

Tell them to run! I can't hold it for long!

Tiana shouts orders. Prisoners flee.

Ben visualizes - steel rods appear, braces and anchors his wall.

The Liliths halt - ten paces away - inspecting this shielding.

LEADING LILITH

Your magic resembles ours... but not quite.

The Liliths-sphere vanishes, and so does Ben's wall.

Ben stands straight, feigns confidence.

LEADING LILITH

What do you call it?

BEN

This...? Dream walking.

LEADING LILITH

We've met our share of dream walkers.

None were able to shield against our magic.

How long have you been practicing?

BEN

Umm... two weeks...?

LEADING LILITH

You mock us.

BEN

I'm a special case. You seem elderly.

I like elders - they're reasonable.

Mind if I call you each 'grandmother'?

LEADING LILITH

Nonsense. I am Lilith.

LILITH 2

I too am Lilith.

LILITH 3

Even I am Lilith.

ALL THREE

We are the Three Liliths.

BEN

(to himself)

Were they in a band?

Tiana returns beside Ben.

BEN

I guess that's a 'no'.

Shouldn't you be in retirement?

LEADING LILITH

You two killed my children and destroyed
my facility. You left a mess for us to clean.

BEN

Aren't they your children too?

Ben points at Tiana and the prisoners behind her.

Tiana studies him, surprised.

LEADING LILITH

They chose rebellion. We spare no one.
Stand aside or die together with them.

Ben glances quickly at Tiana, calculating - defiant.

BEN

No.

The two Liliths place their hands on their leader's shoulders.
Their sphere glows with massive energy.

Ben throws the wall back up - it cracks instantly.

He dives, shielding Tiana, conjures a tight VAPOR SPHERE around
them.

Tiana looks up. His hands tremble under the invisible weight.
 Blood runs from his nose.
 She tears her sleeve, gently wipes his face.

TIANA

Why did you come back?

BEN

(faint smile)
 Unfinished business.

The Lilith leader screams – a sonic wave slams into the sphere.
 Ben groans, pushing back.
 The sphere erupts outward in a shockwave that shatters the ground.

The Liliths stagger. Their death sphere vanishes.
 Ben collapses. Tiana catches him.
 She lays him down, draws her bolt spear – and fires.
 It deflects harmlessly.

LEADING LILITH

You fought bravely. Not many would stay.

TIANA

I wish he hadn't. This war isn't his.

She cradles him.
 The Liliths reform their circuit; vapor builds.
 Tiana sees the sphere rush toward her—
 She closes her eyes.

Silence.

She opens them.
 A vapor wall halts the sphere. Strong. Sharp. Unbreakable.
 Ben's magic pulses. Vapor rises like incense.
 His walls crack stone and split steel.

Another sonic attack hits.
 The facility shudders – but the wall holds.

BEN'S DREAM DOUBLE (O.S.)

Well done.

Now... allow me to take over.

INT. ASTRAL PLANE - PRISON BARRICADE - CONTINUOUS

From sleeping Ben, a colossal translucent HAND manifests—
luminous, fluid, godlike.

It stretches across the astral realm — vast and majestic.

Before it: THE THREE LILITHS, twisted into a massive RED DRAGON
with THREE HEADS.

The dragon roars and breathes fire toward the hand.

Flames crash harmlessly against the hand's palm as the fingers
close in.

A sonic wave too is useless.

Large walls rise behind to prevent escape.

The Lilith-dragon thrashes and screams but finds no escape.

The hand catches her — begins to crush and burn her.

White light glows brighter inside the palm — engulfing the
dragon entirely.

Smoke rises.

The dragon's form disintegrates — red scales, black flame,
serpent heads — all turned to cinders inside the hand of a god.

INT. PRISON - BARRICADE - CONTINUOUS

Tiana watches, stunned.

Vapor rises from Ben's body like incense.

The walls tremble... then settle. Ben's protective wall vanishes.

The choking, staggering Liliths turn to dust particles that
begin to blow away.

Tiana's eyes widen; her grip tightens on Ben's unconscious form.

BLOODRUBI PRISONERS gather, awestruck. No one disturbs him.

TIANA

I've decided. I am selecting a Lord.

Suddenly, a BLOODRUBI runs down from the upper floors, frantic.

BLOODRUBI (in Xeronian)

Trouble!

EXT. SKY ABOVE PRISON - CONTINUOUS

The heavens darken.

BLOODRUBI REINFORCEMENTS descend on flying bikes, flanked by FIVE DRAGONS.

FADE OUT.

FADE IN:

EXT. MANSION MATTHIAS - DAY

TEXT: TWO HOURS EARLIER

Nancy stands outside with WONDERBEE. MATTHIAS and his dogs flank her, watching the skies.

ANGLE ON SKY - A squadron of DRAGONS bursts through the clouds, wings gleaming.

NANCY

They're here. Silverbee came through.

The dragons descend and form up.

Leading is SILVERBEE (3M, radiant silver), then:

- RASHA (jet black, 2M)
- PENGGA (oxblood, 2.2M)
- GANGGO (green, 1.6M, female)

Nancy steps forward, inspecting them with a wry smile.

NANCY

Just a heads-up - bonding with Silverbee gave me some of her quirks.

WONDERBEE

Like bragging?

GANGO

Or teaching everyone how to breathe?

RASHA

Or... or... or refusing to date anyone?

PENGA

Or thinking everything's a compliment?

SILVERBEE

Oh geez! Thanks guys.

NANCY

(chuckling)

Not exactly. Just... channel a day
you were all getting along.

GANGO

We barely agree about lunch.

RASHA

Si... Si... Silverbee's a lone wolf.

SILVERBEE

Yet here you are. Group project, folks.

PENGA

Blackmail's a kind of invite.

GANGO

I owed her favors.

SILVERBEE

Focus. Please. Thank you.
Go ahead princess.

NANCY

If I act bossy mid-flight – sorry in advance.
Sharing a mind with dragons isn't routine.
(BEAT)
Silverbee, you're first.

Silverbee lowers her head. Nancy touches her forehead, eyes closed.

NANCY

Mind cave. Rock rolled away.
Welcome me in.

Magic glimmers.

Nancy repeats the bonding with the others – reverent, focused.
A MIND-LINK forms. Telepathy activates.

NANCY (V.O.)

Can everyone hear me?

RASHA (V.O.)

Why is there a voice in my head?

SILVERBEE (V.O.)

Relax. That's normal.

GANGO (V.O.)

Why is Silverbee in my head? This is bad.

NANCY (V.O.)

Didn't she brief you?

WONDERBEE (V.O.)

Stop panicking.

RASHA (V.O.)

My stutter... it's gone.

PENGA (V.O.)

Is that... weird?

NANCY

(clears her throat)

Alright, focus. Thoughts aren't private.
Try not to snoop.

Awkward silence. Then Nancy lifts her gaze.

NANCY

Our mission: enter Bloodrubi territory.
Retrieve Ben. Use of force is authorized.

GANGO (V.O.)

Who's Ben?

NANCY (V.O.)

Silverbee?

SILVERBEE (V.O.)

I recruited folks with a bone to pick.
Promised them glory.

NANCY

(sighs)

They know what he means to me?

SILVERBEE

They do.

Nancy nods. Wonderbee kneels. She mounts.

MATTHIAS

Good luck.

Nancy salutes him, then turns to the team.

NANCY

Let's fly, girls and boys.

EXT. BLOODRUBI CITY - SKY - DAY

Nancy rides Wonderbee high above the clouds, dragons in formation. Her eyes glow green — telepathy active.

SILVERBEE (V.O.)

You have nothing to fear, Princess.
We've got your back.

NANCY (V.O.)

Lose altitude. Fly low, sweep wide.

The formation dives. Mist parts – Bloodrubi lands below.

NANCY (V.O.)

Activating search magic.
I'm syncing it with you all.
Trust your instincts.
Follow the vision.

A green pulse emits from her amulet. The dragons' eyes flicker, then glow.

MONTAGE – DRAGON POVs

- Silverbee scans treetops.
- Rasha glides near rock faces, sensing vibration.
- Penga follows a whitewater river, sniffing arcane residue.
- Gango circles ruins, alert.
- Wonderbee remains high, tracking the others.

BACK TO NANCY

Her breath slows. Focus deepens. Eyes shine brilliantly.

NANCY (V.O.)

I found it.

EXT. BLOODRUBI CITY – WOODS – DAY

Nancy lands gently. Dragons follow in sync.
She leads them into a hidden clearing. Bloodrubi SENTRIES react
– too slow.
– Rasha vanishes – strikes from above.
– Penga charges like a battering ram.
– A guard aims at her – Silverbee bites, flings him into stone.
– Gango exhales green mist – guards collapse, unconscious.

INT. BLOODRUBI CITY – CAVE – CONTINUOUS

Nancy walks calmly as the dragons finish the sweep.

NANCY (V.O.)

We don't know where they've taken Ben.
Bring me someone who does.

Silverbee tosses a guard at her feet. Nancy crouches, calm and firm.

NANCY (in Xeronian)

You saw our entrance.

We're here for something.

Can you help us out?

The dragons loom. The guard cracks.

Ben is in the northern prison. Civil unrest is rising.

INT. CAVE - MOMENTS LATER

Nancy stands. Silverbee and Wonderbee flank her.

NANCY

Belsha's trying to silence his people.

SILVERBEE

We could use the chaos.

Grab the boy. Vanish.

NANCY

Not enough. This chief is persistent.

SILVERBEE

So what's the play?

NANCY

We amend the mission.

We go after Belsha.

SILVERBEE

Hell yeah.

WONDERBEE

You guys are reckless. What about Ben?

NANCY

We get Belsha. We get Ben.

(BEAT)

Now — where is he?

They glance at the trembling guard.

EXT. CAVE EXIT - CONTINUOUS

The team emerges from a narrow passage.

Before them: the hidden BLOODRUBI CITY - carved in volcanic stone, majestic, fragile.

A slow CRANE UP reveals the full scope of the city.
Nancy watches in awe.

EXT. BELSHA'S LAIR - DAY

Belsha's compound - fortified, tense.
From above, Gango and Rasha dive - striking guards with stealth.
Soporific mist trails behind.
Silverbee and Penga sweep in - brute force and precision.

Nancy raises her hand. Her amulet glows.

NULLIFYING MAGIC ripples across the compound.

Crystal-based tech - weapons, vehicles, lights - collapse in silence.
Bolt spears flicker. Flying crafts spin. Even the crystals in the walls dim.

Guards switch to blades. Arrows fly.
Silverbee shields Nancy - wings absorbing impact.
Mind invaders whisper illusions toward her.
Silverbee swats vapor with her tail - immune and defiant.

SILVERBEE

You okay?

NANCY

Yes. Thank you.

Silverbee turns, furious. Fire breath suddenly erupts and floods the battlefield. Overwhelmed, Bloodrubi guards surrender.
Nancy steps forward - to the giant doors.

INT. BELSHA'S LAIR - CONTINUOUS

Mind vapor gathers. Silverbee ROARS - disperses it entirely.

SILVERBEE

Your petty magic won't help you now.

Guards drop weapons. They kneel, ignoring their chief who is barking orders.

SILVERBEE

A little too late for that.

Nancy lifts her hand to calm her dragon.
She walks to Belsha - seated, bandaged left eye, seething.
Resistance crumbles in the face of her dragons.

SILVERBEE

You're in her seat.

Belsha rises. Reluctant. He steps aside.
Nancy sits.

SILVERBEE

(threatening)

Kneel before her Royal Highness.

Belsha obeys.

SILVERBEE

If you want to live - bring out the Elders.

Guards rush out.
More dragons enter. Nancy sits firm, issuing silent orders.

NANCY (V.O)

I'm thirsty.

SILVERBEE (V.O)

Five links at once... you need rest.

NANCY (V.O.)

I can still keep going.

Silverbee scans the maids.

SILVERBEE

Refreshments.

One wrong ingredient — and this city burns.

The maids vanish — quickly.

CUT TO:

INT. BELSHA'S LAIR — LATER

Nancy eats grapes. The BLOODRUBI ELDERS arrive.
She eyes them.

NANCY (V.O.)

They think I'm just a little girl.
Speak for me, Silverbee.

SILVERBEE (V.O.)

Gladly.

Silverbee turns.

SILVERBEE

The Princess knows of Belsha's treason.
Yet she hasn't told the King.
She offers peace — mercy.
Will you repay her with betrayal?
Or will you appease?

The Elders grimace, whisper, nod.

NANCY (V.O.)

Nicely done.

SILVERBEE (V.O.)

You're too soft. I'd demand tribute.

NANCY (V.O.)

I am done being a target. Now they owe me.

An ELDER steps forward.

ELDER 1
We have agreed to hold a chieftain selection.
We recognise Belsha no more.
Guards – seize and subdue him!

Guards surround Belsha. Before he can protest – they beat him to a pulp.
The Elders bow.

ELDER 1
Princess... we are yours.
Call on us whenever you need.

Nancy nods.

NANCY (V.O.)
See, Silverbee? Much better.

SILVERBEE (V.O.)
I still learn so much from you.

SILVERBEE
(to the Elders)
There's one last thing we came for.

CUT TO:

EXT. BLOODRUBI CITY – PRISON – DAY

TEXT: PRESENTLY

Nancy leads her five dragons and a contingent of BLOODRUBI SOLDIERS toward the riot-struck prison.

TIANA and her REBEL COMRADES stand behind barricades, weapons ready – braced for an assault.

NANCY
(commands)
Stay back. I'll go talk to them alone.

Nancy holds out her hands and walks forward - Silverbee follows close behind.

NANCY

(whispers)

I got this, Silverbee.

SILVERBEE

Not a chance.

Too late to convince her - she stops paces from the barricade.

Tiana steps forward, sword drawn.

Nancy places her hand on her amulet. It pulses.

NANCY (V.O.)

My name is Nancy, Princess of Onis.

I'm using telepathy so you know my words are

True - not trickery.

The rebels murmur, confirming her voice in their heads.

TIANA

Continue.

NANCY (V.O.)

Belsha is no longer chief.

He hired assassins to take my life.

You opposed him - you lost many.

Your sacrifices saved me. I am grateful.

TIANA

We didn't do it for you. We did it for our honor.

(calls out)

Isn't that so?

Prisoners shout once in unison.

NANCY (V.O.)

(nods)

Your brave actions have averted war with the

capital. Will you now lay down your weapons and

rebuild your city?

Tiana hesitates – then gestures to the army behind Nancy.

TIANA

What guarantee do we have they won't turn on us?

At that moment – Belsha is dragged forward, bound.

He is forced to kneel.

Nancy watches, unsure – until an EXECUTIONER, face veiled, steps forward with a heavy blade.

Belsha hurls insults. Unrepentant.

The executioner raises the blade...

WHAM – it falls.

Silverbee shields Nancy's eyes.

Belsha's head rolls across the ground.

The rebels erupt in cheers.

TIANA

You came for him.

He was already rushing to you.

How extraordinary.

Tiana steps aside.

Behind her: BEN, lying unconscious.

Nancy sees him – and falters.

Her knees buckle.

Tiana catches her.

TIANA

Easy. He's alive – just spent.

Nancy steadies. Looks at her.

NANCY

You've cared for him...?

TIANA

On the contrary – he saved us all.

NANCY

...That sounds just like Ben.

Nancy hurries to him. Kneels. Cradles his head.

Her dragons gather close – silent, reverent.

The rebels begin to lower their weapons. Tiana quietly backs away.

SILVERBEE

Is he okay?

Nancy nods.

NANCY

Thank you all – for coming with me. For fighting.

GANGO

I had fun.

PENGA

Me too.

RASHA

Do... do... don't leave us out next time.
(realises)

Da... da... damn it! My stutter is back.

Laughter.

SILVERBEE

I'll carry him back.

Nancy nods in gratitude.

Ben is lifted gently onto Silverbee's back.

Nancy climbs up behind him – holding him close.

Silverbee flaps her wings – powerful and graceful.

The others follow.

EXT. CLIFF'S EDGE - CONTINUOUS

Tiana runs after the departing dragons.
Reaches the edge.
She calls out, voice cracking.

TIANA

Earthling...!

But he's gone.

Only sky.

FADE OUT.

FADE IN:

INT. BEN'S ROOM - MANSION MATTHIAS - DUSK

Ben stirs.
The DOGS stand over him - panting, nudging, licking joyfully.

BEN

(laughing)
Guys... I'm glad to see you too.

MATTHIAS enters, signalling the dogs gently to give Ben space.

INT. CHAMBER - MANSION MATTHIAS - DUSK

Ben stands beneath warm flowing water.
The embedded crystals shimmer, pulsing with soothing energy.

He dresses - the outfit is noble, foreign, perfect.

At the mirror, he pauses, quietly impressed.

INT. GRAND STAIRCASE - MANSION MATTHIAS - DUSK

Nancy waits near the entrance.
She sees him. Runs.
They embrace - quiet, whole.

NANCY

I'm so glad you're okay.

BEN

Thank you... for coming for me. That was...

NANCY

Insane...?

BEN

(chuckles)

Brave.

NANCY

I had help. Come – I want you to meet my friends.

EXT. MANSION MATTHIAS – GROUNDS – CONTINUOUS

Ben steps outside. A team of DRAGONS awaits.

BEN

(to himself)

Of course – more dragons.

(composed, to all)

Thank you – truly. You are my heroes.

The dragons swarm gently, amused. Introduce themselves.
He pats several with newfound ease.

BEN

Gango – your green scales shimmer like gemstones.

GANGO

Why, thank you.

BEN

Rasha – like black diamonds, your sheen sparkles with
hidden fire.

RASHA

You... you think so?

The red dragon nudges his head closer.

BEN

Penga – ready for battle – or ending one?

Penga giggles, too pleased.

Ben notices the silver dragon keeping her distance.

BEN

Silverbee – silver like swords. Strength suits you.

SILVERBEE

(raises her head high, pleased)

Naturally. I wasn't sure it was obvious.

BEN

And your horns – you and Wonderbee... you're related.

Even Nancy is impressed he noticed.

SILVERBEE

She's my little sister.

BEN

Good genes.

I imagine your mother must be equally stunning.

Silverbee clears her throat, hiding her delight.

NANCY

You're a natural with dragons.

Ben grins.

Nancy claps her hands.

NANCY

Everyone – gather around!

The DOGS join in, tails wagging.

NANCY

I'll be brief. I know most of you came here for food.

PENGA

I'm starving!

BEN

There's a party?

NANCY

A party for you, Ben. Surprise!

ALL

Surprise!

A CATERING TEAM emerges, rolls out tables, grills, and exotic dishes. Options for all diets.

The grounds buzz with joy.

BEN

(speechless)

Nancy... thank you.

Nancy steps forward.

NANCY

Ben is from another world.

He's been with us two weeks.

Tomorrow — I open the portal. He goes home.

Silence. Murmurs.

SILVERBEE

He's... leaving?

Tension. A hush.

NANCY

Thank you all — for protecting him.

(to Matthias)

Thank you for sharing your home.

Ben affectionately rubs Matthias's shoulders since he is standing beside him.

NANCY

(to Wonderbee)
Thank you for your patience and for watching over him
when I wasn't looking.

WONDERBEE

(a bow)
Always.

NANCY

Silverbee - assembling a rescue team on such short
Notice... brilliant. We were right to count on you.

SILVERBEE

Anytime, Princess.

Nancy turns to Ben.

NANCY

And you... you were a surprise.
I wish we had more time...

She fights back tears. Everyone feels it.

NANCY

Forgive me. I won't ruin this. Say your farewells.
Let's eat, have fun, enjoy the night.

The gathering moves closer. A communal hug.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. MANSION MATTHIAS - CAKES TABLE - NIGHT

Nancy is offering Ben bits of every offering. Laughter rises.

DISSOLVE TO:

WONDERBEE approaches Ben.

WONDERBEE

I was angry with you before... but not anymore.

BEN

You were worried about Nancy's safety. I understand.

WONDERBEE

Actually –

after seeing her in action today...?

I was just making excuses.

Truth is... I envied the time she gave you.

BEN

Oh...

WONDERBEE

It's history now.

My sister tells stories – before I hatched –

about how she and Nancy were inseparable.

She was Nancy's mount everywhere.

They glance toward SILVERBEE – carefree, eating a bucket of apples.

WONDERBEE (CONT'D)

I never had that kind of bond with Nancy.

Not until you came.

Just getting her to ride me was rare.

(BEAT)

Now she flies with me all the time.

You brought me closer to my princess.

You made us a team. And for that, I'm grateful.

BEN

Am I part of the team too?

WONDERBEE

Of course.

BEN

That means a lot, Wonderbee. Thank you.

He gently pats Wonderbee on the head. A quiet smile forms.

EXT. MANSION MATTHIAS - GROUNDS - LATER

The dragons hurl a glowing ball skyward.
Silverbee ignites it - fireworks bloom.

Ben and Nancy stand close. He finds her hand.
Fingers intertwine. The world quiets.

EXT. MANSION MATTHIAS - GROUNDS - EVEN LATER

Nancy prepares to leave. She clings to Ben's hand. They embrace.

BEN

Did I ever tell you how beautiful you are?

She nods.

BEN (CONT'D)

When I look at you, I forget the world.
I forget today, I forget tomorrow...
There's only... now.

She presses her ear to his chest. They remain.

WONDERBEE

(approaching)
It's getting late.

BEN

Go now.

The group bows as Ben leads her by the hand.
Wonderbee lowers herself. Nancy climbs on - eyes lingering.
They exchange one last look. Wonderbee takes flight.

EXT. ONIS SKY - NIGHT

Silent. Steady. A dragon carrying the heartbeat of a farewell.

EXT. NANCY'S BALCONY - NIGHT

Wonderbee sets Nancy down. She hesitates.

WONDERBEE

You can tell me anything. You know that, right?

NANCY

(teary)
I love him.

Wonderbee says nothing. Just listens.

NANCY (CONT'D)

He's leaving tomorrow. And I love him.

WONDERBEE

I know.

Nancy breaks. Tears fall. Wonderbee lowers her head beside her.

NANCY

I want him to stay.

WONDERBEE

I know that too.

NANCY

What do I do? How do I get him to stay?

WONDERBEE

First Idea -
We tell him - the portal's broken.

Nancy laughs softly.

NANCY

Maybe I intimidate him. Being a princess.
Nobles freeze around me.

WONDERBEE

Ben? He sees us bow and just... stands there.
Frustrating but now - I think it's perfect.

NANCY

Perfect?

WONDERBEE

You have nothing to worry about.
Tomorrow... just tell him.

Nancy resolves herself.

NANCY

Thank you, Wonderbee.

Wonderbee nods and flies off.

Nancy watches the sky – breathing deeply, preparing.

EXT. MANSION MATTHIAS – NIGHT

Ben watches Penga, Gango, and Rasha soar into the night.

The DOGS settle nearby.

Silverbee sits calmly under the stars.

SILVERBEE

Last night here... and you choose sleep?

Ben walks over.

BEN

Not like there's much else to do.

SILVERBEE

In that case – I want to show you something.

Consider yourself lucky I'm offering a second ride.

Ben glances at the mansion – then steps closer.

BEN

Why not?

She lowers her head. Ben grabs her horn – she flings him onto her back.

SILVERBEE

Try not to fall off.

She launches like a bullet. Fast. Fierce.

EXT. SKY AND GROUND - CONTINUOUS

Silverbee rockets upward.
Ben's heart lurches. Wind claws at him.
He grips tightly, syncing with her motion.

She spirals - Ben's POV: the earth spins, sky folding like pages.
A sudden flip - freefall.
Ben screams - thrilled. Wings flare. They level.

SILVERBEE
Anything like this at your home?

BEN
Nothing even close!

SILVERBEE
I can't hear you!

BEN
No!

SILVERBEE
Is there anyone like me on Earth?

BEN
Are you kidding? You're gorgeous!

Silverbee laughs - slows down to cruise through trees, breeze soft against Ben's face.

EXT. MUNYATI VALLEY - SKY - NIGHT

TEXT: KINGDOM BORDER - MUNYATI VALLEY

They vanish. Reappear two kilometers away.

BEN
What was that?

CUT TO:

EXT. MUNYATI VALLEY - GROUND - NIGHT

They land before a faint shimmer – a teleport barrier.

BEN

A barrier?

SILVERBEE

I was assigned here three weeks ago.
It's never dropped once.
Can't bring theories to my mother – I need proof.

BEN

Ah...

SILVERBEE

You'll find out for me. Use dream-walking.

BEN

You know about that?

SILVERBEE

Shared a mind with the princess. Of course I know.

BEN

I need a bit of meditation first.

SILVERBEE

That's for when you want to level mountains.
For this – visualization is enough.

BEN

You can... level mountains?

SILVERBEE

(scoffs)

When there is need. Close your eyes. I'll guide you.

Ben hesitates, then faces the barrier – closes his eyes.

SILVERBEE

Visualize your hands – wave them.
Feel a tingle in your eyes.

BEN

It worked! I mean, got it.

SILVERBEE

In your vision – step forward.

ASTRAL PROJECTION INITIATES:

EXT. MUNYATI VALLEY – OUTSIDE BARRIER – NIGHT

Ben's ASTRAL FORM stands beside his body – Silverbee nearby.

BEN (PHYSICAL)

I'm at the barrier.

SILVERBEE (PHYSICAL)

Push forward.

Ben's astral self touches the shimmer – steps through.

EXT. ROTONIAN CAMP – INSIDE BARRIER – CONTINUOUS

Ben glides through rows of TENTS.

BEN (V.O.)

I see tents. Hundreds.

SILVERBEE (V.O.)

Fast learner. What else?

Ben approaches a tent – sees a green crest.

BEN (V.O.)

Crest – green wolf, two spears.

SILVERBEE (V.O.)

(annoyed)

Rotonis army. Tch!

BEN (V.O.)

Rotonis... not Onis?

Ben rises, floating — thousands of tents stretch below.

WEREWOLVES patrol: crawling, sniffing, then rising onto two legs.

SILVERBEE (V.O.)

This is an invasion.

Ben glides toward the camp's center — drawn by glowing purple light.

EXT. LADY SU'S HEXAGRAM — CONTINUOUS

Six IRON STANDS form a HEXAGRAM, each holding a crystal radiating purple light.

Ben's astral form pauses.

BEN (V.O.)

There are crystals keeping the barrier up —
I'll investigate.

SILVERBEE (V.O.)

If a sorcerer is inside... they'll sense you.
Turn back.

BEN (V.O.)

I'll be fast.
Sorcerers are just magic users, right?

SILVERBEE (V.O.)

No. They wield magic like a science.
We don't want their attention.

Ben hesitates.

A GIRL (LADY SU) steps into view at the tent's threshold — youthful, barefoot, radiant. She is looking at him.

LADY SU

Who or what are you?

She's 12 in appearance, ancient in presence — flaming orange braid, bright blue eyes, light brown skin, ram-like horns, shimmering dress.

Her WOODEN STAFF holds a white crystal.

BEN (ASTRAL)

You... can see me?

LADY SU

Are you a ghost or alive?

SILVERBEE (V.O.)

Ben, who are you talking to?

BEN (ASTRAL)

A little girl who sees me... somehow.

LADY SU

How rude... I'm 153 years old... remote viewer.

SILVERBEE (V.O.)

Sorceress. Get out — now!

Open your eyes if you have to!

Lady Su lifts her staff.

LADY SU

I forbid you from leaving.

(recites)

"Whatsoever is bound on earth shall be bound in Heaven... I command you — stay in this place!"

She taps her staff.

VINES OF LIGHT erupt — snaring Ben's astral limbs.

Ben flickers — tries to ghost, to wake up — but his physical body twitches and seizes. Nothing works. He's trapped.

BEN (V.O.)

Silverbee! I can't leave — can't wake up!

Lady Su points her staff again. Crystal glows.

Ben's ghostly body is yanked — slammed to the ground.

LADY SU

Why not bring your body here to join us...?
Seeing you are not dead — but alive.

Another incantation:

LADY SU (CONT'D)

"The body without the spirit is dead.
I command your body — come!"

She strikes the ground.

EXT. MUNYATI VALLEY — OUTSIDE BARRIER — CONTINUOUS

Silverbee watches in horror as BEN'S BODY is sucked into the barrier.
She tries to follow — the teleport skip hurls her miles away.

EXT. ROTONIAN CAMP — TENT — CONTINUOUS

ASTRAL PROJECTION ENDS.

Ben's ghost and body merge.
His eyes open.
Soldiers swarm — fists and boots collide. Ben curls defensively.

A ROAR ripples through the valley — louder than thunder.
Silverbee flies above the barrier — her presence shakes the camp.

LADY SU

Don't hurt him. Bring him here.

Ben is dragged — thrown before Lady Su.

LADY SU (CONT'D)

That your dragon? Even I would struggle against her.
Best I can do is deflect her endlessly like this.

Ben sees dreadlocked SOLDIERS gathering — armored, awakened.

BEN

If you kill me... dragons will wage war with you.

LADY SU

Then we'll detain you.

She taps her staff again. It pulses. A light touch on his belly.

LADY SU (CONT'D)

Your magic is bound. No more dream-walking.

Can't have you snooping.

Ben says nothing — hope dimming.

INT. PRISON ENCLOSURE — NIGHT

Ben is inside a rough cage — wood lashed together, nailed tight.

SOLDIERS surround the perimeter.

PRISONERS sit silent — broken or defiant.

Ben finds a corner — sits, breathing hard. Sky darkens overhead.

CAMERA ascends — revealing the full valley.

CUT TO:

EXT. ONIS CITY — PALACE BALCONY — NIGHT

Nancy stands, staring at the stars. She presses a finger gently to her lips — imagining a kiss.

NANCY

Ben...

She giggles, turns — and runs inside.

INT. NANCY'S ROOM — CONTINUOUS

Nancy leaps onto her bed, laughing. She hugs her pillow, eyes bright with wonder.

CUT TO:

CAMERA rises above the city — revealing its full sprawl.

CUT TO:

EXT. SPACE — CONTINUOUS

The planet and its two moons hurling across space.

TEXT: END OF PART ONE

FADE OUT.

FADE IN:

DARKNESS.

BEN'S DREAM DOUBLE (V.O.)

(soft laughter)

Little elf...

Whom did you say you've bound?

EXT. MUNYATI VALLEY — OUTSIDE BARRIER — NIGHT

DARKNESS:

Heavy breathing. A low rumble. A dragon exhales.

Flames flicker — yellow, orange, blue. The blue fire lingers, casting shimmering light — SILVERBEE'S face.

SILVERBEE

(menacing)

Give him back — or burn!

CUT TO BLACK:

END OF PART ONE

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